MEMORANDUM

To: Viterbi School Faculty and Staff

From: Yannis C. Yortsos, Dean

Date: February 7, 2012

Subject: Appointment of Associate Professor Patrick Lynett to the John and Dorothy Shea Early Career Chair in Civil Engineering

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Associate Professor Patrick Lynett of the Sonny Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering as the inaugural holder of the John and Dorothy Shea Early Career Chair in Civil Engineering. The appointment recognizes Patrick’s exceptional distinction and promise in his field.

Patrick received a Ph.D. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering, with a Coastal Engineering focus, from Cornell University in 2002. Shortly thereafter he started his academic career at Texas A&M University as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2008. Patrick joined the Viterbi faculty this past fall 2011 semester.

Patrick is an expert in near-shore wave dynamics with a particular interest in coastal hazards, such as hurricanes and tsunamis. His work combines numerical modeling with controlled experiments and field observations. At Texas A&M, he built an internationally recognized research group in this area. He has extensive experience in recording and documenting post-storm devastation of coastal areas as a member of various survey teams in Sri Lanka, New Orleans, American Samoa and throughout the Pacific. He is a 2010 Guggenheim Fellow and a recipient of the Department of the Army Commander’s Award for Public Service for post-Katrina work done as a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Interagency Performance Evaluation Taskforce (IPET). Most recently, he was invited to join the Coastal Engineering Research Council. Patrick is the youngest member of this prestigious group of 13 researchers who oversee some of the primary coastal engineering research activities in the United States.

Please join me in congratulating Patrick on this well deserved honor.