

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

Stefanie Santo, ssanto@fi.edu | 215.448.1152Noah Lattanzi, nlattanzi@fi.edu | 215.448.1388

FRANKLIN INSTITUTE SCIENCE EDUCATOR SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN DEEP SEA RESEARCH ABOARD FAMED EXPLORER DR. ROBERT BALLARD'S EXPLORATION VESSEL *NAUTILUS*

As a Science Communication Fellow aboard the vessel, Leszczynski will bring deep sea ocean science to the public in real time, continuing the mission of The Franklin Institute.

Philadelphia, PA September 12, 2018—The Franklin Institute will participate in a two-week initiative exploring deep-sea biology, geology, and maritime history as Institute educator, Alix Leszczynski, boards the Ocean Exploration Trust Research Vessel *Nautilus* for its 2018 deep-sea research expedition. Alix was selected to join the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET), a non-profit founded by renowned oceanographer Dr. Robert Ballard, and a corps of engineers and scientific researchers aboard the *Nautilus* for one month as the vessel conducts sub-marine research near Hawaii in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

As a 2018 Science Communication Fellow, Alix will work to engage the public with different facets of the *Nautilus* exploration and research, as well as daily life aboard a research vessel. Alix will produce frequent dispatches from the vessel along with interactive ship-to-shore live streams broadcast at The Franklin Institute (dates listed below), on the web at www.nautiluslive.org, and individually to select schools and institutions. Schools and area educators, as well as media outlets, are invited to connect with The Franklin Institute to schedule their own live Q&A sessions with Alix during her expedition.

The Franklin Institute will host a series of three [blogs](#) written by Alix before and during the expedition at www.fi.edu, plus live visitor Q&A sessions with her while on board *Nautilus* at the below dates/times:

- Sunday, September 16 at 2:00pm
- Wednesday, September 19 at 2:00pm
- Thursday, September 20 at 12:00pm
- Saturday, September 22 at 2:00pm
- Sunday, September 23 at 2:00pm
- Tuesday, September 25 at 12:00pm
- Thursday, September 27 at 12:00pm
- Saturday, September 29 at 2:00pm & 3:00pm
- Sunday, September 30 at 2:00pm

The goal of the expedition will involve mapping, and subsequent remote operated underwater vehicle (ROV) dives on enigmatic seamounts located in a poorly explored area of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM). The objectives are to determine how and when these seamounts formed and to document the biological communities that presently live on them. The PMNM is the largest contiguous marine protected area in the United States.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

An equally important aspect of the program is for Fellows to bring the expedition and excitement of ocean exploration back to their home communities after they have returned from sea by incorporating their experience into classroom lesson plans, community presentation events, and through informal educational opportunities, as well as engaging in talks and demonstrations upon their return.

“One of the major goals of our Nautilus Exploration Program is to inspire the next generation of explorers in STEAM fields,” says Allison Fundis, OET’s Vice President of Marine Operations and Programs. “We are very excited to provide educators and students with the direct experience of ocean exploration while allowing them the opportunity to share that experience with their peers around the world.”

- For more information, visit www.fi.edu and follow The Franklin Institute on Twitter @TheFranklin and Instagram @FranklinInstitute, hashtag #franklininstitute.
- Follow Alix on Twitter and Instagram @snailix_phl.
- Follow the E/V Nautilus on Twitter and Instagram: Twitter - @EVNautilus / Instagram - @nautiluslive

The Franklin Institute

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania’s most visited museum, it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education.

The Ocean Exploration Trust

The Ocean Exploration Trust was founded in 2008 by Dr. Robert Ballard to explore the ocean, seeking out new discoveries in the fields of geology, biology, maritime history, and archaeology while pushing the boundaries of STEAM education and technological innovation. Our international program is launched from aboard the Exploration Vessel (E/V) Nautilus, offering live exploration to participants onshore and the public via live video, audio, and data feeds. The major 2018 expedition and education sponsors are the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, the Office of Naval Research, Ocean Networks Canada, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, NASA Science Mission Directorate PSTAR program, the University of Rhode Island, CITGO, AltaSea, KVH, Global Dynamix, ESS, and additional private donors. Follow us online at www.nautiluslive.org, on Facebook and Instagram at @NautilusLive, and on Twitter and YouTube as @EVNautilus.

###