



SMU®

Office of the Provost

July 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

I am very pleased to announce that five additional SMU faculty members join our two faculty (Drs. Jill Allor and Lolita Buckner Inniss) announced last week as either re-appointed or newly-appointed University Distinguished Professors. Professors Sukumaran Nair of the Lyle School of Engineering's Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and Santanu Roy of Dedman College's Department of Economics have been reappointed for a second five-year term. Professors Yildirim Hurmuzlu of the Lyle School of Engineering's Mechanical Engineering Department, Jeffrey Kahn of the Dedman School of Law, and Stephen Wegren of Dedman College's Political Science Department have been newly-appointed as University Distinguished Professors.

Appointment decisions are based on recommendations from deans and endorsed by a six person ad hoc faculty committee working with the Office of the Provost. The University Distinguished Professorships were created in 1982 by SMU's Board of Trustees to celebrate outstanding faculty members, who receive cash awards of \$10,000 per year and are appointed for five years, with the possibility of reappointment for one additional term.

Please join me in congratulating these professors on this well-deserved recognition.

Yildirim Hurmuzlu

Professor Hurmuzlu has been at SMU for 32 years and has consistently distinguished himself in scholarship, teaching, and service to the university. Over his career, he has received over 24 research grants totaling just over \$2.5 million. He has authored or co-authored over 45 papers and graduated 17 Ph.D. students with an additional student scheduled to graduate in 2020. These students have established themselves as leaders in a broad cross section of academia, government and industry, and include placements at Johns Hopkins University, Auburn, SMU, Koc University, Yildiz Technical University, and Jordan University of Science and Technology.

Professor Hurmuzlu's expertise is in Control Theory, Robotics and Impact Mechanics. He is an internationally recognized scholar in Rigid Body Impact Theory and Human and Robotic Locomotion. The methods he developed early in

his career have now become the standard approach in the stability analysis of bipedal locomotion used by researchers internationally. He has made several fundamental contributions to Rigid Body Impact Mechanics including the solution of multi-contact problems that has since been established as the main method in mathematical modeling of contact problems in robotics. He also discovered the existence of micro collisions and their effect on rigid body impacts. This discovery challenges an inconsistency in Newton's definition of the restitution coefficient and offers a new method to resolve the inconsistency. One expert even referred to Dr. Hurmuzlu's contribution to impact theory as "probably the most significant since Newton."

In addition to world-class research, Professor Hurmuzlu has established a reputation as a first rate teacher. He has received the Outstanding Professor Award in the Mechanical Engineering Department nine times and has outstanding teaching evaluations from both his undergraduate and graduate students. He is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers and has also received the SMU's Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Award.

Professor Hurmuzlu is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and has held several editorial positions in top scientific journals including transactions of ASME and IEEE. He has also been a key academic leader at SMU and the Lyle School of Engineering. He served as the Department Chair of Mechanical Engineering from 2001-2007 and again from 2012-2013.

Jeffrey Kahn

Professor Kahn joined the Dedman Law faculty in fall 2006 and teaches and writes on American constitutional law, administrative law, Russian law, human rights, and counterterrorism. In 2007-2008, he received the Maguire Teaching Fellow Award from the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility at SMU for his seminar, "Perspectives on Counterterrorism." In 2008-2009, he was named a Colin Powell Fellow of the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies. In 2010, he received SMU's Outstanding Faculty Award, a university-wide award given each year to a junior, tenure-track faculty member for excellence in teaching, curricular development, and scholarship. In 2011, the year he was tenured and promoted to associate professor, he received the Law School's Excellence in Teaching Award. He was promoted to full professor in 2014. He was a resident in Norway during the 2017-2018 academic year as a Fulbright Research Scholar at the PluriCourts Centre in the Faculty of Law at the University of Oslo.

His latest research on U.S. legal topics focuses on the right to travel and national security law. His most recent book, *Mrs. Shipley's Ghost: The Right to Travel and Terrorist Watchlists*, critically examines the U.S. Government's No Fly List. Among other publications, his articles have appeared in the *UCLA Law Review*, *Michigan Law Review*, *Virginia Journal of International Law*, and the peer-reviewed *Journal of National Security Law and Policy*. He has launched a new website, Watchlist Law, a clearinghouse on the latest news and litigation

concerning the U.S. No Fly List. His blog posts have been featured on *Lawfare*, *Just Security*, and *Concurring Opinions*.

His work on Russian law has been noted by name by the editors of *The New York Times* and published in various law reviews as well as the peer-reviewed journals *Post-Soviet Affairs* and *Review of Central and East European Law*. His latest research has focused primarily on the influence in Russia of the European Convention on Human Rights. In 2011, Russian President Dmitrii Medvedev's Human Rights Council asked him — the one American among six other experts from Russia, one from Germany, and one from the Netherlands — to write an expert report on the second conviction of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev. Professor Kahn described this work and its repercussions in an op-ed published in *The New York Times* (online) and *International Herald Tribune* (print).

At SMU he was a founding member of the Advisory Board for the SMU Embrey Human Rights Education Program. SMU is the first university in the South, and only the fifth in the country, to offer an academic major in human rights.

He is a graduate of Yale College, Oxford University (where he won the Hodgson Martin Prize for Best Dissertation for his doctoral work on Russian federalism), and the University of Michigan Law School. His first book, based on that dissertation, was published by *Oxford University Press* while he was a law student. During law school, he also served as a lecturer on European human rights law at summer training programs in Moscow for Russian lawyers sponsored by the Council of Europe. After law school, he was a law clerk to the Honorable Thomas P. Griesa of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. He served as a trial attorney in the Civil Division, United States Department of Justice, from October 2003 until April 2006.

Sukumaran Nair

Professor Nair received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1988 and 1990, respectively. He joined Lyle's Department of Computer Science and Engineering faculty in 1990 as an Assistant Professor, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1996, and became a full professor in 2005. He also chaired the Department of Computer Science and Engineering from 2008-2017.

His research interests include software defined networks, virtualization technologies, and cyber security. He is the founding director of SMU's HACNet (High Assurance Computing and Networking) Labs and has, since its creation in 2017, been director of SMU's AT&T Center for Virtualization.

He has published extensively in the area of high assurance computing and networking. His research has been supported through funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Security Agency (NSA), National Institute for

Standards and Technology (NIST), Office of Naval Research (ONR), and various industry sponsors including Lockheed Martin, Alcatel, Raytheon, IBM, L3 Harris, Google and AT&T. He has been a consultant to various IT, Telecom and Cyber Security Companies.

He has graduated 21 Ph.D. students and is currently supporting the efforts of 11 others. These students have established themselves as leaders in a broad cross section of academia, government and industry.

Santanu Roy

Professor Roy completed his Ph.D. in economics at Cornell University in 1991, and immediately afterwards took a position as assistant professor in the faculty of Economic Sciences at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He then moved to Florida International University as an associate professor, and he joined the faculty at SMU as associate professor of economics in 2003. In 2006 he was promoted to the rank of professor.

Roy's areas of research lie in industrial organization, microeconomic theory and applications, economic growth and dynamic economic models, economics of natural resources and the environment, and international trade and policy. During his time chairing one the Department of Economics, Roy managed to keep his research agenda moving smoothly along. His articles appear in some of the most influential within his field – *Journal of Economic Theory* and *Journal of International Economics*.

Professor Roy has held a number of research and visiting positions at other universities, including at Kobe University in Japan; Cornell University; and the University of Vienna. Roy is frequently invited to present his research at venues across the world, including Delhi, Madrid, Essex, Glasgow, Laval, and New York. For the past several semesters Roy's teaching has been primarily in the department's Ph.D. program. Student comments on his semester teaching evaluations focus on how he extends himself beyond his role as a teacher and into that of an advisor; on the effectiveness of his presentations; and on his ability to make the mathematics associated with economics clear and user-friendly.

Stephen Wegren

Wegren completed his Ph.D. in political science in 1990 at Columbia University, during which time he held a MacArthur postdoctoral fellowship at Duke University for two years. He joined SMU's Department of Political Science as Assistant Professor in 1991, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1997, and then to Full Professor in 2005. He served as Interim Chair of the Department of Political Science from 2010-2011 and has, since 2006, been the Director of International and Area Studies.

His interests lie in the field of political economy in post-communist countries; inequality; property rights and land reform in non-western states; new institutionalism and its effects on behavior; class formation; food security; and food policy. He is recognized as one of the world's leading experts on Russia. His

eighth book, *Russia's Food Revolution: The Transformation of the Food System*, is set for release this year and work is underway on the next.

He has edited another eleven volumes, most recently the seventh edition of the very well-received *Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertainties*. Wegren's CV currently lists over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and 40 book chapters or contributions to edited volumes. Wegren is often funded for his research, typically from foundations such as the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and the Norwegian Research Council, in amounts generally under \$50,000. Nevertheless, he stands out among political sciences in his tireless application for both internal and external funding and for his success in landing it.

Students' comments on Wegren's evaluations evince a strong appreciation for what and how he teaches. Last semester, for example, answers to the question, "What two or three suggestions would you make to improve this course in the future?" included "I don't know what I would improve in this class" and "I would make the lectures longer."

Again, please join me in congratulating and thanking these exceptional faculty for their extraordinary service to SMU and our students!

Sincerely,



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