



Research Triangle Branch
American Association for
Laboratory Animal Science

Quarter 1 2018

**“Rock Stars of Science”-
UNC-CH Tech Week 2018**



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President's Message:

RTB Members,

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your RTB AALAS President again and to continue to work with my amazing colleagues who serve on the Executive Council. I would like to congratulate this year's award winners who were recognized at the annual awards banquet in February. Thank you to all of our generous vendor sponsors for helping us to celebrate the contributions of these awesome individuals—our “Rock Stars of Research.” We really appreciate you and would not be successful as a branch without your support.



Technician Night was awesome! Thanks to everyone that participated; the presentations were extremely informative. I am excited about all of the other events that we have planned for 2018! On April 13th, we will host an Ice Cream Social at the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science. We hope you can join us. Please feel free to invite your family and friends. In June, we will host Trivia Night at NIEHS. Start thinking about getting your team together and playing for some great prizes, but more importantly bragging rights! We have a frog wet lab planned for August. The RTB AALAS Executive Council is working diligently to ensure that we provide several educational and social opportunities for our members, and we sincerely hope that our members take advantage of these opportunities.

Please encourage your colleagues that are not active in the branch to become active. We need your participation in order to be successful as a branch. As always, we welcome your input, ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact us at info@rtbaalas.org at any time. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for all of your support. I am looking forward to a great and productive year!

Jessica Blackwell

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COUNCIL**

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Technician Achievements



UNC:

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Dwaine Sowles-ALAT

NC State:

Jackie Iadicicco-ALAT

Alyssa Carothers-ALAT

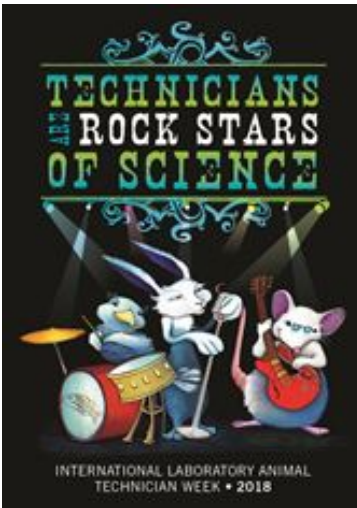
Matthew Farrell-LAT

NIEHS:

Aisha Grant-ALAT

Angela Dickerson-ALAT

Tech Week 2018



Tech week is always a fun time for institutions to give back to their technicians who do so much for the field of research and make advancements possible with their hard work and dedication. We asked some of our institutions to share their tech week activities with us, and here are some of their responses!

Duke

Tech Week at Duke University's Division of Laboratory Animal Resources had a different feel this year. We celebrated our technicians of 2018 with a sense of purpose, togetherness, and friendly competition. Different breakfast goodies like donuts, bagels, and muffins were a very welcome treat in the mornings for our staff. A barbecue lunch was provided midweek for the entire department, bringing staff from all of the buildings together. In addition to the delicious food, swag bags with vendor goodies and raffle tickets were handed out. Gift cards, wireless headphones, and a Roku streaming device were just some of the prizes the technicians walked away with. After lunch staff members were invited to watch *Brick in the Wall*, a short video from Transnetyx that tells the touching story of Joshua Frase and his family's journey battling myotubular myopathy in search of a cure. Lastly, our week culminated with a new tradition. The First Annual Tech Week Olympics pitted staff from administration, veterinary, and husbandry departments against each other in three events. The challenge was put together by the veterinary team and we all ended up winners while enjoying Ben and Jerry's ice cream.



NCSU

At NC State, we kicked off tech week on Monday with a Henry Schein sponsored lunch which included a short tutorial in the TAU sim lab. During that lab, we learned how to properly blanket a horse and got to interact with a life-sized model of a horse. Thursday we had a Charles River sponsored breakfast and a short talk about breeding issues within different strains of mice. That same afternoon we had a fun Rock N Roll game session. Friday we called all of our budding chefs and had a heated chili cook off contest!

UNC-CH

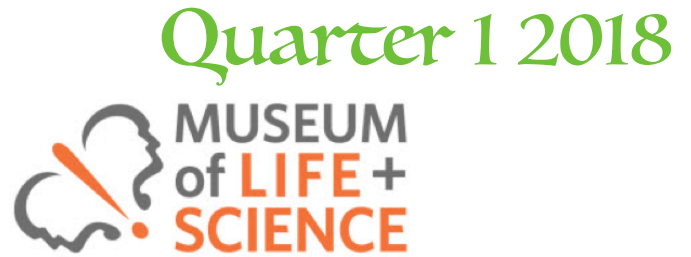
At UNC, almost every event that we have during the week is assigned a specific number of points based on participation, difficulty level, and additional points awarded for judged events with a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place team. Teams are based on work unit and the teams work together towards the common goal of winning the G.O.A.T.T. (Generally Outstanding Animal Technician Team) trophy. 2018 marks the 3rd year that we have given away the trophy. There were 17 teams that competed this year in a variety of rock star themed and non-themed events.

Among the themed events was a door decorating contest where teams were given a bag of identical supplies and asked to decorate their breakroom door in whichever manner they chose, trying to win trophy points and a pizza party for their team. Next was a paparazzi photo shoot complete with outfits and handcrafted cardboard instruments, where our technicians got to feel like rock stars and take their best picture to try and win an afternoon dessert break for their team. We raffled off 8 prizes to daily "rock stars", and held more door prize raffles during other events.

Non-themed events began with a doughnut breakfast and goodie bags one morning, candy jar guessing throughout the week, along with a Recipe Swap one afternoon where participants made a favorite recipe and brought food to share with the group. There was an opportunity to earn CEUs when the Duke Lemur Center gave a presentation about their training and enrichment program.

Finally, the Tech Week Main Event happened on Friday afternoon, starting with a lunch of Harris Teeter subs, chips, and cookies. After lunch there was entertainment in the form of teams competing in a rock band competition, and a cage building relay race. This year we added a little twist for teams that were competing in the relay by combining cage building and a PPE/egg and spoon relay.





RTB AALAS invites you to join us for a day at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham!

Friday, April 13th, 12:00-5:00 PM

RTB AALAS members enter for free! We also invite your friends and family to join us for only \$12 per person!

(Children 2 and under enter for free)

All attendees will enjoy free ice cream, courtesy of the branch!

Join us for keeper talks throughout the afternoon:

2:00 Meet the Keeper- exhibit TBD

2:30 Meet the Insect Keeper at the Bayer Insectarium

3:00 Butterfly Release at Magic Wings Butterfly House

4:30 Meet the Keeper at the Farmyard

Pre-registration is required for this event. Registration link will be sent out to all members approximately one month prior to the event. Please contact us at info@rtbaalas.org with any questions.

NCABR Science & Society workshop

The North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research (NCABR) will present Science & Society: Myths, Mayhem and Strategic Misunderstandings-- a program series for NCABR Members & Donors. The program is FREE to those employed at one of NCABR's member institutions and/or financial donors.

Advances in technology and online information sharing have led to increased public access to scientific information – both credible and not – and to the proliferation of highly sophisticated efforts to deliberately misinform the public about many of the most timely and important issues at the intersection of science and society – issues such as animal research, vaccine safety, genetically modified organisms and climate change.

Members and supporters of the North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research are invited to participate in the Science & Society: Myths, Mayhem and Strategic Misunderstandings workshop series, which will make regional stops in Winston-Salem, Charlotte, the Triangle and Greenville throughout the 2017-2018 academic year.

At each Science & Society workshop, NCABR President Suzanne Wilkison and Roger Conner, a member of the Coalition for the Public Understanding of Science, will discuss current public attitudes towards – and knowledge of – science as a way of framing best practices for communicating about bioscience research to nonscientists.

The goal of the Science & Society workshop series is to mobilize the largest and strongest collective voice possible in North Carolina to defend science and to share science with nonscientists in a way that fosters transparency and public faith in the research process.

Attendees will:

- Gain a clearer understanding of agnotology, (the study of culturally induced ignorance or doubt, particularly the publication of inaccurate or misleading scientific data);
- Leave the presentation better prepared to share science with nonscientists; and
- Be better prepared to help nonscientists navigate an online environment where sound scientific facts can be indistinguishable from fiction to the untrained eye.

Registration is now open for the following workshops:

•East Carolina University
March 6, 2018
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

•University of North Carolina at Charlotte
April 4, 2018
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

•University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
April 12, 2018
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

•Duke University
April 25, 2018
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Social Media

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How many of you are on social media? Did you know that RTB AALAS has a social media presence? Check out our page: RTB A.A.L.A.S. There are a number of other organizations that are on Facebook as well! Some of the organizations you might want to add to your Facebook feed are listed below.

Homes for Animal Heroes

Homes for Animal Heroes (HAH) is a national program dedicated to rehoming retired research animals, mainly dogs, and sharing the facts about the critical role animals in research play in curing disease. HAH is building a network of dog experts that can effectively work with research institutions to rehome retired research dogs in every state across the country, one location at a time. Our goal is to permanently rehome these animal heroes into loving homes through a comprehensive foster-based program.

<https://www.facebook.com/homesforanimalheroes/>

Understanding Animal Research

This page regularly shares a weekly roundup of animal based research results called "This week in animal research." The features have pictures and a link to the Understanding Animal Research page. The page then links to each of the six studies featured. It's easy to share these to your own feed to help your FB friends know what discoveries animal research has led to.

<http://www.facebook.com/UnderstandingAnimalResearch>

The Foundation for Biomedical Research

This is the Facebook page for the well-known advocacy group. They regularly share items related to animal research that can help keep you in the know about what's happening in biomedical research.

<http://www.facebook.com/FBResearch>

AALAS

Our parent organization is on Facebook! Their page feed has news about deadlines and changes going on at AALAS and occasional features on services and products AALAS offers.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/AALAS/221279445386>

The AALAS Foundation

The AALAS Foundation is very active on Facebook, hosting part of the Share that you Care campaign on Facebook and regularly posting updates on ways to work on outreach.

<http://www.facebook.com/aalasfoundation>



RTB Awards Banquet 2018

Congrats to all our 2017 award winners!

Rookie of the Year-**Shannon Wilks**, NC State

Purina Pro Lab Award-**Ian Williams**, Duke

Tecniplast Innovation Award-**Taylor King**, UNC-CH

Manager of the Year-**Fernando Orozco**, Duke

Technician of the Year-**Jessica Blackwell**, UNC-CH

President's Award-**Ronnie Hackney**, UNC-CH

Bio-Serv Enrichment Award-**Lisa Webb**, Mispro

Research Technician of the Year Award-**Sara Lundy**, NC State

Clayton Cisar Award-**Peg Hogan**, Duke

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**Fantastic job,
Karen, you've
trained Bill well!**

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Tech Night 2018

Thank you to the following vendors for their giveaway donations for Tech Night! We appreciate your continued support of the Branch!



Quarter 1 2018



Quarter 1 WordSearch

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R E S E A R C H S A J H W O V
N C K U R X W C U A Q L R T N
D A D D S F I B A L N V M A E
W K I D J T G M V A L B Q R N
C Y P C E Y Z G O S A A D O Q
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U Y E H C N Q T F O S X G A U
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I Y E Z X M G C D T M M A Q E
W K X E Q G H O D X A R H H Q
U Z G U I V N V C H I E V U W



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TECHNICIAN

Spotlight: Executive Council Edition

Jessica Blackwell, President:

Facility/Employer: The University of North Carolina at Chapel-Hill

Job Title: Research Support Technician/
Trainer

What companion animals do you have?

My family has a maltipoo that my sister-in-law gifted to my daughter for being successful in potty training.

What is your favorite movie?

I can't narrow it down to just one. I love *An Officer and a Gentleman*, *The Color Purple* and *A Christmas Story*.

What is the last book you read?

When Love Dies by Judy Bodmer

Where is your favorite vacation spot?

Hawaii

What is your favorite dessert?

I can't possibly name just one. I love chocolate cake, sweet potato pie, sweet potato praline cake (my wedding cake), chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream and cookies and cream ice cream all equally!



Emily Butler, President-Elect:

Facility/

Employer: UNC-Chapel Hill, the Mackman lab

Job Title: Research Technician

What companion animals do you have?

I have two cats (Linus and Schroeder), two dogs (Maxx and Maddie), and two horses (Chance and Jazzy).

How did you get in this field?

A friend from college worked in an animal facility and reached out because of my Animal Science degree and interest in rodents.

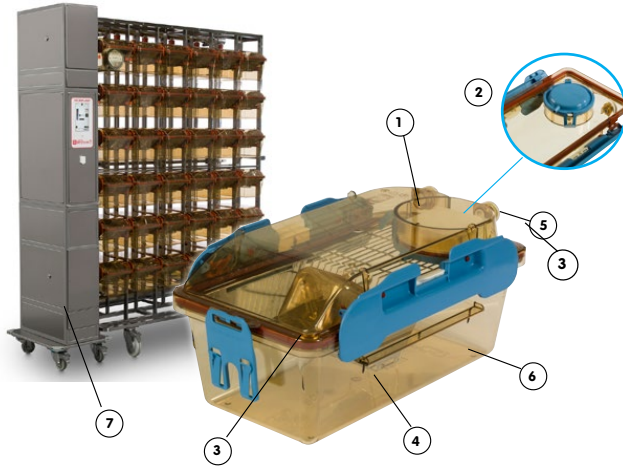
Who were your mentors?

One of my old managers, Courtney Nesline. She has been instrumental in my growth as a professional and in this field.

What advice do you have for others just beginning their animal science career?

Do everything. Get involved, do what makes you nervous, put yourself out there, meet people. Do all the things!

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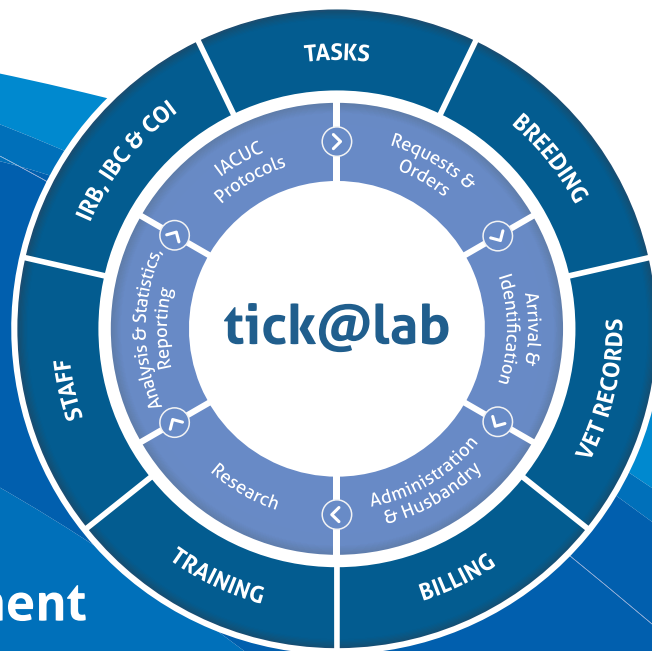


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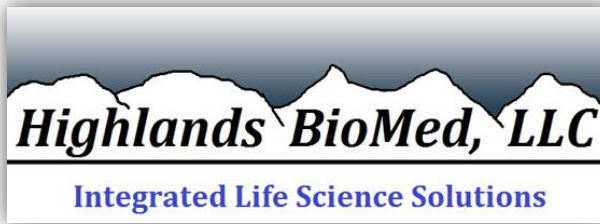


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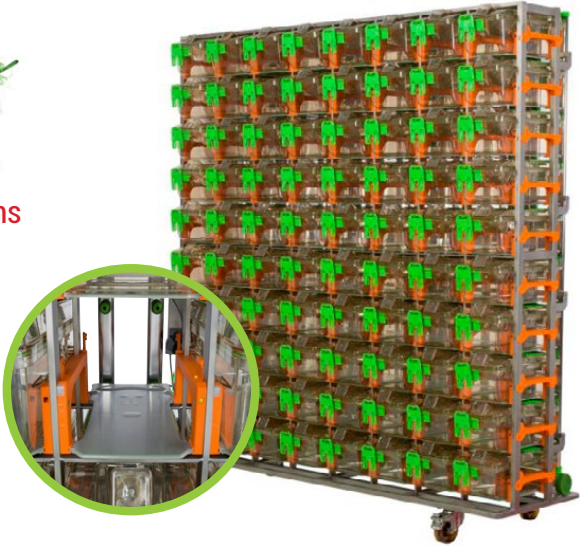


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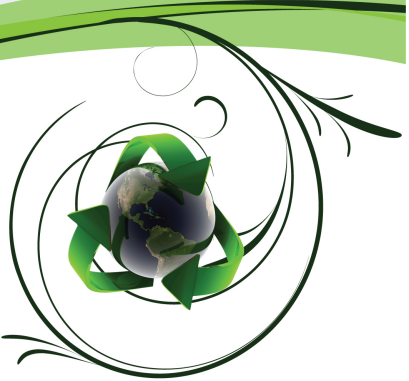
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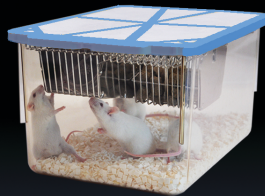
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Johnny Wilson

Technical Sales Consultant – Southeast

Allentown, Inc.
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Maria Cariglia

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