FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2013

Christie Campla Selected as an NIH Oxford Cambridge Scholar

Ms. Christie Campla of the University of South Florida has been selected as one of 20 students nationally to be a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Oxford Cambridge Scholar. She will undertake a collaborative Ph.D. project in bioengineering with two research mentors; one at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) intramural campus in Bethesda, MD and one at either Oxford or Cambridge Universities in the United Kingdom. The NIH Oxford Cambridge Scholars Program is funded through the NIH Intramural Research Program and fully funds tuition, stipend and other expenses at either Oxford or Cambridge. She is a resident of St. Petersburg, FL.

Campla is an Honors College senior double majoring in Cellular and Molecular Biology and Spanish, and minoring in Chemistry. She is a 2011 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, the most prestigious national scholarship for undergraduates aspiring to a STEM research career; as well as a USF Holcombe First Generation in College Scholar, a USF Honors College Discovery Research Scholar and USF Scholastic Achievement Scholar. In summer 2011, Campla was selected as one of 10 international students for the Summer Training Fellowship at the National Cancer Research Center (CNIO) in Madrid in where she conducted research. She was also awarded the USF Undergraduate Award for Scholarly and Creative Excellence, a competitive award for undergraduates who have published their research.

Campla represents the USF College of the Arts and Sciences and the Honors College where her academic achievements have been noted inside and outside of the classroom. She has previously participated in undergraduate research with Dr. Meera Nanjundan in the Department of Cell Biology, Microbiology and Molecular Biology. Her thesis honors research focused on the role of various TGFβ signaling mediators / aberrantly spliced genes in autophagy and epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) in ovarian cancer. Currently she is participating in undergraduate research with Dr. Piyush Koria in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering. With this research she is investigating the use of genetically encodable elastin-like peptides for treatment of chronic wounds. Campla also served as President of the Undergraduate Research Board, Vice President of Internal Affairs for the Undergraduate Health Council, and on the Honors College Student Council as Historian and Secretary of Events. Campla is also a gifted musician.

Campla intends to become a research scientist in the field of bioengineering and lead her own lab and research team, as well as teach at the University level after completing a Ph.D. and postdoc to prepare for a career in applied biomedical research.
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 National Institutes of Health Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program is an accelerated, individualized doctoral training program for outstanding science students committed to biomedical research careers. The program is based on the British system in which students perform doctoral research without required formal courses other than those which students choose to take in relationship to their own interests. Students selected for admission to the program have already developed a sophisticated scientific background by having engaged in research as undergraduates. All students participate in the enriched environment of the residential colleges of the U.K. Universities and enjoy special educational opportunities for career development and understanding of broader issues surrounding biomedical research. Information at http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov/prospectiveStudents/overview.asp

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