

**SUMMARY**

**New Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (5)**

**June 3, 2019**

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Engineering Professorship

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Anthony Kwame Harrison Edward S. Diggs  
Professorship in Humanities

## ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP CACI Faculty Fellowship

Recognizing the continuing need for faculty fellowships and the ongoing need for endowments in support of the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, CACI International Inc. established funding for the CACI Faculty Fellowship. Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated associate professor Kevin Heaslip to the CACI Faculty Fellowship, concurring with the Honorifics Committees of the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and the College of Engineering, as well as by CEE department head, Dr. W. Samuel Easterling.

Dr. Heaslip is a multi-talented, nationally recognized faculty member who brings a number of significant strengths in his research, teaching, and service to Virginia Tech. He is uniquely qualified to be selected as the CACI Faculty Fellowship as he has been a trailblazing leader in research regarding cyber-physical systems in civil infrastructure, especially critical infrastructure. His research in this area started in 2008 with a study conducted for the Department of Defense (DoD) where he examined the link between societal stability and critical infrastructure. The results of that study concluded that security for critical infrastructure was a significant component of successful societal stability. This study formed the basis for global policy for the Department of Defense and the development of strategies for the protection of critical infrastructure domestically and at DoD facilities around the world. He has maintained an active DoD security clearance since 2007 as a determination that he is trustworthy with the handling and knowledge contained in classified documents. He currently holds a top secret classification with access to Secure Compartmentalized Information, otherwise known as TS/SCI clearance.

Dr. Heaslip has shown to be a dedicated classroom instructor and research advisor. Since entering academia in 2008, he has taught/co-taught a total of nine different courses at Utah State (four courses) and Virginia Tech (five courses). These courses have ranged from undergraduate introductory classes in transportation to graduate level classes in urban and regional transportation planning. He has also taught a class on "Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity," which is believed to be unique nationwide. He has advised or co-advised six Ph.D. students, and 21 M.S. students to completion. He has also advised 30 undergraduate students in research. His current research group includes five Ph.D. students and three M.S. students, and two undergraduate researchers.

Dr. Heaslip is a true leader in the field and he clearly understands the importance of service and has exhibited our motto of *Ut Prosim* for many years. He serves or has served on numerous technical and administrative committees of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the leading organization in the transportation discipline. He currently serves on AHD55 Signing and Marking Materials and AHB55: Work Zone Traffic Control Committee. He is a former member of AHB30: Vehicle-Highway Automation, advancing research topics regarding automated vehicle security. He has also served on several

department committees and serves as the coordinator for the Transportation Infrastructure and Systems Engineering Group within the CEE department. In addition, he serves as a member of the Intelligent Infrastructure for Human Centered Communities destination area stakeholders committee, and served as a lecturer for the C-Tech<sup>2</sup> program for high school girls interested in engineering.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Dr. Kevin Heaslip be appointed the CACI Faculty Fellow, effective August 10, 2019 with discretionary funds to support his research as provided by the endowment and, if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

June 3, 2019

**ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP**  
**John W. Hancock, Jr. Engineering Chair**

The John W. Hancock, Jr. Engineering Chair in the Virginia Tech College of Engineering was established by the generous gift of \$1M by John W. Hancock, Jr. in 1988. The creation of this endowed chair was established for the purpose of attracting and retaining eminent scholars in the College of Engineering. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dimitrios S. Nikolopoulos as the John W. Hancock, Jr. Professor, based on the recommendations of the Department of Computer Science and the College of Engineering Honorifics Committee.

Nikolopoulos is returning to Virginia Tech after spending the past 10 years in Europe. Not only does Nikolopoulos have a world-class record of scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach, but his demonstrated ability as a leader, visionary and strategic thinker, and builder of large research and academic units will be invaluable as Virginia Tech enters a time of significant growth and opportunity.

Through fundamental scholarship on computer systems, Nikolopoulos has made outstanding contributions to the global computing systems research community. He has published 55 fully refereed journal articles and 120 fully refereed papers in highly regarded archival conference proceedings. The total value of his research awards is \$101.7M, and his own share of these awards is \$38.9M. His grant share over his career exceeds \$1.44M per annum. Nikolopoulos has advised or co-advised 22 Ph.D. students through completion and continues to advise six Ph.D. students. He has also advised 16 postdoctoral research fellows. He is currently professor with personal chair in High Performance and Distributed Computing at Queen's University Belfast, and director of the Queen's University Belfast Research Institute in Electronics. In addition, Professor Nikolopoulos holds the Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Fellowship.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Dimitrios S. Nikolopoulos be appointed to the John W. Hancock, Jr. Chair in Engineering for a renewable period of 5 years, effective August 10, 2019, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment and, if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

June 3, 2019

**ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP**  
**Anthony and Catherine Moraco Endowed Faculty Fellowship**

Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, nominates Dr. Nina Stark for appointment to hold the Anthony and Catherine Moraco Endowed Faculty Fellowship in Civil and Environmental Engineering. The nomination is recommended by the Honorifics Committee of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) as well as by CEE department head, Dr. W. Samuel Easterling. This fellowship is funded through an endowment established in 2018 by Mr. and Mrs. Moraco.

Dr. Stark is a multi-talented, nationally and internationally recognized faculty member who brings a number of significant strengths to Virginia Tech. Her success across the spectrum of mission areas – scholarship, teaching, research and service – has been, and continues to be, outstanding. She has very quickly developed a strong and appropriately balanced resume across multiple disciplines and likewise her work has achieved significant recognition in her field. She is working hard to develop collaborations with international partners who are of interest to the department and college. The invitations that she received in 2016 to be a keynote speaker at an international conference held in Australia and at a meeting of experts on “The Ocean’s Seafloor – One Bio-Geo-System,” in Hannover, Germany are real feathers in her cap – and Virginia Tech’s.

Her overall record is very compelling with three particular aspects standing out. First, the obvious – the fact that she received both a National Science Foundation Career Award and an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award is unusual and indeed remarkable. These awards coupled with her funded research success has her on an excellent trajectory.

Second, Stark’s leadership of the post-disaster reconnaissance activities associated with Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Hurricane Irma in Florida shows the very high regard in which she is held in the geotechnical community. There are any number of geotechnical engineers across the United States that could have served very well in this role. However, the profession turned toward Dr. Stark to fill these important roles.

Third, her effort and commitment to diversity and inclusion, with a particular emphasis on supporting young women, is very compelling. She works broadly to support inclusive diversity and the field research opportunity in Alaska provided for groups of freshmen and sophomore students stands out among all that she does.

Stark is excelling in each of the critical mission areas of the university. The non-traditional, interdisciplinary background she brings to the department, college and university is highly desirable and supports our future direction. Her work and reputation both nationally and internationally speak very highly of her excellent work and contribution to the profession. Faculty like Dr. Stark are critical to increasing the visibility and profile of the College of Engineering and Virginia Tech.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Dr. Nina Stark be appointed the Anthony and Catherine Moraco Endowed Faculty Fellow in CEE, effective August 10, 2019 with discretionary funds to support her research as provided by the endowment and, if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

June 3, 2019

**ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP**  
**Elizabeth and James E. Turner Jr. '56 Faculty Fellowship**

Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Harpreet S. Dhillon for the Elizabeth and James E. Turner Jr. '56 Faculty Fellowship. The Turner Fellowship was established in 2011, with a gift from the Jim and Elizabeth Turner Fund held by the AYCO Charitable Foundation.

Dhillon earned his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 2013, where he was a Microelectronics and Computer Development (MCD) Fellow in 2010-11. He received a bachelor of technology in electronics and communication engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, India, in 2008, and a M.S. degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech in 2010. In academic year 2013-14, he was a Viterbi Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. He joined the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech as a tenure-track assistant professor in fall 2014 and was named the Outstanding New Assistant Professor by the Virginia Tech College of Engineering in 2017, a College of Engineering Faculty Fellow in 2018, and the Steven O. Lane Junior Faculty Fellow in 2018. During his doctoral studies, he held short-term visiting positions at Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs in Crawford Hill, NJ, Samsung Research America in Richardson, TX, Qualcomm Inc. in San Diego, CA, and Cercom, Politecnico di Torino in Italy.

Dhillon has earned a reputation of being a truly gifted researcher having consistently produced seminal research results that have been extensively cited and utilized by other researchers worldwide. Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters) included him in their annual list of highly cited researchers in both 2017 and 2018. He was the only researcher from Virginia Tech to feature on this highly-selective list in 2017. Dhillon's work has received five best paper awards, including three exceptionally competitive annual awards from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Communications Society: the 2014 Leonard G. Abraham Prize, the 2015 Young Author Best Paper Award, and the 2016 Heinrich Hertz Award. These awards are particularly impressive given the high selectivity and rigorous competitiveness (one paper is chosen from those published in the past three calendar years for each of these awards). Dhillon is also an extremely gifted teacher who has successfully integrated several ideas from his research into his classes. Due to his engaging teaching style, he is consistently rated very highly both by his peers and the students.

Dhillon has shown remarkable research productivity during his relatively short career. He has written more than 65 journal papers, all of which were published in the top journals of his area, such as the IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications and the IEEE Transactions on Communications. He has also published over 57 conference papers in the top venues of his research field, including two conference best paper award recipients. He has secured or helped to secure a high level of sponsored funding to support his research. This includes six awards from the National Science Foundation and one from the National Spectrum Consortium. He is the principal investigator in six of these

awards. The total amount of these awards is \$5.9M, with VT's share being \$4M and Dhillon's share being more than \$2M.

Dhillon is also frequently invited to serve in leadership roles within his community. He is currently serving on the editorial boards of three IEEE journals: *IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications*, *IEEE Transactions on Green Communications and Networking*, and *IEEE Wireless Communications Letters*. He has also chaired or co-chaired key symposia and over dozen workshops in top conferences of his area, such as the IEEE International Conference on Communications.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Harpreet S. Dhillon be appointed a Turner Faculty Fellow, effective August 10, 2019 for a 5-year term, with a salary supplement as provided by the endowment and, if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

June 3, 2019

**ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP**  
**Edward S. Diggs Professorship in Humanities**

The Edward S. Diggs Endowed Professorship in Humanities was established by Hattie Wilson Diggs in memory of her husband Edward Singleton Diggs, a 1914 graduate of the university to recognize and promote excellence in research and teaching in humanities. With the unanimous support of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Honors and Awards Committee and endorsement of Dr. John Ryan, chair of the Department of Sociology, Dean Rosemary Blieszner nominates Dr. Anthony Kwame Harrison, associate professor of Sociology, as the Edward S. Diggs Professor of Humanities.

Dr. Harrison is a cultural anthropologist who conducts research on the impacts of race in popular music, recreation, and higher education. He incorporates arts-based and media-based projects in his research and teaching, and has published articles in humanities, anthropology, and music journals as well as in sociology journals. He authored two books, has a co-edited volume currently in press, has published 10 refereed journal articles, seven chapters in edited books, and many articles in publications for professionals and lay persons, and has received 15 awards and grants supporting his efforts to promote diversity and inclusion.

Dr. Harrison is a highly innovative instructor who was named a Diggs Teaching Scholar in 2011 and has received 11 other awards and recognitions for teaching excellence. He currently holds the Gloria D. Smith Professorship of Africana Studies, and is a faculty affiliate of the American Indian studies minor and the Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought, and a member of the Academy of Teaching Excellence.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Dr. Anthony Kwame Harrison be appointed the Edward S. Diggs Professor of Humanities for a five-year term effective August 10, 2019, with the appropriate salary stipend and operating budget as provided by the endowment and, if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

June 3, 2019