FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                                          Contact: Lauren Chambers, MPH
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Elaina Graham Receives Hollings Scholarship

Ms. Elaina Graham of the University of South Florida has been awarded the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings scholarship. The Hollings Scholarship Program provides undergraduate students with awards that include academic assistance (up to a maximum of $8,000 per year) for full-time study during the 9-month academic year and a 10-week, full-time internship position during the summer at a NOAA facility.

Elaina is an Honors College sophomore double majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology and Anthropology with a 3.93 GPA. She represents the USF College of Arts and Sciences where her achievements inside and outside of the classroom have been noted. She currently participates in undergraduate research with Dr. James Gary analyzing the biodiversity of microorganisms in the water and sediment within Florida spring and estuarine systems. Elaina is also the International Projects Director for Nourish International, where she works to connect with NGO’s in other countries to organize and implement sustainable projects. As a high school student, she was a recipient of the FL Holocaust Museum Anne Frank Humanitarian Award, which honors outstanding humanitarian efforts by high school students.

She hopes to earn a Ph.D. in marine microbiology and research marine organisms to expand the tree of life and aid in investigation of the potential medical and industrial use for metabolites of marine microorganisms. Her research interest is focused on the possibility of medical advancement through our oceans and the diverse array of organisms.

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.

The Hollings Scholarship Program provides successful undergraduate applicants with awards that include academic assistance for full-time study during the 9-month academic year; a 10-week, full-time internship position during the summer at a NOAA facility; and, if reappointed, academic assistance for full-time study during a second 9-month academic year. The internship between the first and second years of the award provides the Scholars with "hands-on"/ practical educational training experience in NOAA-related science, research, technology, policy, management, and education activities. Awards also include travel funds to attend a mandatory NOAA Scholarship Program orientation, conferences where
students present a paper or poster, and a housing subsidy for scholars who do not reside at home during the summer internship.

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