



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jacksonville University and OCEARCH announce partnership to promote scientific research and experiential learning

Jacksonville, Fla. (Feb. 9, 2017) – The launch of “OCEARCH at Jacksonville University” announced today puts the University and its namesake city on the world stage for student-centric marine science learning, while providing one of the global leaders in ocean species research a premier academic home with resources to expand for years to come.

The collaboration of JU and OCEARCH, an internationally recognized research effort dedicated to the study of keystone marine species like great white and tiger sharks, creates a natural fit between a renowned at-sea laboratory and a stellar marine science academic partner located at the nexus of an important great white shark habitat and migration area.

“I am very excited for this new chapter for OCEARCH,” said OCEARCH Founding Chairman and Expedition Leader Chris Fischer, who will take on the role of Explorer in Residence at JU. “The vision for OCEARCH was always to institutionalize it so it could live beyond any one individual. This is the first step to having OCEARCH serve scientists, students, communities, the ocean and the planet in perpetuity.”

OCEARCH at Jacksonville University will foster a wide range of new educational opportunities outside the classroom for Jacksonville University students. The research vessel M/V OCEARCH’s more than 200 sharks tagged and dozens of special research expeditions from South Africa to the Galapagos Islands to Australia over the past decade are unparalleled among researchers in the field.

“Jacksonville University has always offered students incredible opportunities to understand marine science, but with this new partnership, we are taking that opportunity to the next level,” said Dr. Quinton White, executive director of the Marine Science



Research Institute. “We have the ocean in our backyard, which is really going to help the success of OCEARCH at Jacksonville University.”

The one-of-a-kind learning opportunity will extend beyond just Marine Sciences students. With an emphasis on scientific inquiry, experiential learning, innovation and sustainability, OCEARCH at Jacksonville University will offer hands-on experience to JU students in other disciplines such as marketing, public policy, film, engineering, aviation, sustainability, communications, business and environmental sciences.

“We are very proud of this collaboration,” said Jacksonville University President Tim Cost. “Not only will this partnership give our students extraordinary opportunities, it will expand the strength of the Marine Sciences program, making it a robust platform for scientific research and advance our University’s mission to be nationally and internationally recognized for such unique programs and student success. We expect it will attract worldwide recognition to the Northeast Florida region as an academic and research hub.”

Under the new collaboration, the M/V OCEARCH will be home-ported in Jacksonville, and JU will bring on a preeminent shark scholar to its current marine sciences faculty. OCEARCH will also reap numerous benefits from the partnership, as OCEARCH at Jacksonville University will sustain one of the world’s leading gatherers of scientific data, allowing it to grow and flourish in its new institutional home. The partnership brings strength to OCEARCH’s structure as it continues to conduct new studies and collect additional information that will aid in the preservation of ocean life.

Located on the banks of the St. Johns River and a quick trip away from the Atlantic Ocean, JU is also home to the Marine Science Research Institute, which offers real-world research experience on the environment and sustainable practices to preserve the future.

For more information on OCEARCH at Jacksonville University, visit www.ju.edu/ocearch.

MEDIA ONLY: For a media kit at Dropbox with video clips, photos and logos, visit <http://bit.ly/2lhym4C>. Please credit Jacksonville University and OCEARCH for their respective materials.



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ABOUT JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY:

Jacksonville University works to prepare each of its more than 4,000 students for lifelong success in learning, achieving, leading and serving. Its 250-acre riverfront campus is just minutes from downtown Jacksonville and the Atlantic Ocean. The private university has been named one of “America’s Best Colleges” for 12 straight years, ranks in the top 13% of all U.S. colleges in average alumni salaries, and is in the top 1% among all Florida colleges for Return on Investment for its graduates. It offers small class sizes, inviting campus grounds and engaged faculty and staff in a setting that promotes community, ambition and responsibility. JU has more than 200 full-time faculty and offers more than 70 majors, programs and concentrations. Additionally, it offers graduate degrees in business, choreography, education leadership, health informatics, kinesiology, marine science, mathematics, mental health counseling, nursing, nursing informatics, organizational leadership, orthodontics, public policy, reading education, speech-language pathology, sport management and visual arts.

ABOUT OCEARCH:

OCEARCH is a recognized world leader in generating critical scientific data related to tracking (telemetry) and biological studies of keystone marine species such as great white and tiger sharks, in conjunction with conservation outreach and education at a measurable global scale. OCEARCH shares real-time migration data through OCEARCH’s



Global Shark Tracker. OCEARCH also inspires current and future generations of explorers, scientists, and stewards of the ocean through its STEM Learning Program. The free STEM



Curriculum, available for grades K-8 and created in partnership with Landry's, Inc. enables students to learn STEM skills while following the real-time data on the movements of their favorite sharks. In partnership with Costa Sunglasses and YETI, the researchers OCEARCH supports work aboard the M/V OCEARCH, a 126' Cat-powered vessel equipped with a 75,000 lb. hydraulic research platform, where the ship serves as both mothership and at-sea laboratory. Scientists have approximately 15 minutes of access to live, mature sharks to conduct up to 12 studies. The sharks are measured, tissue and blood samples are collected, and satellite and acoustic transmitters are attached. Over 145 researchers from 80 regional and international institutions have partnered with OCEARCH.