



ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT RECEIVES NASA MUST SCHOLARSHIP

TAMPA, Fla. (June 25, 2010) - Jean Weatherwax, a sophomore majoring in Electrical Engineering and a Honors College participant, has been awarded a 2010 NASA MUST (Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology) scholarship. The MUST Project supports high-performing undergraduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines with a scholarship equaling up to one-half of tuition and fees, not to exceed \$10,000. Annually, only 100 sophomores and juniors are selected from a nationwide pool of applicants.

The NASA MUST Project is open to all students and is particularly focused on engaging students from underserved and underrepresented groups (minorities and women) to enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. In addition to financial support, MUST scholars receive access to NASA mentors, professional development activities, summer internships at one of ten NASA centers, and a stipend for private tutoring.

“I am very grateful to receive the NASA MUST scholarship, because it will help me acquire the skills to share my passion for learning and technology with like-minded students and scientists. It will enrich my learning experience and my life greatly.”

Weatherwax participates in the College of Engineering Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. This past year, she studied and developed silica nanowires for biomedical sensing and won best poster presentation.

“What I loved most about the research is the knowledge that although it was only at the beginning, it may eventually help human beings,” said Weatherwax.

In addition to her involvement with the REU program and Honors College, Weatherwax is a volunteer with the Tampa Bay Big Brothers/ Big Sisters program.

“I have always mentored students in math and reading because I believe in the power of education. I love the rigors of proofs and finding out how things work. My favorite part of growing up was always learning how nature and technology function.”

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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