

ICUE 2017 Recap: NAUI's Commitment to Quality Diver Education Lives On



From left to right, lower row: Jeanne Sleeper, Susan Bangasser, Cheri Boone, Dave Ochs, Nancy Guarascio and Ronnie Damico. From left to right, upper row: Amie Hufton, Jennifer King, Angie Cowan and Cheryl Thacker.



From left to right: Derik Crotts, Glen Egstrom, Arthur Ullrich, Dallas Edmiston and John Reseck Jr.

After nearly two decades of silence, the International Conference on Underwater Education (ICUE) re-emerged at the Long Beach Scuba Show with a loud and definitive statement that NAUI's commitment to quality education for divers has not diminished.

Spread over three days, ICUE 2017 offered everything from a connection with diving legends to engaging and informative presentations spanning topics as diverse as diving in Antarctica and creating a culture of diving leadership that produces positive growth.

"The entire weekend was simply outstanding," stated NAUI Executive Director Dallas Edmiston. "I think all those who attended came away with a renewed sense of pride in the accomplishments and contributions of NAUI to the diving community."

The conference kicked off with a reception aboard

the *Queen Mary*, where more than 100 NAUI members, leaders and divers were treated to a night of reminiscing and relationship building. In attendance were NAUI and scuba diving legends Arthur Ullrich (NAUI 601), Glen Egstrom (NAUI 937) and John Reseck Jr. (NAUI 949), not only the original leaders behind the initial development of NAUI as an agency, but also the originators of the ICUE concept. Additionally, NAUI women diving pioneers and significant contributors and managers of past ICUEs were recognized: Jeanne Bear Sleeper (NAUI 2648), Jennifer King (NAUI 6867), Susan Bangasser (NAUI 3910) and Cheri Boone (NAUI 4851).

Ullrich, who in 1968 was NAUI's executive director, explained the thought behind establishing the original ICUE: "We wanted to get all of the certification agencies together to talk about diver education. What we did was



solidify relationships, and that helped everyone become better instructors.”

That objective was ever present during the relaunch, and throughout each day, more than 200 people in total attended thought-provoking presentations. The feedback from both attendees and organizers supported the continuation of this unique gathering and effort.

“I hope that ICUE finds a couple of good sharp leaders who are willing to put in the time and effort that Art [Ullrich] used to put in to get a crowd,” said Egstrom. “It was easier before DEMA grew so much, but it is still a

very viable and exciting [program]. Hopefully we’ll see a lot of interest developed.”

A special thanks to Mark Young for the exceptional logistics support from the Scuba Show, along with *Dive Training Magazine*, *Dive Center Business*, Deepblu, Scandi Divers and Atlantis Dive Resorts & Liveaboards for their sponsorship.

Start making your plans today for the next ICUE event by visiting nau.org/about/icue. Become part of the future of diving by defining your role in leadership and education either by attending or presenting at the International Conference on Underwater Education.

