



Vinicio Carias

Vinicio Carias Receives Fulbright Award

Vinny will head to Germany to study at the University of Freiburg.

TAMPA, Fla (April 1, 2013) Mr. Vinicio (Vinny) Carias of the University of South Florida (Dept. of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering) has been awarded a Fulbright Research Grant to continue his biomedical engineering doctoral research at the University of Freiburg Institute for Microsystems Technology (IMTEK), one of the largest research institutions in the field of micro and nanotechnology in Germany. Vinny is one of only 80 students to receive a full grant to Germany under the Fulbright program this year.

Vinny will research in the area of polymer films for bio-MEMS devices under the guidance of Dr. Jürgen Rühle, head of the Laboratory for Chemistry and Physics Interfaces at the University of Freiburg. Vinny received his master's degree from USF in biomedical engineering and his bachelor's degree from Northeastern University in electrical engineering with a minor in biomedical engineering. As an undergraduate student at Northeastern University, he participated in two six-month electrical engineering internships at the Instrumentation Laboratory in Lexington, MA.

As a Ph.D. student, Vinny represents the Graduate School, where his academic achievements have been noted inside and outside of the classroom. In 2012, he was selected as a Leadership Fellow for the Graduate School's Doctoral Student Leadership Institute which recognizes future leaders. Vinny has also been a graduate research assistant at USF, where he has received research training from the USF Nanotechnology Research and Education Center. In 2010, Vinny was a project leader for a Draper Laboratory URAD project, developing injection-moldable nanocomposites for multi-chip-modules (MCM) technology. For his work with this project, he was recognized by the Florida High Tech Corridor Council's (FHTCC) Matching Grants Research Program (MGRP) for excellence in student research. Vinny has presented his research at the Gordon Research Conference of Polymers (2011), the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers National Conference (2010), USF Research Day (2010) and the Nanotech Conference and Expo (2010). Vinny has two forthcoming research publications.

In addition to his research accomplishments, as a Leadership Fellow Vinny is shadowing Professor Thomas Weller, Chair of the Electrical Engineering Department, and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for a Research for Undergraduates (REU) entrepreneurial project. Recently, Vinny was

accepted as a Graduate Student Ambassador to represent the College of Engineering within the Graduate School and throughout the university community. He has been a member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers –Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society.

Upon his return to the United States, Vinny will use the data and results from his research in Germany to complete his doctoral work at USF. His future career goal includes leading teams to develop high quality implantable medical devices and believes that the cross-cultural interaction of Fulbright is crucial to developing and strengthening his global leadership skills in order to become a dynamic global leader.

The Office of National Scholarships identifies, recruits and mentors high achieving students to apply for national merit scholarships across all disciplines. The scholarships and fellowships are for creative, motivated and academically strong students who are leaders in and out of the classroom.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is administered by the Institute of International Education.

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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.