



May 16, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce that three of our faculty colleagues have been named *Distinguished University Professors* (DUP) for 2022. 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. I am also pleased to announce that this year's DUPs will be recognized at an upcoming 2022 commencement exercise. Those named this year will have their titles formally bestowed at the Faculty Honors & Awards ceremony to be held during the Fall 2022 semester, and will deliver a DUP presentation to which the entire university community is invited at some point in the 2022-2023 academic year. Courtesy of the DUP Recommending Committee, please see the following brief overviews, which merely touch on the impressive academic profiles of our 2022 *Distinguished University Professors*.

Professor Mya Breitbart, College of Marine Sciences

Dr. Breitbart is a Professor in the College of Marine Science. Dr. Breitbart is internationally known for her groundbreaking research on viruses. She propelled the field of viral ecology forward by developing a new method, known as viral metagenomics, that has led to significant discoveries in both ecology and medicine. This method enables detection of both novel and known viruses in any environment or sample. Dr. Breitbart has been recognized among the top 2% of researchers worldwide (across all fields) based on citation impact through 2020. She has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academy of Science's Kavli Frontiers, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. In addition, she has received awards from the popular press, including *Florida Trend* magazine's All-Star, *Popular Science* magazine's Brilliant Ten Young Investigators, and the Genome Technology Magazine's Young Investigator Award. Dr. Breitbart has an established record of mentoring graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, undergraduate students, and high school interns. Her service to the university and the profession has been exemplary. Notably, she has served the National Academy of Sciences in various capacities, including as editor of one journal and on the editorial boards of others. She is deeply engaged in the community and has been particularly involved in promoting inclusion and diversity of youth in science. Dr. Breitbart has received the STEM Woman of the Year Award by Girls Incorporated of Pinellas in recognition of her many contributions.

Professor Patrice Buzzanell, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Communication

Dr. Patrice Buzzanell is a Professor in the Department of Communication, College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Buzzanell is known for her sustained and highly impactful work that applies feminist perspectives to organizational communication. She is a major authority on the concept of resilience, having pioneered the Feminist Communication Theory of Resilience. Her work is noted for being

interdisciplinary and cross-cultural, original, paradigm-shifting, and strong in both theory and methodology. She has received prestigious lifetime achievement awards, including the Steven H. Chafee Career Achievement Award from the International Communication Association and the Samuel L. Becker Distinguished Service Award from the National Communication Association. Dr. Buzzanell has also distinguished herself through leadership positions. She has served as the President of the International Communication Association and the Council of Communications Association. She is also noted for receiving outstanding student evaluations for teaching important undergraduate and graduate courses and chairing/serving on approximately 150 thesis and dissertation committees. Prior to joining USF in 2017 as Chair of the Department of Communication, Dr. Buzzanell was a Distinguished University Professor at Purdue University, where she was also the Director of the Susan Bulkeley Center for Leadership Excellence. In addition, she held visiting professorships at several universities in Brazil, China, Denmark, Japan, Korea, and Italy. She is a Fellow of the International Communication Association and a Distinguished Scholar of the National Communication Association. For over 30 years, Dr. Buzzanell has contributed outstanding intellectual leadership, local and professional service, and mentorship to others.

Professor William M. Sappenfield, College of Public Health

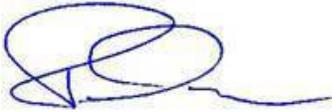
Dr. William M. Sappenfield, MD, MPH, CPH, is a Professor in the Department of Community and Family Health in the College of Public Health, Director of The Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies, and Director of the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative. Dr. Sappenfield has previously served as the Chair of the USF Department of Community and Family Health, and has held many leadership roles at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Florida Department of Health. Dr. Sappenfield has distinguished himself as a national leader in the field of maternal and child health (MCH). His willingness and ability to work successfully with other organizations, stakeholder groups, and individuals have been widely recognized on the national, state, and local levels. Among many other achievements, Dr. Sappenfield was instrumental in establishing the CDC's Maternal Child Health Epidemiology Program. His research has directly impacted the health outcomes of thousands, if not millions, of mothers and infants. Dr. Sappenfield's national MCH and MCH epidemiology leadership, service, and scientific contributions have been recognized by multiple national awards, such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Distinguished Service Award, the Maternal Child Health Bureau Director's Award, and the John C. MacQueen Lecture Award for Innovation in the Field of Maternal and Child Health by the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. Moreover, Dr. Sappenfield has created a legacy of training, guiding, and supporting many doctoral and pre-doctoral students at USF, as well as academics, MCH epidemiologists, and senior public health leaders across the nation.

Please join me in congratulating USF's 2022 *Distinguished University Professors* Mya Breitbart, Patrice Buzzanell, and William M. Sappenfield.

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 their profession. Accordingly, I wish to congratulate Professors Robert Bishop (College of Engineering), Cecile Lengacher (College of Nursing), and Sunil Mithas (Muma College of Business), whose impressive records of achievement resulted in their candidacy being advanced to the DUP Recommending Committee for consideration.

I would also like to 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, Maureen Groer, Kathleen Heide, Natasha Jonoska, Matthias Majetschak, and William Murray. As well, appreciation must be extended to the various members of the six Discipline Committees, whose charge was to review and provide a summary evaluation of their assigned nominee's credentials. Last, 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 vital work of this committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Wilcox', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ralph C. Wilcox
Provost and Executive Vice President