Wald and Esteban Awarded National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship

TAMPA, Fla. (April 19, 2012) – Ileana Wald was awarded a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings (Hollings) scholarship. This competitive scholarship is designed to increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology and foster multidisciplinary training opportunities. It is also designed to increase public understanding and support for stewardship of the ocean and atmosphere and improve environmental literacy while helping to prepare students for public service careers with NOAA and other natural resource and science agencies.

Ileana is a second-year student majoring in civil engineering with an environmental engineering emphasis. The Hollings Scholarship Program provides academic assistance and a full-time internship position during the summer at a NOAA facility. The internship provides the Scholars with "hands-on" practical educational training experience in NOAA-related science, research, and technology, policy, management, and education activities. Awards also include travel funds to attend a mandatory NOAA Scholarship Program orientation and conference where students present a paper or poster.

Ileana has been president of the University of South Florida’s Chapter of Engineers Without Borders since May 2011. Over the past year she has also performed undergraduate research in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering where she is investigating the performance of point-of-use ceramic water filters designed to improve the quality of drinking water in developing communities. Ileana will continue similar research on household water filters this summer through a National Science Foundation grant that supports a Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Michael is on the Dean’s List for the College of Engineering and a recipient of the University of South Florida’s Director’s Award and the Florida Academic Scholars Award. He is Vice President of the University of South Florida’s USF Chapter of Engineers without Borders and involved with the Student Environmental Association, Circle K International and the Surf Club.

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The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities. The Carnegie Foundation also classifies USF as a community engaged university. It is ranked 44th in total research expenditures and 34th in federal research expenditures for public universities by the National Science Foundation. The USF System has an annual budget of $1.5 billion, an annual economic impact of $3.7 billion, and serves 47,000 students in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland.