



# E-SLATE

## American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

### EDITORIAL NOTE –February 2017

Welcome to the February E-Slate. In this edition, we have an update from the President, call for nominations for the 2017 AAUS BOD elections and Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement Award, announce several student summer opportunities and job openings, and preview multiple upcoming events. 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).

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The AAUS Board has been moving along with several initiatives we hope to finalize this year. The BoD is continuing to pursue an alternative dive logging software. We have gathered information from a few interested parties and are now looking into the details to find a program that suits the membership. The Standards Committee is in the preliminary phases of doing a standards revision. When you receive communications or surveys regarding this effort please participate. The DSO certification is finalizing its first draft. This draft will be sent to the BoD and ITI for their input. Once this draft is discussed at the BoD meeting at the end of February we'll get it out to the membership for a review and comment period.

### NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### AAUS BOD Call for Nominations

The 2017 AAUS Nominating Committee is now accepting for consideration nominations of individual members to stand for the following positions on the AAUS Board of Directors:

- President-Elect
- Secretary
- Director-at-Large

Commencing on January 01, 2018 the elected Director-at-Large will serve one three-year term, the Secretary will serve one two-year term, and the President-Elect will serve one two-year term followed by two years as President. An electronic poll will open on May 01 and close June 30, 2017.

Qualified candidates must be full 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 3, 2017, to any one of the five AAUS Nominating Committee members:

- Amy Moran, Chair ([morana@hawaii.edu](mailto:morana@hawaii.edu))
- George Peterson ([gpeterson@mbayaq.org](mailto:gpeterson@mbayaq.org))
- Rob Robbins ([Rob.Robbins.Contractor@usap.gov](mailto:Rob.Robbins.Contractor@usap.gov))
- Lora Pride ([Lora.Pride@ch2m.com](mailto:Lora.Pride@ch2m.com))
- Steven Sellers ([steven\\_sellers@nps.gov](mailto:steven_sellers@nps.gov))

### 2017 Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations

Nominations are open for the 2017 Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement award. The award is presented annually to an individual from the scientific diving community who has made a significant contribution in advancing underwater science and technology. Nominations close March 31, 2017. For more information on eligibility and the nomination form, please visit [aaus.org/lifetime\\_achievement\\_award](http://aaus.org/lifetime_achievement_award). Nominations can also be submitted directly to [jheine@ucsd.edu](mailto:jheine@ucsd.edu).

### DSO Certification Update

The DSO certification program is proposed to be a voluntary course designed for all DSOs, whether new to the position or a veteran, to better standardize DSO qualifications and knowledge. The certification will be set up similarly to what was beta-tested by AAUS previously. The program is proposed to be a three-day training/familiarization session that covers topics ranging from understanding the science and science diving community, recognizing and remediating standards issues, risk management and legal counsel relating to program management and reciprocity, and much more.

This effort is currently being led by Rick Riera-Gomez. Within the month, a draft course outline will be submitted to the BoD and ITI for review and comment. Following their review, it will be released for a membership review and comment period. The committee and BOD will then work to incorporate member comments and further develop the course to completion. Upon completion, there will be a final review by ITI and AAUS membership. The timeline goal for implementation will be a beta test in Fall 2017 followed by a full DSO certification course in Spring 2018. All questions or comments regarding this program can be submitted to Rick Riera-Gomez ([rgomez@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:rgomez@rsmas.miami.edu))

## 2017 AAUS Dues

2017 AAUS OM dues are now due. OMs should have received an electronic invoice during the first week of January. You can pay the invoice by clicking a link within the invoice, logging in to your OM profile at [www.aaus.org](http://www.aaus.org) or you may mail in a check to the NEW address, listed below.

AAUS  
PO Box 9067  
Mobile, AL 36691-9067

## AAUS Statistics Due

Organizational Members of AAUS agree to submit summary statistics each year of dives, modes of diving and any incidents associated with their program. It is strongly recommended that you fill in the blank form by hand before attempting to submit your stats. Inputs are error checked and you may get a message that your totals do not agree. 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](http://stats.diveaaus.org/Reporting/Stats_definitions.asp). **Statistical summaries are due each January and considered late 01 April.**

## Organizational Membership Review

The Membership Committee will be undertaking the task of reviewing OM profiles on the AAUS website to ensure all information is current and correct. While we gear up to get this process started, we are requesting that you log in to your OM profile and update the following:

1. **OM Description:** Provide a current description of your organization and the diving activities.
2. **Contacts:** Provide the most current information for the Primary and Administrator contacts at your organization
3. **DSO and DCB Member Profiles:** Update the list of DCB members to reflect your current DCB. All individual profiles of the DCB must also be complete.
4. **OM Reps:** Select/update your OM Representatives. It is strongly encouraged that you select OM Reps that are Active Scientific Divers that qualify as a [Full Voting Member](#).
5. **Exemption Questions:** Answer the four exemption questions and provide a brief statement supporting your answers.
6. **Diving Safety Manual:** Upload your Diving Safety Manual and "Standards Manual Checksheet".

Your DSM should meet the current minimum standards set forth by AAUS. You can find the current AAUS DSM and "Standards Manual Checksheet" [here](#). If you have any questions about how to make these changes to your OM profile, please refer to our [FAQs](#).

## AAUS-Standards revisions/updates

The AAUS Standards Committee is in the process of revising and updating the AAUS standards and we would like community feedback on changes that you would like to see. Our goals are to streamline and update the manual as well as better define some sections. Please visit [www.aaus.org/standards\\_update](http://www.aaus.org/standards_update) to complete a short survey about potential changes and submit your suggestions.

## 2016 AAUS Symposium Proceedings

We will not be mailing out hard copies of the 2016 AAUS Symposium proceedings to all AAUS OMs as we have done in years past. However, if your organization would like a copy, please contact the AAUS office and we will mail you one. You can download electronic copies of the proceedings from the Resource Library on the AAUS website or by searching for it on [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com).

## MTS Survey

The Marine Technology Society Diving Committee has circulated a survey intended to gather information regarding current and proposed program activities that embrace the use of new diving technology within an occupational setting. The Committee hopes to utilize survey data to steer future activities that might bridge gaps between community sectors within occupational diving through the use of new diving technology. The Committee welcomes diving professionals to participate in this [survey](#).

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### REEF 2017 Internship

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo, FL is now accepting applications for the 2017 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, 2017**. <http://www.REEF.org/internship>

### South Carolina Aquarium Diving Internship

The South Carolina Aquarium Dive Operations Interns will gain experience in all aspects of running an Aquarium Dive Safety Program. Interns will have the opportunity to be trained on Gear Inspections, Dive Team Management, Dive Shows, and Aquarium Husbandry of the Great Ocean Tank Exhibit. Interns will gain experience diving Full Face Masks, Surface Supply, Underwater Communications, and Reserve Air Systems. This internship is geared towards those interested in Aquarium Husbandry and running a Dive Safety Program through an Aquarium, University, or Research

facility. The desired start date is April/May 2017 and the internship will run for approximately 6 months. College sophomores through graduate students are encouraged to apply. More information and application at <https://app.jobmarketmaker.com/about/candidates/job/14588/dive-operations-intern-spring-2017-&1001> Application deadline is March 15.

### **USC Wrigley Institute REU Program**

The Wrigley Institute is recruiting two AAUS-certified undergraduate students to participate in an NSF-funded research training program. Students will live and work at the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina Island (CA) during an intensive 10-week program that will provide students with:

- hands-on research experience
- training in laboratory and field methodologies
- introductory lectures and special seminars in oceanography and marine science
- academic and career advisement
- professional development workshops
- networking opportunities with professionals
- opportunities to explore Catalina Island's unique ecosystems

The application window for the Wrigley Institute's 2017 REU program is January 02 - February 15, 2017. For more information, please visit <http://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/reu/> or email Dr. David Ginsburg ([dginsbur@usc.edu](mailto:dginsbur@usc.edu)).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **New DSO Orientation**

AAUS will hold a new DSO orientation on February 27, 2017 in Durham, NC at the Aloft hotel and meeting room ([www.aloftdurhamdowntown.com](http://www.aloftdurhamdowntown.com)). This program is designed to provide an orientation for new Diving Safety Officers and for existing DSOs who would like more information and an update on particulars of running a Diving Safety Program at their respective institutions or organizations. Essential training for anyone considering accepting or assuming the role of Diving Safety Officer and planning on operating an AAUS Diving Safety Program. Also open to non AAUS organizations who would like more information about AAUS. The cost for this one day workshop is \$100. Please register at [aaus.org/new\\_dso\\_orientation](http://aaus.org/new_dso_orientation).

### **CCSDA - 8th Annual Scientific Diving Symposium**

The Coastal Carolina Scientific Diving Association will hold its 8th annual Scientific Diving Symposium on Friday, March 24, 2017. The symposium is held annually and is open to all scientific divers, scientists, and educators in the Carolinas. Symposium goals are to allow scientific divers to meet and exchange information on methods, techniques, and research;

to share knowledge of safer and more efficient diving and research methods; and to educate non-diving scientists and educators about ways divers might aid in their research. The Symposium's morning session will be a Discussion Group reserved for Scientific Dive Program DSO's, Administrators, and Dive Supervisors. The afternoon session will feature Scientific Presentations by area researchers and is open to all scientific divers, scientists, and educators. If you are interested in attending or presenting, register and/or submit your abstract at <http://ccsda.blogspot.com/>. For more information, email [ccsda.info@gmail.com](mailto:ccsda.info@gmail.com).

### **Northeast DSO Meeting**

The Boston Sea Rovers will once again host an informal meeting for Northeast Diving Officers on Saturday March 11, 2017, 1-4pm. Stay tuned for meeting room location and other details. See the Sea Rovers website for details about this weekend (<https://www.bostonsearovers.com>) or contact Christopher Rigaud ([crigaud@maine.edu](mailto:crigaud@maine.edu)).

### **BTS Otic Barotrauma Workshop**

Otic Barotrauma is the most common medical condition divers may face. This workshop, held March 25<sup>th</sup> at Beneath the Sea, will present a comprehensive review of the many issues related to otic barotrauma. Both recognition and prevention of illness will be discussed. A video-otoscope will demonstrate many of the issues discussed. Each attendee will receive a DAN Oscope. A hands-on workshop will demonstrate the proper use of the otoscope. Register at [www.Beneaththesea.org](http://www.Beneaththesea.org). For further information, visit, [www.divemedicineandhyperbaricconsultants.com](http://www.divemedicineandhyperbaricconsultants.com) or contact [Dcharash@aol.com](mailto:Dcharash@aol.com).

### **BTS Diving Sciences Symposium**

The Beneath the Sea Diving Sciences symposium will be held March 24<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be able to discuss the pros and cons of the latest evidence-based knowledge in the field of diving sciences, including: medicine, forensics, medical research, accident analysis, and diving sciences. Registration information available at [www.BeneathTheSea.org](http://www.BeneathTheSea.org). Contact Dr. David Charash ([dcharash@aol.com](mailto:dcharash@aol.com)) or [www.DiveMedicineAndHyperbaricConsultants.com](http://www.DiveMedicineAndHyperbaricConsultants.com)

### **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/>

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.

## **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)

### **Channel Islands National Park, Kelp Forest Monitoring Program**

*Seasonal GS-5 Biological Technicians – Please note that these positions are only open until February 6, 2017.*

### **Florida State University**

*Marine Research Technician*

### **Little Cayman Research Centre**

*Caribbean Marine Field Station Manager*

### **The Florida Aquarium**

*Director of Marine Operations*

American Academy of Underwater Sciences  
PO Box 9067, Mobile, AL 36691-9067  
Tel 251- 591- 3775  
[aaus@disl.org](mailto:aaus@disl.org) [www.aaus.org](http://www.aaus.org)

Editor: Heather Albright- [aaus@disl.org](mailto:aaus@disl.org)

Editorial Board: Michael Dardeau,  
Amy Moran, Rick Riera-Gomez

## **AAUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Rick Riera-Gomez	President
Marc Slattery	President-Elect
Chris Ledford	Secretary
Christopher Rigaud	Treasurer
Jen Smith	Director-at-Large, Scholarship
Narineh Nazarian	Appointed Director (AD), Membership
Mike Anghera	Director-at-Large
Vin Malkoski	AD, Finance
Liz Kintzing	AD, Standards
Tim White	AD, Statistics
Jim Hayward	Director-at-Large