

**BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF RHODES COLLEGE**

**AND**

**RIDGE DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES**

**PRESENT**

**DR. BREEA GOVENAR**

**POSTDOCTORAL INVESTIGATOR, GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS**

**WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION, MA**

**MONDAY, MARCH 23RD**

**TIME: 4:15**

**LOCATION: FRAZIER-JELKE B**

**REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT 4:00**

**IN THE BIOLOGY LIBRARY**

***DIVING DEEP INTO LIFE AT HYDROTHERMAL VENTS ON MID-OCEAN RIDGES***

Hydrothermal vents are some of the most productive habitats on earth, where tube-dwelling worms can grow to lengths greater than one meter and pea-sized snails can reach densities of several thousand per square meter in less than a year. This highly productive deep-sea ecosystem is driven by chemical energy, generated by the mixing of hot hydrothermal fluids with cold seawater and converted into food by microbes, in a process called chemoautotrophy.. This talk will compare and contrast the dominant species, physiological adaptations, biological interactions, and patterns of species diversity in hydrothermal vent communities on three different mid-ocean ridges, the East Pacific Rise, the Juan de Fuca Ridge, and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

**HOST: DR. JEN HOUGHTON**