



Wang, Kellogg, Falvo

Engineering Seniors Awarded Second Place in Student Poster Competition during 57th AVS Symposium

Tampa, Fla. (October 27, 2010) – Kevin Kellogg and Peter Falvo, participants in the NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program and seniors majoring in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering, respectively, received Second Place in the *Student-Built Vacuum Systems Design* Poster Competition during the American Vacuum Society's (AVS) 57th International Symposium and Exhibition in Albuquerque, October 17-22.

As members of the RF MEMS Transducers Research Group led by Assistant Professor Jing Wang, Kellogg and Falvo participated in the *Vacuum Technology Division Student Poster Competition* that focused on design, development, and use of "Student-Built Vacuum Systems." The highly creative and extremely compact laminar flow vacuum chamber design, which is guided by unique functionality of the targeted Plasma Enhanced Atomic Layer Deposition (PE-ALD) process, spurred a great deal of interest from the attendees and members within the American Vacuum Society as well as the judges. As a result, they were chosen as second place winners after competing with presenters (mostly graduate students) from other top-tier research universities.

Since February 2010, Kevin and Peter along with their teammates Travis Wright and Shawn Lee have jointly participated in the College of Engineering Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. The primary goal of this REU research effort is to develop a highly-versatile Plasma Enhanced Atomic Layer Deposition (PE-ALD) system that is capable of operating in both thermal and plasma enhanced ALD modes. This interdisciplinary REU team research supervised by Prof. Wang is jointly funded through several NSF awards, an industrial research contract, and a research grant awarded by Florida High Tech Corridor.

To learn more about this project, you may visit the project website that was created and maintained by the REU team for the purpose of disseminating the research results (<https://sites.google.com/site/usfpeald/the-team>).

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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