
TBR NEWS & VIEWS

Quarter 1 2016

Hello District 8 Members,

Welcome to the first edition of the 2016 TBR News & Views. This article is a collection of what branches from around our district have been up to for the last few months. Please give it a read and join each branch in celebrating their accomplishments and you may find terrific ideas for your own branch or institutions. Each branch's section is written and submitted by the branch Technician Branch Representative (TBR). Thank you all for participating!

If any of you readers have ideas about what information you would like to see in future editions or other types of articles you would like to see please let me know.

Sincerely,

Amber Carte

District 8 Trustee

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Southern California

SCB-AALAS has started out the year with a very successful membership drive! We welcome all of our new and returning members as well as our new Board members, and we're looking forward to what 2016 has in store for our branch! One of the exciting opportunities we have for our members this year is a branch-sponsored travel award for the AALAS National Meeting. The award will cover travel costs to allow an SCB-AALAS member to attend this important meeting, which might otherwise be financially out of reach. Be on the lookout for a flyer with award details coming out soon! Additionally, we are in the planning stages of some fun (and educational) activities that may include an exotic animal workshop, advanced surgical workshop, and, along with the Palms to Pines Branch of AALAS, a Fall Symposium.

Sacramento Valley

The Sacramento Valley branch was very active for tech week this year. Genentech provided a catered breakfast for the entire department and also received customized beach towels. The Jackson Laboratory West had a full line up of fitness challenges, trivia, scavenger hunts, auctions, and provided breakfasts and box lunches! UC Davis also provided breakfasts and lunches to its tech's as well. At the end of tech week we wrapped up the year with an amazing awards banquet with the very inspiring key note speaker AALAS Vice President Paige Ebert. Awards were presented to Marlea Lamoureux for Technician of the year, Ted Tracy for Member of the year, and the Genentech Reproductive Technology Team for the Purina Award. Congratulations to all of the winners! Our next meet and greet will be in Davis on March 11th. Please check our Facebook page for details for those interested. We are all very excited to start 2016 with monthly lectures, wet-labs, and meet ups!

San Diego

We will be hosting our very own Mini Leadership Academy on April 16th. With inspiring guest speakers Laura Conour (AALAS President) and Ann Turner (AALAS Executive Director), along with a few of our SDAALAS committee members. This event is focusing on expanding member's leadership skills as well as AALAS knowledge and ways to get involved.

The **SDAALAS Outreach Team** participated in a unique outreach event this fall. The event was Encuentros Education and Career Exploration Conference held at Mira Costa College. The event focused on education and careers in STEM, which was attended by over 600 Latino boys from middle schools and high schools around North San Diego County. Outreach in this community is critical as the dropout rates have been alarmingly high. The Encuentros mission is a result of collaborative efforts made with partners in the community resulting in the common goal of ensuring males of Latino descent will become contributing and participating citizens of this nation through improved educational opportunities, personal commitment and community involvement. Encuentros Leadership was organized in 2003 to address the alarmingly high dropout rates of Latino males.

Tech Week 2016:

Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation One day, we engaged in a taco luncheon. On another day, a supervisor brought in homemade banana bread for the technicians to enjoy. We also served chips and dip, donuts, Girl Scout cookies, a basket of fruit and homemade cookies on a separate day. On the final day, each employee was given a Bistro card (Bistro- GNF Gourmet restaurant) containing a set amount of money for a special catered breakfast. In addition, each employee was given a goodie bag containing gift cards and various items from different vendors. A get-together was organized after for the group to relax and enjoy.

Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute We invited all labs and close collaborators to join us in taking the time to offer special recognition to those hardworking individuals at SBP who care for our animals and ensure their humane treatment in the name of science. There was an overwhelming response and many demonstrated their generous support of this year's motto "Technicians Champions of Research." The week started off with lots of catered snacks and lunches by our partners in the labs and industry supporters. As the SBP community knows, besides recognizing the efforts and contributions of vivarium personnel, the Animal Resources Department has made it a tradition to single out one individual during tech week as our Employee of the year. This took place during a breezy noontime lunch sponsored by the Animal Resources Department with special catering brought in from Porkyland, La Jolla. The day and setting were perfect as team members enjoyed their lunch outdoors under the shade of Torrey Pine trees. In bestowing the award, the qualities we look for are individuals that are exceptional in what they do and exhibit a team player attitude. We also look for a strong work ethic, professionalism, and commitment to SBP's 5 core values: Commitment, Collaboration, Communication, Community, & Compassion. This year Elizabeth Chappell was recognized with that distinction. Elizabeth's excellent work ethic and attitude have helped the department make it through some tough operational challenges in the past year. The success of our department is largely dependent on having resilient and capable staff members such as Elizabeth Chappell. We truly believe in the significance of making this designation during Tech Week.

Oregon

Oregon AALAS has had a busy couple of months. In January we held our annual Awards Banquet. We were thrilled to celebrate Cassie Stodieck being recognized as the 2015 Technician of the Year, and Dr. Tom Chatkupt as the 2015 Arthur Hall Leadership Award recipient. Other honors recognized were Dr. Lauren Drew Martin being presented with the 2015 ACLAM Henry & Lois Award, and Kati Marshall receiving both the 2015 ANCARE ILAM Scholarship as well as the 2015 D8 Ron Orta Humanitarian Award. AALAS certifications were also recognized; the Branch now has 8 new ALATs, 7 new LATS, 3 new LATGs, and 1 new CMAR. We also celebrated the addition of a new Surgical Research Specialist.

International Technician Appreciation Week was celebrated at all of the OAALAS facilities. Activities included: Daily treats, raffles, pizza parties, a taco potluck, donuts, meals delivered to the staff daily (fajitas, breakfast, tapas, and pizza), and a breakfast made for the staff by the management team.

Gifts are always a highlight! Area technicians were presented with mini First-Aid kits (complete with an emergency stash of M&Ms), coffee cards, and candy and gift card goodie bags.

Speakers were also invited to discuss topics relevant for technicians, including a presentation on animal models of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and a talk by Dr. Helen Diggs titled A Kindness of Animal Technicians.

The fun didn't stop at work – a couple of facilities took their techs out for fun at Happy Hour – in one instance the research staff covered the cost.

