



Halfhide

Trina Halfhide Receives Fulbright Award

TAMPA, Fla. (April 4, 2012) –Trina Halfhide has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Research Grant scholarship to Norway. Halfhide is one of only 15 students awarded a full grant for research in Norway under this program and one of over 1,600 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2012-2013 year through the Fulbright U.S. Program.

Halfhide, a graduate student pursuing her PhD in Engineering Science with an emphasis in environmental engineering, received her master's degree from USF in Environmental Science and Policy and her bachelor's degree from the University of the West Indies –Trinidad & Tobago in Environmental and Natural Resource Management and Environmental Biology. Her research focuses on microalgae and their ability to produce valuable compounds that turn into algal biofuel products. In 2010, she spent five weeks in Norway interning and researching at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, where she will return to fulfill her Fulbright. Halfhide has published her research in the journals of *Toxicological & Environmental Chemistry*, *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* and presented her research at the International Water Association (IWA) Leading Edge Technology Conference. Halfhide has interned at Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Hillsborough County EPC. She has been a water analyst for Environmental Research and Design, Inc.

Halfhide represents the USF College of Engineering where her academic achievements have been noted inside and outside of the classroom. She is Co-Principal Investigator for the USF Solar Initiative funded by the USF Student Green Energy Fund and received a grant of \$160,000 for the Initiative. Halfhide is a Research Assistant for Professor Sarina Ergas in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She is the USF Chapter Ex-President for Engineers for a Sustainable World, a mentor for Women to Women, a member of the USF Triathlon Team –Tribull and was Treasurer for the Geography Club.

She is a recipient of the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Fellowship, mentored by Professors Delcie Durham Maya Trotz. In 2009, Halfhide received the USF Tharp Endowed Scholarship Fund Graduate Award for students in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science and Policy and related fields. The Fulbright grant will cover the costs of round-trip transportation to Norway, and maintenance for 10 months.

Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Halfhide plans upon her return to defend her dissertation and adopt the useful practices and approaches learned during her research in Norway. She hopes that being a Fulbright scholar will open many doors in the environmental engineering field and is eager to integrate her newly acquired research skills and knowledge into solving environmental problems using a global context.

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.