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Martin-Vega chosen as new engineering dean

USF has hired the acting director of the National Science Foundation’s Engineering Directorate as dean of the College of Engineering.

Louis A. Martin-Vega, 53, who served as the director of NSF’s Division of Design, Manufacture and Industrial Innovation from 1998 to 2000, is expected to increase the national prominence of the college’s academic and research programs and increase the college’s participation in federal funding activities. He is also committed to making diversity of faculty, staff and students a high priority. He will begin Sept. 5.

“The selection of Dr. Martin-Vega is a testament to the foundations we have laid for a great College of Engineering and our potential to realize that dream,” said USF President Judy Genshaft. “I’m pleased that Dr. Martin-Vega wants to be a part of USF engineering and our university’s and region’s emphasis on high-technology economic development.”

At NSF, Martin-Vega oversees a $414 million budget that supports research and education across all major engineering disciplines, as well as many cross-disciplinary areas.

His own research interests include logistics and distribution, manufacturing, operations management and production and service systems.

“His experience with the National Science Foundation will enhance the ability of our College of Engineering and our university to compete for research contracts and grants,” said S. David Stamps, USF provost and vice president of academic affairs.

“His distinguished academic record has prepared him well to lead USF’s College of Engineering as we shape instructional and research programs to meet the needs of the future,” Stamps added.

An internationally recognized educator with vast experience in academia and private industry, Martin-Vega is currently on leave from Lehigh University, where he has been a professor in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering since 1994.

During 1994-98, Martin-Vega served as chairman of the department and oversaw the growth of research contracts and grants from $1.9 million to $3.5 million. In his last year as chairman, U.S. News & World Report ranked Lehigh among the top 20 industrial and manufacturing programs in the country, and the National Research Council ranked it 15th among Ph.D. granting programs in industrial engineering.

Martin-Vega’s academic background includes holding the Lockheed Professorship at Florida Institute of Technology and tenured faculty appointments at the University of Florida and the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez.

His research has been supported by federal government agencies such as the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Standards and Technology and the U.S. Air Force.

He has also conducted research with numerous high-technology companies, including Harris Semiconductor (Intersil), Hewlett-Packard, Johnson & Johnson, E-Systems, Northern Telecom and Martin Marietta.

“One of the elements that attracted me to USF was the growth of high-technology industries in the area,” Martin-Vega said. “It provides excellent opportunities for our faculty and students, including possibilities for many interdisciplinary initiatives I’d like to see us develop.”

Martin-Vega holds a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, a master’s in operations research from New York University and master’s and doctorate in industrial systems engineering from the University of Florida.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Industrial Engineers and a Fellow of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

Humanities group awards $50,000 to history consortium

The National Endowment for the Humanities recently awarded the USF Libraries’ Resource Center for Florida History and Politics, the Florida Humanities Council and the Tampa Bay History Center nearly $50,000 to create an on-line encyclopedia for Florida.

An on-line encyclopedia will become an invaluable resource for local, regional and national scholars, students, teachers, tourists and businesses. This comprehensive reference work will examine and explore the state’s cultural resources, geography and environment, political institutions, and its rich and vast history, which is not well-known or widely disseminated.

“This is a project that captures people’s imaginations,” said Patrick Riordan, acting director of the USF center, which is under the auspices of the USF Library System and is housed in the Tampa Library. The grant gives the center statewide visibility and locates us in a national network of humanities scholars using advanced technology for education.”

Funding from the nonprofit organization in the amount of $49,568 will be used for a one-year planning process to design and develop the encyclopedia.

An advisory committee comprised of scholars, government officials, Web site experts and representatives of cultural institutions, along with the three partnering organizations, will put together the project’s final plan.

The first of five regional planning sessions will take place at the university on May 18.

Once the planning process is completed, the history consortium will be eligible to submit a proposal for an implementation grant of up to $450,000.
Faculty/Staff Notes

Honors, Awards and Appointments

Kathleen de la Pena McCook, Library and Information Science, was recently appointed to the Library Service to Labor Committee of the American Library Association.

Debbie Lum, Phyllis P. Marshall Center, has been elected statewide chairwoman of the Public Relations Society of America.

Martha Bone, WUSF-TV Ch. 16, was awarded two bronze statues in this year’s Family Studies, Louis de la Research Grant for annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics’ conference in Orlando on April 3.

Bruce Lubotsky Levin, Child and Family Studies, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, received the 2001 Harold C. Piepenbrink Award for outstanding contributions to behavioral health services.

Susan McMillan, Nursing, received the Theodore Venette Askounes-Ashford Distinguished Scholar Award.

Anna H. Perrault, Library and Information Sciences, received an OCLC/ALISE research grant for “Global Collective Resources: WorldCAT as the Foundation for International Library Cooperation.”

Said Sebi, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, served as guest editor for the Dec. 27, 2000 issue of Oncogene, one of the top cancer research journals in the country. Sebi was selected for this special review issue because of his expertise in cancer drug discovery and development.

Presentations

John S. Hatcher, English, presented “Becoming a Scholar in Your Own Right” and “Epistemology and the Concept of ‘Mizan’” at the Zia Baghdad Teaching Conference in February in Georgia.


Gladis Kersaint and Denisette Thompson, Secondary Education, presented “Improving Middle School Mathematics, Overcoming the Obstacles” at the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics’ annual conference in Orlando on April 3.

Gladis Kersaint and Michaela Chappell, Secondary Education, presented “Algebra: Learning from Students” at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics’ conference in Orlando on April 7.

Theresa J. Kraemer and Scott S. Harp, Physical Therapy, presented “Exploring Cultural Assessment and the Provision of Culturally Congruent Care” at the American Physical Therapy Association’s combined sessions meeting in Texas in February.


Lisa S. Starke, English, USF St. Petersburg, presented “POwers of Horror in Julie Taymor’s ‘Titus’” at the 29th Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America in Miami on April 12-14.

John Swinton, Economics, presented “Phase I: Completed: An Empirical Assessment of the 1990 CAAA” at the 65th Annual Meeting of Midwest Economics Association in Ohio in March.

Kenneth F. Wieand, Center for Economic Development Research, presented “Medical Research and the Location of High-Tech Medical Firms” at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association in California in February.

Publications


Joan F. Kaywell, Secondary Education, published “Nancy Garden, 1938-” in Ted Hipple’s Writers for Young Adults, Supplement I.


Carol A. Mullen, Education, published “The Need for a Curricular Writing Model for Graduate Students” in the Journal of Further and Higher Education.


Noel Smith, Graphicstudio, published the editorial “Cultural Exchanges Vital to the Future of U.S. - Cuba Relations” in the April 4 issue of The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education.

Faculty Senate announces awards

The Faculty Senate recently announced the faculty recipients of the 2000/2001 honors and awards. They are:

- Susan McMillan, Nursing: Theodore and Venette Askounes-Ashford Distinguished Scholar Award
- Dr. Richard Locke, Medicine: Distinguished Service Award
- Cecile Lengacher, Nursing: Jerome Krivanek Distinguished Teacher Award

In addition, 12 professors received emeritus professor awards. They are: Louis Bowers, Education; Cecil B. Currey, Arts and Sciences; Laszlo Deme, New College; James Dickinson, Education; Demetriou George Halkias, Medicine; Jack Keller, Fine Arts; Dr. Joseph Ransohoff (posthumously), Medicine; Thomas Rich, Arts and Sciences; Ona Riggin, Nursing; Dr. Martin Robson, Medicine; Douglas Stone, Education; and Dr. Michael Vermess, Medicine.