



BRUCE MUSEUM
of Arts and Science
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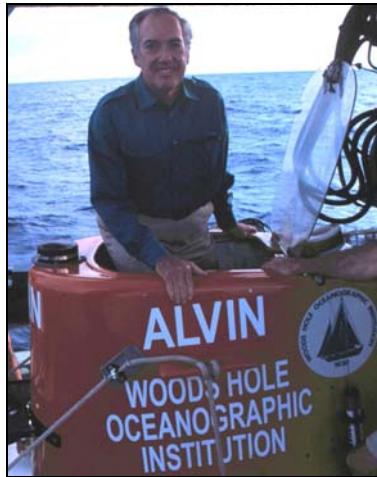
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Deep Ocean Pioneer and IMAX Film Director kicks off Life in Extreme Environments Lecture Series

Sunday, November 6, 2005, at 3 p.m.

**Bruce Museum of Arts and Science
1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT**



Professor Peter A. Rona

The Bruce Museum of Arts and Science in Greenwich kicks off the first of a three-part series of science lectures exploring *Life in Extreme Environments*. On Sunday, November 6, 2005, at 3 p.m., Professor Peter A. Rona discusses “Volcanoes of the Deep Sea: The Science Behind the IMAX Films.” A screening of the film *Volcanoes of the Deep Sea* follows the lecture. Admission is free to Museum members and students with identification. The cost to non-members is \$5 at the door. Reservations for the lectures are strongly recommended and accepted beginning October 31. Call the Museum at (203) 869-6786, ext. 420.

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Volcanoes of the Deep Sea and a subsequent IMAX film, *Aliens of the Deep*, use Hollywood technology and cutting edge science to illuminate the discoveries in the deep ocean that are changing our understanding of the origin of life and the workings of our planet. Prof. Rona, Associate Science Director for the *Volcanoes* film and a pioneer in exploration of the deep ocean floor, will present the science behind the film including his own search for answers to the mystery of *Paleodictyon*, a honeycomb-like pattern in seafloor sediments made by one of the oldest living fossils. American and Russian deep-diving research submarines, outfitted with specially designed lighting arrays and high-resolution cameras, were used to film the most spectacular vent sites known in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Prof. Rona provides an exciting first-hand account of exploration, discovery, and scientific revelation. Following his presentation, *Volcanoes of the Deep Sea* will be shown.

Prof. Rona is internationally recognized as a pioneering leader in scientific exploration of the deep sea floor. He led the exploration and discovery of the first black smoker hot springs in the Atlantic Ocean with their polymetallic mineral deposits and ecosystem of life forms new to science. He continues to make expeditions to the world's oceans and to dive with all of the deep research submarines, which he considers safer than driving to work. As Professor of Marine Geology and Geophysics at Rutgers University and former Senior Research Geophysicist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), he publishes prolifically in scientific journals and the popular media. He is consultant to the United Nations on seafloor resources and is active in the development and leadership of public science centers. He has received numerous awards including the Shepard Medal for excellence in marine geology, the US Department of Commerce Gold Medal for exceptional scientific contributions to the nation, and the Petterson Bronze Medal of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The *Life in Extreme Environments* lecture series continues on Sunday, January 22, 2006, when Prof. Kenneth B. Storey presents "Life Below Zero: Frozen Animals in Winter," held in conjunction with the Bruce Museum's upcoming exhibition ***Animals in Winter: Survival at Zero Degrees***. Prof. Storey will discuss his research into cold-blooded animals' solutions to enduring freezing temperatures and comment on its application in the development of medical technology. The series concludes on Sunday, April 30, 2006, with Dr. Nathalie A. Cabrol's "Exploring the Limits of Life in the Highest Lakes on Earth," a talk about the survival of microbial life in some of the highest lakes in the world. Dr. Cabrol is a planetary geologist at NASA Ames Research Center and the SETI Institute and an expert on the evolution of water on Mars.

Admission to each Science lecture is free to Museum members and students with identification. The cost to non-members is \$5 at the door. The Bruce Museum Science Lecture Series is generously supported by the Marjorie Sims Lawrence Memorial Fund.

The Bruce Museum of Arts and Science is located at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut. It is situated near Interstate-95, Exit 3, and a short walk from the Greenwich, CT rail station. Museum hours are: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission: \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students, and free for children under five and members. Free admission to all on Tuesdays. Groups of eight or more require advance reservations. Museum exhibition tours are held Fridays at 12:30 p.m. Free, on-site parking is available. The Bruce Museum is accessible to individuals with disabilities. For information, call the Bruce Museum at (203) 869-0376 or visit the Bruce Museum of Arts and Science website at www.brucemuseum.org

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