Stockton Professor to Serve as Shore-Based Scientist During NOAA's Marianas Trench Deep Sea Expedition

NOAA to Livestream Footage from Remotely Operated Vehicle with Scientific Commentary by Tara Luke and Others June 17 July 10

For Immediate Release; Photos on Flickr

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Contact: **Susan Allen**
News and Media Relations
Galloway, NJ 08205
Susan.Allen@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4790
www.stockton.edu/media

Galloway, NJ From behind her computer screen, Tara Luke, associate professor of Biology, will dive deep into the dark, frigid waters of the western Pacific Ocean to help identify marine life, possibly some new species. Luke is a shore-based scientist for the National Oceanic and

Marianas Trench, from the research vessel Okeanos Explorer.

Luke is part of a team of scientists contributing live commentary on the expedition while viewing for 8-10 hours from **Friday, June 17 to Sunday, July 10**, beginning at 5 p.m. ET. An online livestream will be available worldwide at http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov for anyone to explore the deep sea along with the scientists.

June 17 marks the start of the expedi
to map areas of the trench to identify geographic features of interest such as basins, craters and seamounts (underwater mountains) that may attract colonies of sea life. Luke was an on-shore scie

Chemosynthetic organisms that use chemicals instead of sunlight to create their food inhabit regions with hydrothermal vents.

Previously, Luke participated as a shore-based scientist for a NOAA expedition off the Atlantic Ocean in 2014 that looked at submarine canyons along the New England seamount chain. As a post-doctoral researcher, she dove
manned deep-ocean research submersible that has been operated by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for more than half a century.

-more-

technology she is able to continue exploring these places from Stockton University.

Locally, Luke studies artificial reeciE6(r)ty,seseUoseU,sektud o3e ee)14((al)cor(ci45(y61(,se)(o)18(seUsseci)5s