A MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

I can't believe 2009 is already over! It went by so fast! I just want to say that I really enjoyed being president and I want to thank the board for their hard work and support. We had a lot of great tours and lectures and our membership increased to over 20 new members. Hope to see you at the 4th Annual Award's Banquet on February 5, 2010!

-Deneen Spence, Past President, SVAALAS

DENVER NATIONAL AALAS MEETING 2009

This is part one of a two part article I am writing about the 2009 National AALAS Meeting, as I experienced it. This was the 60th Anniversary Celebration for National AALAS and the program was fully loaded with many wonderful events and sessions. More than I was able to experience and more than I felt the readers could take in one sitting. Therefore, part one is being dedicated to the Sacramento Valley Branch for selecting me to be this year’s representative to the AALAS Leadership Academy. This article highlights some of the impressionable art in Denver, as well as the day spent at the Leadership Academy. Part two, will follow early next year with highlights of the educational sessions and social events from the meeting. Sit back and enjoy some light reading!

Welcome to Denver — was the greeting as you arrive at the Denver International Airport (DIA) and head into downtown. The first icon you see as you are leaving the airport is the great “Blue Mustang”. The rearing fiberglass sculpture stands 32-feet-tall and apparently has been the root of a “Love-Hate” controversy since it was set atop a knoll near the freeway in February 2008.

Haters of the “Blue Mustang” say it is frightening, or cursed, due to its role in the death of the artist when a section of the 9000 lb sculpture fell on him during its construction.

-continued on page 3

IMPORTANT DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

- January 7 - SVAALAS Awards Nominations Due
- January 20 - First Board Meeting of 2010
- February 5 - Awards Banquet
- March 1 - Nominations for Ron Orta Humanitarian Award Due

SVAALAS BOARD MEMBERS - 2010:

Joe Arambula, President
jdarambula@ucdavis.edu
Roy Hoglund, Vice President
rhoglund@ucmerced.edu
Shandell Solbach, Secretary
solsolbach@ucdavis.edu
Rhonda Oates-Obrien, Treasurer
roatesobrien@ucdavis.edu
Crystyn Chase, Director
cachase@ucdavis.edu
Katie Tsao, Director
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Deneen Spence, Past President
drspence@ucdavis.edu

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Greetings fellow SVAALAS Members,

On February 5th, 2010 SVAALAS will hold its 4th Annual Awards Banquet in appreciation of all its members and to honor three SVAALAS members who have proven themselves in the following categories.

**NOMINATIONS DUE JANUARY 7TH, 2010.**

Please send nominations to Jessica Davis at jesdavis@ucdavis.edu

**Technician of the Year:**
This award will be presented to the technician who has provided outstanding animal care. This technician has gone above and beyond the call of duty to assure animals receive exemplary care.

**Dr. Lon V. Kendall Member of the Year:**
This award will be presented to the individual who has made significant contribution to the SVAALAS branch. This member has participated making improvement to the branch and moving the branch forward.

**Purina Award:**
This award will be presented to the member who has made significant contribution to the field of laboratory animal science. The contribution that this member has made may have improved the overall quality of animal care or participated with others to improve the quality of animal care.

All awards will include a plaque and a monetary token of appreciation.

As the year comes to a close, please take this time to honor a fellow SVAALAS member by nominating him or her for an award (you may also nominate yourself.) All nominations must be received no later than January 7th, 2010. Electronic submissions are encouraged.

Please contact Jessica Davis at jesdavis@ucdavis.edu for more information and an electronic version of the form.

Thank you for your participation.

-Jessica Davis and Crystyn Chase

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**SVAALAS COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2010**

Help support your local AALAS branch. Volunteer to be on a committee. If you may be interested, please contact one of the board members listed on the front page for more information.

- **Audit Committee**
  Volunteer Needed

- **Awards Committee**
  Volunteer Needed

- **District 8 Committee**
  Terry Hewett
  Roy Hoglund

- **Education Committee**
  Volunteer Needed

- **Nominations Committee**
  Volunteer Needed

- **Public Relations Committee**
  Volunteer Needed

- **Communications**
  Volunteer Needed

- **Membership Committee**
  Brian Merical

- **Newsletter Editor**
  Kandi Rodrigue
  kandi.rodrigue@jax.org

- **Webmaster**
  Philip Barruel
  Maggie Tam

- **Government Relations**
  Volunteer Needed

- **Technician Branch Representative (TBR)**
  Crystyn Chase

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**BOARD MEETING DATES 2010**

Blue Mustang displayed in front of DIA

Meetings held 3rd Wednesday of each month.

All members welcome!

(UCD CLAS HQ conference room at 5PM)

First Meeting - Jan. 20th
Supporters of the Mustang have adopted the concept of the artist, which was that the wild horses symbolized the west and provided long distance transportation, much like airplanes provide today.

While in Denver, I heard comments about its fiery red eyes. According to one picture I found on-line, it does appear that the eyes glow red at night. But my viewing of the horse was by day and I saw white eyes, which looked ominous. Horses typically have very large, gentle brown eyes (or blue in rare instances). Anyone familiar with horses knows, when you see the whites of their eyes something is about to happen!

Downtown Denver was nice and had lots to offer within walking distance of the Convention Center where the 60th Annual National AALAS Conference was held. It was a nice walk from the hotel down 16th street which is mostly a pedestrian mall with an occasional bus, as well as the classic horse drawn carriages in the evening. There were lots of shops, restaurants, a movie theater and mall along the six block walk from my hotel to the Convention Center.

Approaching the convention center from California St., you are walking toward this grand contemporary glass façade that is quite attractive. Even more astonishing is the “Big Blue Bear” standing 40 ft tall on his hind legs and peering through the glass at the front of the Convention Center. This too is a fiberglass sculpture commissioned and crafted by Lawrence Argent, in 2005 entitled "I See What You Mean". Denver seems to really enjoy giant blue sculptures!

The National Meeting officially kicks off on Sunday with all the affiliate organization and committee meetings taking place. This year, I had the privilege of representing the Sacramento Valley Branch at the AALAS Leadership Academy. Every AALAS Branch is invited to attend this annual event by sending one representative.

The Leadership Academy was a full day event starting at 7:00am, on Sunday, and packed with many terrific presentations. The Leadership Academy Chair kicked off the meeting, followed by a brief history lesson of National AALAS which was presented by the Executive Director and President of the organization. A presentation entitled “Leadership” was given by the VP and VP Elect of NAALAS, followed by 4 brief Committee membership updates on ILAM, CRB, CTAD, and ERC. The Chair of the AALAS Foundation gave an overview of the work the Foundation is doing, then there was a presentation on “Boardmanship” describing the responsibilities of a board member, trustee and volunteer of an organization or committee. Cindy Pekow ended the morning session by presenting the role of the Chief Elected Officer (CEO) and the Board of Trustees as they preside over the General Membership. Then finally, it was time for lunch, which was a fabulous Asian meal! I’m not sure if it was so delicious because of its exotic flavors or because we were so hungry by the time we ate!

After lunch they didn’t let us sleep! We shuffled right into some role playing by performing little media and public relationship vignettes. We tackled big issues like the dreaded Animal Rights Activists throwing out questions like “why do you torture animals?” I was really impressed with the caliber of responses and professionalism many of our Leaders exhibited as they responded to the absurd and uninformed questions typically asked by media and the general public. We are fortunate to have many experienced Public Outreach advocates in the AALAS Leadership today.

The main take away messages of the day were:
1) AALAS needs many more volunteers to keep all these organizations and committees active and thriving, and
2) The Biomedical Community needs more Public Outreach advocates to get out and spread the word on the good work we do that contributes to the advancement of human and animal medicine. The Animal Rights organizations really have the upper hand on us right now because PETA has become quite skilled at soliciting their propaganda to the schools. If we’re not out there with them telling the truth about our work, the public and our kids only hear one side of the story, and that is what they end up believing.

So, if you have not yet served the Lab Animal Community, perhaps it’s your turn this year to get involved. Join a committee, help organize an event or reach out to your community by giving a talk to promote the positive role you play to ensure animal welfare and good scientific data in the field of Biomedical Research! Educate yourself by volunteering in a classroom in your community and help promote positive scientific use of animals to find cures for serious illnesses. I do and it’s great fun! People want to believe the good, and when you talk to them about the roles we play and the regulations we follow to ensure humane animal care, most will listen with interest and relief. So get involved and help educate our kids!

-Laura Jones, BS, CMAR
JOB POSTINGS

Title: AC Technician
Company: Biotech/Pharmaceutical
Location: This position is located in Solano County, California.
Responsibilities:
We are currently seeking an AC Technician who will work in a safe and sanitary manner using appropriate equipment and established procedures. Under immediate supervision, the individual will provide primary care and sanitation for genetically modified murine models; assist with or perform technical procedures to maintain health, research integrity and compliance with regulatory and accrediting agency standards. He/she will operate the transport and cleaning equipment in a knowledgeable, correct and safe manner. The incumbent will conduct all aspects of care and sanitation and other tasks as assigned.

Title: AC Supervisor/Senior Supervisor
Company: Biotech/Pharmaceutical
Location: This position is located in Solano County, California.
We are seeking a Supervisor who will be responsible for daily coordination and management of the activities and first-line supervision of care staff for the genetically modified murine facility in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, regulations and guidelines, contract requirements, facility and care and research Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), approved experimental protocols and accepted care practices. He/she will provide direct assistance to the AC Program Manager, the Associate Director and Director of Murine Genetics Program with development and implementation of the institutional care and use program necessary to ensure regulatory compliance and continued accreditation by AAALAC, International.

To learn more about these opportunities, please share your contact information and resume with us at vettechr153@gmail.com. Please also include the job title in the subject line. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

2010 D8 Meeting
3’x4’ POSTER AND/OR 15-MINUTE PLATFORM SESSION
PRESENTATION FORMATS AVAILABLE
I want to present a poster, not a platform session
I want a platform session and will not accept poster
I prefer a poster but will accept a platform session
I prefer a platform but will accept a poster

1st Place Award: $500  2nd Place Award: $350
3rd Place Award: $250  4th Place Award: $100

Please see “Call for Abstracts” for complete details, contact Ken Jones or Mia Nettik for the form, nettmia@isu.edu, or kjones@pcm.utah.edu or “snail-mail,” 75 South 2000 East Ste 311 Salt Lake City UT 84112 by February 15th, 2010. Questions? Call Mia Nettik at (208) 282-3895 or Ken Jones at (801) 213-3257.
Hello District 8 of AALAS!

As Chair of the Ron Orta Humanitarian Award, I'd like to take this opportunity to make a plea to get nominations in for this prestigious award! I have been getting a lot of feedback concerning the nominations process and requesting that the qualifications be a bit more detailed without taking anything away from what Allentown has originally developed. Don't be intimidated to write your letter. The person that deserves this award is a well rounded individual that is all about serving their co-workers and goes out of their way to help whenever possible, volunteers for community activities, and is either working on getting certified or involved in getting continued education at any lever, or participating in planning education seminars or symposiums, etc. The Committee is inviting everyone to nominate someone without feeling intimidated. Ron was a man who loved everyone and would never be interested in an award bearing his name to be used as a promotional ploy or a popularity contest. Check out the "Guidelines for Nominating a Candidate for the Ron Orta Humanitarian Award" below. You should be able to find at least one, maybe several, who would qualify in your facility! Maybe it’s you!

"Guidelines in Nominating a Candidate for the Ron Orta Humanitarian Award"

1) Nominee must be a member from a Branch within the District 8.
   A) Technician, Secretary, IACUC Coordinator, Manager/Supervisor, Director, Branch Officer, Branch Chair, Branch member, or Commercial Member.
   B) You can also nominate yourself.

2) Write your nomination letter and begin it by generally stating why you believe this person should receive the Ron Orta Humanitarian Award and then adding the following:
   A) Examples of how he/she exhibits compassion towards his/her peers. ("Walking the extra mile"...be specific
   B) Examples of cooperation and involvement in his/her community. (Volunteerism, involvement with FFA, Humane Society, Science Fairs, or other organizations. for example)
   C) Examples of Continuing education. (He/she working on certifications, etc, or participated as a presenter, or involved in promoting or planning a seminar, study group, or symposium.

3) SPREAD THE NEWS!
   A) Send out e-mails or call everyone your nominee knows and ask them to write reference letters.
   B) Reference letters could include items 2) a-c above and be specific as to how they were personally affected by the nominees involvement in these activities or they can add their own.
   C) Reference letters should not be intimidating. Can be long or short…it's content is what will be judged…not appearances. (Suggestion: Get as many reference letters as you can).

4) Send your submission in a manilla envelope ASAP, before the Deadline of March 1, 2010 to:
   Vickie Riojas
   Animal Resources Center
   PO Box 173640 (If using Fed Ex use "Building 100" instead of the PO Box)
   Montana State University
   Bozeman, Montana 59717

If I can be of further assistance, let me know.

-Grace Aranda, District 8 Council
E-mail: garanda@u.arizona.edu

Buell Theater - Denver
Contact SVAALAS:
svbaalas@gmail.com
www.svaalas.org

Visit www.svaalas.org to become a member ($10 membership fee).