



# E-SLATE

## American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

### EDITORIAL NOTE –May 2016

Welcome to the May E-Slate. In this edition we open the polls for our BOD elections, open registration and continue our call for abstracts for the 2016 AAUS Diving for Science symposium, announce new student opportunities, introduce an easy new way to help fundraise for the AAUS Foundation 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 2016 ELECTION

The 2016 AAUS election opens May 01 and closes June 30. This year the academy will elect a Director-at-Large whose three-year term will start on January 01, 2017. 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](http://www.aaus.org), by logging into your **individual account** and selecting 'Voting and Polling.' To write in a candidate, send an email with the name of the candidate for which you are voting to two of the election committee members:

Amy Moran, Chair ([morana@hawaii.edu](mailto:morana@hawaii.edu))

Pema Kitaeff ([pema@uw.edu](mailto:pema@uw.edu))

George Peterson ([gpeterson@mbayaq.org](mailto:gpeterson@mbayaq.org))

Jeff Godfrey ([jeff.godfrey@uconn.edu](mailto:jeff.godfrey@uconn.edu))

Lora Pride ([Lora.Pride@ch2m.com](mailto:Lora.Pride@ch2m.com))

#### 2016 AAUS BOD Slate of Candidates

##### *Director-at-Large*

Jim Hayward

Ross Whippo

Candidates' biographical sketches and answers to election questions are available at

[https://.aaus.org/2016\\_aaus\\_bod\\_election](https://.aaus.org/2016_aaus_bod_election)

#### 2016 AAUS Symposium – Call for Abstracts

AAUS is now accepting abstract submissions for the 2016 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](mailto: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](http://www.aaus.org/annual_symposium)

#### Do You Shop at Amazon?

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](http://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.

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 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 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](http://www.aausfoundation.org), or send questions to the Scholarship Committee Chair at [aaus@disl.org](mailto:aaus@disl.org)

### REEF Summer Fish Field Methodology Course

REEF will hold a hands-on field course, August 07-13 in Key Largo, FL. The course is designed for college undergraduates and recent graduates focusing on marine biology or related fields. The course covers commonly used tools and techniques for visual assessments of reef fishes. Classroom and field experiences will expose students to Tropical Western Atlantic reef fish identification, size estimations underwater, surveying reef fishes using transect, roving and stationery visual techniques, benthic assessments using photo quadrats and rugosity, and management of survey data. For more information and to apply: Visit <http://www.REEF.org/fieldcourse> or contact Amy Lee at (305) 588-5869 or [trips@REEF.org](mailto:trips@REEF.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](mailto:uscddso@usc.edu) or 310-510-4022.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2016 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium

Registration is now open for the 2016 AAUS Scientific Diving Symposium, hosted by The University of Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay campus from September 20-24<sup>th</sup>. We welcome diving scientists, students, diving safety officers and anyone with an interest in diving science to participate in this event.

*Tuesday, September 20*

Seabass Workshop  
Reefball Workshop  
DAN Pro IQC (continues on Wed)  
Oceanic/Hollis/AUP Repair Clinic  
DAN ITW (continues on Wed)  
Drysuit Repair Clinic  
Visual Inspection Procedure Basic Course  
VCI Update (PSI)

*Wednesday, September 21*

VIP Instructor (must attend basic course on Tues)  
AAUS New DSO Orientation  
Rebreather Demo  
DUI Drysuit and Sidemount Demo

*Thursday, September 22*

AAUS Business Meeting  
National Diving Safety Officers Meeting  
DUI Drysuit Course  
2016 AAUS Foundation Bubblebreaker and Poster Session

*Friday and Saturday, September 23-24*

All day science symposium

*Saturday, September 24*

Matunuck Oyster Farm Tour  
2016 Annual Awards Banquet

There will also be shark, wreck and shore diving available Monday through Thursday. For complete workshop details, pricing, lodging, local information, and to register, please visit [www.aaus.org/annual\\_symposium](http://www.aaus.org/annual_symposium).

### Harvesting and Aquaculture Diving Safety

This one-day workshop will promote understanding, education and safety within the 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). More information at <https://www.uhms.org/annual-scientific-meeting/registration.html>

## People have spent more than \$600K on electronic 'gills' that experts say are science fiction

Right now, an Indiegogo campaign for a device that its makers claim is "the future of underwater breathing" is raking in cash — more than \$600,000 at the time of this post, \$100,000 of which poured in over just 24 hours.

It's easy to see the appeal of the handheld device, called the "Triton." Diving equipment is heavy and complicated. Meanwhile, the Triton looks seductively simple and the campaign says it "allows you to breathe underwater."

But despite the slick crowdfunding campaign, there's no real evidence that this device actually works, multiple experts told Tech Insider.

One of them is Neal Pollock, a research associate at the Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Environmental Physiology at Duke University Medical Center, and the research director for the Divers Alert Network — a non-profit organization that helps divers in medical emergencies and promotes dive safety.

"In concept it sounds very good and it's very exciting," Pollock tells Tech Insider, but "I would not encourage anyone pulling out a wallet."

For the makers of Triton to prove they've invented a device that can actually do what they say it can, Pollock and other experts want to see more evidence; the crowdfunding campaign and Triton website simply don't provide enough to go on.

Read the rest of the discussion with Neal and others while they describe why making a device like this is such a challenge at <http://www.businessinsider.com/can-triton-device-indiegogo-pull-oxygen-water-2016-3>

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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