13 College of Engineering Professors Receive $1.9 Million in Research Grants

The grants are funded through the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Energy.

TAMPA, Fla. (September 20, 2011) – The College of Engineering has received more than $1.9 million in research funding from three prestigious sources – The National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The projects are as diverse as the principle investigators from research on type 1 diabetes to environmental engineering to solar energy, to name a few.

Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering Ryan Toomey received $80,000 in funding from the NSF for his project titled: “EAGER: Dually Photocrosslinkable and Photolabile Polymers for Fabricating Heterogeneous 3D Structures.”

Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Yicheng Tu and Industrial Engineering Assistant Professor Bo Zeng received $266,440 from the NSF for their project titled: “Collaborative Research: Making Databases Green - An Energy-Aware DBMS Approach.”

Mechanical Engineering Assistant Professor Rasim Guldiken received $199,908 from the NSF for his project titled: “EAGER: A Surface Acoustic Wave Device for High-Resolution Atherosclerotic Plaque Inspection.”

Electrical Engineering Associate Professor Rudy Schlaf and Assistant Professor Jing Wang received $299,998 from the NSF for their project titled: “GOALI: Efficiency Enhancement of Solar Cells Through Electronic Structure Design.”

Xiaoning Qian, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Industrial Engineering Assistant Professor Bo Zeng received $173,613 from the NIH for their project titled: “Identifying Risk Factors and Interactions for Type 1 Diabetes in Large Studies.”

Electrical Engineering Professor Vijay Jain received $848,972 from the U.S. DOE for his project titled: “3-D Intelligent Sensor System on a Chip for Massive Deployment for Non-Proliferation Remote Sensing.”

Associate Professor Sarina Ergas and Assistant Professor Jeff Cunningham both of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept. received $64,000 from the NSF for their project titled: “Collaborative
Research: Development and Testing of a Fundamentals of Environmental Engineering Concept Inventory.”

Assistant Professors of Mechanical Engineering Nathan Crane, Rasim Guldiken and Alex Volinsky—received $354,121 from the NSF for their project titled: “Large Stroke Microscale Actuators Based on Electrowetting.”

During the 2009-2010 academic year the College of Engineering had $25.9 million in research expenditures.

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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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