

Dean Yannis C. Yortsos remarks

Good afternoon. On behalf of the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you today as we celebrate the installation of Dr. Petros Ioannou as the inaugural holder of the A.V. “Bal” Balakrishnan Chair.

Before I get started, I would like to introduce some of our special guests with us tonight who are celebrating this wonderful event:

- President C. L. Max Nikias
- Andrew Viterbi, our school’s namesake, USC Trustee and member of our Board of Councilors
- Consul General of Cyprus Andreas Kypriandes and his wife Mika
- Kishnan Baheti, Program Director at the NSF
- Sandeep Gupta, Chair of the Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering
- And of course, the special friends and colleagues of Bal that are here with us this afternoon.

Let me first say that establishing endowed professorships and chairs at USC Viterbi is a proven way to attract outstanding talent, and it allows us to identify, recognize and celebrate people who are changing the world through transformative research. They also provide a major advantage in recruiting future additions to our already outstanding faculty.

As we name Dr. Ioannou to this newly created post, today also marks a special day as we acknowledge the generosity and of Sophia Balakrishnan, wife of the late – and sincerely great – Bal Balakrishnan.

For you, Sophia, this endowed chair is a link in perpetuity to the university and to the most highly esteemed members of the USC Viterbi faculty. You have played an integral part in realizing our vision, for endowed chairs help to immortalize individuals like Bal, whose names provide a highly visible form of recognition that lives

on from generation to the next.

And I am pleased to also announce today, your generosity continues with your donation of Bal's professional library to the Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering. We will certainly give this collection a good home and generations of faculty and students will benefit for years to come.

Today I am also honored to announce the appointment of Dr. Petros Ioannou as A.V. "Bal" Balakrishnan Chair. This appointment recognizes Petros' exceptional distinction as a Professor in the Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering, where he shares joint appointments in the Departments of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, and Industrial and Systems Engineering.

The word "accomplished" doesn't even begin to describe Petros. He received his B.Sc. degree with First Class Honors from University College, London, England, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 1982, he became a faculty member of Electrical Engineering-Systems and currently serves as the Director of the Center of Advanced Transportation Technologies as well as the Associate Director for Research of a DoD University Transportation Center, METRANS, here at USC.

Petros is a Fellow of the IEEE, Fellow of the International Federation of Automatic Control, and Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology. He is the author/co-author of 8 books and more than 400 research papers in the area of controls, vehicle dynamics and control, and intelligent transportation systems.

In 1985, he received the Presidential Young Investigator Award for his research in Adaptive Control. In 2009, he received the Intelligent Transportation System's Outstanding Application Award by the IEEE Intelligent Transportation System Society and the 2009 JET Heaviside Medal for Achievement in Control. In 2012, he received the IEEE ITSS Outstanding ITS Research Award, and in 2015, he received the 2016 IEEE Transportation Technologies Field Award for his work on

Adaptive Cruise Control Systems.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Ioannou on this well-deserved – and inaugural – honor. He will continue to do great things in this new role.

USC Viterbi has witnessed over and over the power of a name. The naming of the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, for example, only 11 years ago, virtually overnight bolstered the reputation of the school in academia and industry alike, and has accelerated the school's upward trajectory.

Sophia, your gift to name this chair in Bal's name will leave a lasting legacy. In fact, today's celebration is representative of everything USC Viterbi is about: the past (Bal's lifetime of achievements), the present (today's faculty and students collaborating and innovating) and the future (in which we will see great things from Petros as he embarks on this wonderful journey as the inaugural holder of this esteemed position).

Thank you for allowing us to celebrate this latest, wonderful chapter in our storied history.

Thank you all again for joining us for this celebration.