



presents

Dr. Breaa Govenar

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

Diving Deep into Life at Hydrothermal Vents on Mid-Ocean Ridges

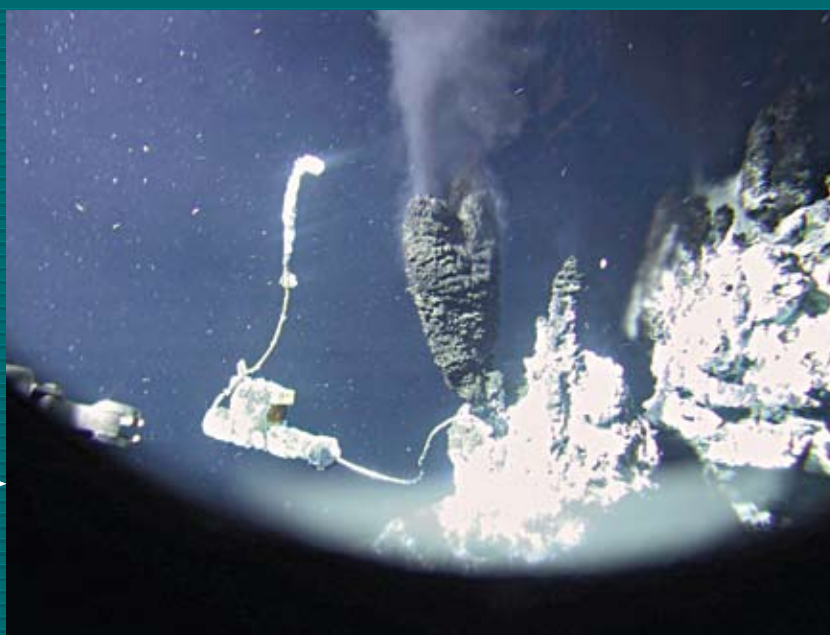
Monday, March 23, 2009 / 4:15 p.m.

Frazier-Jelke Auditorium B

Free and open to the public

Dr. Govenar's research has focused on the ecology of benthic invertebrate communities at hydrothermal vents. She has participated in 11 oceanographic research cruises and made 17 submersible dives to hydrothermal vents and hydrocarbon seeps.

A black smoker chimney (seen through the submersible porthole) where superhot (>300°C) metal-rich seawater is ejected from the seafloor, sustaining a diverse ecosystem of life totally independent of sunlight.



Giant clams rooted over cracks in the pillow basalts littering the ocean floor, feeding on the warm waters emanating from the subsurface.



A close-up view a deep-sea ecosystem, including the well-known Riftia species (with the bright red plumes), other tubeworm species, crabs, fish (light pink in the upper left corner) and many other species.

