



Jamie Trahan Receives Johnny Weiss Scholarship

TAMPA, Fla. (June 26, 2014) Jamie Trahan, a doctoral candidate in mechanical engineering and a research assistant in the USF Clean Energy Research Center, was recently named the first recipient of the Johnny Weiss Scholarship provided by Solar Energy International (SEI).

SEI established the Johnny Weiss Scholarship fund to honor his long-time leadership and his vision in co-founding SEI in 1991. The tuition scholarship is for an individual who demonstrates Johnny's commitment to renewable energy education and to making the world a better place. As a recipient, Jamie had the opportunity to take a 6 week on-line course in photovoltaic system design and as well as a course at the SEI facilities in Paonio, Colorado, where she gained hands-on experience in installing and commissioning different types of photovoltaic systems.

SEI is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower people around the world through the education of sustainable practices. They provide high quality instruction on the installation and commissioning of solar energy technologies as well other renewable energy technologies. They have trained over 30,000 people in practical uses of solar energy and have positively impacted the renewable energy industry. More info can be found at www.solarenergy.org.

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The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is a Top 50 research university among both public and private institutions nationwide in total research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation. Serving nearly 48,000 students, the USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion and an annual economic impact of \$4.4 billion. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference.

The College of Engineering at the University of South Florida is ranked at #72 among public institutions by U.S. News & World Report's 2015 engineering graduate school rankings. The college serves 4,600 students offering ABET-accredited undergraduate degrees in seven programs, as well as eleven masters and nine doctoral degrees. The College is actively engaged in local and global research activities with foci on sustainability, biomedical

engineering, computing technology and transportation and for the fiscal year 2013-14 had \$30.5 million in research expenditures. There are 124 tenured / tenure track faculty and 80 instructors and research faculty.

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