



## **College of Engineering at FIU Leads Building of “Future House” In China for the 2008 Olympic Summer Games**

**MIAMI, FL (April 5, 2007)** – The College of Engineering and Computing at Florida International University was chosen to represent the US in the “Future House Community Project” in Beijing, China ([www.futurehouse.org](http://www.futurehouse.org)). The “Future House Community” project, an initiative of the Chinese government in partnership with the public and private sectors, will include houses from ten countries, which will be built near the site of the 2008 Olympic Summer Games. Other countries that will present environmentally conscious houses are Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain and Sweden. Each country will design and build a house that reflects its national technological capacity and aesthetic sensibility.

“It is a distinct honor to be selected by the Chinese government as the only university to represent the United States in the project,” said Dr Yong Tao, Undergraduate Program Director of the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering at Florida International University.

Dr. Tao and another FIU’s College of Engineering faculty member, Dr. Yimin Zhu, from the Construction Management Program, will direct the design and construction of the Future House - USA Project. The house is inspired on Frank Lloyd Wright’s environmentally responsible design and by principles of Feng Shui, an ancient Chinese tradition of building in harmony with the Earth’s elements. The FIU led U.S. team will incorporate a wide range of features from ultra-efficient geothermal heat pumps to passive and active solar systems. Despite the extensive use of advanced technologies, construction costs are consistent with those of homes that do not include such features.

The Ministry of Construction of the People’s Republic of China is the main sponsor of the “Future House Community Project.” FIU was invited to participate after students from the College of Engineering built an environmentally friendly house and won first place, in the Energy Balance category, at the 2005 National Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C. The competition required students to design, build and operate a solar-powered house.

Construction of the U.S./FIU Future House started on March 16<sup>th</sup>, and will be completed for the 2008 Games. After the Olympic Games, FIU and other organizations will use the house for workshops and training activities.

FIU is teaming with the Alternative Energy Living Foundation in Moline, Illinois, the National Defense Council Foundation in Washington, D.C., the American Council on Renewable Energy, the Consumer Energy Alliance and the Environmental Study Institute.

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