



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –NOVEMBER 2016

Welcome to the November E-Slate. In this issue we announce our 2016 AAUS scholars, call for hosts and interns for the Dr. Lee H Somers AAUS Scientific Diving Internship, open submission for 2018 symposium host proposals, update the AAUS Foundation fundraising efforts 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 Foundation Scholarship Awards 2016

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 35 proposals were reviewed (18 KE and 17 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 Corinne Fuchs, University of California, Santa Barbara. *Effects of a nutrient loading gradient and size-selective fishing on coral reef resilience*

2nd place Jacquelyn Cresswell, Texas A&M University Galveston. *Modern ecology and primary succession of benthic foraminifera in Bermuda's underwater caves*

Kevin Gurr Award

1st place Madelyn Roycroft, California Polytechnic State. *Investigating the Impacts of Overfishing on Parrotfish Feeding Behavior in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands*

2nd place Claire Spitzer, San Diego State University. *Parasite-Mediated Predator-Prey Interactions in California Coastal Fishes*

Find out more about the AAUS Foundation Scholars at <http://www.aaus.org/announcements#2016scholars>

Hollis Gear Award

Hollis Gear (www.hollisgear.com) has graciously funded a competitive scholarship program for AAUS student members. Awards are valued at \$1250 in Hollis diving equipment. The 2016 Hollis award winner is Alyssa Clevestine, California State University, Long Beach. 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 had a productive 2016, disbursing nearly \$13,000 in scholarship funds, including first place and runner-up awards for both doctoral and master candidates, the Dr. Lee H Somers AAUS Scientific Diving 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 University of Rhode Island symposium, combined with efforts earlier in the year, raised over \$19,000 for scholarships, including \$2,750 for the Kevin Flanagan Student Travel award. Significant contributors to the Student Travel Award included the University of Rhode Island Sea Grant and the family of Kevin Flanagan in honor of his father, bringing the fund to within \$5,000 of the \$60,000 required to make this a permanently endowed award. Scholarship funding was enhanced by the many sponsors of the symposium and by sales of the Kathy Johnston English raffle tickets, prints, cards and calendars. Notecards and calendars are still available at www.aausfoundation.org, so if you're looking for Christmas stocking stuffers be sure to visit the site soon. Tax deductible donations are also accepted at the Foundation website, so donate now to get that deduction for 2016.

New DSO Orientation

If you would be interested in attending a one-day new DSO orientation in spring 2017, please contact the AAUS office (aaus@disl.org) as we gauge interest in this event.



As you begin your Holiday shopping, don't forget to support the AAUS Foundation!

Calendars (\$12) and Notecards (\$20) both featuring Kathy English Art
www.aausfoundation.org

Shop Amazon Smile! Go to smile.amazon.com and list AAUS Foundation as your charity. There is no cost to you and the site has the same shopping experience as Amazon.



2016 AAUS Diving for Science Wrap Up

Thank you to all the attendees of this year's symposium! We have a few final requests. First, we would love for you to share your photos with us. Photos can be uploaded to our google drive folder linked below. Photos may be used on our website or in future publications. If you would like photo credit, please place your photos in a folder with your name as the folder title.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0By_arpvGV0eZRkR1OENXdE5rVVK?usp=sharing

Secondly, we have a survey that will help us in the planning for future meetings. We request that all attendees take a few minutes and complete this short questionnaire.

https://secure.aaus.org/annual_symposium

2017 AAUS Diving For Science Symposium

The 2017 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium will be hosted by Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary September 12-16, 2017 in Alpena, MI. Watch the E-slate and website for more information as plans progress.

If you would like to propose a workshop for the 2017 symposium, please send a brief course description to the AAUS office **no later than December 30, 2016**.

AAUS 2018 Symposium Host

Please be reminded that all proposals to host the 2018 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium must be submitted to the AAUS office **no later than December 30, 2016**. Please contact the office for information on what should be included with the proposal. If you submitted a proposal in 2016 and would like to resubmit, please contact the AAUS office.

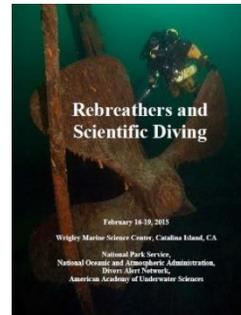
2017 Dr. Lee H. Somers AAUS Scientific Diving Internship Host

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, 2016**.

www.aaus.org/aausowuss_host_organization_application

Rebreathers and Scientific Diving Proceedings

The proceedings of the Rebreathers and Scientific Diving



Workshop held at Wrigley Marine Science Center, Catalina Island, CA February 16-19, 2015 are now available for download or print on demand from Lulu.com

(<http://goo.gl/gzV164>) In addition to the papers from the presenters, the document contains Rebreathers and Scientific Diving Best Practice Recommendations, and a transcript of the consensus discussion.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

2017 Dr. Lee H. Somers AAUS Scientific Diving Internship

OWUSS is currently taking applications for the 2017 Dr. Lee H. Somers AAUS 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. For more information and to apply visit:
<http://www.owuscholarship.org/internships>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

III European Conference on Scientific Diving

The European Conference on Scientific Diving is a combination of the "Research in Shallow Marine and Fresh Water Systems" series with the "International Symposium on Occupational Scientific Diving" series into a single annual meeting. The intention is to provide a major international forum to highlight the scientific outputs that are being achieved in Europe principally through the use of scientific diving as a research tool. The symposium should attract the European leaders in the field of scientific diving, but must also provide a platform to encourage significant participation from Early Stage Researchers and students. The conference will be held March 22-23, 2017 in Madeira Island, Portugal. More information is available at <http://www.ecsdiving2017.ciimarmadeira.org/>

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

NOAA

Diving Center Manager

Working Underwater for Fish and Game

Diving on the R/V Kestrel

By Jeff Meucci

Editor Note: AAUS had the pleasure of working with this department, vessel and crew during the 2014 AAUS symposium. They were extraordinarily generous with their time and resources. Article excerpt below. See full article http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.vi ew_article&articles_id=762

One of the Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) research vessels, the R/V Kestrel, travels around Southeast Region from late March until the middle of September annually as a diving support vessel. The geographic area covers Southeast Alaska from Yakutat to the British Columbia/Alaska border. As the divemaster on board I get the opportunity to work and dive with some pretty talented people. I also get to see and experience some of the most incredible underwater sights. I started recreationally diving in

Seattle, Washington in 1980. I have been diving for ADF&G since the spring of 2001, when we dove off a converted tuna troller, the R/V Sundance, which towed our dive skiffs behind the boat. I have been fortunate to be trained as a NOAA Working Diver, NOAA Dive Master, NOAA Dive Medic, a dive instructor and dive safety officer. I love what I do and feel very fortunate to be doing it.



The author, Jeff Meucci, and Joe Stratman conducting a sea cucumber stock assessment survey in Southeast Alaska.

The diving program provides valuable biological data, stock assessment and information to the resource managers from around the Region. It provides valuable resource data for herring managers and also helps the managers make decisions on the sea cucumber, red urchin and geoduck clam fisheries. All the divers are passionate about diving and the fellowship that comes from spending large amounts of time on a boat, and in skiffs together and working underwater where we depend on each other in some challenging conditions. Even with the cold water we are always excited to get in the water and see what unexpected adventure is awaiting us.

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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