SUMMARY

New Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (15)

March 24, 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.

Pamplin College of Business (5)

Richard A. Hunt	Dorothy Hottel Digges Professorship in Entrepreneurship
James (Trey) Lewis, III	Union Junior Faculty Fellowship in Entrepreneurship
Jesse Lineberry	James and Ashley Bogart Faculty Fellowship
Dustin Read	Bates Family Professorship in Real Estate
David Townsend	Digges Family Professor of Entrepreneurial Leadership

College of Engineering (7)

Bradley Denby	Marty and Anna Irvine AOE Faculty Fellowship
Sanket Deshmukh	Erin Michelle Lohr Faculty Fellowship
Brian Kleiner	Vorster-Kleiner Endowed Director’s Chair
Maury Nussbaum	John Grado Professorship
Qiang Li	Elizabeth and James E. Turner, Jr. ’56 Faculty Fellowship

Walid Saad	Rolls Royce Commonwealth Professorship
Shane Ross	Roanoke Electric Steel Chair

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (1)

Richard Shryock	Robert and Beatrice Mahan Professorship in French

College of Science (2)

Lauren Childs	Archana S. Sathaye Junior Faculty Fellowship in Mathematics
Yili Hong	Data Science Faculty Fellowship

ENDOWED FACULTY PROFESSORSHIP
Dorothy Hottel Digges Professorship in Entrepreneurship

Established in 1999, the Dorothy Hottel Digges Professorship in Entrepreneurship was established by Robert H. Digges and Kathleen Grega Digges in support of excellence in entrepreneurship research and education, aiming to attract and retain outstanding scholars who contribute to the university's innovation ecosystem. Dr. Richard A. (Rick) Hunt has been nominated for this honorific with strong support from Dean Saonee Sarker, the Department Head of Management, and Pamplin's College Promotion and Tenure Committee.

Dr. Hunt is an outstanding candidate for the Dorothy Hottel Digges Professorship in Entrepreneurship, given his exceptional research, teaching, and leadership in entrepreneurship. His scholarship has been widely recognized in top-tier journals, including the *Academy of Management Review* and *Journal of Business Venturing*. His work addresses critical issues in entrepreneurial action, uncertainty, and innovation. Dr. Hunt's research impact continues to grow, reinforcing Virginia Tech's leadership in entrepreneurship. His editorial roles at leading journals further highlight his expertise and influence in the field.

Beyond research, Dr. Hunt has been instrumental in building Virginia Tech's entrepreneurial ecosystem, serving as director of research at the Apex Center for Entrepreneurs. He has mentored numerous doctoral students, contributed to faculty development, and helped secure external funding to support entrepreneurship initiatives. His teaching excellence is evident in strong student evaluations and his dedication to mentoring emerging scholars. Additionally, his service on editorial boards and academic committees reflects his deep commitment to advancing entrepreneurship education and research.

His combined contributions make him an ideal recipient of this professorship, ensuring continued excellence in entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Richard A. Hunt be appointed the Dorothy Hottel Digges Professor in Entrepreneurship, for a period of five years, effective August 10, 2025.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Union Junior Faculty Fellowship in Entrepreneurship

The Union Junior Faculty Fellowship in Entrepreneurship was established in 2014 to expand Union's relationship with Virginia Tech and to support the Pamplin College of Business and what is now the Apex Center for Entrepreneurs, in their efforts toward the future of business development throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Union Junior Faculty Fellow may be awarded to an assistant or associate professor who participates in the Apex Center for Entrepreneurs and whose work and research are related to business development and entrepreneurship. Dr. James (Trey) E. Lewis, III has been nominated for this honorific with strong support from Dean Saonee Sarker, the Department Head of Management, and Pamplin's College Promotion and Tenure Committee.

Dr. Lewis is an outstanding candidate for the Union Junior Faculty Fellowship in Entrepreneurship, given his substantial contributions to research, teaching, and service in entrepreneurship. His research agenda is firmly aligned with the fellowship's mission, as he actively investigates critical topics in entrepreneurship, including venture formation, entrepreneurial action, and startup dynamics. Dr. Lewis has published in elite journals such as the *Academy of Management Journal* and *Journal of Business Venturing*, demonstrating his ability to contribute to high-impact, rigorous scholarship in the field. His work on diversity debt, startup employment dynamics, and temporal enactment in venture success underscores his thought leadership in entrepreneurship research. Moreover, his active pipeline of research, with multiple projects targeting top-tier journals, positions him as a rising star in the field, ensuring continued contributions that will elevate Virginia Tech's reputation in entrepreneurship scholarship.

Beyond his research excellence, Dr. Lewis has actively contributed to the entrepreneurship ecosystem at Virginia Tech through teaching and mentorship, offering strategic management courses that equip students with critical entrepreneurial skills. His dedication to student learning is evident in his strong teaching evaluations and his involvement in doctoral mentoring. Additionally, his service to the profession, including manuscript reviewing for top entrepreneurship journals and participation in key academic conferences, reflects his broader impact on the field. His combination of research excellence, pedagogical commitment, and service engagement makes him the ideal candidate for the Union Junior Faculty Fellowship in Entrepreneurship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. James (Trey) E. Lewis, III be appointed to the Union Junior Faculty Fellowship in Entrepreneurship, for a period of three years, effective March 25, 2025.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
James and Ashley Bogart Fellowship

The James and Ashley Bogart Fellowship in Financial Planning and Wealth Management was established to support the recruitment and retentions of a Director for the Financial Planning and Wealth Management Program. Given Professor Lineberry's role as Director of the Financial Planning and Wealth Management Program, he has been nominated for this fellowship with strong support from the dean of the Pamplin College of Business, the department head of the Department of Finance, Insurance, and Business Law, and the college's Promotion and Tenure Committee.

Professor Lineberry is an exceptional candidate for the James and Ashley Bogart Fellowship due to his extensive experience and leadership in financial planning education. As the director of the Financial Planning and Wealth Management Program, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the curriculum, ensuring alignment with the Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) board requirements, and mentoring students for successful careers in financial planning. His teaching portfolio includes multiple courses in financial planning, where he has consistently received high teaching evaluations. Beyond the classroom, Professor Lineberry actively fosters professional engagement by leading student delegations to national and regional conferences, collaborating with industry professionals, and supporting students in securing career opportunities in the financial planning profession. His ability to bridge academic learning with real-world application highlights his dedication to advancing the financial planning profession and preparing future leaders in the field.

In addition to his academic contributions, Professor Lineberry brings nearly a decade of practical financial planning experience, holding the CFP® designation and a Master of Science degree in finance from Auburn University. His industry engagement extends to consulting for New Planner Recruiting, authoring articles for major financial publications, and delivering invited talks at universities and professional organizations. His research and writing have contributed to industry knowledge, and he has co-authored articles on financial planning education and career development. This combination of academic excellence, industry expertise, and commitment to mentorship makes him a highly deserving candidate for the fellowship, as he continues to elevate the financial planning discipline through education, research, and professional outreach.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Professor Jesse Lineberry be appointed to the James and Ashley Bogart Faculty Fellowship in Financial Planning and Wealth Management for a period of three years, effective March 25, 2025.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Bates Family Professorship in Real Estate

The Bates Family Professorship in Real Estate was established in 1984 to support a professorship in the Blackwood Department of Real Estate. Dean Saonee Sarker has nominated Dr. Dustin Read for the Bates Family Professorship in Real Estate, with the support of the Blackwood Department of Real Estate and Kevin Boyle, the outgoing department head.

Dr. Read received his Juris Doctor (JD) from the University of Missouri School of Law in 2002 and earned his Ph.D. in public policy from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2008. His academic career began at Virginia Tech as an assistant professor of property management. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2018 in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management. In 2021, Dr. Read left Virginia Tech to serve as director of the Master of Real Estate Development Program at Clemson University. In 2024, Dr. Read returned to Virginia Tech as the new department head for the Blackwood Department of Real Estate.

Dr. Read's research primarily focuses on housing affordability, property and asset management, and the organizational behaviors of entities involved in various types of real estate development. His work has had a substantial impact, both academically and within the industry. Since assuming administrative roles in 2020, he has maintained a steady and consistent level of productivity, publishing more than 40 articles in refereed scholarly journals. Notably, two of these articles appear in a designated Pamplin Elite journal, the *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, and one in the *Journal of Real Estate Research*, which is weighted at 50% on the Pamplin Elite journal list. Both journals are also recognized as top-tier outlets according to ratings from the American Real Estate Society (ARES) and the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR). Additionally, Dr. Read’s résumé includes a number of other referred journals, industry-sponsored reports, and trade journal publications, further demonstrating his broad impact on both academic and professional communities. In short, Dr. Read is an accomplished scholar fully deserving of this professorship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Dustin Read be appointed to the Bates Family Professorship in Real Estate effective April 10, 2025, with an annual research operating budget as provided by the endowment.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Digges Family Professorship in Entrepreneurship

The Digges Family Professorship in Entrepreneurship is designed to attract and retain top scholars in entrepreneurship, reinforcing Virginia Tech's leadership in the field. By providing prestigious recognition and financial support, this professorship enables distinguished faculty to advance entrepreneurship research, teaching, and mentorship. Additionally, the fund ensures long-term stability for entrepreneurship programs at Pamplin College of Business, fostering innovation, business development, and academic excellence. Dr. David Townsend has been nominated for this honorific with strong support from Dean Saonee Sarker, the department head of the Department of Management, and the college's Promotion and Tenure Committee.

With his outstanding research contributions, leadership in entrepreneurship education, and deep engagement with Virginia Tech's entrepreneurial ecosystem, Dr. Townsend is an ideal candidate for this professorship. As a highly respected scholar in entrepreneurship, he has published extensively in top-tier journals such as *Academy of Management Journal, Journal of Business Venturing, and Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal*, with a strong research focus on entrepreneurial strategy, uncertainty, and digital innovation. His research has significantly shaped scholars' and practitioners' understanding of venture formation, financing, and decision-making in uncertain environments. His high-impact research and editorial roles in leading academic journals further solidify his reputation as a thought leader in the field, making him an excellent candidate for this prestigious honor.

Beyond research, Dr. Townsend has played a critical role in advancing entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech, serving as academic director of the Apex Center for Entrepreneurs and mentoring numerous doctoral students and emerging scholars. His commitment to teaching and mentorship is reflected in his strong student evaluations and leadership in curriculum development, ensuring that Virginia Tech continues to produce top-tier entrepreneurial talent. Additionally, his collaborations with industry partners and policymakers demonstrate his ability to bridge the gap between academic research and real-world entrepreneurial challenges. His exceptional combination of research excellence, institutional leadership, and dedication to student success makes him highly deserving of the Digges Family Professorship in Entrepreneurship, ensuring continued growth and innovation in Virginia Tech's entrepreneurship programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. David Townsend be appointed to the Digges Family Professorship of Entrepreneurship for a period of five years, effective March 25, 2025.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Marty and Anna Irvine AOE Faculty Fellowship

The Marty and Anna Irvine AOE Faculty Fellowship was established with a generous gift from Marty and Anna Irvine to provide support for an assistant or associate professor in the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering. Dean Ross has nominated Dr. Bradley Denby as the Marty and Anna Irvine Faculty Fellow, based on the recommendations of the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering and Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Denby's research is grounded in addressing the computational limitations faced by small satellite systems, particularly with respect to data processing in orbit. His seminal work in orbital edge computing lays out a vision for using nanosatellites to perform machine inference in space rather than relying solely on Earth-based ground stations.

Dr. Denby is committed to teaching and mentoring the next generation of aerospace engineers, including in nanosat avionics, where students gain invaluable hands-on experience with the design, testing, and operation of microcontrollers and printed circuit boards for nanosatellites. By combining practical experience with theoretical knowledge, Professor Denby's students are better prepared to tackle the challenges of modern space missions.

Dr. Denby's dedication to advancing space systems research, particularly in orbital edge computing, makes him a valuable asset to the aerospace engineering community. His work not only advances the technical capabilities of small satellite constellations but also opens up new possibilities for autonomy and real-time decision-making in space. His contributions to teaching, coupled with his research excellence, will ensure that his students are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead the future of space technology.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Bradley Denby be appointed to the Marty and Anna Irvine AOE Faculty Fellowship for a non-renewable period of five years, effective August 10, 2025, with an operating budget provided by the endowment.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Erin Michelle Lohr Faculty Fellowship in Chemical Engineering

The Erin Michelle Lohr Faculty Fellowship was established in 2024 with a generous gift from David R. (Dave) and Diane L. Lohr. Dave, a 1976 graduate with a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from Virginia Tech, is both a founding and current member of the Chemical Engineering Advisory Board, serving as chair from 1999 to 2001. The Lohrs are enthusiastic supporters of Virginia Tech's chemical engineering program and made this gift in cooperation with the college-wide Moraco Challenge initiative. The goal of this faculty fellowship is to "help recruit, reward, and retain faculty within the Department of Chemical Engineering. Faculty recipients must be assistant or associate professors conducting research in the Department of Chemical Engineering."

Dean Julia Ross and the college honorifics committee have nominated Dr. Sanket Deshmukh as the inaugural Erin Michelle Lohr Faculty Fellow in Chemical Engineering. This nomination has the unanimous endorsement of the Chemical Engineering Honorifics Committee as well as strong support from the department head. The nomination also has the enthusiastic support of three external reviewers, noted below.

Since coming to Virginia Tech in 2016, Dr. Deshmukh has secured external funding of $25.7M, with a personal share of $2.4M. He has mentored two Ph.D. students to completion (the first of which is now a faculty member), and is currently mentoring five Ph.D. students. Additionally, he has supervised two post-doctoral scholars and two visiting scholars and is currently supervising two postdoctoral scholars and one visiting scholar. Sanket has published 64 peer-reviewed papers and has an impressive Google Scholar record at this stage of his career, with an h-index of 30, an i-10 index of 46, and a total of 3,341 citations. However, this citation record only partially reflects the significant impacts of Dr. Deshmukh's research and publications, as noted in written evaluations by three globally recognized scholars, all of which explicitly support the awarding of this faculty fellowship to Dr. Deshmukh.

Shekhar Garde, Dean of the School of Engineering, and Elaine and Jack S. Parker Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, wrote that Dr. Deshmukh's "record of achievements as an independent researcher is truly impressive." Hank Ashbaugh, interim head and professor of Chemical Engineering, Tulane University, wrote that Dr. Deshmukh's "citation metrics demonstrate significant and growing interest from the broader research community." Finally, Amanda Barnard, senior professor, deputy director, and computational science lead at the Australian National University School of Computing, wrote that Dr. Deshmukh "is a sought-after collaborator and has written numerous invited articles." These examples offer undeniable support for the appointment of Dr. Deshmukh to this fellowship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Sanket Deshmukh be appointed the Erin Michelle Lohr Faculty Fellowship in Chemical Engineering effective August 10, 2025 for a non-renewable period of five years, with an operating budget as provided by the endowment.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED CHAIR
Vorster-Kleiner Endowed Director's Chair

The Vorster-Kleiner Endowed Director's Chair in the Myers-Lawson School of Construction (MLSoC) was established with generous gifts from several construction industry donors. The creation of this endowed chair enables Virginia Tech to generate new interest in the MLSoC and in the construction industry more broadly. Dean Ross has nominated Dr. Kleiner as the Vorster-Kleiner Endowed Director's Chair, based on the recommendation of the MLSoC Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Kleiner is currently the Preston and Catharine White Director and Professor of MLSoC in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech. He is an elected Fellow of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. He was formerly the Ralph H. Bogle Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering in College of Engineering. As director of MLSoC, Dr. Kleiner oversees an innovative school offering a comprehensive and unified platform for innovation and excellence in construction education, research, and outreach.

In 2022, Dr. Kleiner was honored by the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society by receiving the A.R. Lauer Safety Award, the Society's highest award for safety achievements. In 2014, he received the Distinguished Professor Award from the Construction Industry Institute (CII). In 2013, he was awarded a U.S. Department of Defense Award for facilitating degree pursuit for active service men and women. In 2012, he was recognized for his commitment to inclusive communities by being awarded the McPherson Memorial Award for Achievements in Diversity by the Black Student Association. He has served on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Construction Sector Council for over a decade. He is the immediate past director for North America of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB).

Dr. Kleiner has authored or co-authored more than 175 peer-reviewed papers and led more than $10M in funded research projects. He is the founding director of the Center for Innovation in Construction Safety, Health, and Well-being (IC-SAFE) within MLSoC.

Through his research, teaching, and outreach focused on construction health, safety and well-being, Dr. Kleiner has provided outstanding leadership and has made significant contributions to Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Brian Kleiner be appointed to the Vorster-Kleiner Endowed Director's Chair in Engineering for a renewable period of five years, effective April 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
John Grado Professorship

The John Grado Professorship in the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) was established with a generous gift from John Grado, an alumnus of the ISE Department. This professorship enables the ISE Department to attract and retain excellent faculty, contributing to the scholarly and research productivity of faculty in the department and to their external reputation. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Maury Nussbaum to be appointed as the John Grado Professor, based on the recommendations of the ISE Department Head and ISE Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Nussbaum's work has made outstanding contributions to the field of industrial and systems engineering, to Virginia Tech, to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to the nation, through the excellence of his scholarship, teaching, and service to the community.

Dr. Nussbaum has published over 250 journal papers during his career, with most of these papers in leading outlets in the fields of ergonomics, biomechanics, and occupational medicine, including *Applied Ergonomics*, *Ergonomics,* the *Journal of Biomechanics*, and the *Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine*. He has been involved in over 250 papers or presentations at professional conferences. His body of work is clearly recognized by others. For example, he received the VT Alumni Award for Research Excellence, in Science and Engineering, in 2022. His work has been cited over 13,000 times, with an h-index of 61 and i10-index of 218 per Google Scholar. He is recognized as one of the leading researchers on the ergonomic aspects of occupational exoskeletons.

Dr. Nussbaum has been responsible for $26.3M in total research funding, with $9.4M as his personal share, across 78 externally funded grants. His research on exoskeletons has been funded by grants from government agencies and private industry. Since 2020, he and his research team have had several new exoskeleton projects funded, including two from National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), one from National Science Foundation (NSF), and additional projects from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and General Motors (GM). He was also PI on a 5-year extension of his NIOSH training grant, which was renewed in July 2021. Most recently, he is leading a new 5-year project on exoskeletons funded by NIOSH.

Dr. Nussbaum has taught courses in ISE mainly in the areas of physical ergonomics, human factors experimental design/analysis, and proposal preparation. His average SPOT ratings were 3.33/4 for undergraduate and 3.67 for graduate courses under the older rating system, with a current average of 5.5/6 under the current system. He has made significant contributions to the ISE curriculum in recent years in his role as graduate program director, particularly by helping several ISE faculty members generate syllabi of record for new courses and updating many of the older ones in the department.

He has advised 37 Ph.D. students to the completion of their degrees, several of whom were co-advised. Among his Ph.D. advisees, approximately two-thirds are in academic/research positions, including eight full professors, seven associate professors,

and three assistant professors. He is currently advising seven Ph.D. students, two as co-advisor. He has also advised 21 M.S. students and 21 undergraduate research projects, and he has hosted and advised several visiting Ph.D. students and scholars. In 2021, he received the VT Alumni Award for Graduate Academic Advising.

Dr. Nussbaum's most substantial external service has been as Editor-in-Chief of the *IISE Transactions on Occupational Ergonomics and Human Factors.* He proposed the journal to the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers in 2010, was appointed the initial editor in 2011, and was re-appointed in 2018. In addition, he has served on the editorial boards of five journals, with four being current. He was invited to serve on the Advisory Council of the MSD Solutions Lab at the National Safety Council, shortly after it was established in 2021, and he was invited to join the Ergonomics Community of Practice at the Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) in 2022.

Dr. Nussbaum's three primary service activities in ISE have been as a faculty mentor, chair of the Honorifics Committee through 2023-24, and graduate program director (GPD). He has mentored eight members of the ISE faculty, including two since 2020. As the former honorifics chair, he led efforts to update the department's policies and procedures for named professorships and to create new procedures for our Grado Faculty Fellowships. As GPD, he has responsibilities that include graduate admission decisions, GTA/fellowship funding offers, and graduate policies and procedures. Significant achievements in this role include the transition to multi-year offers, the development of alternative pathways for preliminary exam completion, and improvements in assessment processes. Due to his external and internal service contributions, he received the Dean's Award for Excellence in Service in 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Maury Nussbaum be appointed to the John Grado Professorship for a renewable period of five years, effective April 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

March 25, 2025

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

Four Turner Faculty Fellowships in the College of Engineering were established with a generous gift from Elizabeth and James E. Turner Jr., Class of '56. Two of the faculty fellowships are located in the College of Engineering (COE) and two are located in Biological Sciences and Engineering (BSE) in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS). The faculty fellowships enable Virginia Tech to recognize faculty excellence. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Qiang Li as a Turner Fellow of Engineering, based on the recommendations of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Honorifics Committee and the College of Engineering Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Li has demonstrated excellence in scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach at Virginia Tech and is an international expert in power electronics. He has authored more than 300 peer-reviewed papers, including 96 journal articles and 207 conference papers in prestigious venues. His work has received significant recognition, earning eight prize paper awards from leading journals and conferences.

Dr. Li's teaching evaluations have been consistently in the A-range, above five out of six. He introduced the course Embedded Power Management, which focuses on advanced technologies for distributed power systems in applications such as microprocessors, laptops, servers, and telecom equipment.

Dr. Li has been successful in securing external funding for his research. Since joining Virginia Tech, he has worked on 35 sponsored research projects, securing approximately $19M in total external funding. This support has enabled him to advance numerous cutting-edge projects, many of which have resulted in real-world applications. Dr. Li holds 26 U.S. patents, many of which have been adopted by industry collaborators for product developments.

Dr. Li, through his scholarship in the field of power electronics, has made outstanding contributions to Virginia Tech, to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to the nation by his innovative teaching methods, his service and outreach to the community, and through his publications.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Qiang Li be appointed to an Elizabeth and James E. Turner '56 Faculty Fellowship for a renewable period of five years, effective April 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Rolls Royce Commonwealth Professorship

The Rolls Royce Commonwealth Professorships were established at Virginia Tech through an initiative of the Commonwealth. The endowment enables the Virginia Tech College of Engineering to award a total of three professorships in areas that may vary with time according to the technical needs and current trends in engineering education. For this particular professorship, the technical area of expertise is digital twin technology. Dean Ross has nominated Dr. Walid Saad as the Rolls Royce Commonwealth Professor, based on the recommendations of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Honorifics Committee and the College Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Saad has excelled at scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach at Virginia Tech. His research addresses challenges at the intersection of digital twins, wireless systems, and artificial intelligence (AI). His seminal research was first to define the fundamental principles for designing, optimizing, and deploying distributed, large-scale digital twin solutions. Dr. Saad received over $67M in collaborative research funding, including some of the earliest research projects on digital twins. With over 580 peer-reviewed articles, he is one of the most published faculty at Virginia Tech. His contributions received over 57,900 citations, making him the most cited faculty in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, and among the top three most cited researcher across the university.

Dr. Saad received several major best paper awards from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Communications Society (ComSoc), including the prestigious IEEE Marconi Prize Paper Award in 2023, the IEEE ComSoc Award for Advances in Communication in 2023, and the IEEE Fred W. Ellersick Prize in 2015 and 2022, along with 12 best conference paper awards.

Through integrating research in the classroom along with outstanding mentorship, he has impacted hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students. His advised graduate students went on to become leaders in both industry and academia.

Through his scholarship in digital twin technology, Dr. Saad has made outstanding contributions to Virginia Tech, to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to the nation by his innovative teaching methods, his service and outreach to the community, and through his publications.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Walid Saad be appointed to the Rolls Royce Commonwealth Professorship for a renewable period of five years, effective April 10,2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED CHAIR
Roanoke Electric Steel Chair

The Roanoke Electric Steel Chair in Engineering was established with generous gifts from the Roanoke Steel Corporation in 1976. Julia Ross, Dean of the College of Engineering and Paul and Dorothea Torgersen Chair of Engineering has nominated Dr. Shane Ross as the Roanoke Electric Steel Chair, based on the recommendations of the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering and the College of Engineering Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Ross has secured $17M in research funding from a wide variety of funding sources, mentored 16 Ph.D.s and three postdocs, with one-third becoming professors and others excelling in various sectors. His work has been published in over 100 journal articles and drawn over 7,500 citations and he is an outstanding teacher consistently scoring amongst the highest teaching evaluations for his creative efforts in delivering a broad range of both undergraduate and graduate courses.

Dr. Ross is a recognized leader in an extraordinary range of interdisciplinary topics including control, dynamical systems, in space mission design, chaotic fluid dynamics, environmental transport of micro-organisms, and the biomechanics of living organisms. Not only does he excel in these fields, but he also puts substantial effort into making his research accessible to the public via articles in the popular scientific press to outreach, widening participation through an extremely engaging online presence.

Dr. Ross is a top scientist and engineer in multiple areas, a role model for effective teaching, worldwide communicator, an inspirational figure who has shown just how broadly impactful a professor can be, and a global ambassador for the university.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Shane Ross be appointed to the Roanoke Electric Steel Chair for a renewable period of five years, effective April 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Robert and Beatrice Mahan Professorship in French

The Mahan Professor of French was established by Robert and Beatrice Mahan to support teaching and research in French literature, language, history, and culture. With the unanimous support of the ad hoc review committee representing the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Honors and Awards Committee, Dean Laura Belmonte nominates Dr. Richard Shryock, associate professor of French, as the Robert and Beatrice Mahan Professor of French.

Dr. Shryock has been a faculty member at Virginia Tech since 1987, beginning his career as an assistant professor before being promoted to associate professor in 1993. He earned his Ph.D. in French Literature from the University of Michigan in 1987. Dr. Shryock's qualifications for the Mahan Professorship extend across all aspects of his scholarly contributions to the field, his colleagues, and to the university. His research on the Symbolist movement in 19th-century France explores the emergence of an oppositional position relative to the dominant values of the Third Republic. This research on alternative expressions through literature, art, and politics addresses the essential question of humanities scholarship, which is to recognize, interpret, and acknowledge the possibility of alternative visions of the human community. Dr. Shryock's research on the Symbolist movement has resulted in numerous publications, invited talks, and presentations, including a major exhibit on Gustave Kahn hosted by the Museum of Jewish Art and History of Paris. The resources of the Mahan Professorship will enable him to complete his book on the Symbolist movement, which promises to make a significant contribution to scholarship in French studies. This professorship will also allow Dr. Shryock to pursue a new project on censorship, further advancing scholarship on the cultural dynamics of French society.

Dr. Shryock's qualifications for this professorship extend beyond scholarship to all aspects of his support for French studies at Virginia Tech. He has been recognized by the university with an advising award for his mentoring of students. For many years, he led a study abroad program in Paris, advancing Virginia Tech's international presence. Working with colleagues, he secured major federal grants to support interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships across the university. As chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Dr. Shryock coordinated a substantial expansion in the number of languages taught, the growth in faculty, and the scholarly reputation of the department. As chair in the spring of 2007, Dr. Shryock provided essential support, guidance, and encouragement to faculty and students navigating the terrible losses to gun violence. Dr. Shryock is highly regarded in the field of 19th-century French studies, and his position as Mahan Professor will enable him to continue this leading role in a transnational academic field. As a scholar, colleague, and academic leader, Dr. Shryock is uniquely qualified to serve as the inaugural Robert and Beatrice Mahan Professor of French.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Richard Shryock be appointed to the Robert and Beatrice Mahan Professorship in French for a five-year term effective August 10, 2025, with the salary supplement and research budget as provided by the endowment.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED JUNIOR FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Archana S. Sathaye Junior Faculty Fellowship in Mathematics

The Archana S. Sathaye Junior Faculty Fellowship in Mathematics was established in 2024 with a generous gift from its namesake to enhance the national and international prominence of Virginia Tech's Department of Mathematics. Dr. Sathaye earned an M.S. in Mathematics from Virginia Tech in 1986 and a Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Carnegie Mellon in 1993. She established this fellowship to support the research, teaching, and service of a junior to mid-career faculty member in mathematics whose work raises the profile and character of the department.

Dr. Kevin T. Pitts, Dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. Lauren Childs, associate professor of mathematics, to be the inaugural recipient of this fellowship, concurring with the recommendation of the Department of Mathematics Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Childs received a Ph.D. in applied mathematics in 2010 and held consecutive postdoctoral fellowships at Georgia Tech and at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health from 2010 until 2015. The following year, she worked as a research scientist at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health and a visiting assistant professor at Williams College. In Fall 2016, she joined the faculty at Virginia Tech as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics.

Dr. Childs is a mathematical biologist who studies infectious diseases from perspectives originating in epidemiology, immunology, ecology, and human behavior. She uses tools from deterministic and stochastic dynamical systems and ordinary and partial differential equations to develop and analyze models of biological systems. Her work advances our understanding of and response to infectious diseases, including her primary focus, malaria, as well as COVID-19, where it was used to decide policy at the level of Virginia Tech as well as by the Canadian national government. Supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Jeffress Trust, Dr. Childs' research has been published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Nature, Nature Communications*, *PLOS One*, and *PLOS Pathogens*, among other prestigious journals.

Dr. Childs also makes significant contributions as a teacher, mentor, and in service to the department, university, and profession. She is an excellent instructor and mentor for students and researchers at all levels. In departmental and university service, she has taken on leadership roles, particularly advocating for activities and processes that will create and maintain an inclusive and productive department and larger mathematical community.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Lauren Childs be appointed to the Archana S. Sathaye Junior Faculty Fellowship for a three-year term, effective August 10, 2025, with operating support as provided by the endowment.

March 25, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Data Science Faculty Fellowship

The Data Science Faculty Fellowships were established by the College of Science in 2021 to enhance the national and international prominence of Virginia Tech faculty in this field. The fellowships provide support for outstanding scholarship in data science or the application of data science techniques within and across disciplines. Faculty must hold a tenured, tenure-track or collegiate faculty position in any College, be conducting research in data science or its application in their discipline, and have a strong record of advancing and/or the potential to advance Virginia Tech's scholarship, influence, and leadership in data science, data acquisition, or analytic techniques. Dr. Kevin T. Pitts, Dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. Yili Hong, Professor of Statistics, to hold one of these fellowships.

Dr. Hong joined the Department of Statistics in 2009 as an assistant professor. He currently serves as professor and co-director of the VT Statistics and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (VT-SAIL). He earned his Ph.D. in Statistics from Iowa State University. Dr. Hong's role in shaping the future of data science is demonstrated in multiple ways with research designed to address three fundamental questions: how to collect data, how to interpret data, and how to use data to predict the future, which are the core tasks at the heart of data science. His research spans engineering statistics, machine learning/computing, and biostatistics. In engineering statistics, his work emphasizes reliability analysis, particularly the reliability and safety of artificial intelligence (AI) systems. In machine learning, he focuses on developing robust algorithms and enhancing computational efficiency. In biostatistics, he investigates survival analysis, longitudinal data analysis, and spatial data analysis.

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Professor Hong has authored over 100 publications in leading journals, including the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *Annals of Applied Statistics*, *Technometrics*, and the *Journal of Quality Technology*. He has served as an associate editor for *Technometrics*, *Journal of Quality Technology*, and *Quality Engineering*.

Professor Hong has received numerous accolades including the 2011 DuPont Young Professor Award, the 2016 Frank Wilcoxon Prize in Statistics, and the 2024 Søren Bisgaard Award in Quality Engineering. He is also an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Yili Hong be appointed a Data Science Faculty Fellow for a three-year term, effective August 10, 2024, with operating support as provided by the fellowship.

March 25, 2025