



# The Top Five Deep-Ocean Discoveries in Recent Decades

with Dr. Cindy Lee Van Dover  
Duke University Marine Laboratory

PLANET OCEAN  
Seminar  
Series

Tuesday, May 15, 2007 • 6:30 p.m.

UNCW  
CENTER FOR MARINE SCIENCE

# The Top Five Deep-Ocean Discoveries in Recent Decades

with Dr. Cindy Lee Van Dover

Director, Marine Laboratory of the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences  
Duke University

*"It is said that the sea floor is a desert, a vast and uniform wasteland, all but devoid of life. Textbooks on the shelf in my laboratory say so. But I know that is not true."*

These words from her book, *Deep-Ocean Journeys, Discovering New Life at the Bottom of the Sea*, merely hint at the abundance and variety of life Dr. Cindy Van Dover has observed during her many excursions into the depths of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Van Dover is a deep-sea biologist who has been exploring the seafloor since 1982. She was the first female pilot of *Alvin*, a submersible used for research conducted at depths of 14,000 feet and more. During an exploration of volcanic vents



along the floor of the Indian Ocean in 2001, Dr. Van Dover and her team discovered an unusual new mollusk. Nicknamed "scaly-foot," this sea snail has a protective covering of scales rather than the more usual shell. According to Van Dover, such discoveries are not unusual on deep-sea expeditions. With their hot rocks, warm water, and rich chemical compounds, deep sea vents provide unique ecosystems for a profusion of

different life forms.

Van Dover's current research focuses on the biodiversity and biogeography of marine animals that live and thrive in the extreme environment of volcanic vents on the seafloor. She authored the first textbook on hydrothermal vents and has published more than 80 scholarly articles. Dr. Van Dover was appointed director of Duke University's Marine Laboratory at Beaufort in August 2006 and also serves as chair of the Division of Coastal Systems Science and Policy. She pursued her undergraduate studies at Rutgers University and received her master's degree in ecology from UCLA, then completed her doctoral work at MIT's Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Her numerous awards include a Fulbright Scholarship, a distinguished alumna award and an outstanding teaching award.



Please join us for the final seminar in the 2006-07 Planet Ocean series:

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**May 15, 2007**

UNCW Center for Marine Science Auditorium  
Seminar 6:30 p.m. / Reception 7:30 p.m.



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