

**Subject:** Educator at Sea Alejandra Martinez  
**Date:** Thursday, August 29, 2013 12:30:48 PM Central Daylight Time  
**From:** Alejandra Martinez  
**To:** Hilda Mauricio

Hi,

You asked me to give you a brief summary of the program I was involved with this summer because it would be mentioned during September's board meeting.

The Ocean Exploration Trust is run by Dr. Robert Ballard who is famous for having discovered the sunken ship The Titanic. For the past few years he has been exploring the Mediterranean Sea. This year his season of exploration will be focused on the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. I was one of 17 teachers chosen worldwide to participate in his expeditions. I spent ten days aboard his ship The Nautilus studying hydrothermal vents in the Mid Cayman Rise near The Cayman Islands.

As an educator at sea I had watches in the control room during dives with the Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs). ROVs are unmanned submarines equipped with cameras and equipment used to collect specimens from the ocean floor. We collected rocks and organisms while I was on board. The ROVs can dive up to 4,000 meters (12,000 feet). During my watch in the control room my job was to field questions coming in from online through their website [www.nautiluslive.org](http://www.nautiluslive.org) and I was also featured in live interactions for aquariums and museums around the world everyday through question and answer sessions.

I was able to participate in cutting edge research and learn about oceanography from scientists at the top of their field.

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