Mork Family Department
2013 Alumni Dinner
Welcome
Growing Enrollments in 2013

- Undergraduate Students
  - Spring 12– Spring 13, 202 → 216

- Master’s Students
  - Spring 12– Spring 13, 248 → 268

- PhD Students
  - Spring 12– Spring 13, 108 → 113

- Total 597
2013 Faculty Awards

Professor Malancha Gupta, a leading expert on polymer coatings and an assistant professor in the Mork Family Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, has won the prestigious NSF Career Award.

Professor Iraj Ershaghi was recognized at the 2013 Orange County Engineering Council (OCEC) Awards Banquet where CiSoft received the OCEC Engineering Project of the Year Award.

Professor Behnam Jafarpour was awarded the SPE Regional Distinguished Achievement Award for Petroleum Engineering Faculty for the Western North America region.
Distinguished Faculty Award
Yannis Yortsos

It is my pleasure to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the exceptional leader and distinguished Dean of the USC Viterbi Engineering School, Yannis Yortsos. Yannis is currently serving the Trojan Family in his second term as Dean. Prior to becoming Dean, Yannis had a distinguished academic career, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from National Technical University in Athens as well as a PhD from the California Institute of Technology. Yannis joined the USC faculty in 1979 and has been a member of the Trojan Family ever since. On a personal note, I am disappointed that I was not a student at USC when Yannis was still teaching in the Petroleum Engineering program, but I have been able to work with and for Yannis during his tenure as Dean. USC is blessed to have such a wonderful educator and scholar leading its distinguished engineering school. Never reticent to tackle a challenge, Yannis is championing the largest Engineering Campaign Goal in the history of USC, and let no one doubt that Yannis will meet and exceed this one half billion dollar goal. Think how transformed USC engineering will be when Yannis achieves one more record in a lifelong series of transformational accomplishments. Therefore, I am pleased to recognize Yannis as the first recipient of the Mork Family Department Distinguished Faculty Award. Please raise your glasses and honor my dear friend, Yannis Yortsos.

Sincerely,
John Mork
Distinguished Alumni Award
Alice Gast and Yannis Yortsos

I would like to congratulate Dr. Alice Petry Gast as the recipient of this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award and Dr. Yannis Yortsos for receiving the new Distinguished Faculty Award. Both individuals have clearly excelled in academic institutions, and have demonstrated impressive leadership and achievements in their pursuits. I particularly commend them both for their commitment to expanding interest in science, technology, engineering, and math. We all know just how critically important these fields are to fuel the global economy and to stimulate the creative capability that solves the world's challenges. I would encourage us all to follow their commitment by leveraging our expertise and talents, and encouraging and supporting today’s youth toward a science or engineering based career. I would also like to acknowledge the organizers of the awards dinner who dedicate their time and energy to bring this distinguished group together once a year to recognize contributions from our alumni, and now faculty.

So in closing, I again congratulate Dr. Gast and Dean Yortsis for their admirable career achievements and being this year's recipients of the distinguished awards from the Mork Family Department. They both should be proud of their accomplishments and know that they have left a longstanding legacy as role models for many aspiring and impressionable young people. I wish you all a safe and successful event.

Sincerely,

Jeff Woodbury
VP, ExxonMobil