



NEWS RELEASE

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SHEDD AQUARIUM EXPERT TO EXPLORE THE BLACK SEA

DeDee Ludwig chosen as an Educator-at-Sea with Ocean Exploration Trust this summer

OLD LYME, Conn. –Student Programs Coordinator of Chicago’s Shedd Aquarium, DeDee Ludwig, has been chosen to be an Educator-at-Sea this summer with the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET). Ludwig will be joined by President of OET, Dr. Robert Ballard and 20 other educators to support a network of outreach and education programs as they explore the Black and Mediterranean Seas beginning Aug. 9.

Ludwig was chosen among 45 applicants to board Ballard’s ship the *E/V Nautilus* with teams of scientists, teachers and engineers from all over the world. Together, they will explore the biology, geology and archaeology of this region and live-stream these explorations 24/7 via www.nautiluslive.org.

The educators are on board to help provide the most exciting content from the ship to shore via the shipboard satellite telecommunications “telepresence” technology that will allow 24/7 live access to the ship. “The ability to work with scientists as they use remotely operated vehicles will allow us to take our underwater robotics programs at Shedd to a new level,” Ludwig said.

There are two educators on each of the eight legs of the trip. One educator will translate the science happening on board *Nautilus* focusing on the scientific process on discovery while the other will highlight science technology and mathematics (STEM) vocations involved in ocean exploration. “I will be focusing on working with the scientists as they study the impact that methods of fishing have on the preservation of archaeological sites,” said Ludwig.

Ludwig will also be charged with connecting with world-wide audiences through blog postings, photographs, interactive question and answer sessions and periodic updates through Facebook and Twitter. “These dedicated and talented Educators will allow us to show kids that going to sea and exploring the oceans is fun and challenging. With these Educators as their guides, we hope kids can see themselves someday being a part of the action,” said Ballard.

Upon return to the states, Ludwig and the other educators will provide live answers to audiences at the Nautilus Live Theater, located at Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Conn. Additionally, the educators will communicate live with schools and Boys and Girls Clubs where students are involved in The JASON Project and Immersion Learning.

To learn more about Shedd Aquarium’s robotics and other education programs visit Shedd’s website at www.sheddaquarium.org/education

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*Shedd Aquarium is supported by the people of Chicago and the State of Illinois.
Shedd Aquarium is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums.*