



A NONPROFIT, TAX-EXEMPT CORPORATION

Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society®

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Olympus Sponsors Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society

CHICAGO, October 20, 2009 – Our World-Underwater Society today announces that Olympus has agreed to a three-year sponsorship of the Rolex Scholarships. As the official camera sponsor, Olympus has donated Stylus Tough cameras, underwater housings and strobes to the scholarship recipients.

During its annual dinner at the Explorers Club in New York City, the Society awards Rolex Scholarships to one scholar from three regions: North America, Europe and Australasia. The scholarships provide a hands-on introduction for a young person considering a career in an underwater-related discipline. The Stylus Tough cameras enable them to document their scholarship year.

“Olympus firmly believes in the same basic principle of the Society, and fostering the development of future marine professionals starts with giving them real world opportunities as early as possible,” said John McGuire, a PADI Divemaster and Product Manager of Underwater/Outdoor Products and Accessories of Olympus Imaging America Inc.

Olympus Stylus Tough cameras are shockproof, waterproof, crushproof and freezeproof; built extremely rugged to capture amazing images in aquatic adventures, harsh climates and everyday activities. Olympus continues to be an innovator, developing new technologies to expand the frontiers of digital photography and leading where others have followed. Proof that Olympus enables consumers to capture it all.

The scholarship society’s president, George Wozencraft, thanked Olympus. “We are excited about this generous sponsorship by Olympus. Our scholars will gain experience in underwater photography, which is an important aspect of many underwater-related careers. They will also be able to develop a photographic catalogue of their year, both on land and underwater.”

About the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society and the Rolex Scholarships

For more than 35 years the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society has offered experience-based internships and scholarships. Three year-long educational scholarships, which are sponsored by Rolex, are currently offered: one in North America, one in Europe,

and one in Australasia. The Rolex Scholarship provides a hands-on introduction to underwater and other aquatic-related careers. The scholar travels primarily within his or her region but may have opportunities throughout the underwater world. The range of experiences include active participation in field studies, underwater research, scientific expeditions, laboratory assignments, equipment testing and design, photographic instruction, and other specialized assignments.

A scholar's itinerary emphasizes breadth of experience but is also tailored to the individual scholar's background and interests. This includes time with specialists in such areas as biology, hyperbarics, anthropology, and archaeology. Scholar hosts include scientists, engineers, filmmakers, and marine researchers. Visits to dive store operations, classes in underwater photography, and working with conservation organizations are also typical experiences.

During the course of the year, exposure to a wide array of types of work and the chance to actually jump in and experience specific jobs provide scholars with invaluable career-deciding opportunities. The scholarship emphasizes hands-on experience in activities that will contribute to a well-rounded education and a broad network of contacts.

For more information, visit <http://www.owuscholarship.org>.

ABOUT OLYMPUS IMAGING AMERICA INC.

Olympus Imaging America Inc. is a precision technology leader, designing and delivering award-winning products for consumer and professional markets.

Olympus Imaging America Inc. works collaboratively with its customers and its ultimate parent company, Olympus Corporation, to develop breakthrough technologies with revolutionary product design and functionality that enhances people's lives every day. These include:

- Digital Cameras
- Professional and Consumer Digital SLR Imaging Systems
- Related Underwater Products and Accessories
- Digital and Microcassette Recorders
- Digital Media
- Binoculars

Olympus Imaging America Inc. is responsible for sales in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. For more information, visit: www.olympusamerica.com.