

# Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

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Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

## Eco-Terrorism is on the Rise!

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### Presidents Message

First, Thank you to all who attended the videoconference in February with Dr. Stuart Williams. His talk on Biomedical advances was both interesting and informative. He alluded to many items that we need to have him return to cover! On behalf of the entire AzAALAS, we would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Williams for taking the time to speak to us.

District 8 conference is coming up this spring. We will keep you posted on the events of the meeting.

The next upcoming item is the summer fun event. A query was put out on the e-mail list and depending on interest and potential participation we will keep the members posted as to where, when, and what.

The 2003 Arizona Symposium will be scheduled for the spring, so keep your eyes open for updates. Have a great spring & summer - Paula Johnson (pdj@peds.arizona.edu)

### Board of Trustees Spring Session Report by Ardis Roseberry

Both District 8 Trustees, Janet Baer and I, attended the Spring Mid-year meeting of the AALAS Board of Trustees. This is the first year that there will be two mid-year meetings, one in Feb. and the other in June. The thought was that a mid-year meeting in June was too close to the National

meeting to implement new programs and plans. This was an excellent meeting. Both our new President Dr. Craig Frisk, and the new Executive Director, Ann Tourigny-Turner, have great ideas and the organization is in very good hands. Dr. Frisk's changes are pragmatic and practical ideas to make the organization and our programs function better and smoother. Look for enhancements to the AALAS Campus and changes in place to the Registry (see the latest issue of *Contemporary Topics*). There are 3 certified CMAR's. Don't forget, if you do not have a Bachelor's Degree and want to qualify for the CMAR under the grandfather clause, you must apply by **Oct. 1, 2002**, (you don't have to take the test by then, but you must apply by then.) Membership is over 11,000. (Have you renewed your National membership?) Below is the business transacted, other items were discussed, but not passed by the BOT.

### CONSENT AGENDA (2/22/02)

The Consent agenda was approved unanimously and included the following two items:

\* The AALAS Mission in the AALAS Constitution, Article III, was revised to be consistent with the AALAS Mission Statement approved by the BOT in June, 2001: "AALAS advances responsible laboratory animal care and use to benefit

### Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter Arizona Branch AALAS

Paula Johnson, President  
pdj@peds.arizona.edu

Jane Criswell, Past-President  
criswell@u.arizona.edu

Grace Aranda, Secretary/Newsletter Editor  
garanda@u.arizona.edu

Tim Martin, President Elect  
T3Martin@chw.edu

Kathy Stollberg, TBR  
stollbek@u.arizona.edu

Bob Perrill, S Board Member  
robertp@u.arizona.edu

Roger Van Andel - N Board Member  
Roger.Vanandel@NAU.EDU

people and animals." Proposed revisions to the AALAS Constitution required a vote by the full membership. This proposal will be included on the Summer 2002 Official Ballot.

\* The AALAS *Policies & Procedures Manual (P&PM)*, Section 4-15 (Education & Training), IV. Educational Resources, was revised to include Committee guidelines, policies, and procedures.

#### ACTION AGENDA

1. The National Meeting/Program Committee and Management & Technology Program Committee were made exempt [on a ongoing basis] from AALAS' "multiple committees" policy.

2. The AALAS *P & PM*, Section 4-1, II, F, 2, was revised to expand the availability of the AALAS mailing list (in accordance with guidelines set out in the *P&PM*, Section 4-1, 3, a-d) to include Affiliate Organizations and Branches.

3. The Executive Director's report was accepted. Dr. Turner presented the AALAS 2002 Annual Plan.

4. The percentage of Registry submission forms to be audited was reduced from 5-10%, to 2%.

5. The *P&PM*, Section 4-14 (Certification & Registry Program: Registry Program), III. Program Procedures, was revised to make the Registry renewal policies consistent with the AALAS National Membership renewal policies.

#### DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Chris Lyons, AALAS Staff Director of Communications & Marketing, gave a report on the progress of the Committee to Evaluate AALAS Publications (CEAP).

2. Tom Boerschinger, AALAS Legal Counsel, distributed handouts and led discussion about the issue of Conflict of Interest, with regard to AALAS Officers and Trustees.

3. Dr. Nicole Duffee, AALAS Staff Director of Professional Development & Education, provided a status reports on the AALAS Campus and CMAR. The Board provided specific direction with regard to the AALAS Campus (details included in full minutes).

4. Betty Cartwright, AALAS Staff Director of Meeting & Financial Services, provided an overview of the National Meeting/Program, /Local Arrangements, and /Site Selection process.

5. Dr. Jack Hessler led discussion regarding AALAS' Financial status:

a. There was discussion regarding whether or not AALAS should consider hiring an investment firm to provide financial advice to AALAS.

b. Dr. Hessler told the BOT that AALAS' 2001 membership income was approximately 17%. Per statistics provided by the American Society for Association Executives, the average ratio for associations of membership income versus total income is approximately 40%.

c. The AALAS auditor, Whitehorn CPA, PC, will provide an oral report to the BOT during its Summer Session, June 21-23.

**Word from the National AALAS Executive Director**

Good Day, I just returned from the 2002 National Meeting Program Committee meeting in San Antonio and the District 8 Meeting in Big Sky. Both meetings were extremely successful and enjoyable. The 2002 program promises to be comprehensive and hold "something for all" and San Antonio is absolutely wonderful! I think our members will love the city and the program thanks to Gary Borkowski and the Program Committee and Hugh Harroff and the Local Arrangements Committee.

District 8 had a very good program and about 100 participants with an additional 44 vendors in attendance. Leta Eng and her committee did a fantastic job of putting the meeting together.

I am copying a message from Chris Lyons about a new service for Branches. Please help us get the word out about this new feature of the web site. We're having fun - hope you are too! - Ann Tourigny Turner, Executive Director, AALAS

*There are about 48 or so AALAS Branches across the country. AALAS branches are not legal entities of national AALAS (that's us). Branches pay no annual fees or dues to national AALAS, and national AALAS does not provide any financial assistance to Branches. Legal mumbo jumbo aside, it's understood that national AALAS and the Branches both benefit when we help each other since we're working for the same purpose.*

*Many Branches publish newsletters. To help the editors of these newsletters, our web site (<http://www.aalas.org>) now features a new section called "Branch Newsletter Editor Resources." It's located within the "Branches" section of the web site. Though it's a work in progress, editors can download articles to use in their newsletters. There are also links to*

*publishing resources, a section where editors can submit publishing tips, and a feedback form.*

*Not only does this new resource help Branches, but it will help us in the following ways:*

*1) improve communication with Branches; 2) promote to Branch members who are not national members the benefits of joining; and 3) expand the pipeline for marketing new products.*

*Thanks to Nicole Brown for coming up with this idea and for gathering and organizing the resources. And thanks to David for making it a reality on the web site.*

*- Chris Lyons, Director, Communications & Marketing*

### **AZAALAS Meeting Calendar**

#### Board Meetings

May 24: noon - CAF

September 26: 3-4 p.m. - CAF

November 14: 3-4 p.m. - CAF

#### General Meetings

Summer Fun Event - TBA

Fall Meeting with Speaker - TBA

#### Minutes of the Past Meetings

#### Minutes of the 1/24/02 Board Meeting

Meeting began at 3:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Central Animal Facility at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Board members present: Grace Aranda, Jane Criswell, Jeri Ellis, Paula Johnson, Bob Perrill, Roger VanAndel attended via conference

phone. Board members absent: Tim Martin, Kathy Stollberg

Secretary Grace Aranda presented 2001 Treasurer Miguel Diaz's financial report. The report listed all cleared expenses and incomes for 2001 including the year end dividend totals. Due to Miguel's busy work schedule Grace will train new Treasurer Jeri Ellis on the branch accounting procedures. Grace has already informed the credit union of our new board members and she and Miguel have been working on getting the new signature forms completed.

Grace reported that the Louise Brooks Memorial Raffle made \$715 after the \$100 carry items were purchased. Grace will mail out thank you letters and will include the newsletter that will mention the companies who donated raffle items. Jeri will be sending out the check to the Cancer Center Development Office for the Child-Life Activity Center.

Grace stated that the board has been trying to raise the interaction between the Arizona Branch and our vendors. She stated that in the past we have been able to get vendor opinion on branch events like the symposium and district meeting. This also made it easier to get financial assistance when necessary. The board agreed they wanted to reestablish this relationship with the vendors and the suggestion was made to approach Paul Chavez who is frequently in the state. President Paula Johnson will contact Paul.

Paula announced the next video conference will be February 15 from 11:30-1 in COM Rm 3230. Institutional liaisons, Penny Trovillion at Gore and Stephanie Munger at Mayo, have reserved rooms. Dr Stu Williams has been rescheduled to speak to us on Biomedical Engineering. Grace will verify room numbers and if we can have food in that room, then publish meeting notices on the listserv. We will once again pay for refreshments (cookies

and soda) for each meeting facility. Paula mentioned she and President elect Tim Martin will be working on the video conference for the fall and requested suggestions on topics of interest.

Paula announced that the next branch symposium will be next year in the spring. Dr Linnehan from NASA has been asked to speak but as he has a mission this spring we have to wait for confirmation. We will plan the meeting somewhat around his preferences as far as time and place. Paula and Tim will be planning this meeting and asked for suggestions on topics of interest.

Grace reported that she has been continuing to update the AZAALAS website. She has linked all 2001 Buyers Guide ad sponsor companies and all other AALAS branches. She has also updated the membership, vendor checklist for buyers guide, nomination and awards forms for the year. She asked the board if they could review the technician award form for more revisions as we are still getting few forms and may increase nominations with an easier form. The certification pages have been revised to include more information for our members. All board members are asked to go online to review our web for more changes.

Grace distributed a draft of the membership pamphlet. AZAALAS has talked of making one for some time and this is the compiled information from past discussions. Board members were asked to review it for changes and get their information to Grace. Once these pamphlets are completed we will make them available to each institution within the state.

Grace mentioned that AZAALAS will be applying for a grant from the AALAS Foundation to cover the costs of video conferencing. The subject was brought up at the National presidents meeting in October. Grace will include Paula

and past president Jane Criswell in the grant. If our project is funded, the branch will be required to present a paper or poster at a future meeting.

Grace reported that she has distributed welcoming letters to each of the incoming board members. Board member duties are outlined in the letter along with the chairmanship position that each board member now holds: Past president, Jane Criswell - Awards Committee, President, Paula Johnson - Legislative Committee, President elect, Tim Martin - Program Committee, Secretary, Grace Aranda - Membership Committee, Treasurer, Jeri Ellis - Elections Committee, Technician Branch Representative, Kathy Stollberg - Education Committee, Board Members, Bob Perrill & Roger VanAndel - Publications Committee. Each chairman is responsible for choosing any committee members necessary to complete their duties.

Grace reported that the issue of whether or not to raise membership dues had come up last year as a result of the lack of vendor financial support and continued expense involved in video conferencing. After some discussion it was agreed that Grace would survey other AALAS branches to find out types and prices for memberships. Grace will bring this information to the next board meeting.

The board came up with possible dates for the year. There are usually meetings every other month with a break during the summer or a meeting combined with the summer event. The board members will check their calendars and get back to Grace with their best dates. Meeting dates will be posted in the newsletter. Grace will check in the feasibility of teleconferencing for future dates.

Paula mentioned that next week, January 28 - February 1, is International Lab Technician Week. This is a week to honor all the hard working technicians and others who work in research and animal husbandry. Some of the suggestions given by the national organization are to give a party, write a letter or certificate of appreciation to go in each persons personnel file, distribute calendar or other items commemorating the event. This year the branch will pay for a cake for each institution. Word will be sent out on the listserve along with a message to be personalized for each institution. Pins were brought back from national meeting and will be distributed to each institution to have at their event along with AZAALAS membership forms. We hope to get reports back from each institution on how what activity they came up with to include in the next newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

### **Eco-terrorism Is on the Rise, FBI Official Says** By Michael Bender

Eco-terrorists in the United States are attacking more often and more aggressively, the FBI domestic terrorism chief said Wednesday. "At the inception of these groups (in the 1970s) there was a focus on legitimate lawful protest," said James Jarboe, of the FBI's counterterrorism division. "Over the years splinter groups have continued to emerge which have been dissatisfied with more conventional protest methods and have escalated the intensity of their protests with ever increasing violence."

Since 1996, the FBI estimates that two groups alone, Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF), have been responsible for more than 600 crimes and caused more than \$43 million in damage. During that same time, just nine men have been arrested in connection with

crimes ELF has taken credit for, Jarboe testified before a U.S. Senate committee Feb. 12.

Jarboe answered questions about eco-terrorism during an on-line chat Wednesday, where the high number of crimes and low number of arrests had some concerned whether the FBI understands the movement. Some questioned whether the FBI should even be involved. "When I go to sleep at night I have no fear of eco-terrorism," said one person from College Park, Md. "Well, what about the militia/right wing fundamentalist movement in this country? ...The constant danger (including anthrax threats, clinic bombings and assassinations) against abortion providers and other "enemies of god" scares me much more." Jarboe said the issue of eco-terrorism vs. other types of terrorist activities is important. "I would think that the firefighters who have to go into blazing buildings that were set on fire by arsonists may take exception to the tone of your message that eco-terrorists are not worthy of our interest," Jarboe wrote.

One person pointed out that no one has been killed in eco-terrorist activities and that only businesses are affected. "Is the FBI being duped into catering to special interests of the private industry?" Jarboe said the FBI maintains independence while conducting investigations. "Terrorism is terrorism regardless of who is the victim," Jarboe wrote. "We focus on criminal acts and aren't influenced in our priorities by any group."

The number of FBI special agents has grown 224 percent to 1,669 between fiscal years 1993 and 2003, according to Jarboe's testimony at the Feb. 12 eco-terrorism hearing before a congressional subcommittee on forests and forest health. During that time, the FBI has also

established Joint Terrorism Task Forces in 44 cities across the country. By the end of 2003, the FBI plans to establish task force offices in 12 more cities. "These task forces are particularly well-suited to responding to terrorism because they combine the national and international investigative resources of the FBI with the street-level expertise of local law enforcement agencies," Jarboe said.

ELF has taken credit for several destructive raids on businesses, including the October 1997 torching of a Vail, Colo. ski facility in which four ski lifts, a restaurant, a picnic facility and a utility building were destroyed. Most recently, on Jan. 26, ELF claimed responsibility for a fire at the construction site of the Microbial and Plant Genomics Research Center at the University of Minnesota. The fire damaged machinery and a trailer and spread to the adjacent Crop Research building. "We are fed up with capitalists like Cargill Corp. (who is funding the construction of the research building) and major universities like U of M who have long sought to develop and refine technologies which seek to exploit and control nature to the fullest extent under the guise of progress," according to a message on ELF's website.

(Washington Post, 2/27/02)

### **PETA Targets UNC Lab**

By Catherine Clabby

For months, a spy with a hidden camera roamed among hundreds of cages holding lab mice and rats at UNC-Chapel Hill, documenting everything she saw. Today, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals will release video footage of rats being beheaded and live mice mixed in

with dead rodents to protest what it calls inhumane handling of lab creatures in Chapel Hill.

The animal-rights group wants improvements at UNC-CH. But its primary goal, leaders say, is to defeat a move by U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms to prevent the federal government from requiring greater protection for the millions of mice, rats and birds used in research labs. "Somehow people see images of rodents used in research, and it doesn't bother them. We really want people to know that these rats and mice have feelings like any other animal," said Kate Turlington, the PETA investigator who worked undercover at UNC-CH from October to Wednesday, her last day on the job.

UNC-CH officials had no idea PETA had infiltrated their campus, which is accredited by a national agency that sets standards for the care of lab animals. On Wednesday, they said they have strong guidelines in place. But if evidence of poor treatment emerges, they said, the problems will be fixed. "We are committed to providing the highest quality of care to animals," Vice Chancellor Tony Waldrop said. "We will look into any aspect of any allegation."

Turlington, who is 24 and a 2000 N.C. State University graduate, said she offered to work undercover somewhere in Research Triangle Park for PETA last year, after she finished an internship with an animal-rights group on the West Coast. PETA has a long tradition of sneaking its people -- and cameras -- into places where it's not wanted, including a Camden County hog farm in Eastern North Carolina where evidence the group turned up resulted in criminal convictions in 2000 of two men who beat injured hogs.

Turlington, a onetime English major from Greensboro, inquired about several jobs in the Triangle, including one at a lab at the Environmental Protection Agency. But

in October, she landed a \$20,000-a-year post as a technician in the animal quarters at Thurston Bowles, a research building near UNC Hospitals. She expected the job to be a training exercise for undercover work and at first did not take a camera to work. But in time, she became concerned about what she was seeing. So she started wearing the camera, fitted with sound, along with the scrubs, gloves and disposable caps required on the job. PETA declined to say how she hid the minicam.

"She found absolutely atrocious conditions. We said this is something that we can't ignore," said Mary Beth Sweetland, PETA's director of research and investigations, who is based in Norfolk, Va. The videotape will be released to local press and to members of Congress considering Helms' measure against expanded protections. Local research universities have opposed the proposal.

In one segment, a laboratory worker from an alcohol research lab explains to Turlington that a procedure says baby rats should be placed on ice for four minutes before they are beheaded. But the lab worker says he prefers just to spray alcohol. That is faster, he says, and doesn't risk affecting the animals' brain. "We need to get better results, so I keep the brain fresh," the lab worker says. As he speaks and cuts out the brain, the rat's beheaded body wriggles on a table in front of him.

On a different day, Turlington finds eight live mice left in the dead animal cooler eating the body of a decapitated rat. Whoever disposed of them didn't make sure they were dead, she said. In another case, a rat hooked up to wires designed to induce a seizure violently thrashes against the inside of a plastic bucket. Lab workers are seen decapitating grown rats with tiny

guillotines. Sick animals that need medical care or euthanasia languish in cages without treatment for days, she said. At several points in the video, the only thing visible is Turlington's gloved hands, picking up mice and displaying them to her camera. Sometimes she strokes the animals gently or speaks to them kindly. Once she says, "Bless your heart."

PETA officials said they will file a complaint with the National Institutes of Health, which awards millions of dollars to UNC-CH each year for research. Dr. Philip B. Carter of the College of Veterinary Medicine at N.C. State University is chairman of the board of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, the organization that accredits universities that prove they care for lab animals responsibly.

Carter said UNC-CH has a good reputation and solid policies when it comes to caring for lab animals. His organization, along with the federal government, requires that campuses such as UNC-CH keep the animals in clean and comfortable surroundings. They also require that animals receive pain relief if they are to be hurt in studies, unless the drugs or some other relief would alter research results. Each accredited campus has a committee that is required to inspect all animal facilities twice a year. Still, Carter said, sometimes people slip. "There can always be breaks in protocol," he said. "If a student or even a faculty member doesn't follow the protocol, there is not much you can do."

(News & Observer, 4/18/02)

Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research (SwAEBR)

SwAEBR was formed with the specific mission of developing and implementing a strong proactive campaign to educate school children, as well as the general public, in the vital role biomedical research plays in our everyday lives. SwAEBR disseminates information to improve the public's understanding of how responsible research has led to significantly improved health care for man and his animal companions.

The progress of biomedical research is threatened by the growing scientific illiteracy of the public and, in particular, our young people. Opinion polls have shown that most adults do not understand the process of bringing basic research into applications that directly benefit their health and well being.

Education of the general public, our young people and their teachers is of vital importance to the future of science and biomedical research. At all levels of society, the facts concerning the process of medical discovery must be instilled. Without exposure to the truth concerning research, many of our next generation will be deceived into believing that biomedical research is unnecessary.

Speakers' Bureau:

Some available topics:

- C Biomedical Research
- C Health Careers
- C Careers with Animals
- C Medical Careers
- C Caring for your Pets
- C Animal Welfare
- C Veterinary Medicine
- C Classroom Animal Care

- C Biological Modeling
- C Endoscopy
- C Cardiovascular Surgery
- C Surgery & Surgery Techniques

For more information on SwAEBR check out our website at: [www.swaebr.org](http://www.swaebr.org)

SwAEBR awarded a plaque and \$25 check to the following science fair winners across the state: Justin Arthur, Jennifer Barta, Tyler Jorgenson, Savanna Larson, Tracy Liu, Jennifer McFarland, Drew Myers, Megan Oeschner, Alma Pando, Jordan Porter, Sara Stephens, Ethan Ward, Amanda Zamudio

To contact SwAEBR: call (520)621-3931 or you can e-mail: [garanda@u.arizona.edu](mailto:garanda@u.arizona.edu)

### Sponsors Page

The AZAALAS would like to thank our vendors who have sponsored the branch through advertising in the Buyer's Guide. We ask that members patronize their business and show our support of them too!

**Allentown Caging & Equipment**  
Ron Orta  
(800)762-2243

**Alternative Design Mfct**  
Eddie Loyd @  
(800)320-2459

**Andersons/Bed-O'Cobs**  
Ted Weaver @  
(800)537-3370

**A. K. Roseberry & Associates**  
Ardis Roseberry @  
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**Animal Technologies Ltd**  
Albert Nutbrown @  
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**Braintree Scientific**  
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**Simonsen Laboratories Inc**  
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*Forms due 4/30/02*