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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCUBANAUTS' BANNER TRAVELS TO SPACE

TAMPA, Fla.— On Friday middle school and high school students involved in the local SCUBAnauts (SKU-BA-NOTS) program stood watching as the space shuttle Endeavor took off and then Monday they watched as their banner was unfurled in space by NASA astronaut Dom Gorie (GOR-ee).

The students' banner has also been taken six thousand feet to the bottom of an ocean and to the top of Mauna (MOW-na) Kea (KEY-ah), the world's largest mountain measured from base to peak.

University of South Florida grad student Jennifer Dupont (DEW-pont) talks about working with the students in the SCUBAnauts program.

(SOUND BITE...10 SECONDS)

“The best part of being involved in this program is the opportunity to see the students students grow and develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of science.”

The local SCUBAnauts program is sponsored by the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Fish and Wildlife Research Insitute. The program guides young men and women, ages 12 through 18,

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SCUBAnauts Banner

along an exciting pathway for personal development by involving them in the marine sciences through underwater marine research activities such as special environmental and undersea conservation projects that builds character, promotes active citizenship and develops effective leadership skills.

For more information regarding the SCUBAnauts program please visit the website at www.scubanautsintl.org (w-w-w dot scuba-naut s-i-n-t-l dot org).