

SEAALAS Animal Bytes...no blood , just ones and zeroes...



Seaalas.org

Volume 13, Spring Issue

June 2013

NIH to reduce significantly the use of chimpanzees in research...



Photo courtesy of Kim Benjamin...GA Tech.

We have some Veterans: The National Institutes of Health plans to substantially reduce the use of chimpanzees in NIH-funded biomedical research and designate for retirement most of the chimpanzees it currently owns or supports. NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. accepted most of the recommendations made by an independent advisory council for implementing a set of principles and criteria defined by the Institute of Medicine for the use of chimpanzees in NIH-funded research. NIH plans to retain but not breed up to 50 chim-

panzees for future biomedical research. The chimpanzees that will remain available for research will be selected based on research projects that meet the IOM's principles and criteria for NIH funding. The chimpanzees designated for retirement could eventually join more than 150 other chimpanzees already in the Federal Sanctuary System. The Federal Sanctuary System was established in 2002 by the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection (CHIMP) Act  and Chimp Haven operates the Federal Sanctuary System, which is overseen by NIH.

"Americans have benefited greatly from the chimpanzees' service to biomedical research, but new scientific methods

and technologies have rendered their use in research largely unnecessary," said Dr. Collins. "Their likeness to humans has made them uniquely valuable for certain types of research, but also demands greater justification for their use. After extensive consideration with the expert guidance of many, I am confident that greatly reducing their use in biomedical research is scientifically sound and the right thing to do."

For more info... Go to:

WWW.ALNMAG.COM



What's New:

- 2013 TRAVEL AWARD WINNER LETTERS...!
- SEAALAS/DISTRICT IV PHOTO GALLERY...
- GETTING READY FOR NATIONAL IN BALTIMORE...
- A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT....
- 2013 ILAM ARTICLE...

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A letter from the President...

Greetings SEAALAS!

Thank you for the honor to be your President for 2013. The camaraderie and spirit of volunteerism within the branch will allow us to keep moving onward and upward. With spring in full swing, I encourage the membership to start getting their ideas together for talks, posters, etc. for the upcoming SEAALAS Meeting in January 2014. We are excited that Dr. Shayne Barlow and his staff have agreed to host the meeting in Columbia, South Carolina – **THANK YOU to the University of South Carolina!** Stay tuned to the SEAALAS list serve for updates deadlines for talks, abstracts, etc. Speaking of the our neighbors and friends in South Carolina, here are some facts about how they are making NIH funds work for biomedical research:



- The state of S.C. received more than \$142 million in NIH awards for FY2011
- USC's eight campuses and alumni contribute \$4 billion to the state economy, and support nearly 50,000 jobs
- Innovista, USC's emerging downtown research district, is expected to generate more than 8,700 jobs and boost the economy by \$1.35 billion
- The newly completed \$22 million Arnold School of Public Health Research Center houses top health researchers in downtown Columbia
- South Carolina State University supports 1,558 jobs in the city of Orangeburg and has a total impact on local economic activity of \$152.5 million
- The USC School of Public Health's doctoral program in exercise science is ranked in the top 10 nationally
- USC is the lead institution on a \$17.3 million grant to seven universities in the state to bolster biomedical research and develop infrastructure to support bioengineering research
- NCRR funds cardiovascular research at Medical University of S.C. under COBRE, which develops core research facilities and mentors young investigators in underfunded states
- NIH funding supports research on cancer and health disparities in minorities
- NIH funds a post-baccalaureate research education program at USC for minority students to encourage them to work in a research lab and be mentored while preparing the student for graduate school in the biomedical sciences
- \$1.3 million was awarded to USC to identify suspect organic and inorganic chemicals during critical periods of intrauterine exposure that are associated with child developmental disabilities and mental retardation

Enjoy the spring and thank you all in advance for your contributions, ideas and suggestions that will grow this branch to new heights.

All the best,
Michael F. O'Connor, LATG

"THANK YOU TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA!"...MICHAEL
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This “hybrid” conference will explore evidence-based strategies for improving animal welfare while controlling costs and maintaining data integrity. In person or online, participants will experience an unparalleled opportunity to engage with colleagues in an open dialog focusing on practical solutions to a wide spectrum of challenges identified by the global LAS community.

The ELE’s Advisory committee invites the laboratory animal science community to submit abstracts for the poster session which illustrate an innovative enrichment method or solution.

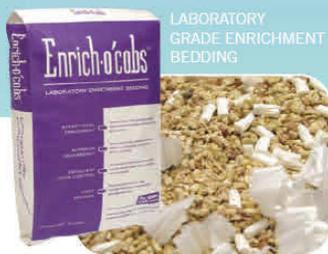
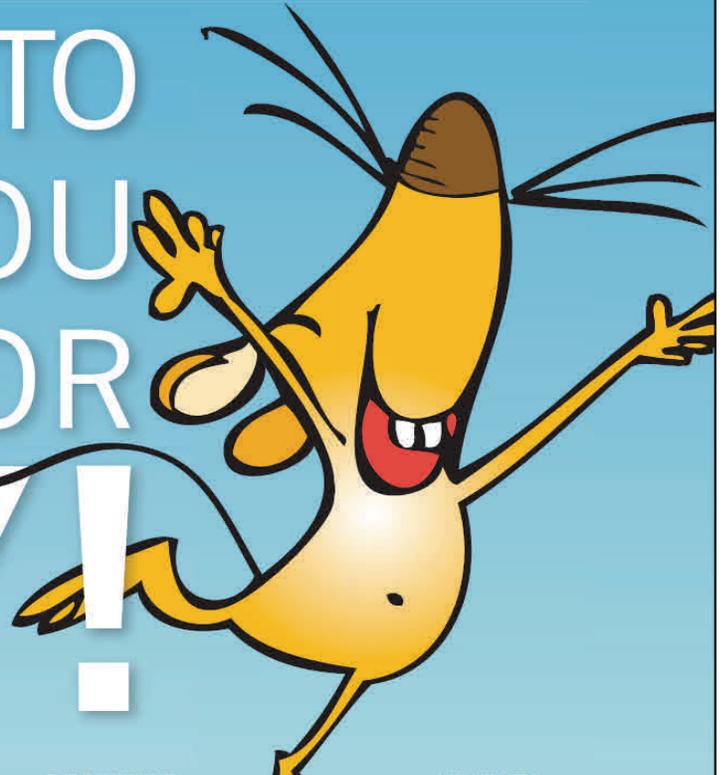
For more detailed information go to <http://EnrichmentConference.com>

2 Registration Options

Individual in person attendance: \$150
3+ from the same institution: \$135 each
Individual online participation: \$90 each

Questions? Contact:
Denise Bianco bianco@enrichmentrecord.com or
Szczepan Baran at szczepanb@vetbiotech.com

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Getting Ready for National in Baltimore...!!!

**Baltimore AALAS
Horse Race Registration**



AALAS • BALTIMORE 2013

Would you like to contribute to the AALAS Foundation while attending the conference in Baltimore? "Charm City" is known for many things – one industry is horse racing. The Pimlico Racetrack is located here and the famous Preakness race is run every May. With this theme in mind, the Local Arrangements Committee has designed a "horse race" for all attendees to participate in and enjoy.

Background: In the past cities have had contests where they have decorated an animal and then placed them out on the streets for the public to enjoy. Then these animals were auctioned off to raise money. For example: Cincinnati - pigs, Chicago - cows, Miami - dolphins, and Baltimore had fish.

Purpose: Baltimore AALAS will use horses. We encourage any branch, company, institution or individual to participate. The idea is to creatively decorate and bring to the National Meeting your horse for participation in the AALAS Foundation Race. All entries will be put on display at the Foundation Booth. Throughout the week attendees will be able to place "bets" on their favorite horse.

Rules: Meeting attendees "bet" on the horse(s) of their choosing. The "bet" is actually a donation to the AALAS Foundation. The winning horse is the entry that has collected the most money throughout the week. The top three entries (Win, Place and Show) will be automatically entered into the live auction on Wednesday night.

Requirements: Each entry must be designed in such a way that the designated Race Registration number, a saddle, reins and a saddle blanket be included on the horse. It can be painted, sewn or glued onto your entry. Be creative!

Price: \$50.00

Do you choose to place your horse into the Silent Auction Yes No

Name:		Title	
Company/Branch Name:		Institute Name	
Shipping Address:			
City:	State & Country:	Zip Code:	
Email:		Phone:	

Check or money order
(Payable to Lisa Secest, Local Arrangements
6600 Fleet Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310

PayPal
www.aalas2013.com

Order Deadline is September 15, 2013

Getting Ready for National in Baltimore...!!!

→ Local Arrangements Activities

- Sightseeing tours have been arranged to help you experience the nearby attractions. Please read the descriptions and choose the event(s) that fit into your schedule. These excursions will not conflict with the scientific meeting and are a great way to spend time exploring the Nation's capital during your stay in Maryland.
- Registration deadline is **September 15th, 2013**
- Each tour requires a minimum of 25 people, otherwise the tour will be canceled and monies refunded.
- If space is available on a bus the tour can be purchased on site.
- Pre-paid tickets can be picked up at the Local Arrangements Booth near the AALAS Registration Lobby – this is the same booth you will pick up your conference bag.
- Tour groups will be picked up and dropped off at the Baltimore Convention Center
- Tour times listed below exclude travel to and from the Baltimore Convention Center

→ Tour Descriptions

Arlington Cemetery plus a Taste of DC Tour: Price = **\$25.00** Tour Code: **A1**

- Saturday, October 26, 2013 – pick up: 8:00 am – Tour time 4 hours

Views or stops at: US Capitol Bldg., MLK Memorial, FDR Memorial, Smithsonian Castle, Air&Space Museum, Native American Museum, Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial, Korean Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, White House Ellipse, WWII Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Tidal Basin, Washington Monument, Holocaust Memorial, Bldg. Engraving & Printing

Gettysburg Tour: Price = **\$95.00** Tour Code: **O**

- Saturday, October 26, 2013 – pick up: 8:00 am – Tour time 10½ hours (includes drive time)

Stops at Gettysburg town, battlefield, Farnsworth House and Visitor Center. Ticket includes orientation film, museum, and cyclorama.

Spy City Tour: Price = **\$58.95** Tour Code: **SPY**

- Saturday, October 26, 2013 – pick up: 8:00 am – Tour time 5 hours

Views of The Watergate Hotel, Historic Georgetown, Naval Observatory, Embassy Row, International Spy Museum and complete spy mission at Montrose Park

Washington After Dark Tour: Price = **\$25.00** Tour Code: **L**

- Thursday, October 31, 2013 – pick up: 6:00 pm – Tour time 3 hours

Views or stops at: Jefferson Memorial, MLK Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Korean Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, White House, Iwo Jima Memorial, US Capitol Bldg., Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington Monument, US Capitol Reflecting Pool, Federal Triangle, Kennedy Center, Georgetown

Arlington Cemetery plus a Taste of DC Tour: Price = **\$25.00** Tour Code: **A2**

- Friday, November 1, 2013 – pick up: 8:00 am – Tour time 4 hours

Views or stops at: US Capitol Bldg., MLK Memorial, FDR Memorial, Smithsonian Castle, Air&Space Museum, Native American Museum, Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial, Korean Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, White House Ellipse, WWII Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Tidal Basin, Washington Monument, Holocaust Memorial, Bldg. Engraving & Printing

→ To Pre-Order Baltimore Harbor Passes visit: www.aalas2013.com

- **Baltimore Harbor Pass:** Price = **\$49.95/ adult \$39.95/child**
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Baltimore National Aquarium	or	or
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Getting Ready for National in Baltimore...!!!



GOLD LINE/GRAY LINE: AALAS BALTIMORE

1. CHOOSE TOUR(S) – Order deadline is September, 15th, 2013

CODE	TOUR	DATE	PRICE	HOW MANY TICKETS?	Total Price
A1	Arlington Cemetery + Taste of DC	Saturday October 26	\$25.00		
O	Gettysburg	Saturday October 26	\$95.00		
SPY	Spy City	Saturday October 26	\$58.95		
L	Washington After Dark	Thursday October 31	\$25.00		
A2	Arlington Cemetery + Taste of DC	Friday November 1	\$25.00		

2. CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

For credit card payments complete the following information. Tour tickets purchased by credit card will not be processed without this authorization. In lieu of my credit card imprint, I _____ hereby authorize Gold Line/Gray Line to charge my credit card.

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MASTER CARD

Credit Card		Expiration Date		CVC2 # (on back)	
Billing Address	Street				
	City		State		Zip
Home Phone #		Work Phone#		Charge Amount: \$	
Signature of Cardholder: <small>Only the cardholder can sign this authorization</small>					Date:

3. To Order Tickets

- ✓ Fax to: 301-386-2023
- ✓ Toll Free: 1-800-862-1400
- ✓ Email: ljackson@martzgroup.com



4. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

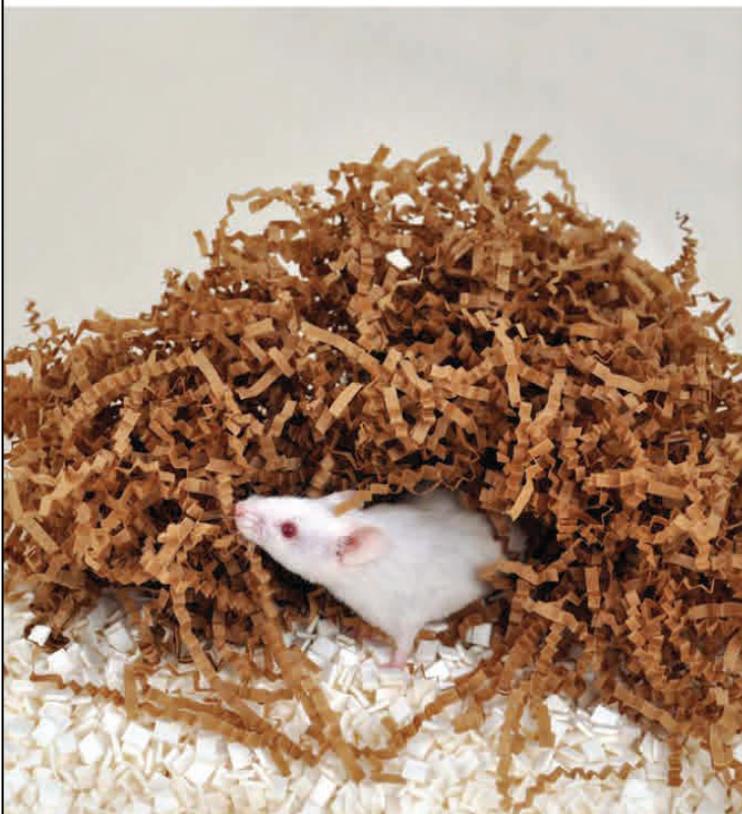
Please complete this form in it entirety

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SHEPHERD SPECIALITY PAPERS

Animal rights and wrongs...

Nature (2/24/2011)

A *Nature* survey shows the pernicious impact of activism on biomedical scientists. More institutions must offer researchers the training they need to stand up for their work.

The results of a *Nature* poll of scientists involved in animal research reveal that nearly one-quarter of respondents have been negatively affected by animal-rights activists, or seen it happen to someone they know. In some places, including the United Kingdom, the figure is higher than one-third. The large number of people affected will surprise many of *Nature's* readers. Researchers have suffered fire bombings, physical attacks, destruction of personal property and campaigns of harassment. But the statistics do not necessarily reflect the current prevalence of violent activist behaviour — rather, they reveal how such activity instils a lingering fear that is difficult to forget.

The survey shows how corrosive animal-rights extremism can be. It is clear that many of those who perpetrate it remain

unrepentant and determined to continue their efforts to terrorize researchers, but there are positive signs. Little more than 15% of poll respondents who were affected by activism said the tactics drove them to change the direction or practice of their research, and several who did make changes said that they mostly became more selective about who they talked to or how they presented their work on the Internet.

“There is no excuse for institutions not to explain what goes on within their walls.”

There are welcome signs that the tide of violent activity may be turning, especially in the United Kingdom. Several factors could be at work. Tougher legislation might be having an effect; in the past few years, Britain and the United States have both introduced laws that reinforce the seriousness of acts of vandalism intended to bully and blackmail those connected to animal research. Groups in favour of such research have also helped to calm the violence. Pro-Test, an organization based in Ox-

ford, UK, which this week celebrates its fifth anniversary, has managed to counter a campaign of misinformation and intimidation that almost scuttled plans to build a biomedical research facility at the University of Oxford (see page 457). Other groups have begun to follow Pro-Test's lead, including an offshoot at the University of California, Los Angeles, which has been repeatedly targeted by activists. Proactive campaigns and pressure on lawmakers to protect the public's investment in research have aided the backlash against extremism. But these are only part of the solution.

Scientists regularly face the dilemma of how open to be about their animal research. Non-disclosure, even in the scientific literature, is common, according to a recent survey by the UK National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research. Such a lack of openness, it added, could impede reproduction and replication of previous work. Findings such as these have led many journals, including *Nature*, to adopt more-explicit rules

about what is to be reported in the literature.

Talking to the public remains crucial. Sometimes, the threat of violence means that individual researchers will not wish to engage directly with the public and should even be cautioned against doing so. But there is no excuse for institutions that house animal research — including most research universities — not to have vigorous and well-defined programs to explain what goes on within their walls. Institutions should publicize the high standards that they are required to meet before they can use animals. They should also discuss their strategies to replace animals with more sophisticated research tools, refine research practice and reduce the overall number of animals used. If they have no such strategies, institutions should develop them as a priority.

“There is no excuse for institutions not to explain what goes on within their walls.”

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Animal rights and wrongs...cont'd

Some scientists who work with animals are already willing to explain the importance of their research. Others should follow their lead. *Nature's* survey found that more than 50% of researchers were encour-

aged by their institutions to engage with the public, yet not much more than one-quarter felt they were given the necessary training or support. This is unacceptable: the resources are out there, including tips on

how to communicate effectively and how best to respond to personal threats. Activists often attempt to marginalize researchers, isolating them from their institutions and the wider community. If researchers

build better and stronger bonds with both, they can ensure that it is the extremists who are marginalized.

- www.nature.com

ILAM 2013...Weren't there? Here's What you Missed...

By Lisa K Secrest,
rLATG, CMAR
ILAM Committee Chair

"Put on our blue suede shoes and we boarded the plane and touched down in the land of the Delta Blues to be part of the ILAM gang. Now we're roaming in Memphis walking with our feet straight down on Beale." This quote from the Buffalo team on skit night is a perfect way to start the ILAM 2013 recap. Well they actually sang it, so put the Marc Cohn tune in your head and start reading this paragraph again. There was no crashing thunder, rain, or floods which are unusual for Memphis in May but there were of course plenty of Elvis references, blues music, southern charm, barbe-

que and herds of rhinoceros testing out their new found horns. Yes there are Rhinos in Tennessee, you must have missed that. You had to be there! For the laboratory animal community, the first week of May marks a meeting of great minds, great spirits and the climb up the career ladder. Of course I am speaking about the Institute of Laboratory Animal Management (ILAM). It is a career ticket that needs to be punched.

In a nutshell the days were filled with classroom instruction and the evenings with team activities. **Morgan McArthur**, the keynote speaker set the tone from the beginning with his enthusiasm and the pure entertainment of sheep shearing

and push-ups. Yes, it did all come together in a most hilarious uplifting presentation. Well....you had to be there...really. See? You DID miss something! The Sunday night team activity exhausted many in the Great Scavenger Hunt. Students had ten activities to accomplish along with gathering other treasures and completing assigned tasks. I am glad that I didn't have to count the ceiling tiles in the atrium or how many keycards were used to create the lobby sculpture. Committee member **Alistair Reid** came up with those diabolical tasks so thank him for that! Monday evening was "Build the Catapult". Each team constructed a catapult made from Popsicle sticks, rubber bands and a spoon. They then had to test their model to s

"Put on our blue suede shoes and we boarded the plane and touched down in the land of the Delta Blues to be part of the ILAM gang. ."

how far and how accurately it shot their ammunition: a ping pong ball, a marshmallow and a toy soldier respectively. It was quite an engineering feat as they calculated averages, deviations and trajectories. Tuesday night, which is a "free activity" night, brought most classmates out to Beale Street to enjoy music and freedom from lectures.

Cont'd next page...

ILAM 2013...cont'd

The BIG, anxiety ridden activity of course is Skit Night. All teams did a fantastic job of taking pieces of information that they learned or overheard and incorporating them into the skit. The zombies were out in force reflecting what they learned in Disaster Planning for the Zombie Apocalypse class followed very closely by baby rhinos being born with their horn. Again – you missed it! Attendees will never look at a rhinoceros again without thinking of management theory. It was a close race and the Tiger team showed their stripes by winning the coveted Purple shirt for the second year in a row. Congratulations to **Jennifer Blair** who was on the Tiger team for both years and now owns two prized purple shirts. The week went off without a hitch with the leadership of **Russell Matheson**, 2013 Class President. He kept things exciting with his enthusiasm and organizational skills. Students had many options between tours, dinners and dancing on the few free hours they had in their busy schedule. Big kudos and a hat's off must go to the team leaders, they did a fantastic job! This year was chock full of team spirit with most

team members sporting their animal hats and paraphernalia with pride. They were all looking good. So good that there was quite a bit of swiping going on – especially coveted were the handmade Buffalo hats. Sheep shearing, push-ups, ball rolling, corn hole, rhinos, zombies and very loud, boisterous team spirit. Confused? Something ELSE you missed! You will have to find an ILAM 2013 attendee to get the answers. Thanks again to **Jennifer Blair, Jim Carson, Susie Chow, Sarah Gilliam, Christal Huber, Odell Jones, Jennifer King, Christine Safieddine, Emily Slocum** and **Ben Thompson** for all the effort you put into leading your teams. Everyone left the week exhausted but energized by the camaraderie of their classmates and some great memories of their ILAM week. Hopefully they are still committed to 'one instructor's challenge – "make someone feel important"'.
2013 also marked the end of an era. The twentieth class has

come and gone through our program. To celebrate this occasion, posters were set up all around the graduation banquet room depicting class pictures and skit nights since the inception of ILAM. **Dr. Robert Weichbrod**, a graduate from the first class in 1993 and past AALAS President spoke a few inspirational words at the graduation ceremony to commemorate this milestone event. Looking around at the pictures scattered around the room was virtually a 'who's who?' in the laboratory animal science industry. ILAM has helped create many leaders in the last twenty years and the next twenty years will birth many more. Also on hand graduation night to lend her voice to the celebration was current AALAS President, **Kim Saunders**.

Denise DiFrancesco came on board this year for her second term as Board Liaison but unfortunately we had to say good bye to two committee members this year. **Alistair Reid** and **Diana Baumann** were given their purple shirts as a good-bye present. Their

expertise and their laughter will be greatly missed by the other committee members and future students won't have the same brand of unique skit material. All kidding aside; thank you Alistair and Diana for the time and effort that the two of you devoted to this program. **Steve Baker** was our new LA-MA Representative this year. His help with auction items, answering queries and being a help to the committee was greatly appreciated. This year's auction garnered around \$4000 with the help of Lala the Rhino.

"Thanks again to **Jennifer Blair, Jim Carson, Susie Chow, Sarah Gilliam, Christal Huber, Odell Jones, Jennifer King, Christine Safieddine, Emily Slocum** and **Ben Thompson** for all the effort you put into leading your teams." - Lisa S.

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ILAM 2013...cont'd

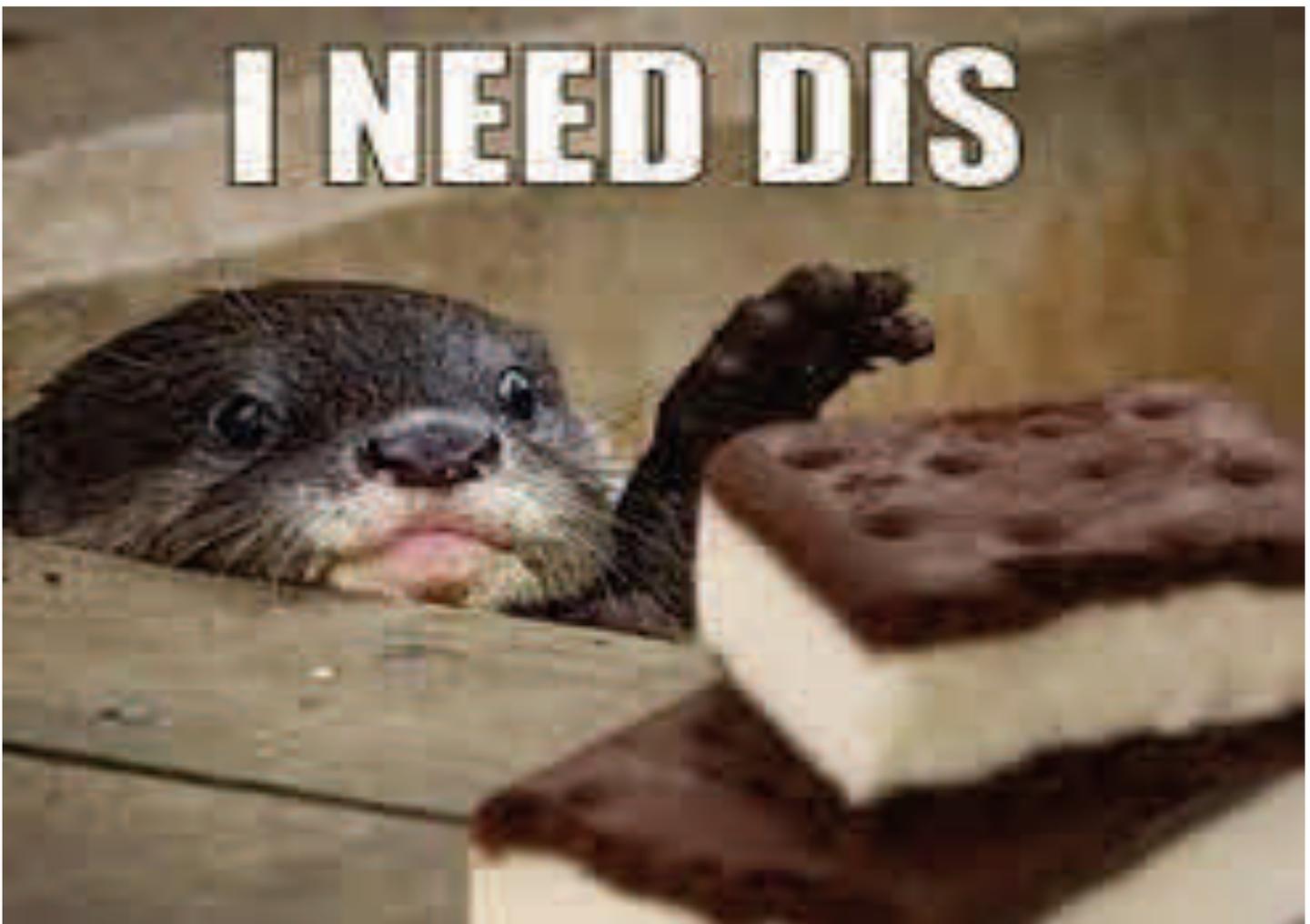
The bidding went high but it was all for a good cause. The money raised that night will pay for a few ILAM scholarships. Nothing at ILAM week can happen without the super heroine efforts of AALAS staff members **Betty Cartwright** and **Carolyn Simonton**. Thank you ladies for steering the ship, the

ILAM committee is rudderless without you. If you weren't there you missed out on something special. If you have never attended ILAM then please, seriously consider registering for next year. You will not regret the experience. Registration opens up on October 1, 2013.

You can find the forms on the AALAS website that morning and be quick, the class fills up FAST! The ILAM committee is already working to deliver a great program for 2014. DON'T MISS IT!
"Put on our rhino horn and we boarded the plane. Left the land of

the Delta Blues, forever part of the ILAM gang". See you next year!

"heroine efforts of AALAS staff members Betty Cartwright and Carolyn Simonton"
- Lisa S.



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WHO'S NUTZ? Institutional News and Updates...



Georgia State University

Hello SEAALAS,

Things have been busy as we've been growing by leaps and bounds. Welcome to our new Lab Animal Technician, Evan Hut-

to who replaces Timothy "Casey" Trower on our staff. Good luck in school, Casey! Also leaving us: Betty Chan who worked out at our primate facility. We'll miss you, Betty! Everyone here had a blast at SE/AALAS. I know I got off to a rocky start moderating the Tech Talk Track, but there was a lot of good information all around.

In somewhat related news, the Director of our Transgenic Facility, Dr.

Chengliu Jin, was able to successfully get pups from manipulated Syrian hamster embryos. Hearty Congratulations!! We're still waiting on the genotyping results, but fingers crossed!

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Davis
Senior Administrative Coordinator-

"WELCOME TO OUR NEW LAB ANIMAL TECHNICIAN, EVAN HUTTO"
- MATT DAVIS DAVIS...GSU



Lyvia's story and Cindy BuckMaster and Paul McKellips for their outstanding lectures related to the work we do and how the public perceives animal research. Brian, Cindy and Paul's lectures recharged my passion and sense of purpose in the work I do!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Have a safe and happy summer!

Sandy Meyer RVT, LATG
Animal Health Assurance Manager

Atlanta VA Medical Center



Hope everyone is having a nice Summer! It was so nice to see everyone again at the SEAALAS meeting in March. I hope everyone enjoyed

the meeting as much as we did. We had 3 employees from the VA attending the meeting this year. I would like to applaud Kim Benjamin and everyone that contributed to the program this year! The meeting was extremely informative and such a Pep Rally for the work we do in research. I would like to thank Brian Anderson for sharing his daughter

Colleen Oliver at the Atlanta VA won the SE-AALAS Travel Award this year,



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TECH-Uniques...

Enrichment Impact on Post-Surgical Recovery...

By [Szczepan Baran, VMD](#), [David Disselhorst, LVT, RLATG](#), [Elizabeth Johnson, VMD](#), [Marcel Perret-Gentil, DVM](#) Article Posted: August 26, 2011 ALNMAG.COM

Knowledge and understanding of the fundamental biological requirements and the impact of the laboratory environment on laboratory animal species continues to be a topic of debate among the research community.¹⁻

⁶ Additionally, guidelines in the United States and the directives in the European Union require consideration of enrichment.⁷ Enrichment influences animal well-being, provides opportunities for activity such as sensory and motor stimulation, and encourages appropriate animal behaviors typical of the species. Literature on the assessment of enrichment for various laboratory animal species continues to expand.⁸⁻

¹⁷ Enrichment is challenging because of the difficulty in assessing the impact of enrichment on the animal and on the research outcomes. Adding to this challenge is the fact that some studies require precluding

enrichment as that in itself or certain types of enrichment may impact data. Because of this difficulty, most studies have not addressed the impact of enrichment during the post-surgical period.¹⁻⁶ Post-surgical enrichment is an area of research where enrichment could potentially have a great impact on the animal's well-being and subsequent study results. This article reviews the impact of surgery on animals, current post-surgical enrichment protocols, and the potential importance of utilizing enrichment not only post-surgically but also pre-surgically.

Surgery within the Laboratory Animal Medicine field is commonplace and frequently utilized to develop and induce animal models of human diseases.^{2-4, 17-26} The act of surgery, regardless of the type,

suppresses cellular immunity because it leads to decreased levels of cytokines such as IL-2, IL-12, and IFN- γ .²⁷⁻

³⁰ Surgery also induces a stress response, which leads to activation of the sympathetic nervous system and an increase in secretion of pituitary hormones such as growth hormone, ACTH, TSH, aldosterone, and cortisol.^{27,31-38}

The effects of surgical disruption on the animal's homeostasis could potentially be decreased by the provision of appropriate enrichment, and, conversely, the lack of it could potentially exacerbate this stress. Bayne has described that an inappropriate environment, including single housing of a social species and group housing of solitary ones, can lead to delayed recovery and a slower return to metabolic homeostasis.³⁹ The *Guide for the*

Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and ETS123 encourages strong consideration for enrichment programs.^{7,40} Based on the *Guide* and ETS 123, the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) promotes the implementation of environmental enrichment and thus one should expect that when enrichment has to be withheld, it should be properly justified and reviewed by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). One widely accepted reason for the elimination of enrichment is surgery. Some programs hold the position that withholding enrichment, such as group housing during the post-surgical period, does not warrant justification because it is considered within the standards of normal veterinary care.

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TECH-Uniques...

Enrichment Impact on Post-Surgical Recovery...

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Single housing is justified because it is perceived that it is a safer recovery environment for the animals. This position should be reconsidered. The post-surgical period is a crucial time to utilize environmental enrichment to enhance recovery and potentially decrease non-experimental variables. Post-operative enrichment has been shown to improve the ability of the animal to heal and decrease recovery time with a discernable relation to normal physiological parameters.¹⁷ Sharp demonstrated that even minor changes, such as cage changing, handling, introduction of cage mates, and removal of cage mates, can have an impact on stress levels, which provides some rationale for emphasis on appropriate post-surgical enrichment.¹⁷

Laboratory animals are often utilized for the development of models of various cardiac diseases.⁴¹
⁻⁴⁴ As one would expect,

cardiac parameters are important in these models. Lawson demonstrated that the lack of social enrichment leads to increased blood pressure and heart rate when compared to singly housed rats as well as animals housed with non-social enrichment.¹⁴

Pain impacts animals in many ways and its effects can be addressed through preemptive and multimodal protocols. Enrichment can be used as an adjunct mechanism to mitigate pain. Gabriel demonstrated that enriched environments can help reduce the duration of post-operative pain in rats.⁴⁵

Vitalo et al⁴⁶ demonstrated that using nesting material for environmental enrichment in rats led to improved healing in a burn model. Vitalo showed that the provision of environmental

enrichment decreases the peripheral stress response seen with poor wound healing. Vitalo further showed that peripheral stress responses are mediated through the central nervous system by acting on the hypothalamic-pituitary axis (HPA). Their research used three groups: Isolated pups without nesting material, isolated pups with nesting material, and group-reared pups. Using a burn model as the physical insult, Vitalo reported improved wound healing in the group of environmentally enriched rats when compared to the group of isolated rats that did not have nesting materials.

Lapiz et al⁴⁷ explored the psychological effect of isolation on the development of neurological disorders in rats. The study used the effects of social isolation on rat weanlings and adolescent rats to mimic causation of certain psychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia and depression. The observed neurochemical imbalances mimic neurochemical imbalances noted in humans with neuropsychiatric disorders. A greater understanding of the processes that underlie these changes should improve our knowledge of how environmental events may alter brain function and stimulate physiological healing.

“Pain impacts animals in many ways and its effects can be addressed through preemptive and multimodal protocols.” - ALNMAG.COM

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TECH-Uniques...

Enrichment Impact on Post-Surgical Recovery...

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This information suggests that post-surgical housing considerations should evolve from the traditional practice of housing animals individually in a barren post-surgical environment, and towards implementing

pair housing with a compatible companion and proper environmental enrichment, to improve post-surgical recovery.⁴⁸ Additional studies are required to address impact of

novel versus non-novel enrichment devices, acute versus long term changes of enrichment devices, and acclimatization to enrichment.⁴⁹ Identifying specific environmental enrichment, which facili-

tates a quicker recovery, should provide further rationale for including this type of enrichment in post-surgical protocols.

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Overview of Existing System:

U.S. GOVERNMENT (Federal):

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- Animal Welfare Act (AWA)
- AWA Regulations & Standards
- APHIS Animal Care Policy Manual
- APHIS Research Facility Inspection Guide

Department of Health and Human Services

- Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW):
- Public Health Service Act (PHS)
- PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- FDA Good Laboratory Practice for Nonclinical Lab Studies (full text)

Department of Defense (DoD)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Federal Interagency Programs:

- U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research & Training
- USDA-NIH-FDA Memorandum of Understanding
- Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM)
- National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicology Methods (NICEATM)
- NIH Revitalization Act of 1993
- ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (PL 106-545, 42 U.S.C. 2851-3)

STATE GOVERNMENT:

Overview of states laws affecting animal research facilities by type:

ACCREDITATION OF ANIMAL CARE PROGRAMS

Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care

LEGALi-Tease...

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PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)

- Management Certification
- Technician Certification

American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM)

- Veterinarian Specialty Board Certification
- American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP)

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

- Guidelines for Euthanasia

Association of Primate Veterinarians

Institute for Laboratory Animal Research of National Academies of Science

Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research

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LOOK BOTH WAYS....SAFETY FIRST!

Top 10 Safety Tips for Working with Animals...By [Mary Hope Kramer](#), About.com

While working with animals is certainly an attractive prospect, there are inherent risks related to any job in the field. Animals can be unpredictable, so it is important to be alert to potential risks. Minimize your risk of injury by following these 10 animal handling safety tips:

1. Approach all animals with caution.

Take care to avoid blind spots and approach slowly so animals are aware of your presence and proximity. Talk softly as you approach so they hear you coming. Sudden movements are never a good idea, regardless of the breed involved.

2. Stay alert.

Bites, kicks, and scratches are often delivered when a handler is distracted. When you are working with animals they need to have your complete attention at all times. A moment of carelessness is all it takes to sustain a potentially serious injury.

3. Study the behavior of the breed you're working

with.

Pay attention to body language, especially the signs of agitation. For example, horses pin their ears, strike with their teeth, and kick when upset. Dogs growl, crouch, and bare their teeth. You should be aware of the warning signs before attempting to work with an animal.

4. Be aware of zoonotic diseases.

Zoonotic diseases are those that can be transmitted from animals to humans. Examples of transmissible diseases include ringworm, salmonella, herpes B, rabies, hepatitis, and tuberculosis. Know the basic signs of an infected animal and be aware of how transmission can occur. Seek immediate medical attention after any potential exposure.

5. Are you allergic?

Realize that allergens such as animal dander could result in sneezing, wheezing, watery eyes, or breaking out in hives. Some individuals have severe breathing emergencies which require use

of an inhaler or even hospitalization. Allergy shots may be necessary to minimize your reaction so that you can safely work with animals in a hands-on capacity.

6. Inspect handling facilities for safety.

Sharp edges, slippery floors, improper lighting, and other structural hazards are responsible for many accidents and injuries. Maintain a safe environment and keep equipment in good working order.

7. Wear personal protective equipment.

Items of PPE can include a variety of options such as safety glasses, latex gloves, masks, steel toed footwear, helmets, coveralls, and lead aprons. If there is a product available and it is appropriate for the task at hand, consider taking advantage of it.

8. Restrain animals properly.

Securing animals safely can help you to avoid sprains, strains, slip and fall accidents, and other physical injuries. Large animals, such as cattle

and horses, should be placed in stocks or stalls. Halters, hobbles, or other restraints can also be utilized. Dogs can be muzzled and cats can be wrapped gently in towels. In extreme cases, a tranquilizer should be administered by a veterinarian.

9. Dispose of medical waste in appropriate containers.

Always handle hazardous medical equipment, such as needles or chemicals, with caution. Never throw needles away in the trash. Most clinics and farms keep special red biohazard disposal boxes on hand for this purpose.

10. Have an exit strategy.

An exit strategy is especially important when working with large animals in pens, stalls, or chutes. Don't allow yourself to get cornered; maintain a clear path of escape at all times.

“Maintain a safe environment and keep equipment in good working order.”
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Guide

Dear Friends of Specialty Operations Solutions,

We are thrilled to announce the recent acquisition of Specialty Operations Solutions by The WorkingBuildings Companies, the leading provider of comprehensive Owner-based solutions for the built environment. SOS will operate as a separate but wholly owned subsidiary division of The WorkingBuildings Companies. We will maintain the staff and level of commitment you have come to know and trust, and are able to call on the extensive skills and resources of our expanded business family – [The WorkingBuildings Companies](#).

The WorkingBuildings Companies features six specialized divisions, with each branch offering comprehensive professional solutions to the unique challenges a project will face. The WorkingBuildings Companies is divided into WorkingBuildings, WorkingHospitals, WorkingLaboratories, WB Global | Advisory, CxAlloy, and now Specialty Operations Solutions. Each branch is designed to be responsive to the challenges presented by specific program, project and facility types. [Tweet](#)

What this means for you, our clients, is that we are now able to offer you total turnkey laboratory solutions.

"We found in The WorkingBuildings Companies a group of like-minded people, offering services that operate in synergy with our own. As with SOS, the goal of the WorkingBuildings Companies is to deliver a project successfully and with minimal issues – the focus never shifts away from quality, compliance, reliability, and success of the client. It is for this reason that we have made the move to join the WorkingBuildings Companies as a subsidiary division."



SOS will remain Specialty Operations Solutions, and I will stay in place as the head of the division as Executive Vice President. We anticipate that this corporate merger will be advantageous to you, our client. With the vast resources of The WorkingBuildings Companies behind us, we are now able to offer you a much wider range of services from pre-design through operations. We are very excited about our expanded service offerings, and encourage you to visit [The WorkingBuildings Companies](#)' website to explore these new capabilities.

Over the next few months we will be in the process of integrating the strengths found in each of our firms' unique processes. We expect that this will further the value of Specialty Operations Solutions to all its existing and new clients. It is our goal to continue providing the highest level of service during this time and we look forward sharing our expanded services offerings with you. If you have any questions or comments about how The WorkingBuildings Companies might be of benefit to you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

F. Kurt Last, Executive Vice President
SOS Division of WorkingBuildings
Email: klast@specialtyoperations.com
Cell: 401-952-3346
Office: 678-990-8001

2013 Travel Award Winner Letters...Colleen Oliver, VA

The "Travel Award" Advisory

I am happy to report that I was one of the three recipients who benefitted from the Travel Award offered by the SEAALAS organization this March. This award allowed me to attend this years' annual SEAALAS Conference in Decatur, Georgia.

Many of us in research have felt the economic strain which has limited funds in our facilities and labs. The decreased funds have led to facilities and labs having to limit the number of personal they can afford to send to any and all conferences each year. With that being said, the application process for the Travel Award is extremely simple. It requires filling out a brief form stating your reason for applying and a one paragraph recommendation from one's employer. The volunteer commitment, that will be required if one wins, is also easily fulfilled in a variety of ways such as giving a technician talk or serving as a judge for the technician talks to name just a few options. The benefits of attending these conferences are worth the minimal amount of time needed to fill out an application.

This year's meeting was unique in that it combined the annual SEAALAS and the District IV meetings into one conference. This meeting began with an inspirational story about 8 year old Liviya Anderson and her victory over Aplastic Anemia given by her father Brian Anderson who works for Allentown. The meeting then continued with 12 technician talks on Wednesday, 3 tracks of lectures on Thursday (Vet Tech, Manager, and Husbandry categories), and 3 wet labs on Friday (Rodent Injection Techniques, Gross Anatomy/Necropsy, and Suturing). There was a display of posters/abstracts for viewing located within the vendor exhibit hall. The vendors are always greatly appreciated as they provide us with all the products and services we need to properly care for our animals and perform our daily jobs. Cindy Buckmaster, who was the keynote speaker from Baylor College of Medicine, gave a fabulous presentation during the Awards Banquet on Thursday evening entitled "Stop Hiding, Change the World." This truly gave everyone in the room a sense of pride in their career choice and a way to tell others what it is we do to help provide medical advancements for humans and animals alike. The opening talk on Friday morning, "Rise Up:2013" given by Paul McKellips from the Foundation for Biomedical Research, can only be described as one of the most dynamic and energizing presentations I have ever seen. If one missed this I would highly recommend that you make a point to hear him speak at a future meeting you attend. His presentation gives many a life changing view on the value of research.

I am thankful to the SEAALAS Award Committee for giving me this opportunity to attend this year's meeting. The program put together for this conference provided a unique balance of both educational and inspirational speakers as well as great networking opportunities. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this meeting a success...it was a job well done!!

Sincerely yours,
Colleen Oliver, DVM

2013 Travel Award Winner Letters...Sophia Jones, GRU

First, I'd like to extend my gratitude to have been selected for the travel award to attend SEAALAS. The conference was informative, manageable, and well-organized.

The actual experience of being nominated by my department's veterinary staff, and then writing an essay, was rather easy. Summarizing the overall experience in this short note is far more difficult than the initial nomination process. In my nomination essay, I discussed my desire to attend SEAALAS to help in developing the training program here at Georgia Regents University. This year's conference could not have been better suited to my goals, since training was the theme! For now, though, I'd like to just touch on some of the highlights for me.

I am pleased to have met so many wonderful people involved in training, such as Lisa Kelly. Ms. Kelly was incredibly friendly and knowledgeable. Her talk about training was insightful, especially with the unexpected opening. She poignantly showed the difference between simply reading slides word for word and rushing through instructions versus actively engaging with training participants. I have always tried to be mindful of speaking in monotones during my training sessions prior to the conference, but since Ms. Kelly's presentation, I work a lot harder to make sure I demonstrate my interest and engage the staff in each training session I lead, regardless of the topic.

The poster session was also helpful. Robin Kavanaugh and Lisa Wilson's poster regarding protocol synopses was quite interesting. I think having a quick and easy way to understand what work is being done with the animals in a given room for makes it easier for care staff to be more aware of health and behavioral conditions that are anomalous or expected, making it easier to report appropriate information to the veterinary and/or research staff.. I've wanted to incorporate a similar idea in our facility, so seeing it as an effective tool for another institution has been very motivating to make it happen here at GRU. I truly hope there are more posters at next year's meeting.

Finally, Dr. Cindy Buckmaster's banquet keynote was amazing. I could not agree with the premise more. I personally believe that silence can be complicity in many situations, but using the right words is also necessary in order to be both heard and understood. I also appreciated Dr. Buckmaster taking time to speak with me one-on-one to briefly discuss setting up a training program. Specifically, I had a question regarding an average timetable when setting up a completely new program. Dr. Buckmaster gave me realistic and optimistic information.

Thank you again for allowing me the chance to experience the SEAALAS annual meeting. I look forward to being more involved, and helping the GRU staff get more involved in both the local and national levels.

- Sophia Jones
- Georgia Regents University

2013 Travel Award Winner Letters...Tina Parker, Clemson University

Dear Fellow SEAALAS members,

Hello, my name is Tina Parker and I was one of the recipients for the 2013 travel award offered by the SEAALAS organization. I received the award as funding to attend the District 4/SEAALAS meeting in March in beautiful (and incredibly busy) Decatur Georgia.

The 2013 meeting had a fantastic theme of "Basic Training" that took me back to the roots of our profession. We tend to forget the basic and broad steps it takes to run a truly successful animal program. Three different tracks were presented and angled toward particular job duties. The management track was awesome and included some important topics such as effective writing of standard operating procedures to the always debatable euthanasia. The husbandry track allowed for more comprehensive learning of the ever important enrichment devices as well as occupational health and allergy concerns. The track that benefitted me the most was the vet tech track. I loved the presentation by Dr. Karen Froberg-Fejko on the behavioral and physiological needs of the laboratory rabbit. She is so passionate about animals and the quality of life they receive. I also enjoyed the talk on the art and science of recognizing and managing pain. This talk really opened my eyes to more advanced ways to recognize pain, thus giving way to a more sophisticated way to relieve pain.

All in all the meeting was extremely beneficial to me as a laboratory animal technician. It is so rare to actually be surrounded by people who share a common interest. The compassion and unmitigated loyalty we all feel to animal research and animal welfare is undeniable. It makes me proud of the profession I have chosen.

Now, let's talk about the not so work related parts of the meeting. First off, SEAALAS has a knack for picking fairly swanky hotels to host the meeting. Big kudos for that. Second, the food was awesome! To be perfectly honest, I never left the hotel and I was always eating. What girl can resist m&m's and mini pigs in a blanket as a snack??? Third, the vendors are amazing. There is no other place you can get a rabbit shaped cookie cutter, a dry erase board (complete with fancy pen) and 500 pieces of candy just for stopping by and chatting. It's essentially one stop shopping.

I am extremely thankful to have been given the opportunity to attend this meeting. Without the travel award I may have had to sit out on a very informative and fun event. Thank you SEAALAS for choosing me as one of your 2013 travel award recipients.

Sincerely,

Tina Parker B.S., RLAT

Member KUDOS...!.....Join the Party...!



From the Editor: This is a new section. This section provides an opportunity for member institutions and members to recognize individual achievements and contributions that they feel are noteworthy. Big or small, if you want someone to be recognized let us know and we'll include them in this section. I hope this section grows over time! You can submit your own name and accomplishment also.

The following members are recognized:

Kristen Kelley – New ALAT. Kristen is a Priority One Services contract employee at CDC.

Patrese Muller - New LAT. Patrese is an employee for Priority One Services who works at CDC.

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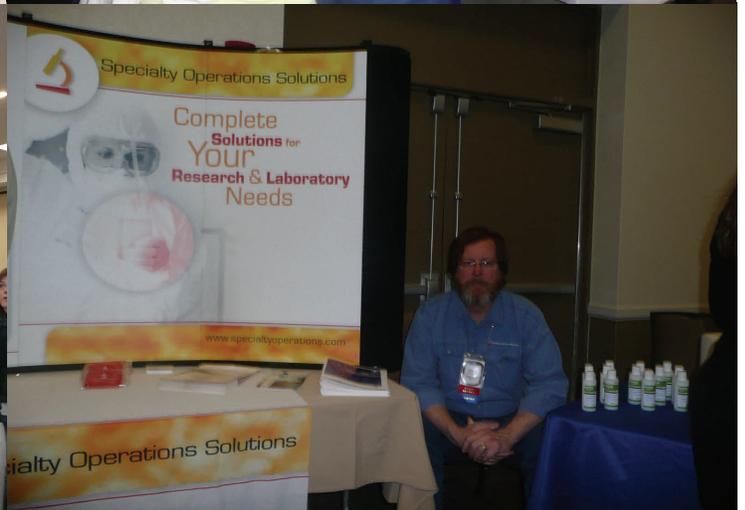
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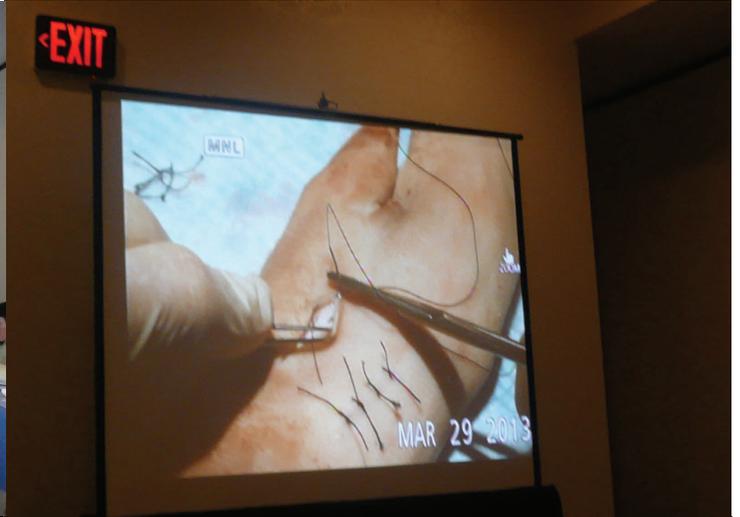
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SEAALAS/DISTRICT IV MEETING PHOTO GALLERY....

Does anyone remember how AWESOME Cindy Buckmasters' presentation was???

These are just a few of the endearing and touching photos that were incorporated into Cindy's presentation. She was gracious enough to forward these to me so we could all remember that we have the responsibility to...

“Change The World”

Thank you Cindy for your time and your inspiration...!!!

Photos Courtesy of C. Buckmaster and Baylor College of Medicine...





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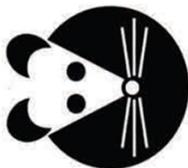
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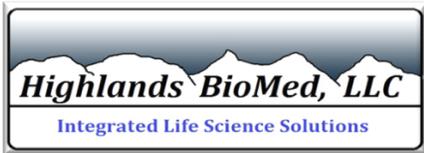
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