The United States Aquaculture Society Awards – An Underutilized Benefit for Chapter Members

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The United States Aquaculture Association (USAS), a chapter of the World Aquaculture Society, provides its members with the opportunity to recognize members through their awards program. There are awards for those who have been established in their careers for an extended period, for those who have recently embarked on their career paths and several awards and scholarships for student members. Historically, the number of applications that have been received for these awards has been low, resulting in some awards not being given annually. In order for USAS to recognize its members through our achievement awards program, individuals need to be nominated by one of our USAS members. The purpose of this article is to familiarize members with the types of awards and the criteria for eligibility with the hope that members will take the opportunity to nominate deserving individuals.

USAS Achievement Awards

The Achievement Awards are inclusive of work and activities associated with research, extension, instruction and service. Also these awards are inclusive of academia, government and industry. All nominees must be members of the U.S. Chapter (to join go to http://www.was.org). Nominations for awards will be solicited from the membership. All nominations must include three letters of recommendation that address the specific contributions of the nominee corresponding to each award’s criteria and biographical information.

The Distinguished Early Career Award recognizes an individual who has been involved in U.S. aquaculture for 10 years or less. This award recognizes outstanding leadership or innovation in research, education, extension or industry development. The award specifically emphasizes significant personal contributions that advanced U.S. aquaculture.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding personal contributions to USAS and/or the U.S. aquaculture industry. This award emphasizes significant leadership and overall impact in research, education, extension or industry development in the field of aquaculture.

The Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual throughout his/her career who has made contributions and broad impacts to aquaculture in the United States within research, education extension and/or industry development. This award recognizes a longtime commitment of service to the field of aquaculture that is deemed highly significant and enduring.

Achievement awards are bestowed during the Plenary Session at the annual conferences involving USAS. All awardees will receive a plaque and complementary registration. The complimentary conference registration is only applicable to the meeting at which the award is presented.

Student Awards and Scholarships

Best Abstract/Travel Award: To be eligible for this award, a student must be a USAS member and must have submitted his/her abstract by the official published deadline. Additionally, the student must be giving an oral or poster presentation and be a WAS student member. A total of three winners will be awarded $300 each prior to the conference and presented with certificates at the plenary session of the conference.

Best Oral and Poster Presentations: Student members of USAS giving oral and poster presentations will be eligible for the Best Oral Presentation (one $400 first place award and one $200 second place award) and Best Poster Presentation (one $400 first place award and one $200 second place award) awards. Students giving oral and poster presentations will be judged during the conference and winners will be announced after the conference. To be eligible for this award the student must have submitted her/his abstract by the official published deadline.

Sea Grant Association’s Best Student Paper Award: The Sea Grant Association will present its Best Student Paper Award to one student who presents outstanding work in marine or Great Lakes research (oral presentations only). Students must be members of WAS to be eligible. One winner will receive an award of $350 and a plaque. To be eligible for this award you must have submitted your abstract by the official published deadline.

Mulvihill Scholarship: As a result of the passing of Michael Mulvihill from his battle with cancer in August of 2002, the Mulvihill family and Aquaculture Research/Environmental Associates, Inc. (AREA) are now offering the M.P. Mulvihill Aquaculture Student Scholarship. A $1,500 scholarship is awarded at the annual USAS conference to a deserving aquaculture student to help further his/her education.

Applications for the M.P. Mulvihill Aquaculture Student Scholarship will be accepted before each USAS annual conference (or triennial World Aquaculture Society conference). The
USAS will select the top five applicants and forward them to AREA for review and final selection of the winner (one winner annually). A plaque and check will be presented to the winner at the annual conference.

To be eligible for the M.P. Mulvihill Aquaculture Student Scholarship, the applicant must be a United States citizen, a student member of the World Aquaculture Society and the United States Aquaculture Society at the time of application submission, and a graduate or upper level undergraduate student. Selection will be based upon the student’s academic history, the student’s contributions to aquaculture or to USAS to date, and the student’s commitment to aquaculture.

To apply, send the following items to the chair of the Student Awards Committee by the deadline date, both of which are listed on the website https://www.was.org/USAS-SAC/mulvihill.htm.

1. A cover letter describing your project/major and educational/research interests.
2. A letter from your major professor listing his/her contact information verifying that you are a current student. The Awards Committee may contact this person with further questions.
3. The completed M.P. Mulvihill Aquaculture Student Scholarship Application Form (Available as either a PDF or Word document).
4. A typed essay (500 word maximum) that addresses your commitment to aquaculture and the United States Aquaculture Society. Also, include your academic and professional career goals.
5. Copies of your official undergraduate and graduate transcripts.

**USAS Pre-Conference Minority Student Travel Award.** The Minority Student Travel Award is offered by USAS to encourage attendance at the annual Aquaculture America conferences by minority students with potential to contribute to the expanding field of U.S. aquaculture. For this award, the term “minority” refers to those ethnic groups that are significantly underrepresented at USAS meetings, i.e., Native Americans (including American Indians and Alaskan Natives), African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Pacific Islanders. In addition, applicants must be U.S. citizens, nationals or legally admitted permanent resident aliens of the United States. Applicants may be undergraduate or graduate students, and must be members of USAS at the time of the conference. Preference will be given to students who are presenting either a poster or a talk at the meeting.

The travel grants ($400 + registration fee) will be awarded at the meeting during the Student Reception. Recipients are expected to attend both the Plenary Session and the Student Reception to be recognized for this honor. The USAS student liaison will assign student mentors to award recipients to ensure that they have a productive, rewarding experience during the meeting. The recipients will have the opportunity to meet professionals engaged in all aspects of aquaculture, attend technical sessions, industry sessions, and workshops specifically designed to address the career development needs of students. This is an excellent opportunity for students to network with potential graduate school advisors, or locate entry-level jobs.

To apply, send the application form to the chair of the Student Awards Committee by the deadline date. Applications for this award will be on the website soon.

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There are several prestigious awards that can be earned by deserving individuals within USAS – all you need to do is nominate them. Information on all of the awards can be found on USAS website https://www.was.org/Usas/Default.htm. Achievement Awards can be found by clicking on “Achievement Awards.” Student awards and scholarships are listed under “Student Activities.” The USAS board requests that we all make an effort to recognize our deserving colleagues and students for their contribution to aquaculture.

**Note**

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**South Australian Aquaculture Opportunity**

The South Australian Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals/companies to undertake the farming of:

- aquatic animals in a manner that involves regular feeding
- bivalve molluscs algae
- algae

A total of 150 Ha will be made available in the Fitzgerald Bay aquaculture zone, located near Whyalla on the Eyre Peninsula, at the top of the Spencer Gulf.

Completed applications must be lodged with PIRSA, Aquaculture Division by **30 October 2009**.

Copies of the application form and information documents are available by contacting PIRSA Aquaculture on pirsa.aquaculture@sa.gov.au, or can be found on the website:

www.pir.sa.gov.au/aquaculture/regulatory_services

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**Government of South Australia**

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