



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –March 2017

Welcome to the March E-Slate. In this edition, we 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. Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at www.aaus.org.

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 10, 2017**, to any one of the five AAUS Nominating Committee members:

- Amy Moran, Chair (morana@hawaii.edu)
- George Peterson (gpeterson@mbayaq.org)
- Rob Robbins (Rob.Robbins.Contractor@usap.gov)
- Lora Pride (Lora.Pride@ch2m.com)
- Steven Sellers (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, a list of past winners, and the nomination form, please visit aaus.org/lifetime_achievement_award. Nominations can also be submitted directly to 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)

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. **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](#).

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

REEF Summer Fish Field Methodology Course

This one-week hands-on course is designed for college undergraduates and recent graduates focusing on marine biology or related fields. The course covers commonly used tools and techniques for visual assessments of reef fishes. Classroom and field experiences will expose students to Tropical Western Atlantic reef fish identification, size estimations underwater, surveying reef fishes using transect, roving and stationary visual techniques, benthic assessments using photo quadrats and rugosity, and management of survey data. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.REEF.org/fieldcourse> or contact Amy Lee at (305) 588-5869 or trips@REEF.org.

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**.

PIFSC Young Scientist Opportunity

The PIFSC Young Scientist Opportunity (PYSO) is a collaborative program between PIFSC and the Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR) at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. This program offers qualified participants professional scientific research experience and formal training opportunities tailored to meet their educational and professional goals and interests.

Participants will have the opportunity to work with a mentor on a project that draws from a variety of topics including, but not limited to: fish ecology, protected species, oceanography, fishery economics, stock assessment, coral reef ecology, ecosystem studies, climate studies, marine ecology, environmental monitoring, and social sciences. One participant will be selected for each of the projects being offered each summer. For more information and application instructions, please visit <https://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/pyso/>. The application deadline is **March 17**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium

The 2017 AAUS Scientific Diving Symposium will be hosted by Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, MI from September 12-16, 2017. 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 Guardian FFM, PSI and DAN courses to diving workshops covering the geology of the great lakes, task loading and much more. Following opportunities for diving as well as social and networking events, we will wrap up the week with the national DSO meeting, a twoday 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 - 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 DSOs, 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.

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).

BTS Otic Barotrauma Workshop

Otic barotrauma is the most common medical condition divers may face. This workshop, held March 25th 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. For further information, visit, www.divemedicineandhyperbaricconsultants.com or contact Dcharash@aol.com.

BTS Diving Sciences Symposium

The Beneath the Sea Diving Sciences symposium will be held March 24th. 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. Contact Dr. David Charash (dcharash@aol.com) or 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/>

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Florida State University

Marine Research Technician

Little Cayman Research Centre

Caribbean Marine Field Station Manager

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Underwater Explorers Program Dive Leaders

The Florida Aquarium

Director of Marine Operations

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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