



Donatto

**Junior Robert Donatto Receives
Scholarship from Dept. of Homeland Security**

Tampa, Fla. (August 31, 2010) – Robert Donatto, a junior in the Department of Electrical Engineering, is the recipient of a national undergraduate scholarship from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The prestigious scholarship program provides a monthly stipend of \$1,000 from September to May, full payment of tuition and fees, and a paid summer research internship at a DHS-affiliated facility.

The Department of Homeland Security Scholarship Program is intended for undergraduate students (sophomores and juniors) interested in pursuing the basic science and technology innovations that can be applied to the DHS. The education program is intended to ensure a highly talented science and technology community to achieve the DHS mission and objectives. Annually, DHS scholarship applications are evaluated by scientists and engineers based upon the student's academic record, submitted reference letters and essays. The most highly rated applications are reviewed by DHS's Science and Technology Directorate. The review process focuses on factors of special concern to DHS such as the relevance of the applicant's research interest. The final selection of scholars is made by DHS.

Last year, Donatto was a participant in the College of Engineering Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program under Jay Ligatti, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Robert gave an oral presentation of his research at the 17th Annual NSF Florida Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (FGLSAMP) Career Expo. This year, he hopes to become involved in wireless/microwave research both within the College of Engineering and during his DHS summer internship.

In addition to Donatto's participation in the College's REU and FGLSAMP programs, he is also a College of Engineering and NSF S-STEM (E-STARS) scholar. After earning his bachelor degree in electrical engineering, Donatto would like to pursue a career either as an officer with the Air Force or as a civilian with the Department of Defense. His long-term goals include earning a graduate degree in electrical engineering.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Undergraduate Scholarship Program

Link (<http://www.orau.gov/dhsed/>)

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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