



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE – August 2013

Welcome to the August E-Slate! In this issue we announce the 2013 Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement Award, 2013 AAUS BOD election results and registration continues for the 2013 AAUS/EDSP International Science Diving Symposium. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, and images of underwater work at aaus@disl.org. Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at www.aaus.org.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement Award

The 2013 Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement Award has been bestowed upon Dr. Alina Szmant, University of North Carolina at Wilmington. This award is presented annually to an individual from the scientific diving community who has made a significant contribution in advancing underwater science and technology.



Dr. Szmant is among the pioneers in the study of the reproductive ecology and larval biology of Caribbean reef corals. Her other areas of expertise include the calcification and nutritional physiology of reef corals, ecological interactions central to coral reef function, and nutrient dynamics of coral reef ecosystems. Topics of current emphasis are the larval biology and early life history of reef corals, factors that affect coral recruitment success, and in collaboration with others, the application of genomic tools to the study of coral symbiosis, development and stress reactions. Her research group is conducting experiments to study the effects of elevated seawater temperature and reduced pH on both larval and adult corals. She is active in conservation issues regarding coral reefs, particularly with regard to the impact of over-fishing on coral reef ecosystem health. She was a member of the Scientific Technical Advisory Committee to the Water Quality Plan for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary from 1994 to 2004, and has participated in numerous regional, national and international workshops organized to consider nutrients and other environmental issues affecting coral reef ecosystems. In addition to

research, Alina teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Coral Reef Ecology at UNCW, including study abroad field trips in the Caribbean, and short week-long field trips to give students firsthand experience seeing and working on coral reefs.

Before joining UNCW in 1999, Szmant was at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science where she was on the faculty from 1983 to 1999. Before that she was on the research faculty at Florida State University and on the staff of the University of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Nuclear Center. She also worked for Raytheon's Environmental Sciences Division, Newport RI, for one year.

Alina obtained a B.S. in Biology from the University of Puerto Rico in 1966, a M.S. in Marine Biology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1970, and a Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island in 1980. In between degrees she worked for Raytheon's Environmental Services Laboratory in Newport, RI. She was a member of the first all-female team of aquanauts to live and conduct scientific research in an underwater habitat, during the Tektite II Program in 1970.

Outside interests include a love of classical music, tennis, gardening, photography and travel. Alina has served on the Board of Directors of the Chamber Music Society of Wilmington in 2002, and was Secretary for the 2005-2006 season and Treasurer for the 2008-2009 season. She is presently on the Board of WHQR, Wilmington's NPR station. Alina is married to Dr. Daniel Baden, an expert in marine toxins and in the oceans and human health. Their family consists of three daughters, Celina, Andrea and Kaitlin, ages 20 to 30 years old, three Shiba Inu dogs and two cats.

BOD Election Results

The 2013 AAUS Board of Directors (BOD) election results are tallied and the Board congratulates the newly elected President-elect, Rick Gomez, Secretary, Lora Pride and Director at Large, Jim Hayward. They will begin their terms on January 01, 2014. On behalf of the academy, we thank Rick Gomez, Marc Slattery, Narineh Nazarian, Lora Pride, Jim Hayward, Chris Ledford and Les Burke for participating in the election. The academy appreciates such broad enthusiasm to participate in the mission of the AAUS.

Hollis Gear Award Deadline Extension

Hollis Gear (www.hollisgear.com) funds up to two awards annually, valued at \$1250 per recipient (\$1000 in Hollis diving equipment and \$250 to cover training or academic travel expenses) to AAUS Student members engaged in, or planning to begin, a research project in which diving is used as a principal research tool. Students who have applied for the Kevin Gurr and Kathy Johnston awards may also apply for this award. For more information visit www.aausfoundation.org. **The application deadline has been extended to August 15, 2013 to increase awareness of this new award.**

AAUS Welcomes New Organizational Members

James Cook University
National Association of Black SCUBA divers Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS

AAUS/ESDP 2013 Joint International Scientific Diving Symposium

The 2013 AAUS/EDSP Symposium will be held in Curaçao October 23-27. The Santa Barbara beach resort will serve as the symposium hotel. Events include pre-conference workshops, the Diving Safety Officer meeting, AAUS business meeting and three days of science talks. Planned workshops include:

- DAN FA Pro Instructor Certification
- Coral Reef Species ID/Reef Check Methodology
- Free Diving

Also, this year's mechanism to celebrate achievements of scientific diving programs is in the form of a poster. Join your colleagues in this event and take part in the celebration of scientific diving programs and the advancement of underwater science. All posters must be submitted electronically by September 01.

There will be boat and shore diving opportunities, Curasub rides, a post-symposium field trip to Bonaire as well as our annual Bubble Breaker welcome reception and fundraiser. For more information, registration, a poster template and hotel information, visit www.aaus.org/annual_symposium or contact the AAUS office.

Lodging for the 2013 AAUS Symposium

Do not delay in booking lodging for the 2013 symposium. **Rooms must be booked no later than September 22 to receive our group rate!** There are no other hotels in close proximity to the meeting space. The AAUS group rate at the Santa Barbara Beach Resort (SBR) is available Sunday-Tuesday (October 20 - October 29). Bookings at SBR outside of these dates will be at the regular price. [Reservations for Santa Barbara Beach Resort](#)

DEMA 2013

The Diving Equipment and Marketing Association will hold its annual show November 06-09 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. More information at <http://www.demashow.com>.

CSU/MLML Research Diving Course

A summer AAUS certification course is being offered August 05-09 and 12-18, 2013 at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. The course includes AAUS and CA Reefcheck training and certification and six field days in Big Sur. For more details contact Diana Steller at dsteller@mlml.calstate.edu.

Santa Barbara Film Festival

Santa Barbara Underwater Film Festival will be presenting a Tribute to Ernie Brooks on September 14 at 7:00 PM featuring underwater photography and films. The program will be a benefit to raise funds for the Historical Diving Society USA and the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. More information at <http://www.aaus.org/announcements#SBfilm>

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Full information and application instructions for the following jobs can be found at www.aaus.org/job_board

Florida State University

Marine Operations Manager (and Diving Safety Officer)

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Coral Reef Biogeochemist

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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