



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –October 2014

Welcome to the October E-Slate. In this issue we announce the 2014 AAUS Foundation Scholarship winners, call for 2015 AAUS/OWUSS interns and hosts, give an update on the strategic planning process and highlight the 2014 AAUS symposium. 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 2014

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 37 proposals were reviewed (26 KE and 11 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 Johnston English Award

1st place Marissa D. McMahan, Northeastern University - Ecological implications of a northern range expansion of black sea bass, *Centropristis striata*

2nd place Allison Tracy, Cornell University- An old battle on a new stage: The consequences of environmental change for coral disease

Kevin Gurr Award

1st place Caitlin Hanley, Florida Atlantic University - Biodiversity of Micro Benthos on Natural and Artificial Reefs off Southeastern Florida

2nd place Katie Davis, University of California, Santa Barbara - A comparative study of parrotfish movement:

indirect effects of fishing on spatial patterns of foraging in *Chlorurus sordidus*

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 2014 Hollis award winner is Victoria Sindorf. Victoria is a student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa and is working at the Kewalo Marine Lab. We look forward to her using the equipment to advance her endeavor in underwater science. Thanks to the three anonymous panelists that reviewed the applications, and best wishes to all the applicants.

2014 Best Student Presentation

The AAUS scholarship committee is pleased to announce the 2014 best student presentation at this year's symposium was by Lindsey Dougherty - A dynamic broadband reflector built from microscopic silica spheres in the "disco" clam *Ctenoides ales*. Our congratulations go to our winner and our appreciation to our volunteer reviewers.



Congratulations to Max Hoberg who won this year's print raffle! You may still purchase this print at www.aausfoundation.org

Strategic Planning

The AAUS Board of Directors is moving ahead with the development of our five-year strategic plan. Thanks to all who participated in the first Strategic Planning survey which

was distributed in July-August. We received 180 responses. The results from the first survey's multiple-choice questions were presented at two sessions at the annual meeting in September (powerpoint can be viewed [here](#)). We are beginning the process of synthesizing the text responses. The second survey is now open and will close on October 15; all members have received the link via email and are encouraged to respond. In addition to these two surveys, we conducted an "instantfeedback" iClicker session at the 2014 symposium with a mix of new questions that were either submitted by members at the symposium, or which were left off the two main surveys due to length limitations. If you were not able to attend the iClicker session, we'd like to get your responses. All of iClicker questions have been reformatted into a survey which can be answered at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/iclickersession>

Members of the 2014 and 2015 Board of Directors will be meeting in mid-February for a two-day strategic planning session, and by late spring we anticipate having a draft plan that will be sent out for member review. Please stay tuned for possible additional surveys and contact one of your Board members if you have questions about the process. Thank you for your participation!

Self Evaluation Form

With help from the Membership, Standards and Accreditation committees, the AAUS BOD has developed a version of the "Self accreditation checklist" which is being called the Self Evaluation Form. Starting in 2015 we'll begin requiring the completion of this form for review by the Membership Committee along with other application materials from all new OM applicants. However, this is a useful tool for any dive program and we encourage you to complete it. You will find a link on your Organization's profile where you can upload the completed form as a "Misc Document File". Similar to the request we made in the June ESlate regarding the completion of the four exemption questions, adding the self-evaluation form to your OM profile will help the Membership committee and other OMs to confirm that you are an active OM in good standing with AAUS. In 2015, the self evaluation will likely become a required component of every OM profile. You may view the form [here](#) or in the resource library www.aaus.org.

New DSO Orientation

If you would be interested in attending a one day new DSO orientation in April 2015 in the Northeast, please contact the AAUS office (aaus@disl.org) as we gauge interest in this event.

OM Host for 2015 AAUS/OWUSS Intern

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, 2014**.

www.aaus.org/aausowuss_host_organization_application

STUDENT OPPORTUNITES

2015 AAUS/OWUSS Internship

OWUSS is now taking applications for the 2015 AAUS/OWUSS 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>.

REEF 2015 Internship

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo, FL is now accepting applications for the Spring 2015 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

DEMA 2014

The Diving Equipment and Marketing Association will hold its annual show November 19-22 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. More information at www.demashow.com.

Call for Papers

The 26th Annual Symposium on Maritime Archaeology and History of Hawai'i and the Pacific will be held February 14-16, 2015 at NOAA Daniel K. Inouye Facility, Ford Island. Abstracts are due by December 01. Email finney@mahhi.org or see <http://www.mahhi.org/> for more information.

2014 BLUE Ocean Film Festival

The 2014 BLUE Ocean Film Festival will be held November 3-9 in St. Petersburg, Florida. 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/explore/>

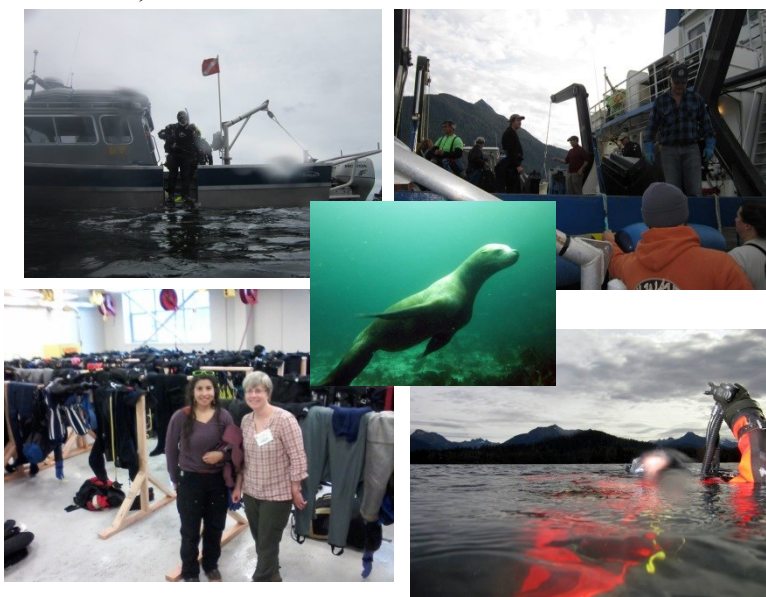
2014 AAUS Symposium



The 2014 AAUS Symposium, held in Sitka, Alaska, was a great success! From diving with whales and sea lions, to learning about abalone, to workshops on Diving First Aid for

Professional Divers and cylinder inspection, there was something for everyone.

The annual DSO and business meeting drew 71 individuals, and the new DSO workshop attracted 17 participants. Eleven presenters at the scientific symposium included the 2014 Kevin Flanagan Award winner, Lauren Bell, and the 2013 Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement award winner, Alina Szmant.



AAUS Service Recognition Awards were presented at the AAUS awards banquet to Michael Lang, Cheryl Thacker and Marc Slattery for their service as President and Directors. Gregg Stanton was awarded the Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Award for Scientific Diving Leadership and Dr. Charlie Veron was awarded the Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement award. Charlie delivered our keynote address and spoke about his lifetime of research on coral reefs. There was a beautiful performance by the Sitka Native Dancers portraying some of the local history of the area.



Our thanks go to the staff of the University of Alaska, Southeast, staff of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the crew of the *R/V Kestrel*, the Sitka Sound Science Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, workshop coordinators, and all participants for making it a productive and enjoyable week. Special thanks to Divers Alert Network for major symposium funding. Also we would like to thank DUI, Hollis, Oceanic, Halcyon, Scuba Pro, Georgia Aquarium, PSI, Charlie Veron, Sonia Ibarra, Reid Brewer, Alaskan Brewery Co, Baranoff Brewery and Sitka Sound Science Center for their donations to our BubbleBreaker scholarship fundraiser.

Also, thank you to all of you who continue to support the Kevin Flanagan travel fund through yearly pledges. Kevin's legacy lives on in the students he is helping to support. Make your donations today at www.aausfoundation.org.





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
aas@disl.org www.aaus.org

A big thank you also goes to our hosts. Without them this meeting would not have been possible!

University of Alaska, Fairbanks – Ginny Eckert
 Alaska Fish and Game – Kyle Hebert and Mike Donnellan
 University of Alaska, Southeast – Reid Brewer and Joel Markis

Editor: Heather Fletcher - aas@disl.org
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 Amy Moran, Rick Riera-Gomez

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