



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE – January 2014

Welcome to the January E-Slate. Happy New Year! In this issue we hear from both the incoming and outgoing AAUS presidents, announce new institutional pricing and provide more information about a new DSO orientation in February. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, and images of underwater work at aaus@disl.org. Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at www.aaus.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Amy Moran

University of Hawaii

On behalf of the AAUS Board of Directors, best wishes for a successful 2014! We look forward to working with all AAUS members and stakeholders to advance scientific diving and underwater research. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Michael Lang for his service to the Academy as president over the last two years, and for his previous two terms as president as well. Dr. Lang was president for five out of the thirty years that AAUS has been a chartered organization; he has presided over an organization that has grown from 18 academic institutions in his first presidency to an association of over 140 very diverse organizational members. Michael's accomplishments during his tenure and his skill at guiding the AAUS during its exponential growth have been tremendous, and I look forward to continued progress on the projects on which we've collaborated. Finally we would like to thank Dr. Lang for organizing the 2013 Symposium in Curacao, which was a huge success, and Heather Fletcher for her management of the AAUS office, E-Slate, and symposia.

As I begin my tenure as President I am very grateful for the support of a well-balanced Board of Directors. The Finance Committee, chaired by Elliot Jessup, continues to expand its fundraising efforts on the behalf of the Foundation; George Peterson and his Accreditation Committee are moving the accreditation process well ahead into the implementation phase; and Chris Rigaud continues to oversee the ITI initiative that was rolled out in Curacao and which has already seen great success. Pema Kitaeff and Liz Kintzig are making much-needed progress with streamlining and revising the membership and standards process, Lora Pride begins her second elected term keeping track of AAUS records and meetings, Mike Dardeau continues to keep the financials and tax records of both the Academy and the

Foundation in great shape, and Diana Steller organizes and continues to streamline the growing pool of AAUS scholarships, which are a vital symbol of the Academy's commitment to science and scientific diving. The Board also welcomes Jim Hayward, our newly-elected Director, and Rick Gomez as President-Elect. I encourage all AAUS members to get involved! As a volunteer organization, the AAUS would not exist without the time and efforts put in by its members and affiliates.

There are many key projects the Board will move forward on in 2014. With the Foundation established as a tax-exempt 501c3 organization, the Foundation Board and Finance Committee, along with the Scholarship Committee, have begun the process of making the Foundation a self-sustaining entity that financially supports the goals of the AAUS. With the Scientific Diver standard now in place, the Standards committee, with input from the community, will work towards developing the much-needed Diving Safety Officer standard; the Membership committee will develop the membership standards and process to cope with the increasing, and evolving, pool of applicants. The Board of Directors is also well on its way to defining a new five-year Strategic Plan which will serve as a guide to strengthening the mission of AAUS to support scientific diving and the needs of diving scientists.

In the coming years I look forward to working with our President-Elect Rick Gomez and Past-President Michael Lang as we move ahead.

FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Michael Lang

OxyHeal Health Group

I wish you individually and the AAUS community as a whole a Happy New Year and the best of success in 2014. I acknowledge and thank those of you who have served on AAUS Boards and Committees for your time, energy and dedication on behalf of our Academy. I also would like to reaffirm that the 2013 Board of Directors was one of the most cohesive, supportive and collaborative that I have had the pleasure of working with. Amy, Lora, Mike, George, Cheryl, Pema, Marc, Elliott, Chris, and Diana, thank you for taking on this important task and helping me achieve the goals I had set out to accomplish during my tenure in support of the advancement of underwater science. Heather, thank you for your sustained, efficient efforts on behalf of

AAUS; they do not go unnoticed by the membership and are greatly appreciated by all, in particular by me.

The Academy is in good hands with Dr. Moran as the first full-time research scientist President in the Academy's history. I have a high level of confidence in Amy's executive abilities and professional dedication to continue to guide AAUS in support of its overarching goal and primary reason for existence, underwater research.

Having witnessed AAUS' evolution and attended every annual *Diving for Science* symposium since 1981, we can be proud and satisfied with our collective achievement to date. We accept that this success is derived from standing on the shoulders of giants, many of whom have become my close friends, mentors and staunch supporters since the early 1980s, namely Jimmy Stewart, Chuck Mitchell, Glen Egstrom, Lee Somers, John Duffy, and Denny Divins.

AAUS has maintained a leadership role in many aspects of not only underwater research but also diving safety and I am pleased to have been in a position to contribute through the various platforms I have had available for over 30 years. Results of many of the diving safety workshops that I convened under the AAUS imprimatur since 1988 have become industry guidelines such as the topics of dive computers, ascent rates, repetitive diving, reverse dive profiles, polar diving, and advanced scientific diving. It is my hope that several of you will step up and recognize issues of importance to our diving scientists that will increase diving safety and research productivity, pose the important questions, write the proposals for workshop funding and address these topics of specific interest to the scientific diving community.

Going forward I would offer my observations that the AAUS accreditation process is, of necessity, an overarching goal that AAUS needs to continue to achieve at this stage in its evolution for quality assurance in an ever-growing population of organizational members. The ITI initiative has already produced measurable results and predictably will become the *de facto* standard in short order. It remains an important component underlying the overall accreditation, liability, insurance and certification elements that AAUS desperately needs. AAUS' vision and efforts in securing corporate donations and advancing its fundraising and donor cultivation strategies needs to stay the course and its success becomes indispensable for the future viability of the Academy. The AAUS scholarship program is a vital tool in supporting and attracting the next generation of diving scientists.

Finally, it will behoove AAUS to continue its collaborative efforts on the international front. Science is a global endeavor with global challenges and the movement of researchers, postdocs and students across international

jurisdictions can only increase with time (as do our international organizational memberships). This will ensure a reduction in insularity and an increase in AAUS' relevance, reputation and expertise on a worldwide scale. As three-time Past President I will stand by to assist Amy Moran and the 2014 Board in an advisory capacity with corporate knowledge but the time has come to finally step aside and accept that my professional life has taken on a new dimension of responsibilities. I am hopeful that the long-term success of AAUS will be secure with the next wave of vested scientific divers accepting leadership challenges.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Institutional Pricing

Hollis, Oceanic and Shearwater have all generously offered institutional pricing for all AAUS members. Orders must be placed through an OM's DSO and following specific instructions for each company. Please find pricelist and ordering instruction for each company at http://secure.aaus.org/institutional_pricing. You must be logged in to access this information.



2014 AAUS/OWUSS Internship

OWUSS is now taking applications for the 2014 AAUS/OWUSS scientific diving internship. Intern applicants can be students from colleges and universities with an interest in science and diving. The program runs primarily from mid-May through August and will include training at one of several AAUS organizational member sites. This training will give the intern the necessary dive qualifications to allow participation on research projects requiring scientific diving and introduce the intern to careers that utilize scientific diving as a tool. Once trained as an AAUS-recognized 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 funding for travel to/from site, room, board, and other internship-related expenses. More information at https://secure.aaus.org/aausowuss_internship. To apply, visit: <http://www.owuscholarship.org/internships>.

2014 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 three to four 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.diversalertnetwork.org/research/intern>.

2014 AAUS Dues

Invoices for 2014 AAUS OM dues will be mailed out this month. However, online renewals are available now. Login to your OM profile at www.aaus.org to pay online.

Graduate Assistantship

A graduate assistantship is being offered at the University of Hawai'i to work on a Hawai'i Sea Grant-funded project investigating feedbacks between groundwater-derived nutrients, benthic algal uptake, and the accretion-erosion balance on Hawaiian coral reefs. There is currently two years of funding available for this project, and we are open to applicants at either the MS or PhD level. Applications are due Jan 15, 2014. More information at

<http://www.aaus.org/announcements#UHawaii>

AAUS Finance Committee

The AAUS Finance Committee is looking for new members. If you are an AAUS member and have an interest or experience in fundraising, please contact the committee chair, Elliott Jessup (ejessup@calacademy.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Diving Safety Officer Orientation

The one day AAUS new DSO orientation will be held on February 02, 2014 in Denver at the Downtown Aquarium. The cost is \$100 and lunch will be provided. There is a block of rooms reserved at the Springhill Suites. Please visit the website for more information, to register for the orientation and reserve your lodging. **If you registered online and have not been contacted by the AAUS office by the first week of January, please contact Heather at aaus@disl.org. http://aaus.org/2014_aaus_dso_orientation**

Diving Medical Technician Course

Florida International University is offering a National Board of Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Technology approved DMT course February 17-28, 2014. To participate, you must have completed an approved Department of Transportation Emergency Medical Technician Course and be medically approved to dive. For more information, please contact Roger Garcia at [\(305\) 664-2916 Ext: 207](tel:(305)664-2916)

4th Annual Danbury Dive Medicine Conference

The fourth annual Danbury Medicine Conference at Danbury Hospital, Connecticut will be April 5th 2014. The diving community meets with the medical community and

first responders to discuss the many aspects of Diving Medicine and Diving Safety. For more information contact David.Charash@wcthn.org

<http://www.aaus.org/announcements#danbury>

Scientific Freediver Course

AAUS is sponsoring two Scientific Freediver courses, one in Miami and one in Kona. While AAUS has no intention of regulating or promulgating standards for Scientific Freediving, the program will be designed specifically for AAUS Scientific Divers and Diving Safety Officers who are also scuba instructors and may be responsible for snorkeling and breath-hold diving at their respective institutions.



The program will include the PFI Intermediate Freediver and Safety Freediver Instructor. Upon completion candidates will be able to teach the PFI Safe Buddy program. The course will run 6 days with 5 class, 4 pool and 5 ocean sessions. More information and registration at <http://www.performancefreediving.com/course-information/aaus-course/>

2014 CAUS Symposium

The Canadian Association for Underwater Science (CAUS) 2014 AGM and Symposium is scheduled for February 26 and 27, 2014 in Quebec City. Thanks to Laval University and the Quebec Aquarium for co-hosting the event. CAUS members are strongly encouraged to attend, and all others interested in learning more about, or thinking of joining, CAUS are welcome too. Please contact info@caus.ca or check <http://www.caus.ca/> for details.

2014 Professional Dive Safety Conference

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is sponsoring its first-ever conference on dive safety this coming April 7-8, 2014, in Seattle. It is designed for divers who earn their living working underwater in a variety of capacities. As we develop the conference program, we are looking for experts to share their knowledge, either as presenters or as panel leaders. More information at <http://bit.ly/dive2014conference>

TEKDiveUSA 2014

TEKDiveUSA will take place May 17-18, 2014 at the Roz & Cal Kovens Conference Center, North Miami, FL. Forty different talks will be delivered during this two-day advanced and technical diving conference. Presenters include personnel from NEDU, NPS, the University of Auckland and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. For more information on the speakers, topics, accommodations and registration, visit www.tekdiveusa.com

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

California Science Center Foundation

Assistant Dive Safety Officer

OxyHeal Medical Systems

Senior Mechanical Engineer (diving equipment)

South Carolina Aquarium

Assistant Dive Safety Officer

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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