



Engineering Students Win Big At FGLSAMP Expo

Yohannes Samuel, Hayde Silva and Ivonne Rodriguez Earn First Places

Tampa, Fla (Feb. 9, 2011) College of Engineering students won five awards during the student technical oral and poster competitions at the 18th NSF Florida-Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (FGLSAMP) Research & Career Expo in Jacksonville, FL, held February 3-6, 2011.

Yohannes Samuel, a junior in the Department of Electrical Engineering, placed first within the Engineering category for his oral presentation, titled "Measurements for Omni-directional versus Directional Antennas in a Compact Reconfigurable Channel Emulator."

Ivonne Rodriguez, a junior in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, placed first within the Chemistry category for her oral presentation, titled "Cooper-Catalyzed Cross Coupling Reactions of Amidines as Post-Stroke Therapeutics."

Hayde Silva, a junior in the Department of Electrical Engineering placed first in the Engineering category for her poster presentation, titled "Variation in Microneedle Geometry to Increase Shear Strength."



Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Florida-Georgia LSAMP Expo is an annual event that provides opportunities for over 400 students from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and New York to interact with representatives from graduate schools (USF, UF, FSU, UCF, University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins, University of Iowa, etc.) and national labs (Brookhaven, Oak Ridge, Pacific Northwest National, Air Force Research Lab). During the two-day event in Jacksonville, FL, undergraduates presented their technical research; attended workshops and seminars on graduate school preparation/survival and how to obtain internships; and received mentoring from Bridge to the Doctorate PhD students from the University of South Florida and University of Florida.

The list of other USF student winners, faculty advisors, and titles include:

Poster – Engineering

2nd Place – Carolina Lopez (Chemical Engineering)/REU Mentors: Venkat Bhethanabotla and John Kuhn (Chemical and Biomedical Engineering), *Synthesis of Ag-Cu Bimetallic Nanoparticles*

Poster – Computer Science

3rd Place – Dashawn Matias (Computer Science) and Demetrius Richardson (Computer Engineering)/REU Mentor: Miguel Labrador (Computer Science and Engineering), *Programming NXT Robots to Play Soccer*

The Florida-Georgia LSAMP is a coalition of 13 institutions in Florida and Georgia, including research universities (USF, UF, FSU, UCF, University of Miami), minority serving institutions (Florida A&M University, Florida International University, Bethune Cookman University, Florida Memorial College, Albany State University), and primarily two-year community colleges (Miami Dade College, Florida State College at Jacksonville, and Tallahassee Community College) with Florida A&M University as the lead institution. Supported by NSF, the overall goal of FGLSAMP is to increase the number of underrepresented minorities earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through targeted academic retention and enhancement activities (research internships, graduate school preparation, faculty and graduate student mentoring, and financial aid) designed to inspire student success. <http://www.fglsamp.com/site/>.

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 \$394.1 million in research contracts and grants in FY 2009/2010. 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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