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Entrepreneurship Student Makes Living in Nuclear Energy



Erica Moore

While many business students take up jobs in the corporate sector, not every business grad aspires to be a banker, marketer, or financial wizard. Some, like 23-year-old Erica Moore, envision that business diploma leading them down a slightly different path. For Moore, a graduate student pursuing her master's degree in applied technologies through the College's entrepreneurship program, that path begins with a job in the nuclear energy industry; she hopes it will end up leading to her own firm.

Moore spends her days at the Crystal River Nuclear Power Generation Facility where she works as a nuclear systems operator maintaining, inspecting and testing nuclear-related equipment, components and systems. "As a systems operator, I get to start pumps and run systems that affect the entire plant ranging from the turbine to the pumps that pump a million gallons of sea water per minute to condense steam into water," Moore said proudly of her duties. The operator's task is no simple one; she has to ensure that what she does is in accordance with nuclear industry rules and regulations because thousands of people depend on the power plant for a reliable electricity supply.

As much as she loves her job, the New Hampshire native aspires to eventually own her own business, which is why she chose to enroll in USF's interdisciplinary entrepreneurship program. She enjoys the program for the same reasons she enjoys her job — the practical experience. "Instead of being just class work, we interact with real companies and address challenges spanning from business planning to private funding for startup companies," Moore said. Entrepreneurship classes provide the opportunity to

participate in a variety of projects preparing Moore and other students to face real-world business topics for companies such as Google and Coca-Cola. She praises the program for its interdisciplinary education, saying, "It blends together business, innovation, engineering and creativity to help the students succeed in the real world of business."

Moore admits that she chose the USF entrepreneurship graduate program for other reasons, too. Aside from the practical knowledge she gains in classes, she commends the faculty for knowledge in the field. "My professors have been nothing less than exceptional," she said. "They know what it takes to survive in the corporate world and that is important to me." She has similar sentiments for the Center for Entrepreneurship's staff. "All the staff are very personable and take time to discuss and improve all my business ideas."

Even though Moore is very busy between going to work and attending classes, she still participates in recreational activities. She loves the outdoors and the Tampa weather, so she spends time scuba diving and cycling. She also has an affinity for Tampa's food and culture.