



Tylar Murray

Tylar Murray Awarded Draper Fellowship

TAMPA, Fla. (January 24, 2014) Tylar Murray, doctoral student in electrical engineering has been awarded the Draper Fellowship. The Draper Laboratory Fellow (DLF) Program typically sponsors 50–60 graduate students each year through a Research Assistant position at the student's university.

Tylar has a background in physics and computer science. Since coming to USF, he has been studying ways to apply dynamical systems principles to the design of user-avatar interaction. At Draper Tylar will be working with Fed Giovannetti to create virtual characters that motivate people to make healthy choices. Through this work he hopes to create more advanced modeling tools for behavioral engineers and behavioral intervention designers looking to use avatars.

The DLF appointment provides full tuition coverage and a monthly stipend for the duration of the student's degree program. In return, the student carries out his/her thesis research in collaboration with a Draper technical staff member on a project that is of mutual interest to the student, the university faculty advisor, and to Draper Laboratory.

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The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities. The Carnegie Foundation also classifies USF as a community engaged university. It is ranked 44th in total research expenditures and 34th in federal research expenditures for public universities by the National Science Foundation. The USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, an annual economic impact of \$3.7 billion, and serves 47,000 students in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland.

The College of Engineering at the University of South Florida is ranked at #69 among public institutions by U.S. News & World Report's 2014 engineering graduate school rankings. The college serves 4,600 students offering ABET-accredited undergraduate degrees in seven programs, as well as eleven masters and nine doctoral degrees. The College is actively engaged in local and global research activities with foci on sustainability, biomedical engineering, computing technology and transportation. For the fiscal year 2012 the college had \$28.3 million in research expenditures.

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