

The 2008-2009 Graduate Student Challenge Grants: Building Research Partnerships Across Disciplines

The Graduate School and the Office of Research and Innovation are pleased to announce the selected proposals for the 2008-2009 Graduate Student Challenge Grants: Building Research Partnerships Across Disciplines. These one-year projects are designed for students to develop research skills that will allow them to excel in their chosen fields. It is part of the mission and strategic plans of USF and the graduate school to build leaders through excellence in collaborative graduate education and research. Each proposal was submitted by a team of four students, where at least two of the students were from different colleges. All projects were signed and approved by the student mentors & Colleges, and advance the students' academic programs.

Congratulations to the awardees and we ask that all students keep checking this website for information about future research opportunities!

Funded Proposals:

1. **Title: Algal production of biofuel from sewage: an interdisciplinary collaboration on renewable energy via sustainable resource recovery.** Click [HERE](#) to see the abstract.

Research Team:

- o Ana Lucia Prieto – College of Engineering – Civil & Environmental Engineering
- o Joshua Berger – College of Arts and Sciences - Geography (ES&P program)
- o Brandon Smeltzer – College of Engineering - Chemical & Biomedical Engineering
- o Erica Turner – College of Arts and Sciences - Chemistry

2. **Title: Reading Development Electrified: Semantic and Syntactic Integration During Sentence Comprehension in School-age Children & Young Adults.** Click [HERE](#) to see the abstract.

Research Team:

- o Justine VanDyke – College of Behavior and Community Sciences – Communication Sci. & Disorders
- o Annie Nelson – College of Education - Curriculum & Instruction
- o Stephanie Karidas – College of Behavior and Community Sciences – Communication Sci. & Disorders
- o Lynette Dornton – College of Behavior and Community Sciences – Communication Sci. & Disorders

3. **Title: Exploring the Impact of Health Report Cards** Click [HERE](#) to see the abstract.

Research Team:

- o Jenna Brunaugh – College of Public Health – Community & Family Health
- o John Trainor – College of Arts and Sciences – Anthropology
- o Sarah Bonnema – College of Public Health – Community & Family Health
- o Rheanna Ata – College of Arts and Sciences – Psychology

4. **Title: Fanaticism, America, and Sustainability** Click [HERE](#) to see the abstract.

Research Team:

- o Ellen Mueller – College of Visual and Performing Arts – Art
- o Robert Fladry – College of Visual and Performing Arts – Art
- o Jeffrey A. Hinzmann – College of Arts and Sciences – Philosophy
- o Elizabeth Victor – College of Arts and Sciences – Philosophy
- o Andrew Romaner – College of Public Health -

5. **Title: Comparing the Enhancing Effects of Distinctiveness and Emotion on Memory Statistical Modeling of Event-Related Brain Potentials to Predict Subsequent Memory** Click [HERE](#) to see the abstract.

Research Team:

- o Siri-Maria Kamp – College of Arts and Sciences – Psychology
- o Kun Li – College of Engineering – Electrical Engineering
- o Daniel Paul Siu – College of Arts and Sciences – Mathematics & Statistics
- o Dimitrios Vovoras – College of Arts and Sciences – Mathematics & Statistics

6. **Title: Optimization Models for Non-Invasive Early Diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer using Protein Biomarkers** Click [HERE](#) to see the abstract.

Research Team:

- Chaitra Gopalappa – College of Engineering - Industrial & Management Systems Engineering
- Dayna Lee Martinez - College of Engineering - Industrial & Management Systems Engineering
- Jael Donato Rodriguez - College of Medicine
- Barbara Nataly Davila - College of Medicine - Graduate Biomedical Sciences Program

7. *Title:* **Sustainability related to mercury use: A multidisciplinary approach integrating environmental, economic and socio-cultural dynamics** Click [HERE](#) to see the abstract.

Research Team:

- Trina Halfhide - College of Arts and Sciences – Environmental Science & Policy
- Joniqua Howard - College of Engineering - Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Ryan Michael - College of Public Health - Environmental & Occupational Health
- Daniela Soledad - College of Engineering - Civil & Environmental Engineering