

## **2010 Vincent Forte Graduate School Fellowship**

The LSU Mechanical Engineering student, Ryan Meyer, was recently awarded the 2010 Vincent A. Forte Graduate School Fellowship by the Louisiana Engineering Foundation. The Forte Fellowship award is granted each year to a student enrolled in a graduate program in engineering who express a sincere desire to enter the teaching profession at the University level. This award entails a \$2,000 stipend and a commemorative plaque, and it is named to honor Vincent A. Forte, P.E., a founder and first president of the LEF.

Ryan Meyer began working with Dr. Su-Seng Pang on the NASA/EPSCOR project for a smart adhesively bonded joint. His initial work revolved around experimental studies involving piezoelectric materials. He also began to study composite materials, enrolling the course offered by the department and working in the composites lab at Southern University to learn how to manufacture glass fiber composite specimens. During the summer of 2009, his work shifted from an experimental focus concentrate on analytical modeling of the mechanics of piezoelectrically actuated joint structures. During the process of developing his analytical model, he picked up numerous computational skills and became proficient in powerful analytical software tools such as MATLAB and ANSYS. Experimental work has been planned for real world verification of his derived model, as well as to investigate other structure strengthening effects due to piezoelectric actuation. He is currently submitting his results for entry in the 2010 Society of Plastic Engineers ANTEC Conference for Composite Materials. Upon completion of his Master's thesis in May 2010, he plans to enter industry, preferably as a controls systems engineer. After five years in industry, he plans to become a Professional Engineer and either will begin consulting work or return to academics for a PH.D. Degree and a future career as a faculty member.

Again, Ryan, congratulations on your award as the 2010 Vincent Forte Graduate School Recipient!