

## Biomedical Engineering Senior Wins International Fellowship Award

University of Miami biomedical engineering alumna and undergraduate researcher Stephanie Marie Delgado, BSBME, was awarded a prestigious 2008 Whitaker International Fellowship. Whitaker International Fellowships were established to promote the development of professional leaders with an international approach to serving healthcare needs.



The fellowship will support a one year-graduate research experience at the Vision Cooperative Research Centre and the Institute for Eye Research in Australia, the world's largest vision correction research group. In Sydney, Delgado will participate in a large international collaborative study on the prevention and treatment of myopia (nearsightedness).

Throughout her four years as an undergraduate at the College of Engineering, Delgado worked as an undergraduate research assistant under the supervision of Dr. Jean-Marie Parel, director of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute's Ophthalmic Biophysics Center and Dr. Fabrice Manns, from the Department of Biomedical Engineering. During her tutelage, she participated in several projects, including a laser treatment for breast cancer, and projects related to the treatment of glaucoma, cataracts and presbyopia. Just prior to her 2008 graduation, Delgado presented one of her projects at the annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), the largest international conference on eye research.

During her undergraduate studies, she focused on interacting with scientists and clinicians of various disciplines and geographic backgrounds such as medical doctors, optometrists and basic research scientists to gain a better understanding of their needs and approaches to solving problems. In the summer of 2005, she traveled to Costa Rica through the International Service Learning (ISL) program to work with a group of medical students and a physician in order to interview patients and distribute medications in various underprivileged towns. She raised over \$1,000 worth of medical supplies for these missions.

Following the one-year fellowship in Sydney, Delgado plans to return to the United States to pursue a graduate degree in biomedical engineering.