



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –November 2015

Welcome to the November E-Slate. In this issue we announce our 2015 AAUS scholars, call for hosts and interns for the Lee Somers Scientific Diving Intern, open submission for 2017 symposium host proposals, update the AAUS Foundation fundraising efforts, highlight an OM and much more. 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

AAUS Office Closure

The AAUS office will close the month of December as we prepare to move the office from under the umbrella of Dauphin Island Sea Lab and transition to a new Treasurer. Non-emergency emails and phone calls will be returned only as time permits. **Please note the new AAUS mailing address is**

AAUS
PO Box 9067
Mobile, AL 36691-9067

AAUS Foundation Scholarship Awards 2015

The AAUS Foundation offers three competitive scholarship programs: the Kathy Johnston English (KE) award for doctoral-level students, the Kevin Gurr (KG) award for master-level students, and the Hollis gear award. This year, as in most other years, there were applicants for the AAUS scholarships whose academic advisors were reviewers or members of the scholarship committee. It is the policy of this committee that in these cases, advisors are not involved in the reviewing or ranking of their own students' proposals.

First place awards (KE and KG) are \$3000; second place awards are \$1500. A total of 41 proposals were reviewed (25 KE and 16 KG). Proposals ranged from tropical to temperate studies and spanned fields from ecology to archaeology. Special thanks to the seven anonymous reviewers, and best wishes to all who participated.

Kathy English Award

1st place Amalia Harrington, University of Maine
Impacts of abrupt climate change on the American lobster: using diver-based experiments to explore local adaptations to predation risk across New England

2nd place Chelsea Counsell, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Spatial patterns in biodiversity of semi-cryptic reef communities

Kevin Gurr Award

1st place Miranda Brett, San Diego State University -
The consumptive and non-consumptive effects of a microcarnivorous fish, a kelp-grazing limpet, and the feather boa kelp, *Egregia menziesii* in a tri-trophic interaction

2nd place Genoa Sullaway, San Diego State University-
Assessing the consequences of an invasive marine alga on ecosystem functioning

Find out more about the AAUS Foundation Scholars at <http://www.aaus.org/announcements#2015scholars>

Hollis Gear Award

Hollis Gear (www.hollisgear.com) has graciously funded a competitive scholarship program for AAUS student members. Awards are valued at \$1250 per recipient (\$1000 in Hollis diving equipment plus \$250 to cover dive training or academic diving travel costs). The 2015 Hollis award winner is Ali Zwiefler, University of Haifa, Israel. We look forward to her using the equipment to advance her endeavors in underwater science. Thanks to the three anonymous panelists that reviewed the applications, and best wishes to all the applicants.

AAUS Foundation Update

The AAUS Foundation has had a productive 2015, disbursing nearly \$13,000 in scholarship funds, including for first place and runner-up awards for both doctoral and master candidates, an Our World Underwater (OWU)/AAUS intern award, a Best Student paper award, and two Kevin Flanagan Student Travel awards. We have also had some fundraising success. Our donation drive at the Key West symposium, combined with efforts earlier in the year, raised over \$9000 in pledges for the Kevin Flanagan Student Travel award, bringing the fund to within \$12,000 of the \$60,000 required to make this a permanently endowed award. Kevin's legacy lives on in the students he is helping to support. Fulfill your pledges and make your donations today at www.aausfoundation.org.



Additional efforts during our first Casino Night Bubble Breaker resulted in more than \$7500 raised for scholarships. As the year comes to an end, the opportunity to make a tax deductible donation in 2015 is closing fast. To donate, go to <http://www.aausfoundation.org> and click on the 'Donate' button. Be sure to include a comment if you would like to direct your donation to the Kevin Flanagan award. We are grateful to all our donors and wish you well in the upcoming year.

AAUS 2016 Symposium Workshops

If you would like to propose a workshop for the 2016 symposium, please send a brief course description to the AAUS office **no later than December 30, 2015**.

AAUS 2017 Symposium Host

Please be reminded that all proposals to host the 2017 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium must be submitted to the AAUS office no later than January 01, 2016. Please contact the office for information on what should be included with the proposal. If you submitted a proposal in 2015 and would like to resubmit, please contact the AAUS office.

New DSO Orientation

If you would be interested in attending a one day new DSO orientation in spring 2016 in California, please contact the AAUS office (aaus@disl.org) as we gauge interest in this event.

2016 Lee Somers Scientific Diving Intern OM Host

We are seeking applications from OMs that have both dive training and research opportunities available to an undergraduate. Past interns have benefited most from combined opportunities for attaining AAUS research diving certification and involvement with a research program and diving and boating safety programs. The chosen OM will participate in the intern selection. If your OM is interested in supporting this internship, please submit an online application form by **December 15, 2015**.

www.aaus.org/aausowuss_host_organization_application

2016 Ocean Exploration Federal Funding Opportunity

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research has posted a 2016 grant funding announcement soliciting pre-proposals followed by full proposals for bold, innovative, multi-partner, interdisciplinary ocean exploration projects in the following areas of interest: 1) physical, chemical and biological characterizations of unknown or poorly known regions of the deep ocean, especially areas deeper than 500 m; 2) baseline characterization of marine archaeological resources at any depth; and 3) technology that advances ocean exploration and has application to NOAA related missions. Visit: <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/about/what-we-do/funding-opportunities.html> for more information.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

2016 Lee Somers Scientific Diving Internship

OWUSS is now taking applications for the 2016 AAUS/OWUSS scientific diving internship, recently renamed the Lee Somers Scientific Diving Internship. Intern applicants must be students from colleges and universities and must have 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>.

2016 WDHOFF Scholarships

The Women Divers Hall of Fame is now accepting applications for the WDHOFF scholarships and training grants. WDHOFF has a diverse offering of 13 scholarships and 15 training grants worth over \$44,000. Applications are now open and will close at midnight (US EST) November 20, 2015. More information online application available at <http://www.wdhof.org/scholarships/scholarships.shtml>

REEF 2016 Internship

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo, FL is now accepting applications for the Spring 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. During the four-month long internship, you will have many opportunities to dive and volunteer with partner organizations in the Florida Keys and South Florida. Visit <http://www.REEF.org/internship> to learn more and apply.

UPCOMING EVENTS

European Conference on Scientific Diving

The 2nd European Conference on Scientific Diving will be held in Sweden at The Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences-Kristineberg, May 9-11, 2016. This meeting highlights scientific outputs achieved principally through the use of scientific diving as a research tool. The deadline for

abstract submission is **December 04, 2015**. More information at www.loven.gu.se/english/research/ccsd2016

DEMA 2015

The Diving Equipment and Marketing Association will hold its annual show November 04-07 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. More information at www.demashow.com.

2015 BLUE Ocean Film Festival

The 2014 BLUE Ocean Film Festival will be held November 6-9 in Monaco. The BLUE Ocean Film Festival and Conservation Summit is an international non-profit organization that uses the power of film, visual arts, entertainment and science to inspire ocean stewardship around the world. <http://www.blueoceanfilmfestival.org/>

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Marine Operations Manager

OM HIGHLIGHT

Nova Southeastern University Receives Grant to Study Coral Reef Hybridization

Studying coral reefs, what makes them tick and how we can help protect and save these maritime wonders is something Nicole Fogarty, Ph.D., has dedicated her life to. As a researcher at Nova Southeastern University's (NSU) Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, Dr. Fogarty and her collaborators at Penn State University have received nearly \$1.1 million via a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation.

In a nutshell, what the team will be looking at is why hybrid corals are thriving when their parental species remain threatened. Research has shown that the once dominant staghorn and elkhorn corals have declined more than 90% since the 1980s, primarily from disease. Reef-building acroporid corals are the foundation of shallow, tropical coral communities throughout the Caribbean.



According to Dr. Fogarty, despite legislative efforts to protect staghorn and elkhorn corals, threats to their survival remain pervasive. But what she has found is that hybridization

among these closely related species is increasing and may provide a way for adaptation to the changing environment, which could be a factor in why the parental species is still struggling. In fact, some evidence suggests that the hybrid species is more disease resistant than the parental species – which shows potential for rescuing the threatened corals when hybrids mate with the parental species.

Dr. Fogarty will be working with Drs. Iliana Baums and Webb Miller from Penn State University to collect genetic and ecological data to better understand the mechanisms that are contributing to the increased numbers of hybrids in some Caribbean locations. The goal is that the information and knowledge that results from this study can help create a more strategic management of coral populations under current and emerging threats to their survival.

See more about this project at <https://www.oceannews.com/news/2015/09/02/nova-southeastern-university-receives-grant-to-study-coral-reef-hybridization>

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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.

American Academy of Underwater Sciences
101 Bienville Boulevard, Dauphin Island, AL 36528
Tel 251- 591- 3775 Fax 251-861-7540
aaus@disl.org www.aaus.org

Editor: Heather Fletcher - aaus@disl.org
Editorial Board: Michael Dardeau,
Amy Moran, Rick Riera-Gomez

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