PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is having a great summer so far! I can’t believe the year is already halfway over. I am excited to report that our branch membership has increased to about 25 more members over last year. We had a great turn out at the District 8 Conference in South San Francisco. I had the pleasure of meeting several other branch presidents from our district.

Over the past few months we had a tours of the Center for Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture and the California Raptor Center. It was interesting to learn about these different species. Thanks to Chris Griesemer of the Center for Molecular and Genomic Imaging for providing us with his lecture on July 2. Our next lecture will be held on August 20 at the GBSF auditorium presented by the Borowsky Lab.

-Deneen Spence, President SVAALAS

IMPORTANT DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **August 20**th - Borowsky Lab lecture in the Genome and Biomedical Sciences auditorium (General Meeting)
- **September** - A call for nominations for the 2010 board
- **October** - Election for 2010 board
- **November & December** - Transition new board and committee chairs
- **December** - Nominations for Awards Banquet

GENERAL MEETING:

We are having our next general meeting on **August 20**th at 5:30pm in the Genomics auditorium for a lecture on research using transgenic mice. The Private Investigator is Dr. Borowsky and the presenters are Theresa and Jane.

Please join us and enjoy the lecture. All SVAALAS members are welcome.

Volunteers Needed for SVAALAS Committees

If you are interested in coordinating and assisting with SVAALAS activities and would like to donate some time, please volunteer to be on a Committee. We are currently looking for volunteers to fill the Awards Chair position and the Education Chair position.

For more information on the position descriptions, duties and time commitments, please contact the SVAALAS President, Deneen Spence at drspence@ucdavis.edu.

SVAALAS BOARD MEMBERS - 2009:

- Deneen Spence, President drspence@ucdavis.edu
- Joe Arambula, Vice President jdarambula@ucdavis.edu
- Kandi Rodrigue, Secretary kandi.rodrigue@jax.org
- Rhonda Oates-Obrien, Treasurer rsoatesobrien@ucdavis.edu
- Shannon Powell, Director shannon.powell@jax.org
- Crystyn Ruth, Director caruth@ucdavis.edu
- Sherri Goss, Past President slgoss@ucdavis.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- CMAR PREPARATORY COURSE AT THE LAWTE MEETING IN AUGUST 2009
- THE JACKSON LABORATORY—WEST: INTRODUCING OUR NEW CA FACILITY
- SVAALAS PREP CLASSES
- SVAALAS COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2009
- BOARD MEETING DATES
- SVBAALAS TOUR OF THE RAPTOR CENTER
- 2009 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY INFORMATION
- JOB POSTINGS
- THE AAALAS DISTRICT 8 SYMPOSIUM WAS A HUGE SUCCESS
CMAR Preparatory Course at the LAWTE Meeting in August 2009!

LAMA is hosting a 2-day course on "Management Skills II: Planning and Organizing" on August 3-4 at the LAWTE meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The MSII exam will be offered on the morning of August 5. Please visit www.lawte.org to download the course registration form. All of the information you need to get to the meeting, order study materials and take the exam is included on the form. Applications to sit for the MSII (aka CMII) exam MUST be submitted to ICPM no later than 7/15/09. We are on a roll, Texas!! Fourteen folks took the MSI workshop with me in April and all fourteen passed the exam!! It's time for you to add CMAR to your name and I will help you make it happen.

Please contact Dr. Cindy Buckmaster if you have questions about the course or exam at buckmast@bcm.edu.

The Jackson Laboratory—West: Introducing Our New CA Facility

The Jackson Laboratory is proud to announce the opening of our new JAX® Mice production, breeding, and in vivo research services facility in Sacramento, California. This facility provides researchers in the western U.S. with improved access to:
- Local supply of gold standard JAX® Mice strains - get more mice, faster
- Ultra high health status mice (C57BL/6J, BALB/cJ, NSG, and more)
- Breeding services for your novel strains
- Compound efficacy testing, phenotyping, and pathology services

We're committed to helping increase the speed and output of your research programs with timely delivery of mice and data.

To LEARN MORE go to: http://askforthej.jax.org/westcoast

SVAALAS Prep Classes

Interested in studying for the AALAS technician or CMAR exams? Upcoming classes at UC Davis for all active SVAALAS members start in September.

Please contact Sherri slgoss@ucdavis.edu for more information.

Thank you!
-Sherri L Goss

SVAALAS Committee Chairs for 2009

Volunteer to help out your committee chairs. We still need an Awards Committee Chair.

Audit Committee
Rachel Corbin

Awards Committee
Volunteer Needed

District 8 Committee
Terry Hewett
Roy Hoglund

Education Committee
Volunteer Needed

Nominations Committee
Jessica Davis

Public Relations Committee
Cindy Clayton

Communications
Nicole Corley

Membership Committee
Brian Merical

Newsletter Editor
Kandi Rodrigue

Webmaster
Philip Barruel
Maggie Tam

Government Relations
Sherri Goss

Technician Branch Representative (TBR)
Shannon Powell

BOARD MEETING DATES 2009

July 21
August 18
September 15
October 20
November 17
December 15

All members welcome!
(UCD CLAS HQ conference room at 5PM)
SVBAALAS Tour of the Raptor Center
Saturday, June 27, 2009
UC Davis Raptor Center

On Saturday, June 27, 2009 a group of SVBAALAS members met in the parking lot of the UC Davis Raptor Center. The day was hot but shaded by numerous trees. The Center’s compound was relatively cool and comfortable. Housed in an assortment of outside aviaries, these raptors ranged from several species of owls to an assortment of accipiters (falcons), buteos (red tails, red shoulder, etc.), eagles, and vultures—each with their own story of how they came to be there.

Rescued birds are often brought into this center--some with injuries, some sick, some starving. Volunteers and staff work with these birds to rehabilitate them, and if possible they are released back into the wild. Sometimes birds are imprinted onto humans or their injuries compromise their ability to survive in the wild. These raptors are provided permanent sanctuary and are incorporated into the public education program.

As we walked around, we encountered one volunteer with a red-shouldered hawk on her gloved hand. This buteo was missing his left eye. It vigilantly scanned the group as we listened to this bird of prey’s history and how healthy hawks function in the wild.

Two turkey vultures were housed together. The male was very imprinted and preferred the company of humans to that of the fair Juliet who was housed with him. Rejected, the forlorn Juliet could only lay unfertilized eggs. Unlike most birds, turkey vultures have highly developed olfactory capabilities—which is why they are so good at finding dead things (their favorite cuisine).

The UC Davis Raptor Center is a great place to visit for people of all ages. It is open to the public (free) every weekend until 12 noon. Donations are appreciated.

-C Maria Laverty, SVBAALAS member

2009 Leadership Academy Information

AALAS for the past several years has held a leadership skills training seminar in conjunction with the AALAS National Meeting. The AALAS Leadership Academy this year will be held in conjunction with our 60th National AALAS Meeting in Denver, Colorado. The training is open to representatives from each branch at no cost to the individual.

Branch members may nominate themselves or someone else; however, the nomination must be endorsed by the Branch President. Each branch is allowed one primary and one alternate individual to attend. A branch may submit additional alternates to be placed on a waiting list, this list will be used to fill any available vacancies that may be created should a branch not nominate any attendees. Branch officers are asked to ensure that this information is relayed to all branch members and we suggest this information be printed in your branch's newsletter as a resource. In order for an attendee to receive their certificate of completion from Leadership Academy they must be prepared to attend the entire session.

Beginning this year the Leadership Academy sessions will be held one day only on Sunday, November 8th 2009. The sessions will be held in the Hyatt Regency Denver Hotel on Sunday, November 8, 2009 and will begin promptly at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served and the Leadership Academy materials will be provided for each participant upon their arrival. A noon luncheon will be provided and the attendees will have an opportunity to meet with members of the AALAS Executive Committee and Board of Trustees.

Nominees who submit the nomination form to the AALAS office no later than July 1st will be notified of their acceptance on or before July 7th, and they will be able to make their hotel reservation prior to the time when the National Meeting housing opens to the general membership. The final deadline to submit the attached nomination form to the AALAS office is September 1st. If you need any assistance concerning Leadership Academy please contact me by email at john.mccutchen@aalas.org or carolyn.campbell@aalas.org.

-John E. McCutchen, CAE, Director, Member Relations and Marketing, AALAS
**JOB POSTINGS**

**Title:** Animal Caretaker  
**Company:** Biotech/Pharmaceutical Company  
**Location:** This position will move to Solano County after starting in Northern California/Bay Area.

**Responsibilities:**
We are currently seeking an Animal Caretaker who will provide for the skilled care of laboratory animals in a humane, safe and sanitary manner using appropriate equipment and established procedures. Under immediate supervision, the individual will provide primary care of routine husbandry and sanitation for genetically modified murine models; assist with or perform technical procedures to maintain lab animal health, research integrity and compliance with regulatory and accrediting agency standards. He/she will operate the cage wash, transport and cleaning equipment used for regular husbandry in knowledgeable, correct and safe manner. The incumbent will conduct all aspects of laboratory animal care and husbandry and other tasks as assigned.

**Requirements:**
This position requires American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) certification at the Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT) level and one of the following: High school diploma or equivalency degree and a minimum of 1-2 years of laboratory animal care experience or Associates Degree or higher in veterinary or related science from an accredited institution and 6-12 months of laboratory animal care experience. The applicant must have a humane and caring attitude toward all animal species. Good verbal and written communication skills are required and the applicant must be able to follow written and verbal instructions. The candidate must be able to work independently and have excellent organizational and time management skills. The ability to learn bar code and PDA technology and be able to use the computer for communication, training and documentation is vital. The individual must have the ability to lift and move 50 lbs on a regular basis and sustained physical activities such as bending, stooping and reaching. The idea applicant has a customer-focused attitude and enjoys working with similarly dedicated persons in a team fashion within a high-energy research environment. This position requires weekend and holiday work hours. Additionally, this position involves daily exposure to laboratory animals and their waste products. He/she must have an understanding of federal regulations, veterinary medicine and standards related to animal use and sensitivity to the needs of the animals in their care. With proper training, the individual must be willing to work with and around chemical carcinogens and other potentially hazardous materials.

To apply for this opportunity, please share your contact information and resume with us at vettechr153@gmail.com. Please also include “Animal Caretaker” in the subject line. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**THE AALAS DISTRICT 8 SYMPOSIUM WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!**

The following comment from an AALAS District 8 Council Member sums up the views of many on the quality of the symposium:

> I just wanted to congratulate the planning committee for a job well done on the D8 Meeting. I have spoken with many attendees who were full of praise for the meeting. Virtually every Commercial Exhibitor I spoke with was pleased with the exposure and contacts they received and the attendees were happy with the technical instruction and diversity of speakers and topics. I’m sure you all have been hearing compliments too! I was struck with the vibrancy and energy during the meeting; the attendees didn’t want to miss a thing. I know the attendee numbers and bottom line financials will tell the final chapter of the 2009 D8 story, but from my point of view the focus of the meeting; education, technical training, professional development and networking has been very well met. Kudos to you all!

The planning committee worked tirelessly for a year and a half to put together a program that would be interesting for research investigators, veterinarians, and animal technicians alike.

The theme “Bridging form Tech to Technology” promised to provide insight into the benefits of animal use in biomedical research. Many of the speakers relayed the importance of the roles our veterinarians and animal technicians play in many of the medical breakthroughs in the research community.

The lecture tracts, workshops, and certification exams provided something for everyone.

If you weren’t there, this is what you missed:

**Keynote Speaker**
Spinal Cord Injury: Defining a Path toward Recovery – Linda Noble, UCSF

**Lecture Tracts:**
Emerging Technologies

Hematopoetic Stem Cell Commitment & Differentiation – Marcos Garcia-Ojeda, UC Merced

-District 8 Success Story Continued on page 5
What’s New in Genetically Modified Mice – Kent Lloyd, UC Davis

Non-Invasive Imaging of Rodents, Primates, and (Wow!), Even an Eel: PET Scan, CT, MRI, Ultrasound & Other Optical Approaches – Chris Griesemer, UC Davis

A Brief History of Vaccine Process Development – Mark Galinski, MedImmune

Non-invasive Cardiovascular Assessment in Rodent Models – Thomas Hampton, Mouse Specifics

Innovative Animal Management
Green Technologies for Adequate Ventilation, Less Energy Use, & Lower Operating Costs – Germain Rivard, Mousecare

Being Sustainable in the Corporate World – Keith Sonberg, Roche Palo Alto


Working with Select Agents/Prions – Pierre Lessard, UCSF

Barrier at the Cage Level for Primates and Other Non-Rodent Species – David Johnson, Cascades Biosciences Consultants, Inc.

Reducing Research Variables – David Robbins, Harlan Laboratories

Alternatives to Gamma Irradiators: Eliminating Sealed Source Headaches – Richard Adams, Rad Source Technologies

Environmental Enrichment & Animal Behavior: Providing the Creature Comforts – Joy Mench, UC Davis

Aquatics & Exotics
Short-tailed Opossums: Natural History & Their Uses in Visual System Research – Sarah Karlen, UC Davis

The Unorthodox Biomedical Research Model: The Northern Elephant Seal – Rudy Ortiz, UC Merced

Management of American Black Bears Used in Biomedical Research – Kate Wason, UC Davis

It’s a Whopper! Working with Prickly Sharks in the Monterey Submarine Canyon – Cyndi Dawson, Moss Landing Marine Labs

Personnel Management
How the AALAS Learning Library Can Work for You! – Nicole Duffee, AALAS

Setting Up an Occupational Health Program – Jordan Rinker, Consultant

Managing to Control Laboratory Animal Allergens – Jim Wallace, Science Associates, UK

Bay Area Animal Rights Extremism Update – Detective Scott Savage, NCRIC

Training the Trainer – William Singleton, Animal Care training Services

Neuroscience
Japanese Snow Monkeys-A Pictorial Travelogue – Alisha Eisert, Cytokinetics

What can Songbirds Tell Us about the Perception of Pitch, timbre, and Rhythm? – Frederic Theunissen, UC Berkeley

Mice as a Model to Study Wiring of the Brain – Hwai-Jong Cheng, UC Davis

Zebra Fish Research Models in Neuroscience – John Ngai, UC Berkeley

Workshops:
Advanced Rodent Necropsy
Advanced Vascular Perfusion
Humane Laboratory techniques in Ferrets
Intraoperative Catheterization of Swine

Certification Exams:
ALAT
LAT
LATg
CMAR