



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –December 2014

Welcome to the December E-Slate. As we bring another year to a close, I want to thank all of you who have volunteered your time, expertise and energy to be an active part of AAUS. This begins my 5th year working for the Academy and I am continually amazed at the tireless dedication, passion, and zeal that each of you has for your jobs, your students and the scientific diving community. At the end of this edition you will find a list of volunteers who have donated their time and talents to AAUS this year. THANK YOU! There is also a new article series in response to our strategic planning surveys, an Aqualung recall, an AAUS Foundation update and much more. 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.

Do You Know....

Thank you to all of you who participated in the recent strategic planning surveys. Initial review of these surveys indicated that many AAUS members were either unaware of, or had a misunderstanding of some member benefits or aspects of AAUS policy/procedure. In an attempt to increase awareness and provide clarification, we will be including a targeted informational article in each month's ESlate. If you would like to see specific issues or questions addressed, please send them to the AAUS office for consideration.

This month we will look at the topic of the AAUS annual symposia. Several respondents indicated that they were unaware of the Proceedings or how to access them.

In conjunction with each annual symposium since 1985 AAUS has published a volume of Diving for Science: Proceedings of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences Scientific Symposium. These volumes contain papers or extended abstracts of the talks given at the symposium. Topics include archeology, medicine, conservation, geology, biology, technology, diving safety and education, all with an underwater focus. Recent issues (2003-2014) are available for download at www.aaus.org by clicking on the Resource Library tab at the top of the homepage. Paper copies of the 2006-2014 issues are available for sale from www.lulu.com (search for diving science proceedings) and paper copies of some older proceedings are available from the AAUS office

(aaus@disl.org) upon request. Individual articles going back to 1985 are available as pdfs through a search engine at <http://rubicon-foundation.org>. At the bottom of the Rubicon Research Repository page, click on Rubicon Foundation Archive and then select the AAUS collection. You will now be able to search AAUS material by year, author, title or subject using the browse menu on the right hand side of the page. Hundreds of papers on underwater science are available to you at no cost.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Aqualung Recall

Aqua Lung is conducting a voluntary recall of all SureLock II rubber weight pocket handles. SureLock II is the mechanical weight release system found on most Aqua Lung buoyancy compensators (BCs) beginning in 2009. Whether you have an original rubber handle or one of the revised rubber handles from the previous recall, Aqua Lung would now like to replace it with the latest generation handle, p/n 12396. For additional assistance please call (855) 355-7170 or visit <http://www.aqualung.com> and click on the Recall Notice.



Both versions of rubber handle are being recalled

AAUS Foundation Update

The AAUS Foundation has had a productive 2014, disbursing nearly \$13,000 in scholarship funds, including for first place and runner-up awards for both doctoral and master candidates, an Our World Underwater (OWU)/AAUS intern award, a Best Student paper award, and two Kevin Flanagan Student Travel awards. We have also had some fundraising success. Our donation drive at the Sitka symposium raised nearly \$6000 for the Kevin Flanagan Student Travel award, bringing the fund to within \$17,000 of the \$60,000 required to make this a permanently endowed award. Additional efforts during the Bubble Breaker resulted in more than \$5000 raised for scholarships.

As 2014 comes to an end, the opportunity to make a tax deductible donation in this year is closing fast. Since every dollar raised in 2014 will be matched by AAUS, the value to the Foundation for any donation will be doubled. We ask for your support to make the most of this. To donate, go to <http://www.aausfoundation.org> and click on the 'Donate' button. Be sure to include a comment if you would like to direct your donation to the Kevin Flanagan award. We are grateful to all our donors and wish you well in the upcoming year.

AAUS 2016 Symposium Host

Please be reminded that all proposals to host the 2016 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium must be submitted to the AAUS office no later than January 01, 2015. Please contact the office for information on what should be included with the proposal.

Strategic Planning

The AAUS Board of Directors is moving ahead with the development of our five-year strategic plan. The results from the second membership survey, Goals and Purposes, can now be viewed [here](#), and the text responses to this survey are currently being analyzed by the Board. The Strategic Planning committee will meet with an experienced facilitator (Thom Skalko, Eastern Carolina University) to create the first draft of the plan February 13-16, 2015, after which the Board will solicit comments and further input from the AAUS membership.

Self Evaluation Form

With help from the Membership, Standards and Accreditation committees, the AAUS BOD has developed a version of the "Self accreditation checklist" which is being called the Self Evaluation Form. This is a useful tool for any dive program and we encourage you to complete it. You will find a link on your organization's profile where you can upload the completed form as a "Misc Document File". Adding the self-evaluation form to your OM profile will help the Membership committee and other OMs to confirm that you are an active OM in good standing with AAUS. In 2015, the self evaluation will likely become a required component of every OM profile. You may view the form [here](#) or in the resource library www.aaus.org.

New DSO Orientation

If you would be interested in attending a one day new DSO orientation in April 2015 in the Northeast, please contact the AAUS office (aaus@disl.org) as we gauge interest in this event.

OM Host for 2015 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 15, 2014**.

www.aaus.org/aausowuss_host_organization_application

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

2015 UW-FHL Ecology Course

A course entitled *Ecology Between and Below Pacific Tides* will be offered July 20-August 21, 2015 at Friday Harbor Laboratories. The 5 week, 9 academic credit hour course is an upper-level Ecology course with tracks available for both diving and non-diving students. This course will allow students, who are qualified, to simultaneously become AAUS-certified as scientific divers, carry out subtidal research projects and earn academic credit. Please see <http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentSummer2015.html#SUMB-4> or contact Pema Kitaeff (pema@uw.edu) for more information. Applications are due February 01, 2015.

2015 AAUS/OWUSS Internship

OWUSS is now taking applications for the 2015 AAUS/OWUSS scientific diving internship. Intern applicants must be students from colleges and universities and must have 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.

To apply, visit: <http://www.owuscholarship.org/internships>.

Assistantships and Fellowship Available

Two graduate assistantships and a Postdoctoral Fellowship are available in the lab of Dr. Amy Freestone at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Graduate students will assist with the BioVision Project (Biogeographic Variation in Interaction Strength and Invasions at the Ocean's Nearshore). Prospective students for the assistantship or postdoc should contact Dr. Amy Freestone (amy.freestone@temple.edu). Prospective students will also need to submit a completed graduate application to the Department of Biology at Temple University by January 15

for US applicants and December 15 for international applicants. Review of postdoc applications will begin on December 01, 2014.

Coral Reef Ecology Field Course

The 2015 Korallion Lab (www.korallionlab.com) coral reef ecology field course will be held August 13-22 and August 22-31, 2015. This course is designed to provide students of any level with a sound foundation in ecological concepts,



survey techniques and experimental design in field research applied to coral reef ecosystems. Please email Dr. Michael Sweet at m.sweet@derby.ac.uk for any scientific issue regarding the course. For

any other information on the course and availability please email info@korallionlab.com.

REEF 2015 Internship

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo, FL is now accepting applications for the Spring 2015 Marine Conservation Internship. REEF's Marine Conservation Internship provides an in-depth look into REEF's Volunteer Fish Survey Project and Invasive Lionfish Program. The internship provides an array of diverse experiences including scientific diving opportunities, outreach and education, data collection and management, non-profit operations, and public speaking. <http://www.REEF.org/internship>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rebreather and Scientific Diving Training Workshop

The National Park Service (NPS), NOAA, AAUS and DAN are sponsoring a Rebreather and Scientific Diving Training Workshop at the Wrigley Marine Science Center, Catalina Island, CA the week of February 16th, 2015. The event will review standards, operating procedures, physiology, accidents, and future equipment evolution relevant to scientific diving with rebreathers. Two major goals will be pursued: 1) enhance cross agency communication, and 2) develop a best practices template available to the community. The program will include 18 hours of scheduled sessions (lecture, discussion, and hands-on elements) and ample open periods for additional interaction. Additional in-water activities will be available following the scheduled portion of the event. Find more information on topics to be cover, speakers and registration at [2015 rebreather and scientific diving training workshop](http://2015_rebreather_and_scientific_diving_training_workshop)

2015 CAUS Symposium

The Canadian Association for Underwater Science (CAUS) 2015 Annual General Meeting and Symposium is scheduled for February 25- 26, 2015 in Toronto, Ontario and hosted by Ripley's Aquarium of Canada. CAUS members are strongly encouraged to attend, and all others interested in learning more about CAUS are welcome too. Please contact info@caus.ca for details.

2015 AAUS Symposium

The 2015 AAUS symposium will be hosted by Florida Keys Community College and will be held September 28-October 03, 2015 in Key West, FL. If you are interested in teaching a workshop, submit a workshop summary to the AAUS office by December 31, 2015. Watch for more information after the first of the year!

Thank You!

Thank you to all who help to make this Academy and all its programs and events happen! In addition to the all-volunteer Board of Directors, many volunteers have graciously donated their time and talents to assist the BOD and the AAUS office in 2014. The Board of Directors wish to thank you all for your service and invite anyone who would like to be an active part of the AAUS to contact the AAUS office or a board member today!

Special thanks to:

Certification Committee: Steve Sellers, Christian McDonald

Election Committee: Michael Lang, Cheryl Thacker, Edgardo Ochoa

Awards Committee: John Heine, Douglas Kesling

AAUS Foundation Website: Scott Chapman

Membership Committee: Narineh Nazarian, Will Love, Ross Whippo, Les Burke

Finance Committee: Mike Emmerman, Will Love, Les Burke

Standards Committee: Mauritius Bell, Brett Dodson, Robbie Christian, Simon Talbot, Marc Slattery, Alan Verde, Joe Gessett, Joe Grinnan, Bill Sarro, Robert Reavis, Dan Abbot, Windsor Gray, Paul Sjordal

Scholarship Committee: Neal Pollock, Tim White, Marc Slattery, Deborah Gochfeld, Jennifer Caselle, Lisa Kerr-Lobel, Phil Lobel, Yannis Papastamatiou, Rick Wahle, and our anonymous reviewers

Symposium Committee: Ginny Eckert, Kyle Hebert, Joel Markis, Reid Brewer, Sonia Ibarra, Lauren Bell, Mike Donnelon

Also:

Crew of *R/V Kestrel*- *symposium support*

Kathy English – *Symposium print*

The Downtown Aquarium Denver – BOD meeting host

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.

American Academy of Underwater Sciences
101 Bienville Boulevard, Dauphin Island, AL 36528
Tel 251- 591- 3775 Fax 251-861-7540
aaus@disl.org www.aaus.org

Editor: Heather Fletcher - aaus@disl.org
Editorial Board: Michael Dardeau,
Amy Moran, Rick Riera-Gomez

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