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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Kalmar Nyckel Foundation
Presents**

**2011 Lecture Series:
“SOS: Saving Our Ships – Ships That Changed The World”**

**Chase Center on the Riverfront
Dravo Auditorium
Wilmington, DE**

Wilmington, Delaware, December 8, 2010 – The Kalmar Nyckel Foundation announces its Lecture Series for 2011, “SOS: Saving Our Ships – Ships That Changed The World.” This series features three maritime experts of international renown, each of whom has made and continues to make a significant contribution to the preservation of our maritime heritage. These lectures complement the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation’s mission of preserving and promoting our cultural and maritime history for the education and enrichment of all.

The first lecture, “The Ship That Changed the World,” features internationally acclaimed documentary film director and producer, Malcolm Dixelius, who will present a behind-the-scenes view of his upcoming National Geographic (NATGEO TV) television special, “Expedition Ghost Ship.” This special will be broadcast in 124 countries and prominently features *Kalmar Nyckel*, the Tall Ship of Delaware. The *Kalmar Nyckel* was selected to provide a living representation of the wreck of the “Ghost Ship” before she sank in the Baltic Sea in the 1630s. The “Ghost Ship” has been resting at the bottom of the Baltic ever since, about 400 feet down. Incredibly well preserved and of a class of

merchant vessels that transformed world trade, she is a remarkable find. The sole survivor of a revolutionary class of merchant ships built by the Dutch in their “Golden Age of Empire,” the “Ghost Ship” is rightly described as “The Ship That Changed the World.” Mr. Dixelius is Sweden’s best known documentary film maker and a producer for DiXit International and Deep Sea Productions, both located in Stockholm, Sweden. (For more information see www.deepsea.se and www.dixit.se.) Mr. Dixelius is delighted to be able to premier excerpts from his NATGEO Special that is due to be aired in April, 2011. This lecture will take place **January 9, 2011 – Sunday afternoon from 4:00-6:30 pm – at the Chase Center on the Riverfront.**

The second lecture, entitled “Expedition Ghost Ship: Sailing & Sinking a 17th-Century Merchant Vessel,” features Dr. Frederick Hocker, world-renowned maritime archaeologist and Director of Research at the famous VASA Museum in Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Hocker returns for a second engagement with the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation Lecture Series after his outstanding “Raising *Vasa*” presentation in May 2009. This year, Dr. Hocker will focus on his latest research, one part of which includes his participation as an archaeologist for “Expedition Ghost Ship” team – which is the subject of Malcolm Dixelius’ NATGEO TV Special. Dr. Hocker and the “Expedition Ghost Ship” team have employed new, high-tech methods that are changing the world of maritime archaeology. Whether using the latest techniques in robotics to explore wrecks 400 feet below the surface of the Baltic or voyaging the old-fashioned way aboard the *Kalmar Nyckel*, Frederick Hocker travels the globe and leaves no sail unfurled in his quest for the latest research. (For more information, see VASA Museum web links at www.vasamuseet.se and www.maritima.se.) Always funny, entertaining, and informative, Dr. Hocker’s lecture will take place **March 24, 2011 – Thursday evening from 6:00-8:30 pm – at the Chase Center on the Riverfront.**

Lecture three features Matthew Stackpole from Mystic Seaport, America’s largest and most prestigious maritime museum. Mr. Stackpole will be speaking from personal and professional experience – in ways that only he can – about the *Charles W. Morgan*, America’s only surviving wooden whaling ship. As the son of Mystic Seaport’s Curator during the 1950s & ‘60s, Matthew Stackpole literally grew up on the grounds of the Museum. As today’s Director of the *Charles W. Morgan* Restoration Project for Mystic Seaport, Mr. Stackpole brings a lifetime of experience and a depth of knowledge about the *Morgan*, a treasured icon and National Historic Landmark, to help us understand the historical and cultural reach of America’s whaling industry. Thanks to the leadership of Mr. Stackpole and others, the *Morgan* remains a living educational resource, a unique “porthole” into a world underappreciated for its role in shaping America’s commercial and cultural past – a past that includes the founding of Delaware at Swanendael in 1631. (For more information see www.mysticseaport.org.) This lecture, entitled “And She Remains Alone: The Past, Present, and Future of the *Charles W. Morgan*,” will take place on **April 20, 2011 – Wednesday evening, 6:00-8:30 pm – at the Chase Center on the Riverfront.**

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1. **“The Ship That Changed the World,”** Malcolm Dixelius, Internationally Acclaimed Documentary Film Director and Producer, Presents a Behind-the-Scenes Look at and Premier Excerpts of His Soon-to-be Released NATGEO TV Special entitled “Expedition Ghost Ship,” DiXit International & Deep Sea Productions, Stockholm, Sweden, **January 9, 2011** – Sunday afternoon from **4:00-6:30 pm**.

2. **“Expedition Ghost Ship: Sailing & Sinking a 17th-Century Merchant Ship,”** Frederick Hocker, World-Renowned Maritime Archaeologist & Director of Research, VASA Museum, Sweden, **March 24, 2011** – Thursday evening from **6:00-8:30 pm**.

3. **“And She Alone Remains: The Past, Present and Future of the Charles W. Morgan,”** Matthew Stackpole, Director for the *Charles W. Morgan* Restoration Project, America’s Only Remaining Wooden Whaling Ship, Mystic Seaport: The Museum of America and the Sea, **April 20, 2011** – Wednesday evening, **6:00-8:30 pm**.

Description: The Kalmar Nyckel Foundation will hold an open Reception to honor each of the Featured Speakers followed by a Lecture, with time for questions and discussion. Contact jsearles@kalmarnyckel.org or call 302.429.7447 or visit our website at www.kalmarnyckel.org and click on "[SOS: SAVING OUR SHIPS - SHIPS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD](#)"

Ticket Prices for each event:	\$10.00 Pre-Registration
Cash Bar	\$15.00 At Door
	\$ 8.00 Members

The Kalmar Nyckel Foundation preserves and teaches Delaware’s unique maritime history and multicultural legacy as it relates to the region’s economic, industrial, ecological, and cultural development. The recreation of the Kalmar Nyckel, a 10-year project undertaken by local volunteers, was directed by Master Builder Allen Rawl and launched in May 1997. The recreation was made possible in large part by the vision and generosity of the Delaware General Assembly, then Governor (now Senator) Thomas R. Carper, Tatiana Copeland, and Wilmington’s Riverfront Development Corporation.