



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE – April 2015

Welcome to the April E-Slate. In this edition we continue our new article series, *Do You Know*, announce the AAUS/OWUSS intern, open SDLA award nominations, call for abstracts for the 2015 AAUS Diving for Science symposium, and much more. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, program highlights 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 who participated in the recent strategic planning surveys. The results of the three general surveys can be viewed through these links: [member survey 1](#), [member survey 2](#), [diver survey](#). Initial review of these surveys indicated that many AAUS members were either unaware of, or misunderstood some member benefits or AAUS policies/procedures. 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.

A respondent to our recent surveys asked for "a cheat sheet to make my DSO happy". Bearing in mind that it just might take more than compliant divers to make your DSO truly happy, we've put together some suggestions.

1. Always make as many ascents as descents, then log your dives!
2. Carry your own tanks.
3. Carry your DSO's tanks.
4. Treat program gear with care and respect (this means better than you treat your own gear).
5. Talk to your DSO before you apply for funding, make promises, or decide on a budget for a grant.
6. Acknowledge your DSO in your papers and talks.
7. Do buddy checks, monitor your air supply and conduct post dive de-briefs.
8. Plan your dive, dive your plan. (Know your limitations, confine yourself to the depths, locations and dive buddies in the approved dive plan.)
9. Don't be a crybaby! (Take responsibility for keeping up your certs, dives, medical etc.)
10. Remember that it's not *always* easier to get forgiveness than it is permission...

And you might mention to their supervisor that you could not have managed to finish that last project without the help, expertise and advice of the DSO and he or she should get a BIG raise! And if that's out of the question, the thing most DSOs have in common is that they like to go to cool places and dive, and you might both benefit from that. Thanks to all the DSOs that contributed to this top ten list!

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Obituary – Dr. Eugenie Clark, 1923-2015

2007 AAUS Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement Award

Eugenie Clark, whose childhood rapture with fish in a New York City aquarium led to a life of scholarly adventure in the littorals and depths of the Seven Seas and to a global reputation as a marine biologist and expert on sharks, died on Wednesday at her home in Sarasota, Fla. She was 92.

Dr. Clark was an ichthyologist and oceanographer whose academic credentials, teaching and research posts, scientific activities and honors filled a 20-page curriculum vitae, topped by longtime roles as a professor at the University of Maryland and director of the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota.



She also wrote three books, 80 scientific treatises and more than 70 articles and professional papers; lectured at 60 American universities and in 19 countries abroad; appeared in 50 television specials and documentaries; was the subject of many biographies and profiles; made intriguing scientific discoveries; and had four species of fish named for her.

For all her scientific achievements, Dr. Clark was also a figure of popular culture who used her books, lectures and expertise to promote the preservation of ecologically fragile shorelines, to oppose commercial exploitation of endangered species and to counteract misconceptions, especially about sharks.

Excerpted from The New York Times

Full article available at

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/26/us/eugenie-clark-scholar-of-the-life-aquatic-dies-at-92.html?_r=0

2015 AAUS/OWUSS Internship



Catie Mitchell, Vanderbilt University, has been awarded the 2015 AAUS/OWUSS scientific diving internship. Catie is studying Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology. The University of Maine, Darling Marine Center will host this year's intern. Find out more about Catie at www.aaus.org/2015_aausowuss

Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominations are now open for the 2015 Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is presented annually to an individual from the scientific diving community who has made a significant contribution to advancing underwater science and technology. Nominations are sought from the AAUS general membership, and selected candidates are voted for by the AAUS past presidents and previous award recipients. Nominations close May 31, 2015. Please submit the names and contact information for nominees, along with a one-paragraph justification at http://www.aaus.org/lifetime_achievement_award or to John Heine jheine@ucsd.edu.

2015 AAUS Symposium – Call for Abstracts

We are now accepting abstract submissions for the 2015 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium to be hosted by the



Florida Keys Community College and held September 28-October 03, 2015 in Key West, FL. Information can be found at www.aaus.org/annual_symposium. Look for registration to be open by the end of the month!

Introducing the AAUS DSO Google Group

One of our main goals addressed during the Strategic Planning meeting was to improve collaboration between the AAUS and stakeholders through expanding member services and increasing communication. In order to help increase communications and to facilitate discussions amongst DSOs we are introducing the use of Google Groups. Access to the group will be by invitation only and is for OM DSOs.

All AAUS DSOs have received an email invitation to join the group. Once you have accepted the invitation you will begin receiving group communications. If you would like to start a new discussion, you can contact the group simply by sending an email to aaus-dso@googlegroups.com with your topic of discussion and it will be sent out to all members. To respond to discussions simply reply to the email. Please keep all communications in the group professional and courteous.

If your institution has multiple DSOs or ADSOs and would like them to join the group or if you have not yet received an email invitation, you can request to join the group by emailing Narineh Nazarian at narinehn@gmail.com.

Honor Kevin Flanagan and Support AAUS Scholarships

AAUS Foundation has dedicated the month of April to remembering our friend Kevin by raising funds to support the student travel scholarship bearing his name. During April, for every \$10 donation to the Kevin Flanagan Student Travel Award fund, donors will be given a chance to win *The Corals of the World* (vol. 1-3) authored by renowned coral expert Dr. J.E.N. Veron. *No purchase necessary to win, void where prohibited, see AAUS Foundation website for [official rules](#)* www.aausfoundation.org



AAUS Strategic Planning meeting

The AAUS Strategic Planning Committee met in February at the Boone Conference Center on Catalina Island for a facilitated three-day workshop and planning session to reaffirm, refine, and refocus the Academy's vision, mission, and goals, and to direct the Board's activities for the next five years. This meeting followed a year-long process of soliciting and analyzing input from membership and stakeholders (results of surveys can be seen at [member survey 1](#), [member survey 2](#), [diver survey](#)). Based on this input and the outcomes of the strategic planning session, the current Board does not anticipate a major shift in its purposes and goals within the next five years; the strategic planning process identified many of the same issues as previous Boards, and the current plan is built upon and strengthened by these earlier efforts.

The committee also identified strategies, timelines, and individuals who will spearhead these efforts. The full Strategic Plan will be vetted through the Board of Directors, who will cost out and prioritize the different initiatives. The plan will be finalized at the April meeting of the Board in Boston, April 24-25, 2015. Following the meeting, the plan will be put out to membership for a 60-day comment period, after which the Board will make any necessary additions or changes. Throughout this process the Board will continue working to refine and revise the plan based on member input, and we will have a full five-year plan in place for presentation to the membership at the AAUS Symposium in Key West in September 2015.

Northeast DSO Meeting

The Northeast Regional DSOs came together for a mostly informal meeting on Saturday, March 7th, 2015. Thanks to the Boston Sea Rovers for providing us with meeting space and an enjoyable weekend!

Participating DSOs were R. Patrylak (American Museum of Natural History), P. Lobel (Boston University), M. Lombardi (JF White Contracting Company), W. Grossman (Marine Biological Laboratory), V. Malkoski (Massachusetts Division of State Fisheries), N. Snyder (Mystic Aquarium), H. Bourbon (National Aquarium, Baltimore), J. Gessert and L. Dillon (New York Harbor School), T. Maney (Salem State University), T. Lyman (University of Massachusetts, Boston), R. Toppin and M. Rosen (UNH Shoals Marine Lab), J. Godfrey (University of Connecticut), C. Rigaud (The University of Maine), A. Hanson, J. Mangiafico and A. Moen (University of Rhode Island), K. Malkoski and D. Forsman (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute).

Discussion items included recent legal cases, updates on happenings within AAUS and the greater scientific diving community, and possible mechanisms to share information and resources in the NE region. The group welcomes new members and is hoping to meet on an annual basis. Please contact Anya Hanson or Chris Rigaud to be added to our mailing list.

2015 Ocean 180 Video Challenge

The Florida Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE Florida) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 Ocean 180 Video Challenge. The winning video abstracts were selected by over 37,000 middle school student judges who casted their votes for the entries they felt best explained the results and significance of the scientists' research. All video abstracts are related to a scientific paper that the submitting scientist has published within the past five years. Visit <http://ocean180.org/2015-challenge/2015winners.html> to view the winning video abstracts.

Entry Level Training Requirements

(AAUS Stds. Sec. 4.00)

Recently a few questions have arisen regarding equivalency and proficiency requirements for entry-level divers who wish to enter an AAUS Scientific Diver training program. As written in the 2013 AAUS Standards, training for entry-level divers must meet the minimum standards of the W/RSTC and/or ISO. With this in mind, divers trained by agencies that do not meet these standards may require remedial training prior to being granted admission to an AAUS program. Training agencies need not be members of, or have their standards approved by the W/RSTC or ISO, but the minimum standards must be met. For AAUS OMs not participating in the AAUS Certification Program and still operating under the 2011 standards, a full listing of equivalency requirements can be found in, Sec. 4.0 Entry Level Training Requirements.

Gulf Coast Graduate Student Symposium

AAUS supplied scholarship information and sponsorship to the Gulf of Mexico Graduate Student Symposium held last month at Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Organized and run completely by graduate students and hosted by marine labs on a rotating basis, this year's symposium boasted 81 students from 13 different universities with 56 presenters. One of the organizers, Caitlin Wessel said, "We had a great turnout this year, largely due to our generous sponsors who made it possible for us to host a successful symposium."



Photo Credit: Caitlin Wessel

AAUS Instructor Renewal 2015

Attention AAUS Instructors! It is time for your annual AAUS-ITI Instructor Renewal. You should have already received a renewal package (paper and/or electronic) from ITI. You must renew as an Instructor and renew your facility* with International Training (ITI) to maintain status as an AAUS Instructor and to be able to register and certify AAUS divers. Please see instructions at https://secure.aaus.org/aaus_certification_program

**A facility renewal fee is only required if you are an AAUS instructor and the primary SDI/TDI instructor/facility administrator at an industry/retail facility.*

Update on Pressed Steel Tanks (PST)

The Special Permit on PST was issued in 2011, by the DOT, and expired on January 31, 2015. DEMA has been in contact with the DOT and, working with Professional Scuba Inspectors (www.pscylinders.com), has obtained a copy of the NEW Special Permit which expires in 2018. This means that all PST tanks with the neck stamped with SP9791 or E9791 which are visually inspected and within hydrostatic test date are valid and may be filled (or hydrostatically tested as needed). For more information, see this [Special Permit](#) on DEMA's website.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

AAUS Student Scholarships 2015

The AAUS Foundation awards scholarships to graduate students engaged in, or planning to begin, research projects in which diving is used as an important research tool or studying diving science. The Kevin Gurr Scholarship awards \$3000 to a Master program student. The Kathy Johnston Scholarship awards \$3000 to a Doctoral student. AAUS may also award additional \$1500 scholarships to the second

ranked proposals in each category. The Foundation also grants the Kevin Flanagan Travel Award providing up to \$800 for undergraduate/graduate students to attend an AAUS scientific meeting and the Hollis Gear Award that provides up to two recipients with an award valued at \$1250, good towards Hollis dive gear and travel monies. Applications are submitted electronically and **all proposals are due June 30**. For more information and application instructions, visit www.aausfoundation.org, or send questions to the Scholarship Committee Chair at aaus@disl.org

Ecology & Conservation of Kelp Forest Communities

Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University in Pacific Grove, California is offering an intensive, hands-on course, June 22 – July 24, 2015. Students gain practical diving/research skills including identification of species, use of a variety of underwater sampling techniques, and statistical analysis of field data. Must be SCUBA certified (Advanced/Open Water II) and have own diving gear (AAUS Scientific Diver Certification is not required but desirable). Application deadline is April 15, 2015. Application available <http://hopkins.stanford.edu/applications.html>
For more information contact watanabe@stanford.edu or judyt@stanford.edu.

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. Email Dr. Michael Sweet m.sweet@derby.ac.uk for any scientific issue regarding the course. For more information email info@korallionlab.com.

MTS 2015 Scholarships

Marine Technology Society is pleased to announce 2015 opportunities for students that are interested in marine engineering and/or marine technology. Visit the MTS website for detailed information, including application requirements. www.mtsociety.org/education/scholarships.aspx

UPCOMING EVENTS

Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar

This seminar, offered on 14-16 May 2015 in Marathon, Florida, will be taught by the Florida Public Archaeology Network (a program of UWF) in conjunction with staff from the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. It provides scuba professionals (Course Directors, Instructor Trainers, Instructors, etc.) with information and skills to proactively protect shipwrecks, artificial reefs, and other underwater

cultural sites as part of the marine environment. Participants will leave the seminar with all of the tools necessary to teach the Heritage Awareness Diving Specialty through PADI, NAUI, and SDI. More information and registration at <http://flpublicarchaeology.org/workshops/HADS.php>.

New DSO Orientation

This program is designed to provide an orientation for new Diving Safety Officers and for existing DSOs who would like more information and an update on particulars of running an AAUS Diving Safety Program at their respective institutions or organizations. Also open to non AAUS organizations who would like more information about AAUS. This one-day workshop will be held at Northeastern University's Marine Science Center on April 27, 2015. The cost is \$100. Register at www.aaus.org/2015_spring_new_dso_orientation.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

FWC/FWRI

Seasonal Research Project Team Member

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

AAUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Moran	President
Rick Riera-Gomez	President-Elect
Lora Pride	Secretary
Mike Dardeau	Treasurer
Jen Smith	Director-at-Large, Scholarship
Narineh Nazarian	Appointed Director (AD), Membership
Christopher Rigaud	Director-at-Large
Elliott Jessup	AD, Finance
Liz Kintzing	AD, Standards
Tim White	AD, Statistics
Jim Hayward	Director-at-Large