



INFORMS Student Chapter Wins Highest Award

TAMPA, Fla. (November 19, 2012) – The USF student chapter of INFORMS received the *Summa Cum Laude INFORMS Student Chapter Annual Award* for the year 2011-2012, the highest recognition among all INFORMS Student Chapters worldwide.



Standing Left to right: Dr. José Zayas-Castro(Faculty Advisor), Alireza Ghalebani, Diego Martinez, Felipe Feijoo, Sandro Paz, Javad Sajjadi; Seated Left to right: Mehrnaz Abdollahian, Anna Danandeh, Monica Puertas, Yazhuo Liu

This award recognizes the achievements of the student chapters regarding its commitment to the promotion of Operations Research and Management Sciences and to the community in terms of communications, newsletters, guest speaker presentations and social activities.

To achieve this award, the USF chapter organized a Lecture Series, whose objective is to showcase different research areas and methodologies on the Operations Research and Management Science. During the past year, 13 speakers shared their projects and experiences with USF students. The chapter also participated in other activities such as the Engineering EXPO, and community activities like the Project World Health, a joint effort of the chapter and the USF College of Medicine to benefit communities in the Dominican Republic by improving the layout, process, and logistic for the delivery of primary healthcare services during the summer 2011.

Additionally, there are other social events with faculty and students throughout the year, such as potlucks and parties, which allows the chapter to maintain strong links among its members. In 2010, the chapter received the Magna Cum Laude Award and in 2011 and the chapter achieved the Summa Cum Laude Award as recognition of its continuous effort.

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The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities. The Carnegie Foundation also classifies USF as a community engaged university. It is ranked 44th in total research expenditures and 34th in federal research expenditures for public universities by the National Science Foundation. The USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, an annual economic impact of \$3.7 billion, and serves 47,000 students in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland.

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