



Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Joel Cooper Awarded NSF Fellowship

TAMPA, Fla. (April 2, 2012) – Doctoral student, **Joel Cooper** (Mechanical Engineering), **was** selected to receive National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) awards to support their doctoral research. Nathan Gallant is his major professor.

The purpose of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is to ensure the vitality of the scientific and technological workforce in the United States and to reinforce its diversity. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in the relevant science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines who are pursuing research-based masters and doctoral degrees.

The NSF GRFP provides funding in the amount of \$30,000 per year and full tuition and fees for three years over a five year period. Additionally, fellows are eligible for international research and professional development opportunities, and TeraGrid Supercomputer access. Annually, NSF GRFP applications are submitted in November with awards announced in April the following year.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

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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.

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