



2019 NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION



Dr. Charles (Chip) Blankenship

Professor of Practice in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at The University of Virginia

Charles (Chip) Blankenship is currently Professor of Practice in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at The University of Virginia. He is the former CEO of Arconic, Inc. and the former CEO of GE Appliances and Lighting. In his 25-year career with GE, Blankenship was a Staff Scientist at the Global Research Center and a Product Manager in Aircraft Engines and Energy business units. Blankenship's aviation career culminated with the role of VP of Commercial Engines for GE Aviation. As CEO of GE Appliances, he led the reshoring of manufacturing and subsequent sale to Haier, the world's leading appliance brand. Blankenship is a licensed Professional Engineer, a Member of the National Academy of Engineering and a licensed pilot. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and a guest lecturer in the Honors College at Virginia Tech. He holds degrees from both Virginia Tech and University of Virginia.



Rear Admiral Thomas J. Eccles, USN (Ret)

CEO, Trident Maritime Systems, LLC

Rear Admiral Tom Eccles became Chief Executive Officer of Trident Maritime Systems, LLC in January 2014, after serving over 32 years in the U. S. Navy and retiring in 2013. Admiral Eccles was the Navy's Chief Engineer for ships, submarines, and aircraft carriers from 2008 through 2013, and he held other commands in ship design and construction. His education includes four degrees from MIT in engineering, naval architecture and management. He serves of several boards including Let's Go Boys and Girls, a group that inspires and supports underserved students to become STEM professionals. He has filled leadership roles with the American Society of Naval Engineers and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.



Dr. Edward H. Egelman, Ph.D.

Harrison Distinguished Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, University of Virginia

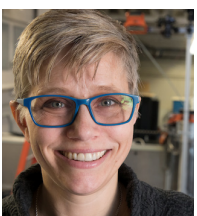
Edward Egelman is a biophysicist known for his work on the structure and function of protein and nucleoprotein polymers. His research has ranged from studies of actin to bacterial pili to viruses that infect hosts living in nearly boiling acid. Egelman was born in New York and graduated from Brandeis University in 1976 with a B.A. in physics. He started as a Ph.D. student in experimental high energy physics at Harvard, but changed fields and received his Ph.D. from Brandeis University in 1982 in biophysics. He was a Jane Coffin Childs postdoctoral fellow at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, UK. He has been president of the Biophysical Society and Editor-in-Chief of Biophysical Journal. He is a Fellow of both the Biophysical Society and the American Academy of Microbiology and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.



Mr. Alfred Grasso

Board Director and Consultant

Mr. Alfred Grasso is the former president and chief executive officer of The MITRE Corporation where he continues to serve as a Consultant. Mr. Grasso serves on the Board(s) of NETSCOUT Systems and Riverside Research. He is a member of the Defense Science Board, a former member of the Army Science Board and he is serving a 3 year term as a member of the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine, Government, University and Industry Research Roundtable where he was elected co-chair in 2018. Mr. Grasso holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a master's degree in computer science from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He is a graduate of the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School.



Dr. Jennifer L. Irish

Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Virginia Tech

Dr. Jennifer L. Irish is a professor of coastal engineering at Virginia Tech. Prior to joining academia in 2006, Irish served as Regional Technical Specialist in coastal engineering for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Her scholarly contributions have advanced understanding in four areas within coastal engineering and science: airborne lidar bathymetry in the coastal zone, nature-based infrastructure for coastal hazard mitigation, physics of storm surge and related probabilistic surge

hazard assessment, and impacts of sea level rise at the coast. Irish is a Member of the Coastal Engineering Research Council, a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and on the editorial boards of Coastal Engineering and the Journal of Waterway, Port, Coastal, and Ocean Engineering.



Dr. Sallie Ann Keller

Division Director, Social and Decision Analytics, Distinguished Professor in Biocomplexity, Biocomplexity Institute and Initiative, and Professor of Public Health Sciences, University of Virginia

Dr. Sallie Ann Keller is a leading voice accelerating data science for the public good, leading research to create the science of all data, shifting mindsets from big data analytics to “doing data science,” and advancing this research across disciplines to address large-scale complex challenges in the world today. As director of the Social and Decision Analytics division in the Biocomplexity Institute at the University of Virginia, Dr. Keller and her team embrace a team science and transdisciplinary research approach to improve the impact of decision making for the public good. Dr. Keller has a Ph.D. in Statistics from Iowa State University of Science and Technology, and an M.S. and B.S in Mathematics from the University of South Florida.



Dr. Sara B. Kiesler

Hillman Chair Emerita of Computer Science and Human-Computer Interaction at the Human-Computer Interaction Institute, and Program Manager, National Science Foundation

Dr. Sara Kiesler is the Hillman Chair Emerita of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. She currently serves as program director for the division of social and economic sciences at the National Science Foundation. Kiesler applies behavioral and social science methods and theory to technology design, especially to understanding how technologies challenge existing behavior patterns of individuals, groups, and organizations. In 2015, received the International Communication Association Williams Prize. In 2016, she received the Joseph E. McGrath Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Study of Groups from the Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research (INGROUP).” Dr. Kiesler holds a master’s degree in psychology from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in psychology from Ohio State University. Kiesler is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, Psi Chi, the Society for Psychological Science, and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and a member of the National Academy of Engineering.



Dr. Alex H. Krist, M.D., M.P.H.

Professor of Family Medicine and Population Health, VCU, Vice-Chairperson, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

Dr. Alex Krist, MD, MPH, is a Professor of Family Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond Virginia and a practicing family physician and teacher at the Fairfax Family Practice residency. He has been faculty at the residency since 1999 where he has taught nearly 200 residents. Dr. Krist is a director of the Virginia Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Network (ACORN), a collection of over 500 primary care practices, throughout Virginia that collaborate to do research that matters to primary care. Dr. Krist is also a member and Vice Chair of the U.S Preventive Services Task Force. His personal research interests focus on implementation of preventive recommendations, patient centered care, shared decision-making, cancer screening, health information technology, and practice transformation. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.



The Honorable Heidi Shyu

President and CEO, Heidi Shyu Inc.

The Honorable Dr. Heidi Shyu is the CEO of Heidi Shyu Inc., a defense consulting company. She serves on the Board for Aerospace Corp., Concurrent Technologies Corp., Roboteam North America, and UCLA Dean’s Executive Board. She served as the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. She was the Corporate Vice President of Technology & Research for Raytheon and held several VP positions at Raytheon. She served on the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board for a total of 10 years and was the Chairman for 3 years. She received the Dept. of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, Dept of the Army Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service, Dept of the Air Force Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service. She is also a member of the National Academy of Engineering. She received her BSc. in Mathematics from the University of New Brunswick in Canada, MS in Mathematics from the University of Toronto in Canada, MS in Systems Science from UCLA, and the Engineer Degree from UCLA. She received an Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of New Brunswick.