Announcement:
Applications for the Student/Early Career Scientist DeSSC program now being accepted – Deadline: October 1, 2011
(Financial support for travel is available.)

Background: The National Deep Submergence Facility (or NDSF) manages and operates the U.S. submersible *Alvin*, the remotely operated vehicle *Jason/Medea*, and the autonomous underwater vehicle *Sentry*. These deep submergence vehicles are renowned for advancing deep-sea research, e.g. the discovery of hydrothermal vents and biogeochemical processes associated with these habitats. The NDSF and its vehicles also contribute to interdisciplinary oceanography, from studying the relationship between nearshore and deeper water processes (such as the impact of nearshore primary productivity on deep sea communities) to assessing the impact of anthropogenic activities (such as mapping the fate of oil released after the *Deepwater Horizon* accident).

Opportunity: The Deep Submergence Science Committee (DeSSC) is a standing committee of scientists who provide advice and support to the NDSF. DeSSC convenes every six months, and the DeSSC fall meeting is an open forum for marine scientists to learn about scientific discoveries and technical advances, as well as to express their opinions about NDSF activities.

DeSSC is committed to increasing the involvement of students and postdoctoral/early career scientists in DeSSC. To that end, we wish to encourage more involvement of students and postdoctoral and early career scientists at DeSSC fall meetings. To facilitate this objective, a new program has been created to: 1) expose students and early career scientists to DeSSC and the NDSF, 2) engage these participants in DeSSC advisory activities, 3) offer participants training and mentoring in the process of developing financial support for use of NDSF vehicles, and 4) enable participants to network with scientists actively involved in NDSF-supported research. These goals will be achieved by directly involving participants in the DeSSC fall meeting, and through post-meeting mentoring workshops in which scientists provide instruction on grant-writing, expedition planning and vehicle usage.

The DeSSC fall meeting will occur on Sunday, December 4th (the day before the start of the 2011 AGU Fall meeting) in San Francisco, CA. Students and early career scientists can apply for financial support to offset the cost of travel and lodging for the DeSSC meeting. Participants must attend the entire DeSSC meeting (starting at 8:30 am) and evening seminars on Sunday, Dec 4th.

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(Financial support for travel is available.)

Application: Please provide a one-page statement of interest, which includes the following:

- Your name, affiliation, position, email address, and telephone number
- A description of your research interests
- A discussion of why you would like to participate in this workshop
- Your level of education/work experience (e.g., graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, or early career)
- Experience you have had with NDSF vehicles or NDSF-supported research (if any).
- Do you plan to attend the 2011 Fall AGU meeting that begins on December 5th?
- Whether you require financial support to participate in this program. As funds are limited, please be considerate and ask for only the support you need, if any. Since many applicants may already have plans to attend the Fall AGU meeting, the financial support is intended to cover additional travel expenses that you would incur in order to arrive a day early to attend the DeSSC meeting.

  Financial support is limited to:

  - One night of lodging; however, if you do not plan to attend the AGU fall meeting an additional night of lodging will be considered.
  - Support to offset the costs of transportation to the DeSSC meeting. This includes the costs of airfare change-fees if a ticket has already been purchased to attend AGU.
  - Miscellaneous travel expenses such as parking.
  - Meal expenses (Note: a casual dinner will be provided at no cost to meeting participants on Sunday evening to coincide with the seminars.)

  Please indicate the amount of financial support requested along with a brief description.

Any questions regarding this opportunity and the application process can be directed to Annette DeSilva at (office@unols.org) or by telephone at (401) 874-6827.

Please send your statement of interest as an attachment to Annette DeSilva at (office@unols.org).

Applications are due on October 1, 2011. Awards will be announced by October 15th.