



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –March 2016

Welcome to the March E-Slate. In this edition we get a Presidential update from the winter BoD meeting, call for AAUS BOD nominations, open a standards and bylaws changes for member comment, announce a change to the AAUS awards schedule, post new job opportunities and much more. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, program highlights 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 BoD 2016 Winter Meeting Report

On February 26-27, 2016 the Board of Directors conducted its winter meeting in San Diego, CA, hosted by San Diego State University. During the meeting each committee chair submitted reports on their respective responsibilities. I am happy to report all is in order with the Academy.

Some of the highlights of the meeting are as follows:

The Standards Committee has been doing a tireless job reviewing the AAUS Manual. They have completed a re-write of the AAUS rebreather standards, bringing them up to date and reformatting them. They are out for review at https://secure.aaus.org/2016_rebreather_standards_update

Check them out and let us know if you have any comments or edits to consider. They are also currently working on a revision of the nitrox standards so watch for that soon.

The Statistics Committee reported they have most of the OM stats for 2015. Please note we began collecting 2015 stats January 1, 2016. If you have not submitted your stats please do so by April 1 to stay compliant.

The Membership Committee reported the OM application process is moving forward. Thank you to the committee members for reviewing each applicant and application with a detailed eye.

As you might remember, in January 2016 the BoD asked the OM DSOs to complete an online survey regarding how and where their divers were getting their outside sponsored funding. The information gathered will be used to write grant proposals hoping to get funding to assist AAUS in developing infrastructure and move forward many of the

initiatives identified in the 2015 Strategic Plan. Participation in the survey was underwhelming and we didn't get enough information to be helpful. In response, later this year the AAUS office will be contacting OMs asking for the names of the PIs that get extramural funding. With these names the AAUS office will data mine the funding source's public records for a general amount of money that supports AAUS OM diving. Watch for more details in the upcoming months.

The topic of the AAUS accreditation program, one of the highly desired initiatives identified by the 2015 Strategic Plan, was discussed. The BoD took a very ambitious position last year setting a goal of 6 program accreditations completed in 2016. At the meeting, a roll out plan for the program was presented, and after thorough discussion by the BoD, it appears this goal is achievable. A more comprehensive explanation for this plan will be in an upcoming E-Slate.

Another highly desired initiative identified by the 2015 Strategic Plan that we discussed was the DSO qualification. This initiative is moving forward and the AAUS will conduct at least one qualification this year. The qualification process this year will be by invitation, as we need to get the proper pieces in place to have a long-term, sustainable model. We anticipate conducting more qualification sessions in 2017, once we have the structure of the program in place.

Lastly, the BoD moved forward with the development of an RFP for a new computer web-based dive log/statistics collection program. We are exploring all options, from utilizing existing platforms to having a custom designed system.

All in all, this BoD meeting was very, very efficient and productive. This is a credit to the hard work put in by your BoD members. If you have any questions regarding the items listed here please feel free to contact the respective committee chairs for more information. Please direct questions regarding the accreditation and DSO qualification programs or anything else contained in this report to Rick Riera-Gomez (rgomez@rsmas.miami.edu)

DAN/Rolex Diver of the Year



AAUS congratulates Kirk Krack, CEO of Performance Freediving International, recipient of the prestigious DAN/Rolex Diver of the Year. Krack offered a freediving workshop at the 2014 AAUS Symposium in Curacao. Both Performance Freediving International and DAN are generous supporters of AAUS activities. To read the full article

go to <http://goo.gl/49hEU1>

AAUS Rebreather Standards

In response to discussion at The Scientific Diver and Rebreather workshop held in Feb 2015, AAUS reviewed and revised Section 12 (rebreather). The AAUS Rebreather standards changes are now available on the AAUS website for membership review. The standards will be available for comment until April 31, 2016.

https://secure.aaus.org/2016_rebreather_standards_update

AAUS Proposed Bylaws Change

Upon recommendation of a CPA, the AAUS Board of Directors has reviewed and approved a proposed language change in our bylaws concerning the review of the AAUS finances. It is now open to the AAUS Membership for review and commentary for 60 days at

http://www.aaus.org/aaus_bylaws_change_2016

AAUS Bylaws-Page 9 Article 1, Section 1, Subsection (c)

Current language- *"an independent review of the financial books, records and accounts of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences shall be completed every 2 years, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles."*

Proposed language- *"a compiled financial statement with full disclosure of the books, records and accounts of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences shall be completed regularly, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles."*

AAUS Achievement Awards

At the April 2015 meeting of the AAUS Board of Directors, the Board voted to change the frequency of awarding the Academy's two top honors, the Conrad Limbaugh Award and the Scientific Lifetime Achievement Award. The Academy has traditionally given out both awards annually; after consultation with the Awards Committee, the Board unanimously voted to begin alternating the two awards between years. The decision was made based largely on the Board's recognition that awardees should be able to receive their award in person as well as attend and participate in that year's annual meeting, but increasing travel costs limited the Academy's ability to provide travel support for two awardees every year. Alternation of awards is to begin in 2016, starting

with the Conrad Limbaugh award. Funding for travel of the awardees will be generated from symposium revenue.

AAUS BOD Call for Nominations

The 2016 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, 2017 the elected Director-at-Large candidate will serve one three-year term. An electronic poll will open on May 01 and close June 30, 2016.

Qualified candidates must be voting members in good standing with the AAUS. The nomination letter (not to exceed 300 words) is best focused on how a particular candidate can contribute to the Academy based on their academic or diving safety contributions, or previous development or not-for-profit organizational governance experience. Please submit your nomination letter, no later than **March 15, 2016**, to any one of these five AAUS Nominating Committee members: Amy Moran, Chair (morana@hawaii.edu), Pema Kitaeff, University of Washington (pema@uw.edu), George Peterson, Monterey Bay Aquarium (gpeterson@mbayaq.org), Jeff Godfrey, University of Connecticut (jeff.godfrey@uconn.edu) or Lora Pride, CH2M Hill (Lora.Pride@ch2m.com).

AAUS Funding Assessment Survey

During development of the AAUS strategic plan, membership identified the need for additional and/or alternative funding sources to help secure the future of AAUS. The AAUS Board of Directors has put together survey questions about your organization's funding for diving-based research projects that will help us continue to gather information pursuant to this effort. Please take some time to assess the external funding your organization receives for diving-based research projects and then complete this 16 question survey. Alternatively, you may send the AAUS office a list of the researchers who regularly receive for diving-based research projects.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/scidivefunding>

AAUS Statistics Due

Organizational Members of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences agree to submit summary statistics each year of dives, modes of diving and any incidents associated with their program. Annual stats may be submitted at <http://stats.diveaaus.org>. Please do not include any dives that do not meet AAUS standards, i.e. recreational dives accepted by the DCB as proficiency dives. AAUS statistics collection criteria and definitions are at http://stats.diveaaus.org/Reporting/Stats_definitions.asp.

Statistical summaries are due each January and considered late **01 April**.

Life Support Technologies Scholarship

Life Support Technologies (LST) offers a Pioneer Scholarship to medical professionals in memory of departed colleagues Jorge Beale, M.D., R.W. "Bill" Hamilton, Ph.D., Eric P. Kindwall, M.D., Gerry Koinig, and Daniel M. Goldman, M.D., who have had a deep, lasting impact on LST as well as on the medical community.

Scholarship recipients are awarded a seat (valued at up to U.S. \$1,100) in one of LST's accredited 5-day "Introduction to Hyperbaric Medicine" courses, which are conducted three or four times a year at LST hospital partner facilities in the NY-NJ-CT (USA) region. Scholarships are awarded on a rolling basis throughout the year. To apply, please send your CV/resume and a 300-500 word essay answering the question, "How could Hyperbaric Medicine help your career path?" to: Info@LifeSupport-USA.com. For course information, see: <http://www.lifesupport-usa.com/courses/>

Underwater Photo Contest

The University of Miami (UM) Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science announces it is now accepting entries for its annual Underwater Photography Contest. The deadline for submitting photos is 12p.m., U.S. Eastern Time on Friday, March 18, 2016.

The Underwater Photography Contest is open to all amateur photographers who earn no more than 20 percent of their income from photography. Eligible photos must not have been published or accepted for publication and must be the original work of the submitter.



The winners will be announced this year at the Rosenstiel School's popular Sea Secrets Lecture Series on April 14. To view past winners, contest rules and entry form, visit <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/outreach/underwater-photography/>

STUDENT OPPORTUNITES

2016 USC Scientific Dive Course



The University of Southern California will conduct its annual Scientific Dive Course from June 11-20, and 27, 2016. Course includes mainland Los Angeles classes and 6 days of spectacular research dive training at Catalina Island.

Training will include a bluewater dive, a night dive, mapping

and navigation skills, Reef Check CA Certification, marine species identification and much more. This course is open to both USC students and the general public. Open-water SCUBA certification required. Application deadline is **June 01, 2016**. For information, contact Eric Castillo, USC Diving Safety Officer, usc_dso@usc.edu or 310-510-4022.

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/scientificdivingcourse/>

2016 UW Scientific Dive Course

The University of Washington will conduct its annual intensive two-week Scientific Dive Course from August 15- 27, 2016 at the Friday Harbor Labs on San Juan Island. 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, 2016**. More information at <http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentSummer2016.html> or contact the FHL Dive Officer, Pema Kitaeff, at pema@uw.edu or 206-543-0876, or the UW DSO, Will Love, at wlove@uw.edu or 206-616-3776.

REEF 2016 Internship

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo, FL is now accepting applications for the 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. Application deadline is **March 07, 2016**. <http://www.REEF.org/internship>

Marine Science Research Internship

The University of Maine, Darling Marine Center, is now accepting applications for a Marine Science research summer internship to run from June 01 to September 01, 2016. Applicants must be recent college graduates with a bachelor's degree in a biological science and must also be currently up-to-date with AAUS scientific diver training standards. The intern will primarily be involved in diver-based and laboratory-based research projects exploring changes in lobster physiology and behavior in response to thermal stress. More information is available on the AAUS job board (www.aaus.org/job_board) or by contacting Amalia Harrington (amalia.harrington@maine.edu). The application deadline is **March 15, 2016**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2016 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium

The 2016 AAUS Scientific Diving Symposium will be hosted by The University of Rhode Island at the Narragansett Bay campus from September 20-25, 2016. We welcome diving scientists, students, diving safety officers and anyone with an interest in diving science to participate in this event.



The week will be filled with technical workshops ranging from AUP, PSI and DAN courses to scientific workshops covering black sea bass, reefballs and rebreathers. Additionally there will be a DUI demo day and drysuit repair course. Following opportunities for shore and boat diving as well as social and networking events, we will wrap up the week with the national DSO meeting, a two day science symposium, poster session and annual awards banquet. See next month's E-Slate for more details, the call for abstracts, and registration information!

CCSDA - 7th Annual Scientific Diving Symposium

The Coastal Carolina Scientific Diving Association will hold its 7th annual Scientific Diving Symposium on Friday, March 04, 2016, hosted by the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. The symposium is held annually and is open to all scientific divers, scientists, and educators who work in or around Carteret County, NC and contribute to expanding knowledge of marine and estuarine environments. Symposium goals are to allow scientific divers to meet and exchange information with other divers on methods, techniques, and research that requires the use of SCUBA; to share knowledge of safer and more efficient diving and research methods; and to educate non-diving scientists and educators about ways SCUBA diving might enhance their success. If you are interested in attending or presenting, register and/or submit your abstract at <https://goo.gl/FeJTne> More information at <http://www.cc-sda.org> or email ccsda.info@gmail.com.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Underwater Explorers Instructors

Underwater Explorers Assistant Supervisor

Smithsonian Marine Station

Research and Field Technician

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Fish and Wildlife Technician (Artificial Reef Program)

University of Maine

Marine Science Research Internship

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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