FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Famous Underwater Explorer to Present Premier Voyages Lecture at ECU

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Sept. 10, 2014) — East Carolina University soon will welcome to campus Jean-Michel Cousteau, renowned underwater explorer, environmentalist, educator and film producer, who will deliver the Premier Lecture of the 2014-15 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

Cousteau will discuss “The Great Ocean Adventure,” at 7 p.m., Oct. 1, in ECU’s Wright Auditorium, followed by a question and answer session.

For more than four decades, Cousteau has dedicated himself and his vast experience to communicate to people of all nations and generations his love and concern for our water planet.

According to his biography, Cousteau has been exploring the ocean realm since first being “thrown overboard” by his father at the age of seven, with newly invented SCUBA gear on his back. The son of ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, Jean-Michel has investigated the world’s oceans aboard Calypso and Alcyone for much of his life.

Honoring his heritage and to carry on this pioneering work, Cousteau founded Ocean Futures Society in 1999. Ocean Futures Society, a non-profit marine conservation and education organization, serves as a “Voice for the Ocean,” by communicating in all media the critical bond between people and the sea and the importance of wise environmental policy. As Ocean Futures’ spokesman, Cousteau serves as a diplomat for the environment, reaching out to the public through a variety of media.

He has produced more than 80 films, received the Emmy, the Peabody Award, the Sept d'Or and the Cable Ace Award. In 1989, Cousteau became a syndicated columnist for the Los Angeles Times, where his articles appeared in more than 60 newspapers worldwide.

In 2006, Cousteau’s initiative to protect the Northwest Hawaiian Islands took him to The White House, where he screened his PBS-KQED documentary, Voyage to Kure, for President George W. Bush. In June 2006, the President declared the 1,200-mile chain of islands a Marine National Monument--at the time the largest marine protected area in the world.

“Jean-Michel Cousteau’s work exploring and recording new worlds undersea parallels, in modern times, that of Thomas Harriot, namesake of the College of Arts and Sciences,” said Dr. John Tucker, director of the lecture series.
“Cousteau's upcoming presentation, which will include some of his unique film clips, advances the spirit of exploration and discovery that Harriot College's lecture series seeks to promote.”

Cosponsors of Cousteau’s lecture include the ECU Chancellor’s Office, Office of the Provost, Division of Research and Graduate Studies, Division of Student Affairs and Division of Health Sciences.

One complimentary ticket to the lecture is available to ECU students with a valid ECU ID. Tickets are $10 for all other attendees and are available by calling the ECU Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS. Individuals requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the events.

The Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series is made possible through contributions from Harriot College’s Dean’s Advancement Council, various university organizations, and many friends and supporters. To make a contribution to the series, contact Major Gifts Officer Jennifer Tripp at 252-737-4201, or via email at trippj@ecu.edu. For additional information about the Voyages series and its speakers, visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.

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