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Media website: <http://newsdesk.si.edu>

Media Advisory

WHAT: Smithsonian exhibits *Scarlet Knight*, the first robotic underwater glider to cross Atlantic Ocean

WHEN: Thursday, Dec. 9
9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History
10th and Constitution Avenue N.W.
Event will take place in the Sant Ocean Hall on the first floor

WHO: Jonathan Coddington, associate director, National Museum of Natural History
Zdenka Willis, director, U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, NOAA
Scott Glenn, director, Rutgers University Coastal Ocean Observing Laboratory

The National Museum of Natural History will display the first underwater robotic glider to cross the Atlantic Ocean Dec. 9. The journey of the autonomous underwater vehicle glider RU27, *Scarlet Knight*, follows Christopher Columbus' path as he returned to Spain from New Jersey. An 8-foot AUV that glides through the sea, the *Scarlet Knight* made history as the first submersible robot to successfully cross the Atlantic Ocean.

The groundbreaking mission, spearheaded by undergraduate students from Rutgers University, has provided data to help scientists better understand how climate change is affecting the ocean. Deploying robots to sample the ocean provides a unique opportunity to study it and gather information not previously accessible. AUV gliders like *Scarlet Knight* are already on the scene in the Gulf of Mexico, providing a clearer picture of the impacts of the oil spill and collecting data necessary for managers and policy makers to grapple with action needed.

Through the support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *Scarlet Knight* will go on display in the Sant Ocean Hall Dec. 9.

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