SUMMARY

New Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (10)

November 17, 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 (5)

Christine Gilbert	Professor Owen Hughes Junior Faculty Fellowship for Ship Structures and Ocean Engineering
Ali Mehrizi-Sani	Bradley Senior Faculty Fellowship
Aaron Noble	Charles T. Holland Professorship in Mining and Minerals Engineering
Sourav Saha	Professor Ella M. Atkins Aerospace and Ocean Engineering Junior Faculty Fellowship
Yang "Cindy" Yi	Bradley Senior Faculty Fellowship

College of Natural Resources and Environment (3)

William A. Hopkins	Thomas H. Jones Professorship
Valerie A. Thomas	Thomas M. Brooks Forestry Professorship
Randolph H. Wynne	Honorable Garland Gray Professorship in Forestry

College of Science (2)

Johann Rudi	Luther and Alice Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellowship
Steffen Werner	Luther and Alice Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellowship

ENDOWED JUNIOR FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Professor Owen Hughes Junior Faculty Fellowship
for Ship Structures and Ocean Engineering

The Professor Owen Hughes Junior Faculty Fellowship for Ship Structures and Ocean Engineering Junior Faculty Fellowship was established with a generous gift from MAESTRO Marine LLC. This endowment was created to enable the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering (AOE) in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech to generate new interest in science and engineering challenges faced in modern ship designs. Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Dr. Christine Gilbert to be appointed as the inaugural Professor Owen Hughes Junior Faculty Fellow for Ship Structures and Ocean Engineering based on the recommendations of the Aerospace and Ocean Engineering Honorifics Committee and the department head.

Dr. Gilbert's research focuses on the complex, multi-physics problem of fluid-structure interaction, particularly in ocean vessels and structures. Her early work on the mechanics of imploding shell structures informs the design of resilient ocean structures, including submarines and subsea pipelines, and the assessment of the effects of pressure waves generated by imploding structures on other nearby structures. More recent research has focused on water entry of a flexible wedge, supporting the design and analysis of high-speed craft, and the behavior of biological structures just below the air-sea interface, with applications to biomimetic design.

Dr. Gilbert is committed to teaching and mentoring the next generation of ocean engineers, including in surface and subsurface vessel dynamics in waves. This experience is enhanced by her leadership of a major instrumentation upgrade to the Virginia Tech Towing Tank. By combining practical experience with theoretical knowledge, Dr. Gilbert's students are well prepared to address the challenges of modern ocean engineering.

Dr. Glibert's dedication to advancing ocean structures research, particularly in highly kinetic fluid/structure interactions such as implosions and slamming, makes her a valuable asset to the ocean engineering community. Her work advances fundamental multi-physics knowledge and supports the principled design of modern ocean vessels and structures. Coupled with her research excellence, her contributions to teaching ensure that students are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead the future of ocean technology.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Christine Gilbert be appointed to the Professor Owen Hughes Junior Faculty Fellowship for Ship Structures and Ocean Engineering for a non-renewable period of five years, effective December 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Bradley Senior Faculty Fellowship

The Bradley Senior Faculty Fellowship in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was created with the support of the Bradley Endowment, which was established by the generous gift from Mrs. Marion Bradley Via. The creation of this fellowship enables the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to recognize and support outstanding faculty. Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Dr. Ali Mehrizi-Sani to be appointed as a Bradley Senior Faculty Fellow, based on the recommendations of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Mehrizi-Sani has excelled at scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach at Virginia Tech. He is an internationally recognized scholar and leader whose research has fundamentally advanced the control, modeling, and integration of inverter-based resources (IBRs) in modern power systems. More recently, he has spearheaded transformative work at the intersection of power engineering and advanced wireless communications, positioning him to help shape the resilient, reliable grid of the future.

Dr. Mehrizi-Sani's scholarly record is outstanding over 11,700 citations (with an h-index of 36), nearly 210 peer-reviewed publications, five books, and multiple influential industry reports and standards. His research funding record is equally impressive, with over $13.3M competitively secured for Virginia Tech from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Defense (DoD), industry, and utilities.

Dr. Mehrizi-Sani is a highly dedicated mentor and educator. He has trained 25 graduate students, many of whom have gone on to leadership roles in academia, utilities, and industry.

Dr. Mehrizi-Sani, through his scholarship at the intersection of power engineering and advanced wireless communications, has made outstanding contributions to Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation through his innovative research, exemplary teaching, dedicated service, community outreach, and prolific publications.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Ali Mehrizi-Sani be appointed to the Bradley Senior Faculty Fellowship for a nonrenewable period of five years, effective December 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Charles T. Holland Professorship in Mining and Minerals Engineering

The Charles T. Holland Professorship was established in 1976 in honor of the former head of the Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering in the College of Engineering, who served from 1948 to 1961. This professorship is meant to attract and retain exceptional faculty in the department. Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Dr. Aaron Noble to be appointed as the Charles T. Holland Professor, based on the recommendations of the Department of Mining and Minerals Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Noble has excelled at research, teaching, and service and has proven himself as a visionary and effective leader. He has built a remarkable record of research that combines rigorous scholarship with practical innovation. In particular, his work on critical minerals feedstocks and extraction technologies has propelled efforts to identify and make use of domestic resources, which are essential to the energy transition. Dr. Noble's research is of highly relevant to both industry and society, and he is widely recognized for the originality, quality, and impact of his contributions.

Dr. Noble is equally distinguished as a teacher and mentor. He has inspired and guided students at all levels, creating inclusive and engaging classrooms and integrating his research into the learning experience. His consistent record of excellence in teaching reflects both his skill as an educator and his deep commitment to student success.

In service, Dr. Noble has demonstrated exceptional leadership at Virginia Tech and within the broader profession. He is a steadfast champion of university-industry engagement and has advanced initiatives to strengthen programs, support faculty, and expand opportunities for students. Beyond the university, he has played active roles in professional societies and outreach, helping to connect academic expertise with industry and community needs.

Dr. Noble is truly an asset to Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to the nation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Aaron Noble be appointed to the Charles T. Holland Professorship in Engineering for a renewable period of five years, effective December 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Professor Ella M. Atkins Aerospace and Ocean Engineering
Junior Faculty Fellowship

The Professor Ella M. Atkins Aerospace and Ocean Engineering Junior Faculty Fellowship was established by the generous gift from Professor Ella M. Atkins. The creation of this fellowship enables the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering to generate new interest in science and engineering challenges for air and water vehicles and systems. Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Dr. Sourav Saha to be appointed as the Professor Ella M. Atkins Aerospace and Ocean Engineering Junior Faculty Fellow, based on the recommendations of the Kevin T. Crofton Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Saha joined Virginia Tech in Fall 2024 after completing his Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from Northwestern University. He established the Intelligent Multiscale Mechanics for Predictive Advanced Computational Technology (IMMPACT) Laboratory. His research expertise is in scientific artificial intelligence, computational mechanics, and modeling of advanced manufacturing process, structure, and properties.

Dr. Saha has a strong publication record with 36 peer-reviewed scientific articles in journals, and 14 peer-reviewed conference proceedings articles. His work has been cited 1,652 times and he has an h-index of 25, a remarkable accomplishment for a young researcher. His research has resulted in four U.Ss and international patent applications.

Dr. Saha is also an excellent mentor, currently advising two Ph.D. and five undergraduate students. He is deeply committed to teaching and has taught two core undergraduate courses in the past year: AOE 2024 Thin-walled Structures and AOE 2984 Statics and Mechanics of Materials, receiving Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) scores of 5.54 out of 6.0 in Spring 2025.

Dr. Saha has demonstrated remarkable promise as a researcher, teacher, and advisor, and emerging as a rising star in the fields of computational mechanics and advanced manufacturing.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Sourav Saha be appointed to the Professor Ella M. Atkins Aerospace and Ocean Engineering Junior Faculty Fellowship for a non-renewable period of five years, effective December 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Bradley Senior Faculty Fellowship

The Bradley Senior Faculty Fellowship in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was created with the support of the Bradley Endowment, which was established by the generous gift from Mrs. Marion Bradley Via. The creation of this fellowship enables the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to recognize and support outstanding faculty. Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Dr. Yang "Cindy" Yi to be appointed as a Bradley Senior Faculty Fellow, based on the recommendations of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Yi has excelled in scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach at Virginia Tech. She is an internationally recognized leader in integrated circuits and systems, neuromorphic computing, high-performance computing, and advanced communications. Her research has advanced fundamental research and delivered translational impact, positioning Virginia Tech as a key contributor to national priorities, including the U.S. Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act and major semiconductor initiatives.

Dr. Yi has published more than 200 refereed papers in leading journals and conferences. Her publications have earned multiple best paper recognitions, including the Charles K. Kao Best Paper Award in 2020 and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Symposium on Quality Electronic Design (ISQED) Best Paper Award in 2018. She has participated in 34 externally funded projects, including 19 as principal investigator (PI), with total awards exceeding $60M.

Dr. Yi is a highly dedicated mentor and educator. She has advised 32 Ph.D. and master's students and mentored numerous undergraduates. Many of her former students now hold positions in industry, government laboratories, and academia. Her students have received fellowships, best paper awards, and other distinctions that reflect the quality of their work under Dr. Yi's guidance.

Through her scholarship in integrated circuits and systems, neuromorphic computing, high-performance computing, and advanced communications, Dr. Yi has made outstanding contributions to Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation through her innovative research, exemplary teaching, dedicated service, community outreach, and prolific publications.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Yang "Cindy" Yi be appointed to the Bradley Senior Faculty Fellowship for a nonrenewable period of five years, effective December 10, 2025, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Thomas H. Jones Professorship

The Thomas H. Jones Professorship in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation was established through the generosity of Thomas H. Jones, a 1949 alumnus of Virginia Tech. Jones wished to support the advancement of fish and wildlife sciences and to honor the faculty and students who lead the future of the field.

The Thomas H. Jones Professorship enables the College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE) to support an outstanding faculty member in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. This individual should exhibit recognized strengths in teaching and mentoring students, and engage in research and outreach activities in fish and wildlife conservation that reflect the same standard of excellence.

Dr. Saskia van de Gevel, dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, has nominated Dr. William A. Hopkins to be appointed as the Thomas H. Jones Professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, based on the recommendations of the College of Natural Resources and Environment Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Hopkins is a world-class researcher with an internationally respected record across multiple disciplines. He has broken new ground in several major areas of study, including unveiling the environmental health risks associated with open surface impoundments for solid waste disposal, pioneering research that revealed how these ponds attract biodiversity while adversely affecting their health and reproduction. His cutting-edge work on global change and its effects on the microclimate of bird nests opened an entirely new field of study, now expanding across North America, Europe, and Australia. Closer to home, his team recently solved a 50-year conservation mystery regarding the enigmatic declines of the giant hellbender salamander, an accomplishment requiring more than 18 years of continuous study and demonstrating his extraordinary persistence and vision.

The impact of Dr. Hopkins' scholarship is reflected in more than 200 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters, cited nearly 12,000 times, with an h-index of 59, placing him among the leading scientists in fish and wildlife conservation nationally. His contributions have been recognized with the 2015 Virginia Tech Alumni Award for Excellence in Research, the 2021 College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE) Research Achievement Award, and his 2025 election as a Fellow of the Virginia Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Beyond his own laboratory, Dr. Hopkins has shaped graduate and interdisciplinary education at Virginia Tech as the founding director of both the Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program (IGEP) in Interfaces of Global Change (IGC) and the Global Change Center (GCC). These programs enroll and engage hundreds of faculty and students across the university, serve as models for interdisciplinary collaboration, and have helped recruit world-class talent to Virginia Tech.

In the classroom, Dr. Hopkins is a passionate and innovative educator, consistently receiving some of the highest teaching evaluations in CNRE . His courses are known for

their rigor and their transformative experiential learning approaches. He has led study abroad programs in the Amazon rainforest and the Galápagos Islands, which students consistently identify as being a life-changing educational experience.

Dr. Hopkins has had a lasting impact on both undergraduate and graduate students. He developed a mentoring model that integrates undergraduates into meaningful research while training graduate students and postdocs to become effective mentors. This model has been adopted by colleagues nationally. His contributions to mentoring have been recognized with the Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor Award from CNRE in 2017, as well as multiple departmental teaching and mentorship awards.

Dr. Hopkins' record of transformative research, innovative teaching, student mentorship, and visionary leadership in building interdisciplinary programs exemplifies the highest standards of excellence envisioned by the Thomas H. Jones Professorship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. William A. Hopkins be appointed to the Thomas H. Jones Professorship in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation for a period of seven years, effective January 1, 2026, with a salary supplement and annual operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Thomas M. Brooks Forestry Professorship

The Thomas M. Brooks Professorship in Forestry was established in 1992 by the late Thomas M. Brooks of Blue Ridge, Virginia. The professorship honors his legacy of leadership and philanthropy in advancing forestry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Thomas M. Brooks Professorship enables the College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE) to support an outstanding faculty member in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. This individual should exhibit recognized strengths in teaching and mentoring students, and engage in research and outreach activities in applied forestry that reflect the same standard of excellence.

Dr. Saskia van de Gevel, dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, has nominated Dr. Valerie A. Thomas to be appointed as the Thomas M. Brooks Forestry Professor, based on the recommendations of the College of Natural Resources and Environment Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Thomas has established herself as an internationally recognized scholar in the field of remote sensing of forest ecosystems, forest cover and condition, and forest change. Her research program combines cutting-edge sensor technologies with the development of novel algorithms, resulting in widely respected contributions to understanding and managing forested landscapes. She has published extensively in leading journals of her field, many with impact factors that rank well above the disciplinary average, underscoring the significance and reach of her work.

Her research has been supported through numerous competitive grants from a wide array of sponsors, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement. She has served as principal investigator and co-principal investigator on multi-investigator, multi-institution projects, and her expertise was recognized nationally when she was invited to lead the vegetation component of a $350M Lockheed Martin satellite proposal. She is also a sought-after reviewer for NSF, NASA, and USDA panels, and serves as associate editor for three high-impact journals, reflecting peer recognition of her scholarly leadership.

Dr. Thomas is also a highly respected teacher and mentor. She has made significant contributions to the department curriculum, developing innovative courses and enriching the learning experiences of both undergraduate and graduate students. She is a dedicated mentor to graduate students, providing rigorous training, intellectual guidance, and professional support. Many of her students now hold prominent positions in academia, government, and industry.

Her service contributions to the department, the College of Natural Resources and Environment, Virginia Tech, and the profession has been exemplary. She has demonstrated leadership and commitment to institutional service, professional societies,

and collaborative research networks, further elevating the visibility and reputation of CNRE.

Dr. Thomas has built a remarkable program of scholarship, teaching, and service. Her accomplishments, leadership in advancing forestry and remote sensing science, and dedication to students and colleagues make her an outstanding candidate for this honor.

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>:

That Dr. Valerie A. Thomas be appointed to the Thomas M. Brooks Forestry Professorship for a period of seven years, effective January 1, 2026, with a salary supplement and annual operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
The Honorable Garland Gray Professorship in Forestry

The Honorable Garland Gray Professorship in Forestry was established in 1985 by the late state Senator Elmon T. Gray. The professorship was named in memory of his father, Garland Gray, who also served in the Senate of Virginia.

The Honorable Garland Gray Professorship in Forestry enables the College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE) to support an outstanding faculty member in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation. This individual should exhibit recognized strengths in teaching and mentoring students, and engage in research and outreach activities in applied forestry that reflect the same standard of excellence. Dr. Saskia van de Gevel, dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, has nominated Dr. Randolph H. Wynne to be appointed as the Honorable Garland Gray Professor of Forestry, based on the recommendations of the College of Natural Resources and Environment Honorifics Committee.

For more than three decades, Dr. Wynne has defined and advanced the field of remote sensing for forestry and natural resource management. His scholarship underpins how agencies and industry monitor forests, carbon, and land use at scale. He has authored more than 250 peer-reviewed publications, which have been cited nearly 22,000 times, and has an h-index of 45. He co-authored the discipline's leading textbook *Introduction to Remote Sensing*, and has held key editorial roles including co-founding editor and editor-in-chief of *Science of Remote Sensing* and associate editor of *Remote Sensing of Environment*.

Dr. Wynne has been extraordinarily successful in securing competitive funding from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and other major sponsors, with millions of dollars awarded as principal investigator or co-principal investigator since joining Virginia Tech. These resources have supported graduate student training, research innovation, and cross-unit collaborations integral to CNRE's national and international visibility. His research portfolio encompasses both methodological advances, such as lidar-enabled forest inventory and machine learning for multisensor time series, and applied outcomes that inform forest management and policy.

His leadership and service extend nationally and internationally. He has served on the NASA Landsat Science Team from 2006–2017 and the Land Cover and Land Use Change Science Team from 2017–present, helping to shape the nation's Earth observation strategy. His contributions have been recognized through prestigious honors, including the USGS William T. Pecora Group Award for the Landsat 8 Team, the Society of American Foresters Award in Forest Science in 2017, and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Estes Memorial Teaching Award in 2023. He has also co-organized SilviLaser in 2005 and 2017, a premier international forum that connects forest science with geospatial technology stakeholders.

At Virginia Tech, Dr. Wynne has demonstrated exceptional institutional citizenship. He co-founded and co-directed the Center for Environmental Analytics and Remote Sensing, founded and directs the Remote Sensing Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program, and was instrumental in launching the Environmental Data Science major and its foundational courses. He has also chaired the University Commission on Research, served on the Commission on Faculty Affairs, and represented CNRE in the Faculty Senate. His efforts exemplify a commitment to university governance and to advancing Virginia Tech's mission.

Dr. Wynne is a dedicated and highly regarded mentor who has guided generations of graduate students who now serve in leadership roles in academic, agency, and industry. His record of research excellence, innovative teaching, professional service, and institutional leadership marks him as an extraordinary scholar and colleague.

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>:

That Dr. Randolph H. Wynne be appointed to the Honorable Garland Gray Professorship for a period of seven years, effective January 1, 2026, with a salary supplement and annual operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Luther and Alice Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellowship

The Luther and Alice Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellowships were established in the College of Science through a generous bequest from the estate of the late Dr. Luther J. Hamlett. Dr. Hamlett, who earned his bachelor's degree in biology as a 1945 graduate of Virginia Tech, established these fellowships to provide support for outstanding faculty members who hold the rank of assistant or associate professor, and whose work supports the missions of the college's Academy of Integrated Science (AIS) and/or Computational Modeling and Data Analytics (CMDA) and with some past or present interaction with AIS and/or CMDA. A recipient shall hold the fellowship for a period of three years with one possible renewal.

Dr. Kevin T. Pitts, dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. Johann Rudi, assistant professor of Mathematics, to hold one of these endowed fellowships. The nomination is supported by the Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellowship selection committee, comprised of faculty members from the College of Science affiliated with the Academy of Integrated Science (AIS) and the CMDA Director, Dr. Mark Embree.

Dr. Rudi joined the Department of Mathematics in 2022 as an assistant professor. He previously spent four years in the Argonne Scholar program as a Wilkinson Fellow at the Argonne National Laboratory and as a Fellow at the Northwestern-Argonne Institute of Science and Engineering. Dr. Rudi earned his Ph.D. in Computational Science, Engineering and Mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin in 2018. In 2015, he won the ACM Gordon Bell Prize, one of the highest recognitions in high performance computing.

Dr. Rudi is a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and is affiliated with the Computational Modeling and Data Analytics program. He is an active member of the CMDA group, mentoring undergraduates in research and teaching computational modeling and mathematical modeling classes.

Dr. Rudi's research program in computational mathematics has broad reach, such as applications to geophysics. His work includes large scale parallel computational methods for modeling partial differential equations and data-driven approaches to inverse problems.

Dr. Rudi's scholarship is very strong, with more than 50 publications, including recent articles in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. He holds external funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Johann Rudi be appointed to the Luther and Alice Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellowship for a three-year term, effective August 10, 2025, with operating support as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP
Luther and Alice Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellowship

The Luther and Alice Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellowships were established in the College of Science through a generous bequest from the estate of the late Dr. Luther J. Hamlett. Dr. Hamlett, who earned his bachelor's degree in biology as a 1945 graduate of Virginia Tech, established these fellowships to provide support for outstanding faculty members who hold the rank of assistant or associate professor, and whose work supports the missions of the college's Academy of Integrated Science (AIS) and/or Computational Modeling and Data Analytics (CMDA) and with some past or present interaction with AIS and/or CMDA. A recipient shall hold the fellowship for a period of three years with one possible renewal.

Dr. Kevin T. Pitts, dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. Steffen Werner, assistant professor of Mathematics, to hold one of these endowed fellowships. The nomination is supported by the Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellowship selection committee, comprised of faculty members from the College of Science affiliated with the Academy of Integrated Science (AIS) and the CMDA Director, Dr. Mark Embree.

Dr. Werner joined the Department of Mathematics as an assistant professor in 2023. He previously spent two years as a postdoctoral researcher at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University. Dr. Werner earned a doctor rerum naturalium in Mathematics from the Otto von Guericke University in 2021.

Dr. Werner is a Computational Modeling and Data Analytics affiliated faculty member in the Department of Mathematics at VT. His research program focuses on model order reduction, data-driven modeling, numerical linear algebra, and mathematical software.

Dr. Werner's scholarship is very strong, with more than 50 publications in leading mathematics journals. He is invited to speak on his research at conferences and at prestigious institutes and universities all over the world. He is also an organizer of the trimester program "*Computational Multifidelity, Multilevel, and Multiscale Methods* at the Hausdorff Research Institute for Mathematics in Germany in Spring 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Steffen Werner be appointed to the Luther and Alice Hamlett Junior Faculty Fellowship for a three-year term, effective August 10, 2025, with operating support as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025