The SAS Spectrum Newsletter
The Newsletter of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy

October 2010

SAS IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE ELECTION OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-ELECT
MARY KATE DONAIS

Mary Kate Donais received her B.S. in Chemistry from Bucknell University in 1991 and her Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1996 under the direction of Peter C. Uden. Her dissertation research focused on the use of element-selective chromatographic detection for environmental speciation studies. A portion of this research was performed at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland, under the direction of Stephen A. Wise. She continued at NIST as a National Research Council Postdoctoral Associate after completion of her graduate studies.

In 1997 Mary Kate joined VG Elemental as a Senior Application Chemist for inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry products. Responsibilities in this position included product demonstrations, application development, and customer training. While at VG, Mary Kate continued her scholarly activities with five conference presentations and three publications.

Mary Kate joined the faculty at Saint Anselm College, a four-year liberal arts college in New Hampshire, in 1999 where she currently holds an associate professorship in the Chemistry Department. At Saint Anselm she has continued her interests in atomic spectroscopy, working with flame atomic absorption spectroscopy, inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy, and handheld X-ray fluorescence spectrometry applications for archaeological samples. Mary Kate's most recent archaeometry work has expanded into Raman spectroscopy studies of fresco pigments using portable instrumentation. She will participate in her second archaeological excavation this summer in Italy. Mary Kate has over twenty-five presentations, eight publications, and eight research grants since moving from industry to academics ten years ago. Mary Kate has been a member of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy (SAS) and the New England local section of SAS for over 13 years. She served on the Governing Board as a Delegate-at-Large (2007–2008) and was re-elected to a second term (2009–2010). She is currently also serving on the SAS Membership Committee (2009–present). Mary Kate has organized symposia and chaired sessions at the Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies (FACSS) meetings for the past three years (2008–2010).

TREASURER
PAUL BOURASSA

Paul Bourassa has been a member of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy for many years and is currently serving the SAS as Treasurer. He has previously served SAS as President of the Chicago Section in 1981 and twice as National Tour Speaker Chairman. Paul is a member of the Coblentz Society, where he served as a delegate to FACSS for a number of years.

Paul has served FACSS in many roles. In 2007 he was the General Chairman of the FACSS conference in Memphis. For ten years (1996–2006) he served as the Treasurer of FACSS. In 1994 he served as Governing Board Chairman and in 1989 he served as the General Chairman for the FACSS conference in Chicago. He is also currently serving on the FACSS Long Range Planning Committee. In 2009, Paul received the FACSS Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the federation.

Having served on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Spectroscopy* since the introduction of the journal, Paul has authored and coauthored a number of articles for the publication and served as editor of the Spectral Interpretation column. Paul has also served as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation. He is a member of the American Chemical Society. With colleagues Jim Rydzak and John Coates, Paul has taught courses in Molecular Spectroscopy for the Center for Professional Advancement in New Jersey and Amsterdam over a period of eight years.

After graduating from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Paul started his career in spectroscopy with a mass spectrometer at the University of Chicago. After learning how to polish salt crystals, Paul began a long career in infrared spectroscopy. During his sixteen years at UOP, Paul widened his scope to include chromatography, NMR, UV-VIS-NIR, emission, and X-ray, eventually becoming supervisor of the spectroscopy department at UOP. With his growing love of the art and science of the interpretation of spectral data, Paul established a company to provide consultation in this area.

As a Director at Lifeblood Mid-South Regional Blood Center in Memphis, Tennessee, for the past seven years, Paul's responsibilities cover departments involved in the making, testing, and distribution of blood components (red cells, plasma, platelets, Cryo, buffy coats, etc.). Paul also coordinates the non-transfusable products programs for Lifeblood and serves as a radiation safety officer.

Paul and his wife Linda live in Germantown, Tennessee, where Paul is active as the Clerk of Session at Farmington Presbyterian Church, a post he has served in for the past fourteen years. He is a member of the Germantown Ministers/Police Alliance and a member of the Germantown Coffee Club. There is no record of his tenure with the Coffee Club. Linda and Paul's daughter, Rachael, lives and works in Memphis. Paul is also a freelance writer, publishing a series of articles in the New 50, a magazine insert in the Memphis Commercial Appeal newspaper.

SAS GOVERNING BOARD DELEGATES

Steve Barnett
Robert Lascola
Mike Morris
Karla McCain
John Wasylyk

October Historical Events in Spectroscopy
by Leopold May, Catholic University

October 4, 1957 Sputnik I, first artificial earth satellite, was launched by the USSR on this date.

October 7, 1885

This is the birthday of Niels Bohr, who proposed the "solar system" model of atom to explain atomic spectra in 1913. He received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922 for his services in the investigation of the structure of atoms and of the radiation emanating from them.

October 9, 1879

One hundred and thirty-one years ago Max von Laue was born on this date. He was a researcher in X-rays and crystal structure and suggested in 1912 that crystals diffract X-rays. He received the Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of the diffraction of X-rays by crystals.

October 23 This is Mole Day, 6.02 a.m. through 6.02 p.m. (Mole Times);
Mole Moment: 50.453 s after 6:42 p.m. (6.02 x 10 x 23)

Further history items can be found at http://faculty.cua.edu/may/.

Comments to david.butcher@analytchem.org