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Nominations Open for: 2015 Honorary Membership Award

This award is established to recognize individuals for their exceptional contributions to the field of spectroscopy and is the highest award given by SAS. The Award consists of an engraved plaque and a lifetime membership in the Society. This membership shall include all the privileges and rights of a regular member. The award shall be presented at the Society for Applied Spectroscopy award ceremony held at the 2015 fall meeting. Regional, Technical and or Student Sections, individual members, the Awards Committee, or the Executive Committee may make nomination for the Honorary Membership Award. Nomination material should include a letter of recommendation with supporting documentation regarding the nominee's contributions to the field of spectroscopy, a current CV, and short bio. Submission deadline is December 1, 2014.

2015 Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes the contributions of individual members for their long-time service to the Society. The Award consists of an engraved plaque and a lifetime membership in the Society. This membership shall include all the privileges and rights of a regular member. The award shall be presented at the Society for Applied Spectroscopy award ceremony held at the fall meeting. Nomination for the Distinguished Service Award may be made by Regional, Technical and or Student Sections, individual members, the Awards Committee, or the Executive Committee. Nomination material should include a letter of recommendation with supporting documentation regarding the nominee's contributions to the Society for Applied Spectroscopy and spectroscopy, a current CV, and short bio. Submission deadline is December 1, 2014.

Emeritus Membership Award

This award recognizes members who have contributed to spectroscopy and have been members of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy for 15 years, and now have retired from active scientific endeavor. The Award consists of an engraved plaque and a lifetime membership in the Society. This membership shall include all the privileges and rights of a regular member. The award shall be presented at the Society for Applied Spectroscopy award ceremony held at the fall meeting. Nomination for the Emeritus Membership Award may be made by Regional, Technical and or Student Sections, individual members, the Awards Committee, or the Executive Committee. Nomination material should include a letter of recommendation with supporting documentation regarding the nominee's contributions to the Society for Applied Spectroscopy and spectroscopy, a current CV, and short bio. Submission deadline is December 1, 2014.

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SAS Student Ambassador Award Report

I am honored to have received a SAS student ambassador award for the 14th International Conference on Raman Spectroscopy (ICORS), held in Jena, Germany from August 10–15, 2014. I am currently working on my PhD in France implementing resonance Raman spectroscopy for biological samples. Most of the conferences I attend are related to photosynthesis or biology, so ICORS was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the vast range of work being done with Raman spectroscopy.

While there, I spoke with many scientists and promoted the SAS. There was a lot of interest especially from other PhD students. Many Europeans had not heard of SciX, and were impressed when I told them about the annual conference and how great it is. I used the ICORS poster sessions as my central channel for SAS promotion. I told everyone I talked to at the conference that my attendance was funded by SAS and also provided further information about the Society. My main points were, how wonderful the people are in the Society, the funding opportunities, and how much I learned at last year's SciX in Milwaukee. I explained what a fun and laid back conference it is, and how nice and open everyone is, SciX is definitely a venue where opportunities for scientific growth and collaborations can be found within the spectroscopy community. To those that seemed interested, I shared the SAS website so they could take a look and sign up; a couple of them promised me they definitely would. I think it would be very beneficial to the Society to develop their European chapter; I know that I would be interested in being more involved and I think a lot of other people would, too.

When not performing my ambassador duties, I was participating in sessions at the conference. I gave an oral presentation, which was a great experience in presenting and for promoting some recent work on Fermi resonance in peridinin. I also used the talk to say thank you for the funding from the SAS and if anyone was interested that I would love to tell them about the Society. I ended up talking to many of the other speakers in my session and telling them about the SAS.

I'd like to say thank you again for the funding to attend ICORS; not only was it a great conference, but Jena is a beautiful place. The buildings and landscapes are charming and it was a pleasure to just walk around the city. I stayed in a bed and breakfast that was quite outside of the city center and it was really scenic and relaxing. There was another PhD student staying at my bed and breakfast; she is working on an archeology project in Australia and her lab was looking for spectroscopists! I introduced her by e-mail to a colleague of mine that I knew would be interested, and, voilà! He may be moving to Australia soon if things work out properly, so there were a lot of great things that came from me attending this conference!

Elizabeth Kish, PhD Student
Department of Life Sciences
CEA Saclay, France



Me walking around Jena during one of the lunch breaks.



Photo of the Wednesday night medieval gala. This dinner was provided by the conference and much fun was had!



Some friends I made at the conference sitting outside of the university; beer was provided by the conference.



My scenic bed-and-breakfast hotel!



The registration booth.



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