



Hidden Light: Exploring Oceans for Creatures That Glow

A PILOT PROGRAM FOR JOURNALISTS TO EXPLORE THE SCIENCES AND THEIR CRAFT

Wednesday, June 18 (6:30 pm) — free event

American Museum of Natural History

Weston Pavilion Entrance (79th Street and Columbus Avenue)

In today's fast-paced media world, it's difficult for journalists to find the time to explore new subjects.

Louise Lief, a longtime journalist now at the Wilson Center working on the project Science and the Media, and the American Museum of Natural History, one of the world's largest natural history museums, are collaborating on an educational initiative to introduce non-science journalists to new subject matter. It seeks to enable journalists from all parts of the newsroom to explore and enjoy the sciences while learning new craft skills. Another pilot project will take place with another scientific institution in Washington D.C.

This first pilot program "Hidden Light" will explore the magical realm of marine animals that glow, a world that has inspired the imagery of filmmakers like James Cameron, himself an avid ocean explorer. Journalists will learn about fish that are bioluminescent, generating light through chemical reactions, and biofluorescent, where marine creatures absorb, transform and eject different colored light.

American Museum of Natural History scientists, including curator John Sparks, will discuss new discoveries in this area, show their gear and demonstrate the cutting-edge technologies they have developed and are building to film hidden ocean life at night and under blue light conditions. This experiential workshop will feature an "obstacle course" where journalists will attempt to solve a variety of challenges scientists encounter in the deep ocean. Participants will also take a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum's fish collections. At a reception following the workshop, journalists will have the opportunity to mingle with their media colleagues, museum scientists and staff.

We will ask journalists to fill out an evaluation form at the event's conclusion to tell us what they thought of the experience. Participants do not need to be science journalists. Each news organization may send up to three staff members.

Questions? Contact Louise Lief, Public Policy Scholar, "Science and the Media," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (202-691-4116 / Louise.Lief@wilsoncenter.org).

RSVP TODAY

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