



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE – October 2012

Welcome to the October E-Slate. This issue is a bit late as we were all enjoying the 2012 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium last week. This edition is focused on that event. I would like to personally thank George, Steve and Diana for an amazing job of planning and hosting. I couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to all of you who participated this year and we hope to see you all back, along with those who couldn't make it to Monterey, in Curacao in 2013! Watch the E-Slate for more details on that meeting as plans progress. Next month we will return to our typical format and we welcome news, announcements, job postings, and images of underwater work at aaus@disl.org. Please also note that our new website is live! As you submit information for the E-Slate, it will now also be posted on the new site. Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at www.aaus.org.

2012 AAUS Symposium

The 2012 AAUS Symposium, held in Monterey, CA was a great success! From diving California's kelp forests, learning about organism collection techniques and rebreathers to workshops on Diving First Aid for Professional Divers and cylinder inspection, there was something for everyone.

The new DSO workshop drew 35 participants, the annual DSO and business meeting 105 individuals, and the scientific symposium 160 individuals, making this meeting our largest yet! Presenters included the 2009 Kevin Gurr and 2010 Kathy Johnston scholarship winners Arley Muth and Kimberly Tenggardjaja, respectively.

The Kevin Flanagan Student Travel Award provided funds for two students to attend this year's meeting, Anne Benolkin and Kate Schoenrock. Kimberly Tenggardjaja (UC Santa Cruz) won the competition for the best student presentation. Honorable mention was received by Chelsea Pridle (Cal State Univ Monterey Bay). AAUS Service Recognition Awards were presented at the AAUS awards banquet to Christopher Rigaud and Neal Pollock for their service as Directors and to Roxanne Roberts for acting as volunteer editor of the E-Slate for 5 years. Dennis Divins was awarded the Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Award for Scientific Diving Leadership and Dr. George Bass was awarded the Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement award. Congressman Sam Farr and Dr. Mark Carr both spoke about

the importance of underwater science and protecting our oceans. There was a special tribute to Kevin Flanagan and we were pleased that his family joined us for this evening.

Our thanks go to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, UC Santa Cruz, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Hopkins Marine Lab, Backscatter, Light and Motion, Seven Seas Scuba, NOAA, Nitrox Solutions, workshop coordinators, and all participants for making it a productive and enjoyable week. Special thanks to Ocean Enterprises for hosting the DSO Bubble breaker reception and to California SeaGrant for additional funding and support.



Desert Star Navigation Workshop
Photo Credit: Steve Clabuesch



2012 AAUS Symposium print by Kathy Johnston English. Congratulations to Cheryl Thacker on taking home this year's raffled print. Contact AAUS to purchase this beautiful print!

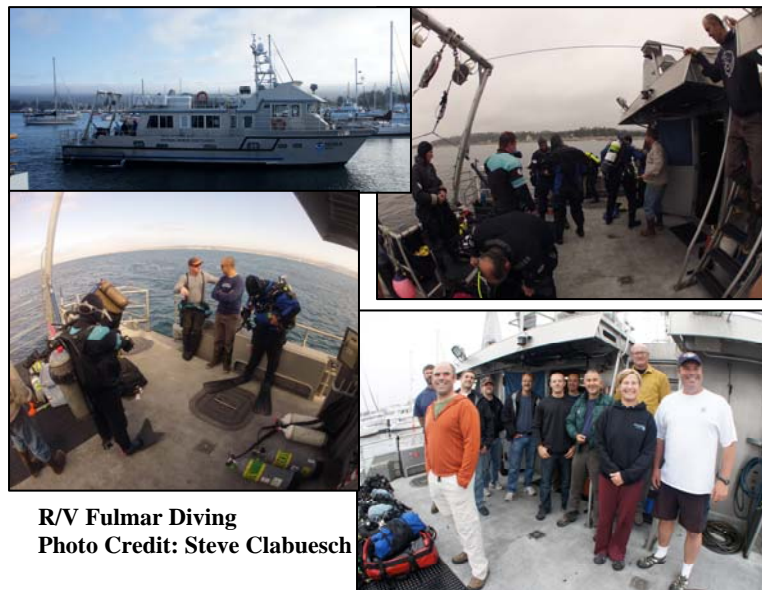


**Organism Collection Workshop
Photo Credit: Sean Sheldrake**

AAUS Rebreather Colloquium

On September 29, 2012 the AAUS Rebreather Colloquium was organized by Michael Lang and Christian McDonald as an integral part of the scientific program of this year's AAUS *Diving for Science Symposium* in Monterey. Proceedings will be produced as an end product from the presentations and discussions and feature recommendations specific to the scientific diving community. These will be available for download from www.aaus.org. The starting baseline for discussions was the recent thoroughly covered topics of RF3, sponsored by AAUS, DAN and PADI May 18-20, 2012 in Orlando, Florida. The focus of this AAUS effort was specifically for the benefit of the scientific diving community on SOPs/operational aspects/standards/training issues that RF3 did not provide for our research needs. An

introductory rebreather primer was presented by Michael Lang for the benefit of the DOs starting their rebreather exposure from scratch. The RF3 Findings and recommendations were read by Steve Sellers. Christian McDonald chaired a session on the scope of scientific rebreather diving where he covered current AAUS scope, rationale and statistics for rebreather diving, followed by Greg McFall for NOAA, Brett Seymour for National Park Service and Joe Tomoleoni describing USGS' unique application of closed circuit oxygen rebreather operations for the capture of sea otters. Marc Slattery and Liz Kintzing reviewed the current AAUS rebreather standards with an eye towards possible revisions given the RF3 and AAUS RB Colloquium information and updates. John Clarke of the Navy Experimental Diving Unit reviewed rebreather equipment and engineering issues for consideration by the scientific diving community. Casey Coy and Rick Gomez co-chaired the next session on rebreather operational considerations through an interactive panel of experts that addressed 1) Institutional buy-in (risk management, resources, DCB support and DSO qualifications); 2) Who should dive a rebreather (awareness, discipline, comfort under water); 3) Selection: equipment and training (instructors and divers); 4) Operations (deep versus shallow differences and mixed-mode diving constraints). The expert panel consisted of Casey Coy (FL Aquarium), Joe Tomoleoni (USGS), John Clarke (NEDU), Greg McFall (NOAA), Brett Seymour (NPS), Dave Pence (UHawaii), Steve Sellers (NPS), Mike Terrell (FL Aquarium), Liz Kintzing (UNH), Marc Slattery (UMississippi), Elliott Jessup (Cal Acad Sciences), Phil Lobel (Boston U), and Rick Gomez (UMiami). We envision the resultant recommendations will be used to examine specific AAUS rebreather standards revisions, and perhaps also the appointment of an AAUS subcommittee to further investigate specific rebreather questions that warrant further consideration.



**R/V Fulmar Diving
Photo Credit: Steve Clabuesch**



DAN First Aid for Pro Course
Photo Credit: Mike Dardeau



AAUS Foundation Update

The AAUS Foundation (www.aausfoundation.org) was formed to advance the mission of AAUS by supporting student scholarship and other AAUS outreach programs. As a 501(c)(3) entity, receipts can be provided to donors filing for tax deductions. The first new initiative of the AAUS Foundation was the establishment of the Kevin Flanagan Student Travel Award. The first two recipients of the award were funded to attend the AAUS meeting in Monterey.

Kate Schoenrock (University of Alabama at Birmingham) presented some of her doctoral student research and **Anne Benolkin** (University of Southeast Alaska) expanded her undergraduate education and the contacts she made as an intern at Shannon Point Marine Center. The conference banquet included a tribute to Kevin Flanagan, made even more special by the presence of his family. One of the most poignant moments was when Kevin's father, in formal address to the audience, encouraged Kate and Anne to be sponges, soaking up everything they can. That spirit will remain as guiding principle for all who follow them.

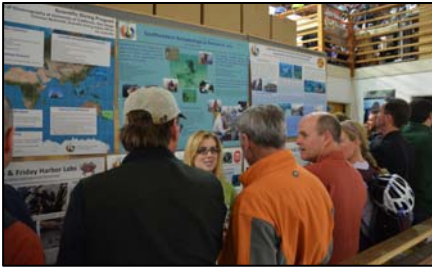
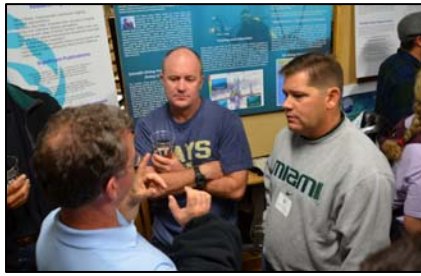
Fundraising efforts at the meeting went to support long-standing initiatives - the Kathy Johnston and Kevin Gurr scholarships - and the new Kevin Flanagan award. A complete accounting will be provided in the next E-Slate. In the meantime, we thank **Werner Kurn** of Ocean Enterprises for leading the Bubble Breaker fundraising and **Glennon Gingo** for issuing a challenge to the Academy on behalf of the Kevin Flanagan fund. It was gratifying to see Glennon's challenge quickly met. We hope that continued efforts will make the new award our first endowed initiative, self-funded in perpetuity.



Kate Schoenrock and Anne Benolkin (Kevin Flanagan Awardees 2012), Megan Cook (2011 OWUSS Scholar) Naomi Blinick (2010 NPS Intern) Mykle Hoban (2009 AAUS intern) and Brenna Mahoney (2007 OWUSS scholar), Kim Tenggardjaja (Kathy Johnston scholar 2010), Roxanne Robertson (AAUS Service Award 2012) with Mike Dardeau and Narineh Nazarian. Arley Muth (Kevin Gurr Scholar 2009)
Photo Credit: Mike Dardeau



Glennon Gingo awarding check for \$2000 to Neal Pollock (AAUS Foundation) in support of the Kevin Flanagan Student Travel Award. Photo Credit: Neal Pollock



OM Poster Night hosted by Light and Motion. Prizes awarded to Kevin Buch, 1st place, Chris Rigaud, 2nd place and Bruce Gray (and team) 3rd place. Photo Credit: Derek Smith



Bubble Breaker hosted by Ocean Enterprises. Photo Credit: Stuart May

2013 AAUS Symposium

The 2013 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium will be held October 23-27, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency in Curacao.

It will be joint meeting with the European Scientific Diving Panel. Look for more details in the E-Slate and online after the first of the year. Registration will begin in early spring.

2014 AAUS Symposium

We have extended the proposal deadline for any organization interested in hosting the 2014 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium. Proposals are due no later than November 10, 2012. Please contact the AAUS office at aaus@disl.org for a proposal form or more information.



Social hosted by Backscatter. Photo credit: Elliott Jessup



2012 AAUS Awards Banquet hosted by Monterey Bay Aquarium. Photo Credit: Lora Pride, Stuart May



Photo Credits: Jeff Reid, Sean Sheldrake and Derek Smith

The hosts of the 2012 AAUS Symposium and the AAUS staff would like to thank the following people for their contributions:

- Freya Sommer (Hopkins Marine Station)
- Backscatter
- Light & Motion
- Ocean Enterprises
- Oceanic
- Seven Seas Scuba
- Nitrox Solutions
- Lagunitas beer
- California Sea Grant
- Session Moderators - James Lindholm, Chris Harrold, and Scott Hamilton,
- Julie Packard, Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Dr. Mark Carr
- Rep. Sam Farr
- Workshop Instructors-Marco Flagg, Jan Freiwald, Megan Wehrenberg, Paul Clarkson, Mauritius Bell, Cecilia Shin, and Mark Lane
- NOAA

A big thank you also goes to our hosts. Without them this meeting would not have been possible!

- Monterey Bay Aquarium – George Peterson
- UC Santa Cruz – Steve Clabuesch
- Moss Landing Marine Laboratories – Diana Steller

The mission of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences is to facilitate the development of safe and productive scientific divers through education, research, advocacy, and the advancement of standards for scientific diving practices, certifications, & operations.

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