SOCIETY FOR APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY

August 2026 Newsletter

The Future of SAS
Contributed by John Wasylyk

We have embarked on a journey to update the Society for Applied Spectroscopy and guide us into the future. Changes have been made that have positively impacted on our financial outlook. Our next goal is to revamp and, if needed, revise the Society's Mission Statement. This effort will also include the development of a Vision Statement and Value Proposition.

Moving forward, we are engaging several SAS colleagues who have been randomly selected to participate in one-on-one or small-group discussions focused on defining the Society's Mission, Vision, and Value Proposition (MVV). At the same time, we are soliciting comments and suggestions from all members. Please click here to submit your ideas and help us formulate an MVV that will drive us into the future. Your input is VERY important to the success of the Society.

Results from all input will be compiled by the end of September and made available in October for review and comment. Once the MVV are completed, they will be presented at the Fall Governing Board meeting. Our goal is to complete the MVV process by the end of 2026, positioning SAS for revitalization in 2027 and helping us better serve our members, profession, and industry.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in guiding SAS into the future.

SAS Presidential Award
Contributed by Steven Ray and John Wasylyk

The SAS is pleased to announce that Kristin McDonald has been named the 2026 SAS Presidential Award winner. Kristin has worked tirelessly as managing editor of our two journals. She helped make *Applied Spectroscopy* the premier Journal that it is today, and she was a driving force behind the founding of *Applied Spectroscopy Practica* and happily stepped into the role as its managing editor. Her dedication and willingness to go the extra mile will always be appreciated. Thank you, Kristin for the years of thoughtful service to the society and our journals. We wish Kristin the best of luck in her future endeavors.

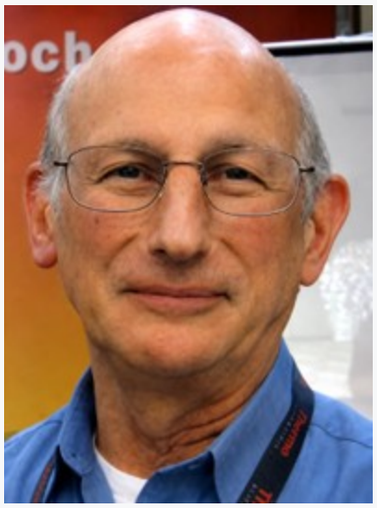
In Memoriam: Professor Ramon Barnes
Contributed by Steven Ray

SAS is saddened to report the passing of **Professor Ramon Barnes**, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Professor Barnes was a Fellow of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, an Emeritus member of SAS, and the recipient of the Lester W. Strock Award in 2003. He received his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and was a postdoctoral fellow at Iowa State University.

An active researcher in atomic spectrometry, Professor Barnes authored more than 300 publications and four books. He also served for 50 years as editor and publisher of the ICP Information Newsletter, and he was the chairman and founder of the Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry and the founder of the University Research Institute for Analytical Chemistry. Professor Barnes was a mentor and trusted friend to many graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, visiting scholars, and colleagues in the field.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Dorothy Barnes.

Please find his full obituary here. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Oregon State Women in Chemistry Scholarship Fund.



Prof. Ramon Barnes (1940 – 2026)

ECIG Member of the Month: Karen Gail
Contributed by the Early Career Interest Group (ECIG)

Introducing our latest member of the month: Karen Gall from HORIBA.

Would you like to be featured as the ECIG Member of the Month? If so, please complete our short online survey by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code below.

Karen E. Gall

Software Product Manager
HORIBA Instruments Inc.

18 years at SAS

THE BIGGEST BENEFIT OF SAS MEMBERSHIP?

"Networking and learning about new work in spectroscopy"

CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB?

"Teacher"

WHAT MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH SPECTROSCOPY?

"I liked lasers better than wet chemistry!"

FAVORITE PART OF MY JOB?

"The people that I work with and get to meet through my job are my favorite part, along with being able to build something that goes out into the world. My job is to define the software for HORIBA fluorometers and other tools and help them be useful in the world. It's fun and I get to use my scientific background along with being creative to make software helpful for all different kinds of spectroscopy applications."

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

"Gregorio Weber. He was a pioneer in using fluorescence spectroscopy for biological applications and for better understanding how biological molecules behave on the molecular level. So many basics in this field of spectroscopy came from the work that he did, and his students also did afterwards and still continue to do today."

ECIG
Member of Month Survey

Contribute to the Newsletter!

Interested in contributing to our newsletter? Please send your article as a word file to our newsletter editor Dr. Ayush Agarwal at ayush.agarwal@epfl.ch, with a subject "SAS Newsletter - [Contributing Section Name]"