



Palmer

Luther Palmer Receives NSF BRIGE Award

Tampa, Fla. (August 2, 2011) – Luther Palmer, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, has been awarded a competitive National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Broadening Participation Research Initiation Grant in Engineering (BRIGE). He was awarded the two-year grant in the amount of \$174,613 for his proposal, “Running Over Rough Terrain - Enhancing Biological Hypotheses.”

The NSF’s BRIGE program provides research funding to beginning engineers with the goal of increasing the diversity of researchers in the engineering disciplines. The goal of the BRIGE solicitation is to increase the number of proposals to the Directorate for Engineering from individuals who can serve as role models and mentors for an increasingly diverse engineering student population that will become the workforce of the future.

Palmer’s research is focused on biomorphic robotics, which seeks to emulate the mechanics, sensor systems, computing structures and methodologies used by biological systems to traverse challenging terrain. The NSF BRIGE grant provides funding to potentially enable improved robot locomotion using biological research as the foundation.

For additional information: [NSF BRIGE](#)

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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