

The SAS Spectrum Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy



February, 2009

SAS MEMBERS DAY AT THE RACES!

One of the greatest benefits of SAS membership is networking. On Sunday afternoon, October 18, SAS will host a FREE current members-only event prior to the FACSS 2009 opening reception at historic Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY. Transportation from the conference hotel, food, drinks, and a horse race are included. A guest may attend for an additional fee.



Email office@s-a-s.org to register.

Hurry...there is only room for 100!

OBITUARIES

SAS has received sad news that three significant friends and contributors to the Society have passed away.

BARBARA STULL

Barbara Stull, our friend and longtime colleague in the National SAS office, passed away suddenly of natural causes on January 18. Barb was a constant fixture in the SAS Office for 24 years. In addition to her work for SAS, she also worked as a teacher's aide. She is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

SAS Executive Director Bonnie Saylor wrote: "Barbara Stull was more than a colleague, she was a friend. She was the embodiment of the ideals of Society as well as those of people in general. Barb gave and gave and gave of herself to everyone, rarely taking time for herself. She was one of the few completely selfless people I know. She was the voice of SAS on the phone – greeting everyone who called cheerfully and genuinely. She was a presence at the SAS booth, meeting and chatting up all who passed by. She was always there with her SAS stickers to put on everyone's badge and with a bag of candy to give out to weary meeting attendees (she made sure she had everyone's favorites). She always lent an ear (and sometimes money) to poor students. She treated Victor and me like one of her family -- making Victor vegetable soup, watching him earn his blackbelt in karate, going to my son's baseball game, and even visiting my Dad in the hospital. She was such a big part of our lives that it is hard to imagine life in SAS without her. Her strong devotion to her family, friends, and work is what made Barb the wonderful person that she was. May she rest in peace."

FREEMAN BENTLEY

Distinguished SAS Member Freeman Bentley passed away on January 19. He received Honorary SAS Membership for pioneering developments in IR spectroscopy. He also served as President of the Coblenz Society in 1968. Along with William Fateley and Francis Dollish, he wrote the very significant volume, "Characteristic Raman Frequencies of Organic Compounds." He was a World War II Veteran whose service included participation in the Battle of the Bulge.

SHANE J. O'NEILL

Long time member Shane J O'Neill passed away on 2 Sept 2008.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SAS SYMPOSIA AT PITTCON	2
HISTORICAL EVENTS IN SPECTROSCOPY	2

Comments to butcherATemail.wcu.edu

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SAS CONGRATULATES PITTCON ON 60 YEARS OF SHOWCASING SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION!

In honor of the 60th anniversary of Pittcon, the Society for Applied Spectroscopy is pleased to present two outstanding symposia focusing on atomic and vibrational spectroscopy at Pittcon on Monday, March 9, 2009. SAS is proud and honored to be a contributor to the technical program at this event!

SAS ATOMIC SPECTROSCOPY SYMPOSIUM - MONDAY MORNING DEVELOPMENTS IN ATOMIC SPECTROSCOPY - ALL IN THE FAMILY OR SIBLING RIVALRY?

Presenters

James Holcombe - University of Texas at Austin

David Hahn - University of Florida

Joseph Caruso - University of Cincinnati

Gary Hieftje - Indiana University

John Olesik - Ohio State University

This session will address current topics in the field of atomic spectroscopy. Within the family of atomic spectroscopy, the techniques are considered mature and are some of the most widely used in the analytical laboratory. With maturity, the focus of research lies in increased efficiency, versatility, overcoming problematic interferences and improved detection limits of the instruments and the methodologies. Represented by the speakers of this symposium are a variety of atomic spectroscopy topics which address some of these current issues. While there is generally cooperation and sharing within the family of these techniques, there can also be some 'sibling rivalry'. This rivalry can showcase the uniqueness of the techniques and their usefulness to the analysts working with them.

SAS VIBRATIONAL SPECTROSCOPY SYMPOSIUM - MONDAY AFTERNOON DEVELOPMENTS IN VIBRATIONAL SPECTROSCOPY - WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Presenters

Katherine Bakeev (NIR) - GlaxoSmithKline Richard

Richard McCreery (Raman) - University of Alberta

Peter Griffiths (FTIR) - University of Idaho

Michael Claybourn (THz) - Astrazeneca

Rohit Bhargava (Imaging), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The techniques of near- and mid-infrared and Raman spectroscopy are ubiquitous throughout almost all fields requiring analytical characterization of many different types of sample. FT-IR spectroscopy caused an unprecedented expansion in applications and capabilities from mid-infrared spectroscopy starting in the 1980s; modern near-infrared spectroscopy coupled with multivariate data analysis techniques (chemometrics) closely followed in the 1990s, creating a whole new field of applications in diverse fields; and, Raman became the "hype" technique in the late 1990s/early 2000s, notably within the pharmaceutical industry and for process applications. Terahertz spectroscopy, which includes the far-infrared region, might be considered the 'new kid on the block'. All have been promoted through their imaging capabilities, and all feature regularly in many and diverse Pittcon sessions. However, have these techniques essentially 'peaked'; what new do they have to offer? Can we expect much more? Multivariate data analysis techniques and fibre-optic probes have served to greatly broaden the applications arena, particularly in fields such as medical diagnostics and process analysis. Hand-held spectrometers have come to the fore as quality assurance tools, security and inspection devices. The specialist presentations in this Symposium, after briefly reflecting on each technique's evolution and its present state-of-the-art, will focus primarily on what we may anticipate expecting from each technique, both technologically and in its applications evolution over the next 5-10 years.

FEBRUARY HISTORICAL EVENTS IN SPECTROSCOPY by Leopold May, Catholic University



February 18, 1745 Alessandro G. A. A. Volta, who invented the voltaic pile *vota pila*, was born on this date. He devised experiments such as the ignition of gases by an electric spark in a closed vessel. The unit of electric potential, the volt, is named in his honor.