**President’s Message**
Hello SVAALAS members!

It’s election time. The ballot will be out shortly and you will have the opportunity to vote for our next Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director. Please send your votes directly to our third party by October 31, 2008. We will announce the new board the beginning of November and start transitioning them into their new positions. Please take a look at our calendar of events; we have some fun activities coming up. Your participation in the election, the committees and the general meetings are vital to the success of this branch. It is essential that all of our members provide input to help guide the branch’s future. At the National AALAS meeting our newsletter will be posted on the branch bulletin board so other branches can learn about us. I hope some of you will be able to attend the meeting. We will also learn how our branch fared in the branch challenge contest! Hope to see you all soon at one of our events.

-Sherri Goss, SVAALAS President

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**Important Dates for Upcoming Events:**
- **October** - Election for 2009 Board
- **November 9-13** - National AALAS Meeting in Indianapolis
- **November & December** - Transition new board and committee chairs
- **December** - Nominations for Awards banquet
- **January** - Rat Tickling Wet Lab with Sandra Weisker
- **February 6th** - Awards Banquet
- **February** - Bodega Marine Lab Tour
- **March 20th** - Membership Drive held by Dr. Lukas
- **April 19th** - Picnic Day at UCDavis
- **May** - Center for Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture Tour

**SVAALAS Listserve**
As part of your membership, you have the option of joining the SVAALAS listserve. This will allow you to send information to other members. Just keep in mind that anytime someone sends something to the listserve everyone who joins will receive the email. This is meant to provide a quick way to disseminate information that is related to our field or branch. It should not be used for personal information.

If you would like to join the listserve, please send an email to svbaalas@gmail.com requesting subscription.

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**SVAALAS Board Members - 2008:**
- Sherri Goss, President
  slgoss@ucdavis.edu
- Deneen Spence, Vice President
  drspence@ucdavis.edu
- Shannon Powell, Secretary
  shannon.powell@jax.org
- Rhonda Oates-Obrien, Treasurer
  rsoatesobrien@ucdavis.edu
- Kandi Rodrigue, Director
  kandi.rodrigue@jax.org
- Crystyn Ruth, Director
  caruth@ucdavis.edu
- Roy Hoglund, Past President
  rhoglund@ucmerced.edu

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**District 8 2009 Meeting Update**

“Bridging from Tech to Technology” is the theme of next year’s AALAS District 8 2009 Meeting, which will be jointly hosted by the Sacramento Valley and Northern California Branches of AALAS. A core group of dedicated volunteers has been meeting monthly since July of 2007 to put together a program befitting of Northern California, the birthplace of biotechnology and home to some of the most prestigious biomedical research centers in the world!

The 2-day meeting will take place April 30th - May 1st at the South San Francisco Conference Center, just 5 minutes north of San Francisco International Airport. You will be able to choose from 1- and 2-day registration packets, and there will be a choice of 4 offsite hands-on workshops that can be added to your regular registration for a nominal fee. Offsite workshops will take place at ISIS Services’ beautiful new San Carlos facility and free transportation to and from the workshops will be provided. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided on both days.

The conference will open with a Breakfast Awards Banquet with our inspiring Keynote speaker, Dr. Linda Noble with UCSF’s Department of Neurological Surgery, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, followed by an awards ceremony for the recipient of the 2009 Ron Orta Award. Afterwards, attendees can choose from one of the many exhilarating speakers in our Emerging Technologies Track or the Innovative Animal Management Track. On Friday, attendees will enjoy a Continental Breakfast, followed by more expert speakers and exciting topics in the Neuroscience Track or the Personnel Management Track. Workshop attendees will be transported offsite for one of the many top-notch wet labs that will be offered, including Alternative Blood Collection Techniques in Rodents, Advanced Necropsy with Vascular Perfusion in Rodents, Surgical Implantation of Minipumps in Rodents, and Laboratory Techniques in Large Animals. The conference will end with a Wine and Cheese Reception, Poster Awards Ceremony, and Raffle Prize Extravaganza!

Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to visit the Exhibitor Area and meet all the Commercial Sponsors on both days. We are hoping to attract over 50 Commercial Sponsors, and you can bet they will have lots of informational materials and promotional items to share! There will be a Technician Fun Faire where attendees can visit the exhibits to seek answers to a questionnaire, qualifying them for many great raffle prizes. Each meeting attendee will also be given customized “business cards” that they can exchange with Commercial Sponsors, or use to exchange contact information with their colleagues.

For those meeting attendees who prefer taking tests the “old fashioned way”, we are also planning to host pencil-and-paper AALAS (ALAT, LAT, and LATG) and CMAR Animal Resources exams on Friday afternoon. To apply for an AALAS Certification Exam, you must complete an application form and submit all necessary documentation and fees to National AALAS. Once your application has been approved and processed, you will receive an Authorization to Test letter from the AALAS office, which you must bring with you to your exam. Dr. Nicole Duffee, Education Director with National AALAS, will be out to give a presentation on Developing an On-Line Training Program for Animal Facility Personnel, as well as proctor the pencil-and-paper exams.

We are also working on putting together some fun, optional, after-hours excursions so that you can relax, unwind, and enjoy the company of others who share your passion for biomedical research. For up to date information about speakers, fees, on-line registration, optional excursions, and hotel accommodations, visit the District 8 website, [www.district8.org](http://www.district8.org).

-Sonja Wallace, D8 Planning Committee

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**SVAALAS Committee Chairs for 2008**

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tr>
<td>Audit Committee</td>
<td>Alan Ekstrand</td>
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<td>Awards Committee</td>
<td>Margaret Tam</td>
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<td>District 8 Committee</td>
<td>Terry Hewett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Committee</td>
<td>Bridget Maguire</td>
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<td>Nominations Committee</td>
<td>Kandi Rodrigue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Relations Committee</td>
<td>Trinka Adamson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Nicole Corley</td>
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<td>Membership Committee</td>
<td>Dr. Victor Lukas</td>
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**Board Meeting Dates**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Only a couple of meetings left this year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>All members welcome! (UCD CLAS conference room at 5PM)</td>
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**AALAS MEETING CALENDAR**

You can find the latest AALAS Meeting calendar update at: [http://www.azaalas.org/calendar.html](http://www.azaalas.org/calendar.html)

AALAS also lists upcoming events on their website calendar. After accessing the site at [http://www.azaalas.org](http://www.azaalas.org), click on the "Calendar" link.

Continue getting these calendar updates - Renew your Arizona AALAS Membership!
[http://www.azaalas.org/Forms/membership-form.htm](http://www.azaalas.org/Forms/membership-form.htm)

Don't Forget to Renew your CFAAR Membership too:
[http://www.swaebr.org/cfaar/membership-form.htm](http://www.swaebr.org/cfaar/membership-form.htm)

If I can be of further assistance, contact:
Grace Aranda, AZAALAS - University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101, Phone: 520.621.3931, Fax: 520.621.3355, E-mail: garanda@u.arizona.edu, Website: [www.azaalas.org](http://www.azaalas.org)

-Grace Aranda

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**NEW NAMES FOR THE SVAALAS ANNUAL AWARDS**

The SVAALAS Board has decided on the names for our annual awards. Many other branches give honor to past members by dedicating certain awards to a particular person.

We have proposed to name the current "Member of the Year Award" in honor of the founder of SVAALAS, Dr. Lon Kendall. The award will now be presented as "Dr. Lon Kendall Member of the Year Award."

Technician of the Year will be dedicated to someone in the future when we have an opportunity to pay tribute to one of our technician members.

The Purina Award will remain the same, as it is sponsored by Purina.

Thanks for your ideas!

-Sherri Goss, SVAALAS President 2008
HELP SUPPORT NATIONAL AALAS 2008 IN INDIANAPOLIS

Hey all you branch leaders!

The National AALAS meeting is just 80 days away. Have you made your commitment to the AALAS Foundation? We are in the race for the long haul! Help us tell the public about the medical treatments we help develop for them and their pets!!

-Deborah L. Donohoe, BA, RLATG, Lab Manager - Department of Radiology, Medical College of WI

LOGO CONTEST WINNER

Announcing the winner of the SVAALAS logo contest:

.....And the winner is....Kelly Goss!

Kelly will receive the fabulous prize of a 2009 membership and ticket to the Award's banquet!

-Deneen Spence, RLATg, Senior Animal Technician – CLAS, SVAALAS Vice President
About AALAS - Programs

AALAS National Meeting. Over 200 educational presentations are made each year at our National Meeting. These seminars, platform sessions, special lectures, workshops, and round-table discussions cover a wide range of topics of interest to AALAS members and other lab animal professionals.

Publications. Our award-winning publications cover topics of interest to everyone involved in the care and use of laboratory animals and keep members up to date on the latest association news.

Certification. Nationally recognized as the authoritative endorsement of technician competence, our technician certification program certifies three levels of technical knowledge.

Institute for Laboratory Animal Management (ILAM). ILAM is an education program for professional laboratory animal managers that focuses on management concepts applicable to the animal resource industry.

AALAS Learning Library. The AALAS Learning Library (ALL) provides online learning opportunities in professional development and laboratory animal science courses for ongoing education and training.

Job Search Resources. The CareerLine page provides year-round opportunities for job seekers.

National Awards. Eight professional and technical awards for excellence in the field of laboratory animal science are given each year at the AALAS National Meeting.

Listerves. Join the discussion! Thousands of professionals involved in the care and use of laboratory animals use our listerves to get quick answers and talk about issues relating to comparative medicine, laboratory animal medicine, or biomedical research.

Regional and Branch Meetings. AALAS members also have access to nearly 50 regional and branch groups that provide networking and educational opportunities close to where you work and live.

Public Outreach. The AALAS Foundation provides funding for projects to promote the awareness of biomedical research and its contributions to society. AALAS, through the Foundation, provides a variety of public outreach tools in the form of flyers, posters, web sites, videos and DVDs, and classroom materials.

(Extracted from AALAS Webpage 10/05/08)

http://www.aalas.org
Piano Man

Allentown Invites You to an Evening with

Movin’ Out Star Michael Cavanaugh

You May Be Right
Tell Her About It
My Life

Just The Way You Are

Allentown
She’s Got A Way
New York State of Mind

Allentown invites you to attend a special evening with Michael Cavanaugh, Broadway Star of the two-time Tony-Award winning musical Movin’ Out.

As a part of Allentown’s 40th Anniversary Celebration, Michael will front the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra while performing the music of rock-n-roll icon Billy Joel.

No registration is necessary to attend, but your AAALAS event badge is required for admittance. Seating is limited, so be sure to arrive promptly at 8:00 PM on Monday, November 10.

For details, go to www.allentowninc.com/