PAST PRESIDENT’S FAREWELL

Happy New Year Everyone!

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who supported my efforts as President last year. It is an amazing feeling when people respect and appreciate you. I also want to thank all of the other board members and committee chairs for their dedication and help to increase our membership and involvement in the branch. As we transition into the New Year with our new board I continue to encourage all of you to do your part to increase your own awareness and skills in laboratory animal science as well as continue to educate the public about our field. I especially encourage you to talk with our youth, our future leaders, so that the future of our field continues to be strong and well supported. I look forward to seeing you all at the Awards Banquet!

-Sherri L Goss, Past President SVAALAS

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I am so excited to be the new SVAALAS President! This is going to be a great year filled with lots of exciting events and opportunities to learn new things. I can’t wait to meet all of our members at our 3rd Annual Awards Banquet February 6. On February 28, we are planning a tour of the Bodega Marine Laboratory. This should be a great time for the whole family. Please make sure to invite all of your co-workers that are not currently members of SVAALAS to become members, as we try to beat our last year’s membership count and hopefully win the Branch Challenge!

-Deneen Spence, President SVAALAS

IMPORTANT DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 6th - Awards Banquet
- February 28th - Bodega Marine Lab Tour, 10am
- March 4th-6th - 2009 District IV Meeting at NCSU
- March 4 - AALAS Prep Classes Start
- March 20th - Membership Drive held by Dr. Lukas
- March 29th - AALAC International Conference
- April 18th - Picnic Day at UC Davis
- April 20th - Membership Drive
- April 30th-May 1st - AALAS District 8 Meeting in San Francisco
- May - Center for Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture Tour

AWARDS BANQUET - FEB. 6

SVAALAS would like to invite you to join us for our 3rd Annual AALAS Awards Dinner. We are pleased to have Dr. John D. Young from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center as our guest speaker. Awards to be given: Animal Technician of the Year, Dr. Lon V. Kendall Member of the Year, and the Purina Award. The event will be catered by Ludy’s.

Date: 02/06/2009
Time: 6pm-9pm
Location: Veterans Memorial Club Room, 203 E. 14th St, Davis, CA 95616

Admission: $15 with pre-registration (includes membership & banquet), $20 at the door, $5 (child)

Pre-register by contacting Maggie Tam (mftam@ucdavis.edu).

-Maggie, SVAALAS Awards Chair

SVAALAS BOARD MEMBERS - 2009:

Deneen Spence, President
drspence@ucdavis.edu

Joe Arambula, Vice President
darambula@ucdavis.edu

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2009 National Meeting Submission Site Open

On behalf of program chair Dr. Stuart Leland and AALAS president Dr. Scott Perkins, the 2009 National Meeting Program Committee would like to encourage you to submit proposals for abstracts, seminars, special topic lectures, panel discussions, technical trade presentations, and workshops for the 2009 meeting in Denver.

Submissions will again be handled online (aalas.abstractcentral.com/) starting today, January 5. Those of you who submitted topics or abstracts in the past year received today a system email with your password and username. New users must create an account.

Diabetes research is this year's special theme forum. As such, those of you with backgrounds and expertise in diabetes research or the clinical care of animal models in diabetes research are especially encouraged to submit.

Read the call for abstracts (nationalmeeting.aalas.org/callforabs.asp) for complete requirements for submitting abstracts and proposing educational session topics. The deadline for topic submissions is March 15, 2009, while the deadline for abstract (posters and platforms) submissions is June 1.

Topic submissions should be designed specifically for one of the following formats: 2-hour, 45-minute seminar, 1.5-hour panel discussion, 1-hour special topic lecture, 4-hour workshop, or 20-minute technical trade presentation. If you choose to submit a topic, please note that you must include the title, brief description, and names and contact information for any suggested panelists, speakers, or leader. Once the submission undergoes review and acceptance, any substitution or addition of speakers must be approved by the Program Committee.

Abstract submissions will be considered for either a platform or poster presentation format. Platform presentations are typically 10-15 minutes in length and are grouped together by general category. If you choose to submit an abstract, please follow the guidelines and provide complete information. This will greatly assist the Program Committee in their review process and enable the correct assignment of your abstract to the appropriate program session.

National Meeting Exhibitor Prospectus Online

The priority point application deadline of February 2 is only a few weeks away, so now is the time to begin thinking about exhibiting at the 2009 National Meeting. Visit the National Meeting website (nationalmeeting.aalas.org/) to view diagrams of the hall, specs, prices, sponsorship opportunities, and application forms. For additional information about exhibiting at the AALAS National Meeting, please contact christy.miller@aalas.org.

2009 District IV Meeting at NCSU

I invite you to the 2009 District IV Meeting. It will be held March 4-6, 2009 on the campus of NC State College of Veterinary Medicine. The Preliminary Program is set and registration is officially open!!! This meeting will provide 9.5 hours of continuing education, fellowship and fun. The Welcome Reception will be held Wednesday, March 4, 6-9 PM at the Ramada Inn. Following a full day of workshops and presentations on Thursday, March 5, unwind with us as we board motor coaches to Rum Runners Dueling Piano Bar and Grill, where we'll 'rock and roll the night away.' We're 'back to school' on Friday, March 6 from 8:30 until high Noon. We'll have vendors, a Technician Fun Fair and all the coffee you can stomach (smile). You don't want to miss this meeting!!! Go to www.cvm.ncsu.edu/conted/rtb-aalas/index.htm or head to our website: www.rtbaalas.htmlplanet.com for more details!

SVAALAS Committee Chairs for 2009

Please volunteer to help out your committee chairs or fill a committee chair position, as we still need Awards and Membership Committee Chairs.

Audit Committee
Rachel Corbin

Awards Committee
Volunteer Needed

District 8 Committee
Terry Hewett
Roy Hoglund

Education Committee
Kristin Evans

Nominations Committee
Jessica Davis

Public Relations Committee
Cindy Clayton

Communications
Nicole Corley

Membership Committee
Volunteer Needed

Newsletter Editor
Kandi Rodrigue

Webmaster
Philip Barruel

Government Relations
Sherri Goss

BOARD MEETING DATES 2009

January 12
February 9
March 16
April 20
May 18
June 15
July 20
August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16
December 21

All members welcome!
(UCD CLAS HQ conference room at 5:15PM)
The 2009 AAALAC International Conference on Quality Animal Care
March 29, 2009, San Diego, CA (before the PRIM&R meeting)

Save the date and join AAALAC International for a day of presentations and discussions that will help you:
- Understand current trends and AAALAC International expectations for quality research animal care and use.
- Appreciate the most frequently observed concerns reported by AAALAC site visitors over the last five years.
- Learn of potential solutions and successful case studies.

Topics will include:
- Summary of trends in AAALAC site visit findings from 2003-2008
- IACUC issues and hotspots
- Physical plant
- Laboratory animal management
- Occupational health and safety
- OHS hotspots
- Veterinary care

Case studies and outcomes will be included with each topic presented, and Q&A sessions will be interspersed throughout the day. AAALAC International Council on Accreditation members will also be available all day to answer your specific questions privately, one-on-one.

This conference is held only once every 4-5 years, so be sure to save the date. (Online registration will be available via the PRIM&R web site and more details will be posted in the weeks ahead.)

For updates and more information: www.aaalac.org/conference.cfm

AALAS Prep Classes Start in March
The ALAT and LATG prep classes will start 3/4/09.

Objective: To help UC Davis employees, students and SVAALAS members pass the Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician and Laboratory Animal Technologist exams offered by National AALAS:
www.aalas.org/certification/tech_cert.asp

A minimum of 5 students must be enrolled for the duration of the course or the class will be cancelled.

-Sherri Goss, Past President SVAALAS

Administrative Management Society Scholarships

The first Administrative Management Society (AMS) Scholarships for CM certification will be awarded in February 2009 and continue to be offered annually thereafter. It is anticipated that two or more scholarships will be available for funding each year.

AMS was the original sponsor of the Certified Administrative Manager (C.A.M.). Certification, an advanced level certification for administrative managers. ICPM administered the C.A.M. from 1995-2004, when it was discontinued due to declining interest. In December 2007, AMS terminated operations and left funds to ICPM to create a legacy for AMS to continue its work in management education.

Each AMS scholarship will be in the amount of $395 (US dollars) and will be applied to partially offset the cost of the CM bundle, US or international. The remaining balance will be paid by the scholarship recipient at the time of the scholarship award. Any additional costs of the certification, i.e. exam retakes or time extension, will be the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.

Eligibility criteria for an AMS Scholarship include the following:
* Be a first time applicant to the CM certification purchasing the CM bundle,
* Meet the eligibility requirements for education and experience for CM certification,
* Be able to complete the 3-CM certification exams within 15 months,
* And be able to fund the remaining cost of certification upon receipt of a scholarship.

Applications for an AMS Scholarship will be accepted December 1-31 of each year by submitting the documents below to ICPM. Scholarship submissions will be reviewed and selected by ICPM staff. Award recipients will be notified during the last week of January.

* CM Application form with all required documentation (download at www.icpm.biz)
* 2 letters of business/professional support for your receipt of a scholarship award
* 300 words or less, double spaced essay on why you want to become CM certified

Forward AMS Scholarship submissions December 1 - 31 only by mail, email or fax to:
Attn: AMS Scholarship, ICPM, JMU, MSC 5504, Harrisonburg, VA 22807
icpmcm@jmu.edu
FAX: 540-801-8650

Questions can be addressed to Melody Branner at 800-568-4120.

-Melody Branner, Manager, Customer Relations, Institute of Certified Professional Managers, James Madison University
The National Girls Collaborative Project's (www.ngcproject.org) Goal is to maximize access to shared resources between public and private organizations/corporations that are committed to educating and motivating girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Two of the Project's Activities involve linking organizations/corporations together for collaborative programs and projects supporting STEM Initiatives. First, the Program Directory (www.ngcproject.org/directory) lists programs and resources that encourage girls to pursue careers in STEM. The purpose of the directory is to help organizations and individuals network, share resources, and collaborate on STEM-related projects for girls. Second, NSF-sponsored mini-grants will be awarded to girl-serving STEM-focused programs that have more than one organizations/corporations (such as: Academic Institutions, Girl Scouts, YWCA, Big Brother, Big Sister, Microsoft, Google, etc.) involved in the program/project.

The project infrastructure is organized into regions across the country, with mini-grant RFPs, educational forums/conferences and webcasts scheduled at various time points over the course of the 5-year NSF Grant. For example, the Northeast Collaborative Region (MA, VT, NH and RI) is currently accepting mini-grants proposals until January 31, 2009, with a March 1, 2009 Awards Announcement Date.

The mini-grants maybe a great way for your workplace, AALAS Branch or another professional organization to partner with other local organizations to receive funding for your public outreach programs/projects.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions about the National Girls Collaborative Project.

-Kim Edgar, NE Collaborative Regional Liaison, NGCP
Kimberly.Edgar@Dartmouth.edu