Mr. Michael Martinez-Colón was nominated recently by the American Geological Institute to attend the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) which will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from November 20-22, 2009. AGI and other IYPE supporting organizations each nominated one student to represent their organization.

Michael was selected to represent the United States at the closing event of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) summit in Lisbon, Portugal. He is only one of two students chosen to represent the U.S. at this event. This is not only a great honor for Michael, but also brings wonderful visibility and prestige to the University of South Florida and the College of Marine Science. At the end of the summit, Mr. Martinez-Colón will prepare a report to submit to the U.S. National Committee.

Michael will be an outstanding representative of USF. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Geology from the University of Puerto Rico (Mayaguez), and has been a PhD student in Marine Science since 2005. His dissertation title is “Pollutants and foraminiferal assemblages in Jobos Bay and Torrecilla Lagoon: An environmental micropaleontology approach”. During his graduate career, Michael has obtained extensive teaching and mentoring experience. In addition he has written several competitive grants and received funding from Puerto Rico Sea Grant, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Atmospheric and Space Administration (NASA). He has also received several fellowships and awards, and has published several peer-reviewed manuscripts. It is a true pleasure to see his success recognized for this prestigious event.

To learn more about this opportunity that Michael has received, please visit http://www.planetearthlisbon2009.org/.