



Newsletter Changes

The newsletter has a new committee! Thank you to Dr. Lyndsay Kissell, Dr. Shruti Ghanekar, and Mr. Konnor Jones for stepping up to lead this initiative.



(Left to right): Dr. Lyndsay Kissell, Dr. Shruti Ghanekar, and Mr. Konnor Jones.

The committee is making some changes to the newsletter over the next several months to serve you better. Read on to see some of things we are doing.

First, the newsletter will now be published on the first Wednesday of each month. This helps us synchronize the newsletter to SAS events later in the month and reduce the number of other emails that SAS sends. We will be asking our section chairs or their designee for information about upcoming or past events with two messages a month. Simply reply to one of those emails and we will get your content in.

Second, we are going to start featuring information on what our fellow SAS members are up to, as well as other relevant spectroscopy information. That means new techniques, promotions, inventions, etc. are all game. If you know something that you think your fellow SAS members would benefit from knowing, drop us a line!

Finally, we are increasing the collaboration between the Newsletter and Social Media committees. Make sure you follow SAS on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) to stay up to the minute with SAS happenings!

Applied Spectroscopy Practica Goes Live

By the time you read this, the first volume of *Applied Spectroscopy Practica* will be live. Congratulations to Editor-in-Chief, Richard Crocombe, and Managing Editor, Kristin MacDonald on this great accomplishment!

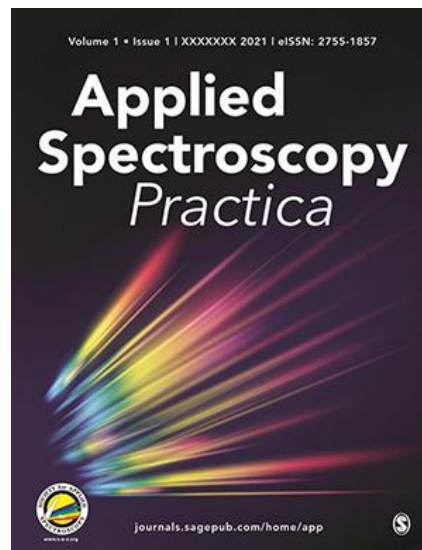
We want to especially thank our *Practica* launch sponsors for signing five-year commitments to fund *Practica* as we get it launched. Please consider our sponsors as you make purchasing decisions.

Visionary sponsors have committed to \$5000 per year: EasyXAFS, Jasco, Pike Technologies, Metrohm, WiTec.

Benefactor level sponsors have pledged \$2000 per year: BioTools, Thermo-Fisher Scientific

Donor level sponsors have pledged \$500 per year: Coblenz Society, Fiveash Data Management, Solvay, Mike and Mary Carrabba, and Adam J. Hopkins.

Go check out *Practica* at practica.s-a-s.org.



SAS Supports a Long-Running Symposium Organized and Run by Chemistry Graduate Students

The Niagara Frontier Section of SAS and the University at Buffalo Student Section recently co-sponsored the 2023 Chemistry Graduate Student Symposium (GSS) that was organized by the University at Buffalo (UB) Graduate Student Society. The GSS was held in Buffalo, New York, on the UB campus from 24–26 May 2023, and celebrated its 40th anniversary of continuous operations in 2023, making it one of the longest continuously operating student-run chemistry conferences in the nation. As described by Professor George H. Morrison in a 1987 editorial in *Analytical Chemistry* (DOI: 10.1021/ac00144a714), the conference is special in that it is operated entirely by graduate students for graduate students. Graduate students raise funds for the conference activities, administrate the conference and associated events, and preside over the conference. The conference occurs over a three-day period during which time graduate students give oral and poster presentations as well as partake in a good deal of pizza and wings. This year, the graduate students invited three keynote speakers: Professor Jared Anderson of Iowa State University, Professor Emanuela Gionfriddo of the University of Toledo, and Dr. Robert Haufler of SCIEX. Over 150 participants attended from schools throughout the region and Canada this year. We cordially invite you to attend GSS 2024, more information is [here](#).



Contributed by Niagara Frontier Section, SAS

The Science and Future of Fireworks: Colors, Pollution, and Sustainable Alternatives

Ever wondered how fireworks produce such mesmerizing displays of colors and patterns?

Traditionally, fireworks are set off by igniting a “fuse”. It in turn ignites the “lift charge”, usually made of black powder, which propels the “burst charge” up in the sky. The burst charge that creates the main pattern is interspersed with small pellets made of chemicals, such as powdered metal salts, which produce the colors. The metal ions from the salts absorb thermal energy generated during the pattern blast and emit visible light, just like what happens in a flame test. Strontium emits deep red, Ba produces bright green, Na gives yellow, and Cu yields blue. Mixtures of two or more elements are also used. For example, Sr and Na give orange, Sr and Cu give purple, and a mixture of Ti, Zr, and Mg yield white. However, these colorful displays are accompanied by a

considerable amount of noise and air pollution. Low noise, smokeless, and ecofriendly fireworks exist. These use clean burning nitrogen-based fuels as charges and alternative chemicals to produce similar colors. As these are relatively new, they cost more and are not widely available. Hopefully, with further research in safe pyrotechnics, there will come a day when everyone, including our pets, will be able to enjoy the magic of fireworks.

Contributed by Shruti Ghanekar, SAS newsletter committee member



Annual Election of SAS Officer and Governing Board Delegates

The Annual Election of SAS Officer and Governing Board Delegates will be held electronically from 21 June to 31 July 2023. All regular members in good standing are eligible to vote and should receive an email with voting instructions and login information from our online election provider Elections Online vote@skypunch.tech. Please check your spam folders for this email. If you did not receive it by opening day of the election, contact the SAS office at sasadmin@s-a-s.org or 301-694-8122. Click [here](#) to read candidate profiles.

Contributed by Niagara Frontier Section, SAS

Join us at the 50th Annual SciX Conference in Sparks, Nevada

Registration is open for SciX 2023. Don't miss the 50th meeting presented by FACS from 8-13 October 2023 in Sparks, Nevada. We are honored to have Dr. Peter Griffiths as SciX's Keynote speaker for our special half-century FACSS/SciX meeting. Dr. Griffiths attended the very first FACSS meeting in 1972 and is widely respected for his work in analytical vibrational spectroscopy with a focus in FT-IR spectroscopy. This is a meeting you don't want to miss! Register [here](#) for an Early Bird Rate.

Contributed by Tina Gong, FACSS/SciX Marketing Chair

FACSS PRESENTS

SCiX2023

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.

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