



### **Sandy Pettit Wins First Place at SWE'12**

**TAMPA, Fla. (November 19, 2012)** – Sandy Pettit, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, earned first place in the Graduate Collegiate Technical Poster Competition during the Society of Women Engineers National Conference (SWE12) held from November 8-10, in Houston. Pettit presented on “Photocatalytic Oxidation of Aqueous Organic Contaminants by Semiconductors Using Visible Light Radiation.”

Pettit and Selma Hokenek, a doctoral candidate in Chemical Engineering, were two of ten finalists selected nationwide for SWE’s Graduate Collegiate Technical Poster Competition. The technical poster competition was designed to emphasize the ability of students to deliver visual presentations. Presenters received a travel stipend, complimentary conference registration, and one year’s collegiate membership. Pettit and Hokenek are both advised by John Kuhn, assistant professor of chemical and biomedical engineering.

Each year, more than 5,000 women engineers, technologists and students attend the SWE National Conference. The conference is a national venue for both experienced professionals and collegians just starting their careers in engineering. USF’s SWE Student Chapter received travel support from Student Government Association and the College of Engineering for members to attend the conference.

Engineering students attended professional development/leadership workshops and interviewed with representatives from FORTUNE 500 corporations (e.g., Boeing, Shell, GM, Honeywell, Toyota) for internships/co-ops and full-time employment opportunities. They also supported the College of Engineering diversity/outreach mission by serving as student ambassadors during the Career and Graduate School Fair.

*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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