

Laura Byrnes-Blanco Receives NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

**Tampa, FL. (February 4, 2015)** Laura Byrnes-Blanco, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, was awarded a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is the U.S.'s oldest fellowship program being established in 1951. The NSF GRFP recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions.

The GRFP has a history of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers. NSF Fellows are anticipated to become knowledgeable experts who will significantly contribute to research, teaching, and innovations in science and engineering. Since the GRFP's creation, NSF has funded over 46,500 Fellows out of more than 500,000 applicants. More than 30 of these Fellows have become Nobel laureates and more than 440 have become members of the National Academy of Sciences.

For more information about the NSF GRFP visit: www.nsfgrfp.org