



# IAAAM NEWS

**Volume 35, Number 2, June 2004**

**Rhonda Patterson, Retiring Editor/President-Elect**  
**Craig Harms, New Editor**

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## **Greetings from the President** **Laurie J. Gage, President IAAAM**

The 2004 IAAAM annual conference in Galveston, Texas was terrific this year. The weather was great (except for the day we had the mini-hurricane...but we were all inside enjoying the scientific session anyway) and we all enjoyed the legendary Texas hospitality from our host Dan Cowan and the folks from the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network. Our Plenary Session was fascinating and informative with talks about the environment around the coast of Texas, ranging from a truly impressive presentation of habitat restoration in the Galveston Bay area, to surveys and studies of all marine life, from pelicans to dolphins around the Texas Gulf Coast. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dan Cowan again for not only hosting the conference, but for organizing the plenary session and finding such inspiring speakers as well.

I would also like to acknowledge all of the session chairs: Roy Yanong, Natalie Noll, Tonya Clauss, Reimi Kinoshita, Lisa Mazzaro, Deborah Fauquier, Chris Dold, Tracey Goldstein, Tanja Zabka, and Hendrick Nollens for all of their hard work, and for keeping their sessions running on time. Speaking of running on time, our R.U. Dunn Award winner this year was a difficult choice. Because very few speakers ran over their allotted times, we had to resort to a new criteria of considering those who were obvious overtime offenders in previous years. The award this year, based on both this year and previous year's overtime offenses, went to one of our beloved immunologists, Jeff Stott, whom we might add, had the longest list of co-authors on his paper as well.

For those of you who may have missed the banquet, Sam Ridgway and Ted Hammond were acknowledged as two of the founding members of IAAAM who were in attendance this year. Lanny Cornell was made an Honorary Life Member of IAAAM, and was given a very nice tribute by Jim McBain. Then Larry Dunn and Don Abt were our very lively auctioneers, and through their antics we earned over \$4,000.00 in the live auction, which will be used towards the student awards for the conference next year in Seward, Alaska. They had some help from several "Vanna's", the most memorable being Greg Levine modeling a pair of boxer shorts with an elephant trunk on the front.

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Our new President-elect this year is Rhonda Patterson, and we have now reorganized the board and split up the daunting Secretary-Treasurer position into two. Don Stremme has offered to continue on as our Treasurer, while we elected Lisa Mazzaro to be our new Secretary. Ilze Berzins has rotated off of our board, after having served a full term as our membership board member, and we thank her for her tireless work putting countless hours into keeping our organization running smoothly. Tom Reidarson has now taken on the duties of the membership board member, Bill Van Bonn continues on as the education board member, and Craig Harms was elected onto the board and will take over the duties of putting together the newsletter. I'd like to thank all of the board members for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank Tracy Romano for all of her work again this year for heading up the Student Liaison Committee and organizing the student workshop (during the conference), Student Travel Awards, and Student Presentation Award.

We are very much looking forward to our conference in Seward, Alaska next year, and look forward to another set of professional, informative papers. Our hosts from the Alaska Sea Life Center have already planned a number of activities for the group, and for the runners in our group, they have organized a midnight run, in the land of the midnight sun. I sincerely hope to see all of you at the conference next year.

**Wow, things are bigger in Texas!**  
**Bill Van Bonn, Education Board Member**

We had a great conference, topped off by a great auction at the banquet held in the beautiful Moody Gardens Aquarium. The proceeds will go to benefit the student members of IAAAM. This year's auction broke all records! We earned over \$600 during the silent auction and over \$4000 during the live auction for a total of over \$4600 toward the student awards for next year's meeting to be held in Seward, Alaska.

Don Stremme donated the high bid item, a week at his home on the New Jersey Cape, which was purchased by Rick Linnehan. Many thanks to our lively "in-house" auctioneering team of Larry Dunn, Don Abt and Lisa Murphy for donating not only exclusive items but also their time and talents in making this year's auction the record setting success it was! Special thanks to all the student volunteers for setting up the silent auction and keeping track of the many bid sheets and lots.

The live auction featured some very nice travel and dining packages. Those of you high bidders, if you have not already done so, please contact the donors of the items to make the final arrangements for claiming your goodies.

It's never too early to be thinking about how to break the record next year in Alaska.

**Proceedings for Sale**

Extra printed versions of the Galveston 2004 IAAAM Proceedings are available for \$25 (postage included) while they last. There are also copies of the 2001 (3 copies), 2002 (49 copies), and 2003 (17 copies) proceedings available. Send request along with shipping address and payment (check made out to IAAAM) to Lisa Mazzaro, IAAAM Secretary, Mystic Aquarium, 55 Coogan Blvd., Mystic, CT 06355.

## **Conference Update from the Student Liaison Committee**

### **Tracy Romano, Chair**

This year's IAAAM meeting held in Galveston and hosted by Dr. Daniel Cowan and his volunteers was a success. Approximately 30 students participated in the meeting including Masters and PhD students, veterinary students and interns, residents and postdocs. A total of 29 student presentations were given this year; 25 of which were given by IAAAM student members. This year a total of three awards were given for outstanding student presentations. Allison Tuttle, an intern in the Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration received an award for her presentation entitled: "Eastern Equine Encephalitis Infection in a Flock of African Penguins". Milton Levin, a Ph.D. student at the University of Connecticut received an award for his presentation entitled: "Mechanisms for Modulation of Phagocytosis by Organochlorines in Bottlenose Dolphins and Beluga Whales", and Kathleen Colgrove from UC Davis received an award for the best overall poster entitled: "Stranding Causes of Northern Elephant Seals and Pacific Harbor Seals Along the Central California Coast: 1992-2001". Congratulations to all the winners and to all the students who gave presentations at this year's meeting.

IAAAM supported student participation for the Galveston meeting by continuing the competitive Student Travel Award. Awards were based on the quality of the written abstract, the justification/significance of the work, the complexity of the work relative to the student's academic achievements, and the commitment of the student to aquatic animal medicine. Recipients of this year's travel awards were: Allison Tuttle, Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration, "Eastern Equine Encephalitis Infection in a Flock of African Penguins"; Carrie Goertz, University of Southern Maine, "In Vitro Metal Toxicity in Stellar Sea Lion Fibroblasts with an Emphasis on Hexavalent Chromium"; Milton Levin, University of Connecticut, "Mechanisms for Modulation of Phagocytosis by Organochlorines in Bottlenose Dolphins and Beluga Whales"; and Marina Ivancic, University California Davis, "Development of a Digital Reference Atlas of *Tursiops truncatus* Diagnostic Imaging." The Student Liaison Committee would like to thank the IAAAM Board of Directors for continuing this valuable program for the conference in Galveston. The call for travel award applications for the upcoming meeting in Alaska will be in the November newsletter and the student page on the IAAAM website. Please note that in order to be eligible for the student awards that student membership is required with dues paid up-to-date.

The student career workshop featured a presentation by Dr. Michael Walsh, Sea World of Florida entitled: "Desirable Qualities in a Marine Animal Clinician". Dr. Norbert Herzog, Director of the Graduate Program at University of Texas Medical Branch also presented student opportunities at University of Texas Medical Branch. IAAAM members in areas of research, clinical medicine, and government/conservation led a group discussion with an opportunity for students to ask questions. The Student Liaison Committee would like to thank the IAAAM members that participated in the workshop to help make the workshop a valuable learning experience for the students. A special thank you goes to Dr. David Walker, Chair of the Department of Experimental Pathology, University of Texas Medical Branch for sponsoring the student workshop.

Students are encouraged to volunteer and to get involved with IAAAM student issues. Our IAAAM student representative, Ashley Linton, has done an outstanding job developing and designing an IAAAM student brochure as well as putting together a list of student opportunities in the field of aquatic animal health. Additional student volunteers are needed to help with continuation of this effort, the student webpage and other IAAAM student projects. Please contact Tracy Romano ([tromano@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:tromano@mysticaquarium.org)) if you are willing to help and participate.

Finally, the Student Liaison Committee would like to acknowledge those members who evaluated presentations and participated in the student travel award judging. Moreover, we would like to thank all those that contributed to the student auction, and a special thanks to Rebecca Poet, Dan Cowan and his staff for a "student friendly" and wonderful conference. Congratulations to all the students who presented and participated in the meeting and we look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming meeting in Alaska!

## **IAAAM Student Internships and Opportunities List**

### **Ashley Linton, IAAAM Student Liaison**

We are continually working on and updating a list for students with information describing internships, externships, graduate programs, and other opportunities in aquatic animal health. This list will be posted on the IAAAM website in the near future. However, we will continue to accept additions and changes at any time. Please submit opportunities that you have available for students.

Information can be sent to Ashley Linton (IAAAM student liaison) at [ashlinton98@hotmail.com](mailto:ashlinton98@hotmail.com) or to Dr. T. Romano (IAAAM student committee chair) at [tromano@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:tromano@mysticaquarium.org)

### **Continuing Education Opportunity**

**Fish Health Management:** The goals of this course are to teach the principles and provide details on the following topics: water quality, recirculating aquatic systems, diagnostic techniques, environmental diseases, infectious diseases, neoplasia, therapeutics, anesthesia, and analgesia. A surgery demonstration will also be part of the course. To be held at NC State College of Veterinary Medicine, July 29-31, 2004. For more information, email [samantha\\_hartford@ncsu.edu](mailto:samantha_hartford@ncsu.edu) or visit: <http://www.cvm.ncsu.edu/conted/fish/>

### **Out with the Old and in with the New**

#### **Rhonda A. Patterson, IAAAM President-Elect**

For the last several years I have had the pleasure, and yes sometimes the aggravation, of being this organization's newsletter editor. It has given me a chance to know more people and understand the workings of the organization better. Now it is Craig Harms turn to have this opportunity. I hope that everyone shows him the same patience and helpfulness as he begins his new adventure as you did me when I started this job.

The education that I gained while in the position of newsletter editor will hopefully help me with my new role as President-Elect. I look forward to working with the Alaska SeaLife Center folks to provide us all with a wonderful opportunity to share our professional experiences as well as the beauty of Alaska while we are in Seward next May for our annual conference. Details of the conference will begin to appear on the web site and in the upcoming newsletter, so be sure to check both for the information you will need.

**IAAAM General Business Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004**  
**Don W. Stremme, IAAAM Secretary/Treasurer**

IAAAM President, Nina Young, called the General Business Meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A motion was made and seconded to skip reading of the minutes from last year's meeting, since they were published last year in the newsletter after the conference. No changes were made. A motion was made and seconded to allow the minutes to stand as published.

**PAST BUSINESS**

**Ballots for Changes in Constitution and By-laws**

Nina pointed out we received 65 ballots. Each amendment passed by the required 2/3 requisite and, in fact, most passed by 90%+. Larry Dunn made a motion that the amendments to the constitution and by-laws be adopted seriatim. It was seconded and passed unanimously. Nina next reported on the questions concerning funds for student awards. Most responding members were in favor of "all of the above": subsidize student travel, subsidize conference fees and banquet, and awards for student presentations. She explained the board would take this under consideration and make recommendations. Five members also offered matching funds. She said we would be contacting them. Finally the vote was for variable amounts for student awards (vs. set amounts).

There was no more old business.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report**

Don Stremme gave the **treasurer's report** next. This included the financial report for the first 8 months (July through February) and the budget for the next fiscal year. See attached budget and finance information. The final information will be available after the end of the fiscal year 6-30-04, once the final bank statement has arrived. The information will be published in the August newsletter.

The board has set the following dues schedule for the coming fiscal year:

- \$40 for full members
- \$25 for students
- \$60 for institutions and libraries (since they require printed proceedings to be mailed)

**Board Items**

Nina reported on the new brochure. Samples will be posted at the registration desk. Nina also reported the Conference Planning Guide is now complete and will be posted on the web site. The site selection committee and secretary will also have copies to send out as necessary.

Nina announced she, Rhonda and Laurie will be working on a new Scientific Session Conference Planning Guide as well as a list of sponsors to pass on. She also announced Don has made up a Conference Archival Spread Sheet, which will be made available to the host of upcoming conferences for planning purposes. It will be passed first to recent hosts to collect their data.

Nina announced Bill would be working on the FAQs for the web site and mission, long term planning and vision statements for IAAAM.

She discussed and described the proposed Policy and Position Statement procedure. It will be posted on the web site for the members to make comments and recommendations. She pointed out it is something we have already been doing, but that needs to be formalized. As an example, when NMFS asked IAAAM to give them a definition of injury in marine mammals, we did; this is what they now use. She said requests for a policy or position statement by the IAAAM can be made by members or nonmembers including other organizations. It would then be given to the Policy and Government Affairs Committee to study. They can make a recommendation or assign study to get more information before making a recommendation to the board. At the point of possibly being considered as an official statement from IAAAM, it would be posted on the web site for comments from members.

Finally, the board would either pass or deny the position. She also reminded members the policy endorsements would have to fit within the confines of the constitution and by-laws, i.e. only be related to aquatic animal medicine and health. It would not endorse bills or take a stand on aquaculture, for example. Hugh Mitchell recommended we define terms such as “medicine,” “health,” etc. He questioned, for example, would wholeness be considered health? Nina said that probably isn’t necessary, since the item would be posted for members to read and comment on before consideration by the board.

Finally she announced the creation of the fish committee to make recommendations to make the IAAAM more fish friendly. And announced Roy Yanong and Hugh Mitchell will be co-chairs.

### **Student Liaison Committee**

Tracy Romano gave the Student Liaison Committee report. She thanked the members of this committee: Christine Densmore, Larry Dunn, Sal Frasca, Carrie Goertz, Elsa Haubold, Charlie Manire, Lisa Mazzaro, Lisa Murphy, Steve Poet, Joe Scimecca, Jody Sherill, Bill Van Bonn, Scott Weber and honorary member, Rebecca Poet. She reminded members of the groupings for student awards: 1. post doc/resident/intern 2. undergraduates/veterinary students, and 3. overall best student presentation. She reported on the number of student presentations at this conference: 25 total, 19 oral, 6 posters. She thanked Michael Walsh for a great presentation to students about the Desirable Qualities of a Marine Animal Clinical Clinician.” She told us there were 4 travel awards of \$500 each presented prior to the conference. Finally, Tracy thanked the student member of the committee, Ashley Linton, for all of her hard work and announced the new student brochure and booklet Ashley put together about opportunities for students in the field. She asked that all institutions check the information for accuracy, so this can be published for students and also be put onto the web site student page as a pdf format. She said they also plan to send this out to universities around the world, along with brochures. She is also working on FAQs to be put onto the web site. She also asked that photos of students be given to John Jones to be put onto the web site.

### **Membership Committee**

Ilze Berzins then gave her **membership committee report**. She explained new rules for the payment of membership dues that will be instituted this coming year. We will send notice by mail to check the web site and download and send in the membership form with payment. She reminded members to complete the form each year, since we need the information. She reminded the to make checks out to IAAAM and not to Tom Reidarson, although dues will be sent to him this year. The due date and new deadline was discussed. Dues are due by 7-1-04 for the fiscal year (7-1-04 to 6-30-05). This year there is a deadline. If dues aren’t paid by March first, membership is lost. Anyone who want to be a member after that must reapply and only for the next year. Non members (not paid by 3-1-05) will not receive a discount on the annual conference fee, will not receive proceedings (would have to attend the conference or purchase them separately), can not access the web site for newsletters and job information, and will not be in nor receive a membership directory. We will do one postal mailing but she reminded members the main way we will contact members is by email, so members need to keep this information current and check it carefully. She reminded them to write clearly and have someone check it for legibility before submitting the form. Having two email addresses (one is a back up) is also helpful.

New members must send in a new member application and a résumé or CV along with a signature from a current IAAAM member. Tom, with input from the board when necessary, will determine whether the applicant qualifies for membership. He will then send a payment form to the new member and welcome letter—the payment will be forwarded to the treasurer. NOTE: Members who allow their membership to lapse will be required to reapply for membership and must send in a completed application as well as a résumé or CV and signature from a current member. Ilze also pointed out students (new and renewing) EACH YEAR must have an official note on letterhead from a professor or advisor indicating the person is a student or in a program (such as an internship) that meets the requirements of the student classification for IAAAM membership.

Ilze showed some statistics about where members reside and said we have members from 4 new countries: Norway, Philippines, Spain and Turkey. She gave the following information, too.

Current membership as of 4-1-04 (compared with last year same time)

Total Members 406 (451)

Full Members 331 (342)

Student Members 56 (74)

Delinquent Members 108 (68)

### Site Selection Committee

Nina explained the need for us to have more advanced planning to be fair to hosts of coming conferences. She wants to see concrete plans for 2 years out from now on. Sam Dover gave the **site selection committee report**. He asked Pam Tuomi to give her presentation, which was an invitation to Seward, Alaska in May 2005 (probably around May 14-18). The Alaska SeaLife Center is the host. She has been there since 1998 and said they have the deepest diving sea bird tank/exhibit anywhere. Pam said the average temperature there in May is 50°F. She pointed out Alaska is larger than Texas and said it is easy to get to Seward. Members can take a cruise to or from that area. She said it is a two-hour train ride or drive from Anchorage. Pam said the train is a wonderful way to travel in Alaska.

Seward is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. It is near a glacier, and there is wildlife activity in town. Pam negotiated great, special rates at the Seward Edgewater Hotel: \$79/rm ocean view and \$59/room garden view; these rates also include breakfast. She said at that time of the year the sun doesn't set until 10 pm. She was able to book the Liberty Theatre for the scientific sessions. She is recommending an outing on Fox Island and suggests members take advantage of all there is to do including a bay tour (Resurrection Bay), a glacier tour, kayaking, nature trails, the cultural museum, etc.

She said most evenings (dinners) would be included, although lunches will be on our own. It is easy to walk to area restaurants. The banquet will be at the SeaLife Center. They plan to have local dancers, etc. She asked the membership for suggestions for wet labs. Nina asked for a vote and the membership unanimously voted for Alaska for May 2005. Note it will not be in association with WDA (Wildlife Diseases Association) as was discussed last year.

Sam introduced discussion on the **2006 site** and then asked Leonardo Ibarra to present his invitation to Mexico. Leonardo is the veterinarian for Via Delphi, which is part of a conglomerate of parks called Grupo Xcaret (Xcaret, XelHa, Via Delphi, Garrafón and Cañón del Sumidero). They want to be our host and are inviting us for May 2006. Although we would fly into Cancun on the Yucatan peninsula, Leonardo points out we would not be in the Cancun area, but about an hours drive south in the area called Riviera Maya, which is more bohemian. He gave a PowerPoint presentation and showed a video of the area. Although he discussed and illustrated several hotels, he recommends Hotel Iberostar. This is an all inclusive hotel. The rates would be about: \$160 single, \$135 pp double, \$124 pp for extra person in double room, and \$30 pp for children. These numbers are US \$. All inclusive here means: all meals, all beach club activities, all hotel amenities, all beverages - including alcohol, and all tips and taxes. He said there are many area restaurants within walking distance, if members want to go there instead. He said he might be able to get a different, non-all-inclusive hotel for students near by. Nina asked for a vote on Mexico and the membership voted unanimously for this location for 2006.

Sam then announced the committee is now working on an offer from the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas for 2007. After that he has offers from the Bahamas, Disney in Orlando and Greece. Finally Sam noted several academic members have suggested having the annual conference at a university, but added he has never received an actual offer from any one.

## **Website Committee**

John Jones next presented his **report about the IAAAM web site**. He explained ways he is constantly trying to improve the web site, both in speed and content. He discussed the issues of passwords and explained he is working on ways to make it possible for members to establish and change passwords themselves. He is hoping to find a way for IAAAM to accept credit card payments and update membership renewals on line by next year. He would also like to create a way for us to register with credit card for the conference next year. He discussed the security concerns and ways he is working on that, too. He feels finding a new web host will be the answer, since some will allow much of this and our current server does not. John said he redesigned the student web page to be more contemporary or “jazzy.” He asked everyone to submit photos from the conference; he wants to create a conference scrapbook page. He reminded members to include information about the photo and who is in it when sending in photos.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Nominations and Elections**

**President (1 year position)** – As president elect Laurie Gage was to move into this position, but due to conflicts with her new position with the USDA, she had to decline. At the last minute they allowed her to take the position, so Laurie did move into the presidency.

**President Elect (1 year position)** – The nomination from the committee was Rhonda Patterson. Nina asked for nominations from the floor. Scott Weber nominated Don Stremme, who declined for this year. Rhonda became our president elect.

**Secretary (3 year position)** – The committee recommended Lisa Mazzaro for this position. There were no nominations from the floor and the membership voted to make Lisa our new secretary.

**Treasurer (3 year position)** – There was no nomination from the committee, since at the time there was no separate position. Larry Dunn nominated Don Stremme from the floor. He accepted. There were no nominations from the floor and the membership voted to make Don the new Treasurer.

**Board Member at Large (3 year position)** – The nomination from the committee was Craig Harms. There were no nominations from the floor and the membership voted to make Craig the new board member at large.

### **Other New Business**

Sam Ridgway said that for the first 10 years of the organization, they kept a zero bank balance. He wonders why we need the money in savings and suggested we use 10% per year on students (more generous awards). Laurie pointed out we need to self-insure conferences against catastrophe and gave the example of the AAZV conference after 9/11 when a majority cancelled at the last minute. Nina recommended we keep at least 2 years of income in the account in case of emergency.

Don Abt made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Larry Dunn seconded it. It was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



The Newsletter of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is published four times a year (usually in January, April, August, and November). An annual conference is held every year in the spring and proceedings from that conference are mailed out in June or July to those not in attendance. The International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the art and science of aquatic animal medicine and health.

Newsletter submissions are welcomed, although the newsletter editor and the IAAAM board reserve the right to edit and/or refuse the publication of any submissions. The deadlines for submissions are December 1, March 1, July 1, and October 1. Submissions should be made in WORDPERFECT, RTF (Rich Text Format), or WORD format. For submissions contact Craig Harms, Newsletter Editor, at NCSU CMAST, 303 College Circle, Morehead City, NC 28557, or by phone at 252.222.6339 (office), or by email (Craig.Harms@iaaam.org).

For membership information, including dues payment, and address changes contact Tom Reidarson, 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego, CA 92109 7904 or by phone at 619.226.3962 (office) or by email (Tom.Reidarson@iaaam.org).

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

### **Laurie Gage President**

Laurie.Gage@iaaam.org

### **Nina Young Past-President**

Nina.Young@iaaam.org

### **Lisa Mazzaro Board-Secretary**

Lisa.Mazzaro@iaaam.org

### **Don Stremme Treasurer**

Don.Stremme@iaaam.org

### **Rhonda Patterson President-Elect**

Rhonda.Patterson@iaaam.org

### **Craig Harms Board-Newsletter Editor**

Craig.Harms@iaaam.org

### **Tom Reidarson Board-Membership**

Tom.Reidarson@iaaam.org

### **Bill Van Bonn Board-Education**

Bill.VanBonn@iaaam.org

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

**Don Abt  
Joe Geraci  
Jay Hyman  
Sam Ridgway  
Jesse White**

**Lanny Cornell  
Ted Hammond  
William Medway  
Bob Wright**

## IAAAM Committee Representatives or Chairs

### **IAAAM Nominations and Awards**

Frances Gulland  
gullandf@tmmc.org

### **IAAAM Student Liaison**

Tracy Romano  
romano@nosc.mil

### **AVMA Animal Agriculture Liaison**

Stephen A. Smith  
Stephen.Smith@iaaam.org

### **AVMA Environmental Issues Liaison**

Cindy Driscoll  
cdriscoll@dnr.state.md.us

### **IAAAM Site Selection**

Sam Dover  
SDover@ksimaging.com

### **IAAAM Web Site Manager**

John Jones  
John.Jones@iaaam.org

### **AVMA Bacterial Resistance Liaison**

Craig Harms  
Craig.Harms@iaaam.org

### **AVMA Food Safety Liaison**

Kathleen Hughes  
Kathleen.Hughes@iaaam.org