Environmental Engineering Graduate Alumni Receive Prestigious Awards

*The alumni were recognized by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists*

TAMPA, FLA. (March 28, 2016) — Two University of South Florida engineering alumni received prestigious awards from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists.

**Matthew Verbyla**, a doctoral student in civil engineering has won the 2016 W. Wesley Eckenfelder Graduate Research Award. This award is given annually by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES) and is co-sponsored by HDR, Inc., to recognize a student whose research contributes to the knowledge pool of wastewater management. The award selection is based on original, innovative research of publishable quality and other factors that include academic program performance, professional or community service, and engineering project accomplishment. His major advisor is Professor James Mihelcic.

**Gregory Hinds**

*Gregory Hinds ’15 MSEV*, has won the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists William Brewster Snow award. This annual award recognizes an outstanding environmental engineering graduate student who has made significant accomplishments in an employment or academic engineering project. Greg’s MS thesis research examined the use of high solids anaerobic digestion for bioenergy production from the organic fraction of municipal solid waste. His platform presentation at the 2016 Global Waste Management Symposium won first prize for Best Student Presentation. He is lead author of a book chapter on high solids anaerobic digestion and also a manuscript submitted to Environmental Engineering Science. His major advisor was Professor Sarina Ergas.

Greg is a member of SWANA, AWWA, and ASCE. While an undergraduate, Greg received an Academic Achievement Award from ASCE and was also an active member of the Sustainable Engineering and Health for Development student chapter. He is currently working as a storm water and restoration engineer with Wildscape Engineering, a consulting firm in the Tahoe area of Northern California.