



# E-SLATE

## American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

### EDITORIAL NOTE –May 2017

Welcome to the May E-Slate. In this edition, we have an update from the President, open polls for our BOD elections, open registration and continue our call for abstracts for the 2017 AAUS Diving for Science symposium, announce new student opportunities and much more. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, program highlights 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

In the April E-slate, the AAUS BOD unveiled a big picture concept for future program development, nicknamed the Pyramid Concept (see reprint of "Small Pieces, Big Picture" below). This conceptual model consists of a foundational level that encompasses current basic requirements for being an AAUS Organizational Member (OM) (current dive manual, dues, statistics, etc.) These requirements should be met by all current OMs and provide a solid base to build upon.

The next level of the pyramid consists of peer review programs that provide OMs with an additional level of support that AAUS membership has requested, the on-site program review and the DSO certification. These support programs will help OMs identify their strengths and weaknesses and ensure that their OM DSO is up-to-date with current standards and community practices.

The end result for OMs who complete all of these elements is still being worked on by the BOD and will be put out for community review as ideas are developed.

The BOD is seeking input from AAUS membership on this conceptual model. Thank you to those of you who have already reviewed the model and taken the time to comment. For those of you that haven't, I urge you share your opinions, suggestions and questions on either the DSO google or, preferably so that all members can participate, on the AAUS website in the Discussion Forum. (see article below for a link)

Another initiative that the BOD is currently working on is updating the IT services AAUS uses for its home website and dive log website. Mike Anghera is spearheading this effort and has done a great job identifying prospective companies. Currently, a request for proposal (RFP) is being developed from the many comments and suggestions we have received from members over the past few years. When finished, the

RFP will be distributed to the prospective companies for bid. I'll let you know how this process is going as it evolves.

Finally, last year the BOD put out a request to the OMs to submit information about the NSF and NOAA funding that supports research that utilizes your dive programs. Thank you to those of you that have submitted this information. If you haven't done so, please do so as soon as possible. This information will be used to assist in soliciting extramural funds for strengthening AAUS infrastructure and expanding membership services.

### NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### AAUS 2017 Election

The 2017 AAUS election opens May 01 and closes June 30. This year the academy will elect a Director-at-Large, Secretary, and President-Elect whose terms will start on January 01, 2018. The election is open to Full Voting Members (individual and OM Reps) in good standing (dues paid, etc.). Ballots are accessed via the AAUS website, [www.aaus.org](http://www.aaus.org), by logging into your **individual account** and selecting 'Voting and Polling.' To write in a candidate, send an email with the name of the candidate for which you are voting to two of the election 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 AAUS BOD Slate of Candidates

Candidates' biographical sketches and answers to election questions are attached to this email and available at [https://secure.aaus.org/2017\\_aaus\\_bod\\_election](https://secure.aaus.org/2017_aaus_bod_election)

#### *Director-at-Large*

Dale Anderson, SETI Institute

Kevin Buch, Oregon State University

Ross Whippo, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

#### *President-Elect*

Rick Riera-Gomez, University of Miami\*

Brett Seymour, National Park Service

Derek Smith, University of Washington

*Secretary*

Jay Haigler, National Association of Black Scuba Divers Foundation

Jessica Keller, National Park Service

Chris Ledford, Texas Parks and Wildlife\*

*\*Current BOD members running for a second term*

## 2017 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium

Registration for the 2017 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium, hosted by Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, is now open! The meeting will be held 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. Full schedule, course descriptions and registration at <https://www.regonline.com/2017aausdivingforscience>

Tuesday, September 12

- Lessons in Complex Task Loading
- Human Factors Skills in Diving: Developing high performance divers & reducing Incidents/Accidents
- DAN Pro IQC
- Visual Inspection Procedure Course (CTS and PSI courses available)
- Intro to Full Face Mask Diving
- VCI Update (PSI-evening workshop)

Wednesday, September 13

- Lessons in Complex Task Loading
- Otic Barotrauma
- New DSO Orientation
- Human Factors Skills in Diving: Developing high performance divers & reducing Incidents/Accidents
- Dive Injury Recognition and Management
- Vendor In-Water Demo

Thursday, September 14

- AAUS Business Meeting and National Diving Safety Officers Meeting
- Bubblebreaker and Poster Session

Friday and Saturday, September 15-16

- All day science symposium
- 2017 Annual Awards Banquet – includes a glass bottom boat tour for the first 100 registrants.

Sunday to Tuesday, September 17-19

- Diving the Geology of the Great Lakes Field Trip

*Charter Dive Opportunities September 12-14*

## Call for Abstracts

AAUS is now accepting abstract submissions for the 2017 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium. This year AAUS will accept short abstracts (fewer than 300 words), extended abstracts (800-1200 words) or full manuscripts. **Abstracts should be submitted electronically to [aaus@disl.org](mailto:aaus@disl.org) by June 16, 2017.** Please put "2017 AAUS symposium abstract" followed by your name in the message line to facilitate tracking. Notification on the disposition of submitted abstracts will be returned to the first author electronically by July 15. The deadline for final abstract/manuscript submission is August 04 to allow the published proceedings to be available at the fall meeting. No presentation will be allowed unless the final abstract or manuscript has been cleared for publication in the proceedings. All submissions **MUST** use the template, which includes formatting instructions. Templates can be found at [www.aaus.org/annual\\_symposium](http://www.aaus.org/annual_symposium)



## AAUS 2016 Annual Report

The 2016 AAUS annual report is now available. Annual reports can be found at [www.aaus.org](http://www.aaus.org) in the resource library/documents/annual reports and meeting minutes.

## Small Pieces - Big Picture

For many years, the AAUS community has struggled with two emerging programs, Accreditation and DSO Certification. These initiatives have been debated and discussed over the course of multiple administrations, featured prominently in recent strategic plans (2008, 2015), and each have seen various beta-tests. Yet, as of 2017, neither program has been fully implemented.

In 2016, the AAUS Accreditation Committee attempted to revitalize the emerging accreditation program by planning a series of accreditation site visits. This initiative was halted for multiple reasons, not the least of which were alarms raised by members of the AAUS community regarding a lack of information sharing and transparency. In response to these concerns the Accreditation Committee and Board of Directors decided to reevaluate the development and implementation of the program.

In the months following the 2016 AAUS Symposium, a conceptual model was created to connect existing and proposed AAUS programs. The rationale behind the model

was to describe and visualize how various small pieces might fit together to create a big picture for the Academy. A draft form of the concept was approved by the Board of Directors at the spring 2017 Board meeting.

The AAUS Board of Directors is now presenting this idea to the AAUS community (see **full description at [https://secure.aaus.org/conceptual\\_program\\_model](https://secure.aaus.org/conceptual_program_model)**). We are requesting feedback and input on the concept as a whole. The specific details of each piece/program will be presented for review as they become available from the AAUS committees charged with their development.

We anticipate and encourage open community discussion on this topic via the DSO google-group/list, however, to allow access to all members of our community and provide a centralized and cohesive mechanism for tracking commentary, a [discussion forum](#) has been created on the AAUS website. Please utilize this web-forum as the primary venue for communication with the Board of Directors.

*C. Rigaud, AAUS Treasurer*

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### AAUS Student Scholarships 2017

The AAUS Foundation awards scholarships to graduate students engaged in, or planning to begin, research projects in which diving is used as an important research tool or studying diving science. The Foundation awards \$3000 to each winning proposal from the Masters and Doctoral level submissions. Additionally, AAUS may award \$1500 scholarships to the second ranked proposals in each category. The Foundation also grants the Kevin Flanagan Travel Award providing up to \$800 for undergraduate/graduate students to attend an AAUS scientific meeting and the Hollis Gear Award that provides the recipient an award valued at \$1250, good towards Hollis dive gear. Applications are submitted electronically and **all proposals are due June 30**. For more information and application instructions, visit [www.aausfoundation.org](http://www.aausfoundation.org), or send questions to the Scholarship Committee Chair at [aaus@disl.org](mailto:aaus@disl.org)

### 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 stationery 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](mailto:trips@REEF.org).

### 2018 Rolex Awards for Enterprise

Enterprise applicants must have a vision and a ground-breaking proposal that will help to expand knowledge of our world and improve the quality of life on the planet. Applications must be broadly in the areas of the environment, applied science and technology, or exploration. In addition to demonstrating a spirit of enterprise and leadership, candidates must put forward projects or work plans that have a clear purpose, are original and have the potential for significant impact. Candidates must be between 18–30 years old at the end of the application period, on 30 June 2017. More information at <http://www.rolexawards.com/40/apply>

### Three Seas Program

Northeastern University's Three Seas Program is currently accepting applications for the Undergraduate Spring 2018 cohort. The Three Seas Program is a year-long field immersion experience focusing heavily marine sciences and subtidal research. Three Seas students learn the basics of underwater research through AAUS before being immersed in three distinct ecosystems over the course of two academic semesters. More information is available at <http://www.northeastern.edu/cos/threeseas> or by emailing the Three Seas Program Manager and Diving Safety Officer, Liz Bentley Magee ([e.magee@northeastern.edu](mailto:e.magee@northeastern.edu)).

## 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)

### Monterey Bay Aquarium

*Underwater Explorers Program Dive Leaders*

### The Florida Aquarium

*Director of Marine Operations*

### Waikiki Aquarium

*Research Associate*

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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#### AAUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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