



# E-SLATE

## American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

### EDITORIAL NOTE –February 2016

Welcome to the February E-Slate. In this edition we announce an important new survey, call for AAUS BOD nominations, continue registration for our spring New DSO Orientation workshop, announce some new student opportunities 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).

### NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### AAUS Funding Assessment Survey

During development of the AAUS strategic plan, membership identified the need for additional and/or alternative funding sources to help secure the future of AAUS. The AAUS Board of Directors has put together survey questions about your organization's funding for diving-based research projects that will help us continue to gather information pursuant to this effort. Please take some time to assess the external funding your organization receives for diving-based research projects and then complete this 16 question survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/scidivefunding>

#### AAUS BOD Call for Nominations

The 2016 AAUS Nominating Committee is now accepting for consideration nominations of individual members to stand for election for one Director-at-Large position on the AAUS Board of Directors. Commencing on January 01, 2017 the elected Director-at-Large candidate will serve one three-year term. An electronic poll will open on May 01 and close June 30, 2016.

Qualified candidates must be voting members in good standing with the AAUS. The nomination letter (not to exceed 300 words) is best focused on how a particular candidate can contribute to the Academy based on their academic or diving safety contributions, or previous development or not-for-profit organizational governance experience. Please submit your nomination letter, no later than **March 15, 2016**, to any one of these five AAUS Nominating Committee members: Amy Moran, Chair ([morana@hawaii.edu](mailto:morana@hawaii.edu)), Pema Kitaeff, University of Washington ([pema@uw.edu](mailto:pema@uw.edu)), George Peterson, Monterey Bay Aquarium ([gpeterson@mbayaq.org](mailto:gpeterson@mbayaq.org)), Jeff Godfrey, University of Connecticut ([jeff.godfrey@uconn.edu](mailto:jeff.godfrey@uconn.edu)) or Lora Pride, Ch2mHill ([Lora.Pride@ch2m.com](mailto:Lora.Pride@ch2m.com)).

#### New AAUS Initiatives Update

The AAUS Accreditation program, identified in the 2015 Strategic Plan as a priority, has started. The program will follow the same template that was piloted in 2013-14 in which two programs were reviewed. We are currently working with those reviewers and are actively identifying additional reviewers to help this program run more smoothly and efficiently. We are also looking for programs to volunteer themselves to be reviewed during the early phase of the accreditation program. For cost efficiency, we are looking to find programs that are close enough to each other to allow the review teams to be most productive. We are working hard to get six OMs accredited this year.

Another priority initiative we have been working on is the DSO qualification. Although it is not as far along in the process yet as the accreditation, we have started looking at ways to offer the qualification program sometime this year. This program will work off the model put together by an AAUS committee in 2007-8. We know you all will have many questions regarding these programs. Please watch for more articles in the ESlate that will outline how we are going to make these programs happen. If you have immediate questions or would like to participate in the accreditation program please contact the AAUS President, Rick Riera-Gomez ([rgomez@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:rgomez@rsmas.miami.edu)).

#### 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. AAUS statistics collection criteria and definitions are at [http://stats.diveaaus.org/Reporting/Stats\\_definitions.asp](http://stats.diveaaus.org/Reporting/Stats_definitions.asp). Statistical summaries are due each January and considered late **01 April**.

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 2016 UW Scientific Dive Course

The University of Washington will conduct its annual intensive two-week Scientific Dive Course from August 15-27, 2016 at the Friday Harbor Labs on San Juan Island. This



course is open to scientists and students at any level of study who meet the requirements for AAUS certification. The deadline for applications is **April 15, 2016**. More information is available at

<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentSummer2016.html>

or contact the FHL Dive Officer, Pema Kitaeff, at [pema@uw.edu](mailto:pema@uw.edu) or 206-543-0876, or the UW DSO, Will Love, at [wlove@uw.edu](mailto:wlove@uw.edu) or 206-616-3776.

### Marine Science Research Internship

The University of Maine, Darling Marine Center, is now accepting applications for a Marine Science research summer internship to run from June 01 to September 01, 2016. Applicants must be recently graduated undergraduate student with a bachelor's degree in a Biological Science, preferably Marine Biology, Environmental Science, Fishery Science, or a related field and an AAUS scientific diver. The internship is supported by the National Science Foundation's Coastal SEES (Science, Engineering, Education for Sustainability) program. The intern will primarily be involved in diver-based and laboratory-based research projects exploring changes in lobster physiology and behavior in response to thermal stress. More information is available on the AAUS job board ([www.aaus.org/job\\_board](http://www.aaus.org/job_board)) or by contacting Amalia Harrington ([amalia.harrington@maine.edu](mailto:amalia.harrington@maine.edu)). The application deadline is **March 15, 2016**.

### 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. Application deadline is **March 7, 2016**. <http://www.REEF.org/internship>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### New DSO Orientation

AAUS will hold a new DSO orientation on February 26, 2016 at San Diego State University. 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 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, it 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*. <http://www.mahhi.org/Welcome.html>

### 2016 CAUS Symposium

The Canadian Association for Underwater Science 2016 AGM and Symposium is set for Wednesday February 24 and Thursday February 25, 2016 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. Hosted by the Memorial University of Newfoundland, the symposium and AGM activities will be taking place at the beautiful Ocean Sciences Centre at Logy Bay. CAUS members are strongly encouraged to attend, and all others interested in learning more about CAUS are welcome too. [www.caus.ca/agm-2016/h](http://www.caus.ca/agm-2016/h)

## 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

*Coral Habitat Monitoring Coordinator*

## AUV Survey Request

*\*Please note that this is a student request, not an AAUS sponsored survey.*

I am reaching out to underwater exploration experts for input into the capability needs for an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle to support underwater science expeditions from an underwater habitat. At this time, I am developing the system design as part of my System Engineering capstone project to obtain a Masters in Systems Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

My goal is to solicit input from people active in the operational, managerial and scientific aspects of scientific diving activities. The survey questions focus on better understanding the needs of aquanauts and scientific divers in reference to a robotic assistance vehicle.

Results of this survey will be worked in the requirements of the new AUV system for an early phase of a proposal that could be used in the Poseidon Project (<http://www.seaspacesociety.org/#!/project-poseidon/cxi1>), which will attempt to send a crew to the Aquarius reef base for 100 days towards end of 2017. The project is run by the Seospace Exploration and Research Society. (<http://www.seaspacesociety.org/>).

Please answer the questions from the perspective of the environment in which you work and think about how this AUV could one day augment the work in which you are involved. The survey should not take more than 20 min.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xMgPUFErSlf87vzC\\_5MUu2lqBjJ4zNU0jPndWIpq6qA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xMgPUFErSlf87vzC_5MUu2lqBjJ4zNU0jPndWIpq6qA/viewform)

Thank you  
Jef Mangelschots  
jef.mangelschots@gmail.com

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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