FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Shelby Thomas receives a prestigious place on a Fulbright Summer Institute to the UK

Shelby Thomas, a student from the University of South Florida has received a place on a Fulbright Summer Institute to study at Cardiff, Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities in Wales on one of the most prestigious and selective summer scholarship programmes operating world-wide.

Created by treaty in 1948, the US-UK Fulbright Commission is the only bi-lateral, transatlantic scholarship programme, offering awards and summer programmes for study or research in any field, at any accredited US or UK University. The Commission is part of the Fulbright programme conceived by Senator J. William Fulbright in the aftermath of World War II to promote leadership, learning and empathy between nations through educational exchange. Award recipients and summer programme participants will be the future leaders for tomorrow and support the “special relationship” between the US and UK.

As a participant, Shelby has been selected from a strong applicant pool to experience the UK on a six week summer programme. The Fulbright Wales Summer Institute focuses on Welsh culture and industry. The program allows students to learn about the changing role that Wales plays within the United Kingdom and how the culture of the small nation has been preserved.

Shelby is an Honors College freshman pursuing dual degrees in International Business and International Studies. Currently at USF, Shelby is a member of the Bulls Business Community, Historian for the National Society of Leadership and Success and a volunteer for the USF Botanical Gardens. She was the Public Relations Officer Trainee for the International Business Board. In high school, she was the Marketing Director and Work Supervisor for the Beautification Club, Secretary of BETA Honor Society, Vice President of the Student Body through the Student Government Association, Team Captain for the Speech and Debate Club and a Rower on the Crew Team.

As a participant in the Fulbright UK Summer Institute Program to Wales, she intends to study the relationship between the Welsh culture and its effect on business adaptability, specifically when it
concerns the coal mining industry and disruptive change. From this experience she hopes to cultivate
the knowledge and ability for eventually serving the United States as a Foreign Service Officer.

The Commission selects participants through a rigorous application and interview process. In making
these awards the Commission looks not only for academic excellence but a focused application, a range
of extracurricular and community activities, demonstrated ambassadorial skills, a desire to further the
Fulbright Programme and a plan to give back to the recipient’s home country upon returning.

Fulbright Summer Programmes cover all participant costs. In addition, Fulbright summer participants
receive a distinctive support and cultural education programme including: visa processing, a
comprehensive pre-departure orientation, enrichment opportunities in country, a re-entry session and
opportunity to join our alumni networks.

Each year, the Commission supports around 50 UK and US undergraduate students to undertake a
demanding academic and cultural summer programmes at leading institutions in the US and UK
respectively. Nearly 300,000 extraordinary women and men from all over the world have had their lives
changed as participants in the global Fulbright Programme. Of these alumni, approximately 15,000 UK
nationals have studied in the US and nearly 12,000 US nationals in the UK on our educational exchange
programmes.

Notable alumni of the US-UK Commission include: Malcolm Bradbury, novelist; Liam Byrne, politician;
Milton Friedman, economist and Nobel Prize Winner 1976; Charles Kennedy, politician; John Lithgow,
actor; Tarik O’Regan, composer; Sylvia Plath, poet; Lord William Wallace, politician; Ian Rankin, novelist;
Sir Christopher Rose QC, judge; Baroness (Shirley) Williams, politician; Vanessa Heaney, journalist BBC
World Service; and Toby Young, journalist and playwright.

The Commission is funded partially by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills in the UK and
the US Department of State, with additional support coming from a variety of individual and
institutional partners.

The Office of National Scholarships identifies, recruits and mentors high achieving students to apply for
national merit scholarships across all disciplines. The scholarships and fellowships are for creative,
motivated and academically strong students who are leaders in and out of the classroom.

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