

**College of Engineering Office of Diversity
Recognizes Outstanding Students, Faculty and Staff**

Tampa, Fla. (June 30, 2010) – Frank Alexander, a first-year doctoral student in the Department of Electrical Engineering, received a 2010 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). The highly competitive fellowship program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF -supported science, engineering, and mathematics disciplines pursuing research-based masters’ and doctoral degrees in the United States and abroad. Alexander will receive a three-year fellowship of \$30,000 per year plus tuition and fees, a \$1,000 international travel award, and TeraGrid Supercomputer access.

Trishelle Copeland-Johnson, a junior in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, has been awarded an undergraduate summer internship at the U.S. Department of Energy Ames Research Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. Trishelle will work with Dr. Surya Mallapragada in the Division of Materials Science and Engineering at the Ames facility.

Shekhar Bhansali, electrical engineering professor, was selected Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Minority Ph.D. Program Faculty Mentor of the Year for his role in encouraging and supporting minority students in their quest for doctoral degrees. Bhansali was also the recipient of the 2009 William R. Jones Outstanding Mentor Award for his outstanding contributions to the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program. Established in 1984, the Florida Education Fund's McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program has increased the number of minority graduates who have been awarded the Ph.D. in historically underrepresented, crucial disciplines and fields of study where African Americans and Hispanic/Latinos have not historically enrolled and completed degree programs.

Three faculty members, one staff member, and one graduate student in the College of Engineering were selected to the **USF Diversity Honor Roll** by the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity Affairs for their “contributions to the advancement of diversity and inclusion” at USF during the 2009/2010 academic year.

- **Miguel Labrador**, associate professor of Computer Science and Engineering for his leadership of programs that have broaden the participation of underrepresented students in computer science/computer engineering.
- **Maya Trotz**, assistant professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, for her outreach/mentoring activities (K-PhD) that have enhanced opportunities in environmental science/engineering for students from underrepresented groups.
- **Thomas Weller**, professor of Electrical Engineering, for his contributions in building a diverse research team (9 minority students, 2 women) of graduate students and undergraduates.

- **Robert Tufts**, assistant director of the Nanotechnology Research and Education Center(NREC), for his leadership of outreach activities that have exposed students from diverse backgrounds to the excitement of nano science and engineering.
- **Al-Aakhir Rogers**, doctoral candidate in Electrical Engineering, for his leadership of activities that have expanded college awareness for students from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds.

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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