

December 2025 Newsletter



2025 NY/NJ SAS Gold Medal Award 2025 Honoree Dr. Geraldine Richmond

The Gold Medal Award was established in 1952 to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of Applied Spectroscopy. This year, the NY/NJ Regional Section of Society for Applied Spectroscopy (SAS) awarded the 2025 Gold Medal Award to Dr. Geraldine Richmond on 18 November at the Eastern Analytical Symposium in Plainsboro, NJ.



(left-to right) Gabrielle Davis, Deborah Peru, Adam Hopkins, Geraldine Richmond, Rob Walker, Dennis Hore, and David Schiering.

Dr. Richmond currently serves as the Presidential Chair in Science and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Oregon. Bridging the fields of chemistry and physics, Richmond's research focuses on understanding the molecular properties of water surfaces and on studies relevant to environmental issues, including oil remediation, atmospheric chemistry, and alternative energy sources. She is the Founding Director of COACH, a grassroots organization that has helped over 25,000 women scientists and engineers advance their careers in the U.S. and over two dozen developing countries. Richmond has received over 45 awards and honors over her career for her research and outreach efforts, including membership in the National Academy of Sciences, the ACS Priestley Medal in 2018, the

National Medal of Science from President Obama in 2016, and the Coblentz Award in 1989.

An award symposium accompanied the award presentation. Speakers included former students and post-doctoral researchers of Professor Richmond. Dr. Richmond presented a review of her groundbreaking research in the application of sum frequency generation, nonlinear optical methods to study the vibrational spectra and molecular structure of liquid interfaces. Dr. Adam Hopkins of Metrohm related his experiences in developing vibrational spectroscopic instruments, providing products best suited for user priorities. Professor Rob Walker of Montana State University described his research regarding the use of optical emission spectroscopy as a probe of the chemistry of monopropellant flames. Finally, Professor Dennis Hore of the University of Victoria presented his work on the use of angle dependent sum frequency generation to study the structure and properties of water at the surface and into the bulk.

Nominations for the 2026 NY/NJ SAS Gold Medal are being accepted. Please submit nominating letter(s), a biographical sketch, and a list of publications by 15 February. Nominations can be uploaded directly [here](#) or may be sent directly to gabrielle.davis@camfil.com, the Gold Medal Award Committee Chair.

Contributed by Deborah A. Peru, NY/NJ SAS Treasurer & Secretary and Dave Schiering, NY/NJ SAS Chair



ECIG's Member of the Month

Would you like to volunteer for a future edition of the ECIG Member of the Month? If so, please complete our [online survey!](#)

And introducing our latest member of the month: Adam J. Rish!



Adam J. Rish

Staff Scientist
Sentronic US Corp

Years at SAS: 4

THE BIGGEST BENEFIT OF SAS MEMBERSHIP?

"Opportunities to network with and learn from fellow SAS members, particularly at the SciX conference!"

CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB?

"Paleologist"

WHAT MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH SPECTROSCOPY?

"Solving structures using NMR and Mid-IR spectra in my undergraduate chemistry classes were my favorite homework assignments, they were like a fascinating puzzle!"

FAVORITE PART OF MY JOB?

"Consulting with customers on chemometric techniques to address the needs for their particular NIR spectroscopy application, especially when we get to explore the less commonly implemented techniques."

WHAT SCIENTIST, PAST OR PRESENT, WOULD I MOST LIKE TO MEET?

"As a huge fan of spicy food and chili pepper enthusiast, I would like to meet Wilbur Scoville who invented the widely applied "Scoville scale" for measuring the pungency of chili peppers. "

Contributed by Anthony Stender, Early Career Interest Group



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SAS Volunteers Wanted!

**SAS is looking for volunteers to help with
social media and newsletter creation.**

**No experience needed! We welcome individuals from all
backgrounds and skill levels.**

If interested, please contact Konnor Jones at
konnorkjones@gmail.com or Kristen Frano at
kristen.frano@gmail.com.
