CHAPTER REPORTS

U.S. Aquaculture Society

Over the last few months your Board of Directors has been busily moving forward on a number of new initiatives. Recently you should have received an email with a link (www.surveymonkey.com/r/BDMZV82) that takes you to our member satisfaction survey. Currently more than 10 percent of USAS members have already responded. We need to hear from as many members as possible. This is the only way we have to gauge your satisfaction and set direction for member needs that will help guide our agenda for the coming years.

We will also be launching a new website in the coming weeks that will better represent aquaculture in the United States. Aquaculture in the United States involves numerous species and our new site will change to reflect all aspects of US aquaculture including our suppliers and industry support. The screenshots you see here are just a sample of what is to come. The site was designed to be modern, clean and efficient and convey basic information about US aquaculture and our society. The site will also link to social media, provide information about our annual meeting and have new features that highlight Society members, student achievements, and upcoming US aquaculture related events and opportunities. It is constructed in a format for quick addition of features and we hope you will provide constructive feedback that allows us to optimize it for your needs.

There are a number of other initiatives underway to broaden USAS support of regional aquaculture meetings in the United States. Our Promotions and Membership Committee is working closely with the organizing committee of the 35th Fish Feed and Nutrition Workshop in Bozeman, MT, the 2016 North Central Regional Aquaculture Conference to provide financial support of these conferences as well as several other aquaculture and aquaculture-related organizations throughout the country. You will see e-blasts and web page notices for these meetings and, if you intend to be at the meeting, there will be opportunities for you to help promote our society by both distributing literature and answering questions.

The main focus of our mission is education, culminating in our annual meeting, which this year is the combined triennial meeting in Las Vegas with our great partners the National Aquaculture Association, the National Shellfisheries Association and the American Fisheries Society’s Fish Culture Section. There are a number of special sessions this year including Salmonids, Sea Ranching, Stock Enhancement, Conservation and Restoration Aquaculture, Climate Change and Aquaculture, and Food Additives for Health, just to name a few. Perhaps of particular interest to our student members is a session on “Career Development and Job Placement in Aquaculture.” The lineup of presenters represents producers, aquaculture suppliers, and state and federal government representatives involved in research and management. This will be a great opportunity for students to get pointers on how to get a job in US aquaculture once they graduate.

Over the last two years, student travel scholarships are at an (continued on page 7)

KOREAN CHAPTER

Abstracts, presentations, sessions, exhibitions, forums...farewell to World Aquaculture 2015 in Jeju! The Korean Chapter co-hosted World Aquaculture 2015 with WAS at the International Convention Center on the beautiful island of Jeju, Korea from 26 to 31 May. After the WAS annual conference held in Busan in 2008, this was the second time the meeting was held in Korea. More than 2,500 participants from 66 countries attended World Aquaculture 2015, where 449 oral and 414 poster presentations were made in 57 sessions. Along with the presentations, we also hosted an aquaculture industry exhibition of 94 companies and approximately 2,900 visitors toured the exhibition area.

During World Aquaculture 2015 in Jeju, an Aquaforum was also held for the first time, where seven outstanding lectures were given to participants involved in the aquaculture industry. The Aquaforum ran for three days and about 300 audience members enjoyed the talks and discussions. During the opening ceremony, WAS also honored Yoram Avnimelech, Professor Emeritus of Technion – Israel Institute of Technology and Abdel-Fattah M. El-Sayed, professor of Alexandria University Egypt by awarding the Honorary Life Award and Jeong-Yeol Lee, professor of Kun Kunsan National University, Korea was also honored by receiving the Fellow of WAS Award. Participants of World Aquaculture 2015 also enjoyed the farm tour at the end of the symposium, visiting flounder and abalone farms and a fish feed mill.

On behalf of the Korean Chapter, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the WAS members who attended the meeting and I also would like to extend my sincere thanks to members of the Steering, Industry and Program committees: Jay Parsons, Bill Danials, Ik-Kyo Chung, Roy Palmer, Sungchul Charles Bai, Jeong-Yeol Lee, You-Jin Jeon, Sukgeun Jung, Michael Schwarz and Craig Browdy, for their time and effort to organize the sessions and exhibition. I also would like acknowledge the ex officio members, John Cooksey and Mario Stael for promotion, registration and exhibition. This is my last report for the Korean chapter; Ik-Kyo Chung has been elected as the new Chapter President. — Albert Kwang-Sik Choi, President
Following an extensive search, the Board of Directors of the World Aquaculture Society has selected Dr. Carole Engle to serve as Executive Editor for the journal. The search followed surveys of the membership and Past-Presidents of the Society to identify a future direction for the Journal. The Past-Presidents viewed the Journal as a fundamental benefit of membership to the Society and as foundational to the WAS mission. The Journal was viewed as an indispensable means to disseminate science and to make it available to potential users. The membership survey showed that two-thirds of responding members also considered the Journal an important benefit of membership and that it played an important role as an outlet for findings of significance to aquaculture. However, the membership survey also clearly showed the importance of increasing the impact factor of the Journal in the coming years. As a result, the Board has tasked the new Executive Editor with preparing and implementing a detailed re-invigoration plan to sustain and strengthen the Journal.

Carole Engle has devoted more than 35 years to aquaculture research, extension, and teaching. In addition to publishing more than 110 scientific articles, four books, and more than 50 extension publications, she has a combined 49 years of editorial experience, including serving as Editor-in-Chief of Aquaculture Economics and Management. She has been honored with numerous awards from the U.S. Aquaculture Society, the National Aquaculture Association, the Catfish Farmers of America and the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas. Engle was on the faculty of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) for more than 27 years and, as Director of the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center and Chairperson of the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries, led it through a period of rapid growth, development, and expansion. She has worked closely with aquaculture businesses and expansion. She has worked closely with aquaculture businesses around the world and values the contributions that science has made to the growth and development of successful aquaculture businesses at many scales of production. Recently retired from UAPB, Engle plans to continue her involvement with aquaculture science and industry through her involvement with the Journal.

“It is an honor to have been selected to serve the Society as editor of the Society’s journal,” said Engle. “I feel strongly that JWAS provides an important benefit to members and that the Journal continues to play an important role in the overall global aquaculture community. I am willing to work diligently to seek out similarly committed scientists from a broad and diverse set of disciplines, perspectives, and geographic regions to effect the improvements desired by the Board and membership of WAS.”

A re-launch of the Journal is being planned for the triennial meeting in February, 2016, in Las Vegas, USA. The re-launch of the journal will include hiring three section editors, a new cover design and creation of three sections: 1) new science with potential to lead to either new aquaculture businesses or improved efficiency of existing aquaculture businesses, 2) technological advances ready for adoption by aquaculture businesses and 3) review papers.

Additional updates on the re-launch of the Journal will be published in World Aquaculture and on the WAS web site. Society members can assist with the growth and development of the journal by: 1) volunteering to provide critical and timely reviews of manuscripts submitted, 2) submission of their most important papers to the Journal, 3) development and submission of thorough review papers of important and emerging topics in aquaculture, and 4) organizing special issues on timely topics of importance to aquaculture. To offer assistance, Dr. Engle can be contacted at cengle8523@gmail.com.

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all-time high thanks to our many industry sponsors: Tyson Foods, Merck Animal Health, Aqualogic, Pentair Aquatic Eco-systems, Soy Aquaculture Alliance, Drs. Ebeling and Timmons, the National Sea Grant College Program and Alltech. This year there will be almost $17,000 available for students to attend this meeting. For the Best Abstract Award, Best Oral presentation, Poster presentation, USAS-AFS-FCS joint award and USAS-Sea Grant award, students must be members of USAS by the 31 August Abstract submittal deadline. In addition to these travel awards, there are several travel scholarships that can be applied for after the August 31 deadline, including the Pentair Aquatic Ecosystems Award, the Soy Aquaculture Alliance Award, and the RAS Yellowbook Award for undergraduates. If you are interested please contact David Cline at clinedj@auburn.edu for the application package.

Finally this fall we will be electing a new Vice-President and President-Elect and two new Member-at-Large positions. If you are interested or wish to nominate someone, please contact Kathleen Hartman (Kathleen.H.Hartman@aphis.usda.gov) who, as Past-President, chairs our elections committee. It’s a lot of fun and extremely rewarding taking a turn giving back to the Society.

— Michael Denson, President

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