SUMMARY

New Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (21)

August 19, 2025

Each college has formal procedures for the nomination and appointment to endowed chairs, professorships, and fellowships that include review by a college honorifics committee or promotion and tenure committee.

After review by the appropriate college committee the college dean makes recommendations for approval by the provost and the Board of Visitors. Such an appointment may continue through the active career of the professor at the university, unless it is relinquished in favor of some other honored or administrative appointment or unless the appointment has specific term limitations that may be renewable.

The following faculty members are recommended for endowed chairs, professorships, or fellowships at Virginia Tech.

College of Engineering (14)

R. Michael Buehrer	Fred C. Lee Chair
Tanyel Bulbul	Preston and Catharine White Fellowship
Christina DiMarino	Dushan Boroyevich Ph.D. ’86 Junior Faculty Fellowship
Stanley B. Grant	Nick Prillaman Professorship
Russell A. Green	Charles E. Via, Jr. Professorship in Civil and Environmental Engineering
Jennifer L. Irish	Charles P. Lunsford Professorship
Gabriel Isaacman-VanWertz	Anthony and Catherine Moraco Endowed Faculty Fellowship
Ming Jin	Shirish S. Sathaye Junior Faculty Fellowship
Ioannis Koutromanos	Raymond G. and Madelyn Ann Curry Faculty Fellowship in Structural Engineering
Lindsay Lally	Pulte Homes Professorship
Lingjia Liu	Andrew J. Young Professorship
Earl “Tripp” Shealy	Bowman Faculty Fellowship in Sustainable Land Development

Walid Thabet	Pulte Homes Professorship
Jeffrey S. Walling	Boebel Engineering Fellowship

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (1)

Amanda Demmer	Paul and Linda Austin Military History Professorship

College of Science (5)

Rana Ashkar	Patricia Caldwell Faculty Fellowship
Charles Calderwood	Leo and Melva Harris Faculty Fellowship
Cayelan Carey	Patricia Caldwell Faculty Fellowship
Bryan Hsu	Blackwood Junior Faculty Fellowship
Guoliang “Greg” Liu	L.C. Hassinger Senior Fellowship in Neuroscience

College of Veterinary Medicine (1)

Giulio Menciotti	Anne Hunter Professorship in Veterinary Medicine

ENDOWED FACULTY CHAIR
Fred C. Lee Endowed Chair

The Fred C. Lee Endowed Chair in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was established by the Virginia Tech College of Engineering in honor of the Founder and Director Emeritus of the Center for Power Electronics Systems (CPES) and University Distinguished Professor Emeritus. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. R. Michael Buehrer as the Fred C. Lee Endowed Chair, based on the recommendations of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Honorifics Committee.

Over the past two decades, Dr. Buehrer has built a career marked by intellectual rigor, technical depth, and sustained impact in wireless communications, geolocation, and radar systems. His work addresses foundational challenges while remaining deeply relevant to the needs of both civilian and defense-related communication systems.

Dr. Buehrer's research portfolio is marked by both volume and impact. He has authored more than 100 journal papers and over 250 peer-reviewed conference papers. His work has been cited more than 13,650 times, including over 4,400 citations in the past five years, and he has an h-index of 61. In addition, his research has been recognized with six best paper awards. In 2023, he received the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Military Communications Conference (IEEE MILCOM) Lifetime Technical Achievement Award. Dr. Buehrer has secured over $35M in sponsored research funding throughout his career, with a personal share exceeding $11M.

Dr. Buehrer teaches demanding undergraduate and graduate courses, and he consistently earns some of the highest student evaluations in the College of Engineering. He has advised 26 Ph.D. and 41 M.S. students to completion.

Through his scholarship in wireless communication, radar, and geolocation, exemplary teaching methods, dedicated service, and prolific publications, Dr. Buehrer has made outstanding contributions to Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. R. Michael Buehrer be appointed to the Fred C. Lee Endowed Chair for a renewable period of five years, effective August 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Preston and Catharine White Fellowship

The Preston and Catharine White Fellowship in the Myers-Lawson School of Construction was established with a generous gift from Preston and Catharine White to support the development of Hitt Hall. In addition, the endowment's distributions are designated to support additional leadership positions within the School, namely the Preston and Catharine White Faculty Fellows, when the director already holds a directorship or professorship. These fellowships strengthen the leadership team within the highly ranked Myers-Lawson School of Construction at Virginia Tech. Dean Ross has nominated Dr. Tanyel Bulbul as a Preston and Catharine White Fellow based on the recommendations of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction director and the Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Bulbul serves as associate professor and chair of the Building Construction Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Tanyel Bulbul be appointed as the Preston and Catharine White Faculty Fellow for a period of one-year, effective August 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Dushan Boroyevich Ph.D. '86 Junior Faculty Fellowship

The Dushan Boroyevich Ph.D. '86 Junior Faculty Fellowship in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was established with generous gifts from Dr. Richard S. Zhang, Dr. Silva Hiti, Dr. Vlatko M. Vlatkovic, Mr. V. Himamshu Prasad, and Dr. Ashraf W. Lotfi. The creation of this fellowship enables the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to recognize and support outstanding junior faculty. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Christina DiMarino as the Dushan Boroyevich Ph.D. '86 Junior Faculty Fellow, based on the recommendations of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Honorifics Committee.

Dr. DiMarino has excelled at scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach at Virginia Tech. Her research focuses on power electronics packaging and integration involving wide-bandgap (WBG) and ultra-wide-bandgap (UWBG) power semiconductors. Since joining Virginia Tech as an assistant professor in 2019, she has demonstrated remarkable productivity with more than 39 conference papers, over 16 journal papers, six magazine articles, one book chapter, and three granted patents.

Dr. DiMarino has secured 21 sponsored research projects totaling $14.8M, with her personal share exceeding $4.3M. Dr. DiMarino was honored with the 2024 Richard M. Bass Outstanding Young Power Electronics Engineer Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Power Electronics Society (PELS), the highest individual award for engineers under 35 years of age in the power electronics field.

Through innovative teaching methods and outstanding mentorship, Dr. DiMarino has impacted hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students. She has successfully advised two postdocs and graduated six M.S., eight M.Eng., four undergraduate students, and six high-school interns.

Dr. DiMarino through her scholarship in power electronics packaging and integration has made outstanding contributions to Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation through her innovative research, exemplary teaching methods, dedicated service and outreach to the community, and prolific publications.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Christina DiMarino be appointed to the Dushan Boroyevich Ph.D. '86 Junior Faculty Fellowship for a non-renewable period of five years, effective August 10, 2025, with an operating budget as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Nick Prillaman Professorship

The Nick Prillaman Professorship was established in 1986 with a generous gift from Mr. Nick Prillaman, Jr. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Stanley B. Grant for appointment as the Nick Prillaman Professor, based on the recommendations of the Charles E. Via Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Honorifics Committee and the CEE Department Head, Dr. Mark A. Widdowson.

Dr. Grant is a multi-talented, nationally and internationally recognized scholar who brings significant visibility to Virginia Tech. He is recognized as an expert in environmental engineering, water quality, and sustainable drinking water systems.

Dr. Grant has served as the director of the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory (OWML) since 2022, and has advanced the OWML under his tenure. The Occoquan reservoir is a critical asset, serving as the drinking water source for over a million people residing in northern Virginia, and requiring multi-stakeholder expertise to maintain a high level of water quality.

Dr. Grant is a prolific researcher with over 100 peer-reviewed research articles published in high-impact journals, including *Science* and *Nature*. His papers have been cited over 6,600 publications, and his h-index is 43. He has led over $18M in competitive state, private, and federal research projects.

Dr. Grant teaches fundamental topics related to the fate and transport of pollutants in the environment. He has served as the primary mentor for 17 post-doctoral scholars and 21 Ph.D. students. He has received multiple teaching and research awards, as well as honorary international lectureships.

Dr. Grant has made outstanding contributions in scholarship, research, instruction, mentoring, and service that benefit Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Stanley B. Grant be appointed to the Nick Prillaman Professorship for a renewable period of five years, effective August 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and annual operating budget as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Charles E. Via, Jr. Professorship

The Charles E. Via, Jr. Professorship in Civil and Environmental Engineering is funded through the endowment established in 1987 by Mrs. Marion Bradley Via and subsequently supplemented by the Via-Bradley College of Engineering Foundation. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Russell A. Green to the Charles E. Via, Jr. Professorship in the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE). The nomination is based on the recommendations of the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Honorifics Committee and the CEE Department Head, Dr. Mark A. Widdowson.

Dr. Green is a multi-talented, nationally and internationally recognized faculty member who brings significant visibility to Virginia Tech. Dr. Green is recognized as one of the world's experts in earthquake engineering and seismic hazard analysis. Complementary to his academic pursuits, he has provided exemplary service to the United States military as a U.S. Marine from 1984 to 1988, and as a visiting research engineer to the U.S. Army on nuclear facility safety and waterway protection. Following the 2011 earthquake in Mineral, Virginia, he served as a resource expert to the Governor of Virginia's Earthquake Advisory Board. Among other recognitions, Dr. Green is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the recipient of the 2016 ASCE Norman Medal and the 2024 ASCE Collingwood Prize, and was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award in 2006.

Dr. Green is widely published with more than 191 refereed papers and has a significant number of technical reports. His work has been cited in over 7,200 articles in peer-reviewed publications, with an h-index of 43. Dr. Green has participated in over $8M in funded research with a personal share of $3.5M.

Dr. Green is recognized as a dedicated classroom instructor and research advisor. He was awarded the College of Engineering (COE) Certificate of Teaching Excellence in 2013 and 2019 for his instructional expertise. Dr. Green is a respected and sought-after graduate advisor, having advised or co-advised 11 Ph.D. and 37 M.S. students to completion.

Dr. Green is an internationally recognized scholar and leader in the field of geotechnical engineering. His numerous contributions in all mission areas have improved the visibility and notoriety of Virginia Tech.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Russell A. Green be appointed to the Charles E. Via, Jr. Professorship for a renewable period of five years, effective August 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and annual operating budget as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Charles P. Lunsford Professorship

The Charles P. Lunsford Professorship was established in 1976 with a generous gift from Charles P. Lunsford II of C.L. Lunsford Sons & Izard, Inc., of Roanoke, Virginia. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Jennifer L. Irish to be appointed as the Charles P. Lunsford Professor, based on the recommendations of the Charles E. Via Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Honorifics Committee and the CEE Department Head, Dr. Mark A. Widdowson.

Dr. Irish is a multi-talented, nationally and internationally recognized faculty member who brings significant visibility to Virginia Tech. Dr. Irish is recognized as expert in coastal engineering and a world-renowned leader in storm surge dynamics, coastal hazard assessment, and nature-based coastal infrastructure.

Dr. Irish served as a Coastal Engineering Regional Technical Specialist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Dr. Irish is the recipient of numerous awards, an elected member of the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (VASEM), a recipient of the U.S. Fulbright Senior Scholar All-Disciplines Fellowship, and a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Dr. Irish has published more than 90 peer-reviewed journal publications, including papers in top journals such as *Nature*. Her papers have been cited in over 6,000 articles in peer-reviewed publications, and she has an h-index of 34. Dr. Irish has secured total external research funding of $25M, with a personal share of $4M.

Dr. Irish has also excelled in her contributions to service, including her current roles as the Environmental and Water Resources Program Area Coordinator and the presidentially appointed Virginia Tech Faculty Athletics Representative.

Dr. Irish has made outstanding contributions in scholarship, research, instruction, mentoring, and service that benefit Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Jennifer L. Irish be appointed to the Charles P. Lunsford Professorship for a renewable period of five years, effective August 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and annual operating budget as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Anthony and Catherine Moraco Endowed Faculty Fellowship

The Anthony and Catherine Moraco Endowed Faculty Fellowship in Civil and Environmental Engineering was established in 2018 with a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Moraco. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Gabriel Isaacman-VanWertz to be appointed as the Anthony and Catherine Moraco Endowed Faculty Fellow, based on the recommendations of the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Honorifics Committee and the CEE Department Head, Dr. Mark A. Widdowson.

Dr. Isaacman-VanWertz is a nationally recognized faculty member in environmental engineering, specializing in air quality, who brings a number of significant strengths in his research, teaching, and service to Virginia Tech. Specifically, his research focuses on developing innovative new tools to better measure the composition of the atmosphere and to use these advances to understand chemical transformations of atmospheric organic compounds and their broader impacts on and interactions with ecosystems, humans, and Earth's systems.

Dr. Isaacman-VanWertz has published 73 peer-reviewed papers, which have been cited in more than 5,700 publications. He has a first-author paper in *Nature Geosciences,* and his h-index is 36. He has directed or co-directed over $9M of externally funded research at Virginia Tech, with a personal share of over $5M. He was honored with the Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Whitby Award from the American Association of Aerosol Research (AAAR) for excellence in aerosol science, and as a Dean's Fellow in the College of Engineering (COE).

Dr. Isaacman-VanWertz is an excellent mentor of graduate students and involves his students in scholarly publications. He has advised five Ph.D. students and three M.S. students to degree completion. He maintains an active research group and contributes to undergraduate instruction in support of the new environmental engineering major.

Dr. Isaacman-VanWertz has made outstanding contributions in teaching, mentoring, research, scholarship, service, and leadership that benefit Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Gabriel Isaacman-VanWertz be appointed to the Anthony and Catherine Moraco Endowed Faculty Fellowship, for a period of three years, effective August 10, 2025, with an annual operating budget to support research as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Shirish S. Sathaye Junior Faculty Fellowship

The Shirish S. Sathaye Junior Faculty Fellowship in Electrical and Computer Engineering was established with a generous gift from Shirish and Archana Sathaye. The creation of this fellowship enables the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Virginia Tech to recognize and support outstanding junior faculty. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Ming Jin to be appointed as the Shirish S. Sathaye Junior Faculty Fellow, based on the recommendations of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Head and Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Jin specializes in developing adaptive, safe, and value-aligned decision-making agents that operate in complex, dynamic environments, bridging the critical intersection of reinforcement learning, control theory, and optimization. His interdisciplinary approach has generated groundbreaking innovations in trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI) systems, with applications in power and energy systems, cybersecurity, and machine learning.

Dr. Jin's research productivity is outstanding, with an h-index of 33, more than 4,000 citations on Google Scholar, and numerous publications in top-tier venues. His work has been recognized with prestigious awards, including first place in the CityLearn Challenge (2021), the Amazon-Virginia Tech Initiative Research Award (2023), and multiple best paper awards. Dr. Jin has secured substantial external funding exceeding $5.3M, with a personal share of over $2.1M. Notably, he was awarded the inaugural National Science Foundation (NSF) Safe Learning-Enabled Systems (SLES) grant.

Dr. Jin has consistently received exceptional teaching evaluations, with Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) scores averaging 5.29 compared to the department average of 4.89. He has developed and taught key courses in machine learning and optimization and mentors a diverse group of graduate and undergraduate students.

Through his scholarship in trustworthy AI systems, exemplary teaching methods, dedicated service, and prolific publications, Dr. Jin has made outstanding contributions to Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Ming Jin be appointed to the Shirish S. Sathaye Junior Faculty Fellowship for a non-renewable period of five years, effective August 10, 2025, with an operating budget as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Raymond G. and Madelyn Ann Curry Faculty Fellowship
in Structural Engineering

The Raymond G. and Madelyn Ann Curry Endowed Faculty Fellowship in Structural Engineering was established in 2018 with a gift from Raymond G. Curry, Jr. and his wife Madelyn. Mr. Curry is a member of Virginia Tech's Class of 1954 and an entrepreneur in the construction and development industry. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Ioannis Koutromanos for appointment as the Raymond G. and Madelyn Ann Curry Faculty Fellow in Structural Engineering, based on the recommendations of the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Honorifics Committee and the CEE Department Head, Dr. Mark A. Widdowson.

Dr. Koutromanos is a nationally recognized faculty member in the field of structural engineering who brings a number of significant strengths in his research, teaching, and service to Virginia Tech. He is acknowledged to be one of the leading researchers in the area of design and repair of civil engineering structures affected by earthquakes. Dr. Koutromanos has published over 69 peer-reviewed papers, nine book chapters, and a textbook. He has directed or co-directed over $3.3M of externally funded research at Virginia Tech with a personal share of over $1.7M.

Dr. Koutromanos is known as a dedicated classroom instructor and research advisor. He is an excellent mentor of graduate students and involves his students in scholarly publications. Dr. Koutromanos has also advised five Ph.D. and 11 M.S. students to completion. He has an active research group and works collaboratively with faculty.

Dr. Koutromanos has made outstanding contributions in teaching, mentoring, research, scholarship, service, and leadership that benefit Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Ioannis Koutromanos be appointed to the Raymond G. and Madelyn Ann Curry Faculty Fellowship in Structural Engineering, for a period of three years, effective August 10, 2025, with an annual operating budget to support research as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Pulte Homes Professorship

The Pulte Homes Professorship was established with a generous gift from Pulte Homes, providing support for faculty within the highly ranked Myers-Lawson School of Construction. Dean Ross has nominated Lindsay Lally, associate professor of practice, for appointment as the Pulte Homes Professor, based on the recommendations of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction director and the Honorifics Committee.

Lindsay Lally, Professional Engineer (P.E.), has over 18 years of experience in the design and construction industry and holds a professional engineering license in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She received a bachelor's degree in 2005 and a master's degree in 2013 in civil engineering from Virginia Tech. Professionally, she designed and managed a variety of land development projects, specializing in multi-disciplinary higher education, including the Virginia Tech/Blacksburg Transit Multi-Modal Transit Facility (MMTF), the Radford University College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences Building, and the Virginia Tech O'Shaughnessy Hall Renovations project.

Professor Lally enjoys solving problems and negotiating solutions in a team setting and promotes a pragmatic approach to project management with her students, as evidenced by her establishment of a capstone program for Construction Engineering and Management (CEM) students. These projects entail actual projects working with companies, and are characterized by both horizontal and vertical construction (vertical construction refers to structures such as buildings or airport towers, while horizontal construction includes highways, bridges, and airport runways).

Professor Lally has also applied her industry experience to mentor non-tenure-track faculty who are transitioning from industry to the classroom. She exemplifies the principles of a professor of practice and has become an excellent teacher. Professor Lally will also serve as the new, incoming chair of the Construction Engineering and Management (CEM) program, which offers an Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)-accredited (CEM) degree.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Professor Lindsay Lally be appointed to the Pulte Homes Professorship for a renewable period of one-year, effective August 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and annual operating budget provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Andrew J. Young Professorship

The Andrew J. Young Professorship in Electrical Engineering was established with a generous gift from Jim Young, a 1980 graduate of Virginia Tech, and his wife, Marianne Young. This endowed professorship supports the recognition of outstanding faculty excellence within the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at Virginia Tech. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Lingjia Liu to be appointed as the Andrew J. Young Professor, based on the recommendations of the department head of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Liu has excelled at scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach at Virginia Tech. His research focuses on telecommunications and wireless networks, with particular emphasis strategies that achieve real-time online learning for next generation (NextG) wireless networks. His pioneering work has led to more than 200 peer-reviewed publications and 32 granted patents.

Dr. Liu's research impact is demonstrated by his award of 60 externally funded research projects. Notably, he is the lead principal investigator (PI) for the $10M project "5G/FutureG Mobile Distributed MIMO: Learning Meets Spreading in Networking", one of the largest single awards in the history of the College of Engineering, and among Virginia Tech's top five research programs in fiscal year 2024, as recognized by the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI).

Dr. Liu has excelled teaching and student mentorship. In just 14 years in academia, Dr. Liu has advised 13 Ph.D. students, 10 M.S. students, and four postdoctoral researchers, and is currently mentoring 18 Ph.D. students and two postdoctoral researchers.

Through his scholarship in machine learning applied to telecommunication systems, Dr. Liu has made outstanding contributions to Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation through his innovative research, exemplary teaching methods, dedicated service and outreach to the community, and prolific publications.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Lingjia Liu be appointed to the Andrew J. Young Professorship for a renewable period of five years, effective August 10, 2025, with an eminent scholar salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Bowman Faculty Fellowship in Sustainable Land Development

The Bowman Faculty Fellowship in Sustainable Land Development is funded through the Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program Endowment established in 2022 by Gary P. Bowman. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Earl "Tripp" Shealy to be appointed as the Gary Bowman Faculty Fellow, based on the recommendations of the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Honorifics Committee and the CEE Department Head, Dr. Mark A. Widdowson.

Dr. Shealy is a nationally recognized faculty member in the field of sustainable civil engineering infrastructure, who brings a number of significant strengths in his research, teaching, and service to Virginia Tech. His research focuses on developing innovative methods to improve infrastructure design processes and outcomes. His research is highly interdisciplinary, applying theory and methods from behavioral economics, environmental psychology, virtual and augmented reality technology, cognitive feedback systems, and cognitive neuroscience.

Dr. Shealy has published 115 peer-reviewed papers in journals and conference proceedings, which have been cited in over 1,900 publications. He and his students have received three best paper awards. He has directed or co-directed over $4M of externally funded research at Virginia Tech with a personal share of $2M.

Dr. Shealy is an excellent instructor and mentor of graduate students. He has advised nine doctoral students and 30 master's students to degree completion. Dr. Shealy has received prestigious teaching awards, including the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Alumni Teaching Excellence Award in 2021, and the G.V. Loganathan Teaching Award in 2017.

Dr. Shealy has demonstrated outstanding leadership advancing the new Bowman Sustainable Land Development graduate program in the CEE Department. Since the program's inception, he has guided its development and is responsible for its rapid growth.

Dr. Shealy has made outstanding contributions in teaching, mentoring, research, scholarship, service, and leadership that benefit Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Earl "Tripp" Shealy be appointed to the Bowman Faculty Fellowship in Sustainable Land Development, for a renewable period of three years, effective August 10, 2025, with an annual operating budget to support research as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Pulte Homes Professorship

The Pulte Homes Professorship was established with a generous gift from Pulte Homes, providing support for faculty within the highly-ranked Myers-Lawson School of Construction. Dean Ross has nominated Dr. Walid Thabet for appointment as the Pulte Homes Professor, based on the recommendations of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction director and the Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Walid Thabet joined the building construction department in 1997. Since that time, he has served as an administrator, teacher, and researcher. He is a pioneer in what is now commonly referred to as "smart construction." His research and innovation in the area of building information modelling (BIM) is seminal.

Dr. Thabet is a talented teacher who is deeply committed to the university's teaching mission and is highly respected by peers, alumni, and students. He regularly collaborates with industry professionals to teach the capstone sequence for building construction students. Dr. Thabet served as department head from 2007-2012, and has received the Building Construction Exemplary Faculty Award multiple times.

As an active researcher, Dr. Thabet has served as principal or co-principal investigator on grants from such notable organizations including the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH), Bentley Systems, Inc., Primavera Systems, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). His research has made significant contributions to advancing information technology in the construction industry. He has authored or co-authored numerous articles addressing various aspects of information technology and virtual reality in the construction industry.

Most recently, Dr. Thabet advanced a focused and impactful research agenda centered on machine learning and digital twins for building operations and maintenance. His collaboration with the Virginia Tech Center for Power and Innovation in Facilities (CPIF) and industry partners such as Automated Logic and Trane to build a functioning air handling unit simulator demonstrates substantial applied impact. He has published high-quality peer-reviewed journal articles aligned with his specialization in predictive maintenance, work order optimization, and building information modeling driven automation. These included articles in the *Journal of Information Technology in Construction*, the *Journal of Computing in Civil Engineering*, the *Journal of Construction Engineering and Management*, and *Facilities*, reflecting both methodological rigor and relevance to facility management and building science.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Walid Thabet be appointed to the Pulte Homes Professorship for a period of five years, effective August 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and annual operating budget provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWHIP
Boebel Engineering Fellowship

The Boebel Engineering Fellowship in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was established with a generous gift from Bill and Beth Boebel. The creation of this fellowship enables the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech to acknowledge and foster excellence among outstanding junior faculty members. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Jeffrey S. Walling to be appointed as the Boebel Engineering Faculty Fellow, based on the recommendations of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Walling has excelled at scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach at Virginia Tech. His research focuses on radio frequency (RF), analog, and mixed-signal systems, with particular emphasis on next-generation communications and sensor architectures. His pioneering work on switched-capacitor power amplifiers and digital-friendly RF circuits has led to more than 100 peer-reviewed publications in top Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) journals and conferences.

Dr. Walling's research impact is demonstrated by his success in securing significant external funding as principal investigator (PI) and co-principal (Co-PI), including a $2M award from the CHIPS Trust for equipment, a $500,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) ACED grant for real-time transceiver optimization, and an $850,000 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Sea-Based Efficient Advancement of Signal Timing (SeaBEAST) contract with Virginia Tech's share for chip-scale atomic clocks.

Dr. Walling has excelled at integrating cutting-edge research topics into the curriculum, and he earns consistently high student evaluations of his teaching. He is mentoring nine doctoral students and several master's candidates, and his students have earned multiple fellowships and best-paper awards.

Through his innovative research, exemplary teaching methods, dedicated service, Dr Walling has made outstanding contributions to Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Jeffrey S. Walling be appointed to the Boebel Engineering Fellowship for a non-renewable period of five years, effective August 10, 2025, with an operating budget as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Paul and Linda Austin Military History Professorship

The Paul and Linda Austin Military History Professorship was established in 2023 by Paul and Linda Austin to help recruit and retain professors within the Department of History who are teaching, or teaching and performing research, in the field of Military History. With the support of the ad hoc review committee representing the Department of History and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Executive Council, Dean Laura Belmonte nominates Dr. Amanda Demmer, associate professor of History, as the inaugural Paul and Linda Austin Military History Professor.

Dr. Demmer has been a faculty member at Virginia Tech since 2018 and was promoted to associate professor in 2023. Since her arrival at Virginia Tech, she has distinguished herself as a leader both inside and outside of the classroom, creating innovative, in-demand courses, building relationships with the Corps of Cadets leadership and students, and advancing a cutting-edge research agenda that broadens the field in ways of interest to historians, practitioners, servicemembers, and the general public.

Dr. Demmer's first book, *After Saigon's Fall,* examines how humanitarian issues drove U.S. engagement with Vietnam after the war, foregrounds how people from Congressmen to U.S. prisoners of war to Vietnamese American activists shaped normalization. By centering the lives and actions of Vietnamese refugees, however, Dr. Demmer has made an incredible contribution to our understanding of the Vietnam War, which continues to loom large in public consciousness in both the US and Vietnam. The conclusions that she reaches based on research with Vietnamese refugees has informed policy and practices about how to support Iraqi and Afghani forces after troop withdrawals in those conflict zones and will no doubt have implications beyond these two contexts. Dr. Demmer's second book, *Silence is Complicity,* continues to push the boundaries of military history within this war and society framework. The book explores military history from the other side, examining the relationship between war and the development of the modern human rights movement through the life of Amnesty International leader Ginetta Sagan (1925–2000). Dr. Demmer brings her keen insight and expertise into the classroom, where she has significantly contributed to the department's curriculum and, in particular, strengthened the relationship with the Corps of Cadets. She has collaborated closely with the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) to develop courses that are useful to cadets and help them develop appropriate skills and knowledge of the U.S. military's historical role in global politics.

Dr. Demmer's combined qualities include her experience working on the cutting edge of military history, her leadership in conversations on war and society, the public-facing nature of her work and its policy implications, her commitment to distinguished teaching,

and her connection to our students and the Corps, which make her an ideal candidate to serve as the inaugural Paul and Linda Austin Military Professor.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Amanda Demmer be appointed to the Paul and Linda Austin Military History Professorship for a three-year term, effective August 10, 2025, with support as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Patricia Caldwell Faculty Fellowship

The Patricia Caldwell Faculty Fellowship was established in 2019 with a generous gift from its namesake to advance the national and international prominence of the Virginia Tech College of Science. A 1971 graduate with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, Ms. Caldwell created this fellowship to recognize faculty engaged in exceptional research and teaching; to recruit accomplished scholars; and to retain high-performing faculty members who make significant contributions to the university's research missions.

Dr. Kevin T. Pitts, Dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. Rana Ashkar, associate professor of physics, for appointment to this fellowship. This nomination is supported by the College of Science Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Ashkar joined the Department of Physics in 2018 as an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 2025. She previously held a postdoctoral research scholarship at the University of Maryland and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) from 2012 to 2015, followed by a Clifford G. Shull Fellowship at Oak Ridge National Laboratory from 2015 to 2017. She received her Ph.D. in experimental condensed matter physics from Indiana University in 2012.

Dr. Ashkar is a recognized investigator in soft matter and biological physics. Her research on biomimetic lipid membranes, responsive polymeric systems, and tunable biointerfaces has gained widespread interest for both its fundamental level and real-world applications. Her groundbreaking discoveries in membrane biophysics have been featured in top-tier journals, including *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *Nature Communications*. Her scholarship record includes 50 publications in leading journals and more than 30 invited or keynote presentations at professional conferences. Besides her research excellence, Dr. Ashkar has shown exemplary mentorship. She has supervised 26 undergraduate students, six graduate students, and three postdoctoral fellows at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Ashkar's research has been recognized with funding from a variety of sources. She has received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Jeffress Memorial Trust, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. In 2025, she received a prestigious Sloan Research Fellowship. She has also been honored with the 2024 Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising at Virginia Tech. She is very active in service to her research field, including participation on review panels and advisory boards, and as an elected member on several committees within the American Physical Society and the neutron scattering community.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Rana Ashkar be appointed as the Patricia Caldwell Faculty Fellow for a renewable period of three years, effective August 10, 2025, with operating support as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Leo and Melva Harris Faculty Fellowship

The Leo and Melva Harris Faculty Fellowship was established by the College of Science Roundtable Advisory Board in 2021 in memory of long-time member Leo Harris and in honor of his wife Melva. This fellowship aims to elevate the national and international prominence of the Virginia Tech College of Science by supporting the recruitment, development, and retention of exceptional tenured and tenure-track faculty. It provides support and recognition of faculty scholarship across all disciplines and transdisciplinary areas within the College of Science.

Dr. Kevin T. Pitts, dean of the College of Science, in consultation with the College of Science Honorifics Committee, has nominated Dr. Charles Calderwood, associate professor of psychology, for appointment as the Leo and Melva Harris Faculty Fellow.

Dr. Calderwood's comprehensive excellence in research, education, and service to the university and his research community make him an extraordinary scholar in the field of industrial and organizational psychology, a rapidly growing discipline recently named by the *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best career paths in science.

Dr. Calderwood joined the Department of Psychology as an assistant professor in 2017, founding the Work Stress and Recovery Lab at Virginia Tech upon his arrival at the university. He was subsequently promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2022. Prior to joining Virginia Tech, Dr. Calderwood earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2012 and worked as a teaching assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University from 2014 to 2017.

Dr. Calderwood's interdisciplinary and internationally renowned program of research focuses on understanding how employees perceive, react to, and recover from work stress in the context of the increasingly blurred boundaries between work and non-work life that characterize employment in the modern workforce. His two primary areas of expertise are in stress spillover, which reflects the carryover of workday stress reactions to time outside of work, and work recovery, which refers to the replenishment of energy and effort depleted by working during time away from work.

Dr. Calderwood has generated an outstanding record of scholarship, with a multitude of peer-reviewed publications in a range of the most prestigious applied psychology journals in the field, many invited presentations to academic, practitioner, and government stakeholder audiences both nationally and internationally, and a strong track record of influential service to the scientific community, the field of psychology, and the university.

Dr. Calderwood's research program has received approximately $2.4M in external funding, with support from federal agencies including the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). In recognition of his contributions to the field, he was elected a Fellow of the Association

for Psychological Science (APS) in 2024. Further demonstrating his standing within the field, he serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, as well as an editorial board member for multiple other top-tier peer-reviewed applied psychology and organizational research journals.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Charles Calderwood be appointed to the Leo and Melva Harris Faculty Fellowship in the College of Science for a renewable term of three years, effective August 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating support as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Patricia Caldwell Faculty Fellowship

The Patricia Caldwell Faculty Fellowship was established in 2019 with a generous gift from its namesake to advance the national and international prominence of the Virginia Tech College of Science. A 1971 graduate with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, Ms. Caldwell created this fellowship to recognize faculty engaged in exceptional research and teaching; to recruit accomplished scholars; and to retain high-performing faculty members who make significant contributions to the university's research missions.

Dr. Kevin T. Pitts, Dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. Cayelan Carey, professor of biological sciences, for appointment to this fellowship. This nomination is supported by the College of Science Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Carey joined the Department of Biological Sciences in 2013 as an assistant professor, was promoted to associate professor in 2019, and was promoted to full professor in 2022. She has published more than 130 peer-reviewed articles, attracted over $19.6M in funding, graduated seven doctoral students, and mentored six postdoctoral researchers. Dr. Carey's accomplishments have been recognized with numerous honors including the Yentsch-Schindler Early Career Award from the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), the Kilham Memorial Award from the International Society of Limnology (ISL), a Fulbright Fellowship, and appointment as a Robert and Maude Gledden Senior Visiting Fellow at the University of Western Australia.

Dr. Carey's primary research addresses an increasingly serious environmental and public health challenge of our time - predicting and controlling nuisance and harmful blooms of algae in lakes and reservoirs. This work has been conducted across scales, ranging from operating a sensor network in a local drinking water supply reservoir to the development of a national scale predictive tool for simulating water quality based on models and real-time sensor data. This work has grown into an effort to develop broader freshwater ecosystem forecasting tools. Dr. Carey has organized and led workshops on ecological forecasting for groups from the local to the international scale and for undergraduates through faculty participants. This work contributed to her role in formulating and becoming co-director of the newly established Center for Ecosystem Forecasting at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Carey is widely recognized for her innovative integration of monitoring, model development, and data science in ecosystem forecasting. She has established a broad national and international network of collaborators and has held leadership roles within the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), the Ecological Forecasting Initiative (EFI), and the Global Lakes Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Cayelan Carey be appointed as the Patricia Caldwell Faculty Fellow for a three-year term, effective August 10, 2025, with operating support as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
The Blackwood Junior Faculty Fellowship

The Blackwood Junior Faculty Fellowship was established in the College of Science with a generous donation from Mary Nolan Blackwood ’73 and Willis P. Blackwood ’72. Their goal is to advance life sciences education while fostering business and entrepreneurial opportunities. Created in 2006, the fellowship provides support for a leading faculty member at the rank of assistant or associate professor, awarded for a three-year term with possible renewal.

Dr. Kevin T. Pitts, Dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. Bryan Hsu, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, for appointment to this fellowship. This nomination is supported by the Blackwood Faculty Fellowship selection committee, comprised of faculty members from the College of Science.

Dr. Hsu joined the Department of Biological Sciences in 2020 as an assistant professor. He was previously a Rosenbloom postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School with Dr. Pamela Silver in the Department of Systems Biology. He earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2014 and bachelor’s degrees in chemical engineering and materials science from University of California (UC) Berkeley in 2007.

Dr. Hsu is committed to advancing the scholarship at VT. He is involved in the molecular and cellular biology (MCB) graduate program as well as in several programmatic functions of the Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Arthropod-borne Pathogens (CeZAP) program. He teaches General Microbiology, a high-enrollment core class required for several curricula, as well as Microbiomes, which exposes juniors and seniors to primary research literature. He is strongly committed to mentorship in research, having advised six postdoctoral researchers, four doctoral students, three post-baccalaureate students, and 14 undergraduate students.

Dr. Hsu has a strong scholarship record with 28 peer-reviewed publications, including many in well-regarded journals such as *Nature Biotechnology, Nature Communications, Cell Host & Microbe, Matter, PNAS, ACS Nano, and Angewandte Chemie*, and has delivered 31 invited presentations. His work has received press from notable outlets that include *The Economist*, *Gizmodo*, *New Scientist*, *Tech Times and Drug Discovery News*, as well as international newspapers in Brazil, Israel, Portugal, Germany, France, Norway and India.

Dr. Hsu holds several patents that describe technologies developed in his lab and recently receiving the By Example award from the Virginia Tech Center for Tech Commercialization in recognition of his efforts. These technologies are the basis for two recently founded startup companies. Libertas Naturals, Inc., uses renewable biomaterials as absorbent materials in menstrual products and aims to develop a tampon hydrogel for intravaginal drug delivery. Lytic biotechnologies, Inc., uses genetically engineered bacteriophages to reprogram resident gut bacteria to produce therapeutic proteins in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract to treat chronic diseases.

Dr. Hsu's research expertise has been recognized with funding from the highest levels. He has been awarded a National Institutes of Health Maximizing Investigator's Research Award (NIH MIRA) for the investigation of the role of bacteriophages in the gut microbiome, as well as an award from the Commonwealth Health Research Board to develop novel biomaterials-based menstrual products. He has received more than $2.5M in intramural and extramural research funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Bryan Hsu be appointed as the Blackwood Junior Faculty Fellow for a three-year term, effective August 10, 2025, with operating support as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
L. C. Hassinger Senior Faculty Fellowship in Nanoscience

The L.C. Hassinger Senior Faculty Fellowship in Nanoscience was established to support outstanding scholarship in the field of Nanoscience. The donor, William E. Hassinger, Jr., an alumnus of the College of Science, earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Virginia Tech in 1950. This endowment was created and named in honor of his grandfather, L.C. Hassinger. This fund was established to provide support for an outstanding faculty member who holds the rank of associate or full professor, and whose work in one of the fields of science at the nanoscale supports the missions of the college's Academy of Integrated Science.

Dr. Kevin T. Pitts, Dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. Guoliang "Greg" Liu, Professor of Chemistry, for appointment to this endowed fellowship. The nomination is supported by the Hassinger Faculty Fellowship selection committee, comprised of faculty members from the College of Science affiliated with the Academy of Integrated Science (AIS) with expertise in Nanoscience and the AIS Director, Dr. Robert Weiss.

Dr. Liu earned his doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011. After a postdoctoral position at Northwestern University, he joined Virginia Tech as an assistant professor in 2014. He was promoted to associate professor in 2020 and professor in 2024.

Dr. Liu is a core member of the Academy of Integrated Science's Nanoscience degree program and served on the committee that developed this innovative new degree program. He has developed and taught the Nanoscale Synthesis, Fabrication, and Characterization course, a course central to the program, for over 10 years. He is strongly committed to mentoring undergraduate and graduate research and has guided over 40 undergraduate students majoring either in nanoscience, chemistry, chemical engineering, and/or materials science and engineering, as well as approximately 20 graduate students and postdoctoral students on research projects.

Dr. Liu has been named an Inventor of the Month at Virginia Tech and is a recipient of the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award, Air Force Young Investigator Program (YIP) Award, American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund (ACS PRF) Doctoral New Investigator (DNI) Award, ACS Polymer Materials Science and Engineering (PMSE) Young Investigator Award, John C. Schug Research Award, and CAPA Distinguished Professor Award. He has also been recognized as a Young Talent or Emerging Investigator by several journals including *Macromolecular Rapid Communications*, *Polymer Chemistry*, *Journal of Materials Chemistry*, *Molecular Systems Design & Engineering*, and *ACS Applied Polymer Materials*. He was recently inducted as a senior elite member into the National Academy of Inventors (NAI).

Dr. Liu's research expertise has been recognized with funding from the highest levels. His work has been supported by awards from the NSF, Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), the ACS PRF, the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and

Development (BIRD) Foundation, Office of Naval Research (ONR), and others. In addition, his work has been featured by hundreds of news media including ABC, BBC, *The Guardian*, Fox 5, NPR, and more.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Guoliang “Greg” Liu, Ph.D., be appointed as the L. C. Hassinger Senior Faculty Fellow for a three-year term, effective August 10, 2025, with operating support as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Anne Hunter Professorship in Veterinary Medicine

The Anne Hunter Endowed Professorship in Veterinary Medicine was established April 10, 1990 through a gift to the Virginia Tech Foundation by Anne Hunter. This professorship was created to attract and retain distinguished scholars in small animal medicine, with particular emphasis on feline medicine and research. Dr. Giulio Menciotti has been nominated for this prestigious honor with enthusiastic support from Dean Dan Givens, the department head of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, and the College Promotion and Tenure Committee.

Dr. Giulio Menciotti joined the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in 2013, first as a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D., then as a cardiology resident for three years. He was hired into a faculty appointment as a tenure-track assistant professor in cardiology in August 2020. He is board certified in cardiology by both the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) and the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Companion Animals (ECVIM-CA). He excels in all three mission areas of his faculty appointment: clinical service, teaching, and research. He is an exceptional teacher who provides instruction in small animal cardiology to Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students in both the classroom and in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, as well as to interns and residents. He is highly committed to student learning and success.

His research has been dedicated to providing impactful contributions to feline health. He has been the principal investigator or co-investigator on 17 extramural research grants totaling over $7M, including funding for real-time three-dimensional evaluation of the feline heart and thromboelastography in cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Dr. Menciotti has 29 refereed publications including research findings on the diagnostic accuracy of the vertebral heart score and other radiographic indices in the detection of cardiac enlargement in cats with different cardiac disorders and the evaluation of hemostasis in hyperthyroid cats. He has 23 published abstracts and has been invited to multiple continuing education and scientific presentations in his area of expertise.

Dr. Menciotti is an exceptional cardiologist, embodies the highest standards of a clinician scientist, and his forward-thinking contributions to feline medicine make him a truly deserving candidate for this prestigious professorship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Giulio Menciotti be appointed as the Anne Hunter Professor in Veterinary Medicine, for a renewable period of five years, effective August 20, 2025, with a salary supplement as provided by the endowment.

August 20, 2025