

## Natasha Cover Receives the 2009 GEM Fellowship



**(April 10, 2009)**

**Natasha Cover**, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, was selected as a recipient of the 2009 GEM (*Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science*) fellowship program. Natasha's fellowship will be sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, Inc. In addition to the Ph.D. fellowship, she will participate in a summer R&D internship at Johnson & Johnson, Inc., in the area of stem cell engineering and regenerative medicine.

Natasha is a former NSF Florida-Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (FGLSAMP) Bridge to the Doctorate fellow (2006-2008) in the USF College of Engineering. As an undergraduate at Virginia Union University (Richmond, Virginia), she was a participant in both the NSF LSAMP and NIH Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC U STAR) programs.

The National GEM Consortium includes "Fortune 500" companies, national labs, and research universities, all committed to addressing the critical shortfall in the production of American engineering and scientific talent. The GEM Fellowship program is designed to increase the participation and opportunities for underrepresented minorities at the master's and doctoral level in engineering and the sciences through graduate financial assistance and paid summer internships.

This current award represents the fourth GEM fellowship offered to College of Engineering doctoral students within the past three years. For additional information on the GEM fellowship program, please contact **Dr. Sylvia W. Thomas** at (813) 974-4011 or at [sylvia@eng.usf.edu](mailto:sylvia@eng.usf.edu).

*The University of South Florida is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of only 25 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. USF was awarded \$380.4 million in research contracts and grants in FY 2008/2009. The university offers 232 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The USF System has a \$1.8 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of \$3.2 billion, and serves more than 47,000 students on institutions/campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. USF is a member of the Big East Athletic Conference.*

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