

FKCC Presents Shark Expo2

Featuring Live Sharks, Fabien Cousteau, Beautiful Art, and More!



FKCC Dean of Marine Science Dr. Patrick Rice instructs marine science students on placing bonnet head sharks into tonic immobility, a state of unconsciousness that facilitates data collection and scientific research.

KEY WEST, FL, January 17, 2012—The FKCC Foundation, a direct-support organization of Florida Keys Community College, invites the community to their second annual Shark Expo on Saturday, January 28. A celebration of marine science, art, and education, Shark Expo promotes shark conservation while raising funds for much-needed scholarships and support initiatives for the college's premiere marine science program. Headlining this year's event is Fabien Cousteau: renowned marine activist, star of PBS' acclaimed "Ocean Adventures," and grandson of the legendary *Calypso* captain Jacques Cousteau.

"Whether you love or fear sharks, it's important to respect them and understand the critical role they play in our delicate marine ecosystem, which is so vital to our community," said FKCC Dean of Marine Science and Technology and resident shark expert Dr. Patrick Rice. "Shark Expo provides the unique opportunity to have a lot of fun while learning about how to live harmoniously with sharks."

The main event, from 6:00p.m. to 10:00p.m. in the Tennessee Williams Theatre on the college's Key West Campus, will provide the public with the opportunity to explore the fascinating world of sharks. They will get to view live shark repellent demonstrations by Dr. Rice with a few of the college's bonnet head sharks. There will also be a wide range of live and silent auction items to

bid on, including Wyland and Guy Harvey artwork, travel packages, sports equipment, flying sharks, jewelry, and products provided by Land Shark Lager, the major sponsor of the event. VIP ticket-holders will enjoy a private party with Cousteau during the first hour with open bar, appetizers, and live music.

Three feature presentations by leading marine scientists and shark conservationists will be delivered throughout the evening. The non-profit organization Shark Savers will premiere their 11-minute documentary, "Now, More than Ever, Sharks Count," providing a historical perspective of shark population decline through underwater photojournalism. Shark Defense, a shark repellent research and development company, will present on the latest shark repellent technology, including SMART hooks, shark repelling bait for commercial fishing use, as well as magnetic barriers to reduce shark mortalities associated with nets used to protect beaches. Cousteau will close the evening with the keynote presentation, "The Great Ocean Adventure."

New this year, Shark Expo will also include a "Dive with Cousteau" in the morning. A maximum of 20 lucky ocean enthusiasts will enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime experience of exploring the artificial reef, the USS Vandenberg, alongside Cousteau. The two-tank dive will include equipment, lunch, and a one-in-twenty chance to win a weeklong SCUBA adventure aboard Blackbeard's Cruises in the Bahamas.

Both standard and "VIP Under-the-Sea" tickets can be purchased at Keystix.com, with a \$5 discount for advanced purchase. To sign up for the "Dive with Cousteau," contact FKCC Foundation Executive Director Patti Carey at 305-809-3299 or patti.carey@fkcc.edu. More information about Shark Expo 2, including a list of auction items, is available at www.fkcc.edu.

About FKCC's Marine Science Division:

Ideally situated to train for a career in, on, or under water, Florida Keys Community College is located within a National Marine Sanctuary and is just five miles from the only living barrier coral reef in North American. FKCC is one of only two community colleges in the nation inducted into the prestigious American Academy of Underwater Sciences. The college offers Associate in Science degrees in Marine Environmental Technology, Diving Business and Technology, and Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship. Additionally, the college offers shorter, more specialized certificate programs within these disciplines.

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