



Ness

Sarah Ness Awarded the 2012 William Brewster Snow Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers

TAMPA, Fla. (April 4, 2012) – Sarah J. Ness was awarded the 2012 William Brewster Snow Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. This award is given annually to an outstanding environmental engineering graduate student. Sarah will receive her award on April 26 during the Academy's Annual Awards Luncheon at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

Sarah is enrolled in the Master's of Science in Environmental Engineering program. She is also part of the Peace Corps Master's International program that allows her to combine her graduate education with service in the Peace Corps and international thesis research. Sarah has had the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience through engineering classes, including traditional courses such as Aquatic Chemistry, Environmental Biotechnology, and Physical-Chemical Principles, and non-traditional classes including Sustainable Development Engineering and Green Engineering for Sustainability. Additionally, her graduate program requires coursework in anthropology and public health courses and more than two years of training and service in the Peace Corps. Sarah will be leaving for her 27-month Peace Corps service in Liberia this June.

While serving the Peace Corps in Liberia, Sarah intends to implement water and sanitation projects and educate students on the importance of environmental engineering, math, science, and public health. During this service, she will also be conducting research in Liberia to complete her master thesis.

Prior to starting the master's program at USF, Sarah graduated from University of Maryland, College Park with a BS in civil engineering. She worked for several years as a Water and Wastewater Project Engineer for Gannett Fleming, Inc. in Baltimore. Sarah has obtained her EIT and plans to acquire her Professional Engineering license upon finishing her MS degree. She has also been highly involved with the non-profit Engineers Without Borders-USA (EWB-USA) throughout her academic and professional career, serving as the President of the UMCP student chapter, President of the Southeast Region, and member of the EWB-USA Governance Committee.

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.