Undersea Voyager Project at Lake Tahoe

The Undersea Voyager Project (UVP) led by Scott Cassell will embark on a 6-week expedition in the waters of Lake Tahoe between April 27 and May 31. Join us on the evening of Thursday, April 23 to learn more about this underwater exploration.

Presentation on the Undersea Voyager Project at Lake Tahoe

Date:	Thursday, April 23, 2009
Time:	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Location:	Assembly Room, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences (on the campus of Sierra Nevada College)
Cost:	$5 donation requested. No-host bar.

Submarine Exploration in Lake Tahoe

Between 10,000 and 50,000 years ago an earthquake occurred along the bottom of Lake Tahoe. The energy released created a Tsunami of grand proportions (estimated to be 300 feet tall) that modified the landscape and sent huge boulders from the mountains to rest at the bottom of the lake.

The UVP will investigate this area using their submersible '*Great White*', a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and divers to gather clues from the lake bottom. The UVP team will work with Dr. Graham Kent from UCSD Scripps Institute of Oceanography to evaluate the science of the potential forces of a mega Tsunami, and with earthquake scientist Dr. John Rundell from UC Davis.

The UVP will also search for an invasive clam species that is overtaking parts of the bottom of the lake. This clam has already been shown to have large impacts on the flora and fauna of the lake. UVP and scientists from the Tahoe Environmental Research Center will explore methods of how to best visualize the clams and associated algal blooms.

Submarine Exploration in Fallen Leaf Lake

Fallen Leaf Lake near Lake Tahoe also contains an extraordinary secret. Ancient trees are still standing upright deep in the lake. Working with Dr. John Kleppe and with UC Davis, the UVP aquanauts will explore the trees carbon dated to have grown a thousand years ago and standing as high as 130 feet tall. These trees are thought to be extremely valuable evidence on what the climate was like thousands of years ago including long past weather patterns.

Communications from the Deep

The sub will use an umbilical with underwater video images of the submarine pilot/scientist/aquanaut along with communications to the support boat. In this way, the sub crew and local students from Lake Tahoe schools can interact. This Undersea Classroom is designed to stimulate the imagination of children towards Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as a rewarding way of life.

A documentary of the expedition will be produced for license broadcast and will include interviews with the associated scientists, the UVP Aquanauts and local leaders.

Undersea Voyager Project Circumnavigation of Earth

The Undersea Voyager Project is also planning a five year continuing mission designed to utilize Human Occupied submersibles to take a physical look at the first 100-1,000 feet of seawater (which is the largest and least explored environment on Earth). Undersea Explorer Scott Cassell and his team are working with scientists from around the world while circumnavigating the Earth (27,000 miles) underwater, searching for new life and the current condition of the seas.

About Scott Cassell, Underwater Explorer

Diving since 1977, Scott Cassell has accumulated over 13,000 hours of dive time. His experience ranges from mixed-gas commercial diver, explorer-film maker, and a USCG qualified Submersible Pilot.

Cassell was the first person in history to film the Giant Squid in it's natural environment, a 35 to 50 foot long weighing up to 1,800 lbs, as seen in the History Channel's '*Monster Quest – Giant Squid: Found*.'

Cassell holds the world record for Longest Distance Traveled by a Diver (52 miles in 9.5 hours non-stop saturation dive) He used a diver tow - glider he invented to cover more range for open-sea underwater filming. The world record was his way of "testing it" and used the event to raise money for a children's charity.

An Advanced Diving Medical Technician Instructor (1 of 10 in the USA), Commercial Diving Instructor, and Hyperbaric Medical Technician Instructor he taught for years at the College Of Oceaneering.

A U.S. Navy qualified Diving Supervisor and Dive Medical Technologist; he has worked in Maritime Counter Terrorism Operations for client companies where his secret operations often involved 'High Risk' world regions.

Cassell is also the presenter and cameraman and in 3 cases, co-producer for 14 documentaries airing on several channels including Discovery, Animal Planet, History Channel, BBC, Disney and MTV.

For more information about the Undersea Voyager Project, visit http://underseavoyager.org/.