A visit to mysterious and vast Antarctica is a visit to the very ends of the earth. This land of glittering ice, majestic peaks and dazzling beauty, has for millions of years been a haven for migratory birds, whales, seals and other marine mammals who come each summer to feast in its food-rich coastal waters.

We will be visiting during the Antarctic summer when temperatures are mild, generally hovering just above freezing. You will experience an 11 day cruise aboard the 96 passenger Akademik Ioffe, a well-equipped research vessel, highly maneuverable and very stable.

Your UNLV trip leaders both have extensive experience in the Antarctic. UNLV geologist, Margaret Rees, Ph.D. was funded by the National Science Foundation to conduct scientific research in the Transantarctic Mountains for 8 field seasons. She has been awarded the US Congressional Polar Medal for Scientific Service in Antarctica and to honor her for her exceptional service an Antarctic mountain was named after her.

Nevada artist and naturalist Sharon K. Schafer has worked extensively in the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic Islands as an artist-in-residence, photographer and videographer. Her paintings and photographs of the Antarctic region have been exhibited in museums across the country.

For more information please contact:

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Sharon K. Schafer
skydancestudio@earthlink.net
702 293.3929
REGISTRATION

Course Code: F123EX1163
Trip Dates: Dec 6 - 19, 2012

Escorted by:
Margaret N. (Peg) Rees, UNLV Vice Provost for Educational Outreach and Sharon K. Schafer, Skydance Studio, Boulder City, Nevada

Fee
Early bird registration: Register by Feb 15 at a $350 discount!
Register by Feb. 15: $6,895 (Per person, double occupancy)
Register after Feb. 15: $7,245 (Per person, double occupancy)
Fee includes trip health insurance, transfer from airport to Hotel in Ushuaia, one night at the Hotel Altos in Ushuaia with breakfast, transfers to the ship, accommodation in twin cabins, and all meals and snacks during the voyage. Trip includes all Zodiac excursions, educational presentations, overnight camping gear (optional activity), expedition parka, use of foul weather gear, $100,000 in emergency evacuation insurance.

Cancellation Policy: A $2,500 deposit will hold your spot until August 3 when balance in full is due.
Cancellation Policy: Refund less $1,500 before Feb. 15. Refund less $2,500 between Feb. 15 - Aug. 3.
No refund after Aug. 3. (Trip cancellation insurance is recommended)

Travel Insurance:  http://www.CSATravelPro.com?Aff=20080614
We recommend that passengers/students purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy to protect themselves from any potential loss before and during your trip. Insurance is optional and recommended to protect against losses due to trip cancellation and interruption, travel and baggage delay, emergency assistance, medical expenses and evacuation.

Register by calling (702) 895-3394 or online by visiting http://edoutreach.unlv.edu/continuingeducation/
PROPOSED ITINERARY

December 6 - 19, 2011
11 Nights / 12 Days

PLEASE NOTE: Itinerary subject to change due to climate, conditions, or unforeseeable circumstances.

Day One_Ushuaia
Arrive Ushuaia the world’s southernmost city on the tip of Argentina, Transfer from Ushuaia Airport to hotel with overnight lodging at Hotel Altos.

Day Two:Ushuaia / Transfer / Embarkation
Breakfast at Hotel Altos then a free day to explore the fascinating city of Ushuaia. Transfer to ship for a 4 pm boarding provided. Board your ship and settle into your “home” for the next 11 days. In the early evening, you set sail and begin your voyage leaving behind Ushuaia and charting a course through the Beagle Channel.

Days 3-4: Drake Passage
Crossing the Drake Passage there is excitement in the air as you make your way ever closer to the white continent. Soak up the friendly atmosphere onboard as numerous Polar experts prepare you for your adventures with presentations on everything Antarctic, from wildlife to history. Eventually, you will cross the Antarctic Convergence where you will notice a distinct drop in temperature as you enter the waters of the Antarctic Ocean. Along the way, you witness all kinds of spectacular sights from icebergs to an array of seabirds and even several whale species who may occasionally flaunt their size in full breach.

Days 5-9: Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula
In the waterways of the Antarctic Peninsula, explore by inflatable Zodiac boats to marvel up close at nature’s glory. Planned excursions might include Neko Harbor, Wilhelmina Bay and even the southerly Petermann Island, where you can observe Weddell, crabeater and elephant seals, skuas and other seabirds as well as a shocking abundance of penguin species including some very large colonies of the comical Adelie penguin. At Half Moon Island, observe a breeding colony of chinstrap penguins that share their territory with fur seals and blue-eyed shags. You may also see the gentle humpback whale dining on krill in its feeding grounds and possibly have an opportunity to observe killer and Minke whales. You finally arrive on the continent of
Antarctica at Paradise Bay or Neko Harbor. Prepare to be dazzled by your first glimpse of the continent. The scenery here is amazing. In particular, you will be struck by the oddly-shaped icebergs that look like sculptures, as well as the colossal tabular icebergs that break away from the continent’s ice shelf. Hopefully the weather will be mild enough to allow you to step foot on the White Continent itself. Some may wish to camp on shore overnight. Whatever your vantage point whether it is onboard or onshore expect to feel transformed as you experience a twilight from the very bottom of the planet.

**Days 10-11: Drake Passage**
As you leave this magical place and make your way back, heading again across the Antarctic Convergence and the Drake Passage before rounding Cape Horn, you will spend the time sharing and reflecting on the wonderful experiences of the last few days. Sailing down the Beagle Channel, celebrate the conclusion of your Polar expedition at a special dinner.

**Day 12: Ushuaia / Disembarkation**
In the early morning, arrive back in Ushuaia. It is time to say farewell to your crew and fellow travelers. Guests will be transported to their hotels or to the airport for return flights home.

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**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Camping Option: No additional supplement.**
No pre-booking required. If conditions are suitable and you choose to camp on the continent, all the required gear such as tents, bivy sacs and sleeping bags, will be provided. This excursion is managed with strict environmental regulations. A portable outhouse tent is used and absolutely everything is transported back to the ship afterwards.

**Sea Kayaking Option: $750 per person**
Pre-booked option for up to 16 guests. If you have experience sea kayaking and are interested in doing this activity during the expedition, you will need to book this option prior to departure from home. You cannot book this activity once onboard. There is a separate document for sea kayakers that you will need to review beforehand. Provided equipment includes full Gore-Tex drysuits, kayak specific PFD’s, neoprene booties, a waterproof deck bag, pogies and many other vital paddling accessories.