Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce that three of our faculty colleagues have been named *Distinguished University Professor* (DUP) for 2020. Being selected as a DUP involves an intensive internal and external review of the faculty member’s credentials that culminates in selection by the DUP Recommending Committee. Those named this year will have their titles formally bestowed at the Faculty Honors & Awards ceremony to be held during the Fall 2020 semester, and will make a DUP presentation to which the university community will be invited during the 2020-2021 academic year. The faculty members named as this year’s Distinguished University Professors are as follows, with brief overviews provided by the DUP Recommending Committee that only touch on the surface of their impressive academic profiles.

**Professor V. Mark Durand, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology**

Dr. V. Mark Durand is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at USF St. Petersburg and an internationally recognized expert in autism and related disorders, and in severe behavior problems in children. His scholarship, teaching, and administrative service have all been outstanding. Professor Durand joined USF St. Petersburg in 2003 as the founding Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He was named USFSP Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (the Chief Academic Officer) for 2005-2007, and he served as Interim Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs from 2015-2016. At the same time, Professor Durand has remained an extremely productive scholar, teacher, consultant, and clinician. His exemplary research, including a significant number of grant-funded projects, has had a powerful impact on Psychology and Behavioral Science. His work has been translated into 10 languages, is widely cited around the world, and has been singled out for professional recognition from leading journals and, for example, the American Psychological Association. His important publications, including numerous books and articles, represent a body of scholarship that has been discipline-altering, often public-facing, and widely influential.

**Professor Kathleen Heide, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, Department of Criminology**

Dr. Kathleen Heide is a Professor of Criminology and a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Science. She previously served as the Associate Dean and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Over the past 35 years Dr. Heide has investigated psychological, biological, and sociological factors that contribute to violent youth behavior. She is recognized as one of the world’s foremost authorities on juvenile homicide and parricide (the killing of a parent or other near relative). Further, Dr. Heide has a long-established record of teaching excellence and student commitment, having won numerous teaching awards during her tenure at USF. Her work is also widely shared outside of the classroom. Dr. Heide is known for her outstanding community engagement and consultation with agencies such as the National Institute of Justice and service on the Florida Sentencing Commission. A prominent public academic, as noted by one of her external reviewers, her work has been “highly valuable to clinicians, courts, attorneys, parole boards, and the entire judicial system.” Clearly, Dr.
Heide has demonstrated a prolific record of teaching, scholarship, academic leadership, and public engagement throughout her exemplary career at USF.

**Professor Hariharan Srikanth, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Physics**

Dr. Hariharan Srikanth has a distinguished record of research, teaching and professional service. A Professor in the Department of Physics, he is an internationally recognized expert in the field of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials. He has an outstanding publication record and he has received numerous honors and awards, including election as a Fellow for American Physical Society and the Institute of Nanotechnology, as a Senior Member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) - Magnetics Society, and in 2019, the Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Magnetics Society. Dr. Srikanth is an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Applied Physics*, an internationally acclaimed and well-respected journal. He has held multiple international Visiting Professorships and was a Fulbright Fellow with an extended stay at Nanyang Technology University in Singapore. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Army Research Office, and DARPA, among others. One of his external reviewers noted that “his research group is an international reference group in the study of magnetic hyperthermia and the optimization of the nanoparticles’ magnetic response for biomedical applications.” Dr. Srikanth is also an effective and highly praised teacher and mentor who has led numerous students through their MA and PhD studies at USF.

Being nominated for DUP status is a significant honor because it indicates that the individual has an outstanding scholarly record and has made significant contributions to the University of South Florida and her/his profession. Accordingly, I wish to congratulate Professor Grandon Gill (Muma College of Business, Information Systems and Decision Sciences) whose impressive record of achievement resulted in his candidacy being advanced to the DUP Recommending Committee for consideration.

I must take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication shown by members of the DUP Recommending Committee; year after year, they face the challenging task of making their selections from an impressive pool of worthy candidates. This year’s Committee consisted of Professors Tammy Allen, Robert Frisina, Steven Jones, Natasha Jonoska, Kami Kim, Kirby Russell, and Charles Stanish. Moreover, Senior Vice Provost Dwayne Smith, along with his administrative assistant Ms. Rosie Lopez, are to be commended for facilitating the complex DUP process in supporting the important work of the Committee.

Please join me in congratulating our 2020 Distinguished University Professors V. Mark Durand, Kathleen Heide, and Hariharan Srikanth.

Best regards,

Ralph C. Wilcox
Provost and Executive Vice