

ANNA SOLTYS

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12830 Tournament Drive
Reston, VA, 20191

EDUCATION

University of South Florida, B.S., Marine Biology
Judy Genshaft Honors College Student
Minor in Environmental Science and Policy, GPA: 3.93

Graduation May 2026

SKILLS

Field Skills: Shark tagging + handling, scientific diving, underwater surveying and equipment installation, net deployment

Software: R (data analysis), ArcGIS (mapping), Esri, Github, Bioinformatic analysis,

Wet Lab: Aseptic techniques, dissection, transmission electron microscopy, PCR, Pipetting

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Whale Shark Undergraduate Research

August 2025 – May 2026

University of South Florida,

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lucas Griffin

- Analyzing whale shark tourism data using R
- Working with Biologger/telemetry data
- Participating in graduate lab meetings

Seagrass Habitat and Invertebrate Transitions

August 2025 – May 2026

University of South Florida, St. Petersburg Campus

Faculty Advisor: Kennedy Quillen

- Assisting in sea grass biodiversity surveys
- Assisting in identifying and creating ID guide for field sites
- Assisting in building of cages

NOAA Hollings Scholar Research Internship

May 2025- August 2025

Greater Farallones Association & Cordel Bank

National Marine Sanctuary

Principal Investigator: Gina Contolini

- Studied the health of sea urchins as an indicator of successful bull kelp restoration
- Participated in maintenance of growing kelp and out planting at dive sites
- Performed dissections and gut analysis on over 300 urchins
- Conducted density surveys underwater and in the intertidal
- Analyzed all collected data using R

- Presented research at Symposium at NOAA headquarters in July 2025
- Conducted literature reviews

Honors College Capstone

January 2025-May 2025

University of South Florida

Faculty Advisor: Tina Piracci

- Designing and printing 3D clay oyster walls for oyster restoration
- Participated in community outreach events
- Wrote grant proposal and was awarded grant
- Created project proposal that was presented to Head of Honors for approval
- Filled tubes with clay and ran heavy machinery in the printing process
- Ran workshop teaching other students how to 3D clay print
- Presented work at USF Undergraduate Research

SEA-PHAGES & SEA-GENES Labs

August 2022 – May 2024

University of South Florida

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Richard Pollenz

- Discovered and characterized novel bacteriophages
- Annotated bacteriophage genome
- Presented at USF Undergraduate Research Conference in 2023 and 2024
- Researched the toxicity of genes in a specific phage
- Full annotated phage published – co-author

PUBLICATIONS

Authorship note: All student authors contributed equally and are listed in alphabetic order except the first author was the student who found the phage that was annotated.

McGarrah, C. E. E., Algarin-Martinez, E.D., Cavasini, M.E.D., Correa, V., Danielson, D.F., Dean, W.R., French, J.L., Gaskin, N. N., Janvier, J., Macumber, B. M., Martini, F. K., Mazzei, S. G., Mujica, J. M., Odegaard, O., Quarterman, C., Rand, T. M., Seidensticker, N. S., **Soltys, A.**, Serrano, T., Ungrey, M. D., Pollenz, R. S. Isolation and Annotation of Azira, a CT Cluster Phage That Infects *Gordonia rubripertincta*. 2023. *Microbiology Resource Announcement*. Vol 12, No. 7. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1128/mra.00347>

COURSES

- Genetics
- Cell Bio
- Fish Bio
- Fisheries Ecology
- GIS

CERTIFICATIONS

- Open Water Diver Certified (SSI)
- Nitrox Certified (SSI)
- CPR certified (DAN)

- Scientific Diver (AAUS)
- Advanced Open Water (PADI)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Youth Conservation Leadership Institute - 2022

Certified Stream Monitor – 2020-2022

Biology 1: Teaching Assistant, with Dr. Pollenz – August 2023 – December 2023

Scubanauts: teaching children about scientific diving – August 2025 – May 2026

HONORS AND AWARDS

Green and Gold Presidential Award, Univ of South Florida	August 2021-May 2026
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Future Conservation Leader Scholarship, Northern Virginia Soil Water Conservation District	2022
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Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	2024
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