



Thomas

Sylvia Thomas Awarded McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship

Tampa, Fla. (July 21, 2011) – Sylvia W. Thomas, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, has been awarded a McKnight Junior Faculty Development Fellowship (JFF) for the 2011-2012 academic year by the Florida Education Fund.

The purpose of the JFF fellowship is to provide promising faculty from underrepresented groups with a release from their normal teaching load to focus on their research in order to prepare for promotion and tenure. It comes with a \$15,000 fellowship to USF to help defray teaching replacement costs during the fellowship year.

Thomas's research and teaching interests are in the areas of advanced materials for applications in alternative energy sources, sustainable environments, and bio-applications for nano-electro mechanical system (NEMS) devices – nanowires and nanoparticles.

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 \$394.1 million in research contracts and grants in FY 2009/2010. 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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