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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USF Woman Sailor Scores School First by Finishing Fourth in Championships

USF student Genoa Griffin placed fourth out of 16 at the Intercollegiate Women's Singlehanded Sailing North Americans this past weekend. It is the first time that USF has ever finished in the top five at a North American Championship.

Griffin beat 20 other women at the South Atlantic Women's Singlehandeds last month to earn the right to compete at North Americans. She was the only woman from the South Atlantic region to qualify for this event. The top finishers from each region in the country qualify to attend North Americans.

Conditions at the regatta were windy with gusts to 20 mph all three days of competition, according to sailing team coach Stephanie Doyle. Sixteen races were sailed on Galveston Bay.

Griffin started out Friday with a deep 11th place finish but got top five finishes the remainder of the day to end the day in fifth place.

Saturday, Griffin was on fire as she grinded two first place finishes out in races 7 and 8 and got a second in race 9.

For the last three races run on Sunday, Doyle described the wind as "pretty shifty" because the course was closer to land.

"Genoa was a little more timid on the start, which caused her to have some difficulties getting to the favored side of the course," Doyle said. "Downwind she played it conservative not wanting to capsize and let some boats sail over top of her, which cost her some points. She still had a terrific day ending the last race in the top five to finish the regatta fourth overall."
ICSA Women's Singlehandeds is considered one of the "big three" championships in Women's College Sailing. The other two major women's champs are Women's Spring Dinghy Champs and Women's Atlantic Coast Champs. Griffin's fourth place finish has boosted USF Women's Sailing Team to an eighth place national ranking according to the latest Sailing World Magazine poll.

FINAL REGATTA RESULTS
ICSA Women's Singlehanded North Americans
Rice University, Houston Texas November 8-10
1. Anna Tunicliffe- Old Dominion
2. Molly Carrapiet- Yale
3. Lindsay Buchan- UCSB
4. GENOA GRIFFIN- USF
5. Corrie Clement- Old Dominion
6. Amanda Clark- Conn. College (last year's winner)
7. Clemmie Everett- Harvard
8. Jamie Smith- St. Mary's
9. Genny Tulloch-Harvard
10. Katie Clausen- USC
11. Catie Yeager- Auburn
12. Emily Dupunt- Navy
13. Katie Paciotti- U. Washington
15. Jamie Kraus- Marquette
16. Anne Porter- Wisconsin

For more information, contact Stephanie Doyle at (727) 553-1597.