



Spotlight on your District 8 Trustee

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District 8 Trustee (2011 – 2013)
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1. **What position(s) do you hold in your local branch?**

SCB-AALAS Newsletter Editor and Webmaster.

2. **How did you get involved with SCB-AALAS?**

From the beginning of my LAS career (2000) I knew I wanted to be involved at the branch level, and figured the best way to make a difference was to serve on the Board of Directors of my local branch. I didn't get enough ballot votes on my first attempt, but on my second bid I was elected as a board member and have been a part of SCB-AALAS leadership ever since.

3. **How did you get involved at the national level of AALAS?**

My first volunteer experience at the national level was as a participant on the CRB Job Analysis Task Force (2004). I was then appointed to serve on the Tech Talk Editorial Committee (TTEC) (2006 - 2008), which led to me becoming the TTEC Vice-Chair (2008), and Chair (2009). I was also involved with the Ad Hoc Veterinary Technician Committee (VTC) (2006 - 2007).

4. **What was your first job working in lab animal science?**

When I was a senior student in the Veterinary Technology Program at Los Angeles Pierce College, I made the decision to pursue the LAS career path. By the time I graduated in 2000, I had already accepted an Animal Health Technician (AHT) position with the Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM) at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

5. **Where do you work and what is your current position?**

I currently hold the position of Training Manager for UCLA-DLAM.

6. **What are your qualifications?**

I have an AS degree (Agriculture – Veterinary Technology), a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) license from the state of California, and RLATG certification through AALAS. My next goal is to add the CMAR acronym after my name!

7. **What is your area of expertise?**

My hard skill set comes from many years as a veterinary technician. My soft skill set is a work in progress, although I have been a teacher and a trainer in some fashion since entering the LAS field in 2000. I also do a great deal of work in the realm of website design. I continually strive to build on my expertise with regards to training, management, leadership, and web-based technology.

8. **How long have you worked in the field of Laboratory Animal Science?**

I have been working in the LAS field since 2000.

9. **When did you realize you wanted to work with animals?**

I have always loved animals, especially dogs. I actually didn't realize I wanted to work with animals until much later in life. I originally moved to California in pursuit of a music career. When it became painfully clear that I would not be successful in the music business, I discovered a second lease on life with the pursuit of a veterinary technology education – which has led to a rewarding journey along the LAS career path.

10. **What is your favorite species to work with and why?**

Although I have enjoyed working with a variety of lab animal species, dogs are my favorite. I had the privilege of working with some amazing canines during my time as an AHT with the Department of Comparative Medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA. I truly appreciated every opportunity I had to help enrich the lives of so many research hounds!

11. **Who are your mentors?**

Well, I certainly wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for all of the generous mentors that have helped me along my career path! To name a few: Liz White, the director of the RVT program at Los Angeles College, has been a wonderful mentor over the years. Jerry Werk (UCLA-DLAM) was the first person to hire me into the field and has always been a great mentor to me. Bruce Kennedy was the mentor that gave me the opportunity to get involved at the national level of AALAS, and I will always be grateful to him for that. Last but not least, both Tim Lawson (former UCLA-DLAM Executive Director) and Marcelo Couto (current UCLA-DLAM Executive Director) have been excellent mentors and role models for me – especially in the realm of training & management!

12. List your 3 greatest achievements

- 1. Going back to college (the second time around) and succeeding.**
- 2. Attaining my RVT license by passing the exam on the first try.**
- 3. Receiving the CVMA award: “Outstanding Registered Veterinary Technician In A Non Private Practice”.**

13. If you could give advice to someone working with laboratory animals what would it be?

Love what you do and the rest will follow. Never stop reaching for that next rung on your career ladder. Pursue continuing education and never miss an opportunity to network with your LAS colleagues. Be proud of what you do and the contributions you make towards the advancement of medical science for the benefit of people and animals!

14. What are your hobbies?

My favorite hobby would have to be travelling! Other hobbies include reading (I love my Kindle), music (I love to dance), chess (although I feel like a patzer more often than not), snorkeling & scuba diving, meditation & yoga, NFL football (Da Bears and fantasy football), being a “Foodie”, and checking off all the other items on my “Bucket List” (way too many to mention here!)