Shatsky Expedition HBCU Educator at Sea Program

Event Description

The University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), the Ocean Leadership Consorium (OLC) and International Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) announce a unique opportunity for researchers and students to participate in real-time, deep ocean geological exploration and analysis through deep earth core sampling and analysis. This fall, between September 4th and November 4th, the University of the Virgin Islands’ Dr. Nasseer Idrisi will be the OLC’s “Educator at Sea” for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Dr. Idrisi will conduct classes on IODP research via interactive videoconferencing, from the ocean drilling ship the JOIDES Resolution. The project, entitled “Shatsky Rise,” is organized by the IODP and sponsored by the OLC, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that promotes advanced research, education and sound ocean policy. Consortium members include the United States, Japan, China, South Korea and the European Union.

About Dr. Idrisi

Dr. Nasseer Idrisi, UVI research biological oceanographer and professor in the Marine and Environmental Science master’s degree program, was selected to fill the Historically Black Colleges and Universities’ “Educator at Sea” post for an international research project. A veteran of other shorter, research cruises in the Caribbean, Florida Bay and the Bahamas.

Who will benefit from this event?

Senior high school, and college-level students with an interest in ocean exploration, ocean processes or the geological history of our planet, will find these video conferences extremely instructive and inspirational.

What are the typical activities of the research and the broadcasts?

Dr. Idrisi will be communicating his research classes via live videoconferencing from the ship. Activities will also include:

- Live demonstrations of coring and core analysis
- Weekly challenge questions for students.
- A Shatsky expedition page for joidesresolution.org
- Creation of a virtual science party for Shatsky
- Blogs – approximately every other day, from Dr. Idrisi, and blogs from others on the expedition
- Facebook, Twitter and Flickr
- Crew profiles
- Tales of the Resolution Shatsky edition
Why is this event unique?
This opportunity to participate in Dr. Idrisi’s research is unique because participants will be able to experience what goes on in the middle of the ocean from their classrooms in real time. Not everyone can have the opportunity to explore inner space, but this presents as real an experience as possible without actually being in the Sea of Japan oneself! Instead of simply watching a “Discovery Channel-type” program, or a news broadcast, participants will have the opportunity to chat with the scientists, and ask them questions about their work.

Nature of the Research
The project will study an ocean plateau - a large area of raised ocean bottom-known as the Shatsky Rise, about 900 miles east of Japan, according to the release. The ship's main research technique will be to drill into the rise and take core samples that the project's 24 scientists will examine for clues of the history, sources and evolution of the rise.

Who can participate?
- UVI classes; Science 100; 1st year graduate class
- USVI high schools.
- Troop 156 Boy Scouts
- Other HBCUs
- Other minority serving institutions, UPRN,

How can I be a part of this unique experience?

A. USVI High Schools
The Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI-EPSCoR) will cover the cost of bus transportation from your school, to the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) on one Wednesday while the videoconferencing sessions are scheduled. Current available dates are: Sept 23rd, Sept 30th, Oct 7th, Oct 14th, Oct 21st, and Oct 28th. Your teacher-in-charge or principal should identify the date your school group would like to participate, and contact Mr. Nick Drayton, VI-EPSCoR Program Coordinator, to make the necessary arrangements. We recommend that you have an alternate date planned, in the event that your first choice is not available. Scheduling will be based on the number of seats that are available in the videoconferencing room, on a first come, first served basis.
Mr. Drayton can be contacted at: ndrayto@uvi.edu or at 340-693-1239.

B. Non-USVI academic institutions

The first step is to determine if your academic institution has the right connectivity access. Please refer to the document (“Videoconferencing Technology Requirements”) to determine if your institution has the hardware and software needed to participate, or if you will be able to download the software and test it in time for your videoconferencing session.

Schedule of Videoconferencing Sessions

The research vessel’s technology can only accommodate videoconferencing to one land base at a time. Interested institutions may select any Wednesday between Sept 9th 2009, and October 28th 2009, at 10:00 a.m. E.T. for their session. The videoconferencing will last approximately 45 minutes. Confirmation of a videoconferencing session for your institution will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Available dates are: Sept 9th, Sept 16th, Sept 23rd, Sept 30th, Oct 7th, Oct 14th, Oct 21st, and Oct 28th.

For More Information

For additional information, go to:

http://epscor.uvi.edu/
http://www.iodp-usio.org/
http://joidesresolution.org/
http://www.oceanleadership.org/

For videoconferencing reservations please contact Dr. Nasseer Idrisi or Mr. Nicolas Drayton via e-mail, at nidrisi@uvi.edu or ndrayto@uvi.edu.