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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STUDENTS REACH THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Local students are literally reaching for the stars as they explore the realms of science. As part of the SCUBAnauts program, these students have created a banner that has traveled the world and is now headed into space.

SCUBAnauts is a program for middle and high school students to get them actively involved in science.

The students have taken the banner six thousand feet under the ocean and from base to peak of the world's tallest mountain, Mauna [mou – nuh] Kea [key – uh]. Students watched as space shuttle Endeavor launch into space carrying their banner. The students viewed a live downlink as NASA astronaut Dom Gorie unfurled the banner in space.

USF graduate student Jennifer Dupont describes working with the SCUBAnaut program.

(SOUND BITE... 10 SECONDS)

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

SCUBAnauts is a local program that 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 Institute.