THE SPEAKER

Dean Bernal is a spokesperson, film producer, director, and wildlife advocate. Dean was raised in California coastal communities and graduated from UC Santa Barbara. He is especially known for his many years of expertise leading whale encounter expeditions in the Turks and Caicos and Tonga, and has been likened to “a cross between Dian Fossey, Jane Goodall, and Crocodile Dundee”. His work has appeared in such magazines as Discover, People, GEO, Cousteau, Esquire, National Geographic companion book to the IMAX film Dolphins, and National Geographic Kids Magazine. Today, Dean uses his ongoing experiences as a keynote speaker for incentive building, and also a promoter of peace by sharing his books, films and the award-winning Dean and JoJo anti-bullying and peace resolution DVD program with teachers, schools, therapists, and psychologists.
Dean Bernal first visited the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1981. Three small sociable dolphins swam in the shallow coastal waters; one would become known as JoJo and befriended by Dean and many island residents. The life of JoJo seems legendary, but the books and archive films are created directly from the observations and research recorded by Dean Bernal on his amazing and heartwarming journeys with JoJo. Excerpts from the story of Dean and JoJo have been featured in countless books, TV specials and movies including the Academy Award nominated IMAX film Dolphins, two PBS specials: In the Wild: Dolphins with Robin Williams, and Dolphins: Close Encounters with George Page, and World News Tonight. BBC, Cousteau and Nature specials have also featured excerpts of Dean Bernal and JoJo. Parts of their story have also been published with Jane Goodall, Tim Cahill, Cynthia Moss, Hermann Sülberg, and Johanna Weland, and also published in numerous other quality books.

Dean created The Marine Wildlife Foundation to protect lone dolphins like JoJo by providing legal protection, medical attention, public education and research. JoJo was declared a National Treasure of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and JoJo’s caretaker and friend, Dean, was appointed his official warden.

Thursday, May 9, 2013
5:00 - 6:30 PM
University Club
1332 Santa Barbara Street

For questions, or if you need special arrangements to accommodate a disability, please call the UCSB Office of Public Events at 893-2877. PLEASE REGISTER EARLY.