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October 1, 2012

BOARD CORNER

November Board Meeting

The next CALA Board meeting will be November 8, 2012 in Ottawa.

Please see the last page of this newsletter for Board contact information.

MESSAGE FROM THE CALA PRESIDENT & CEO

It is a busy time of year for CALA, with many items to report. See the **full CEO Message on page 2**.

2014 CONFERENCE

CALA is pleased to announce that it has selected a conference organizer to assist in the development of our first-ever CALA Conference and Trade Show in conjunction with our 25th AGM in 2014.

Please see page 2 of this newsletter.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

We have awarded our two scholarships for 2012.

Awarded annually to two students, recognizing understanding and use of any of the following themes:

1. Importance Of Data Quality.
2. Value Of Accreditation.
3. Quality Assurance And Quality Control In Testing Measurements And Experimentation.

Please see page 3 of this newsletter.

APLAC EVALUATES CALA

During the week of September 24, CALA hosted an international team of Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) evaluators.

Please see page 4 of this newsletter.



2 | MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Fall is historically the busiest time of year for the CALA accreditation program and this year is certainly keeping this tradition alive. In addition to a very heavy accreditation schedule, CALA itself (even as I write this message) is undergoing its own audit as an accrediting body under ISO/IEC 17011. An audit team from the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), with auditors from New Zealand, Taiwan and the United States has been on site with us all week. (See more details on this visit later in the newsletter)

I am very pleased to inform you that CALA has awarded the 2012 John Lawrence Student Scholarships to two very deserving and talented recipients. Our thanks goes out to all of you who brought our scholarship opportunity to the attention of students working within your institutions. CALA is very proud of its ability to assist deserving students with these two \$1,000 scholarships. We hope that these awards can in some small way assist them with the ever-increasing costs of their post-secondary studies. (Details of the winners can be found later in this newsletter)

I am also pleased to inform you that CALA has taken the next important step toward hosting its first national conference and trade show in 2014. Following a Request for Proposals, CALA has selected the firm of Verney Conference Management of Ottawa to assist us in bringing this event to fruition in conjunction with CALA's 25th Annual Meeting in June 2014. Prior to the end of this year you will begin seeing communications related to this event. In fact, we will soon be asking for expressions of interest to become a member of the steering committee for this event. All meetings of the steering committee will occur by electronic means, so if you have an interest in helping to shape the content of our conference for the benefit of the whole laboratory community, please contact me directly at cbrimley@cala.ca.

C. Charles Brimley
President & CEO

CALA AT THE CMA



CALA attended the Canadian Mineral Analysts conference in Quebec City in September.



3 | JOHN LAWRENCE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

2012 Scholarship Award Recipients

2012 recipients are Maiju Saarinen and Georgina Rainsford.

Maiju Saarinen (Picture 1) lives in Hamilton, Ontario and attends Mohawk College. She is pursuing Chemical Engineering. Maiju completed her work term at the City of Hamilton Environmental Laboratory, Hamilton, Ontario. Her paper was titled, “How Quality Control Can Protect Drinking Water Pipes From Corrosion.”

Georgina Rainsford (Picture 2) is from Sudbury, Ontario, and is enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering – Mechanical Engineering at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario. Georgina’s work term was at Geoscience Laboratories in Sudbury, Ontario. Her paper was “A Canary in a Coalmine – Designing Effective and Efficient Control Charts for Quality Control in X-Ray Fluorescence.”

CONGRATULATIONS MAIJU AND GEORGINA!

This CALA award recognizes an individual’s understanding and use of any of the following themes:

- Importance Of Data Quality.
- Value Of Accreditation.
- Quality Assurance And Quality Control In Testing Measurements And Experimentation.

For more information on the award, how to nominate/apply and a list of past recipients, please see <http://www.cala.ca/awards.html>



Picture 1 - Jason Oatley, CALA Director, presents the certificate and a \$1000 cheque to Maiju Saarinen.



Picture 2 - C. Charles Brimley, CALA President and CEO, presents the certificate and \$1000 cheque to Georgina Rainsford.



4 | PROGRAM UPDATES

Accreditation Program Update

APLAC Re-evaluation of CALA

During the week of September 24, CALA hosted an international team of Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) evaluators. The team spent the week looking for objective evidence that CALA conforms to ISO/IEC 17011 – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies. This gathering of objective evidence included staff interviews, review of policies, procedures and records, and witnessing three (3) CALA teams carry out assessments.

The team members were:

Anne Hofstra	Programme Manager, Chemical, Biological and Dairy Programme International Accreditation New Zealand
Roger M. Brauning	BioSafety Program Manager American Association for Laboratory Accreditation
Yi-Fang Pan	Accreditation Manager Taiwan Accreditation Foundation

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the assessment teams that were under the microscope, and the three (3) laboratories that agreed to an observer on site.

This process must occur once every four (4) years, in order to maintain CALA's signatory status with the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). However, over and above simply meeting this requirement, CALA staff really enjoyed the opportunity to meet other accreditation staff, share knowledge and learn from each other. It's through this process that CALA can continue to improve and the ultimate objective of "tested once, accepted everywhere" can be achieved.



Picture 1 Yi-Fang Pan, APLAC Evaluator (center, white jacket) observes the CALA assessment of the York-Durham Regional Environmental Lab in Pickering, Ontario.



Picture 2 APLAC Evaluators Yi-Fang Pan, (third from left), Anne Hofstra and Roger M. Brauning with CALA Assessments Staff outside the CALA office.



5 | **Multi-Analyte Appendix Application**

When applying for accreditation for a multi-analyte appendix, all the information on the scope of testing template is required to complete the application review process, however the analytes themselves do not need to be listed on the form and can be appended using our analyte template found at <http://www.cala.ca/excel-analyte>

PT Program Update

Food Microbiology PT

CALA is working with CEAEQ to develop a PT program for food microbiology that will provide laboratories with a Canadian option. At present, CEAEQ is working on the production methodology so that homogeneous and stable samples can be made available. If all goes well, we are hoping to offer the first study at the end of November of this year. We will notify laboratories as soon as we know more.

TCLP

We will be implementing new PT test group(s) for TCLP methodology. Details will be included in the 2013 PT catalogue. The planned test groups will be for metals, VOCs and anions. Because of the time and effort required for processing TCLP samples, the new test groups will consist of two samples per test group rather than the four samples that is common for CALA's other PT samples.

VOCs in Soil

At present, the VOCs in soil samples are provided as frozen samples. Due to this, we have experienced problems with including some of the compounds that are normally included in a VOC scan (e.g., vinyl chloride, trichlorofluoromethane, etc.). To try to address this, and to better reflect commonly used sampling protocol, one of the samples in the January 2013 C36 study will be provided as a weighed amount of soil in a VOC vial containing a measured amount of methanol. Instructions will be provided as part of the study on how to process this sample. This sample will be used to examine the feasibility of changing the manner in which we present the samples to participating laboratories. As with other tests that we have performed, this sample will not be used as part of the laboratory's evaluation of performance.

On-line access to historic PT studies

In July, CALA made available on-line tools for accessing and trending historic CALA PT data, allowing a laboratory to download PT data based on user defined search criteria, and to produce some basic trending plots. Please visit <http://my.cala.ca/> using the same login coordinates as your CALA PT Web Data Entry Password.



“Program Updates”
continued...

6 | Training Program Update

Have you checked out the Laboratory Webinar series?

The CALA Laboratory Webinar series is off to a roaring start. We have held 3 webinars to date and two of them sold out.

We are adding more to the schedule this year. Keep an eye on the training schedule at http://www.cala.ca/training_program.html for announcements of upcoming webinars.

The webinars are an economical way for your laboratory to learn more about the ISO/IEC 17025 standard, as well as other laboratory learning. You can register one person for a webinar and then set up with an LCD projector and speakers and have everyone from the laboratory attend. We even allow you access to the recordings for two weeks following the session for your staff who were unable to attend the live session.

Uncertain about Sampling Uncertainty?

Chemical analysis helps us make decisions about the sampling target. The sampling target can be called a lot, consignment, batch, shipment, boatload, bay, contaminated site or production run. We want to know its commercial value, if it is within specification or demonstrates compliance. The decision is often based on a measurement result and its uncertainty. Each sampling target gets one test result.

Chemical measurement usually includes a sampling step, which propagates its own uncertainty onto the test result. The customer must know the combined uncertainty of the measurement process including sampling and analysis to make an optimal decision about the sampling target. The contribution from sampling can make a critical difference to the reliability of the decision and the cost of a mistake.

To learn more about Sampling Uncertainty, check out the full article at http://www.cala.ca/t_nw_MU_from_sampling.pdf and sign up for the CALA course, “Uncertainty in Sampling and Compliance Assessment”.

2012 Fall Training Schedule

Check our 2012 fall schedule on our newly updated training website at http://www.cala.ca/training_program.html

Did you know that you get a 10% discount if you register 3 or more people from your laboratory in the same course?

Remember that all our publically scheduled courses are Guaranteed to Run. If you are registered for a course, you can rest assured that the course will go ahead.



7 | CONNECT WITH US!

CALA RSS News Feed, LinkedIn and Facebook



RSS - Really Simple Syndication is a web feed format used to publish frequently updated works in a standardized format.

<http://tinyurl.com/cala-news-rss>



Connect with staff on our Company LinkedIn page.

<http://tinyurl.com/cala-linkedin>



CALA is on Facebook, the world's largest social networking site.

<http://tinyurl.com/cala-facebook>

QUALITY DOCUMENTS UPDATE

The following revised CALA Quality System documents can be found on the CALA website at <http://www.cala.ca/library.html>

A65	Assessment Software instructions	Rev 2.2	29-Jun-12	Accreditation Program
A80	Assessor Application	Rev 1.5	19-Jun-12	
A125	Accreditation Program Target Timelines	Rev 1.2	12-Jul-12	
P02-04	Program Description - PT Catalogue	Rev 1.6	21-Sep-12	Program Documents
P02-06	Program Description - Training Fee Schedule	Rev 1.10	13-Jul-12	
P03	CALA Publicity Policy	Rev 1.2	13-Sep-12	
PT15-03	CALA PT Program Procedures	Rev 1.6	6-Sep-12	PT Program
Q19	Travel Guidelines	Rev 4.9	27-Sep-12	Quality Documents
Q25	Feedback within CALA	Rev 3.6	17-Aug-12	
F14	CALA Training Course Registration Form	Rev 2.14	19-Jun-12	Training

The CALA Board of Directors

All members, especially laboratories that are new applicants, are encouraged to contact any of the directors listed below to discuss CALA and its programs, and to seek their advice and guidance on how to make our programs work for them.

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