

# Quick & Dirty

## Mid-Missouri AALAS Branch

Volume 1, Issue 3

January 1, 2013

### January Branch Meeting



#### A **microbe** for me?

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Aaron Ericsson, DVM

Aaron Ericsson received his DVM from the University of Missouri in 2006 and went on to perform a residency in the MU Comparative Medicine Program, followed by a PhD in Pathobi-

ology. He now serves as lead scientist on microbiota research for the MU Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Center and Rat Resource and Research Center. His work focuses on characterizing the commensal gut microbiota of laboratory animals and its role in modulating animal models of disease.

His talk will describe differences in the microbiota of laboratory rodents with regard to different strains/stocks, vendors, and housing conditions; the effect of these differences in various

animal models; and what this might mean to you.

**When:** Friday January 24, 2014 @ 5:30pm

**Where:** IDEXX RADIL

4011 Discovery Dr  
Columbia, Mo  
65201

**Food: PIZZA!**

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### Congratulations for your Achievement

Sinclair Research Center

Jennifer Blair received her RALAT in October 2013.

Jessica Schwartz received her RLAT in November 2013

Please send in your technicians accomplishments from your company. We want to hear from you!

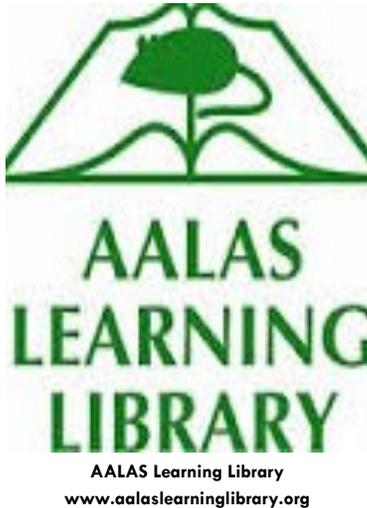
#### AALAS National Tech Week

2014 International Laboratory Animal Technician Week is February 2-8, 2014. Some companies may have committees to plan festivities for the week. What do you hope to see during this week? Send your responses to your manager. Another option is to share your idea or celebration activities here and have it seen by all!



#### Special points of interest:

- Corn Maze trip and campfire
- January Meeting
- Committees
- ILAM



**Getting the most from our branch starts with you!**



## AALAS Technician Certification: ALAT, LAT, LATG

More and more people are becoming familiar with these certifications and more companies are moving towards making it mandatory for their technicians. Regardless where your company is at, I highly recommend either getting your first certification or moving onto the next one.

The first is the ALAT, Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician. With the minimum qualification of a HS/GED and one year laboratory animal experience you are eligible.

This is followed by the LAT, Laboratory Animal Technician. With an ALAT and 6 months you can or other eligibility qualifications you could be taking it sooner!

The final level, the LATG, Laboratory Animal Technologist, has similar criteria as the previous levels.

Each test builds on the next. Therefore the LAT has information from the ALAT as well as new material. And the LATG has information from both the ALAT and LAT test.

If this is the career you aspire towards, at any level, certification is an excellent opportunity. The next step in your career is here for you. All you need to do is grab it!!

See your training coordinator or manager for answers on how to begin this journey.

What help studying? Check out for more information! [www.midmoaalas.org/events.html](http://www.midmoaalas.org/events.html)

-Jennifer Blair, RALAT & studying for the LAT

## Callaway County Corn Maze and Bonfire

I had driven by Shryock's Corn Maze many times, but had never stopped there, so when I got to go with the Mid MO AALAS group I was excited. Even more so that my three sons, aged six, five, and three, were able to come along and enjoy it too, they had an incredible time. My favorite part was watching

my sons lead our small group through the maze. They were so excited to lead us to the bridge located in the middle of the maze and to find a checkpoint. Although we did not find all of the checkpoints it was still an amazing experience, definitely worth repeating next year. Both before and after we were in the maze we watched the giant gumball

machine take gum balls all the way to the ceiling, before they came back down in a Rube Goldberg Machine fashion. When I asked my kids what their favorite part of the night was all three loudly answered "the giant gumball machine!" So it's no



surprise that I spent several dollars on gum balls. Having the campfire after was the perfect way to relax and enjoy some

hotdogs and s'mores, plus stay warm as the temperature was dropping. I hope everyone that came had a good of time as I did. Lastly being a veteran with nine years of service I very much appreciated the theme of Salute Our Troops, and would like to thank Shryock's Corn Maze for the recognition of this country's service members.

-Chas Maupin, SRC

## David Stock, Honorary AALAS Board Member

Hi, I am David Stock. Glenda, my wife of 39 years and I have two sons. They have blessed us with 4 wonderful grandsons, Brady and Eli, and Will and Cash. Having worn a number of hats, and having had several different job titles in my life, the one that suits me best came from my grandsons, "PaPa". When I am not gardening, I like to spend time coaching midget league baseball for Eli, Will and Cash and working with Derendinger Auction

Service, along with a little huntin' & fishin' every now & then.

My "Merial journey" began in June of 2013, when I was hired as an associate supervisor. My "MU journey" ended in May of 2012 after 32 years involved in biomedical research. Oh the changes I have seen! I actually worked on the Vet. School Campus long enough to see both Connaway Hall, Veterinary Science & Vet. Medicine animal facilities through 2

major renovations each. I worked at the now non-existent "North Farm" (the old Vet. Med. Research Farm on Brown Station Road), and at the new Vet. Med. Research Farm on highway 63 near the airport (still referred to as the old "Equine Center" by those of us long enough in the tooth to remember it). I have left animal research a couple of times in my life to pursue other interests, but always seem to find my way back. It's good to be back home again.



Let me know if you see David.

## ILAM-Institute of Laboratory Animal Management

As a previous Assistant Facility Manager this was a really great conference for taking my position to the next level. However, that does not go into half of what this informational, fun filled week is about.

ILAM is an AALAS educational program developed to provide instruction in management concepts that is applicable to the laboratory animal science industry and to enhance communication, team building, and networking among colleagues with mutual interests. Directors, managers, and supervisors of laboratory animal facilities have

seen their roles grow more and more complex over the years, and they have found themselves in a unique profession. People in management positions must be able to interpret the social, political, and economic environments in which they operate and use administrative and technical skills to maintain and improve their animal care and use programs.

Upon completion of the 2-yr program, each student will receive a certificate for the successful completion of the program.

-Jennifer Blair, ILAM 2013

Sign up for ILAM by January 13, 2014.

Check them out at: <http://www.aalas.org/association/ilam.aspx>

Or check it out for next year!!

Scholarships available.

## AALAS 63rd National Meeting

My learning experience at AALAS Baltimore 2013 was amazing. Being surrounded by other members of the lab animal science community, I was able to ask questions about their careers, and gain valuable advice for my career advancement in LAS. While at AALAS, I sat in on several lectures regarding

Non-Human Primates, ranging from enrichment to positive reinforcement training tools. I also sat in on seminars regarding USDA updates and the new Guidelines of Euthanasia. All of these lectures were very educational and pertinent to my career in LAS. I had the chance to go to dinner with several ven-

dors that gave me further insight into their products. There was even a party in one of the hotels that practically the entire conference attended. The opportunity to go to AALAS was extremely rewarding educationally, and I had fun while learning. —Alyssa Ingerson, RLAT





## Mid-Missouri AALAS Branch

Meet our people behind the scenes.....

**President/President Elect:** Christal Huber

**Secretary:** Marie Elliott

**Treasurer:** Gail Kraus

**Technician Branch Rep:** Andrea Vandeloecht

**Membership Contact:** Marie Elliott

**Board Members:**

Angela Goerndt

Jennifer Blair

Dana Weir

Carrie Harris

We're on the web!

[www.midmoaalas.org](http://www.midmoaalas.org)



I just want to take a moment to say Happy Holiday's to everyone. I hope this time of year finds everyone safe, and with their loved ones. However this can be challenging for those of us who work with animals on a daily basis. Even though it is a holiday they need to be cared for as well, which may take us away from our family festivities.

But let's not forget it is Christmas time for our critters as well! Take this opportunity to experiment with fun holiday enrichment ideas, because our animals like presents too. Our zoo friends can often be a valuable resource for new enrichment ideas. Honolulu Zoo's website even has a video of their animals opening their Christmas presents. <http://www.honolulu zoo.org/support-the-zoo/animal-enrichment.html>.

And who doesn't like Christmas goodies. There are all sorts of treats that can complement an animal's diet. The most common but frequently over looked are fruits and vegetables. And who doesn't like popsicles, especially when there are treats inside! When I was a zookeeper I even had a Marabou Stork who liked his fish filled popsicles, so really there is something for everyone. For a novel way to create animal popsicles check out the summer issue of the Enrichment Record. (<http://enrichmentrecord.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/er-july-2013.pdf>.) What fun ideas can you come up with?

Sincerely,

Christal Huber BS, CMAR, LATG  
Mid-Missouri AALAS President  
Training Coordinator, Sinclair Group



## Mid-Missouri AALAS Branch Newsletter Needs Your Help!

We need your articles! Articles may be submitted at any time. Consisting of anywhere from 75-250 words Topics we are interested in are:

- -Favorite animal or species that you work with & why.
- -Certifications that you have achieved. (more time frame specific but we want to recognize you for it!)
- -Animal Treat Recipe

- -A new procedure/way to do common husbandry or something similar.
- A short Bio of you! Our group is interesting & is made that way by our interesting people.
- A relevant conference or program you want to share.
- Outreach Ideas/ comments
- Hot Topics within our

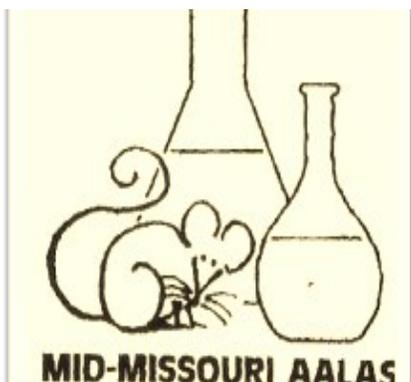
industry.

- Meeting Topic Ideas

We have only had 3 submissions for the Newsletter name. They are good ones, but does anyone else have any suggestions?

Any idea/topic not listed doesn't mean that we are not interested. Please send at any time to: Jennifer Blair at [jblair@sinclairresearch.com](mailto:jblair@sinclairresearch.com)

**Mission Statement of AALAS:** AALAS is an association of professionals that advances responsible laboratory animal care and use to benefit people and animals.



Have you seen my mouse?