

SUMMARY

Emeritus/Emerita Faculty Resolutions (5)

June 6, 2023

The title of emeritus or emerita is conferred on retired full professors, associate professors, administrative officers, Extension or libraries faculty with continued appointment, and senior Extension agents who have given exemplary service to the university and who the president specifically recommends to the Board of Visitors for approval.

The following faculty members are recommended for emeritus or emerita designation at Virginia Tech.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (1)

Saied Mostaghimi	H. E. and Elizabeth F. Alphin Professor Emeritus and Associate Dean and Director Emeritus of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station
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College of Natural Resources and Environment (1)

Harold Burkhart (posthumous)	University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation
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College of Veterinary Medicine (2)

Bonnie Smith	Associate Professor Emerita of Veterinary Anatomy
Nammalwar Sriranganathan	Professor Emeritus of Bacteriology

Pamplin College of Business (1)

Lance Matheson	Associate Professor Emeritus of Business Information Technology
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RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS

WHEREAS, for over 38 years, Saied Mostaghimi, Ph.D., faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member and as head of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, as an associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and as a director of Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station; and

WHEREAS, he served as the H.E. and Elizabeth F. Alphin Endowed Professor for over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, he made significant contributions to the discipline through his research on nonpoint source pollution control, environmental monitoring, modeling and assessment, and development and evaluation of best management practices to improve soil and water quality, authored over 400 scholarly publications, continually served the scientific research community as a reviewer of manuscripts and grant proposals, editor/associate editor of several journals, and as organizer of several scientific conferences; and

WHEREAS, he demonstrated outstanding abilities as an educator and leader through his strong research program, mentorship of graduate students and leadership of the college research and graduate programs; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership as the head of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, the department tripled its graduate enrollment and research expenditures, significantly expanded its Bioprocessing Engineering program through hiring several new faculty members, and was named an Exemplary Award Department by Virginia Tech for “effectively linking undergraduate education with its research program”; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership as the associate dean for research and graduate studies and director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, graduate student enrollment and research expenditures grew to record level, and the enrollment in the George Washington Carver Program, designed to advance the college’s commitment to access, equity, justice, and inclusion, and to enhance the diversity of graduate student population, was greatly increased; and

WHEREAS, he received numerous honors and awards, including the outstanding research award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society, being named a fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), receiving the Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Outreach, the Natural Resources and Environmental Management Flagship Award, the ASABE Fellow Award, and the Association of Southern Region Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Excellence in Leadership Award;

NOW, BE THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Saied Mostaghimi for his distinguished service to the university and the commonwealth with the title of H. E. and Elizabeth F. Alphin Professor Emeritus and Director Emeritus of Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution recommending Saied Mostaghimi, Ph.D., for emeritus status be approved.

June 6, 2023

RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS

WHEREAS, for over 53 years, Harold E. Burkhart, Ph.D., faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation in the College of Natural Resources and Environment and since 1999 as University Distinguished Professor; and

WHEREAS, he ably served as acting department head from July 1991 to April 1993, as interim department head from January 1995 to September 1995, and as department head from October 1995 to August 2008; and

WHEREAS, with dedication, he taught 15 different courses at Virginia Tech, completed 31 M.S. and 34 Ph.D. students as chair, supervised 15 postdoctoral fellows, hosted seven visiting faculty members, and mentored many professionals and faculty members to successful careers in both academic and industrial settings throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, graduate students eagerly studied with him as part of degree programs from their home institutions in Austria, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Mexico, Korea, and South Africa, and he served as external examiner for doctoral students in Canada (University of British Columbia, University of Alberta, and University of Toronto), Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Portugal, and New Zealand; and

WHEREAS, he raised total research funding of \$17M to support his work through sponsored projects and industrial affiliate sponsors, published more than 200 refereed journal articles contributing to the literature on forest biometrics, and wrote five seminal textbooks, including four editions of the primary textbook used in the field for more than four decades; and

WHEREAS, he showed exemplary service to his profession, including as founding editor or editor for two scholarly journals, associate editor or editorial board member for 14 scholarly journals, proposal reviewer for the National Science Foundation and numerous other competitive granting agencies in the U.S. and abroad, undertaking innumerable manuscript reviews, and serving in many other uncountable ways; and

WHEREAS, he received many recognitions for his pathbreaking work, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University (2020), the Virginia Outstanding Scientist (2013), Distinguished Statistical Ecologist Award by the International Association for Ecology (1994), Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award by State Council of Higher Education (1988), Virginia Tech Alumni Award for Research Excellence (1988), Elected Fellow in the Society of American Foresters (1985), J. Shelton Horsley Research Award from Virginia Academy of Science (1983), International Union of Forestry Research Organizations Scientific Achievement Award (1981), Elected Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1981);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Harold E. Burkhart posthumously for his distinguished service to the university with the title University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution recommending Harold E. Burkhart, Ph.D. posthumously for emeritus status be approved.

June 6, 2023

RESOLUTION FOR EMERITA STATUS

WHEREAS, for over 28 years, Bonnie Smith, D.V.M., Ph.D., faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine; and

WHEREAS, she has demonstrated a commitment to the Principles of Community in her work with students and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, with dedication, she taught and lectured in veterinary and graduate courses, winning many college- and student-driven teaching awards; and

WHEREAS, she advised numerous students on M.S. and Ph.D. dissertations, and helped them develop successful careers in academic settings; and

WHEREAS, she authored or co-authored dozens of refereed journal articles, book chapters, and reviews; and

WHEREAS, she served the community with numerous veterinary and anatomy speaking engagements for school children; and

WHEREAS, she received many professional honors and awards, including the Student American Veterinary Medical Association Teaching Excellence Award, the Bayer Faculty Recognition Award, the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching Award, and was elected to the Virginia Tech Academy of Teaching Excellence; and

WHEREAS, she provided many years of distinguished contributions to the department, the college, and the university through dedicated service on numerous committees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Bonnie Smith for her distinguished service to the university with the title of Professor Emerita of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution recommending Bonnie Smith, D.V.M. Ph.D., for emerita status be approved.

June 6, 2023

RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS

WHEREAS, for over 38 years, Nammalwar Sriranganathan, B.V.Sc., Ph.D., faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine; and

WHEREAS, he made significant contributions to zoonotic disease control through his work in brucellosis focusing on vaccination; and

WHEREAS, with dedication, he taught a variety of veterinary and graduate courses ranging across the infectious diseases curriculum, placing strong emphasis on standards and student learning; and

WHEREAS, he advised numerous students on M.S. and Ph.D. dissertations and helped them develop successful careers in both academic and industrial settings; and

WHEREAS, he authored or co-authored over 200 refereed journal articles, book chapters, and reviews; and

WHEREAS, through his work in vaccine development, he brought international visibility to Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, he provided many years of distinguished contributions to the department, college, and university through dedicated service on numerous committees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Nammalwar Sriranganathan for his distinguished service to the university with the title Professor Emeritus of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution recommending Nammalwar Sriranganathan, B.V.Sc., Ph.D., for emeritus status be approved.

June 6, 2023

RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS

WHEREAS, for over 33 years, Lance A. Matheson, Ph.D., has faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Department of Business Information Technology in the Pamplin College of Business; and

WHEREAS, he was an outstanding teacher at the undergraduate and graduate levels, having received the Pamplin College of Business Certificate of Teaching Excellence and the University Certificate of Teaching Excellence; and

WHEREAS, he counseled numerous graduate students in the Department of Business Information Technology and at the university during his career, including service as chair of one doctoral dissertation committee and membership on 22 college and university doctoral committees and three master's committees; and

WHEREAS, he led numerous study abroad programs all over the world, earning the Pamplin College of Business Award for International Programs, Alumni Award for Excellence in International Education, the Michael P. Malone International Leadership Award, and the Pamplin Excellence in International Programs Award; and

WHEREAS, he made significant contributions in research in the field of operations and supply chain management and service management, authoring numerous peer-reviewed research articles and conference presentations; and

WHEREAS, he dutifully served on over 40 departmental, college, and university committees; and

WHEREAS, he served in a number of important offices and on numerous professional committees including service as president of the Southeast Decision Sciences Institute;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Lance Matheson for his service to the university with the title of Associate Professor Emeritus of Business Information Technology.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution recommending Lance Matheson, Ph.D., for emeritus status be approved.

June 6, 2023