



**Gunaratne**

## **Manjriker Gunaratne Named Chair of Civil & Environmental Engineering**

*Professor Gunaratne takes over from retiring chair William Carpenter.*

**Tampa, Fla. (June 23, 2011)** – The College of Engineering Dean, John Wiencek, announces the appointment of Civil & Environmental Engineering Professor Manjriker Gunaratne, PE, as Chair of the department. He will take over from William Carpenter, PE, who is retiring June 30 after 35 years of service to the College of Engineering, 10 of those years leading the department.

Professor Gunaratne joined USF in 1991 and has previously served as associate and interim chair from 2001-2002.

During his 25 years as an engineering educator, he has taught courses primarily in geotechnical and highway pavement engineering while supervising 20 masters and 18 doctoral students. His involvement in research projects funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, Department of the Air Force and NASA has yielded more than 40 peer-reviewed publications in numerous archival journals. He has also held fellowships at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and a consultant position with the United Nations Development Program in Sri Lanka.

In 1995, he was awarded the Teaching Incentive Program (TIP) award in recognition of teaching excellence. He has also served as a panelist for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and as a member of the Task force for investigation of dam failures in Florida.

"My plans for the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department include further expanding the Ph.D. program, improving the quality of undergraduate education, creating an effective mentoring program for younger faculty, encouraging more collaboration with the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), and, in general, helping USF achieve its AAU goals," says Professor Gunaratne.

A native of Sri Lanka, Gunaratne obtained his bachelor of science in Engineering (Honors) degree from the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and the Master of Applied Science and the doctoral degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of British Columbia, Canada and Purdue University, respectively.

*The University of South Florida is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of only 25 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. USF was awarded \$394.1 million in research contracts*

*and grants in FY 2009/2010. The university offers 232 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The USF System has a \$1.8 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of \$3.2 billion, and serves more than 47,000 students on institutions/campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. USF is a member of the Big East Athletic Conference.*

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