



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –April 2016

Welcome to the April E-Slate. In this edition we call for abstracts for the 2016 AAUS Diving for Science symposium, continue with the member comment period for standards and bylaws changes, announce new student and job opportunities 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.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAUS Rebreather Standards

In response to discussion at The Scientific Diver and Rebreather workshop held in Feb 2015, AAUS reviewed and revised Section 12 (rebreather). The AAUS Rebreather standards changes are now available on the AAUS website for membership review. The standards will be available for comment until April 30, 2016.

https://secure.aaus.org/2016_rebreather_standards_update

AAUS Proposed Bylaws Change

Upon recommendation of a CPA, the AAUS Board of Directors has reviewed and approved a proposed language change in our bylaws concerning the review of the AAUS finances. It is now open to the AAUS Membership for review and commentary for 60 days at

http://www.aaus.org/aaus_bylaws_change_2016

AAUS Bylaws-Page 9 Article 1, Section 1, Subsection (c)

Current language- *“an independent review of the financial books, records and accounts of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences shall be completed every 2 years, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.”*

Proposed language- *“a compiled financial statement with full disclosure of the books, records and accounts of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences shall be completed regularly, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.”*

AAUS Statistics Due

Organizational member statistical summaries are now late! If you have not submitted your OM statistics for 2015, please do so **IMMEDIATELY** at stats.diveaaus.com. Contact AAUS Statistics chair, Tim White (tswhite@essc.psu.edu) with any concerns.

2016 AAUS Symposium – Call for Abstracts

AAUS is now accepting abstract submissions for the 2016 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium to be hosted by the University of Rhode Island and held September 20-25, 2016 in Kingston, RI.

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 17, 2016. Please put "2016 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 5 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



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If so, you now have an opportunity to help fund the AAUS scholarships. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Simply indicate that you would like the AAUS Foundation to be the recipient of the donation. **There is no cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers.** The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to the charitable organizations selected by customers. There is no charge to participate and no fees are deducted.

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. Alternatively, you may send the AAUS office a list of the researchers who regularly receive for diving-based research projects.

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

2016 Northeast Regional DSO Meeting

The Northeast Regional DSOs came together for a mostly informal meeting on Saturday, March 5th, 2016. Thanks to the Boston Sea Rovers for providing us with meeting space and an enjoyable weekend! Discussion items included updates on happenings within AAUS and the greater scientific diving community, the goal to educate programs conducting scientific diving without set regulations, and report on recent decompression sickness incidences. The group welcomes new members and is hoping to meet on an annual basis. Contact Anya Hanson (anyahanson@uri.edu) or Chris Rigaud (crigaud@maine.edu) to be added to our mailing list.

UNCW Scientists Invent Diagnostic Tool for Endangered Reef Ecosystems

Alina Szmant, Ph.D., and Robert Whitehead, Ph.D., of UNCW's Marine Science faculty have perfected a new device that allows for non-destructive evaluation of the metabolisms of live corals in their natural environment and in real time. They call it CISME, for "Coral In Situ Metabolism." The acronym is pronounced "kiss me," to emphasize how gently it touches the living organisms. Find out more about this project at <http://goo.gl/c3pFnB>. Dr. Szmant was the 2013 AAUS Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.



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

2016 USC Scientific Dive Course

The University of Southern California will conduct its annual Scientific Dive Course from June 11-20, and 27, 2016.



Course includes mainland Los Angeles classes and 6 days of spectacular research dive training at Catalina Island. Training will include a bluewater dive, a night dive, mapping and navigation skills, Reef Check CA Certification,

marine species identification and much more. This course is open to both USC students and the general public. Open-water SCUBA certification required. Application deadline is **June 01, 2016**. For information, contact Eric Castillo, USC Diving Safety Officer, uscddso@usc.edu or 310-510-4022.

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/scientificdivingcourse/>

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 at



<http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentSummer2016.html> or contact the FHL Dive Officer, Pema Kitaeff, at pema@uw.edu or 206-543-0876, or the UW DSO, Will Love, at wlove@uw.edu or 206-616-3776.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITES

AAUS Student Scholarships 2016

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

2016 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium

The 2016 AAUS Scientific Diving Symposium will be hosted by The University of Rhode Island at the Narragansett Bay campus from September 20-25, 2016. We welcome diving

scientists, students, diving safety officers and anyone with an interest in diving science to participate in this event.

The week will be filled with technical workshops ranging from AUP, PSI and DAN courses to scientific workshops covering black sea bass, reefballs and rebreathers. Additionally, there will be a DUI demo day and drysuit repair course. Following opportunities for shore and boat diving as well as social and networking events, we will wrap up the week with the national DSO meeting, a two-day science symposium, poster session and annual awards banquet. Look for registration to be open by the end of the month! aus.org/annual_symposium

Harvesting and Aquaculture Diving Safety Workshop

This one-day workshop will promote understanding, education and safety within and concerning the worldwide harvesting and aquaculture diving community. Presentations will consider history, range of practice, operational guidance, accident patterns, clinical management, ongoing and emerging risks, and mitigation strategies. The program will be offered as a pre-course on June 08, 2016 to open the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society annual scientific meeting (June 09-11) at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. More information at <https://www.uhms.org/annual-scientific-meeting/registration.html>

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

California Science Center Foundation

Dive Safety Officer

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Underwater Explorers Instructors

Underwater Explorers Assistant Supervisor

South Carolina Aquarium

Dive Operations Intern

University of Hawaii

Diving Safety Specialist

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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