



# E-SLATE

## American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

### EDITORIAL NOTE – June 2015

Welcome to the June E-Slate. In this edition announce a change to the OWUSS/AAUS internship, continue the 2015 Board of Director elections, strategic plan review, registration for the 2015 AAUS symposium, announce several students opportunities and much more. Organizational members are reminded that dues and statistics are now past due. 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

#### OWUSS AAUS Internship Renamed

In honor and memory of Dr. Lee Somers, the boards of directors of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society® and the American Academy of Underwater Sciences have unanimously voted to change the name of our joint internship to “The Dr. Lee H. Somers American Academy of Underwater Sciences Scientific Diving Internship.”

Dr. Somers passed away January 01, 2015. He was the founding Director of the OWUSS and the first President of the AAUS. Lee helped shape the way the world dives, and was an inspiration and mentor to many. He was a powerful advocate for the OWUSS and he felt strongly about the internship program, especially the internship with AAUS which he personally helped fund for many years. This newly renamed internship will carry his legacy forward for the next generation of young explorers and diving scientists.



*Katherine Newcomer and Martha Somers  
2014 The Dr. Lee H. Somers AAUS Intern*

*Photo credit: Steve Freeman*

#### Bobby Forbes

It is with great sadness that colleagues have heard of the sudden death of Bobby Forbes. Bobby was a Heriot-Watt Marine Biology graduate in the late 1970s and became a



Diving Technician for the University’ Diving Unit before joining the then Institute of Offshore Engineering where he further developed his scientific diving skills. Bobby was responsible for establishing the Dive Unit at Heriot-Watt University’s Orkney campus from 1990 onwards and was University Dive Officer for many

years. Diving science and diver training to HSE Part IV standard were central to the success of Heriot-Watt University’s reputation as an important scientific diver training centre. The quality of the training provided, and an unblemished safety record, were testament to Bobby’s high standards – students were never in any doubt of what was required from them. Another notable achievement while with Heriot Watt University was establishing hyperbaric treatment facilities with NHS Orkney for the treatment of divers with decompression sickness – this service later continued along with other diving activities at the spin-out company, Sula Diving, which he established. Close colleagues have been full of admiration for him and his typical strength of character in the way that he latterly endured a grim progressive illness with such fortitude and good humour. His story-telling will be sorely missed.

*Courtesy of  
Professor James M Mair  
Centre for Marine Biodiversity and Biotechnology  
Heriot-Watt University*

#### AAUS 2015 ELECTION

The 2015 AAUS election opens May 01 and closes June 30. This year the academy will elect a President Elect, Secretary, and a Director-at-Large. Terms will start on January 01, 2016. The Secretary and President Elect will serve 2 year terms and the Director-at-Large will serve a three year term. 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 for any office, send an email

with the name of the candidate and position for which you are voting to two of the election committee members ([mlang@oxyheal.com](mailto:mlang@oxyheal.com), [eobrien@whoi.edu](mailto:eobrien@whoi.edu) [cthacker@ehs.ufl.edu](mailto:cthacker@ehs.ufl.edu), [eochoa@conservation.org](mailto:eochoa@conservation.org)).

Please find the slate of candidates below. Candidates' biographical sketches and answers to election questions are available at [https://secure.aaus.org/2015\\_aaus\\_bod\\_election](https://secure.aaus.org/2015_aaus_bod_election)

### 2015 AAUS BOD Slate of Candidates

#### *President Elect*

Marc Slattery  
Tim White

#### *Secretary*

David Ginsburg  
Chris Ledford

#### *Director-at-Large*

Mike Anghera  
Mark Keusenkothen  
Vin Malkoski

### Membership Review – AAUS Strategic Plan

After a year-long process of surveying and analyzing member input and an intensive planning retreat by the AAUS Strategic Planning Committee, a plan has been created and vetted through the Board of Directors. The plan is designed to reaffirm, refine, and refocus the Academy's vision, mission, and goals, and to direct the Board's activities for the next five years.

The strategic plan will be available to membership for a 60-day comment period, May 01 to June 30, 2015, after which the Board will make any necessary additions or changes. Throughout this process the Board will continue working to refine and revise the plan based on member input, and we will have a full five-year plan in place for presentation to the membership at the AAUS Symposium in Key West in September 2015.

AAUS encourages its members to review and provide feedback on this strategic plan. A copy of the plan and an online comment form can be found at [aaus\\_2015\\_strategic\\_plan](#).

### 2015 AAUS Symposium

Registration for the 2015 AAUS Diving for Science symposium to be held September 28-October 03, 2015 in Key West, FL, is now open! This year we have workshop opportunities to include Aquarius and USS Vandenburg dives, lionfish surveys, DPV (scooter) certification, DAN IQC, PSI and much more. A full schedule, lodging information and registration are available [here](#). This year we are accepting short abstracts, extended abstracts or full

manuscripts. Templates and submission instructions can be found at [www.aaus.org/annual\\_symposium](http://www.aaus.org/annual_symposium).



### *Call for Abstracts and Author Guidelines*

AAUS is now accepting abstracts for the 2015 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 15, 2015**. Please put "2015 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 7** 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).

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITES

### AAUS Student Scholarships 2015

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's Marine Conservation Internship

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo, FL is now accepting applications for fall 2015 Marine Conservation Interns. This internship provides an in-depth look into REEF's Volunteer Fish Survey Project and Invasive Lionfish Program. It provides diverse experiences including scientific research, outreach and education, data collection and management, non-profit operations, and public speaking. During the three month internship, you will have many opportunities to dive and volunteer with partner organizations in the Florida Keys and South Florida. Visit [www.REEF.org/internship](http://www.REEF.org/internship) to learn more and apply. Application deadline is June 15, 2015.

## Coral Reef Ecology Field Course

The 2015 Korallion Lab ([www.korallionlab.com](http://www.korallionlab.com)) coral reef ecology field course will be held August 13-22 and August 22-31, 2015. This course is designed to provide students of any level with a sound foundation in ecological concepts, survey techniques and experimental design in field research applied to coral reef ecosystems. Email Dr. Michael Sweet [m.sweet@derby.ac.uk](mailto:m.sweet@derby.ac.uk) for any scientific issue regarding the course. For more information email [info@korallionlab.com](mailto:info@korallionlab.com).

## MTS 2015 Scholarships

Marine Technology Society is pleased to announce 2015 opportunities for students that are interested in marine engineering and/or marine technology. Visit the MTS website for detailed information, including application requirements. [www.mtsociety.org/education/scholarships.aspx](http://www.mtsociety.org/education/scholarships.aspx)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ICUSTE 2015

The International Conference on Underwater Sciences, Technology and Education (ICUSTE) will be held from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug, 2015 at the City University of Hong Kong. It will be co-organized by the Division of Earth Sciences of the National Natural Foundation of China (NSFC), SKLMP and School of Veterinary Medicine. This conference will be structured for some invited key presentations, a larger than normal focus on poster presentations, and a considerable time for breakout discussions on key topics.

The conference will cover interdisciplinary topics of significance with the theme "Tools for Ocean Research". These discussion highlights and perspectives from the conference may help to guide the research community and funding organizations towards more rapid advancement in the application of advanced underwater research tools and technologies to understand our oceans. For more information contact at [icuste2015@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:icuste2015@cityu.edu.hk) or visit <http://www.icuste2015.com>

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Full information and application instructions for the following jobs can be found at [www.aaus.org/job\\_board](http://www.aaus.org/job_board)

### Northeastern University

*Three Seas Program Field Technician*

### University of California, San Diego

*Asst Small Boating Safety Officer/Facility Manager  
Scientific Diving/Small Boating Program Assistant*

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](mailto:aaus@disl.org) [www.aaus.org](http://www.aaus.org)

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

### AAUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Moran	President
Rick Riera-Gomez	President-Elect
Lora Pride	Secretary
Mike Dardeau	Treasurer
Jen Smith	Director-at-Large, Scholarship
Narineh Nazarian	Appointed Director (AD), Membership
Christopher Rigaud	Director-at-Large
Elliott Jessup	AD, Finance
Liz Kintzing	AD, Standards
Tim White	AD, Statistics
Jim Hayward	Director-at-Large

