

SAS SPECTRUM eNEWS

SAS President Ellen Miseo's Thoughts on the SAS National Meeting During SciX 2016

SciX 2016 was packed with activities related to the Society. SciX is the national meeting of SAS and we take pride in our contributions to the event. There were a number of new as well as ongoing initiatives that directly benefit our members as promoted and discussed during the meeting. We continued to enhance our mission of education by sponsoring some outstanding symposiums. We honored the hard work and dedication of our members during our annual awards ceremony. And, most importantly, we provided outlets for our members to engage and network with friends and colleagues.

To start off the packed week, the SAS Executive Committee met on Saturday and discussed the business of the Society. We discussed two topics that should be of high interest to our members. First is a brand new Spectroscopy Certification Program that we anticipate will enhance the careers and resumes of both members and non-members alike. This program, which was officially launched at SciX 2016, will allow a spectroscopist to formally validate their credentials. This certification should help our members in the increasingly competitive job market as well as raising the profile of our professional area. The EC voted to formally recognize our active Fellows as Certified Senior Spectroscopists, and the certification committee will be made up of these Fellows. More information on the certification program can be [found here](#).

During the EC meeting, as well as at a number of publication related meetings during the week, we learned that Sage Publishing (the new publisher of our Journal) is using Applied Spectroscopy as the nucleus of a spectroscopy effort and there will be a series of new journals that they will publish. We will be able to offer our members discounts on these new related journals as just one of several new member benefits we have been working on for the past year. You can see our entire most current member's only benefits by [clicking here](#). Do not forget you need to have a current membership to log into this area of the website to access these benefits.

On the social networking front, the annual Sunday Member's Only Event was well attended. The event was outside on the patio of Brit's Pub. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed it immensely whether indulging in the delicious food and drink, or trying their hand at lawn bowling. On Sunday night the SciX Welcome Mixer and SAS Poster Session showcased the work of a number of up and coming student scientists. Congratulations to the four student posters selected as the best of the evening: Kyle C. Doty of the University at Albany, SUNY; Ebrahim Aboulizadeh of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Nicholas Larkey, Oregon State University; and C. Kyle Almie of Oregon State University.

As usual, the SciX technical program was outstanding with over 90 sessions representing the interests of SAS members, several of which SAS sponsored. The only downside to this was that with the large number of interesting sessions, it was inevitable that there were overlapping papers.

At the Monday night exhibit opening, Mike Carrabba (the new SAS President-Elect) did an outstanding job sending almost 100 new student members to the SAS booth to join the Society! Thanks to Mike and several generous company and individual sponsors, these students will get to experience first-hand how SAS can benefit them. In addition, the exhibit opening gave everyone an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and get to know new people. After the exhibit, SAS held a student member mixer at O'Donovan's where we had lots of students interested in the Society. One thing that stands out in my mind is a conversation with a graduate student (who is not in the traditional spectroscopy disciplines). I suggested that she attend SciX last year since it was local to her in Providence. I saw her this year and chatted about why she came back. She made a number of comments about the welcoming, manageable conference and the opportunities to participate. I think we have a long-term member and we as a society should encourage these interactions.

On Tuesday, there was a symposium to honor former SAS President Joe Caruso, who had made major contributions to the Society and the science. Since the program was so packed, the Governing Board meeting only had a 1.5-hour slot to conduct all of our business. We finished in record time, allowing everyone to get to the SAS Wine and Cheese reception on time. At the Wine and Cheese, the society recognized a number of outstanding members and awardees. I cannot list them all here, but [refer you here](#).

Wednesday and Thursday were filled with more opportunities to learn and network, including the SciX Wednesday Night gala that gave everyone a chance to relax and get their flannel on. It was obvious by Thursday evening, when the FACSS Governing Board met, that everyone was pleased with the outcome of the meeting and declared it a success.

The SAS Executive Committee, Governing Board, and office staff look forward to seeing you in Reno, Nevada, in 2017 where we will continue to plan events that will enhance your Society membership and contribute to another successful conference for SciX and National Meeting for SAS.

*Contributed by Ellen Miseo
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Newsletter Change of Leadership

My term as Chair of the Newsletter Committee ends with the calendar year. Working on the Newsletter is challenging. Balancing timeliness, accuracy, and the news flow is a constant challenge, one we hope to meet while providing an engaging read for most, if not all, of our members. The Newsletter is the voice of the SAS and its membership. Encouraging the committees and members to voice themselves has been part of that goal. Providing profiles of members has been another example. All of us have important perspectives that we need to share in the present and for the future. I plan to continue hosting a series of articles on startups and small business building. There is a lot of work, patience, and grit that goes into building a small business from scratch. We are a small community with low visibility, but a global impact. Spectroscopy is pervasive and has the potential for real growth. A deliberate and active community should nurture that growth. In turn, the Society will grow and fulfill its mission, "to advance and disseminate knowledge and information concerning the art and science of spectroscopy and other allied sciences." I believe I have helped the Society with its mission.

Of course, the content, timeliness, and polish without having the support talented people like our staff Kristin MacDonald, Bill Cunningham, Bonnie Saylor, and volunteer committee members Heinz Siesler, Shawn Burrows, Luisa T.M. Profeta, and Xiaoyun (Shawn) Chen has been part of the pleasure of serving in this challenging and very public role. As a volunteer, I believe that changing roles is important for my own professional growth and helps me contribute more to the Society. I look forward to working with everyone in the future in a different role.

*Contributed by Frederick G. Haibach
(fred.g.haibach@gmail.com)*

Student Profile: David Bryce, Fourth Year PhD Candidate at the University of Utah

David grew up in eastern Washington State. He was an undergraduate at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington, majoring in chemistry and minoring in mathematics. During his undergraduate study, David worked with Dion Rivera using ATR FT-IR for investigation of polyelectrolyte-surfactant interactions at silica and titanium dioxide surfaces. After undergraduate study, David worked for one year in the geosciences group at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), where he developed methodology to monitor organic compounds partitioning between water and super-critical CO₂.

David started at the University of Utah in the fall of 2013. He joined Professor Joel Harris' group and is currently focused on using confocal Raman microscopy to investigate molecular behavior at liquid-solid interfaces. The solid materials of interest to David is column packing material used for chromatography. David is investigating the adsorption and desorption of organic compounds and biological molecules from the surfaces throughout individual chromatographic particles in order to better understand separation behavior. David believes that confocal Raman microscopy is a unique analytical tool for such study as chromatographic materials as the speciation and concentration in the interior of the particles can be directly probed by confocal Raman microscopy (e.g., Jay P. Kitt and Joel M. Harris, *Analytical Chemistry*, 2014, 86(3): 1719-1725).

David joined SAS during the membership drive at SciX 2014 conference (Reno, NV), and he has been attending SciX since then. When asked what SAS has to offer for its student members, David specified:

"SAS provides a lot of benefits to students. [It is a] great venue to meet people in industries, a very focused group. If you are a spectroscopist, this is really a great place to look into. Allows one to generate positive relationships with students. [You] get to meet students progressing through their degrees; seeing how peers are doing, bouncing ideas off each other."

David is currently a student representative for SAS. He is involved in the planning of student events at PITTCON and SciX meetings, and also represents student member interests at SAS executive committee meetings. When David is not busy working in the lab, he enjoys the outdoor life in Utah such as rock climbing, hiking, and cycling.

Contributed by Xiaoyun (Shawn) Chen
(xchen4@dow.com)



SAS Elects New Officers and Governing Board Delegates

Congratulations to newly elected SAS officers: Michael Carrabba, President-Elect, and Diane Parry, Treasurer. They will both serve three-year terms beginning January 2017. In addition, congrats to our five new at-large elected Governing Board Delegates: Glen Jackson, Brian Marquardt, Michael George, Jean-Francois Masson, and Scott Rudder.

Search for Editor of Applied Spectroscopy

The Society for Applied Spectroscopy is conducting a search for Editor of Applied Spectroscopy with the intent of transitioning to Position of Editor-in-Chief.

Applied Spectroscopy Journal Editor, Peter R. Griffiths, recently communicated his intent to step down as editor in March 2017. Additionally, the term of current Journal Editor-in-Chief Michael Blades will end in June 2018. The Publications and Executive Committees of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy are now conducting a search for qualified applicants for the position of Editor beginning in April 2017 with the intention that the individual will transition to the Editor-in-Chief role of Applied Spectroscopy in 2018. The term served as Editor will provide the applicant opportunity to learn the journal operation processes to help prepare for the transition to Editor-in-Chief. Applicants must be a top scientist in the field, be a member in good standing of the Society, should have a distinguished scholarly record, and experience in academic leadership roles. This individual should also possess strong organizational and management skills, and the ability to work well with others. Applicants will also need to have the appropriate time and resources to manage the peer review process for a busy journal and will have the ability to encourage high quality submissions. The Editor-in-Chief position is a three-year term, is responsible for the regular monthly publication of Applied Spectroscopy, and serves as a non-voting member of the Society Executive Committee and Governing Board. There is a small honorarium associated with the position, as well as some paid travel to attend Pittcon and SciX.

If you would like to be considered for the position, please email your name and contact information along with supporting documentation including a CV, a summary of qualifications for the position, and a statement on your vision for the journal to: Dr. John Wasylyk, Chair of the SAS Publications Committee exdir@s-a-s.org. The deadline for receipt of applications is December 15, 2016.

Rina Dukor Receives University of Illinois Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Rina K Dukor, co-founder and President of BioTools, Inc., received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Illinois Alumni Association. The award is presented to those alumni who have attained outstanding success and national or international distinction in their chosen business, profession or life's work, and whose accomplishments reflect admirably on or bring honor to their alma mater.

In 2000, Dukor launched BioTools with Laurence A. Nafie. The company introduced the first commercial dedicated vibrational circular dichroism (VCD) spectrometer, and soon became a world leader in developing biopharmaceutical research instrumentation. Now, BioTools instrumentation is used to understand the structure of chiral molecules and biologics in pharmaceutical drug development, regulatory verification of structure and determination of structure in the research environment. For the full announcement, contact the chris@pharusgroup.com.

Submitted by Gloria Story

SAS and ADIS at Cincinnati ACS Picnic!

The Cincinnati Section of SAS recently attended the ACS Cincinnati Section Friends and Family Picnic on September 11, 2016. The picnic started with an information session with organizations such as SAS. The organizations highlighted some of the ways to get involved and connect with colleagues who share interests. Gloria Story (Cincinnati Past-Chair) and Anna Donnell (Cincinnati Chair and ADIS Chair-elect) represented the Society for Applied Spectroscopy and highlighted the new special interest section, the Advancement of Diversity and Inclusion in Spectroscopy (ADIS).

Contributed by Anna Donnell



Nominate a Spectroscopist for the Gold Medal Award

Nominations are being sought for the 2017 Gold Medal Award of the New York Section of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. This coveted award was established in 1952 to recognize outstanding contributions to the field of Applied Spectroscopy. The Gold Medal will be presented at a special award symposium, arranged in honor of the awardee, at the 2017 Eastern Analytical Symposium. A nominating letter describing the nominee's specific accomplishments should be submitted along with a biographical sketch and list of publications by January 10, 2017. Please email all materials to Kathryn.lee@rap-id.com or mail to Kathryn Lee, Rap-ID Inc., 11 Deer Park Drive, Suite 201, Monmouth Junction NJ 08852. This announcement and contact information is also available on our website www.nysas.org.

If you have any questions or require more information, you may contact Kathryn Lee at 732-823-1567.

Student Ambassador Report from Chad Atkins

From August 14–19, 2016, I attended the 25th International Conference on Raman Spectroscopy (ICORS) in Fortaleza, Brazil as a student ambassador of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. The conference took place at the Fábrica de Negócios center and represented my last meeting as a student at The University of British Columbia; I submitted my thesis shortly before leaving Vancouver on a 25-hour flight to Brazil.

There was apprehension before my departure, with the North American news media negatively reporting on the risk of Zika in Brazil and suggesting the economic status of the country could lead to potential violence prior to the start of the Olympics. However, once I touched down it was clear that these reports were overblown; I never saw a mosquito during my time in Fortaleza, and while it certainly is true that economic poverty exists within the country, safety was never in question.

I had an oral presentation the first day of the conference that summarized my Raman work as a graduate student. Supplied with materials from the SAS office staff, I was proud to dedicate slides at the end of my talk to discuss benefits of membership in the Society and explain how the student ambassador program allowed me to make the journey to Brazil. With my former background as an elected SAS student representative, I described student awards and the potential for numerous networking opportunities. I knew the words were heard when, days later, I was approached by two separate students who were told about the SAS via word of mouth from those who attended my presentation.



Entrance to conference center.

The conference was not extremely large—a few hundred attendees and eighteen exhibitors—but still attracted many prominent names in the field of Raman spectroscopy. More importantly, as this was the first time the conference was held in Latin America, the participants seemed to capture more international diversity. I met people from countries in Europe, such as Germany, Netherlands, Finland, and Poland; from countries in South America, such as Brazil and Argentina; and of course from countries in North America. I even found another fellow Canadian! Regardless of background, everyone was exposed to Brazilian culture in the form of music and dancing during the conference's Gala Dinner at the open-air Pirata Bar.

Attending ICORS helped me tap into a new pool of spectroscopists. Having been to SciX and Pittcon over the last few years, I was surprised to see so many new faces in the Raman community. The experience was therefore useful for expanding my network and for showing me the world outside of North America. This perspective will be important in my life moving forward, and I have the SAS to thank for that.

For the students reading this report, both new and old alike, I encourage you to get take the initiative and get involved with the Society. There are always ways to help and even the smallest of efforts can create something positive. Finally, congratulations to SAS Fellow Volker Deckert who was honored with the "Raman Award for the Most Innovative Technological Development" on the final day of the conference.

*Contributed by Chad Atkins, ICORS Student Ambassador
and former Student Representative*



View of Fortaleza from the hotel restaurant.



Conference attendees in a conga line — Pirata Bar.



The keynote and plenary session stage.

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