

SAS SPECTRUM eNEWS

SAS National Meeting—SciX 2016 in Minneapolis, Minnesota

SciX 2016 rotated back into the northern Midwest for the first time since the 2013 SciX meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The location was central enough to draw member attendance from both coasts, and yet still attract close proximity attendees from places such as Chicago. The meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, conveniently located in downtown Minneapolis with numerous local attractions within walking or biking distance. The weather was also unseasonably warm for an early Minnesota autumn, which made exploring and out-of-hotel networking during the conference memorable.

The venue, which allowed for co-location of the 23rd International Symposium on Electro and Liquid Phase-Separation Techniques (ITP 2016) meeting, was a unique opportunity for spectroscopists and separations scientists to mingle and exchange ideas with new colleagues. The 2016 meeting truly highlighted the new motto for the SciX—"Right Size, Right Science, Right Conference".

Sunday SAS Activities

SAS sponsored a number of events throughout SciX 2016. The SAS Members' Event at Brit's Pub was the first to kick off SciX 2016 on Sunday afternoon. Friends and colleagues got together in the early afternoon at the pub, which was only one block away from the Hyatt, and a beautiful walk during the clear and sunny day. The event offered SAS members delicious fish and chips to whet their appetites, good beer to quench their thirsts, and last, but not least, lawn bowling on Sunday afternoon.

The SAS student poster session on Sunday evening was another packed event with plenty of scientific discussion and networking. Nearly 60 posters were presented by both undergraduate and graduate students who were present at the meeting. A panel of ten judges spent the better part of nearly two hours talking with students, reviewing science presented, questioning, and deciding the top four students that were presenting on Sunday evening.



A view of the 2016 SciX venue Hyatt Regency Hotel from the Loring Pond at the Loring Park.



Brit's Pub, a local favorite, hosted the SAS members' event on the first day of SciX2016.



During the Sunday evening SAS Student Poster Session, Coblenz Society Past-President Jim Rydzak presented the William Fateley Award to Mustafa Unal. He also announced the Coblenz Student Awardees, unfortunately none of whom were present at SciX 2016. FACSS 2015–2016 Governing Board Chair, Steven Ray presented the Tomas Hirschfield award winners, Kyle Doty and Mario A. Saucedo-Espinosa. He also presented the FACSS Student Award to Mustafa Unal. The 2016 SAS President, Ellen Miseo, announced the Undergraduate Student Award recipients: Liesl Krause, Payson Dieffenbach, and Jennifer Empey and SAS Travel Grant recipients: Carolyn Borkowski, Payson Dieffenbach and Arianna Avellan.

Finally, after much sweat and labor, the panel of judges finally narrowed down their judgments for the 60 plus posters presented Sunday evening. The four SAS Student Poster Awards went to: Kyle C. Doty, University at Albany, SUNY, for "Human and Animal Blood Differentiation Using Raman Spectroscopy and Chemometrics"; Ebrahim Aboualizadeh, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, for "The Potential of FT-IR Spectroscopy and Computational Analysis in Characterizing the Mechanism of Action of Blue Light Against Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*"; Nicholas Larkey, Oregon State University, for "Dual Functioning Reporter+Probe Biosensors to Visualize Absence or Presence of MicroRNA"; C. Kyle Almlie, Oregon State University, for "Co-Localized Excitation-Emission Resolution (CLEER) of Multiple Fluorophores".



Fateley Award Winner, Mustafa Unal.



Tomas Hirschfield Awardee, Kyle Doty.



SAS Undergraduate Travel Grant Awardee, Arianna Avellan.



SAS student poster session.

SAS Wine and Cheese Awards Reception

Following the SAS Governing Board meeting in the late afternoon, the annual SAS Wine and Cheese reception took place on Tuesday, September 20, 2016. Standing with tradition, the Wine and Cheese reception was an event to both network after the second full day of technical talks, but also a time for SAS members to be recognized for their work and efforts to the Society with various awards. A full list of the awards presented at the reception can be found in the 2016 September SAS Newsletter.

Highlights of the event include 2016 SAS President Ellen Miseo announced the launch of the Spectroscopy Certification Program. This program is designed to serve the needs of spectroscopists who wish to establish and validate their professional credentials as optical spectroscopists. On a more somber note, long-time SAS member, volunteer, and current Editor of Applied Spectroscopy, Peter Griffiths, was called by the SAS members in attendance to wish him well as he recovered in his hospital bed following surgery that very day. In addition to sending Peter well wishes, Ellen also recognized current and past editors and editors-in-chief of Applied Spectroscopy during the reception. Ellen expressed gratitude for the substantial contributions on the part of our editors and editors-in-chief, not only to the Society, but also to each SAS member who receives the journal on a monthly basis. Former SAS President Diane Parry received special recognition of her service to the Society. Her recent battle with cancer did not seem to slow her down from fulfilling many of her obligations to SAS.



Recognition of past editors—editors-in-chief of Applied Spectroscopy, Mike Blades and Paul Farnsworth.



SAS Meggers Award winner, Michael George.



Lester Stock Award winner, Raymond Arvidson.



Bruce R. Kowalski Award in Chemometrics, Keshav Kumar.



Distinguished Service Award, James deHaseth.



Honorary Membership Award, Jaan Laane.



2016 SAS Fellows from left to right: Barry Lavine, Mike Angel, R. Kenneth Marcus, and Jaan Laane.



Special Service Award, Diane Parry.

While not the end of the conference, the Wednesday night all-inclusive event took SAS members and others on a tour of the great outdoors in Minnesota. Attractions included campfires, canoes, fishing, hunting games, and a quirky game of hammering in nails before your opponents into a large block of wood! Quiet areas were also provided for those who wanted to talk more about research and data presented thus far at SciX 2016.



Karaoke was one of the many highlights during the main networking gala on Wednesday night.

SAS Sponsored Sessions during SciX

In addition to the award symposia, SAS also sponsored several sections including the Process Analytical Section (chaired by Jim Rydzak), the chemometrics Section (chaired by Peter Harrington), and the Analytical Chemists Easing World Poverty originally created by former SAS President Diane Parry (chaired by Rebecca Airmet).

Chemometrics Section

The six Chemometrics symposia at SciX were a large success with international pillars of the chemometrics community giving invited lectures. In the New Frontiers in Chemometrics session, Beata Walczak gave a lecture on the importance of preprocessing. Ludovic Duponchel discussed topologically treating data. The session on Chemometric Image Enhancement was organized by Cyril Ruckebusch and Anna de Juan. Chemometric Opportunities in Forensic Chemistry organized by Steve Morgan attracted a large audience from many communities, including chemometric, forensic, and security-oriented. Rethinking Calibration which was organized by John Kalivas presented state-of-the-art approaches to the problem of predicting concentrations from spectral profiles. Metabolite Pattern Recognition organized by Pei Chen and Mengliang Zhang had renowned speaker Richard Bretton give a lecture on the pitfalls of Chemometrics as the highlighted invited speaker. Variable Selection was covered in a Symposium organized by newly appointed SAS Fellow Barry Lavine and had contributions from such notable researchers in chemometrics such as Steve Brown and SAS Governing Board member Karl Booksh. Graduate students were well represented in oral and respective poster sessions. Overall, SciX was a successful and vibrant meeting for Chemometrics thanks to the sponsors, SAS, Eigenvector Research, the USDA ARS, and the OHIO Center for Intelligent Chemical Instrumentation.

Contributed by Prof. Peter de B. Harrington

From Diagnostics to Donkeys: Analytical Chemists Easing World Poverty

The Society for Applied Spectroscopy was pleased to sponsor for the second year the special session Analytical Chemists Easing World Poverty at SciX 2016 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This special session was founded in 2011 by SAS Past-President Diane Parry to highlight unmet measurement needs in developing nations. With the support of sponsors like the SAS, it has evolved into a popular session examining a variety of topics ranging from technical solutions to instrumentation problems to cultural challenges of Westerners working in developing nations. The 2016 session featured three speakers: Dr. Saad Bhamla (Stanford) discussed frugal science; Dr. Merlin Bicking (ChromAfrica) examined some of the cultural barriers to cooperation between Western and African cultures; and Dr. Simi Dube (University of South Africa) discussed the role of empowered women in bringing scientific solutions to problems in Africa.

This session is a unique example of the cross-disciplinary nature of the SciX conference. It is an opportunity to use our expertise within our profession to find new ways to solve critical problems in under-served regions of the world. This special session will continue in 2017 at SciX in Reno. Be sure to watch for the new section Contemporary Issues in Analytical Sciences, which will bring together the existing special sessions on addressing world poverty, diversity and inclusiveness in STEM, educational innovations and initiatives, and the transition from graduate school to professional life. If you have ideas or suggestions for these sessions, please contact section chair Rebecca Airmet at Rebecca@AirmetEditing.com. For a more in-depth overview of this event, visit <http://goo.gl/IWtgxE>.

Contributed by Rebecca Airmet

SciX 2016 closed on Friday morning with an invitation by Becky Ditmar and Matthieu Baudet inviting everyone to the next national meeting of SAS, SciX 2017 in Reno, Nevada.

Due to space limitations, SciX coverage is planned for the next issue. — *Fred G. Halbach*

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