

Doctoral Student Nagesh Nayak Receives Graduate Research Award from FAA



Nagesh Nayak

Tampa, Fla. (December 17, 2009) – Nagesh Nayak, a doctoral student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering department, has been awarded a \$10,000 stipend through the Graduate Research Award Program on Public Sector Aviation Issues sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Nayak, a student of Dr. Yu Zhang, is one of only 11 recipients of this award for the academic year 2009-2010.

The proposed topic is “Estimation and Comparison of the Impact of Single Airport Delay to the National Airspace System Using Multivariate Simultaneous Models.” Delay propagation has become one of the major problems in the air transportation industry. With the increasing cost of operations and current economical crisis there is an urgent requirement for the best possible technique to determine the factors causing delays and the means to mitigate them. The proposed research will establish the correlation between various delay-causing factors at airports and their effects on the entire system. The outcomes can also be used to provide recommendations on National Airspace System (NAS) wide airport capacity expansion and other NAS investment decisions.

The Graduate Research Award Program on Public-Sector Aviation Issues 2009-2010 is a program sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation and administrated by the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP), and the Transportation Research Board of the National Science Foundation. The purpose of this program is to encourage applied research on airport and related aviation system issues and to foster the next generation of aviation community leaders. The program is intended to stimulate thought, discussion and research by those who may become the future airport managers, operators, designers and policymakers in aviation. The focus of this research program is on applied research to help the public sector continue to improve the quality, reliability, safety and security of the U.S. civil aviation system well into the foreseeable future.

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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