



**Jayita Das**



**Sylvia Thomas**

### **Sylvia Thomas Receives USF 2015 Faculty Graduate Mentor Award**

Engineering faculty and graduate students were honored at the USF Scholars of Excellence 2015 awards ceremony on October 19, 2015.

**Sylvia Thomas**, associate professor in the Electrical Engineering Dept., received the Faculty Graduate Mentor Award for her impressive mentoring style as well as the number of graduate students she has mentored and the professional success of those students.

**Sarina Ergas**, professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept., was selected runner up for the 2015 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award.

**Jayita Das**, who received her PhD in electrical engineering in 2014 received a 2015 Outstanding Thesis & Dissertation Award.

Dr. Thomas and Dr. Das received their awards from Dr. Dwayne Smith, Senior Vice Provost & Dean, Office and Graduate Studies and Dr. Ruth Bahr, Interim Assistant Dean, Office of Graduate Studies.

In addition, many College of Engineering graduate students received awards.

**Dissertation Completion Fellowship** provides funding to doctoral students who are in the final phase of full-time dissertation writing. The award provides a stipend of \$15,000 for one academic year and also covers tuition fees, and health insurance.

**Mona Haghighi** – Industrial Engineering

**Fulbright Foreign Student Program** brings citizens of other countries to the United States for master's degree or PhD student and U.S. universities. The program offers foreign participants insight into U.S. society and values and the students bring cultural diversity to U.S. campuses and enrich the university experience of domestic students.

**Fabiola Araujo Cespedes** – Electrical Engineering

**Gabriel Gonzalez Rojo** – Electrical Engineering

**Gregory Levant** – Electrical Engineering

**Sayed Abdullah Sadat** – Electrical Engineering

**Tete Tevi** – Electrical Engineering

**Graduate Student Success** fellowship is designated for graduate students with demonstrable financial need and designed to assist students in the continuation or completion of their degree programs.

**Nada Elsayed** – Chemical Engineering

**Amine Hafsi** – Civil Engineering

**Ashley Ishak** - Engineering Management

**Laura Rodriguez Gonzalez** – Environmental Engineering

**Lorena Sanchez** – Civil Engineering

**McKnight Dissertation Fellowship** provides one year of support for students completing the dissertation in STEM disciplines. Awardees have demonstrated superior academic achievement and are committed to careers in teaching and research at the university or college level.

**Veronica Aponte-Morales** – Engineering Science

**Yolanda Diaz** – Chemical Engineering

**Tanika Williamson** – Biomedical Engineering

**Maya Carrasquillo** – Environmental Engineering

**Dagmara Monfort** – Engineering Science

**Kiesha Pierre** – Engineering Science

**Christopher Slater** – Environmental Engineering

**Andrea Wright** – Electrical Engineering

**National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship** recognizes and supports up to 2,000 students nationally in the NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and social science disciplines, who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions. The fellowship provides up to a three-year annual stipend along with a cost-of-education allowance for tuition and fees. Opportunities include international research and professional development, and the freedom to conduct one's own research.

**Laura Byrnes-Blanco** – Mechanical Engineering

**Shamara Collins** – Electrical Engineering

**Presidential Doctoral Fellowship** provides funding to new doctoral students who demonstrate potential for excellence in research and scholarly / creative activity. The Fellowship provides a \$25,000 per year stipend plus full tuition, fees, travel allowance, health insurance and is renewable for up to five years.

**Sovik Nath** – Industrial Engineering

**Weize Yu** – Electrical Engineering

**Arsenii Zhdanov** – Biomedical Engineering

**University Graduate Fellowship** awards outstanding new students enrolling at USF with focus placed on doctoral students. The award amount is for a minimum of \$4,000 and nine credits of graduate tuition for the first year. Starting in the first summer semester through the second summer (four semesters), the department will fund a graduate assistant position, tuition and fees, and health insurance.

**Natalia Barbour** – Civil Engineering

**Steven Diaz** – Computer Science & Engineering

**Brandon Lorentz** – Chemical Engineering

**Longfei Wang** – Electrical Engineering

**USF Signature Research Doctoral Fellowship** provides funding to students engage in research in any of the four signature research areas including: Integrated Neurosciences, Sustainability of Populations and / or Environment, Diabetes and Autoimmune Disorders, and Drug Design and Delivery. The award provides a stipend of \$18,000 per academic year, for two years and also covers, tuition, travel, fees and health insurance.

**Surya Cheemalapati** – Chemical Engineering