January 2024

Coblentz Society–Society for Applied Spectroscopy Three-Minute Thesis Talks

Three-Minute Thesis Student Slam Coming in March 2024!

Dear Fellow Spectroscopists,

We are pleased to announce, based on last three very successful Graduate Student Slam Presentations (a.k.a., Elevator Talks or Three-Minute Thesis Presentations) we are doing a repeat performance for 2024! The first three events resulted in outstanding presentations from across the world with 42% of presentations from USA and Canada with the other 58% from Europe. So far, we have had 56 talks from 11 countries, 29 universities, and one high school.

The Presentations are aimed not only to encourage graduate students to participate but also to showcase talent in spectroscopy to potential future post-doctoral advisors and future employers who will be attending this exciting event. What is new for 2024? As well as the three-minute pitches from graduate students, we will have one-minute pitches from potential future post-doctoral advisors and future employers, and we welcome contributions to present opportunities to the talent that will be presenting.

This opportunity was initiated by the New England and New York Sections of SAS, as well as the Coblentz Society, and is supported by other Societies. The 2024 event is **virtual** and **open to all to attend**.

The format for student talks will encompass 20 selected presentations designed to be "elevator talks", which will last only three (3) minutes each. Yes, that is correct—three minutes. The goal is to engage up to 20 graduate students in a one-hour time slot to cover a high-level summary of their research. This is a great opportunity to network and get their research out into the open, be comfortable giving an overview of their work, especially for beginning graduate students, and it is useful if preparing for a poster or oral presentation at any upcoming conference that they plan to attend in 2024. We will select up to 20 presentations and provide to all who dial-in to the virtual session on the **28 March 2024 at 12:00 PM (EST)** a list of the speakers' names, title of their presentation, academic affiliation, advisor, and their anticipated graduation timeframe. Once the speaker is introduced, they will have three minutes to summarize their work. A 30-minute session will provide opportunities for one-minute presentations for potential employers and an open question session will follow after the completion of all presentations.

Please submit your abstract and the entire form here by 26 January 2024.

A committee will select the speakers and will work to ensure that as many universities as possible will be represented. Depending on turnout and success of this event, we may offer it again in the next few months to accommodate more presenters. In addition, an award will be given to the best overall presentation.

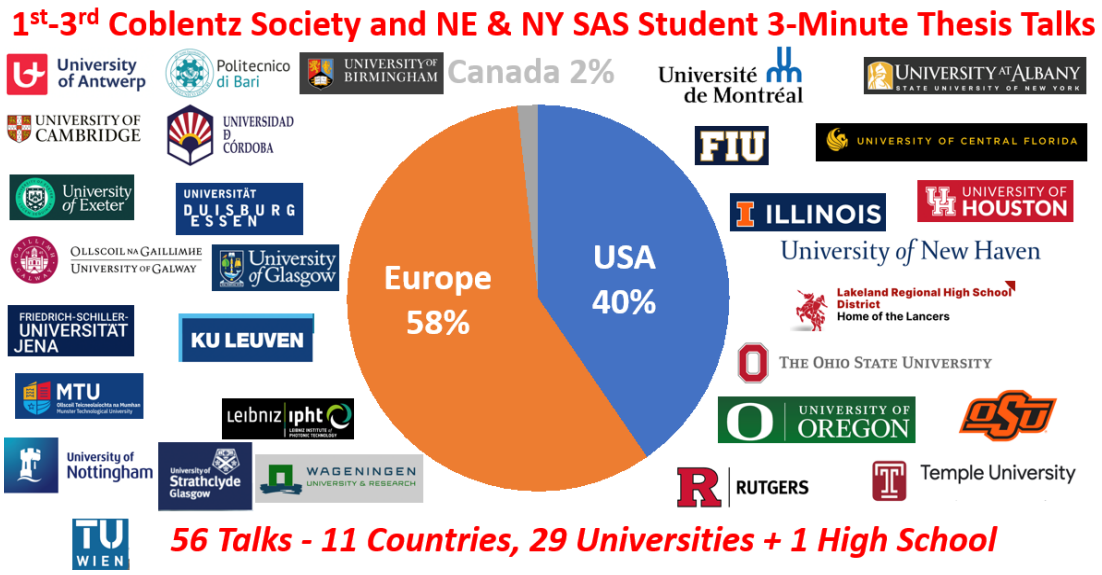
Graduate students from across the world are invited to provide a three (3) minute summary of their research particularly focused on vibrational spectroscopy. We invite topics ranging from biomedical applications to forensics to space exploration, to instrument development and any other areas with a spectroscopy focus. We also invite one-minute presentations for potential employers.

This webinar will feature up to 20 speakers and will be followed by a 30-minute open Q&A session. This provides

an excellent opportunity for networking for Ph.D. students and showcasing talent in spectroscopy.

Abstract submission and form available here.

John Wasylyk, Coblentz Society and the Society for Applied Spectroscopy



Previous Graduate Student Slam Presentations included participants from a variety of institutions spanning 11 countries, 29 universities, and one high school from across the world.

Recognizing 2023 SAS Service Award Recipients

Due to an oversight, the recipients of the 2023 SAS Service Award were not properly acknowledged in the December newsletter that recapped the highlights and memorable moments of SciX 2023. Therefore, I would like to acknowledge former SAS President, Andrew Whitley, former SAS Student representative, Caelin Celani, former SAS Secretary, Ian Lewis, and former Newsletter Editor, Luisa Profeta for their invaluable service to the Society.

Luisa T.M. Profeta, 2024 Coblentz Society President

In 2023, four people were recipients of the SAS Service Award. Former SAS President, Andrew Whitley (top left), former SAS Student Representative, Caelin Celani (top right), former SAS Secretary, Ian Lewis (bottom left), and former Newsletter Editor, Luisa Profeta (bottom right).

2023 SAS Gold Medal Award Recipient

The SAS Gold Medal Award was created to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of Applied Spectroscopy. The first awardee in 1952 was Dr. William F. Meggers, and in 1953 the award was given to Dr. William W. Coblentz. Over the years, the award program has continued to honor spectroscopists who have contributed both to the advancement of this science and who have had an inspiring influence on the careers of others.

This year, the New York/New Jersey Section of SAS is pleased to announce that the 2023 Gold Medal recipient is Dr. Curtis Marcott, a senior partner at Light-Light Solutions LLC. Dr. Marcott received the Gold Medal and plaque at the Eastern Analytical Symposium held in Plainsboro, New Jersey. The symposium was held on Tuesday, 14 November 2023 from 1:30–4:00 PM and included four wonderful presentations by Dr. Marcott and a panel of distinguished invited speakers:

> "Industrial Spectroscopy Research Leading to the Development of Novel Bioplastics", Isao Noda, University of Delaware
>
> "Super-Resolution Photothermal Infrared Spectroscopy for Science and Industry", Craig Prater, Photothermal Spectroscopy Corp.
>
> "Multimodal Infrared Nanospectroscopy in the Bio- and Materials Sciences", Simone Ruggeri, Wageningen University
>
> "Chemically Characterizing the Microstructure of Novel Bioplastics Using Photothermal Infrared Spectroscopy", Curtis Marcott, Light-Light Solutions

(Left to right) Curtis Marcott receiving the Gold Medal and plaque. Presenters at the Eastern Analytical Symposium: Simone Ruggeri, Isao Noda, Curtis Marcott, and Craig Prater.

The New York/New Jersey SAS Gold Medal nomination period is currently open, and the committee is accepting nominations for the 2024 award. The Gold Medal will be presented at a special award symposium, arranged in honor of the awardee, at the 2024 (18–20 November) Eastern Analytical Symposium. Please submit a nominating letter, biographical sketch, and list of publications to Dana Garcia (dana.garcia99@gmail.com) by 15 February 2024.

Debbie Peru, New York/New Jersey SAS and Coblentz Secretary

2023 Eastern Analytical Symposium Alvin Bober Student Seminar Series Review

Last year, the Eastern Analytical Symposium (EAS) offered three outreach seminars designed for high school students and teachers, and college undergraduates (link: Alvin Bober Seminar Series, Eastern Analytical Symposium). Each seminar has presenters from academia and industry. The goal of each seminar is to demonstrate the advantages of a career in chemistry.

On 15 November, Ms. Deborah Peru, New York/New Jersey SAS and Coblentz Secretary, presented a two-hour seminar "Careers in Science: Looking Back Through the Journey and Science of Color". This workshop introduced the students to the various types of degrees and industrial positions available for scientists with degrees in chemistry, biology, engineering, nutrition, and other scientific disciplines. Part I of this seminar provided a snapshot of what an Analytical Chemist does when working in industry. The seminar provided a look at how analytical thinking and collaboration skills are used along with instrumentation to provide analytical

testing support in the early stages of research, product scale-up and in manufacturing of products we use every day including fuel sources, catalytic converters, roofing materials, soap, and toothpaste.

In Part II of the seminar, Ms. Peru delved deeper into the science of light and color and created seven hands-on experiments for the students to have fun while learning more about the separation of light using prisms and gratings, and how Beer's law describes the relationship between absorption of light and concentration. Three of the experiments involved the separation of white light using a single dispersion and a double-axis grating purchased from SpectroClick, Champaign, Illinois. These hands-on experiments were intended to demonstrate how spectroscopists use these basic principles every day during their career.

Feedback from students and faculty members exceeded our expectations. One teacher wrote, "Thank you so much for an amazing presentation today; our students loved it!" Over the past six years, Ms. Peru has focused her consultation business on teaching adults at conferences and younger ages at the elementary and high school levels. Her Montessori teacher training has provided a foundation for creating scientific experiments that allow students to see the relationship between science in all aspects of everyday life. Beginning when children are very young, science helps to shape their development. Besides being a fun way to learn, students learn critical thinking skills and how to make predictions, test, observe, record, and communicate their findings.

Deborah Peru is a consultant in spectroscopy and owner of DP Spectroscopy and Training, LLC

Debbie Peru, New York/New Jersey SAS and Coblentz Secretary

Attendees of 2023 Eastern Analytical Symposium Alvin Bober Student Seminar Series.

End of Year News from the Early Career Interest Group

The leadership committee for the Early Career Interest Group (ECIG) is currently planning its events for 2024, including a series of webinars that focus on topics of interest to Early Career members. More details regarding our future events and webinars will be coming out in the next few months. Thank you to everyone who supported SAS Early Career members in 2023!

Anthony Stender, SAS Early Career Interest Group

SAS Contact Information Updates (as of 8/7/23)

Our phone number has changed: 518-313-1160 **Please note!**

Our fax number has changed: 518-463-8656 **Please note!**

Our general office email will be: sasadmin@s-a-s.org **Please note!**

Our new mailing address is: **Please note!**
230 Washington Avenue Extension
Suite 101
Albany, New York 12203

Our online services continue at: www.s-a-s.org. Journal services continue for *Applied Spectroscopy*, and for *Applied Spectroscopy Practica*.

Peter Larkin, 2023 SAS President

Do you have something spectroscopy-related you want to discuss in the newsletter? Or something that will help our membership such as career tips or application tips? Please let us know by emailing konnorkjones@gmail.com.