



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –March 2014

Welcome to the March E-Slate. In this issue we have an update from the President, call for BOD nominations and abstracts for the 2014 AAUS symposium and much more. Organizational members are reminded that dues and statistics are now due and we need you to update your OM profiles. 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.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update from the President

Your AAUS Board of Directors has recently returned from a very productive semiannual BOD meeting in Denver, CO; a big thanks go out to the Downtown Denver Aquarium for donating space. At the meeting the board unanimously approved an initiative to develop and implement a strategic plan to identify the priorities that will guide the Academy over the next 3-5 years. We will be asking members for input through questionnaires and requests for information and opinions over the next few months. Please contribute your time by responding; member input will be invaluable to the Board as we move ahead. Also, feel free to contact Heather Fletcher in the office or one of the board members if you have questions about the process.

Along with many other issues we discussed, some priorities identified by the board included increasing fundraising for the AAUS Foundation to provide a long-term funding base for scholarships and enhancing Symposia; improving the web-based statistics logging system to enhance function and ease of use; increasing the opportunities available to AAUS members and DSOs through the AAUS Certification Program/ ITI Initiative; moving the accreditation process out of development and into the implementation phase; and developing a DSO resource page to allow sharing of teaching and other materials through a member's-only web interface. We will be asking for input into these and other projects over the coming months. Please contact the AAUS office or a board member if you have questions or would like to be involved.

AAUS BOD Call for Nominations

The 2014 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, 2015 the elected Director-at-Large candidate will serve one three-year term. An electronic poll will open on May 01 and close June 30, 2014. Instructions and information at www.aaus.org/announcements#elections

2014 AAUS Symposium – Call for Abstracts

AAUS is now accepting abstracts for the 2014 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium to be hosted by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and held September 9-13, 2014 in Sitka, AK. Registration for this meeting will be open in March. Submission and registration information can be found at www.aaus.org/annual_symposium.



AAUS Member Statistics Submission

It is time for submission of organizational member (OM) 2013 scientific diving statistics to the AAUS database. Forms for your 2013 summary submissions are available at stats.diveaaus.org. Statistics are considered late as of April 01, 2014. More information and collection criteria at www.aaus.org/statistics_committee.

OM Profile Updates

Starting in 2010, AAUS OM applicants were required to respond to four questions taken directly from the OSHA exemption for scientific diving. We are requesting that **all** OMs who joined before 2010 log in to your OM profile and answer these questions by **June 30, 2014**. Please visit aaus.org/om_profile_update for more information and instructions on how to complete this process.

New DVD on Careers in Diving

Hammerhead Video is pleased to announce the release of their latest DVD entitled "Careers in Diving." More than a year in the making, with segments filmed in California, Washington, and Little Cayman, the program offers a look into the careers of 17 different people, including AAUS DSO Diana Steller, who all work in careers where diving is central to their jobs. You can see a preview of the video and

order the DVD directly from Hammerhead Video at www.hammerheadpress.com.

2009 Kathy Johnston Scholarship Recipient

Robin Elahi, 2009 AAUS scholarship recipient, has published the work the AAUS scholarship helped to fund in the journal Marine Ecology Progress Series.

<http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v498/p117-132/>

Institutional Pricing

Hollis, Oceanic and Shearwater have all generously offered institutional pricing for all AAUS members. Please find pricelist and ordering instructions for each company at aas.org/institutional_pricing. You must be logged in to access this information.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

SCUBAPRO USA Scholarship Contest

SCUBAPRO USA announces its second annual Facebook scholarship contest. The 2014 honoree is legendary Dr. Sylvia Earle. The contest, sponsored by SCUBAPRO, PADI (padi.com) and Beneath the Sea (beneaththesea.org) will be conducted via SCUBAPRO's Facebook page. The entry period opened February 10th, and closes on March 10th, 2014. The winner will receive a full kit of SCUBAPRO dive equipment, valued at up to \$5000, and a certification from PADI, valued at \$400. More at

www.aas.org/announcements#scubapro

MTS 2014 Scholarships

Marine Technology Society is pleased to announce 2014 opportunities for students that are interested in marine engineering and/or marine technology. Please visit the MTS website for detailed information, including application requirements.

www.mtsociety.org/education/scholarships.aspx

2014 FHL Scientific Dive Course

Friday Harbor Labs will conduct its annual short intensive two week course from August 11- 23, 2014. 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, 2014. More information at <http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentSummer2014.html> or contact the FHL Dive Officer Pema Kitaeff at pema@uw.edu or 206-543-0876.

FKCC Scientific Diver Course

Florida Keys Community College is offering a two-week intensive Scientific Diver course June 23- July 6 2014. The course will enable students in marine related fields a chance to earn AAUS Scientific Diver certification. For more

information contact Dr. Alex Brylske at alex.brylske@fkcc.edu or 305-809-3148.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Certification Program Informational Webinar

AAUS and International Training will be hosting a FREE informational webinar about the newly launched AAUS Certification Program. The webinar is open to approved AAUS Instructors and any AAUS members who are interested in learning more about the program and will take place Thursday, March 20, 2014 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT. Topics will include:

- How to Get Involved/ Instructor Qualifications
- The AAUS/ ITI Relationship
- Student/Diver registration using the AAUS/ITI certification Web Portal
- And more!

To register please [CLICK HERE](#) or contact: [Lauren Kieren](mailto:Lauren.Kieren@tdisdi.com) (lauren.kieren@tdisdi.com).

Additionally, SDI/TDI/ERDI has informed AAUS that it will extend its introductory-incentive crossover offer. Approved AAUS Instructors who take advantage of this program prior to April 30, 2014 will be able to crossover to SDI/TDI/ERDI at NO additional cost. After this date, the crossover price will increase to \$499.

First Asia Pacific Underwater Sciences Symposium

State Key Laboratory in Marine Pollution (SKLMP) will host the First Asia Pacific Underwater Sciences Symposium (APUS) to kick off our First Scientific Safety Diving (SSD) Training workshop which will be conducted by Mr. Jeff M. Godfrey from May 28 to June 6, 2014 at City University of Hong Kong, Kowloon Tong Hong Kong. They are inviting underwater scientists in Asia Pacific Regions to join the organizing Committee, underwater scientists from AAUS to join the International Scientific Advisory Committee and interested parties to be co-organizers, sponsors. More at www.aas.org/announcements#asia

Analysis of Multivariate Data from Ecology and Environmental Science

A five day workshop based on PRIMER will be held September 15-19 2014 at the Weedon Island Preserve Visitors' Center in St Petersburg FL. It will cover the statistical analysis of assemblage data and/or multi-variable environmental data through basic studies in community ecology and biodiversity monitoring. For more information contact Walt Jaap (727-896-0521 wjaap@tampabay.rr.com) or visit <http://www.aas.org/calendar#primer>

4th Annual Danbury Dive Medicine Conference

The fourth annual Danbury Medicine Conference at Danbury Hospital, Connecticut will be April 05, 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
www.aaus.org/announcements#danbury

Scientific Freediver Course

AAUS is sponsoring two Scientific Freediver courses, one in Miami and one in Kona. 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 info registration at www.performancefreediving.com/aaus

Blue Ocean Film Festival

Blue Ocean Film Festival and Conservation Summit will be held November 3rd-9th 2014 in Tampa Bay, FL. Film submissions are being accepted until April 28th 2014. For more information visit www.blueoceanfilmfestival.org

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. More information at <http://bit.ly/dive2014conference>

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Channel Islands National Park

Biological Technician

University of Southern California, Wrigley

Dive Safety Officer

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Underwater Explorers Instructors & Supervisors

Reef Check California

North Coast Regional Manager

OM Program Highlight

The Noble Odyssey Foundation



NOBLE ODYSSEY FOUNDATION

The Noble Odyssey Foundation (NOF) is a Michigan 501c3 non-profit

organization that advances public knowledge of the Great Lakes through seagoing education and research projects. Its professional and volunteer staff, headed by Capt. Luke Clyburn, brings together scientists, educators and youth, including U.S. Navy Sea Cadets, to conduct or support underwater projects on board the Foundation's research vessels.

Project results are conveyed to the public through documentary films, reports, exhibits, lectures and publications. Through nationwide training of students as research



and archaeological divers, the foundation also develops an appreciation for Great Lakes resources, and promotes their wise stewardship among America's future leaders. Visit aaus.org/om_program_highlight to find out more about this OM and their current projects.

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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