



# E-SLATE

## American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

### EDITORIAL NOTE –November 2014

Welcome to the November E-Slate. In this issue we have updates from the scholarship program, the 2014 AAUS/OWUSS intern and the AAUS BOD on the strategic planning process. There are also numerous student opportunities and an OM Highlight from Oregon State University. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, 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

#### 2015 AAUS Symposium

The 2015 AAUS symposium will be hosted by Florida Keys Community College and will be held September 28-October 03, 2015 in Key West, FL. Watch for more information after the first of the year!

#### AAUS Foundation Scholarship Winners

Find out more about the AAUS Foundation Scholars announced last month at <http://www.aaus.org/announcements#2014scholars>

#### AAUS/OWUSS Intern's Final Report

Katy Newcomer's final report as the 2014 AAUS/OWUSS intern at The University of Maine, Darling Marine Center is now available. Read about Katy's experience, consider being a host in 2015 and encourage your students to apply for the internship!

[http://www.aaus.org/aausowuss\\_internship](http://www.aaus.org/aausowuss_internship)

#### 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 second Strategic Planning survey which was distributed in October. We received 248 responses and the BOD is working to synthesize the responses.

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". Like the request we made in the June E-Slate 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.aaus.org/aausowuss_host_organization_application)

### STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### 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](https://secure.aaus.org/aausowuss_internship). To apply, visit: <http://www.owuscholarship.org/internships>.

### **Assistantships and Fellowship Available**

Two graduate assistantships and a Postdoctoral Fellowship are available in the lab of Dr. Amy Freestone at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Graduate students will assist with the BioVision Project (Biogeographic Variation in Interaction Strength and Invasions at the Ocean's Nearshore), an NSF-funded collaborative project led by Dr. Freestone, Dr. Greg Ruiz (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, MD) and Dr. Mark Torchin (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama City, Panama).

Prospective students for the assistantship should contact Dr. Amy Freestone ([amy.freestone@temple.edu](mailto:amy.freestone@temple.edu)) with a cover letter that describes their background and research interests, a current CV, transcripts from prior academic studies (unofficial is acceptable), GRE scores, and contact information for three references. Prospective students will also need to submit a completed graduate application to the Department of Biology at Temple University by January 15 for US applicants and December 15 for international applicants.

Prospective postdocs should send a cover letter that describes qualifications and career goals, research statement, CV, graduate transcript (unofficial is acceptable), and contact information for three references. Completed applications should be submitted to Dr. Amy Freestone ([amy.freestone@temple.edu](mailto:amy.freestone@temple.edu)). Review of applications will begin on December 1. Questions on the positions can be directed to Dr. Amy Freestone.

### **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. Please email Dr. Michael Sweet at [m.sweet@derby.ac.uk](mailto:m.sweet@derby.ac.uk) for any scientific issue regarding the course. For any other information on the course and availability please email [info@korallionlab.com](mailto:info@korallionlab.com).

### **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](http://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](mailto: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/>

### **JOB ANNOUCEMENTS**

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

#### **Florida State University**

*Faculty in Coastal and Marine Sciences*

## OM Highlight



### Oregon State University

Kevin Buch, DSO

Oregon State has produced *Deep Discovery*, a video about scientific diving. It accompanies a story about research through diving. Read an excerpt below and find the full story at:

<http://oregonstate.edu/terra/2014/05/total-immersion/>.

In her white coat, safety goggles and latex gloves, Kerry McPhail looks every inch the medicinal chemist at work in her Oregon State University lab. Amidst dozens of molecular diagrams taped to dun-colored walls, the College of Pharmacy researcher grows colonies of microbes in petri dishes and then runs their extracts through the superconducting magnet of an NMR spectrometer — a key step in analyzing the structures of natural compounds with potentially curative powers.

But lab work is only half of this researcher's scientific persona. Before she can test them, she has to collect them.

That's why McPhail periodically undergoes a superhero-like transformation, trading her staid white lab coat for a sleek black wetsuit, strapping on a mask, a scuba tank and a pair of bright-yellow fins. Then, tucking a mesh collection bag and a supply of 1-gallon Ziploc bags into her dive belt, she splashes into some of the planet's most remote — and sometimes dangerous — waters to collect rare marine organisms. She once bloodied her knuckles on coral cliffs when currents pumped her through a cavernous reef in Panama. On another dive, this one off the coast of Saudi



Arabia, she felt a rush of water pressure and glimpsed a big tail out of the corner of her eye. Breathing easy to relax, she was relieved to find herself staring into the curious eyes of a bottlenose dolphin

("like a dog wanting to play"). And in the surging seas of South Africa, she was horrified when she dropped a hard-won specimen. Against all odds she managed to recover the rare organism from the rocky reef, still zipped tightly into its plastic bag. These and the other precious marine organisms she collects around the world may hold the secrets to curing a small child's brain cancer or a young mother's malaria. For an elite handful of Oregon State researchers and students in pharmacy, biology, oceanography, zoology,

fisheries, marine resources management — even maritime engineering — their other lab is underwater. They dive in the Cayman Islands and the Red Sea, in South Africa's



Nelson Mandela Bay and Oregon's Yaquina Bay, in Central America, the Bahamas and Antarctica, in the Klamath River and the Virgin Islands. They dive to find chemical compounds for fighting aggressive cancers and deadly pathogens. They investigate the crashing of fisheries and the dying of corals. They track the spread of invasive lionfish in the Atlantic and Caribbean. They assess the impact of excess carbon beneath polar ice, study the life cycle of salmon parasites and monitor marine reserves and "dead zones" off the Pacific Coast.

In 2012, some 55 OSU faculty and students made nearly 2,000 official dives for science and training, logging close to 1,600 hours underwater.

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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