



## SHPE Students Win First Place Awards

**TAMPA, Fla. (November 30 2012)** – College of Engineering undergraduates from the USF SHPE Student Chapter won first place awards during the 2012 SHPE Annual Conference held November 14-18, in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Oscar Peña**, a senior in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, received the first place award for his poster titled "Effect of Ammonia and Sodium on Thermophilic Anaerobic Digestion" during the Technical Paper/Poster Competition. His research is supervised by Sarina Ergas, professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Jeff Cunningham, associate professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Peña, **William Gonzalez** (Industrial Engineering), **Giorgio Grassi** (Chemical Engineering), and **Leslie Rodriguez** (Computer Engineering) were members of a four-student team that placed first in the Academic Olympiad Competition. The Olympiad is designed to test the technical knowledge (engineering, mathematics, and science) of SHPE Student Chapter teams from across the nation.



During the four-day conference, USF SHPE Chapter members attended professional development workshops and lectures, participated in corporate tours, and met with engineering leaders and Fortune

500 representatives (Boeing, IBM, Intel, Johnson and Johnson, etc.) for internships, co-ops, and full employment opportunities. The students also supported the College's recruitment/diversity mission during the Career and Graduate Fair.

[SHPE Conference 2012](#)

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