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March 2009

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LOCAL SCUBANAUTS PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS  
A CHANCE TO LOVE SCIENCE

TAMPA – March 6, 2009 – A once in a lifetime program gives students an opportunity to experience science in the sea, on land and in space.

Middle and high school students involved in the SCUBAnauts program were able to watch the space shuttle Endeavor take off. Among the precious cargo of the shuttle, was a banner the students had taken to the bottom of the ocean and to the top of Mauna Kea ((mah-na-K-uh)). This local program was sponsored by University of South Florida's College of Marine Science, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. The program allowed the students to watch a live downlink as their banner was unfurled in space by NASA astronaut Dom Gorie.

U-S-F grad student Jennifer Dupont briefly explained the goal of such a 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.

