

**SUMMARY**  
**New Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (1)**

**November 7, 2016**

**College of Engineering**

Muhammad Hajj

J. Byron Maupin Professorship in Engineering

## **ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP J. Byron Maupin Professorship**

The J. Byron Maupin Professorship was established by his widow Marjorie S. Maupin and her brother, LeRoy M. Sizemore, in 1991. Interim Dean Don Taylor, as chair of the College's Honorifics Committee, has nominated Dr. Muhammad Hajj to assume the Maupin Professorship.

Dr. Hajj has excelled at scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach at Virginia Tech. Through his innovative teaching methods making use of interactive classroom instruction technologies combined with hands on learning experiences, he has impacted hundreds of engineering students. He has been instrumental in the Dean's initiatives regarding transformation of graduate education. He is committed to expanding graduate course work to include career and professional development experience into the College of Engineering. This has engaged a multitude of students in hands-on extracurricular discussions with local and global industrial leaders.

Dr. Hajj has excelled at the field engineering mechanics with research and scholarship. He has obtained external grants worth over \$16M with a personal share of over \$5M. These grants have been awarded from highly competitive funding agencies including the National Science Foundation, Air Force Research Laboratory, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He currently serves as the Director of the Center for Energy Harvesting Materials and Systems (CEHMS). In this capacity he leads a consortium of research universities, industry partners, as well as commercial and government organizations through an Industry/University Cooperative Research Center funded by the National Science Foundation.

Engaging students in service learning projects is a common theme in Dr. Hajj's teaching. Dr. Hajj has an impressive record of teaching and advising graduate students. His work has generated 18 Ph.D. and ten master's students. It is also important to note that all 123 of his journal articles include his graduate students as co-authors. This is an important indicator of his commitment to advising. His students have advanced to faculty positions at the University of California at Irvine, New Mexico State University, ERH Zurich, and the University of Maryland. They have also received numerous awards for their publications and research efforts. Moving forward, Dr. Hajj currently is advising five Ph.D. students which illustrates his continued advancement in this most important aspect of faculty activity.

Dr. Hajj through his scholarship in engineering mechanics, specializing in field of fluid mechanics 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. This is evident in Dr. Hajj's recent election as a Fellow in the Engineering Mechanics Institute, one of the highest recognitions for individuals in his research field.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Dr. Hajj be appointed to the J. Byron Maupin Professorship in Engineering for a renewable period of 5 years, effective November 10, 2016, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment and, if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

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