

Dr. Lee H. Somers Selected as 1997 DAN/Rolux Diver of the Year

Author, educator and researcher Lee H. Somers, Ph.D., is the 1997 DAN/Rolux Diver of the Year. This annual award honors an individual who has made notable achievements in diving safety and has a strong record of public service in scuba diving.

Dr. Somers has been on the faculty of the University of Michigan since 1969. In 1972, he established a hyperbaric research facility at the university. He has been a scuba instructor since 1958, and has been active dive educator with the Illinois Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, NAUI, PADI and YMCA. Dr. Somers has served or currently serves on the board of directors of the AAUS, IANTD, Our World



Dr. Somers (left), accepts the award "for the dive community" from Barry Shuster.

Underwater Scholarship Committee and other diving organizations. Dr. Somers is a past recipient of the NOGI award for education, and the NAUI Leonard Greenstone award for safety. He is widely published in the diving press, and has authored textbooks on scuba diving.

"Lee is a trailblazer in recreational dive safety," said DAN Director of Marketing Barry Shuster, who presented the award to Dr. Somers

on May 31 at Seaspace 1997 in Houston. "He is a dive educator of great stature and humility who personifies the spirit of the Diver of the Year award, which is service to the community."

"Many leaders in the diving industry today owe their success to his influence," added Dan Orr, DAN Director of Operations and Personnel. "His teaching methods and educational philosophy have had a profound effect upon diver education around the diving world. Lee has been an inspiration and mentor for many of us who have made a career as diving educators."

Dr. Somers accepted the award "on behalf of the entire recreational diving community," he said at the award ceremony, where he was presented a specially engraved Rolex Oyster Perpetual Submariner Date dive watch.