

SUMMARY

New Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (9)

November 8, 2021

College of Engineering (1)

Reza Mirzaifar John R. Jones III Faculty Fellowship
in Mechanical Engineering

College of Science (3)

Xinwei Deng	Data Science Faculty Fellowship
Matthew Kovach	H.H.H. Faculty Fellowship in Economics
R. Quinn Thomas	Data Science Faculty Fellowship

Pamplin College of Business (5)

Andrew Acito	John and Angela Emery Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems
Sherwood Clements	William and Mary Alice Park Junior Faculty Fellowship
Nadia Rogers	Robert M. Brown Faculty Fellowship
Liang Tan	Curling Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems
Marshall Vance	L. Mahlon Harrell Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
John R. Jones III Faculty Fellowship in Mechanical Engineering

In 2006, the John R. Jones III Faculty Fellow in Mechanical Engineering endowment was established to acknowledge and reward mid-career faculty who have shown exceptional merit in research, teaching, and/or service. Mr. Jones earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech in 1967. He is a retired executive of American Electric Power and remains an active consultant to the power industry. Mr. Jones has been a member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board since 1998.

In concurrence with recommendations of the Mechanical Engineering honorifics committee and department head Dr. Azim Eskandarian, Dean Julia Ross nominates Dr. Reza Mirzaeifar to hold the John R. Jones III Faculty Fellowship in Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Mirzaeifar has had an exemplary record of scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach during his tenure at Virginia Tech. He directs the Future Materials Laboratory in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, a rapidly growing group in the department with one book chapter, 64 papers in prestigious journals, and 46 conference papers since 2014. Dr. Mirzaeifar has had an impressive record of conducting cutting-edge research in the area of advanced materials with particular emphasis on nano- and micro-materials with a wide range of industrial applications.

Dr. Mirzaeifar has received \$2.6M funding from a diverse group of agencies including Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, Department of Energy (DOE), ONR-Defense University Research Instrumentation Program, Honeywell, DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Association of American Railroads through Railway Technologies Laboratory. His personal share is approximately \$2.08M. Among these the AFOSR project selected for the Young Investigator Program award was one of the 45 winners from a large pool of 280 applicants. In the DOE project, he is the single principal investigator from Virginia Tech and in that role, works with a large consortium comprising of more than a dozen members from universities, national labs, and industrial companies. The overall award to the consortium is approximately \$11M, the third largest project funded in 2020 by DOE Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Reza Mirzaeifar be appointed to the John R. Jones Faculty Fellowship in Mechanical Engineering, effective November 10, 2021 for a period of five years, with an annual operating budget for scholarship activities as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

November 8, 2021

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Data Science Faculty Fellowship

The Data Science Faculty Fellowships were established anonymously in 2021 by a generous donor to enhance the national and international prominence of the study and teaching of data science at Virginia Tech. The fellowships were established to recognize faculty dedicated to extraordinary research and/or teaching; to recruit scholars with exceptional records of achievement; and/or to retain high-performing faculty members with scholarly focus on data science and/or the application of data science within and across disciplines. A recipient shall hold the fellowship for a period of two years with possible renewal.

Dr. Ronald D. Fricker, interim dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. Xinwei Deng, associate professor of Statistics, to be a recipient of this fellowship, concurring with the unanimous recommendation of the faculty review committee.

Dr. Deng joined Virginia Tech in 2011 as an assistant professor in the Department of Statistics and was promoted to associate professor in 2016. He earned his Ph.D. in Statistics from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2009.

Dr. Deng has established an impressive record of research during his years at Virginia Tech with a clearly defined trajectory for continued research excellence and impact. His primary research focuses on developing theoretically sound and computationally efficient methods to model large, complex data; the interface between experimental design and machine learning; and novel statistical methods in emerging areas such as nanotechnology, tissue engineering, environmental science, risk analytics and epidemiology. Dr. Deng's research has practical implications for many important problems facing societies today.

Dr. Deng has 80 peer-reviewed publications and conference proceedings with over 70 invited presentations at national and international conferences. He has served in numerous leadership roles for both national and international conferences as well as on editorial and grant review boards. His research has been supported by 21 research grants including six National Science Foundation grants, two Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity grants, two Virginia Commonwealth Cyber Initiative grants and several grants from industry, such as Proctor & Gamble.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Xinwei Deng be appointed a Data Science Faculty Fellow for a two-year term, effective January 1, 2022, with operating support as provided by the fellowship and the eminent scholar match, if available.

November 8, 2021

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP**H.H.H. Faculty Fellowship in Economics**

The H.H.H. Faculty Fellowship in Economics was established in 2018 by a generous donor to support outstanding faculty in the Department of Economics in the College of Science with preference for junior or early-career faculty. The fellowship was established to recognize faculty dedicated to extraordinary research and/or teaching; to recruit scholars with exceptional records of achievement; and/or to retain high-performing faculty members with scholarly focus on economics. A recipient shall hold the fellowship for a period of two years with possible renewal.

Dr. Ronald D. Fricker, interim dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. Matthew Kovach, collegiate assistant professor of Economics, to be the recipient of this fellowship, concurring with the unanimous recommendation of the Department of Economics Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Kovach joined the Department of Economics at Virginia Tech in 2017 in the role of collegiate assistant professor after completing his Ph.D. at California Institute of Technology in 2015.

Dr. Kovach has established himself as a successful researcher and teacher at this early stage in his career with a clearly defined trajectory for continued excellence. He is an economic theorist working on behavioral models of decision theory with focus not necessarily on building *rational* models of individual decision-making but *realistic* models of human decision-making. This work is truly interdisciplinary and is at the frontier of economic theory that can explain the rich variety of actual human behavior. Dr. Kovach's research has practical implications for many important problems facing societies today.

Dr. Kovach has four peer-reviewed publications in the top disciplinary journals with an additional five completed working papers, some of which are already in the review process. This past year he presented his research at nine different national and international conferences and is well-known in the decision theory community both nationally and internationally. He plays an integral role in the development of the new Behavioral Decision Science program, teaching and developing three courses, and in the Data and Decisions Destination Area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Matthew Kovach be appointed the H.H.H. Faculty Fellow in Economics for a two-year term, effective January 1, 2022, with operating support as provided by the fellowship and the eminent scholar match, if available.

November 8, 2021

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Data Science Faculty Fellowship

The Data Science Faculty Fellowships were established anonymously in 2021 by a generous donor to enhance the national and international prominence of the study and teaching of data science at Virginia Tech. The fellowships were established to recognize faculty dedicated to extraordinary research and/or teaching; to recruit scholars with exceptional records of achievement; and/or to retain high-performing faculty members with scholarly focus on data science and/or the application of data science within and across disciplines. A recipient shall hold the fellowship for a period of two years with possible renewal.

Dr. Ronald D. Fricker, interim dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. R. Quinn Thomas, associate professor of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation and associate professor of Biology, to be a recipient of this fellowship, concurring with the unanimous recommendation of the faculty review committee.

Dr. Thomas joined Virginia Tech in 2012 as an assistant professor in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation and was promoted to associate professor in 2019. In 2020, he was awarded an affiliate faculty appointment with the Fralin Life Sciences Institute at Virginia Tech and in 2021, a joint appointment as associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science. He earned his Ph.D. in Ecosystem Ecology from Cornell University in 2012.

Dr. Thomas has established an impressive record of research during his years at Virginia Tech with a clearly defined trajectory for continued research excellence and impact. His research in forecasting both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems has advanced the understanding of the interactions between global change and ecosystem dynamics. His current work brings together his expertise in environmental science, modeling, computation and data science to advance the power and impact of the new observatory-based, big-data era of ecology. Dr. Thomas' research has practical implications for many important problems facing societies today.

Dr. Thomas has 41 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals with over 30 invited presentations at national and international conferences. He has served in numerous leadership roles for both national and international conferences as well as on editorial and grant review boards. His research has been supported with grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Science Foundation, National Parks Service, United States Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service and the United States Geological Survey.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. R. Quinn Thomas be appointed a Data Science Faculty Fellow for a two-year term, effective January 1, 2022, with operating support as provided by the fellowship and the eminent scholar match, if available.

November 8, 2021

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Angela and John Emery Faculty Fellowship in
Accounting and Information Systems

The Angela and John Emery Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems was established in 2007 to provide support for the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. The Department of Accounting and Information Systems has recommended that the faculty fellowship be awarded to Dr. Andrew Acito. The departmental Personnel Committee and the College Honorifics and Awards Committee endorsed this nomination as did Dean Robert Sumichrast.

Dr. Acito received his Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of Iowa in 2011. After serving on the faculty in the Department of Accounting at Michigan State, he joined the faculty of the Department of Accounting and Information Systems at Virginia Tech in 2019 as an assistant professor.

Dr. Acito is a productive young scholar in audit having published three articles in the field's elite journal. His research focuses on the effects of materiality on accounting errors and audit decisions and subsequently on auditor-client relations. He serves on the editorial board of *The International Journal of Accounting* and as an ad hoc reviewer for many of the top research journals in accounting. He has a strong research trajectory and is an emerging impactful scholar.

Dr. Acito is also an effective classroom instructor. He teaches financial statement analysis in the Master of Accounting and Information Systems program and is an active participant on the accounting curriculum and diversity committees. Dr. Acito is an emerging young scholar and fully deserving of this fellowship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Andrew Acito be appointed to the John and Angela Emery Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems for a renewable three-year term effective July 30, 2022, with a salary supplement as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match program, if available.

November 8, 2021

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
William and Mary Alice Park Junior Faculty Fellowship

The William and Mary Alice Park Junior Faculty Fellowship in Real Estate was established in 2014 to provide support for the Program in Real Estate at Virginia Tech. The Director of the Center for Real Estate Excellence has recommended that the William and Mary Alice Park Junior Faculty Fellowship be awarded to Dr. J. Sherwood Clements, III. The College Honorifics and Awards Committee endorsed this nomination as did Dean Robert Sumichrast.

Dr. Clements received his Ph.D. in Real Estate in 2010 from Georgia State University. He will join the Virginia Tech faculty in the fall of 2022 as a collegiate associate professor. Since 2010 he has served as clinical instructor and senior instructor in the Department of Economics, Finance and Legal Studies at the University of Alabama.

Dr. Clements is a highly experienced educator, scholar and practitioner in the field of real estate. His research has examined herding behavior among real estate developers, real estate public equity related to Timber REITs, and the possibility of using real estate investment in China as a possible hedge against inflation. He received the best paper award in Senior Housing from the American Real Estate Society (ARES) and has presented at a number of professional meetings in real estate.

Dr. Clements has also made impressive contributions in teaching and service. He has taught Real Estate Principles at the undergraduate level as part of a very popular minor and a master's seminar in real estate, receiving very high evaluations from his students. His practical experience includes more than a decade of experience in real estate appraisal including owning his own appraisal business. In addition, he has served in a number of leadership roles in the real estate industry, including as chair of the Alabama Association of Realtors chair search committee. In short, Dr. Clements is a highly accomplished teacher, professional, and scholar fully deserving of this junior faculty fellowship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. J. Sherwood Clements be appointed to the William and Mary Alice Park Junior Faculty Fellowship for a renewable three-year term effective August 10, 2022, with a salary supplement as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match program, if available.

November 8, 2021

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Robert M. Brown Faculty Fellowship

The Robert M. Brown Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems was established in 2017 to provide faculty support for the Department of Accounting and Information Systems within the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. The Department of Accounting and Information Systems has recommended that the faculty fellowship be awarded to Professor Nadia A. Rogers. The departmental Personnel Committee and the College Honorifics and Awards Committee endorsed this nomination as did Dean Robert Sumichrast.

Professor Rogers received her Masters of Accountancy in 2001 from Virginia Tech. She joined the faculty in the Department of Accounting and Information Systems at Virginia Tech in 2015 as an instructor. She was promoted to associate professor of practice in 2016 and to professor of practice in 2021.

Professor Rogers is an impactful scholar and audit practitioner with more than a decade of experience as a senior audit manager for KPMG and as partner in a regional firm and owner of her own practice. She serves on the Virginia Board of Accountancy, served as co-chair of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Information Systems and Control Task Force, is a member of the National Associate of State Boards of Accountancy Education Committee and the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Professor Rogers is also an effective classroom instructor teaching Principles of Accounting, Intermediate Accounting, Forensic and Investigative Accounting and Information Systems Audit and Control. She is an accomplished educational leader serving as director of the Master of Accounting and Information Systems program. She has expanded opportunities for our students through a collaboration with KPMG which allows the college to offer an accounting analytics option through KPMG's Master of Accounting with Data Analytics program. Professor Rogers is an accomplished educator and scholar fully deserving of this fellowship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Nadia A. Rogers be appointed to the Robert M. Brown Faculty Fellowship for a renewable three-year term effective July 30, 2022, with a salary supplement as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match program, if available.

November 8, 2021

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Curling Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems

The Curling Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems was established in 2013 to provide support for the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. The Department of Accounting and Information Systems has recommended that the faculty fellowship be awarded to Dr. Liang Tan. The departmental Personnel Committee and the College Honorifics and Awards Committee endorsed this nomination as did Dean Robert Sumichrast.

Dr. Tan received his Ph.D. in Accounting and Information Management from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in 2011. After serving as an assistant professor of accountancy at George Washington University, he joined the faculty of the Department of Accounting and Information Systems at Virginia Tech as an assistant professor in 2019.

Dr. Tan is a highly published and impactful scholar young scholar in the areas of debt contracting, corporate governance, audit and tax avoidance. He has published nine articles in refereed journals, with six of those articles published in the elite journals in the accounting field. He also serves as an ad hoc reviewer for all of the major journals in the accounting field. His research trajectory is very strong and he is emerging as a highly impactful scholar.

Dr. Tan is also an effective classroom instructor and mentor. He teaches cost planning and control in our undergraduate program and currently serves on the dissertation committee of one student scheduled to defend their proposal this fall. Dr. Tan is an accomplished young scholar and fully deserving of this fellowship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Liang Tan be appointed to the Curling Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems for a renewable three-year term effective July 30, 2022, with a salary supplement as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match program, if available.

November 8, 2021

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

L. Mahlon Harrell Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems

The L. Mahlon Harrell Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems was established in 2009 to provide support for the Department of Accounting and Information Systems in the Pamplin College of Business. The Department of Accounting and Information Systems has recommended that the faculty fellowship be awarded to Dr. Marshall Vance. The departmental Personnel Committee and the College Honorifics and Awards Committee endorsed this nomination as did Dean Robert Sumichrast.

Dr. Vance received his Ph.D. in Accounting from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 2012. He joined the faculty of the University of Southern California in 2012 as an assistant professor before joining the faculty of the Accounting and Information Systems Department in the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech as an associate professor in 2019.

Dr. Vance is a productive and impactful scholar young scholar whose research interest is in the design and performance consequences of executive and broad-based compensation and other control systems. He has published three articles in elite journals and has developed a strong research pipeline. He serves as an ad hoc reviewer for 10 of the top journals in his field and was twice recognized as an outstanding reviewer. His work is impactful and his research trajectory suggests he will continue to be a productive and impactful scholar.

Dr. Vance is also an effective classroom instructor. He teaches financial statement analysis and receives high ratings for his teaching effectiveness. Dr. Vance is a rising young scholar and fully deserving of this fellowship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Marshall Vance be appointed to the L. Mahlon Harrell Faculty Fellowship in Accounting and Information Systems for a renewable three-year term effective July 30, 2022, with a salary supplement as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match program, if available.

November 8, 2021