



# Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Vol. 20 No. 1  
January 2007

Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

**Have you sent in your membership renewal? If not, see form on last page.**

## International Tech Week - Jan 28 Feb 3 Show Your Co-workers Your Appreciation!

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### Arizona Branch AALAS News

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### President's Farewell Message

I would like to thank everyone in AzAALAS for a wonderful year. Our Video conference's were great successes with outstanding speakers: Dr. Peder Cuneo, Officer Dennis Maciborski and Officer Kyle Morrison. The summer event at the Flagstaff Arboretum was a fun and interesting time for all who were able to attend. My thanks for Chrystal Redding for setting up this great outing.

We joined SwAEER to table at the Sally Ride Festival at ASU for the first time and had a great time interacting with the kids. Many thanks to Jeff Williams, Dona Sledge, Sandra Schenone, Grace Aranda and Paula Johnson for their time and participation. We will be doing this again on February 25 so if you would like to join us let us know.

Arizona also had an outstanding representation at the National AALAS this past fall, with the highlight being our very own April Wagner as Outstanding Technician of the Year. Congratulations once again to April! To all those Technicians out there - "Keep up the great work", we need to keep those nominations going!

The Holiday Installation at the Ellis house was enjoyable for everyone and I was glad to pass the torch to incoming president Jeri Ellis, I am sure she will do a great job. She threw a great party, and the large number of items for the Louise Brooks Memorial Raffle benefiting our regional charities made it a fun and successful venture for us all - a total of over \$2000 was collected for donation to our worthy organizations.

We need all members to assist with the upcoming Spring Symposium on February 16th in the Phoenix area. If you are interested in getting involved and

### Important Branch Dates

Intl Tech Week - 1/28-2/3/07  
IACUC & IBC Post Approval  
Compliance Conference - 2/14-15/07  
Spring Symposium - 2/16/07  
Holiday Installation - 12/8/07

being on a committee or interested in being a presenter, please let a Board member know as soon as possible. Make sure to mark your calendars and hope to see you all there!

Thank you again for a wonderful year and I look forward to seeing you at future meetings. - Tim Martin, Past President

### Incoming Presidents Message

Greetings and Happy New Year, Arizona AALAS! I am both honored and excited to serve as your President. I believe 2007 will be a very fruitful year for AZAALAS, filled with events that are educational, eye-opening, entertaining, inspiring and designed with you in mind. This organization is for and about you and the contributions you make to Laboratory Animal Science.

Arizona AALAS is a vital and relevant resource for those of us working in all facets of this industry. I invite you to join us today. It is you, our members that make us strong. We have included a membership form with this newsletter and dues are just \$10.00 for the entire year. Welcome back and welcome aboard!

My first "official duty," as incoming president was to host the Holiday Installation Event in my home.

### **Member Profile - Philip Ratay**

Philip Ratay received his initial training at the United States Army Medical Research Institute for infectious diseases in Fredrick, MD. Staff Sargent Thomas Aman greatly influenced his interest in animal research. He went to work for a civilian research company in Fredrick, was called back to active duty for six months but was never shipped overseas, and returned to work with the civilian research company. He moved to Baltimore, MD to work at Johns Hopkins University where he stayed for thirteen years. He became an Animal Technologist in February, 2002, came to Arizona in 2004, and began work at ASU in July 2005. He is especially interested in vaccine development because it directly helps people and animals avoid serious diseases.

Phil has worked with rodents, primates, farm animals, birds, non-traditional large animals and is experienced with all types of caging and most of the equipment associated with an animal facility. He has been a national member of AALAS for five years and an AZ Branch member for a year and a half. Phil achieved his LAT certification in November...Congratulations Phil! He is single, enjoys swimming and reading, and takes care of two small dogs at home. He tries to influence others simply by setting a good example with his work ethics.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Sandra Schenone - Your New Branch Secretary**

Sandra is a RLATG and the Supervising Animal Technologist/Training Coordinator in the Department of Animal Care and Technologies at ASU. She came to Arizona in the early '90s, left for a while and returned to begin work at ASU in July of 1998. Sandra received her BA in anthropology with a concentration in primatology, at Cal. State University, Sacramento in 1990. She was a student at Moorpark EATM (Exotic Animal Training and Management; America's Teaching Zoo) and left to work at the Primate Foundation of Arizona. She went to Las Vegas to work at the Las Vegas Zoo, but soon returned to her current position at ASU. She has been both a National and an Arizona Branch member of AALAS for 8 years.

Sandra said she got into this field because, "In college, I became more aware of the needs of captive primates and exotics, then a friend referred me to ASU." She has since worked with a wide variety of animals including the great apes, monkeys, rodents, exotic & domestic hoof stock, exotic & domestic cats, exotic & domestic canines, marsupials, birds, venomous & non-venomous reptiles, amphibians, and fish. She has worked with a variety of caging and containment structures and equipment such as cage washer, autoclave, building automation, and an incinerator. People in different areas have influenced her career, but locally, James Badman, Dr. Dale DeNardo and Dr. Andy Holycross, with their patience and hands on training, inspired her interest and appreciation in reptiles.

Camping, road trips, reading, gardening and cooking are among Sandra's interests and she takes care of a dog, a cat and tortoises at home. She always wanted to teach and train horses which lead into her work with animals and her special interest in animal enrichment and quality husbandry. She also feels staff education, "education, not just a college degree, but about various aspects of animal care," and staff enrichment are equally important.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Congratulations to Dustin McAndrew, Arizona AALAS 2006 Technician of the Year**

Dustin is an Animal Technician at Arizona State University where he specializes in non-traditional species. He received his B.S. from Boise State University in Biology with an emphasis in Zoology (and he is still giddy over Boise's perfect football season and upset of Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl). He spent 9 months volunteering at the Boise Zoo before coming to Arizona in 2004. He worked a three month Internship at the Wildlife World Zoo and volunteered 3 months in a Veterinary clinic. He heard about the position at ASU through a friend, and was hired in April, 2005. He works with rodents, insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish. He is familiar with many types of caging, including micro isolator, ventilated and multiple non-traditional caging, and he even modified amphibian cages to prevent belly lesions on bullfrogs. Dustin has worked with the cage washer, autoclave, and an Aquatic Habitats stand alone system.

Dustin co-authored a poster at National AALAS and will give a presentation at the Arizona Branch Symposium in February. He always wanted to be a zoo keeper, hence his particular interest in non-traditional species. He has been a National and Arizona Branch member of AALAS for a year and a half. Animal conservation and care are very important to him and his diligent work and attention to detail earned him Technician of the Year. To influence others he said, "By working hard, I can lead by example. Experience can't get you as far without hard work and doing your best."

Away from the work place, Dustin loves to cook and says he is pretty good. He has an African Spurred Tortoise known as Herbie and, after falling off his bike and breaking his hand, he still enjoys mountain biking.

### **Deadline Approaching to Run for Office**

February 1 is the deadline to submit to [amy.sauls@aalas.org](mailto:amy.sauls@aalas.org) a candidate packet to run for vice president-elect in the 2007 AALAS election. The first term of this four-year commitment commences at the close of the 2007 National Meeting in Charlotte. Visit the AALAS website to find eligibility requirements, vice president-elect candidate packet forms, and how to submit completed forms & CVs for nomination.

To access the forms, login to the site, and select Leadership from the Association menu in the left-hand navigation.

April 13 is the deadline to submit to the AALAS office nominating petitions to run for district trustee or alternate trustee in the election. Three-year terms commence at the close of the AALAS National Meeting in Charlotte. The website has information on open positions, eligibility requirements, and the downloadable nominating petition. To be placed on the ballot, you must meet the eligibility requirements and submit nominating petitions with the signatures of at least 25 current AALAS national members from within your district.

Did you know that the address to which your publications are mailed is the district in which you must vote? Make sure your vote counts! Email [beverly.osing@aalas.org](mailto:beverly.osing@aalas.org) today to verify that your shipping address and district match.

We had a wonderful time! I love parties, good people, good food, and of course there were tons of raffle prizes given out! The best part was in the money we raised for the Louise Brookes Memorial, awarding the technicians and members of the year and announcing our fabulous new board members. Thank you to all who attended and those who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets!

International Tech week is coming up soon! Many facilities

around Arizona are making preparations to honor you for your vital contributions. It is my hope everyone will participate in honoring one another and accepting the honors we deserve. Eat cake!

It is also my hope to have a full house at our Spring Symposium in Phoenix this February 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for professional growth, networking, and meeting new and old friends. AZAALAS symposiums have always been a great experience for me. Hope to see you there!

I will close with a word of gratitude for Grace Aranda, Tim Martin, Paula Johnson, and Cindy Madura. Thank you for your guidance and support. Thanks, guys!

If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me. Jeri Ellis - (520)626-9699 or email [jkellis@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jkellis@email.arizona.edu)

### **Past Meeting Minutes**

#### **Minutes of the 11/16/06 Board Meeting**

Meeting began at 12:04 p.m. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Central Animal Facility at the University of Arizona in Tucson, St Joseph's Hospital, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University

President Tim Martin opened the meeting. The minutes from September 28, 2006 were approved.

Treasurer Grace Aranda distributed the financial update. There is currently \$6897 in our various accounts. This does not include some checks including one for conference call, buyers guide printing and mailing and final payment on table banner. Membership dues will be coming in January.

Secretary Chrystal Redding distributed new membership rosters to the board. We have 130 members.

Fall video conference, Police Detection Canines: Best Partners in Law Enforcement was hosted at the U of A with participants at UA Phx and W.L. Gore. The turn out was good and Tim thanked Jeri Ellis for emceeding this event.

Louise Brooks Memorial Raffle update given by Grace. Covance donated \$500 to go specifically to Northland Hospice. Other general donations have been made that will help to cover expenses for the raffle. Sales seem to be going well and Grace will have an update after the event on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Grace provided a Buyers Guide update. There was a problem with the graphics, but it has been remedied once printed should be in the mail soon.

Tim reported that the MSMR/SwAEBR Post approval compliance conference on February 14-15 and AZ AALAS spring symposium on February 16<sup>th</sup> will be in Phoenix at the Embassy Suites Hotel by the Phoenix Airport. Jeff Williams has 4 people that are interested in presenting from ASU and wanted to know how detailed abstracts need to be. Tim explained that they can be general. Grace will do a walk through at the hotel to make sure everything is workable.

Grace gave an update on the Holiday Installation Event. Date set will be December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4p.m. at President Elect Jeri's home in Tucson. Grace and Jeri are working on a map and directions which will be distributed. Some award nominees have run into a time problem but Jeff is looking into getting something arranged to allow them to attend. All officers and nominees should make their best effort to attend.

Ballots for have been mailed. There was an error on the ballot so a revised ballot has had to be distributed. Only revised ballots will be accepted. Due date is November 30<sup>th</sup> to allow for counting before the installation. April Wagner and Bob Perrill have agreed to count ballots. Thank you both.

International Technician Week is January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 3, 2007. Grace has ordered calendars strips and pins for the branch and she will make certificates for anyone requesting them. She is working on a webpage for this event and it should be available soon. Board members should encourage folks in

their areas to participate.

Due to the upcoming symposium December and January meetings need to be scheduled. The board will hold a meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 to discuss preparations. The first meeting of 2007 will be January 18<sup>th</sup> at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m

### **Do You Know Who Your Technicians Are?**

*By Yvonne Harper, SCB TBR*

Day in and day out we walk past some of the same smiling faces we see in the hallways and animal rooms. Who are these technicians moving about in the facility, changing cages, racks and performing a number of duties? What do some of these technicians do and how do they impact the day to day function of our animal programs?

Technicians come from all walks of life, some with educational backgrounds, unique life skills and even certifications in the field. There are technicians who work while concurrently pursue a degree program, some from general fields, some science or even veterinary medicine. Technicians bring a varied background from previous vocations related to public service, medicine and other service oriented fields. Many bring skills such as organization, observation, nurturing and a hard working ethic to an animal facility. Today, our field is recognized for all that it has to offer veterinary medicine and research by providing certification programs through the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS).

Technicians vary in both background and skill level. One may see a technician performing cage changing on a daily basis, but may also perform duties that include: Tail bleeding, teeth/h hoof trimming, breeding, fostering, injections of many routes, gavaging, harvesting of tissues and organs. There are technicians who are proficient in surgical procedures such as vasectomies, c-sections, and assisting with general surgeries and implants. While others have the

patience and skill to handle difficult animals such as primates and other species, what we don't always see is the gentle balance between the technician and the animals. Technicians are most often the first to befriend and stabilize fractious temperments when the animal comes to trust the technician and feels safe in their presence through sight, smell and sound.

The impact of a technician working directly with the animal is very important to the behavior of the animal and the research itself. Not only is it important to provide a safe, dry environment for the animals, but also to provide a place in which the physical parameters are stable and stress free. Most of us are keenly aware of how important it is to keep animals fairly content and reasonably happy because it has a definite effect on the well being of the animal and the outcome of one's research. If an animal is stressed in anyway, their blood chemistries will be evidence of this aspect. Animal programs work hard to reduce these variables that in turn result in good science. Your technicians use their keen observation skills to detect these subtle changes in your animal rooms and research.

In general, we find that our technicians are very important for all that they contribute to a good animal program. Their skills are unlimited and versatile, their backgrounds as varied as their interest in the different types of research conducted. We all rely on the skills of our technicians to observe and communicate with animals and staff for a greater good. For all that they do, we are grateful to have such wonderfully well rounded and talented individuals working in the field today. We thank you all for what you do and wish you a happy laboratory technician week!

### **Arizona AALAS Symposium**

The date for the AZAALAS [Spring Symposium](#) will be February 16, 2007. This day long meeting follows the [MSMR/SwAEBR IACUC IBC Conference](#) and will be filled with practical information useful in your everyday activities. Subjects to be



### **International Laboratory Animal Technician Week Jan. 28 – Feb. 3, 2007**

AALAS would like to thank the Committee on Technician Awareness and Development (CTAD), the Technician Branch Representatives (TBRs), and other members of the AALAS community who contributed these suggestions. Note: It is recommended that you refer to your facility/company policies before organizing any Technician Week event.

AALAS Honoring Techs - AALAS is offering the lab animal science community a variety of materials and ideas to use for promoting and celebrating the 2007 Tech Week. All are available on a special Tech Week order form located in the "Bookstore" section of the AALAS website ([www.aalas.org](http://www.aalas.org)). The 2007 AALAS Tech Week materials include: posters, buttons, bracelets, retractable card holders, dry-erase boards, calendar strips and note cards.

Let us know what your facility does for tech week and we will add your write up to the next newsletter! - Cindy Madura, TBR, [madurac@u.arizona.edu](mailto:madurac@u.arizona.edu).

covered are: Trials and Tribulations of a Knock Out Mouse Breeding Colony; Animal Enrichment Signs; Aseptic Technique Used in Immuno Deficient Rodents, Transgenics, and Conducting Infectious Disease Research; Strategies for Dealing with Escaped Animals; Housing for Nontraditional Animal Species; Non GLP Animal Study Management Practices; Design of a Large Animal Long Term Containment Facility &

Operations Program and much more. Registration form on page 8 and look for updates on the website. Be sure to [Renew Your Membership](#) so you qualify for member pricing! Have questions? Email [azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu](mailto:azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu) or call Grace at (520)621-3931.

### **National Presidents Message: 2006 and Beyond**

By Bruce Kennedy

Last month, I accepted the gavel from Dr. Mark Suckow, the symbol that I soon would be leading our organization. So, it's time for me to reflect on my new responsibilities, and what the year ahead holds for all of us. I am also thinking about the many fortunes and opportunities that have come my way as a result of being affiliated with the laboratory animal community.

In 1978 my wife and I moved to Virginia from California. She was entering graduate school at Virginia Tech, and I had just finished my MS at UC Davis working with quail in a nutritional toxicology research project. At that time, animal care committees were not a requirement, and I knew little of the regulatory process, let alone anything about AALAS. But in 1979, I tried to sit for the ALAT certification as part of a technician training program. I was disappointed to learn that my time in a veterinary clinic did not qualify me for the experience criterion. Darn! My first exposure to AALAS was not very positive.

In a few years, I moved to Maryland to begin work with beagles in protein nutrition and calorimetry experiments—my first exposure to research animal models for human experiments. I met a laboratory animal veterinarian, Dr. Milt April, who introduced me to the National Capitol Area Branch of AALAS. Together we co-authored a paper on the collection of expired gases which appeared in *Laboratory Animal Science* (a precursor to today's *Comparative Medicine*), and I presented at my first National Meeting in Washington, DC. There was a turn of fortune with AALAS.

NCAB/AALAS gave me an

opportunity to network with others in the field. I enjoyed the camaraderie and the education at meetings and seminars. I became more involved as a TBR (technician branch representative) and an REB (regional examining board member in the days of paper-and-pencil exams). This was also the time of the Silver Spring (just literally down the street) monkey incidence, the arrival of PETA, and the requirement for IACUCs. In retrospect, these were historical moments that would shape all of our careers in one way or another. I call upon those incidents when I do public outreach now and address the changes in biomedical investigation from just 20 years ago. It was also my fortune during this time to qualify for my LATG certification credential and discover an interest in education.

My bosses wanted me to do more management of research projects, as well as facility management. My background in science was being put to another test, and I became more involved with PIs. As I gained experience at other facilities, I met more PIs from around the world and developed another interest in international relations. I was challenged by enabling a scientist from another country to begin his or her work in my animal facility and support the work. I came to realize that we all have much to learn from one another, regardless of our origins. Animal welfare and striving to meet the 3Rs is incumbent upon us all. I was also doing more with AALAS and became a trustee for district 3.

After job opportunities at the USDA, FDA, Hazleton (now Covance), and the NIH, my family decided it was time to return to California. My variety of experience enabled me to become a facility manager at the transgenic mouse core at Caltech. This presented yet again an opportunity to work in cutting-edge science (genetic manipulation) and with graduate students and post-docs from around the world.

When the call to run for AALAS president came, I was more active with committee work than the business of our association. I was

happy and satisfied with grassroots activity, but I relented and accepted the opportunity to become president, as well as a new job in regulatory compliance with Cal Poly Pomona.

Along my AALAS trail, I've been fortunate to have visited many branches in the past couple years, as well as some of our international affiliate organizations. Further, to bring in member involvement from the Mediterranean, I have appointed my friend Dr. Nikos Kostomitsopoulos, a veterinarian from the Greek Academy of Sciences, to the International Relations Advisory Council (IRAC).

My interests in enhancing the science in AALAS are also being realized. I appointed a scientist from outside our association, but a user of a animal research facility, to the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). Dr. Jeremy Turner studies hearing in rodents at Southern Illinois University. The many questions about noise, sound, and vibration and their effects on breeding, behavior, and physiological response are only now being asked as part of an increased emphasis on basic husbandry and facility practices.

Finally, I felt it would be a change of practice to attach a theme or concept to our annual meeting—something that would be a focus and draw in others who work in and around our animal facilities. I chose oncology since it is an active area of research. Scientists can be invited to present on it, vet techs are concerned with evaluating tumors, vendors have products to analyze neoplasms and produce animal models with them, and EH&S folks must address associated hazards, and so on. Thus, I encourage the AALAS community to be thinking now about what they can bring to Charlotte to share as we work in research animal technology to treat and cure the family of cancer diseases.

My AALAS career has been many years in the making and I'm proud to tell the membership about it. I do because I think it demonstrates how one can progress in this field and make contributions.

How ironic it is to not be able to sit for the ALAT, yet years later be part of the groups that write the manuals and prepare the exams. And to experience the fear and frustration of sitting for another exam (CMAR, for which I took my fourth test only a week before Salt Lake City), just like our members do for technician certification, ACLAM diplomate status, and soon IACUC and bio-safety specializations (these are projects in the works).

In short, AALAS has many things to offer to many people. Our membership of more than 12,000 is diverse and rich. The national office staff of 30 is there to ably support our association. Collectively, we provide each other many opportunities. Forty-nine presidents before me worked to build AALAS, and many will follow me. I just hope that during my year of presidency you will find your own fortune by participating as I have done.

### **Awards Announcement**

*Many thanks to the selection committee for their service!*

### **Technician of the Year Nominees**

**Phil Ratay**, Animal Technologist,  
Weekend Lead, DACT, ASU

Phil is a "birder". His backyard is designed to make the Arizona native species birds feel they are in native habitat. He also is responsible for training new staff members at the various buildings DACT services. He is studying for his LAT exam (he passed), and will be taking the exam in November of 2006. He attended the 2006 National AALAS Conference in Salt Lake City. He has submitted his profile and an essay regarding his experience at the convention to the AZAALAS newsletter. He was selected for the Lead position because of his knowledge of animal care, his interest in advancing his career and the opportunity of self satisfaction of having the responsibility of the oversight of all DACT serviced buildings while the majority of the staff are enjoying their two days off. His knowledge and skills that he

brings to his position, are an asset and credit to himself, DACT and Arizona State University.

**Lani Rathke**, Animal Technologist,  
Lead, DACT, ASU

Lani began her career at ASU as an Animal Technician in the spring of 2004. Since that time She has advanced to the position of Animal Technologist, Lead. She has supervised two animal facilities while a Lead. She was instrumental in commissioning 30,000 square feed of research space in the vivarium. She is responsible for the ASU KO breeding colony. She has instituted a detailed computer program that tracks the breeding colony by parentage. She always has good ideas to share that benefit the department. She shows a great deal of concern for the animals she works with and is very interested in the different research projects. She is continuing to advance in the laboratory animal field. She passed the ALAT and will soon take the LAT exam. She is always willing to accept additional responsibilities and assignments. She is credit to the Animal Care profession, herself and to Arizona State University.

**Wendy Wong**, Animal Technician,  
ASU

Wendy is an active member of AZAALAS and participates in AALAS functions in her spare time. She is a unique member of our animal care team. Unlike most technicians she has the ability to work in almost every area on campus with very few exceptions. She can be trusted to care for a variety of different species from amphibians and fish all the way up to non-human primates. She is always willing to help train new employees and she keeps other employees motivated and directed. She is trustworthy and diligent, professional and exhibits qualities of a team leader. She truly is an asset to our animal care team. Her native language has gapped the bridge between investigators and ourselves on many occasions, helping to avoid conflict. She is an active member of

AALAS' she recently received her ALAT and immediately began studying for the LAT. She is motivated to obtain the highest level of certification and with her dedication she is sure to succeed. She shows a genuine interest in the field of animal research and provides all the animals she works with the best quality care. She is enthusiastic and recognizes the importance of her role. Her cheerful attitude makes her a pleasure to work with and her smile brightens the work day. She demonstrates proficiency, accuracy, motivation and is epically driven to master every task she undertakes. Thank you very much for her dedication, her accomplishments do not go unnoticed. She has been an outstanding technician at Arizona State University. She shows a great deal of concern for the animals she works with. She is very thorough in her work and has an excellent attention to detail. She picks up on new tasks quickly, and she is always willing to help her coworkers. She has shown an interest in continuing to advance in the laboratory animal field. She an asset to the animal care team.

### **2006 Arizona Branch Technician of the Year**

**Dustin McAndrew**  
Animal Technician  
Arizona State University

Dustin has contributed to finding new ways to house and enrich our 15 different species of non-traditional animals we house at ASU. He care's for his pet tortoise and helps friends take care of their animals as they travel. He co-authored a poster titled Alternative housing of *Xenopus laevis*. This poster was presented at National AALAS 2006. He is currently working on his presentation on housing of non traditional animals, which he will present at the arizona symposium in February. He has searched for, acquired and fabricated materials to make platforms for our bullfrogs after finding lesions on their bellies from rubbing in the tubs they are housed

### **4th Annual Lab Products Animal Technician Award**

Lab Products, Inc. is pleased to announce the 4th Annual Lab Products Animal Technician Awards Program. This program is intended to reward deserving animal care technicians from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada with the opportunity to attend their first National AALAS Meeting. One award recipient will be selected from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada. The award will be 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 \$250 to cover incidentals while attending the AALAS Meeting. For details of the award and nomination procedure email [tdarby@labproductsinc.com](mailto:tdarby@labproductsinc.com)

**NOMINATIONS MUST BE  
RECEIVED BY 6/15/07**

in. He has never called in sick to work and even after crashing his bike, breaking his hand and just before passing out, he had someone else call in and let me know he would not be in to work that day. He is very responsible, he is very meticulous at checking the animals daily for injuries. He helps his lead to cross train weekend staff and other members of the department on non-traditional animals. He makes a point to look up information in his free time of all new species coming in to the facility to make sure he knows their needs. He loves his area and the type of animals so much he turned down a promotion in another area, and chose to wait for advancement in the non-traditional areas. He has been a great asset, leader to other technicians and has

and honest and caring personality. I believe his work ethic and knowledge is something for all other technicians to look up to. He is a credit to himself, DACT and Arizona State University.

### **Member of the Year Nominees**

**Grace Aranda**, Instructional  
Specialist, UA

Grace devotes countless hours to the AZ Branch. She keeps the organization flowing and works hard to keep AZAALAS in the forefront of The National organizations radar by keeping the Meeting calendar. She is very involved with the branch and assists members with anything needed. She is the main reason AALAS exists in Arizona -as web master, treasurer, assists the secretary, organizes of meetings and video conferences - or assists those attempting to do the organizing, etc. She is on the new District 8 Council. The list is too long, but well known to all. She is active in supporting the UA Animal Task Force, which strives to assure that those conducting research using animals as models can continue to do so in a safe manner. She is also active in SWAEBR and CFAAR with public outreach to schools, teachers, and the community to assure they are aware of the important information that is gained and the therapies and cures that are reached due to animal research.

**Jane Criswell**, Retired research  
technician and animal care  
supervisor, UA

Jane was a founding member of this branch has always been an active member and willing to lend a hand, find extra help, and goes out of her way to make things run smoothly. Her hard work on the awards committee promoting members of AZAALAS is responsible for our branch tech of the year being named national technician of the year. She puts in effort for the branch as a member of the editorial committee for the AZAALAS branch even though she isnt currently in the field. She is always willing to be

involved the Pet week activities and has gotten involved in other animal related programs. She is a genuine animal lover who works to improve their situations. She is a member of the editorial board for the AZ CFAAR organization

**Tim Martin**, Director,  
St Joseph's Hospital

Tim has taken his responsibility to the branch seriously and works to promote the branch to all of AALAS. He is a new member of the District 8 Council and is working to see that the Arizona branch is well represented within the district. He works to get more members involved from several institutions in the Phoenix area. Though his schedule is crazy busy he always makes an effort to respond to phone calls and emails pertaining to the board. He has worked to keep the incoming president informed and ensuring that when she takes office in the new year she feels comfortable with her duties. He has been an active board member of SWAEBR for many years and works to promote biomedical research. He is involved in going to schools and organizations to promote science, research and animal care. He acts as judge for the regional science fairs in his area.

**April Wagner**, Research  
Technician, University Of Arizona

April is an active member of the branch and is always willing to lend a hand. She is always willing to go out of her way to take on duties like the AALAS Foundation Auction item. She always attends AALAS meetings and functions and often encourages others to attend as well. She has been a member of the newsletter publications committee for several years and always does so in a thorough and friendly manner. It is a pleasure to work with her not only in the branch but in the workplace as well. She is a key member of the Diagnostic Services. She is a central figure in performing research experiments, many of which involve working with animals. She has also participated in presentations to local

schools during National Pet Week. She is a member of the editorial board for the Arizona CFAAR organization.

**Bob Perrill**, Research technician,  
UA Vet science

Bob is an active and dedicated member of the board and is always willing to lend a hand or offer advice for improvements. He has been instrumental in getting the newsletter out and takes his position on the publication committee seriously. He has taken initiative and works to get the member profiles done and submitted in a timely manner making the newsletter editors job so much easier. He believes in promoting the branch and encourages others to participate as well. He worked with the Desert Museum for a number of years. He worked for University Animal Care in Husbandry and surgery and currently works with Valley fever research.

**Jeff Williams**, Assistant Manager,  
Arizona State University, DACT

Jeff hasn't been a member of the AZ branch for a long time but he has taken his membership seriously and has been actively involved since day one. He not only attends meetings but he works to get others involved and works hard to promote the branch. He is always willing to step up and volunteer for anything he can do. He has really worked to get those at his facility to participate in branch events. He acted as representative for SwAEER this year in the absence of the regular person. He volunteered to man a table at the Sally Ride event in conjunction with the SwAEER.

### **2006 Arizona Branch Member of the Year**

**Chrystal Redding**  
Facility Manager  
Northern Arizona University

Chrystal has been active in getting the branch promoted in the Flagstaff

area even before coming on the board and has gone out of her way to provide refreshments, information and outreach in that area. She has really stepped up as our new secretary and works hard to do a good job. She keeps the board well informed. She worked on the summer fun event pretty much on her own in Flagstaff and did a great job in promoting the branch by providing a great program and site for this event. She deserves to be commended for all she has done. She has been active in SWAEER for a number of years and promotes public outreach to schools, teachers, and the community in Flagstaff to assure they are aware of the important information that is gained and the therapies and cures that are reached due to animal research. She acted as judge for the NARSEF science fair and chose this years science fair winners in her area for biomedical research for SWAEER.

### **Congratulations April!**



### **Arizona branch is honored to have another National AALAS Technician of the Year ...April Wagner!**

I am extremely honored to receive the 2006 Technician of the Year Award. There have been so many talented winners in the past and I am thrilled to be one of them. I would first like to thank AALAS for providing such an important award. Technicians play a very significant role in laboratory animal science and they deserve to be recognized – if you don't mind me tooting my own horn! Secondly, I would like to thank Arizona AALAS and my boss Dr. Dave Besselsen for providing me with the funds to attend the National meeting. I would not

have been able to attend without their generous assistance. I also want to thank Jane Criswell (Arizona AALAS) for submitting my award nomination. It turns out that she submitted my nomination three times - her persistence finally paid off! And last but surely not least, I would like to thank all of the wonderful people that took time out of their busy schedules to write letters for my nomination - Dave Besselsen, Jessie Loganbill, Grace Aranda, Paula Johnson, Bob Perrill and Jane Criswell. I know that I couldn't be successful without my co-workers and fellow technicians! - April M. Wagner, B.S., ALAT

### **What I Did at Salt Lake**

*By Susan Neill-Eastwood, Lead,  
Arizona State University, DACT*

The opportunity to go to the AALAS conference in Salt Lake City was a pleasant bonus to this job. I learned that not only is there a vast diversity of people involved in this area of animal care but also that the places that participate in AALAS and work with research animals is equally diverse in size and scope.

The majority of the seminars about Hepavirus and a Shakespearian view about housing rodents or round tables with techs as vet techs that I was able to attend were very interesting. Some were well above the level of activity that I can participate in, the actual research and finds done by the researches, but enlighten to see it from another perspective. The primate enrichment and training class that I was signed up although was more of a review of knowledge that I have gained and used in the past but it did provided some beneficial materials, both visual and written, that I will happily share it with anyone interested in Primate enrichment and training.

The vendor area also was a wealth of information. Seeing what new products are available was interesting. Getting to talk to several of the vendors gave me better understand about and some of subtle nuances of the products that we already have and how to get the



most out of them.

Meeting and networking with other people who do the same thing that we do also provide a wealth of knowledge that can provide help with questions in the future. Thanks for the opportunity, and well as they say what happened in Salt Lake stays in Salt Lake.

### **My Experience as a First Time Attendee of the National AALAS Meeting**

*By Rebecca Hyzer LVT, LAT  
Lead Animal Technologist, Arizona State University, DACT*

I was lucky to be so close to the location of the national meeting. It was held in Salt Lake City, Utah and I was in Tempe, Arizona. That meant that I only had to endure about a two hour flight, it was a relief. I really dislike flying and the 6 ½ hour flight I take home to New York every year always requires a two day recovery period, the two hour flight to Utah I could handle without problem. I attended the meeting with our Department Director along with three other technicians from my respective institution, Arizona State University. We are all Leads of drastically different areas on campus; one from a non traditional area, another from a non-human primate area, one who needs to know all seven buildings on campus and myself who works in bio containment facilities. Needless to say, we all had different areas of interest and the national meeting promised to explore them all. We couldn't wait to get there.

We arrived Sunday morning and checked into our hotel which was right across the street from the convention center. We pushed our bags through the door and went straight to the convention hall. It was the day before the meeting began but we already had a full schedule. We had a breakfast buffet with Ancare and a lunch with Allentown, First Timer Orientation, Tech trade presentations to attend, a general meeting speaker in the evening, a dinner to attend with our rep from Pharmacal and we also had to find time to register and get our

admissions badges. We managed to pull it all off without a hitch and our dinner with Pharmacal was a much needed break with excellent food. We were taken to a very nice steak house in down town Salt Lake and five technicians from various other institutions attended the dinner along with the four of us. We all talked for hours about where we worked and what we did. We gave each other advice and ideas for handling situations and we all discovered that we had a lot in common – these were some really interesting people.

The next day was the true beginning of the convention. We all meet for breakfast and then headed across the street. Our first stop was the AALAS booth where we learned about the Tech Fun Fair. It's a game where you answer about 150 – 200 questions in a day and a half. Most of the answers are found by visiting the exhibits and others are found through attending different activities and seminars that take place at the convention. Essentially it's a scavenger hunt for information. By turning in the completed test by the deadline and scoring an 80% or above you are entered into a raffle. The prizes, all donated by different vendors, ranged from tee shirts to \$100 gift cards. I was lucky enough to win a really nice gift basket from SoBran that was packed full of goodies. We had it in our hearts to stop at each and every vendor anyway so the Fun Fair was the perfect event for us to participate in. The fun fair challenge gave us the opportunity to interact with the vendors in a way we normally would not have. It gave us a chance to talk to a vendor that we probably would have passed by and therefore gave us a lot of knowledge we otherwise would have missed. I would recommend the Tech Fun Fair to any first time attendee; it really helps give you a little direction and makes walking through the exhibits a much more comfortable and gratifying experience.

Outside the convention and the main events there was never a dull moment. Different vendors held hospitality events and hosted shows after hours like an American Idol

stage performance and a private showing by the Tabernacle Choir. We attended a number of different hospitality events and were able to see the stunning performance by the Tabernacle Choir. The Choir event was hosted by Allentown Inc. and was very much appreciated. It gave everyone who attended a chance experience the culture of our host city and was also an opportunity to see one of the nation's most renowned performing acts. Before the Choir performed Allentown hosted a very elegant four-course meal in one of the Mormon halls. The food was amazing and our host was very gracious. Throughout the rest of the week, we all attended different seminars and workshops that suited our specific interests and none of us walked away disappointed.

Between all the seminars, workshops, vendors and the other outside activities we came home exhausted. The National Meeting was all that we had expected and more, there really was something for everyone. We spent time going through the posters, gathering information for people back in Tempe that couldn't attend and hitting up the vendors for free gifts and promotionals. Each of us with our different interests, gained at least one useful piece of information from each event we attended. All of us came home with new ideas and a renewed excitement for our work. It was a one of a kind experience and I would certainly attend again if given the opportunity.

### **AALAS in Salt Lake City Utah**

*By Philip Ratay, ALAT, Weekend  
Lead Animal Technologist,  
ASU/DACT*

The AALAS convention in Salt Lake City was very informative. There were many topics that I learned about. At the opening General session there was a talk about the influenza pandemics throughout history, they happened in 1918, 1957, and 1968 and they killed millions of people. Many people think that there will not be another pandemic in our future but according

to the speaker it is not a matter of if it happens, it is a matter of when it is going to happen again. The H5N1 outbreaks of 2004 are a major cause for concern. The world can not produce enough flu vaccine for everyone on our planet so if it does happen again the world may be in trouble.

Another session that I went to talked about how to write one page task specific SOPs. This was interesting but the SOP book will be very thick with pages.

At the Technician Lunch and Learn there were several round table discussions that were informative. One session was about enrichment which talked about the various forms of enrichment for mice, rats, monkeys, rabbits and various other lab animals. Jaime and I attended an off site class at The University of Utah. The class was Housing, Care and Handling of Non-traditional species presented by Jon Gale, LATG. John is the animal facility supervisor and is a very interesting man.

We were able to have a look at a lot of the different species used by the biology dept and some of the concerns for their care, housing and handling. All of the non traditional species used there require some degree of special care and handling. They have pythons like the ones we have at ASU. We were able to see pictures of what someone's arm looked like after a venomous snake bite and the progression of the venom.

Some of the other animals that we had the opportunity to see, were monitor lizards, cone snails, wood rats, crocodiles, (one of which Jaime got to hold), birds and fish. It was a very interesting class and it was a great way to end our trip to the National AALAS Conference.

### **Technician Certification: Future Outlook**

The Certification & Registry Board (CRB) held a round-table discussion at the National Meeting to focus on issues in the technician certification and Registry programs. The committee discussed the benefits to

the membership of advancing these programs to add the recertification of the technician credential. Where certification recognizes that an individual has demonstrated a proficiency in a body of knowledge, recertification is the periodic re-credentialing of the certification. National professional certification organizations recommend that certification programs include recertification to demonstrate continuing competency in the field. Recertification has become widely accepted in many fields, especially the health professions. Examples in the lab animal field include managers (CMAR), IRB, and IACUC administrators. Adding a recertification to AALAS technician certification would protect the gold standard of AALAS technician credentialing. The CRB will propose the development of a recertification process in the technician certification program at the February BOT meeting.

### **Technician Certification Tips:**

Submitting an application for a technician certification exam? With the volume of applications being received, please be aware that application processing now takes 4-6 weeks. If you have not received your authorization or any correspondence from AALAS by the sixth week, then you may want to call AALAS to inquire about your application's status.

Be sure to take advantage of the AALAS Learning Library (ALL) as you prepare for your certification exam. You can access for free Taking an AALAS Technician Certification Examination, which has tips to get you ready for the exam and to improve your test-taking skills. Plus, it has demos of the computer screens of the certification exam. If you have an account on the ALL, taking the courses on your certification level and practicing with the review exams will help prepare you even more for your certification exam. Find these courses at [www.aalaslearninglibrary.org](http://www.aalaslearninglibrary.org).

## **2007 SwAEBR Essay Contest**



### **Essay Winners Receive Paid Summer Internships in a Research Institution**

Just write an essay on:  
**"How Has Biomedical Research Using Animals Benefited a Pet, You, or Someone You Know?"**

**Entries Due 3/16/07**

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**For Questions Contact:**  
Ms. Grace Aranda  
520-621-3931 or

Dr. Paula Johnson  
520-621-3483 or

E-mail: [swaebr@ahsc.arizona.edu](mailto:swaebr@ahsc.arizona.edu)

## **AZAALAS Spring Symposium - February 16, 2007: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Embassy Suites Hotel Phoenix-Airport - Reserve online or Call 1-800-EMBASSY

**The Arizona AALAS and SwAEBR are proud to present this years symposium:**

**Design of a Large Mammal Long Term Containment Facility and Operations Program**  
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**Optimization of Immunization Protocols for Monoclonal Antibodies Production, the Role of Adjuvant**  
**Interviewing New Employees: How Can You Be Safe**  
**Transgenic Quiz**

*You can pick up new techniques and ideas at this meeting that may be useful in your own work.*

**Registration is filling up fast so get your registration in by February 1st!**

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Full Registration** (includes lt breakfast & lunch): **\$50** branch member/presenter/spouse or  
**\$65** Nonmember

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**My company would like to sponsor/cosponsor a break in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_**  
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**Make one check payable to Arizona AALAS for the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_**  
**Due 2/1/07 (\$10 late fee after)**

**Mail to: AZAALAS, University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101**

**If you have any questions call Grace at (520)621-3931 or email [azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu](mailto:azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu)**

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

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## ARIZONA BRANCH AALAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for membership in the Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science.  
DUES (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_ *Arizona Branch Newsletter* subscription is included \_\_\_ Renewal? \_\_\_ Nat'l Member?

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If a new membership, name and phone number of (2) AALAS members: \_\_\_\_\_

Send me a receipt for my records No\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_ Mail me a paper copy of newsletter No\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_

Add me to the AZAALAS List for branch news and updates No\_\_\_ Yes\_\_\_ ; and/or

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