



**UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA**
College of MARINE SCIENCE

August 26th, 2020

Laura C. Azevedo
6431 Kenava Loop
Palmetto, FL, 34221

Dear Ms. LaDonna Umberger,

I am very honored to be one of the recipients of the selective Tampa Bay Parrot Head Fellowship in Marine Science. Thanks to your generous support I am the first in my family to pursue a PhD.

Growing up and living in Brazil has not only offered financial and academic challenges but has also helped me realize the value of a good college education.

This is my second year at USF's College of Marine Science, and I believe that my research is off to a superb start with Dr. Mark Luther. My research is focused on rogue waves and the first part of it will focus on wave data analysis in Tampa Bay, checking if these unexpected massive waves happen in our area, and understanding how we can be prepared for them. I am very passionate about large waves and the randomness and strength of the ocean, so your credo: "Let's Leave the World A Little Better Than We Found It, And Have A Blast Doing It!" couldn't apply better to me. I also help Dr. Luther on the maintenance of the Tampa Bay Port met-oceanographic stations, which provide essential real-time data to the local maritime industry.

USF offers one of the finest programs in oceanography the country and I consider myself so fortunate to be able to pursue my PhD. here, all due to your gift.

Working as an oceanographer for so many years, I look forward to advancing oceanographic research on climate change and nearshore extreme events, helping people and businesses to better understand, be prepared, and use the ocean. I hope to be able to serve in a governmental or academic position sometime in the future, where I might have even more of an ability to help less informed and knowledgeable groups. My educational pursuits would not be possible without generous support from the Tampa Bay Parrot Heads In Paradise Club. Thank you so much for enabling this opportunity!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Carvalho Britto C. Azevedo".

Laura Carvalho Britto C. Azevedo

A Preeminent Research University