



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –December 2015

Welcome to the December E-Slate. As the year draws to a close we want to thank you for being an active part of your Academy! In this issue you will find many approaching deadlines including certification program renewals, symposium workshop and host proposals, internship hosts and much more. At the end of this issue you will find a list of volunteers who have served on committees and assisted the board of directors and office staff throughout the year. We are sincerely thankful for your efforts; the Academy could not function without the dedicated members who generously contribute their time and energy to help keep us in business. 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. Happy Holidays!

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAUS Office Closure

The AAUS office will close the month of December as we prepare to move the office from under the umbrella of Dauphin Island Sea Lab and transition to a new Treasurer. Non-emergency emails and phone calls will be returned only as time permits. **Please note the new AAUS mailing address is**

AAUS
PO Box 9067
Mobile, AL 36691-9067

2016 AAUS Certification Program Renewals

Attention AAUS Instructors! It is time for your annual AAUS-ITI Instructor Renewal. Please note that this only applies to those programs who have chosen to participate in the voluntary certification card program. You should have already received a renewal package (paper and/or electronic) from ITI. You must renew as an Instructor with International Training (ITI) to maintain status as an AAUS Instructor and be able to register and certify AAUS divers.

Instructor Renewal

Paper renewal - if you received a paper renewal package, please complete the necessary information and submit the annual instructor renewal fee (\$160) via mail. The annual renewal fee increases to \$185 after Dec. 15.

Online renewal - if you did not receive a paper renewal package, or if you prefer to renew online, you may complete

this process on the ITI-SDI/TDI website (www.tdisdi.com). To do so, login to your Instructor Profile, and then choose 'Tools', 'Renew Membership' from the menu bar. Complete the necessary information and submit the annual instructor renewal fee online with a credit card

Facility Renewal

AAUS Facilities - as an AAUS instructor you must submit a paper Facility Renewal Form if you are the primary instructor/facility administrator at your AAUS facility. A Facility Fee is not required for AAUS Facilities. NOTE - the online Facility Renewal process is not available to AAUS Facilities; AAUS Facilities that renew online will be charged a Facility Renewal Fee. AAUS Facilities should instead complete the paper Facility Renewal Form linked above, and then submit to ITI via mail or fax (address and fax number listed on the bottom of the form) or scan and send via email (worldhq@tdisdi.com) with "AAUS Facility Renewal" in the subject line.

SDI/TDI Facility- If you are an AAUS instructor and your Facility is also an SDI/TDI Training facility, you must submit a separate Facility Renewal Form for that SDI/TDI training facility, and a Facility Fee for that SDI/TDI facility.

Specific questions regarding the annual renewal process or online interface should be directed to ITI. General questions about the AAUS Certification Program should be directed to the AAUS Certification program coordinator (Chris Rigaud, crigaud@maine.edu) or the AAUS office (Heather Fletcher, aaus@disl.org).

AAUS 2016 Symposium Workshops

If you would like to propose a workshop for the 2016 symposium, please send a brief course description to the AAUS office **no later than December 30, 2015**.

AAUS 2017 Symposium Host

Please be reminded that all proposals to host the 2017 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium must be submitted to the AAUS office no later than **January 01, 2016**. Please contact the office for information on what should be included with the proposal. If you submitted a proposal in 2015 and would like to resubmit, please contact the AAUS office.

New DSO Orientation

If you would be interested in attending a one day new DSO orientation in spring 2016 in California, please contact the AAUS office (aaus@disl.org) as we gauge interest in this event.

2016 Lee Somers Scientific Diving Intern OM Host

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, 2015**.

www.aaus.org/aausowuss_host_organization_application

2016 Ocean Exploration Funding Opportunity

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research has posted a 2016 grant funding announcement soliciting pre-proposals followed by full proposals for bold, innovative, multi-partner, interdisciplinary ocean exploration projects in the following areas of interest: 1) physical, chemical and biological characterizations of unknown or poorly known regions of the deep ocean, especially areas deeper than 500 m; 2) baseline characterization of marine archaeological resources at any depth; and 3) technology that advances ocean exploration and has application to NOAA related missions. Visit: <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/about/what-we-do/funding-opportunities.html> for more information.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITES

2016 Lee Somers Scientific Diving Internship

OWUSS is now taking applications for the 2016 AAUS/OWUSS scientific diving internship, recently renamed the Lee Somers Scientific Diving Internship. Intern applicants must be students from colleges or 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>.

REEF 2016 Internship

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo, FL is now accepting applications for the Spring 2016 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. During the four-month long internship, you will have many opportunities to dive and volunteer with partner organizations in the Florida Keys and South Florida. Visit <http://www.REEF.org/internship> to learn more and apply.

UPCOMING EVENTS

European Conference on Scientific Diving

The 2nd European Conference on Scientific Diving will be held in Sweden at The Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences-Kristineberg, May 9-11, 2016. This meeting highlights scientific outputs achieved principally through the use of scientific diving as a research tool. The deadline for abstract submission is **December 04, 2015**. More information at www.loven.gu.se/english/research/ecsd2016

13th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS)

ICRS is June 19-24, 2016 at the Hawai'i Convention Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i. ICRS is the primary international meeting focused on coral reef science and management, and is anticipated to bring together 2,500 coral reef scientists, policy makers and managers from 70 different nations, to present the latest research findings, case histories and management activities, and to discuss the application of scientific knowledge to achieving coral reef sustainability. Abstracts submissions will be accepted **through January 15, 2016**. More information at <http://sgmeet.com/icrs2016/>

27th Annual Symposium on Maritime Archaeology and History of Hawai'i and the Pacific

The 27th Annual Symposium on Maritime Archaeology and History of Hawai'i and the Pacific will be held February 13-15, 2016 at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is co-sponsored by the Marine Option Program, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and the Maritime Archaeology and History of the Hawaiian Islands (MAHHI) Foundation. The conference theme is *Diving into Archives: Collecting and Interpreting Maritime Information*. Deadline for Abstracts is **January 15, 2016**. Abstract submission form available online. Please email your abstract and contact information to: finney@mahhi.org or hans.vantilburg@noaa.gov. More information at <http://www.mahhi.org/Welcome.html>

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

University of Hawaii

Aquatic Disease Specialist

Florida Aquarium

Manager of Dive Operations

Alaska Sealife Center

Aquarium/Dive Husbandry Fellowship

Diving With a Purpose

Restoring Our Oceans, Preserving Our Heritage

Diving With a Purpose is a community-focused nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of submerged heritage resources by providing education, training, certification and field experience to adults and youth in the fields of maritime archaeology and ocean conservation. A special focus of DWP is the protection, documentation, and interpretation of African slave trade shipwrecks and the maritime history and culture of African-Americans who formed a core of labor and expertise for America's maritime enterprises.

DWP has been in existence since 2005 and is supported by scientific divers from the National Association of Black Scuba Divers Foundation, an AAUS OM.

In 2008 DWP began partnering with the Smithsonian Institute's new National Museum of African-American History and Culture; The George Washington University; and the National Parks Service in a venture called, 'The Slave Wrecks Project' (SWP). SWP is dedicated to documenting and preserving shipwrecks of vessels that were involved in the 'Transoceanic Slave Trade'.

In 2011, SWP, along with two institutions in South Africa (Iziko Museums of South Africa and the South African Heritage Resource Authority), located and start documenting the slave shipwreck São José Paquete de Africa off of the coast of Cape Town, South Africa. Jay Haigler from NABSDF shared some of this discovery with us at the 2015 AAUS symposium. Additionally, there is a CBS 60 Minutes segment dedicated to this discovery that aired on November 01, 2016. See a link to an excerpt below.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/inside-the-discovery-of-first-artifacts-ever-recovered-from-a-slave-ship/>

Find out more about DWP at www.divingwithapurpose.org and [www.facebook/ Diving With a Purpose](https://www.facebook.com/Diving-With-a-Purpose).

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 2015. 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, Chris Ledford

Election Committee: Michael Lang, Cheryl Thacker, Edgardo Ochoa

Awards Committee: John Heine, Douglas Kesling, George Peterson

Membership Committee: Pema Kitaeff, Will Love, Ross Whippo, Les Burke

Finance Committee: Mike Emmerman, Will Love, Les Burke

Standards Committee: Brett Dodson, Mauritius Bell, Alan Verde, Dan Abbot, Robbie Christian, Astrid Verstappen-de Jager, Paul Washington, Katie Shoultz, Jessica Keller, Edgardo Ochoa, Vinnie Malkoski, Joe Grinnan, Robert Reavis, Steve Sellers, Jeff Godfrey, and Dave Pence

Symposium Support: Dave Eaken and FWC, Crew of M/V Fort Jefferson, Jim Nimz, Crew of M/V Spree, Frank Wasson and Workshop Instructors

Also:

Kathy English – *Symposium print*

USC Wrigley Marine Station, Eric Castillo – *Strategic*

Planning meeting and Rebreather workshops host

Boston University, Phil Lobel – *BOD meeting host*

Northeastern University, Liz Magee – *New DSO*

Orientation host

Thom Skalko – *Strategic Planning Facilitator*

Scott Chapman – *Office IT Support*

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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AAUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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