



**Pulecio**

### **Javier Pulecio Receives 2010 Hispanic Pathways Award**

**Tampa, Fla. (September 9, 2010)** – Javier Pulecio, a doctoral student in electrical engineering, has been selected as the recipient of the 2010 Hispanic Pathways Award in the student category. His nomination letter describes him as an ‘exemplary student researcher and role model for all students, especially those of Hispanic/Latino Heritage’. The Hispanic Pathways Award, created in 2004 by the USF Latin Community Advisory Committee, recognizes faculty and students who have created pathways to the betterment of the lives of Latinos in the community, state and nation.

There has been a lot of “firsts” in Javier’s life. Born in Chicago, he is the first member of his family (originally from Colombia) to be born in the United States and the first to graduate from college with a four-year degree. He will also be the first in his family to earn a doctorate when he graduates in December.

A highly motivated, self-driven individual, his research in the area of nano-magnetic logic systems has resulted in two first author journal publications, seven conference papers and six conference presentations. In addition, he performs outreach by participating in the Great American Teach-In at several county schools and supported other outreach activities that exposed students to the exciting field of nanotechnology. His major professor is Sanjukta Bhanja and he was nominated by Bernard Batson, director of Diversity and Outreach Programs for the College of Engineering.

After completing his dissertation this fall, Javier will pursue a postdoctoral research scientist position at the U.S. Dept. of Energy Brookhaven National Lab. Ultimately, he hopes to receive a faculty appointment at a tier one research university where he hopes to teach and mentor students.

The Hispanic Pathways Awards will be presented on Thursday September 30 at the USF Hispanic Heritage Kickoff event to be held in the Gibbons Alumni Center.

*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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