



**Ileana Wald**



**Brian Wright**



**Jesse Brizzi**



**Cheng Wei Lin**

### **Engineering Students Recognized by NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program**

Three USF engineering students and one recent graduate have been recognized by the 2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) competition. **Ileana Wald, Brian Wright, and Jesse Brizzi** were awarded fellowships and **Cheng Wei Lin** received Honorable Mention Recognition. The NSF GRFP supports outstanding graduate students in NSF- supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based Master's and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions. It is a critical program in NSF's overall strategy to develop the globally-engaged workforce necessary to ensure the nation's leadership in advancing science and engineering research and innovation.

The GRFP provides three years of financial support within a five-year fellowship period (\$34,000 annual stipend and \$12,000 cost-of-education allowance to the graduate institution) for graduate study that leads to a research-based master's or doctoral degree in science or engineering. In addition, fellows have opportunities for international research collaborations through the Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) initiative and professional career development with federal internships provided through the Graduate Research Internship Program (GRIP). Fellows and students with Honorable Mention designation may also be eligible for access to cyberinfrastructure resources to support their research-training through the NSF supported Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE) and for Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED).

Additional information on the USF students and alumni is listed below.

#### **Ileana Wald**

Ileana will graduate in May with her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Environmental Engineering. As an REU student in the College, she has conducted research on pathogen removal in biosolids with Jim Mihelcic and Sarina Ergas, professors in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and doctoral candidates Nathan Manser and Maureen Kinyua, in the Department of Civil and

Environmental Engineering. She is the coauthor of a journal paper in *Environmental Science & Technology*. Ileana's research was supported by the NSF Florida-Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (FGLSAMP) program. Last summer, she participated in the University of Virginia REU for Water and Health in Limpopo, South Africa. Her awards include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings scholarship. As a Hollings scholar, Ileana conducted research in summer 2013 at NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in California. In August, she will enter the doctoral program in Environmental Engineering at UC-Berkeley.

### **Brian Wright**

Brian is a graduating senior in the Department of Electrical Engineering. Last December, he earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. His research interests include haptics and touch perception, human-machine interfaces, sensory augmentation and substitution, control systems, robotics, rapid prototyping, wearable electronics, and online education. In the College of Engineering's REU program, Brian volunteered in the labs of Nathan Crane, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Kyle Reed, assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. During the 2014-2015 academic year, he served as Tau Beta Pi Professional Development co-chair. For nearly four years, Brian was on active duty as an infantryman in the United States Marines Corps (USMC). He plans to attend University of Pennsylvania in August for the Ph.D. to study Robotics.

### **Jesse Brizzi**

Jesse earned his B.S. in Computer Science from USF in May 2014. He is a first-year doctoral student in Computer Science at the State University of New York (SUNY) Stony Brook. His main areas of research include Computer Vision, Affect Computing, and Machine Learning. Jesse's current projects are in the area of facial expression classification and detection. At SUNY-Stony Brook, he is a recipient of the W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship program. During his undergraduate program, Jesse was involved in Computer Vision research through the College's REU program with Dmitry Goldgof and Sudeep Sarkar, professors in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. For his REU research, he was coauthor of a journal paper in *Image and Vision Computing* and a conference paper. In 2013, he was a participant in the NSF REU in Ubiquitous Sensing program with Miguel Labrador, professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

### **Cheng Wei Lin**

Cheng Wei completed his B.S. in Computer Engineering in December 2014 and received the department's Outstanding Student Award. He will complete his M.S. in Computer Engineering at USF in fall 2016. Cheng Wei's research interests are digital VLSI design, emerging spintronic applications, low-power circuitry using emerging technologies, and hardware security. He participated in the College's REU program with Swaroop Ghosh, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, in the LOGICS research lab. Cheng Wei is a coauthor of five conference papers in his research area. He was

a member of the USF LOGICS team that received 3rd place during the Embedded Security Challenge at the 11th Annual New York University Polytechnic School of Engineering Cyber Security Awareness Week (CSAW) in November. Student teams focused on emerging technologies and materials and demonstrated why they are valuable and secure. During the spring 2014 semester, Cheng Wei has been a Software Engineer intern at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.

[NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#)