Date: May 1, 2015  --- I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Delores M. Etter as a Distinguished Fellow of the Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security at Southern Methodist University. The appointment is effective today, May 1, 2015. Dr. Etter's deep knowledge of signal processing, software engineering, bioinformatics, and science and technology policy are a wonderful match to the interdisciplinary foundation of the Institute. Dr. Etter is a role model for all of us with her unique combination of technical and leadership skills and I couldn’t be more pleased to have her serving as a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute.

Dr. Etter joined the Electrical Engineering faculty at Southern Methodist University on June 2, 2008. She holds the Texas Instruments Distinguished Chair in Engineering Education, and is the Director of the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education. Dr. Etter holds a joint appointment in the Computer Science Department, and is a Senior Fellow of the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies. Her research interests include digital signal processing and biometric signal processing, with an emphasis on identification using iris recognition. She has also written a number of textbooks on computer languages and software engineering. Since her appointment at SMU, she has directed several research projects in biometrics including production of one of the most extensive and highest quality databases of multispectral human iris characteristics in existence.

While a faculty member at the University of New Mexico, she served as the university's Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. She has worked at Sandia National Laboratories and was the National Science Foundation Visiting Professor in the Electrical Engineering Department at Stanford University. As a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, she served as President of the IEEE Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing Society, and Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing. She was a Professor in the Electrical/Computer Engineering Department at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Dr. Etter previously held the Office of Naval Research Distinguished Chair in the Electrical/Computer Engineering Department at the United States Naval Academy where she was a faculty member.

Dr. Etter has held two senior executive positions in the Department of Defense. As Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, Dr. Etter was the Senior Acquisition Executive for the Navy and the Marine Corps. She was also the Senior Acquisition Executive for several Joint programs, including the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) and the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle (MRAP). Dr. Etter served as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology. In that position, she was responsible for Defense Science and Technology strategic planning, budget allocation, and program execution and evaluation for the DoD Science and Technology Program.

Dr. Etter is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. She is also a former member of the National Science Board and the Defense Science Board. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). Dr. Etter received a B.S. in Mathematics and M.S. in Mathematics from Wright State University and received her Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of New Mexico. She has received many national awards and honors including the Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, the Secretary of Defense Outstanding Public Service Medal, and the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal.

Dr. Fred Chang, Director
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