



# E-SLATE

## American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

### EDITORIAL NOTE –January 2016

Welcome to the January E-Slate. Happy New Year! In this edition we hear from both the incoming and outgoing AAUS presidents, welcome our new board members, open registration for our spring New DSO Orientation workshop, make a final call for AAUS/OWUSS intern applications and much more. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, program highlights and images of underwater work at [aaus@disl.org](mailto:aaus@disl.org). Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at [www.aaus.org](http://www.aaus.org).

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Rick Riera-Gomez  
University of Miami*

It is an honor and a privilege to move into the President position of the AAUS Board of Directors (BoD) and I look forward to the next two years with great excitement. But first I have some thank yous to mention.

I would like to say thank you to outgoing AAUS President Amy Moran for her steady leadership. Her calm demeanor and thoughtfulness was great to have on the BoD as we worked through some very difficult situations.

I would also like to thank outgoing BoD members Elliott Jessup and Lora Pride for their service to the Academy. I wish you both a great 2016 in your “real” jobs.

Special thanks must go to longstanding outgoing BoD member Michael Dardeau who has served on the AAUS BoD for the past 12 years. Michael, thank you for your friendship, service and ability to bring an invaluable perspective to the BoD.

With the turnover on AAUS BoD I would like to welcome the following people for stepping onto the 2016 BoD – Marc Slattery, Mike Anghera, Chris Ledford and Vin Malkowski. I look forward to working with you all.

As you may recall, in 2015 the AAUS BoD developed a strategic plan (SP). This SP started in 2014 with a large fact finding period that gathered information from many different groups including the organizational membership, individual membership and past AAUS Presidents. The BoD then worked through this information and identified

the strengths and weaknesses of the Academy. The SP puts forth a clear and ambitious path for 2016. During the next 12 months, the AAUS will move forward with initiatives in the SP that membership has identified as priorities.

#### *Some Strategic Plan Highlights for 2016*

One of the major initiatives that received overwhelming support from the membership is development and implementation of an accreditation program. We have been working on this program for a while and will be starting with a full accreditation process this spring. This will be a voluntary program and will have some associated costs. We will be sending out details over the next couple of months so please watch for announcements.

Another major initiative that received much support is the development of an AAUS DSO qualification program. We have also been working on this for a few years and it's time to move it forward. This will also be a voluntary program with associated costs. More details about this will also be forthcoming in the next couple of months.

Some of the other actions identified in the strategic plan that we will be working on in 2016 are increasing communication links, improving collaborations between AAUS and its membership and other community stakeholders, and exploring alternative revenue streams for AAUS, just to name a few.

As you can see we have an ambitious 2016 ahead but I, and the 2016 Board of Directors, welcome the challenge.

#### FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

*Amy Moran  
University of Hawaii*

December marks my final month as President of the AAUS, and it's been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as president for the past two years and on the AAUS Board of Directors for five. We've accomplished a great deal in the last five years, none of which would have been possible without the efforts and dedication of too many people to name.

**Donors:** thank you to for your financial support and donations, large and small, which allow the AAUS Foundation to continue providing support to promising

young scientists, and thank you to the organizations, individuals, and institutions that have donated funding, space and resources that allow our meetings and Symposia to be so productive;

**AAUS volunteers:** thank you to all the AAUS members who've contributed their time and expertise to planning, committee work, strategic planning, meeting support, etc. etc.!

I do need to mention a couple of people by name. **Mike Dardeau**, who's been on the Board longer than anyone I know of, is stepping down as of January 1. Mike has served on the Board since 2004 and has been Treasurer since 2006, and for most of that time he's been the main person keeping the AAUS solvent and functional. We all owe Mike a huge debt of gratitude.

**Heather Fletcher**, who started working with the Board right around the same time that I did, is the heart of the AAUS and I can't thank her enough for everything she's done. She's wonderful to work with and I hope she'll be with the organization for many years to come.

Finally, to all the Board members I've served with: Tim, Rick, Pema, Neal, Narineh, Mike, Michael, Marc, Lora, Liz, Kevin, Jim, Jenn, Jen, George, Elliott, Diana, Christian, Chris, Cheryl, Bill; thank you for making my time as president tremendously productive, and also a lot of fun.

The Academy is in great hands with incoming President Rick Gomez and President-Elect Marc Slattery, and I have full confidence in both of them to move the goals of the AAUS forward in the next four years.

Best wishes to everyone for a great 2016!

## NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AAUS 2016 Board of Directors

The AAUS Board of Directors undergoes changes in 2016 as four long-standing members step down and a new President-Elect, Secretary and two new directors join. We would like to extend our thanks, gratitude, and appreciation to Amy Moran, Mike Dardeau, Elliott Jessup and Lora Pride for their many years of service and hard work. You've been a great pleasure to work with and you will be missed!

We welcome Chris Ledford as our new Secretary and Marc Slattery as the President-Elect. We also welcome two new Directors to the Board: Mike Anghera and Vin Malkowski. Chris Rigaud will transfer from a director's position to that of the Treasurer. We look forward to working with all of you in 2016 and beyond.

## 2015 AAUS Statistics Due

Organizational Members of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences agree to submit summary statistics each year of dives, modes of diving and any incidents associated with their program. Annual stats may be submitted at <http://stats.diveaaus.org>. It is strongly recommended that you fill in the [blank form](#) by hand before attempting to submit your stats. Inputs are error checked and you may get a message that your totals do not agree. Please do not include any dives that do not meet AAUS standards, i.e. recreational dives accepted by the DCB as proficiency dives. Statistical summaries are due each January and considered late 01 April. AAUS statistics collection criteria and definitions may be found at [http://stats.diveaaus.org/Reporting/Stats\\_definitions.asp](http://stats.diveaaus.org/Reporting/Stats_definitions.asp).

## 2016 AAUS Dues

2016 AAUS OM dues are now due. You may mail in a check to the NEW address, listed below, or renew online by logging in to your OM profile at [www.aaus.org](http://www.aaus.org).

AAUS  
PO Box 9067  
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## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 2016 AAUS/OWUSS Internship

OWUSS is now taking applications for the 2016 Lee Somers scientific diving internship. Once qualified as an AAUS 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 up to \$3000 for travel to/from site, room, board, and other internship-related expenses. Information at [https://secure.aaus.org/aausowuss\\_internship](https://secure.aaus.org/aausowuss_internship). Application deadline is **January 31, 2016**. To apply, visit: <http://www.owuscholarship.org/internships>.

### 2016 DAN Research Internship

The DAN Research Internship Program provides experiences to help young people develop their professional capabilities and consider careers in medicine, diving or dive-related fields. Internships typically run for 3-4 months, usually commencing in the third week of May. DAN strives to make the intern's experience an enriching one by matching their skills and interests with appropriate mentors. Competitive applicants are likely to be upper level undergraduates or recently graduated students with an educational track in a science field. The application deadline is January 15. <http://www.diversalernetnetwork.org/research/intern>.

## **REEF 2016 Internship**

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo, FL is now accepting applications for the 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. <http://www.REEF.org/internship>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **New DSO Orientation**

AAUS will hold a new DSO orientation on February 26, 2016 in California (exact location TBD). This program is designed to provide an orientation for new Diving Safety Officers and for existing DSO's who would like more information and an update on particulars of running a Diving Safety Program at their respective institutions or organizations. Essential training for anyone considering accepting or assuming the role of Diving Safety Officer and planning on operating an AAUS Diving Safety Program. This opportunity is also open to non-AAUS organizations who would like more information about AAUS. The cost for this one day workshop is \$100. Please register at [www.aaus.org/2016\\_spring\\_new\\_dso\\_orientation](http://www.aaus.org/2016_spring_new_dso_orientation)

### **Maritime Archaeology and History of Hawai'i and the Pacific Symposium**

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 Mānoa. The conference theme is *Diving into Archives: Collecting and Interpreting Maritime Information*. Deadline for Abstract submission is January 15, 2016. For more information about the conference, go to: <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](http://www.aaus.org/job_board)

### **Smithsonian Marine Station**

*Research and Field Technician*

### **University of Hawaii**

*Aquatic Disease Specialist*

### **Florida Aquarium**

*Manager of Dive Operations*

### **Alaska Sealife Center**

*Aquarium/Dive Husbandry Fellowship*

### **Project Dragonfly**

Two AAUS student members took part in international graduate studies this past summer through Miami University's Project Dragonfly, which offers graduate courses in 15 countries throughout Africa, Australia, Asia and the Americas.

Tiffany Gray of Merritt Island, Fla., studied the desert ecosystems of inland Baja and then traveled to the coast to explore the marine biosphere reserve at Bahía de los Ángeles, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the Sea of Cortez.

Michelle Ruthenberg of Myrtle Beach, S.C., studied community-based efforts to preserve Bornean species along the Kinabatangan River in Sabah (East Malaysia) on the island of Borneo.

These students participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions, a global program offering graduate courses to people from all disciplines. The program combines web-based learning with field experiences in 15 countries throughout the world. Inspired by the experience in these countries, each student is now conducting an individual semester-long research project.

Since the program began 10 years ago, Project Dragonfly has engaged more than 1,700 people in firsthand educational and scientific research at critical conservation field sites in Africa, Australia, Asia and the Americas. New in 2016 are courses in Paraguay and Galapagos. Dragonfly is located in the department of biology at Miami University, a state university in Oxford, Ohio. Miami was established in 1809 and is listed as one of the eight original Public Ivies.

The deadline to apply for 2016 courses is Jan. 28, 2016, at [http://www.earthexpeditions.org/15-16\\_News](http://www.earthexpeditions.org/15-16_News)

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

Rick Riera-Gomez	President
Marc Slattery	President-Elect
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