



# E-SLATE

## American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

### EDITORIAL NOTE – December 2013

Welcome to the December E-Slate. As we wrap up 2013, I would personally like to thank all of you who have helped to make this year a success for AAUS! Many of you have volunteered your time to work on projects, serve on the board, put on the symposium, contribute to the E-Slate and support the Academy in all of our activities this year. Thank you for being an active part of your Academy. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and I look forward to another great year in 2014! Please note a few important deadlines in December and some new course and program offerings for 2014. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, and images of underwater work at [aaus@disl.org](mailto: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](http://www.aaus.org). Follow us on Twitter (@aaus) and like us on Facebook([facebook.com/AmericanAcademyofUnderwaterSciences](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanAcademyofUnderwaterSciences))

### NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 2013 Best Student Presentation

The AAUS scholarship committee is pleased to announce the 2013 best student presentations at this year's symposium are as follows:

- 1) V. Chamberlain -Restoration of critically endangered elkhorn coral *Acropora palmata* on Curacao.
- 2) R. Whippo-Do environmental gradients structure epifaunal communities in British Columbia seagrass meadows?

Our congratulations go to our winners and our appreciation to our volunteer reviewers.

#### 2014 AAUS/OWUSS Internship

OWUSS is now taking applications for the 2014 AAUS/OWUSS scientific diving internship. Intern applicants can be students from colleges and universities with an interest in science and diving. The program runs primarily from mid-May through August and will include training at one of several AAUS organizational member sites. This training will give the intern the necessary dive qualifications to allow participation on research projects requiring scientific diving and introduce the intern to careers that utilize scientific diving as a tool. Once trained as an AAUS-recognized diver-in-training, interns will participate in underwater field work at one or more locations and research facilities associated with the AAUS. The internship

will be supported by funding for travel to/from site, room, board, and other internship-related expenses. More information at [https://secure.aaus.org/aausowuss\\_internship](https://secure.aaus.org/aausowuss_internship). To apply, visit: <http://www.owuscholarship.org/internships>.

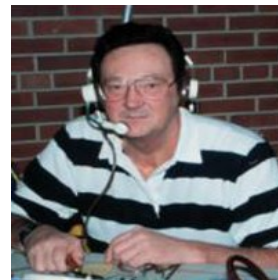
#### OM Host for 2014 AAUS/OWUSS Intern

We are seeking applications from OMs that have both dive training and research opportunities available to an undergraduate. Past interns have benefited most from combined opportunities for attaining AAUS research diving certification and involvement with a research program and diving and boating safety programs. The chosen OM will participate in the intern selection. If your OM is interested in supporting this internship, please submit an online application form by **December 31, 2013**. [www.aaus.org/aausowuss\\_host\\_organization\\_application](http://www.aaus.org/aausowuss_host_organization_application)

#### AAUS Finance Committee

The AAUS Finance Committee is looking for new members. If you are an AAUS member and have an interest or experience in fundraising, please contact the committee chair, Elliott Jessup ([ejessup@calacademy.com](mailto:ejessup@calacademy.com)).

#### DEMA's 2013 Reaching Out Award



Dr. Lee Somers received DEMA's 2013 Reaching Out Award. Dr. Somers was one of the earliest certified scuba instructors in the U.S. He was dually certified by the YMCA Scuba Program and NAUI. From the beginning, Dr. Somers understood the importance of a comprehensive educational

experience in scuba diving and developed such a program at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Besides teaching courses that addressed virtually every facet of diving, he developed one of the most highly regarded instructor education programs. The program attracted instructor candidates from all over the globe and resulted in the certification of NAUI instructors representative of a "Who's Who" in the contemporary diving world.

Having created the Research Diving Program at the University of Michigan, Dr. Somers was a scuba legend in the Midwest. He established a hyperbaric research facility at the University of Michigan, conducting some of the earliest pressure-related research as well as providing opportunities for countless recreational divers to experience a 'chamber

orientation,' including pressurization in a hyperbaric chamber. He was the author of dozens of diver safety publications as part of the University of Michigan Diver Education Series, along with the Research Divers Manual and articles on a wide variety of topics from oceanography to diver education.

Dr. Somers has served our sport and industry well and served as a member of the board of directors with many organizations including the AAUS as Past President, IANTD, NAUI, Our World Underwater and the Our World Underwater Scholarship Society. He has also been recognized by his peers as a past recipient of the NOGI Award for Sports/Education, the Leonard Greenstone Award for Diving Safety and the DAN/Rolox Diver of the Year. Dr. Somers has been a mentor to many of the leaders in the diving world today and is still sought out for advice on almost everything related to the sport or science of diving. See more

[http://www.dema.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticle\\_nbr=851#sthash.sde97hSZ.dpuf](http://www.dema.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticle_nbr=851#sthash.sde97hSZ.dpuf)

### **New Diving Safety Officer Orientation**

The AAUS new DSO orientation is typically offered during our annual symposium. However, due to the international nature of this year's meeting, we did not hold this orientation during the 2013 symposium. If you would be interested in attending an independent new DSO orientation on February 02, 2014 in Denver, please contact the AAUS office ([aaus@disl.org](mailto:aaus@disl.org)) no later than **December 15, 2013**.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Scientific Freediver Course**

Due to the interest sparked by the Performance Freediving (PFI) Workshop at the 2013 Symposium, AAUS is sponsoring two Scientific Freediver courses, one in Miami and one in Kona. While AAUS has no intention of regulating or promulgating standards for Scientific Freediving, the program will be designed specifically for AAUS Scientific Divers and Diving

Safety Officers who are also scuba instructors and may be responsible for snorkeling and breath-hold diving at their respective institutions.

The program will include the PFI Intermediate Freediver and Safety Freediver Instructor. Upon completion candidates will be able to teach the PFI Safe Buddy

program. The course will run 6 days with 5 class, 4 pool and 5 ocean sessions. More information and registration at <http://www.performancefreediving.com/course-information/aaus-course/>

### **2014 CAUS Symposium**

The Canadian Association for Underwater Science (CAUS) 2014 AGM and Symposium is scheduled for February 26 and 27, 2014 in Quebec City. Thanks to Laval University and the Quebec Aquarium for co-hosting the event. CAUS members are strongly encouraged to attend, and all others interested in learning more about, or thinking of joining, CAUS are welcome too. Please contact [info@caus.ca](mailto:info@caus.ca) or check [caus.ca](http://caus.ca) for details.

### **2014 Professional Dive Safety Conference**

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is sponsoring its first-ever conference on dive safety this coming April 7-8, 2014, in Seattle. It is designed for divers who earn their living working underwater in a variety of capacities. As we develop the conference program, we are looking for experts to share their knowledge, either as presenters or as panel leaders. More information at <http://bit.ly/dive2014conference>

### **TEKDiveUSA 2014**

TEKDiveUSA will take place May 17-18, 2014 at the Roz & Cal Kovens Conference Center, North Miami, FL. Forty different talks will be delivered during this two-day advanced and technical diving conference. Presenters include personnel from NEDU, NPS, the University of Auckland and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. For more information on the speakers, topics, official accommodations and registration, visit [www.tekdiveusa.com](http://www.tekdiveusa.com)

## **JOB ANNOUCEMENTS**

Full information and application instructions for the following jobs can be found at [www.aaus.org/job\\_board](http://www.aaus.org/job_board)

### **California Science Center Foundation**

*Assistant Dive Safety Officer*

### **Oregon Coast Aquarium**

*Dive Safety Officer*

### **South Carolina Aquarium**

*Assistant Dive Safety Officer*

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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