

## Dr. Ashok Kumar Receives Honorary Professor Award



Jesus Ferro Bayona (left), President of Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, Colombia and Dr. Ashok Kumar.

**Tampa, Fla. (November 19, 2009)** – Dr. Ashok Kumar, professor of mechanical engineering and director of the Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Research Center (NNRC) received an Honorary Professor award by the Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla, Colombia.

This prestigious award was conferred to Dr. Kumar on the basis of his important contributions to improving the academic and research development of Universidad del Norte on in the field of Materials Science and Engineering, and for strengthening the cooperation between USF and the university.

“I am really excited to receive this honorary degree from the Universidad del Norte, Barranquilla (Colombia),” said Dr. Kumar. “The degree is conferred as a way of honoring a distinguished visitor's contributions to a specific field, or to society in general.”

Dr. Kumar is an international leader in the field of materials science and engineering and has made significant contributions in the research and development of surface engineered coatings for multifunctional applications. He is helping Universidad del Norte establish a Nanotechnology Research Facility to support nanotechnology and materials research activities in Colombia.

The University of South Florida has an active cooperation with Universidad Del Norte. Currently, there are more than 30 students in the College of Engineering from “Uninorte”

and 12 of them are pursuing the doctoral degree in order to go back to Universidad del Norte and assume faculty positions.

*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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