

The Annual Election of SAS Officer and Governing Board Delegates will be held electronically from July 15-August 16, 2019. All regular, non-student members in good standing are eligible to vote and will receive an email with voting instructions and login information from our online election provider Elections Online. Please check your spam folders for this email if you do not receive it or contact the SAS office at sasadmin@s-a-s.org or 301-694-8122. The following are the election profiles for each candidate for your review.

SAS Candidate Profiles 2019

Officers



**President-Elect
Karl Booksh**

Biography

Booksh has been a Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Delaware since 2007. Prior, he was on the faculty at Arizona State University, postdoc at University of South Carolina, graduate school at the University of Washington, and undergraduate at the University of Alaska. His research interests span chemometrics, Raman imaging, surface plasmon resonance spectroscopy, and the design of field portable optical sensors. He has approximately 100 published manuscripts in these areas. Within SAS Booksh serves as treasurer of the chemometrics focus group and as faculty advisor for the Delaware student section. He has chaired the SAS Certification Program committee and organized symposia on chemometrics and surface plasmon resonance spectroscopy at SciX. Booksh was selected as a SAS Fellow in 2014. Booksh has not won a Meggers Award but would like to one day.

Why should you be elected?

I have been active in SAS since I was a graduate student in the 1990s. My first professional talk was at FACSS in Philadelphia in 1992. SAS has been a very welcoming organization and SAS members helped me transition professionally from a data-driven chemometrician to incorporating Raman, fluorescence, and surface plasmon resonance spectroscopies in my research endeavors. I would not be the successful scientist that I am today without SAS and SAS members. I want to return the favor to help the Society remain healthy and nurture the next generation of spectroscopists.

More recently I have been active in multiple leadership and governance roles in both SAS and ACS. Through these volunteer activities I have become more familiar with the opportunities and challenges that SAS faces and solutions attempted by other Societies. I believe this prepares me for the responsibilities of the SAS presidential succession.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS has always been a welcoming home of people who truly love science and sharing their experience with others. The depth of knowledge and infectious enthusiasm of the SAS community is apparent at every SAS event.

SAS programming at SciX is informative and represents a balance between covering different spectroscopies and depth in contemporary interests. Our local SAS Student Chapter has enjoyed a SAS Tour Speaker each year; although they often struggle among which interesting speaker to request.

SAS leadership has done well in leveraging current revenue streams (Applied Spectroscopy and licensing spectroscopic databases) to maintain value in membership. I have been impressed with the thoughtful process in how the Society is willing to experiment with new programs (Professional Certificates) and make hard decisions (Reorganizing Applied Spectroscopy with Sage Publishing).

What does SAS need to do better and how?

Recruiting and retaining new members, increasing the value proposition for members, and maintaining long-term fiscal solvency will continuously need improvements and reimagination. These issues are perpetual challenges to all professional societies and require constant vigilance as societal demographics, technology, and economic prospects evolve. If I were to choose one area where SAS could improve it would be providing more engagement opportunities for members at all levels besides attending SciX. Currently, the Society sponsors few mechanisms for the bulk of membership to contribute to the advancement of the profession or the betterment of SAS. Ideally, the Society could devise and promote a grand project or challenge that taps the knowledge and enthusiasm of the broad membership base to recruit new members, increase value of membership, and generate a lasting revenue stream.

What initiatives do you hope to pursue?

As alluded in the previous answer, I would be most interested in initiatives to recruit and retain new members, increase the value proposition for all members, and generate new revenue streams. With respect to those three areas, I see untapped potential in outreach to small universities and small companies, continuing education opportunities, and increased web presence. Could we form a SAS University? on YouTube? a series of short podcast presented by different SAS members? This would get membership engaged in a community project to provide a branded educational resource. This would introduce SAS to potential new members and provide value to current members. Podcasts could range from basic tutorials to SAS award winners discussing the essence of their work. Ad revenue generated could be applied to support other SAS activities or award endowments.

Why is SAS membership important?

The strength of SAS is its members. Membership defines an organization. When SAS succeeds, it is because of the diverse and engaged membership.

On a personal level, I remain a member for the connections, educational opportunities, and a desire to return to the organization as much benefit as it has provided me during the formative stage of my career. It is worth repeating, the wealth of knowledge freely shared at any gathering of SAS members is inspiring. As a graduate student, joining SAS provided me with a country full of mentors. As a more established professional, there is still immense educational value in the connections and conversations. After all, good science has a strong social component.



President-Elect Don Pivonka

Biography

Don Pivonka has been a member of SAS since 1984 and has been a Society Fellow since 2011. Don has served the Society through numerous tenures on the SAS and the Coblenz Society governing boards. He has also served on the Publications Committee, the Fellows Selection Committee, the Nominations Committee, and the Meggers Award Committee. Finally, he has served as the Chairman of the Williams-Wright Award Symposium and of the Applied Spectroscopy Chirality Section. Don has received the Tomas Hirschfeld Award (Pitt. Con. 1987) and the Charles Mann Award (FACSS 2012) for his research. Don's career includes analysis of polymer systems (Hercules Inc. 1987-1992). At AstraZeneca Inc. (1992-2011), he developed vibrational spectroscopic techniques for the design of novel drug candidates. At AstraZeneca, Don also contributed to the field of Vibrational Circular Dichroism (VCD). In 2011, Don joined the Incyte Corp. to study polymorph stability using IR and Raman. His CV is on LinkedIn.

Why should you be elected?

The value of active participation in SAS has been ingrained in me from my early days as a graduate student at Kansas State University (1983-1987). After KSU, Society collaborations, visibility, and energy continued to have an extremely positive impact throughout my professional career. Having retired, I now want to give back. I have 35+ years of active membership in SAS. Over that time, I have come to know the history, practices and many of the people that have made our Society what it is today. I also have over 30 years of industrial spectroscopic experience spanning polymer, aerospace, and pharmaceutical industries. Therefore, while I have the experience to understand/value decades of tradition within the Society, I'm also in a position to understand the ever-changing landscape of the industrial world, which serves as a primary source of employment for SAS members. As president, I'd work to further align the Society with industry/academics to the benefit of our members.

What is SAS doing well and why?

The Journal of Applied Spectroscopy (JAS) has played a long and very valuable role in the spectroscopic community. It is a primary venue in which spectroscopists can publish their work

and be assured that it will be seen by their professional peers. Personally, publication in "arguably" more elite journals has delivered little discussion while JAS publications have routinely generated positive scientific discussion with peers, lecture invitations, and ultimately recognition both within and external to SAS. I view JAS as an "outstanding" asset of the Society.

The Society also excels with respect to conference sessions/activities. With today's media, one can argue that it is not necessary to attend conferences to stay abreast of current research. However, many will agree that the most important part of a conference is the interactions outside of the presentations themselves. SAS receptions/activities are tremendous venues for building scientific discussion and relationships.

What does SAS need to do better and how?

In recent decades, the role of the analytical spectroscopist has changed dramatically. As the pace of industrial analytical chemistry continues to increase with a focus on short term results vs. long term in depth problem solving, the Society has the opportunity to do even more in its role as a primary venue for collaboration, sharing, and reinvigoration of the scientific curiosity and drive found in each of us. Unfortunately, while many local and/or technical sections maintain an active presence, many are largely inactive. In order for the Society to remain active and grow, its members need to understand and "feel" value in membership despite the effort required in our already busy lives. The Society could do a better job of promoting its value along with undertaking initiatives to enhance that value. Several potential initiatives are addressed in the following question.

What initiatives do you hope to pursue?

For many students and younger professionals, the pursuit of science in academia can be overshadowed by the thought that education is to be endured as a ticket to employment. Therefore, I would like to see the Society better serve the modern interests/focus/reality of its members through greater support with employment and career advancement. Since an employer's first step is often to ask its staff, "Do you know any candidates?" I would like the Society to formalize a method of sharing employment positions and allow candidates to share their interests and availability prior to these positions hitting the online outlets. I would also like to institute a service in which senior SAS members, many of whom have served as hiring managers, are available to conduct resume assessment/feedback. SAS members could receive critiques of their resume by discipline specific professionals, while at the same time effectively introducing themselves to senior members of the Society and profession.

Why is SAS membership important?

The Society has been an important and integral part of my scientific interests/success throughout both my career and the careers of many of its members. Working in a corporate vacuum or repetitively delivering results to project managers who may not understand the effort or creativity that went into a solution can "sideline" the creative spirit. The Society has always been a "home" where scientific achievement is shared and celebrated.

Furthermore, referring to the old adage, "It's not what you know, but who you know," membership in the Society provides researchers with the opportunity to build relationships with many of the influential scientists in our field. Participation in service activities such as governing board meetings, committee membership, etc., is a wonderful avenue toward building/accelerating these relationships. Finally, the Society has always been about camaraderie, sharing, and scientific respect among its members - a positive aspect of anyone's career.



**Treasurer
Diane Parry**

Biography

Diane Parry is currently a consultant, after retiring as an Associate Director in Global Research and Development from The Procter & Gamble Company. She has worked as an Analytical Chemist, Product and Process Designer, and Consumer Researcher within Procter & Gamble R&D. Prior to her work at P&G, she completed postdoctoral infrared spectroscopy work at IBM's Almaden Research Center in San Jose, CA, after earning her Ph.D. in Physical and Analytical Chemistry from the University of Utah under the guidance of Professor Joel Harris. Beyond P&G and training, Diane taught the Analytical Chemists in Industry Short Course at FACSS/SciX and elsewhere for over 17 years. She has received Distinguished Service Awards from both SAS and FACSS for her volunteer service, and has held multiple positions within both organizations, including FACSS Governing Board Chair and President of SAS. She is currently serving the last year of a three-year term as Treasurer for SAS.

Why should you be elected?

I should be re-elected Treasurer because, as Treasurer 2017-2019 and as SAS President for 2015, I demonstrated my ability to work effectively with the Executive Committee, the SAS Governing Board, the SAS Office and Committees to manage our financial fundamentals and first restore and then maintain our SAS budget in the black. When I took over as SAS President, I faced a deficit budget of over \$100,000, after multiple years of bank account-draining deficit budgets. I worked with SAS to reset income and expenses for the website, Journal, and Office. Since becoming Treasurer in 2017, I have successfully continued the drive to restore financial stability to SAS, refilling its bank accounts. I should be re-elected Treasurer now to adapt our income sources to manage foreseeable challenges from the publishing industry, as well as industry belt-tightening. I would relish the opportunity to work with future Presidents to use SAS's financial resources to deliver additional member benefits.

What is SAS doing well and why?

Based on member responses to our request for input on our 2020 Vision, SAS does many things very well. Our Journal is especially loved by our members, and the improved on-line access is

enhancing our enjoyment of this important publication. Our Newsletter is also an important way that we help members stay on top of new developments. SAS talks, posters, networking events and booth presence at SciX are something members look forward to all year, and many Academic members introduce their students to SAS through our SciX participation. SAS participation at PittCon is similarly valued by our members, with important talk sessions, networking and a booth presence to support our members' career growth. Networking with other experts is a key benefit for SAS members. SAS also tries new things, like creating the Measure Venture crowd funding site to support entrepreneurs. A healthy Society embraces new developments, and I see SAS heading in the right direction.

What does SAS need to do better and how?

SAS can do a better job for its members, especially in two areas:

- 1) SAS needs to enhance support for Regional, Technical and the new Special Interest Sections. The data on a gradual decline in Section spending concerns me. Sections are key to improving student retention, which is critical to the future of SAS. Healthy Sections meet the everyday needs of members for mentoring, networking, and collaboration. More of the budget should support Section, and especially student, activities and awards.
- 2) SAS is still not doing enough to support member employment. SAS now has a nice employment space on the new website, but more is needed. Three possible ways to give our members a bigger edge in the job market are: 1) Setting aside budget to pay a member-accessible employment firm, 2) Building the SAS Certification of Professional Spectroscopists into an employer-valued member advantage via advertising, and 3) Directly helping with re-training, when requested.

What initiatives do you hope to pursue?

If elected, as SAS Treasurer I will do my best job to develop funding mechanisms for the two initiative areas that I described, above: 1) Support for Sections and 2) Employment Help for Members. My reasons are given in my answer to question #3, above.

However, I will also work hard to develop funding strategies for new initiatives supported by other officers. My main goal is to help SAS build member benefits, while remaining financially healthy.

Why is SAS membership important?

To me, SAS is my work family. I would encourage other people to join so that they can enjoy the same benefits that I have from SAS. In good times, involvement in SAS has enabled me to maintain my perspective on life in science, by letting me connect with ideas from outside my everyday job influences. SAS members have shared knowledge that I have been able to apply in my job, making me more successful. Because of SAS, I have friends from around the world, and I enjoy sharing the language of science with them. Several years ago, I had some medical issues (thankfully, now long over!), SAS friends offered me the use of their homes, if that would help me access doctors working in the area that I needed. That is what family does for its members.

Work is a big part of life. Everyone needs to use their network, sometime. I would tell new members that investing in SAS dues and activities is investing in themselves.



**Treasurer
Zach Schultz**

Biography

Zachary D. Schultz, Ph.D., is an associate professor at The Ohio State University. Prof. Schultz earned his B.S. degree from the Ohio State University in 2000 and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2005. Upon completing his Ph.D., he was a National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (USA). His research at NIST was performed largely in collaboration with Ira Levin at the National Institutes of Health (USA). Following his postdoctoral fellowship at NIST, Dr. Schultz continued as a research fellow with Dr. Levin at NIH using vibrational spectroscopy and microscopy to study biomembrane systems. Dr. Schultz began his independent career as an assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Notre Dame in 2009 and was promoted with tenure to associate professor in 2015. In January of 2018, Prof. Schultz moved his research program to Ohio State.

Why should you be elected?

I have served in a number of service and advisory roles. These positions include the Journal Analytical Chemistry Editorial Advisory Board's Features Panel and the Editorial Advisory boards of Luminescence (Wiley) and Analytical Methods (RSC). I served on the ACS Exams Institute committee to prepare the 2017 ACS Instrumental Analysis Exam, and currently serve on the governing board of the Coblenz Society, where I have chaired the Student Awards Committee. I have organized numerous symposia and sessions at Pittcon, SciX, and ACS meetings; and served on the program committees of the International Conference for Advanced Vibrational Spectroscopy, the International Conference of Enhanced Spectroscopy, and the Tip-Enhanced Raman Scattering meetings, where my efforts included fund raising. These activities have given me a unique view on how societies can impact our community. My election will allow me to work to advance SAS' mission and be an advocate for the advancement of spectroscopy.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS is an active supporter of awards, student activities, and research through publication of the journal Applied Spectroscopy. Through sponsoring awards, the society serves the community by recognizing excellence and contributions to our community. Student activities, including the SAS speaker tour and social programming at Pittcon and SciX, serve to recruit the next generation of members into the society. The Journal is an important contribution to the community as it serves the dual role of promoting research and providing a forum to distribute

information to the broader community of spectroscopists. These activities are important and continuing these serves to further the interests of the society.

What does SAS need to do better and how?

Like many societies, the average member is not always aware of what the society, and society membership, does for them. While publication of the Journal provides a tangible benefit, the society could work to provide service to their larger membership. The student sections are important and visiting university campuses by experts via the SAS speaker tour provides guaranteed audiences; but perhaps there is a way to include the larger membership into these tours. Society events provide opportunities to build connections between members that may add value to society membership.

What initiatives do you hope to pursue?

I hope to continue efforts that appear to be working, such as the SAS speaker tour and programming at Pittcon and SciX to continue to build and support the society’s membership. My goals are to pursue initiatives that provide additional value to the membership of the society. As treasurer, I hope help determine and support initiatives that provide the greatest benefit to the societies members and stretch the available resources to the benefit of the membership.

Why is SAS membership important?

SAS consists of its members and through active membership we can keep society relevant to the needs its current and future members. SAS membership is important because it builds a network for its members that can benefit its members throughout their careers. I have benefitted from mentoring and support provided by this network of society members and encourage others to both join and participate.

Governing Board Delegates



Karin Balss

Biography

Karin Maria Balss earned her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2002. During a National Research Council Post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) from 2002-2004, she developed novel analytical methods for

lab-on-a-chip applications, resulting in two US patents and five publications. She joined Johnson and Johnson in 2004 and developed spectroscopic methods to characterize polymeric drug-eluting stent coatings. In 2012, she received the Johnson & Johnson Philip B. Hoffman. In 2013, she shifted roles to support modeling, PAT, and materials characterization in the pharmaceutical sector. Karin has three US patents, co-authored 17 peer-reviewed publications, and presented invited lectures at national and international conferences. She served the analytical chemistry community within J&J as secretary of the Corporate Analytical Subcommittee, organizing company-wide symposiums and facilitating exchange of ideas across sectors.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

The challenges facing SAS is maintaining connections and engagement within the spectroscopic community (government, industrial, and academic) and maintaining active participation in SAS sponsored meetings.

How do we meet these challenges?

SAS can expand the network through social media advertising, personal networking, and continued advertisements at national conferences.

What new programs should SAS pursue?

New programs for SAS include extending engagement of regional sections with remote meeting access to allow more participation.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS is a great organization for recognition of scientists at all levels for their technical achievements and should maintain the various awards honoring their achievement.



Matthieu Baudelet

Biography

Matthieu BAUDELET graduated with a B.Sc. in Physics in 2003, starting his experience in Spectroscopy with Fourier-Transform Microwave Spectroscopy. In 2005, he graduated with a M.Sc. in "Laser and Spectroscopy" in the University of Lyon (France) and continued to complete his Ph.D. in the LASIM (Lyon, FR) showing the advantages of LIBS for biological sensing and food monitoring. He continued his research on laser spectroscopy and sensing as a Senior Research Scientist and then Assistant Research Professor at the University of Central Florida (UCF, Orlando, FL) from 2008 to 2015, covering fundamentals of laser-induced plasmas and developing sensing techniques for defense, industry, biomed. Now Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the National Center for Forensic Science at UCF since 2015, his research focuses

on the application of spectroscopic techniques for forensic anthropology, tire skid marks and pollen grains, while teaching spectroscopy and microscopy in the UCF forensic program.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

The challenges facing SAS are the same as the ones the whole analytical science is facing: **the loss of analytical thinking of the new generation.**

While the teaching faculty members are working hard to transmit their knowledge and experience, the students are pressed by a society that doesn't value analytical thinking and the need to get a diploma by getting the best grade possible, even if the science is not understood.

Students are now more and more introduced to instrumentation with software that will chew most of the data acquisition, preparation and even analysis. Multivariate analysis has become so mainstreamed and necessary by the large amount of data and the complexity of the samples that practitioners, technicians and students are completely separated from the data.

While we need this evolution of analysis, we need to make sure its development is understood by the users, and more especially by the students who are introduced to research via these automatized approaches and tool

How do we meet these challenges?

We need to go in contact with the new generation and make sure we introduce them to and cultivate critical thinking. In order to be financially possible, we should make sure we have an **active presence in every ACS- and RSC-accredited chemistry program.** This will provide a point of contact to **locally provide activities introducing and encouraging critical thinking using spectroscopy.** If existing, local sections could do demonstrations with the local member. This approach will help the SAS 2020 vision by increasing the number of members, improving their scientific level and create an even stronger network within the US, British and Commonwealth systems.

The activities can be adapted to the societal needs and show students the meaning of data, their potential misuse and how to use math and statistics in order for them to develop critical thinking. Activities could be in class through directed educational materials or even formatted as ludic tests that rewards them.

What new programs should SAS pursue?

SAS should **provide educational tools to their members who wish to have novel material for teaching.** While large universities are usually providing educational support, a large proportion of institutions rely on online tools or the experience of faculty to introduce new approaches in their course.

As mentioned above, we should increase the network across US/UK/CMLTH institutions and to encourage this, we should provide them with teaching tools they can have access to as part of the SAS family.

They can be addressing fundamental aspects, but they should also address societal needs and teach students how to use spectroscopy for solving problems.

This **SAS program for the development of educational tools** can start with presentations and widgets that members already have rights to, and we should start surveying our members to know their needs. A group of SAS members can be formed to develop these tools, preferably with at least members in educational research as well as coding flue

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS is the best society to provide a feeling of fellowship and family to its members, especially the students. This has been achieved thanks to the active members and the organization of sections that are present in many parts of the US and even UK. This is why we need to build on this successful approach and continue the growth as expected by the SAS 2020 vision.

The short duration of the officer assignments while keeping experimented members allows a continuous fresh vision to the mission of SAS of promoting the scientific network and exchange of knowledge between its members and the society.

The communication is very efficient, thanks to "Applied Spectroscopy" and the different newsletters that are right to the point.

In short, SAS has succeeded in being a fresh society, uplifting its members and recruiting the best scientists by being a very strong social scientific network that encourages discussions, contact and exchange of ideas.



Peter Harrington

Biography

Peter graduated with a BS Chemistry degree from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA. He was hired by Nabisco Brands in Wilton, CT where he fostered his interests in spectroscopy and chemometrics. After working for two years, he decided to earn a doctorate from Tom Isenhour at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. As a graduate student, he published his first paper in Applied Spectroscopy on compressing a library of infrared spectra. After graduation, he worked as a Research Assistant Professor for Kent Voorhees at the Colorado School of Mines on the identification of bacteria using pyrolysis mass spectra. He then accepted a faculty position at Ohio University in 1989 where he has been since. Pete co-founded the Center for Intelligent Chemical Instrumentation. He also is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and earned the Colleges Outstanding Research Award in 2016 and the EAS Award for Outstanding Contributions in Chemometrics in 2019.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

Every society faces challenges in providing value to the dues-paying members especially in a period of rapid technological advances. It is important to keep the dues affordable especially for student members. One possible approach to raising additional funds is by paid advertising through social media such as the Society's twitter, linked-in, and Facebook pages. I also would like to see the Journal have special issues where papers are solicited from meetings, such as SciX. Analytica Chimica Acta, an Elsevier journal, does a good job at creating these special issues. These special issues would benefit the conferences as well as the Journal. Another challenge is the burgeoning number of open access journals. It would be interesting to offer low-cost open access for papers that are only available in an electronic format. Also, having all papers open access the first year of publication is a good way to raise the impact factor and attract readers and authors.

How do we meet these challenges?

Embracing technology and remaining ahead of the curve is one approach to meet both known and unknown challenges. One idea would be to have the SAS website host a bulletin board for answering technical questions that could be divided into sections. In addition, it would be a great way to ventilate policy and governing issues. I had run a public bulletin board to support my class lectures at OHIO before web-based tools such as BlackBoard became available, and it worked very well.

I would like to see the Journal adopt a policy for which all papers were open access during the first year of publication. It is a great way to bolster submissions to the Journal, increase citations for published papers, promote awareness, and raise the impact of the journal.

The Society and the Journal should have a style guide that conforms to IUPAC standards and the ACS style would be good to incorporate. Having a uniform style will improve the technical quality of the Journal's publications.

What new programs should SAS pursue?

Online tutorials hosted at the SAS website would be a useful program. Some example tutorials would be guidance on how to write scientific papers, how to review papers, strategies for searching the literature, reporting numerical results correctly (many authors have gotten this wrong), generating figures for publication and presentation.

I would recommend working to form global alliances with other societies, such as engineering, mass spectrometry, and chemometrics. For example, having an ASMS sponsored session at SciX and a Society sponsored session at the ASMS annual meeting would be a good way to attract new members and recruit publications.

Inviting international spectroscopic societies to participate in the SciX meetings would be good for recruitment and we also may offer lower dues for dual membership in affiliated spectroscopic societies, such as the Spectroscopic Society of Pittsburgh where SAS members have their dues waived.

What is SAS doing well and why?

A key strength of the Society is its recognition and engagement with students. The student poster sessions and awards at SciX are helpful for maintaining the Society's membership. Undergraduate student travel awards also are very beneficial to the Society. In addition, I feel that the awards for scientific achievement and service for the Society's members also is very beneficial. The Journal now that it is available electronically, it is more accessible and should help raise its impact factor. In addition, the annual Editor's Choice of the top ten publications also will help strengthen the Journal.

The SciX meeting is both informative and enjoyable. By combining with other societies such as AES Electrophoresis Society and LIBS, helps strengthen the conference and provides diversity to the program. The other strong point is the involvement of international societies such as the Royal Society of Chem., the Spectro. Society of Japan, and the Austrian Society of Anal. Chem.



Brad Jones

Biography

Education:

B.S. Chemistry, Wake Forest University, 1984 Ph.D. Analytical Chemistry, University of Florida (J.D. Winefordner), 1988. "A self-cleaning continuous cooling belt for low temperature molecular luminescence spectrometry." Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Florida (J.D. Winefordner), 1988-1989. "Continuum source atomic absorption spectrometry with a diode array detector."

Appointments:

Dean of the Graduate School, Wake Forest University, 2012-present. Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Wake Forest University, 2010-2012 Professor of Chemistry, Wake Forest University, 2000-present Chair, Department of Chemistry, Wake Forest University, 1998-2006; 2018-2019 Associate Professor of Chemistry, Wake Forest University, 1994-2000 Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Wake Forest University, 1989-1994 More than 130 peer-reviewed manuscripts in instrument development and applied spectroscopy Primary adviser for more than 25 PhD students to date.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

The main challenge is to encourage new young scientists to enter the field of analytical spectroscopy and join the society. While the field of instrument development may not be as lucrative as it once was, the need for method development and niche applications continues to grow. Drawing bright young minds to the endeavor is critical for the survival of the society.

How do we meet these challenges?

We should continue to encourage students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels to attend the meetings and present their work. Travel grants, registration discounts, and dues discounts are still excellent incentives. For new faculty we should offer these types of discounts as well. The cost for travel to scientific conferences is higher than ever and often difficult to justify given their pressing research needs. More events directed at new faculty and students might help. Any type of research grants, no matter how small, would help. Workshops that promote team-building and multi-investigator grant development might be well-attended. SAS has done a good job in this area in the past and should continue to excel.

What new programs should SAS pursue?

SAS might adopt a page from the ACS programs that present University-specific awards to undergraduate and graduate students. Providing an award (maybe a certificate, travel grant, and/or free membership to the society) might encourage students to consider careers in spectrometry. Any university with a faculty member in the society might be invited to award the prize for example.

What is SAS doing well and why?

The journal is excellent and continues to publish a broad range of research. SAS actually does a good job of supporting and encouraging young scientists already.



Luisa Profeta

Biography

Luisa has been an active SAS member for over 15 years, and an active member of the Coblenz Society technical section as well. She has volunteered many hours to SAS, Coblenz and FACSS efforts, including, but not limited to: serving as a board member for SAS and Coblenz, as the SciX 2014 General Chair in Reno, NV, and is currently a reviewer for the SAS Newsletter and has recently been re-elected Coblenz Secretary. Luisa promotes applied spectroscopy at the SPIE.DCS meeting as a co-Conference Chair for the *Next Generation Spectroscopic Technologies* along with other SAS colleagues.

Luisa appreciates the camaraderie and networking help that SAS has provided in her career and tries to give back in kind. She feels that her still junior status allows her to infuse new perspectives to the Board, while keeping pertinent historical information in mind when suggesting and considering the future directives.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

Similar to other professional science organizations, SAS faces the on-going challenge of relevancy in a world that continues to push towards non-in-person connection and evolving member needs. Questions such as: Does Applied Spectroscopy reach target audience for the most impact? How does SAS support members transitioning between school and the workforce? Can SAS membership provide more than just another line on my CV?, need, nay, must be answered if the society is to continue to be relevant for the decades to come.

How do we meet these challenges?

Refocusing on the core SAS values will engage us (the SAS members, the Executive Committee and Governing Board) to answer these challenges. Specifics of how I would help meet these challenges are detailed in my next answer regarding SAS programs.

What new programs should SAS pursue?

Frankly, I believe that SAS needs to scale back on some of the projects it has launched in the last few years. These projects are not inherently bad or problematic, but to truly focus on becoming a relevant, long-term professional organization; we need to focus on the most critical functionalities SAS provides.

For example, the current state for posting job openings is mediocre at best. Instead of turning to SAS as their top site for jobs outside of graduate school, students must turn to large organizations such as Indeed, LinkedIn, Monster, etc. in the hopes of perhaps finding a job that they are somewhat qualified for, rather than more targeted jobs SAS could hypothetically post on their page. Another focal area SAS needs to work on is the member transition from students to young professionals. The society has a high attrition rate once students graduate. Once SAS is back to performing its core focal areas well, branching out into new programs can once again be pursued.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS does outreach to young students exceedingly well. Reaching out and drawing in current graduate students into the society has consistently been a strong point of the society since my introduction to the society in 2004. I believe this is due to the enthusiasm of SAS Student Presidents and other core SAS volunteers who truly want the society to make an impact in the lives of young spectroscopists.



Rohith Reddy

Biography

Dr. Rohith Reddy is an assistant professor at the Univ. of Houston. He received his Ph.D. from the Univ. of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and completed his post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School. His research interests include vibrational spectroscopy and spectroscopic imaging for biomedical applications. He has experience developing new spectroscopic imaging instrumentation for biomedical and clinical applications. Dr. Reddy has won the prestigious William F. Meggers Award (2014) for outstanding work in spectroscopy. He has also won the FACSS innovation award twice (2012 , 2016), Tomas Hirschfeld Award (2012), William G. Fateley Student Award (2011), Coblenz Student Award (2011), SAS Graduate Student award (2011), FACSS student poster award in 2007, 2009 and 2011, among other awards. He currently serves on the board of the Coblenz society. He has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and has filed five US patents.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

SAS is a community of spectroscopists in which members can depend on each other to find answers to technical challenges that they are facing at work, get help finding their next job, get access to the latest technologies, network with like-minded scientists or simply for the joy of learning. Just as one turns to their friends and neighbors for help in personal life, SAS should be the place that people turn to for help in their professional life. Younger scientists can find mentors who have overcome challenges and can provide guidance. An important challenge facing SAS is attracting and retaining a new generation of spectroscopists. Students and young scientists who present at conferences like SciX and Pittcon often drop out of the SAS community after graduate school. Moreover, several scientists who work on spectroscopy or use spectroscopic techniques are not members of SAS. The SAS community will benefit from having them in our midst and they will also benefit from the community.

How do we meet these challenges?

Retaining student members is challenging but important. I propose to pair student members with mentors who are SAS members. A continued connection to SAS after graduation will help younger members find future jobs and provide guidance in their professional careers. Furthermore, such connections will encourage them to pay it forward and become future mentors.

Expanding SAS membership in Europe and Asia has a huge potential. Many scientists who submit papers to Applied Spectroscopy from Europe and Asia are not SAS members, but should be. We should send out SAS membership ads to everyone who publishes in Applied Spec. I

would personally reach out to my friends and colleagues at Indian Institute of Science and Indian Institutes of Technology to promote SAS membership in India.

Revitalizing local sections: Encouraging inactive local US sections to restart with a one-time incentive/fund. We can fund the first set of spectroscopy talks until there is a self-sustaining group.

What new programs should SAS pursue?

I would like SAS to have an emphasis on the following programs:

1. Mentorship program: Connecting students and junior spectroscopists with senior spectroscopists. We intend to help younger spectroscopists build their professional network and get support on matters related to work and professional development.
2. Expansion in Europe and Asia: Actively reach out to spectroscopists in Europe and Asia. Identify and advertise to researchers who submit to Applied Spectroscopy. Setup a community portal where any SAS member who reads a great article or sees a great talk can send share that information. A volunteer can compile this information and reach out to the corresponding scientists on behalf of SAS.
3. Local chapter revitalization: Provide incentives to kick-start inactive local chapters and help organize interesting speakers to start. Local chapters have stronger industry participation relative to the bigger conferences like SciX and cater to an important audience.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS has a wonderful group of committed members who volunteer their valuable time in the service of the community. It is largely due to the efforts of this group that the community has thrived to this day. SAS has an important Journal, Applied Spectroscopy, with a long and rich history. This vital asset is also a great member benefit. SAS takes active part in SciX and helps organize excellent sessions. It provides recognition to scientists for both scientific excellence and service to the community in the form of awards. Above all, it is a place where current members feel welcomed and feel like they belong. It provides a rich professional network with members they can trust and that is a fundamentally important asset in an age of where institutional trust is low. SAS is an institution worth preserving and I want it to grow and serve a new generation of spectroscopists. As a member of the governing board, I want to be a part of making this happen.



Jake Shelley

Biography

Jacob (Jake) Shelley was born in Albuquerque, NM in 1984. He earned his B.S. in Chemistry from Northern Arizona University. During that time, he worked as an intern at Los Alamos National Laboratory for four years. He completed his Ph.D. at Indiana University under Gary Hieftje in 2011. Jake conducted postdoctoral research with R. Graham Cooks at Purdue University 2011 and was an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the University of Muenster in 2012. In 2014, he became Assistant Professor at Kent State University. He was named the Alan Paul Schulz Professor of Chemistry at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2016. He has authored 37 published journal articles, 5 United States patents/patent applications, a book chapter, and has given more than 45 invited presentations at national and international venues. Jake has been an active member of the SAS since 2004 and has served on the Regional and Sectional Affairs Committee and currently as the Tour Speaker Coordinator.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

In recent years, SAS has done a great job reaching out to and expanding upon the student population in the organization. This is essential because students who are involved today will become the SAS leaders of tomorrow. In that time, though, involvement in the Regional Sections has started to wane. The result is a bimodal distribution in groups heavily involved in the SAS. For long-term success of the organization, it is important to build and maintain a continuum of involved members.

How do we meet these challenges?

To address the waning involvement in the Regional sections as well as minimize the gap in age distributions, SAS could foster interaction and collaboration between Regional and Student Sections in nearby areas. Ways to achieve this would be through activities that benefit both groups such as professional development retreats (e.g., interviewing skills, resume/CV writing, project management, etc.) hosted by Regional Sections and/or research symposia combined with job fairs hosted by Student Sections. Such events would expose student members to Regional Sections and promote their involvement after graduation.

To expand the diversity of the SAS, it will be important to prioritize support and foster involvement of under-represented peoples in the SAS. Setting up joint meetings, events, and activities between National/Regional SAS and other scientific organizations (e.g., Scientistas, NOBCCHE, BGSA, etc.) will enhance visibility of the SAS and lead to a better, stronger Society.

What new programs should SAS pursue?

Examples discussed above include Professional Development joint meetings between Regional and Student Sections hosted by the Regional Sections as well as a Research Symposia and Job Fairs hosted by Student Sections.

For areas without Student or Regional Sections, we could develop spectroscopy-based activities/programs that could be hosted by individual students or professionals. It could be something akin to ACS's "Program-in-a-Box", which has been quite successful at involving engaging local communities about the importance of chemistry. An SAS program would show the power and broad utility of spectroscopy to everyday life. An example would be use Alex Scheeline's/Spectroclick's spectroscopy kit.

What is SAS doing well and why?

In the past 10 years or so, SAS has done a fantastic job growing the student program and, more importantly, having a very active student group. There is a strong community and network of current student members and recent graduates, which makes the future of the SAS look bright (pun absolutely intended). This is due, in part, to very consistently strong student leadership as well as the myriad of student events held at major conferences, such as Pittcon and FACSS/SciX. Meeting fellow student SAS members and recent graduates at these events and then seeing the same people multiple years in a row has led to strong connections and lasting friendships across generations.



Gloria Story

Biography

Senior Scientist: 35 years @ P&G

Study Areas:

Solid/Liquid interface dynamics

Mid-IR spectroscopic problem solving and interpretation Mid-IR and NIR spectroscopic imaging of materials

Thermal imaging for product development, manufacturing vision, and claims/demos

Education:

AS in Science Technology (Raymond Walters Technical College)

Worked on BS in Chemistry @ University of Cincinnati and the University of Utah

Many training classes in FT-IR, Raman, chemometrics, interpretation, thermography

Member:

Coblentz Society for 31 years Society for Applied Spectroscopy for 25 years American Chemical Society for 25 years

Presently serving:

Cincinnati ACS section's membership, education grants, and Museum Center outreach coordinator; SAS Regional/Technical Section Affairs coordinator

Honors:

2005 Cincinnati ACS Outstanding Service Award 2015 SAS Distinguished Service Award 28 publications

Personal:

Mother of Michael Story (Materials Engineer), Scout Ment

What are the challenges facing SAS?

Our biggest and constant challenge is maintaining and growing membership.

How do we meet these challenges?

I personally feel we need to change how we ask people to remain members and to be a member. Take a page from the core members that stay year after year. If you ask them why, they will tell you that they want to support their professional society. It isn't about what they get in return...it is what can they do to help. We should try this communication to encourage members to stay and to also encourage new members to join. The message is...we need you! Will you help us fulfill our mission? We are here to be a home for all spectroscopists...a place to network, to publish our papers in a wonderful peer-reviewed Journal, to support students, and to access cutting-edge symposia at our main meeting venues. We can't do this without every members' support...we need their time, talent, and treasure. As a dedicated member, I look forward to seeing all my colleagues at SciX and PittCon each year. For those that can't join us, we are hoping to grow our virtual connections using Zoom.

What new programs should SAS pursue?

While this isn't such a new idea, I have a lot of passion for virtual meetings/connections. SAS has invested in a one-host access to Zoom, a virtual meeting platform. I've written a recent article about it in our Newsletter. I feel this is the way we will be able to stay connected...keeping local and technical sections alive. We could have a Zoom meeting going on so those members who can't attend SciX, could peek into what is going on at the Wine and Cheese event. We can attend, and record our speaker events held in our local/technical sections. We could record and share on our website: seminars, training events, and member meetings. Getting more digital is what needs to happen next.

What is SAS doing well and why?

Thanks to a long legacy of excellent editors, managers, and editorial board members, we have a peer-reviewed Journal to be proud of. We support cutting-edge symposia at meetings our members attend. We provide plenty of venues for our members to network - at our international meetings and even in our booth. We know how to engage people and we certainly know how to party together.

We support students with venues to share their work, networking opportunities, awards for their growing CVs, and lots of friendships/mentors.

We honor our long-time members with fellowships, awards, and other recognitions.

We have a wonderful core team of volunteers that take on the hard jobs that need to be done to keep our Society thriving. We always encourage members to share their talents and time with us.

We have the best staff - they are seamless in their execution of what needs to be done. They love our members and we love them right back.



Lynn Zhang

Biography

Dr. Lynn Zhang earned her B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering at Shenyang University of Chemical Technology in China. In 2011, Lynn obtained Master's degree focusing physical chemistry at Murray State University. She then joined the Chemistry department at Clemson University and obtained her Ph.D. in 2015. Lynn is currently working at Eurofins EAG Material Science as Sr. Technical Specialist, to support different industries. Lynn's engineering background has provided a different point of view for her years of research in spectroscopy. Lynn has been a member of SAS for 8 years and has served the society in many ways. She was the original founder of the Clemson University Student Chapter of SAS, also served as a member of the website committee and the publicity committee. She is currently serving as the SAS website committee chair and SAS St. Louis Local Chapter secretary. Lynn is a big fan of beer, she has been homebrewing for many years, and her favorite beer styles are Stout and IPA.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

The reduction of membership and affection in the spectroscopy industry.

How do we meet these challenges?

To promote SAS with more activities and generate a better platform for people to perform networking, career development and knowledge gaining. And provide more linkage between the membership and the journal of Applied Spectroscopy.

What new programs should SAS pursue?

Mentor programs on journal article writing and publication.

Mentor programs on career development for students and young professionals.

What is SAS doing well and why?

The social networking opportunities for students, and the journal of Applied Spectroscopy. The help from the more experienced members to the new members and students. SAS is doing well still, because it is formed and maintained by a group of spectroscopists that truly loves what they do.