



Prof. Craig Lusk

Mechanical Engineering Professors Receive NSF Grant

Tampa, Fla. (July 14, 2010) – Craig Lusk, assistant professor of Mechanical Engineering and principal investigator in collaboration with Alex Volinsky, associate professor of Mechanical Engineering and co-principal investigator, received a three-year NSF grant totaling \$368,000 to further their research on uncertainty quantification for compliant mechanisms.

This research will be helpful to researchers and designers interested in the miniaturization of mechanisms and in the creation of dynamic shape-shifting surfaces.

This research will generate fundamental advances in compliant mechanism design and MEMS applications. The modeling approach provides designers with mathematical and visualization tools for understanding compliant mechanisms. The modeling approach will enable breakthroughs in the design of spatial compliant mechanisms. The spatial compliant mechanisms enabled by this research will find applications in medicine, optics and tactile displays.

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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