

Renowned explorer addresses Atchison

**(KAIR)--World-renowned ocean explorer Dr. Robert Ballard visited Atchison Tuesday, addressing Atchison High School students and faculty, along with community leaders and residents, during a forum held in the school's gymnasium.**

**Ballard, who is best-known for his 1985 discovery of the Titanic, is now on a quest to find the plane flown by Amelia Earhart when she disappeared in the Central Pacific Ocean.**

**During his presentation, Ballard talked about a process of ocean exploration that he helped pioneer called tele-presence. Tele-presence is a process by which high definition video can be streamed in real-time to scientists, education, and the general public.**

**Ballard refers to his team's work as the "Second Lewis and Clark" expedition, stating that 50 percent of the US lies unexplored beneath the sea.**

**Ballard's presentation included a live video conference with scientists on board his exploration ship, "The Nautilus", which is exploring the US territories near Howland Island, where many researchers believe Earhart's plane is located.**

**In speaking with reporters after the presentation, Ballard expressed confidence that Earhart's plane would be found. "Oh it's there," Ballard said. "We're not looking for the Loch Ness Monster. I think it's absolutely going to get found. It's a question of when, and that really becomes a question of the emerging technologies."**

**Dr. Ballard's invitation to speak came from US Senator Jerry Moran, and was organized in partnership with USD 409 administration.**

**Moran is the chairperson for the Senate Appropriations Sub-committee that funds the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and funds Dr. Ballard's research in ocean exploration.**

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