



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE – May 2015

Welcome to the May E-Slate. In this edition we continue our new article series, *Do You Know*, announce the 2015 Board of Director elections, AAUS scholarships, open registration for the 2015 AAUS symposium and much more. Organizational members are reminded that dues and statistics are now past due. 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...

Do you know we want to hear from our membership? We encourage you to be involved! Contact the office for ways in which you can volunteer on committees, assist with new initiatives, fundraise for our scholarships and much more. We also want your input for this publication. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, program highlights and images of underwater work at aaus@disl.org.

This month and next members have the opportunity to:

- Vote for AAUS BOD members*
- Review/comment on the AAUS Strategic Plan
- Vote for the AAUS Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Award Recipient*
- Nominate for the Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement Award
- Begin registering for the 2015 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium
- Submit an AAUS Scholarship application

We encourage you to stay involved and be an active part of your Academy!

**You must be a full voting member to participate in these events.*

Message from the President

I just returned from a very productive meeting of the AAUS Board of Directors, held April 24-25. Many thanks to Phil Lobel and Boston University for providing meeting space and logistical support, and to Heather and all of the Board members for their hard work and dedication. I'd like to call your attention to two particular points that we discussed.

First, the Board discussed and affirmed the five-year strategic plan that emerged from our meeting at the Wrigley

Institute for Environmental Studies in February. Since that meeting the Board has been engaged in costing out the various initiatives that were developed based on member input from surveys in 2014. Both the proposed plan and a funding model are posted on the AAUS website for a 60-day member comment period that begins May 1. The plan can be viewed [here](#), and a form for submitting comments and questions is available [here](#). The Board will consider all comments and make any necessary changes or revisions before presenting the final plan to membership at the 2015 Symposium in Key West. We want your input!

Second, in February the Board requested that the AAUS Past Presidents Advisory Committee (PPAC) review all available information on the OSHA vs. Landry's case and provide the Board with a recommendation. The PPAC provided this in mid-April. In their response, they stated: "There is consensus (among the PPAC) that OSHA's (Federal and California) current definition of "scientific diving" was provided to OSHA by the AAUS/Scientific Diving Community and that it addresses the majority of the diving conducted by AAUS OMs." They recommended three courses of action for the Board: first, that "the AAUS BoD consult counsel to assess any implication to AAUS membership of the OSHA v. Houston Aquarium ruling that finds "feeding and cleaning dives did not meet the third guideline that the diver's task be those of an observer and data gather as opposed to construction and troubleshooting tasks traditionally associated with commercial diving." (AZA Amicus Curiae, pg. 8)." The AAUS currently has no system in place for obtaining legal advice or service, and the Board determined that solid legal backing is essential to engage OSHA about the scientific diving exemption. A major priority for the Board, therefore, is to determine what level of representation we need and to find a way to fund it. A second recommendation was that "...the AAUS pursue regular (perhaps annually) contact with leadership at OSHA's Office of Maritime Enforcement to represent the interests of membership," although the PPAC also felt that attempts to revise the current definition of scientific diving would be an "extremely costly and time consuming process and unlikely to result in the desired outcome." In the next month, Rick Gomez (President-Elect) and I will establish a diverse committee of experienced DSOs and scientists to determine an appropriate strategy for reaching out to OSHA. A third recommendation was: "The AAUS can and should continue to provide leadership for membership. This should include

more direct and regular communication of what is and is not considered exempted scientific diving." The DSO meeting in Key West in 2015 will be structured to address this issue, and we are also actively formulating committees and workshops that focus on this critical question.

The final comment I have for everyone is that it's time to vote for your new Board members. In this issue of the ESlate we announce the candidates for elections to the 2016 BOD along with the biographies and mission statements of each candidate. We have an excellent slate; many thanks to the Elections Committee (Michael Lang, Chair: Edgardo Ochoa, Cheryl Thacker, Ed O'Brian) for their diligent and timely work, and to each candidate for their willingness to serve. Positions up for election are President Elect, Secretary, and Elected Director (one position). Voter turnout in AAUS elections is extremely low, so this is a situation where your vote can make a big difference. Please participate!

Amy Moran

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAUS 2015 ELECTION

The 2015 AAUS election opens May 01 and closes June 30. This year the academy will elect a President Elect, Secretary and a Director-at-Large. The term will start on the January 01, 2015. The Secretary and President Elect will serve 2 year terms and the Director-at-Large will serve a three year term. The election is open to Full Voting Members (individual and OM Reps) in good standing (dues paid, etc.). Ballots are accessed via the AAUS website, www.aaus.org, by logging into your **individual account** and selecting 'Voting and Polling.' To write in a candidate for any office, send an email with the name of the candidate and position for which you are voting to two of the election committee members (mlang@oxyheal.com, eobrien@whoi.edu, cthacker@ehs.ufl.edu, eochoa@conservation.org).

Please find the slate of candidates below. Candidates' biographical sketches and answers to election questions are available at https://secure.aaus.org/2015_aaus_bod_election

2015 AAUS BOD Slate of Candidates

President Elect

Marc Slattery
Tim White

Secretary

David Ginsburg
Chris Ledford

Director-at-Large

Mike Anghera
Mark Keusenkothen
Vin Malkoski

Membership Review – AAUS Strategic Plan

After a year-long process of surveying and analyzing member input and an intensive planning retreat by the AAUS Strategic Planning Committee, a plan has been created and vetted through the Board of Directors. The plan is designed to reaffirm, refine, and refocus the Academy's vision, mission, and goals, and to direct the Board's activities for the next five years.

The strategic plan will be available to membership for a 60-day comment period, May 01 to June 30, 2015, 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.

AAUS encourages its members to review and provide feedback on this strategic plan. A copy of the plan and an online comment form can be found at [aaus 2015 strategic plan](#)

Annual OM Requirements

2014 annual statistics summaries and 2015 dues are late after 30 April. If 2014 stats or 2015 dues are not submitted by June 30th, the Standards Committee will be notified of your delinquency. Dues may be paid at www.aaus.org by logging in to your OM profile and stats may be filed at http://stats.diveaaus.org/User_Login.asp.

2015 Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Award

The AAUS General Membership has nominated the following candidates for consideration as a recipient for the *2015 Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Award for Scientific Diving Leadership*; Jeff Bozanic, Danny Gouge, John Reed, and Rob Robbins. Nominee bios can be found at https://secure.aaus.org/2015_cl_award. Please cast your vote by logging to your **individual member** profile and selecting 'voting and polling' no later than 11:59 p.m. PST, May 30, 2015. You must be a full voting member to access the poll.

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

Registration for the 2015 AAUS Diving for Science symposium to be held September 28-October 03, 2015 in Key West, FL, is now open! This year we have workshop opportunities to include Aquarius and USS Vandenburg dives, lionfish surveys, DPV (scooter) certification, DAN IQC, PSI and much more. Additionally, there is a post-symposium field trip to the Dry Tortugas hosted by the National Park Service. A full schedule, lodging information and registration are available [here](#). This year we are accepting short abstracts, extended abstracts or full manuscripts. Templates and submission instructions can be found at www.aaus.org/annual_symposium.



Call for Abstracts and Author Guidelines

AAUS is now accepting abstracts for the 2015 AAUS Diving for Science symposium. This year AAUS will accept short abstracts (less than 800 words), extended abstracts (800-1200 words) or full manuscripts. Abstracts should be submitted electronically to aaus@disl.org by **June 15, 2015**. Please put "2015 AAUS symposium abstract" followed by your name in the message line to facilitate tracking. Notification on the disposition of submitted abstracts will be returned to the first author electronically by **July 15**. The deadline for final abstract/manuscript submission is **August 7** to allow the published proceedings to be available at the fall meeting. No presentation will be allowed unless the final abstract or manuscript has been cleared for publication in the proceedings.

All submissions **MUST** use the template, which includes formatting instructions. Templates can be found at www.aaus.org/annual_symposium

Spring 2015 New DSO Orientation

The spring 2015 AAUS New DSO Orientation was held April 27, 2015 at Northeastern University Marine Science Center. This program, designed to provide new Diving Safety Officers and existing DSOs with information to run an AAUS Diving Safety Program at their respective organizations and

is also open to non-AAUS organizations who would like more information about AAUS. The meeting was well attended by a diverse group of participants from University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont, NOAA, University of Connecticut, University Systems of Georgia, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences and others. AAUS would like to thank our host, Liz Magee, and the presenters, Rick Riera-Gomez, Jim Hayward, Mike Dardeau, Chris Rigaud, Lora Pride and Narineh Nazarian for making this meeting a success.

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 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.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITES

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

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>.

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

Oregon State University

Scientific Diving Field Assistant

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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