SEAALAS NEWSLETTER

ADVANCING THE POSSIBILITIES

SPRING 2010

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2010 SEAALAS OFFICERS

President: Marsha Howard, Emory University
President Elect: Paula Cannella, Steris Corp.
Past President: Mark Sharpless, Yerkes Regional Primate Center
Secretary: Deidre Wright, Medical University of South Carolina
Treasurer: Melody Willey, Clemson University

Executive Director

Robin Kavanaugh, University of Georgia

Directors

Chris Carter, University of Georgia
John Duktig, Specialy Opperations
Kris Helke, Medical University of South Carolina
Lisa Wilson, University of Georgia

2010 Committee Chairs

Awards: Gretchen Jeff, Yerkes Regional Primate Center
Legislation: Mary Beran, Georgia Tech
Program: Michael Swindle, Medical University of South Carolina
Website: Chris Carter & Lauren Luken, University of Georgia
TBR: Stephanie Gumbis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Nomination/ Election: Gabrielle Hammons, Priority One Services
Commercial Liaison: Guerra Benberry, Purina Mills, Inc.

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American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

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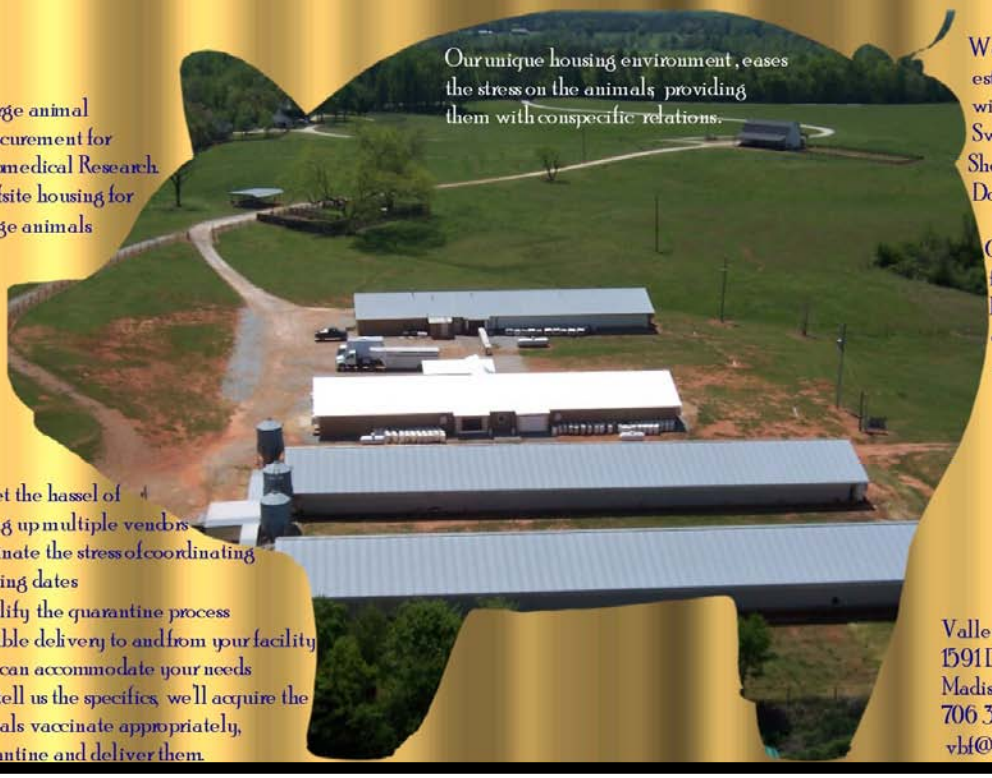

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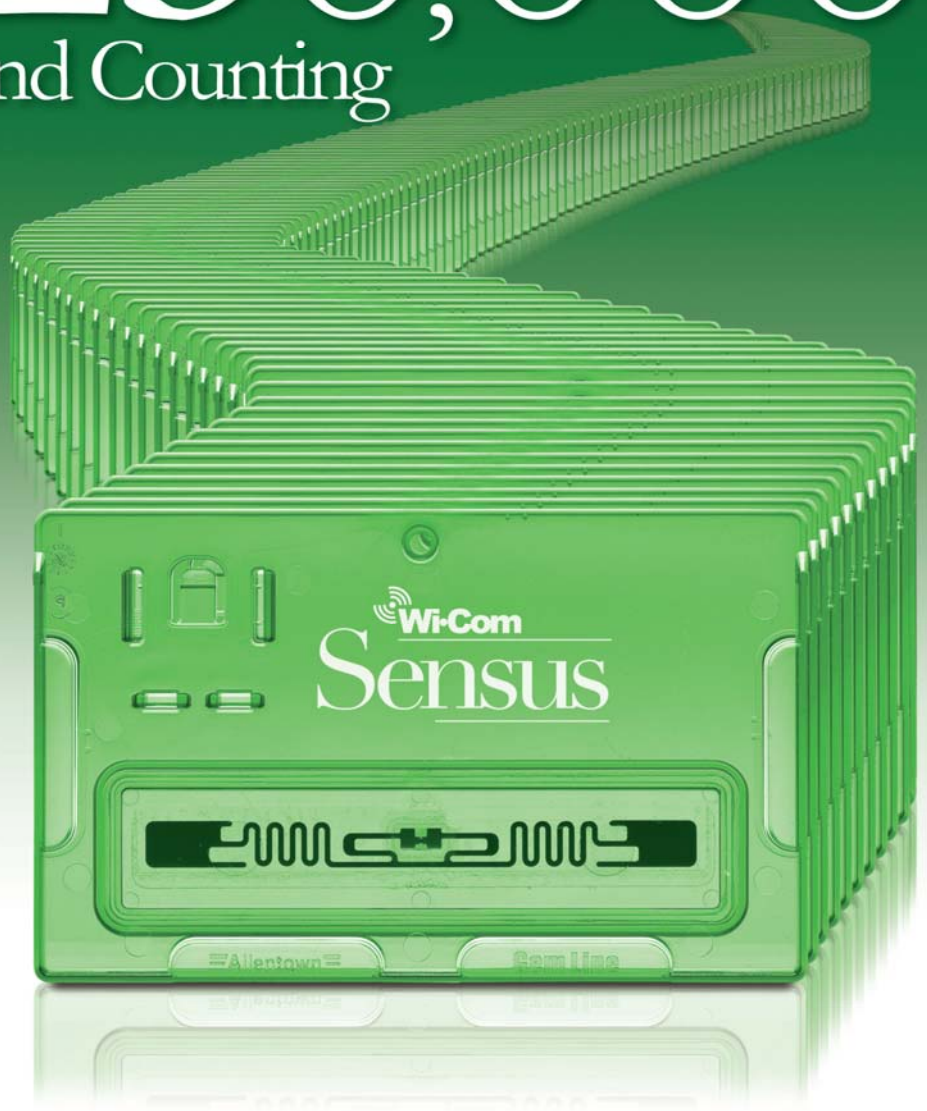

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The industry's most popular choice to streamline and automate the animal census using RFID technology.

A Letter from the President

Hello SEAALAS Members:

We begin the New Year having pulled off an excellent SE/AALAS Meeting in Augusta, GA. Accolades go to Nancy Rodriguez (2009 Program Committee Chair), Caroline English (2009 Program Committee Member) and all the other participants who worked hard putting together the Program and making this year's meeting so successful. The vendor room was jam- packed throughout the Meeting, as everyone had the opportunity to talk with reps and get a look at all the great products and equipment available. "Thank You" to the vendors, sponsors, speakers, moderators and Tech Tip presenters.

Mike Swindle has already started the ground work for next year's meeting in Charleston, SC. I'm looking forward to the Meeting and hope to see you all there!

I hope everyone had the opportunity to celebrate International Lab Animal Technician Appreciation Week. In the Division of Animal Resources at Emory we get together for an Appreciation Breakfast that coincides with one of our quarterly meetings. Remember, it's not too late to plan something at your institution, and planning events throughout the year to remind technicians what an important part they play in advancing bio-medical research is a great idea too!

I want to take this opportunity to thank the incoming Branch Officers and Committee Chairs for volunteering their time and energy this year as well as last year's Executive Board and Chairs. We are always looking for new volunteers in the Branch, so please consider getting involved. Whether it's helping with the Program, being on a committee or running for office, the Branch needs you in order to thrive!

And speaking of volunteering…
As you all know, the National Meeting is headed to Atlanta in 2010!
The 61st AALAS Meeting will be held October 11th-14th. Remember to send an e-mail to volunteer@seaalas.org and sign up to volunteer during the meeting. Kim Benjamin is the Local Arrangements Committee Chair. You can contact her if you have questions about the ways in which you can help out during the National Meeting or if you already have an idea of where you wish to volunteer your services.

Another way to volunteer…
Send your stories to the Newsletter for publication!

Jessica McLaughlin (Chair of the Communications Committee) came up with some terrific suggestions for new submissions to the Newsletter.
These ideas/topics include submitting articles on personal pets or some of the animals you work with in the research facilities and stories about how bio-medical research has changed your life or the life of a loved one.
Also, as I stated at the Branch meeting in Augusta, I would like everyone to take a moment to share with other members what brought you into the field of bio-medical research and why you have stayed. Whenever I talk to individuals who work in this field, I hear a passion and commitment that inspires me each day to strive and find better ways to provide the best care possible to the animals I am charged with caring for at my work place. I truly want us to remind each other of why we do what we do each day and collectively use this forum to share stories that recognize the care and support we give - whether we are vendors, directors, managers or animal care technicians. Actually, (as my Director is fond of saying) we are ALL animal care technicians in some way!

You can send all submissions to Jessica at jessicaallen32001@yahoo.com.

Thank you again for electing me. I am honored. I look forward to reading your stories and I look forward to serving you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with suggestions and ideas on how the Branch can serve you, its members, better or to discuss ways you can volunteer in the Branch.

Marsha Howard

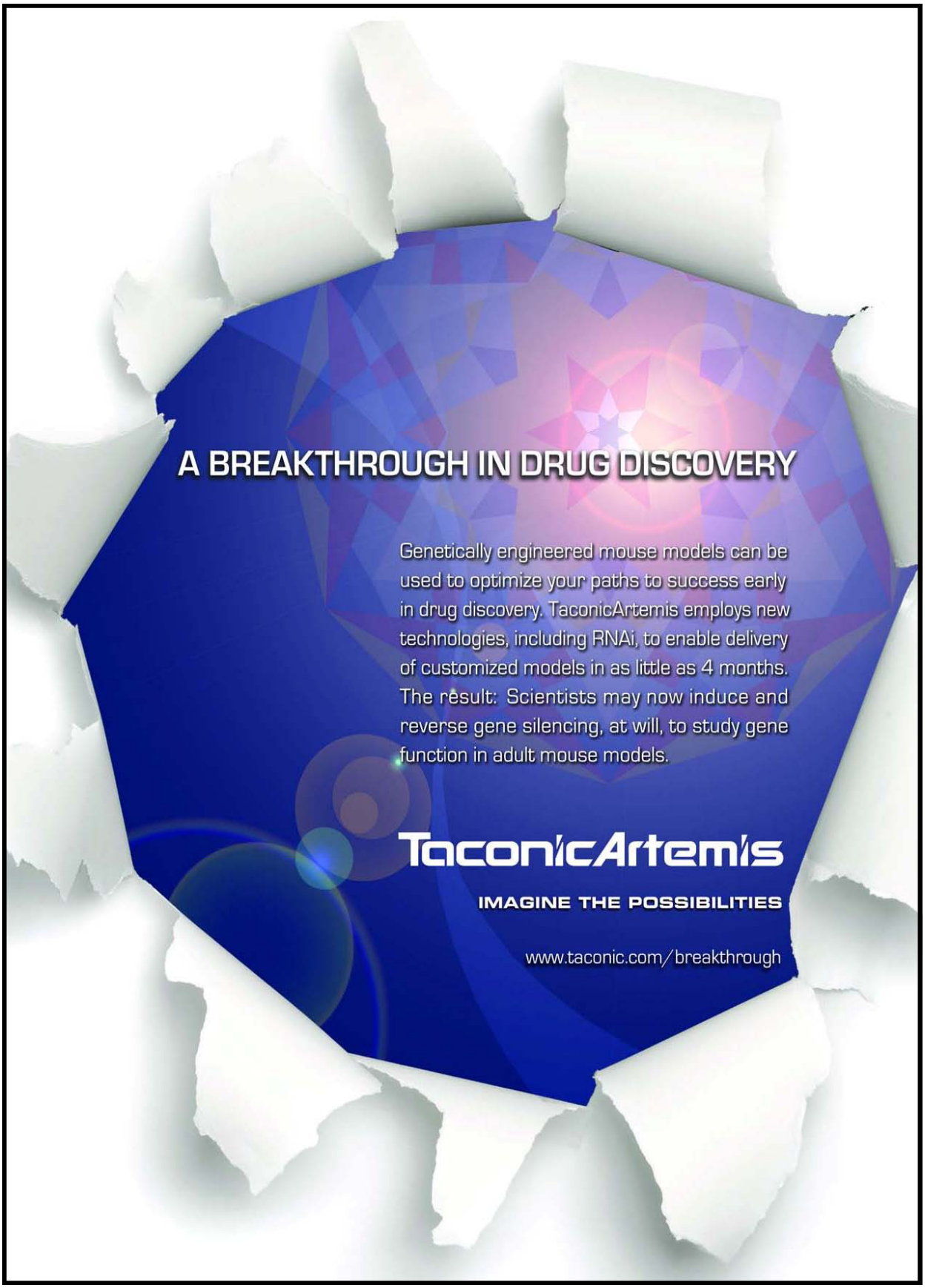
Local Arrangements Committee Update

October will be here before you know it and we are all getting excited. There are still many things to do but we really got a great start. The committee met on St. Patrick's Day and the most pressing topics are getting our menu ideas to AALAS and also getting our T-shirts for sale on our website. As far as the menu we want to have it as southern as we can. We are in the south and we want all those that attend to get a taste of what many of us have grown up on. I have had over 40 people contact me about volunteering and that is great. In late July/early August we will start filling in the volunteer schedule. I will be sending an email out to everyone that has contacted me to ask what times you can dedicate. I know that is planning ahead but the last few months will go by quickly. For anyone that still wants to get their names on the list you can contact me at

Volunteer@seaalas.org

See you all on 10^3 !!!!

Kim Benjamin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FROM THE TBR

Happy Spring SEAALAS!

It was great to see many of you at our Annual Meeting in January! I know that I will see many more of you at National AALAS in October and I can't wait!

We had a great meeting this year with some amazing Tech Talks! The winner this year was Alison Liljedahl with her talk on horses in containment. Congratulations again Allison!

Have you given a Tech Talk in the past or have some great tips to pass along to other techs? Please don't keep these to yourself, but share them! You can submit an article to Tech Talk the AALAS newsletter for Lab Animal Techs. Or you can turn your talk into a poster for National AALAS! Abstract submissions are due June 1, 2010 for the National meeting.

Also, consider joining the TechLink listserve. This is a great tool that allows you to connect with others in the field, ask questions, learn about job opportunities and much more.

Questions or comments? Contact me at tbr@seaalas.org

Stephanie

Tech Tip: SPRING CLEANING! It is a great time to get organized. Take some extra time during the week to clean out your lockers, desks, and storage areas. Reorganize your animal room and ask investigators to remove anything they don't need. Clean those areas that you have been avoiding for so long! Check out this article to help you along!

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{letter from the editor }

Hello SEAALAS!!!!

I hope that you are all well and enjoying the great Springtime weather!

I want to start by congratulating the program committee from the Medical College of Georgia on a job well done! The meeting was a great success and everyone had a great time in Augusta.

We also have a big year ahead of us as we prepare to host the AALAS National Meeting to be held in Atlanta this November. I know that Kim Benjamin has been working exceptionally hard as the Local Arrangements Committee Chair. Please keep in mind that she and the Committee will need all the help that they can get from SEAALAS members as the meeting approaches.

I would also like to remind you all that the SEAALAS newsletter is a communication tool that is all about keeping our members informed and **involved.** I, for one, would love to see more member input and involvement in the newsletter.

This year, I would love to see more member submissions make it into the letter. This quarter, we have a great human interest piece that was submitted by one of our members (featured on p. 24). It would be great to receive more submissions like this. I think it gives us a great opportunity to find out more about our fellow members and share unique experiences within our field.

Anyway, hope you all have a great Spring, and I hope to get lots of submissions for the next newsletter!

{JESSICA Mclaughlin}

Communications chair

7th Annual Lab Products Animal Technician Award

A laboratory animals best friend is a healthy, caring Animal Technician

Lab Products, Inc. is pleased to announce the **7th Annual Lab Products Animal Technician Award Program**. This program is designed to reward a deserving animal care technician from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada with the opportunity to attend their first National AALAS Meeting. One award recipient is selected yearly from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada. The award is limited to animal care personnel, with at least one year of laboratory animal care experience, that have never attended a National AALAS Meeting. The recipients of the Lab Products Animal Technician Award will each receive an award recognition plaque; airfare, hotel and registration for the National AALAS Meeting; one year membership to National AALAS and $350 to cover incidentals while attending the AALAS Meeting. For more information write Lab Products, Inc., P.O. Box 639, Seaford, DE 19973, or see the award description and nomination information on CompMed or Techlink.

Award Benefits: (participation, recognition, public speaking, and decision making). This award will:

1) Allow a deserving animal care worker from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada to attend a National AALAS Meeting for the first time.
2) Publicly recognize the recipient at a social function of the AALAS membership.
3) Encourage the recipient to speak at a Branch Meeting on their experiences at AALAS, thereby allowing them to gain experience in public speaking and to promote the AALAS experience to other technicians.
4) The recipient will serve as a member of the Lab Products Animal Technician Award Selection Committee for the next year. This will allow them the experience and involvement in a decision making process that will affect their peers.

Award Selection Committee:

1) Nominees for this year's awards should be submitted to Lab Products, Inc. An Award Selection Committee will then consider all nominations and select one nominee from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada to receive the award.
2) The 2009 Award recipients will form the Award Selection Committee for selection of the 2010 Award Recipients.

Award Selection Criteria:

1) Nominee must have a minimum of 1 years work experience in a laboratory animal facility.
2) Nominee must be a working supervisor, animal care worker or animal health technician. (Managers, Assistant Directors, etc. are not eligible).
3) The nominee must be someone that actually performs hands on animal care work or works in the cage wash area.
4) The nominee must be someone that would not be eligible for travel funds (from the University, Institution or Company) to attend a National AALAS meeting.
5) This award is intended to provide deserving animal care technicians with the opportunity to attend their first National AALAS Meeting. Therefore, only nominees that have never attended a National AALAS Meeting will be eligible.

Nomination Process: (Nominations must be RECEIVED BY June 16, 2010)

1) Nominations are to be submitted by letter, detailing the Technicians' work history, accomplishments, community involvement, and describing how this travel award will benefit the technician and their facility. AALAS/CALAS Branch membership, and involvement in branch AALAS/CALAS activities, will be considered in the award selection.
2) Supporting letters are encouraged and will be considered, but are not required.
3) Send nominations to:
   Attn: Awards Selection Committee
   Lab Products, Inc.
   P.O. Box 639,
   Seaford, DE 19973
   Ph. 800-526-0469
   Fax 302-628-4309
4) Award recipients will be notified by August 2, 2010.

Award Recipient Requirements:

1) After attending the National AALAS Meeting, the award recipients must present a paper at their next annual Branch or District AALAS meeting on how the AALAS Meeting experience affected them.
2) Award recipient agrees to attend the Lab Products, Inc., Tuesday night social during the National AALAS Meeting for a formal award presentation.
3) Award recipient agrees to be a judge for the selection of the next years award recipients.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 16, 2010

Executive Director Report

Hello SEAALAS Members!
WOW, what a great meeting we had in Augusta! The program was fantastic. It is always such a pleasure to see the award winners receiving their awards. Congratulations to:

Sandy Williams- Technician of the Year Award
Tina Carden- Purina ProLab Technician Award
Russell Cox- Linda Hazel Memorial Award
Matthew Davis- Sally Newell Papp Member Participation Award
Kristin Mayfield- BioServ Enrichment Award
Allison Liljedahl- Tech Tip Presentation Award

It was a bit disappointing to not be able to present the Scholarship Award, but if there are no applicants, it makes it difficult to present an award. Let's not let that happen this year. It is not too soon to start making nominations! The info for nominating is on the web site and we want to have many techs to choose from!

The plans are in motion for our 2011 meeting to be held in Charleston, South Carolina, at the Francis Marion Hotel on February 2-4. The hotel rate is $109 plus taxes, which is a very good rate for a downtown hotel! We enjoyed a meeting there in 2006 when Michael Swindle entertained us with ghost stories! This meeting will be just as fun I am sure! The theme of the meeting will be Translational Research Models- if you don't know what that is, look it up or ask around, I did! Remember to start planning for those Technician Tip Presentations and contact Stephanie Gumbis to get on the list.

I would like to welcome the new Board members- Paula Canella- President Elect, Deidre Wright-Secretary, John Duktig- Director, Kris Helke- Director. We had a very productive FIRST Board meeting in January and will hold our second meeting on April 21st.

The membership renewals went out so you should have seen them, if not, please be sure to ask your administrator if they processed them. If you have a question as to your membership, you can always contact me. We will be putting the Directory out soon, so please make sure you got your membership application in so you will be included!

The final tidbit of information I want to hit on is the upcoming AALAS meeting in Atlanta in October. I am sure you have all heard that SEAALAS is the host branch, and Kim Benjamin is the Local Arrangements Chair. She has a large committee working with her, and everyone has been great about volunteering. We will need lots of hands in Atlanta the days before and during the meeting. If you have not gotten on the list, there is a link on the web site to sign up to help. Someone will contact you if you volunteer!

Submitted by Robin Kavanaugh

Minutes from LAST 2009 Executive Board Meeting
January 27, 2010

Meeting was held in Augusta, GA during the Annual SEAALAS meeting

Present: Mark Sharpless (President), Marsha Howard (President-Elect), Dean Blake (Past-President), Robin Kavanaugh (Executive Director), Kim Benjamin (Secretary), Melody Willey (Treasurer), Chris Carter (Director), Michael Hart (Director), Michael O'Connor (Director), Stephanie Gumbis (TBR), and Matt Davis (Award Committee Chair)

Meeting was called to order by Mark Sharpless at 5:45pm.

The First item of business was having all Board members present at the meeting sign all the minutes from Board meetings in 2009. These minutes have already been approved via email and need only signatures.

The next item was the **Treasurer Report** – Melody Wiley gave the Treasurer's report.

Checking Account - $23,016.08 (-$5,795.48)
Scholarship Fund - $10,064.87 (-$712.35)
Vanguard - $7,303.99 (+$14.60)

Melody provided the Board with a spreadsheet which included all charges that were made over the past year. Additional expenses this year have come from buying the T-shirts and pins for promotions for the 2010 Atlanta meeting. We expect more expenses during the course of the year as we lead up to the AALAS meeting. The board approved the Treasurers report.

The next item is the **Committee Reports**. Mark Sharpless gave committee reports for the chairs that were not present at this meeting

Awards – Matt Davis

Winners have been chosen and will be awarded tomorrow night at the banquet. There will be a change this year and all nominees will be announced. This way people are recognized even if they didn't win.

This year we have the new Bioserv Award and this had several nominees.

There were no nominees for the Scholarship Fund this year.

It was again brought up that we put a nomination template on line to make it easier to get things started for nominations. Michael O'Connor announced that this is on the RTB website so this can be set up over the next year.

Commercial Liaison – Paula Cannella

Paula is still working on the Vender part of the website. She has most of the information and will get this to Chris and Lauren in the next month or two. Paula will work with Guerra who is the Commercial Liaison for next year.

Communications – Jessica McLaughlin

There is no update from Jessica.

Minutes from LAST 2009 Executive Board Meeting
January 27, 2010

Legislation – Mary Beran

There is no update but updates have been put in each newsletter.

Nominations/Elections – Allison Liljedahl

There is no update from Allison.

Program 2010 – Nancy Rodriquez

The Board gave a big Thank you to Nancy and Caroline English for all their work for this year's meeting.

There were 111 early registrations for the meeting and more are expected to register at the meeting.

TBR – Stephanie Gumbis

There are 11 Tech Tip presentations for this meeting. That is a great turnout.

We will be giving out pins to all SEAALAS members that have passed AALAS certification exams over the past year.

For those that passed exams and are from small facilities that are not part of SEAALAS, Stephanie will contact them and offer a free SEAALAS membership

There was discussion on having a place on the SEAALS website for people to report members that have passed exams. This will help with membership renewals. This will be worked on over the next year.

Website – Chris Carter

Chris and Lauren will work on getting more updates on the website over the next year. They are shooting for two a month. Kim suggested that this could be a job for the Directors next year. Stephanie also stated that she will help with this also.

Chris is still working on getting the website password protected.

The Board voted to approve all of the Committee reports.

The next item of business is the **Executive Director** report.

Tax Exempt - Robin reported that we are still in the process of becoming Tax Exempt. The lawyer needs the 2009 Treasury report once it has been audited by Mark and Chris.

Membership renewals – For 2009 we had 347 members and 30 commercial memberships. Robin will hand out packets with the membership renewals for institutions and vendors at this meeting to save postage. For institution/vendors that are not at this meeting Robin will mail their packets next week.

The Board voted and approved the Executive Director's Report

Old Business

By Laws –This has been completed and the board has approved them. Over the next year the SOP's will be audited again.

Minutes from LAST 2009 Executive Board Meeting
January 27, 2010

2010 Local Arrangements Committee – Kim Benjamin

The Committee is meeting periodically. The main thing is that we will need volunteers to stuff bag the Saturday before the meeting. We will need to stuff ~5,000 bags.

Golf Tournament - Michael O'Connor

We have decided not to have a golf tournament for 2010. We are looking at hosting one spring of 2011. There is a conflict with another golf outing on Sunday October 10th. Marsha will contact the branch presidents of District 4 to request donations to support our branch hosting the National AALAS Meeting.

D4 – There is no new report.

We are still looking at hosting the D4 meeting in 2013. Robin asked if in 2013 we would combine our yearly SEAALAS meeting and D4 meeting together. This would delay our Branch meeting to April and not January as normal. The Board agreed to this.

New Business

Newsletter topics

The job of being the Newsletter editor is a really difficult and time consuming job. There is a monetary award for the Newsletter Editor voted on by the Board in an amount up to 400 dollars (100/newsletter). The Board voted and approved $300 to be given to Jessica during the Banquet.

Executive Director Evaluation

Prior to the meeting Mark had emailed the Board an evaluation sheet for Robin. Most had been returned and all had rated Robin as doing a great job. One comment was that Robin has more communication with the Program committee. Dean suggested that the questions have a N/A for topics are not applicable to each Board member. The Board voted to ask Robin to continue for another year as ED and she agreed. Robin stated that the lack of communication with this year's meeting came from the fact that the Continuing Education Department set everything up.

Website Access changes

This will be a part of new business for the 2010 Board Meeting.

LATG study course

RTB /AALAS is hosting an LATG study course on April 25-May1, 2010 for $750. There will be a pen and paper exam given on Saturday May 1st. The price includes lodging, meals, instructors and all the study materials. The information is on the branch's website. Stephanie will send out an email to the membership about this opportunity.

No other business was discussed and the **meeting adjourned** at 6:33pm by Mark Sharpless

Minutes from FIRST 2010 Executive Board Meeting
January 27, 2010

Meeting was held in Augusta, GA during the 2010 SEALAS meeting.

Board Members Present: Marsha Howard (President), Paula Cannella (President-Elect), Mark Sharpless (Past President), Deidre Wright (Secretary), Melody Wiley (Treasurer), Chris Carter (Director) Other attendees: Stephanie Gumbis (TBR), Guerra Benberry (Commercial Liaison), Gabrielle Hammons (2010 Nominations/Elections Committee Chair), Nancy Rodriguez (2009 Program Committee Chair), Caroline English (2009 Program Committee Member), Matt Davis (2009 Awards Committee Chair), Michael Hart (Past Director), Kim Benjamin (Past Secretary), Dean Blake (2009 Past President), Robin Kavanaugh (Executive Director)

Meeting was called to order by Marsha Howard at 6:37 pm.

Welcome all 2010 Board Members by Marsha Howard.

Approval of 2010 Committee Chairs

- Awards- Gretchen Jeff
- Commercial Liaison- Guerra Benberry
- Communications- Jessica McLaughlin
- Legislations- Mary Beran
- Nominations/Elections- Gabrielle Hammons
- Program- Michael Swindle
- TBR- Stephanie Gumbis
- Website- Chris Carter and Lauren Luken

Motion to approve Committee Chairs was approved .

Old Business/Outstanding Business:

- Paula will be working with Guerra and the web team on vendor /commercial page to get a format out on the website for all vendors and their info as well as links to their websites. Paula and Guerra will have a new format out sometime in February.

- Discussion was held on pre informing officer winners in November. Current SOP's state that winners are informed by December 1st. The December newsletter are printing the winners before they are informed.

The officer winners will be informed by November 1st. Motion was voted on and passed.

Minutes from FIRST 2010 Executive Board Meeting
January 27, 2010

New Business:

- **2010 Branch Officers and Committee Chairs Roster- Robin**
  All Committee members are to check the roster and make sure their contact info is correct and send any changes to Robin if needed. Robin to email out the Official Roster.
- **Review of SOP's- Paula**
  Discussion about SOP's being online. Robin has the latest version and will pass them on to Chris to be updated on the web. After that is complete a notice will go out to the Board to let them know that the new SOP's are on the web.
- **Audit Date- Paula and Mark**
  Robin will deliver the reports for the audit.
- **Next Annual Meeting Site-**
  Deidre offered Charleston South Carolina per Mike Swindle. Will report back on the Program Chair. Possible Dates: January 26, 27, 28 of 2011 or first week of February. Board voted and passed meeting site.
- **Open Floor for other Announcements/Comments/Issues:**
  UGA celebrates Tech week at a later date rather than in the winter in February. There was a previous discussion to present this to AALAS. Mark stated that this was presented several years ago. Discussed to allow Chris King (District IV Trustee) to present the proposal to AALAS at their next Board Meeting, and if he will need back up from our branch that we will support the proposal.
  Mentoring Program: Publish a small article in the next newsletter regarding Mentoring a new member or members that are not currently active in SE/AALAS.
- **Date for next Executive meeting:**
  April 21,2010 Via Conference Call.
  July 21,2010 Via Conference Call.

Treasurer Report – Melody Wiley

The account balances are as follows:

- Checking account – $23,578.06 (As of 12-31-2009)
- Scholarship Fund – $10,064.87 (As of 01-25-2010)

Vanguard Money Market Fund – $7,303.99 (As of 12-31-2009)

Total Assets—$ 40,384.94

The **next meeting** is set for Wednesday, April 21,2010.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm by Marsha Howard.

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2010 SEAALAS Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
January 27-29 2010
Augusta Georgia

Hosted by
The Medical College of Georgia

Fiesta Time at Nacho Mama's

Awards banquet

Our keynote Speaker, Ann Turner, AALAS Executive Director

Members enjoying time for fellowship at dinner

2009 Outgoing Committee Members

2009 Tech Tip Presenters

Allison Liljedhal, winner of the 2009 Tech Tip Award

Kristin Mayfield, winner of the BioServ

Sandy Williams, 2009 Technician of the Year

Awards banquet

Matt Davis, winner of the Sally Newell Papp Member Participation Award

Tina Carden, winner of the Purina ProLab Award

Russell Cox, winner of the Linda Hazel Memorial Award

2009 President, Mark Sharpless passes the gavel to Marsha Howard, the 2010 President

2010 Incoming Committee Members

OUT ON THE TOWN

An Unlikely Destination

Hello everyone,

My name is Imani Barnes and I am an animal care technician at Emory's Yerkes Field Station in Lawrenceville, GA. I believe everyone has a destined pathway in life with destinations sometimes unknown. The field of animal research was one of those unknown destinations for me. I would have never thought in a million years I would be working with research animals much less non human primates.

My story begins during my senior year @ South Carolina State University where I was pursuing and eventually earned my BS in Biology, when a friend invited me to work with him at an animal research facility in Columbia, SC. I did not know what to expect, but like any senior in college, a job is a job, so I accepted the invite and began my journey!

Initially I was going to college to pursue a career in pediatric physical therapy, but soon fell in love with the animals and the whole research setting, so biomedical research is where I have been since 2004. Since then, I have earned my ALAT and am currently studying for my LAT. I have been a part of the Yerkes team for a little over a year now and I truly enjoy working here.
Having worked in this field since 2004, I have seen many interesting things, but never have I worked with non human primates that were housed outside as they are here at Yerkes. It is an amazing sight to see. There is nothing like arriving to work in the morning and being able to watch the sun rise over the compounds while the monkeys are huddled together sunbathing. The sweet smell and the harmonious sounds of nature fill Yerkes FS daily. Let me not forget to mention our close knit staff that is always eager to go the extra mile for the wellbeing of the animals. It is the most natural habitat that I have seen in a research facility thus far and I enjoy being a part of this team.

I am currently enrolled in school pursuing a career as a clinical research professional because I love research and in the future want to coordinate research investigations. My experience in animal science has truly paved the way for my future. I have met many valuable people along my journey and have learned how to become more of a team player rather than a 1 man band. Thank you to all that have guided me through and I look forward to meeting the rest of you soon!

Imani Barnes, RALAT

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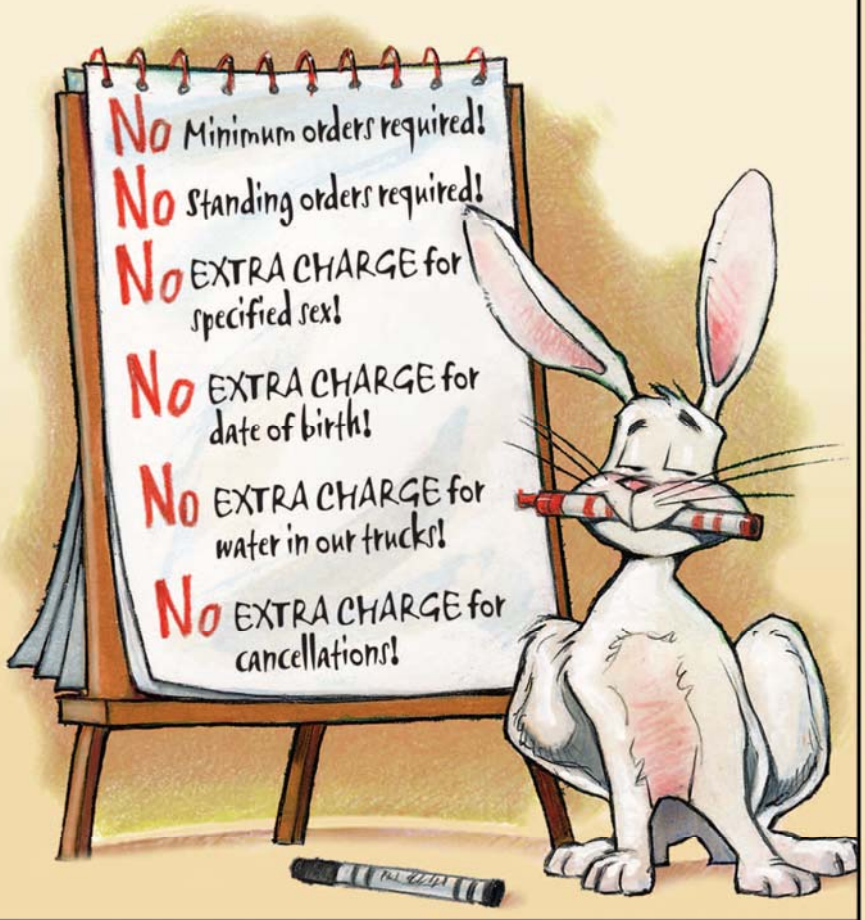

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Biological, Chemical, and Sterility Assurance – Oh my!!

I know that most of the terminology and instructions on how to use an autoclave are like instructions in a foreign language to most of us. Don't let your autoclave intimidate you. It can very easily do this….

I wanted to write a short blurb about some of the products available in the market and when to use them. In our industry, we are not required to "Validate" the autoclaves like in the drug manufacturing arena. Because of this, there is lack of regulation and direction on what to do. The primary thing to remember is that the goal is to sterilize, how you achieve this is up to you. Contact your local vendor and have them help you decipher the products available. The more you understand the products, the more effective you will be on achieving your goal. Most autoclaves come with pre-set cycles but that does not mean it's the cycle for you.

1st thing to understand is that your autoclave sterilization's effectiveness will depend on the size and density of your load. Think of it this way, if you autoclave 5 bottles with 500 mL of water it takes less time that a 5 lb bag of food. The cycles need to accommodate for these differences. There are several tools you can use to diagnose and engineer a good autoclave run program for your facility.

Tool # 1 – Chemical Indicator / Chemical Integrators:

These are products that have calibrated dyes that change or "indicate" that a given parameter is reached (i.e. did you hit 121 Deg. C?). A chemical indicator test for 1 parameter (temperature only), a chemical integrator test for more than 1 parameter (i.e. time and temperature). The higher the classification of the chemical integrator, the more accurate it is.

Example of chemical indicator – Autoclave Tape

Example of chemical integrator – Steraffirm Control Tubes

How do I use this tool?

You place several integrators laid out in your autoclave run like a 3D cube with at least five points per shelf and analyze your load. This helps you determine if all the four corners and center are reaching sterilization. Depending on the integrator used, they should be placed inside the items being sterilized.

Pros – You can have a visual immediate result & low in cost.

Cons – The results are only as accurate as the chemical indicator.

Tool # 2 – Biological Indicators

These are products seeded with living biological spores that can be used to determine if your cycle parameters were able to kill these living organisms. It's a representation of how the actual worst case living spores would respond in your cycle. Biological indicators must be selected with the appropriate organisms for the given challenge. Biological Indicators can be found in suspensions form, paper strip form, or Self-Contained form. Each form requires different post-sterilization challenges to check for survival.

How do I use this tool?

You place at least 1 biological indicator in your load and challenge it post-sterilization to determine if any of the spores survived. Most people run it on the bottom shelf closest to the drain since its traditionally considered to be the "worst case" location (last spot to hit sterilization temperature).

Pros – You are challenging your sterilization run with a living organism.

Cons – You require a laboratory with an aseptic hood or a small incubator to run the challenge and results will not be available until at least 24 hrs.

In closing, there are many products and tools for you to use to assure you are being effective when sterilizing your products. Get the information, get educated and don't let the terminology or products intimidate you. Contact your local product vendors and partner with them to get the information you need.

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PETS OF SEAALAS
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This is a Sophie Howard, a 2 ½ year old Westie. She belongs to our president, Marsha Howard. She doesn't do anything that she is told to do unless treats are invoved and she is brown most of the time, not white, because she loves to play in the dirt and eat worms!

This is Rusty McLaughlin. He belongs to our SEAALAS Communications Chair, Jessica McLaughlin. Rusty enjoys loooong naps, eating, short naps, snacking, afternoon naps, and treats.

"Pets of SEAALAS "is a new feature for the SEAALAS newsletter. We want to hear about your furry friends at home! Please send picture of your pet to jessicaallen32001@yahoo.com along with a short description to be featured in the next newsletter.

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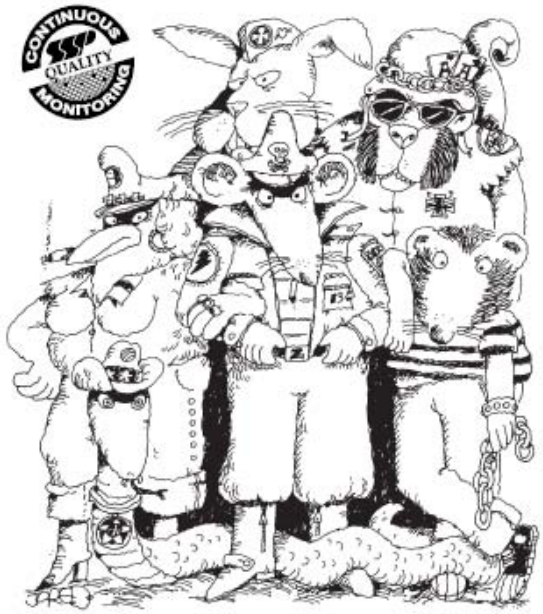

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News From the
National Association for Biomedical Research
www.nabr.org

NABR Releases Best Practices Guide "Responding to FOIA Requests: Facts and Resources"

2010-01-13 News Stories

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) is pleased to announce the release of "Responding to FOIA Requests: Facts and Resources," a ten-point best practices guide for understanding and responding to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, particularly those from animal rights organizations.

The guide includes suggestions for determining who should be aware of and responsible for responding to FOIA requests; examples of records commonly requested from the NIH, USDA, and universities; an explanation of some of the ways animal rights activists use the FOIA; and steps that can be taken to ensure that the proper information is provided to the requestor.

According to NABR President Frankie Trull, "The guide is intended to assist researchers, university administrators, and university counsels in understanding and responding to federal FOIA requests and state open records requests."

In recent years animal rights activists have increasingly used the federal FOIA and state open records laws to obtain information about biomedical research projects and identify principal investigators (PIs) using animals. In some cases this information is then posted on Internet sites that label investigators as animal "abusers" and encourage the harassment of PIs. Some sites also facilitate or suggest the use of violence against PIs.

The best practices guide is the result of the combined efforts of the National Association for Biomedical Research, Society for Neuroscience (SfN), and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).

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MEET THE TECH

By Deidre Wright RLAT

20 Questions with Deidre
Meet...
Darlyn Owens!!!

1. **Where in the South East do you live**
   Walterboro, SC

2. **Where were you born?**
   Lancaster, SC

3. **Where do you work?**
   MUSC-the Medical University of South Carolina

4. **What was your current job?**
   Laboratory Animal Associate I

5. **What was your nickname in high school?**
   Little Bit

6. **What is your favorite drink?**
   Mountain Dew

7. **What is your idea of the perfect vacation?**
   Australia in the Outback

8. **Do you have any pets?**
   I have a Shih Tzu named Carly

9. **What is the one thing that you must have in your refrigerator?**
   Yogurt

10. **What is your least favorite chore?**
    Dusting

11. **Who is the person that you admire the most?**
    Ruby, my Mother

12. **What was your first job?**
    School bus driver for kindergarten students when I was 15

13. **What is your favorite TV show?**
    Extreme Makeover Home Edition

14. **What item can you not live without?**
    Coffee

15. **What is your favorite way to unwind?**
    Wine...please!!!

16. **What CD do you have playing in your car?**
    The Eagles

17. **What is something you have tried but will never try again?**
    Eel

18. **First thing you notice about someone?**
    Their smile

19. **f you had a free day what would you do?**
    Go out in my boat on the river

20. **Any words of wisdom?**
    " Don't sweat the small stuff!"

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Celebrating Technicain Appreciation week at Georgia tech

We all know that Animal Research starts with the Animal Care Technicians. They are the eyes and ears of the animals and their work and dedication is greatly appreciated. This year to show our appreciation we did a few things for out Laboratory Technicians: Andrea, Autumn and Odell. On Thursday we all went out to lunch with Stacey Cohen who is our Rep for Charles River Laboratories. It's always good to get out of the normal work environment and to hang out. After lunch we all went to see Extraordianry Measures. This was a true story about a father and a researcher that teamed up to get a drug into the hands of kids suffering from Pompe. Until this point there was about a seven year survival rate for this genetic disorder but now this drug allows a normal life span. We all know that there are many great ideas out there but getting those ideas to something tangible isn't easy for researchers. On Friday we hosted our 2nd Annual Meet and Greet. We invite all researchers and PI's to come down and grab some food and socialize. This is a chance for everyone to get to know each other apart from

our daily jobs. I especially like when the PI's come because the Technicians rarely get a chance to meet them. Knowing whose animals they are taking care of is important. Likewise the PI's knowing who we are is equally important. We had a great time and we look forward to next year. Tech Appreciation is fun but we have to remember to do this regularly

Submitted by
Kim Benjamin

Atlanta VA Medical Center

Happy New Year SEAALAS!

We had a busy 2009 here at the VA as we learned to use new cage wash and mouse caging equipment and rearranged our animal housing rooms. Last June we started a very time invasive rabbit project to test two different types of electrical bone stimulation devices to promote bone healing in a rabbit disc degeneration model. The project required some very creative thinking and ingenuity from our animal facility staff as well as additional daily husbandry, daily monitoring and daily device battery charging/ changing to ensure the success of the project. We've learned a great deal more about rabbit handling and the behavioral changes that take place when a rabbit wears clothing or what's referred to as a "rabbit jacket" during this project. We found that NZW rabbits are like Houdini and can escape out of clothing easily if not perfectly fitted! If anyone wants to know how to keep a rabbit in a jacket call us!

Jim McNeill (our facility supervisor) is happy to announce that his son Jeremy McNeill married Katie Miller back in October 2009. Seventy-five invitations were sent out and the wedding took place at Chateau Elan.

We had two people from the VA attend AALAS in Denver in October. Colleen Oliver and Jim McNeill attended and helped out as volunteers at the Local Arrangements SEAALAS booth for the 2010 AALAS in Atlanta. Be sure to volunteer to help out at the national AALAS meeting in Atlanta in October by contacting Kim Benjamin. We need as many people as possible!

Three of us attended the SEAALAS meeting in Augusta in January. We enjoyed and learned a lot from the many speakers and tech talks. Based on the theme "Doing More with Less," we are better organizing our animal facility here at the VA in an effort to function more efficiently. The one speaker (Michael Mottet) pointed out how animal research facilities are like manufacturing plants and we must all find ways to run our facilities in the "black" instead of the more common "red" because the subsidies for our animal facilities that we have all grown accustomed to receiving may not always be there! Great logical talk! I was very surprised when I received the SEAALAS Technician of the Year 2009 award during the banquet, I felt like a deer in the headlights and was overwhelmed with emotion!

Happy Spring!

Sandy Williams RVT, LATG
Atlanta VA Medical Center
Atlanta 2010 AALAS Local
Arrangements Events Committee

News from UGA Animal Resources Life Sciences:

Hi everyone!

So far the year has been a great year. We would like to congratulate several members of our team. Megan Fowler has earned her Laboratory Animal Technician certification from AALAS! Trey Wills has earned his Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician certification from AALAS! Allison Liljedahl has earned her Laboratory Animal Technician certification from AALAS! She also won the Tech Tips Talk award at the 2010 Annual SEAALAS Meeting!

On February 17, 2010 several of UGA's University Research Animal Resources staff and faculty, as well as investigators and their staff, engaged in a fire safety drill as part of a federally-mandated training exercise for personnel working in high bio-containment areas. Participants were instructed by UGA Fire Safety personnel in the proper usage of an ABC fire extinguisher on a contained gasoline fire. The mnemonic "PASS" is intended to help people remember to "Pull the pin, Aim the extinguisher, Squeeze the trigger, and Sweep at the fire." Pictured from left to right: Allison Liljedahl and Dr. Stephen Harvey of College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Georgia:

Hello from the Green Team! This past year has been very eventful and exciting. Last year, Vicki Ellis gave a talk on UGA's Green Team and how to implement one at other institutions at the SEAALAS annual meeting. From that talk, we developed a poster for the National AALAS meeting, which was a huge success! We are also very glad to see so many facilities that are changing their ways and going green. If you have any suggestions on how to be more Earth Friendly, please contact Vicki Ellis at toot@uga.edu. Please join us and help your institutions save money and the planet at the same time! Finally, we will leave you with a tip on how to go green in your own lives at home: *At night, go around your home and turn off all of your electronics that are not being used. This will save you around $5 a month on energy bill, and prevent energy loss from electronics that aren't even being used.*

Again a special thanks to everyone in making the facilities look great once again and in making sure the animals have the best care possible.

Submitted by Terri McCurley

Greetings SEAALAS!

Things continue to be busy here in the Animal Resources Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We had a successful AAALAC site visit this past fall and with that behind us, we are preparing for the big move into our new state-of-the-art facility.

Many of our staff attended the SEAALAS Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet in Augusta this past January. We had an outstanding group participate in Tech Talks this year. Congratulations to Kennal Coleman, JoAnn Coleman, Patrese Muller, and Nicole Young for their hard work and excellent presentations. We are also pleased to announce that Kristin Mayfield, our Environmental Enrichment Manager, received the Bio-Serv Animal Welfare Award at this year's awards banquet. Kristin is truly an asset to our animal care program and we are proud to have her on board.

Congratulations to the following staff for achieving their AALAS certifications so far this year!
Keon Turk, ALAT
Wilbur Evans, ALAT
Cameron Jones, ALAT
Leecresia Jenkins, LAT
Cornelius Johnson, ALAT
Patrese Muller, ALAT
Shannon Bachman, ALAT

Several of our staff attended the AALAS National Meeting in Denver last fall and volunteered with SEAALAS to promote the 2010 meeting here in Atlanta! We are very excited that our branch is hosting the national meeting this year and we are looking forward to helping SE-AALAS and AALAS put on a great a great conference!

Hello SEAALAS Members!

Medical University of South Carolina, Department of Comparative Medicine is ready for Springtime in Charleston!

The following Technicians have been awarded the Tech of the Month for a job well done:
January 2010: Rebecca Gregory
February 2010: Darlyn Owens
March 2010: Nancy Lewis
Keep up the excellent work guys!!

A few of us here in DLAR had the opportunity to go to the SE-AALAS Meeting in Augusta, GA in January. We all enjoyed the meeting very much and look forward to the next meeting that we are proud to host next year in February 2011 here in Charleston, South Carolina at the Francis Marion Hotel.

Submitted by Deidre Wright, RLAT

Yerkes Primate Center

As part of our ongoing partnership with Gwinnett Technical College, Yerkes vet techs Stacey Weissman-Socci and Hilary Gavigan spoke to the students in the veterinary technician program about working in lab animal medicine. We are excited that two of the students will be joining us for their internships!

Hello from Georgia Tech!

Spring is here!!! I don't know about you but I am so over the brutal cold we have had this winter. You barely make it into the building at 7:30 in the morning, miss the warm part of the day and then leave when the temperature is dropping. Even though it is goes from 70 degrees one day to snow the next I love the air of spring. Flowers are blooming everywhere even though we can't see them in our facility we affectionately call the Dungeon.

So what have we been up to here at Georgia Tech. Well we keep getting closer and closer to the start of our construction starting. I am getting stressed just typing this so please excuse me or my staff if we looked frazzled the next you see us. The thing I have learned so far is that people don't talk to the right people at the right time. Too many men in charge it appears. J I will try to take pictures to update you all. Due to our expansion we have created a new position and will have that filled in the next few months. With many positions being cut it is great that we can give someone a job.

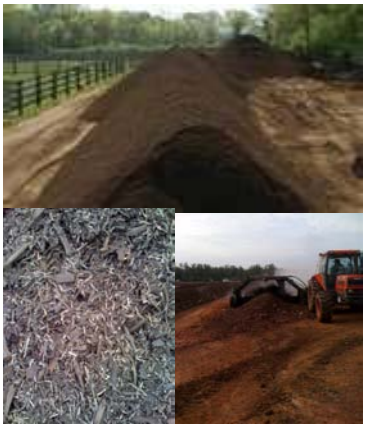
With spring here we are gearing up to restart our ALAT and PRL training classes. I have been slack over the last year but it is time to get back on track. I have a goal for my staff over the next year but they don't know it yet. Dr. Laura O'Farrell taught the first PRL training class on setting up mobile anesthesia units for the researchers. Researchers rent these units out from our facility and the set up is dependent on what species is used and where the unit will be used. Next month it will be on learning the surgical instruments that are used in the PRL Having the staff trained in all aspects of our facility is a win win for everyone.

That is about it on our update. I hope everyone is doing great and I hope you all have a wonderful spring!!!!

EMORY

Emory launched a composting pilot program this past summer at Dobbs University Center dining facility. It ran for seven weeks, taking pre-consumer organic food waste collected at the DUC and hauling it 60 miles to the state's first Environmental Protection Division-permitted composting facility in Barnesville, Ga., instead of hauling the waste to the Pine Bluff landfill. The program was so successful that the University extended it to include additional facilities on campus with dining choices and also to include animal bedding from two of our facilities. Approximately 20 tons per month of animal bedding waste is being diverted from the landfill, saving the University disposal fees. Between June and November 2009, Emory University has diverted from landfills and composted 96,500 pounds of food waste and animal bedding.

The picture on the left shows machinery turning the row of waste. The middle picture shows a row of compost ready for use. The picture on the right is shredded US currency being composted in a test project. It takes longer to compost money than corn cob bedding! Thanks to Deena Keeler in Emory Campus Services for organizing and coordinating the project.



We welcome the following new staff members: Antwawn Bryant, ACT II; Steve Bradshaw, AC Trainee; Akisha McIntosh, ACT I; Martha Mize, ACT I; Karen Duktig, ACT III; Aimee Davis, Vet Tech II and Derrick McCalla, Maintenance Mechanic; Mikelyn Batiste, ACT II and Laurel Lawrence, ACT III. Laurel comes to us from Queensland, Australia. Mikelyn worked for us back in 2007 and she decided to return to us. Always remember – "Don't burn your bridges", you never know when you might want to come back

We congratulate Kristy Weed, Jen Perry and Kaja Alford for passing their ALAT exams. We currently are conducting study courses for the ALAT and LAT levels.

The DAR will be participating in the Emory University **Relay for Life** event on April 9, 2010. This event is sponsored by the American Cancer Society. We've participated 5 times in the past. Because we care for the animals used in cancer research, our department has a special relationship with **Relay for Life**. The name of our team is "All Creatures Great and Small". I encourage you all to participate in your community's event. Let's cure cancer!

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Annual SEAALAS Meeting
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WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 2

4:30-6:30	Executive Committee Meeting (May want
on	Thursday Morning)
7:00	Optional Social-Historic Pub Tour of Charleston www.pubtourcharleston.com $25/person, Limited to 30 persons, Must make payment and RSVP prior to Jan. 10

THURSDAY, February 3

7:30	Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:00-10:00	Vendor Set Up
8:30	Tech Talks
10:00	Break/Vendor Time
10:30	Tech Talks
12:00	Lunch
1:30-5:00	Scientific Program
1:30	Translational Research: Bringing Basic Science Discoveries Into the Marketplace Kelvin Brockbank, PhD, CEO, Cell and Tissue Systems, Inc.
2:00	Infectious Disease Research in Nonhuman Primates Dondrae J. Coble, DVM, Yerkes National Primate Research Center
2:30	Neurosciences Models in Nonhuman Primates Marylin Arce, DVM, Yerkes National Primate Research Center
3:00	Break/Vendor Time
3:30	Caring for Laboratory Nonhuman Primates: What's New in Enrichment, Training and Socialization Mollie Bloomsmith, PhD, Yerkes National Primate Research Center
4:00	Rabbit models-Speaker TBA
4:30	Dog or Cat Models-Speaker TBA
5:00	Adjourn
5:30	Vendor Reception-Wine, Beer and Appetizers included
7:00	Awards Banquet

FRIDAY MORNING, February 4

7:30	Registration/Continental Breakfast
8:30-12	Scientific Program
8:30	Porcine Translational Research Models Michael Swindle, DVM, MUSC
9:00	Perioperative Care of Large Animals Alison Smith, DVM, MUSC
9:30	Rodent Cancer Models-Speaker TBA
10:00	Coffee Break
10:30	Models of Hypertension Wayne Fitzgibbon, PhD, MUSC
11:00	Wound Healing Models Gautam Ghatnekar, DVM, PhD, First
String	
	Research, Charleston, SC
11:30	Stem Cell Models Amanda LaRue, PhD, MUSC/Charleston
VA	
Noon	Meeting Adjourns

The meeting will be held at the historic Francis Marion Hotel in downtown Charleston. Blocks of rooms are saved for "SEAALAS" at a rate of $109.00/night.

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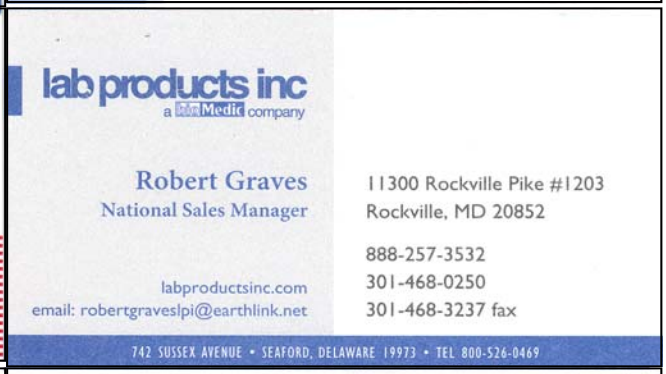
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