

## Report to the SAS Executive Committee

John-David McElderry, Student Representative

September 1, 2010

The students of SAS are enthusiastic to be a part of the society. The student event at PITTCON 2010 was a success with 75 in attendance, which was triple what I was told to expect. Several students were new to the society, and many were participating due to good experiences at past events. In the PITTCON 2010 report I proposed injecting activities or entertainment into every student event to increase retention of attendees into the later hours. At the dueling piano bar the section was packed until after 11 pm. Furthermore, I got an outpouring of positive feedback about the event in the weeks following. Thank you EC for your support and participation.

Student membership is important to the strength of SAS. Not only do students comprise 18% of the total membership, but they contribute a significant portion of the new members of the society. No one on the EC would disagree that acquiring new members, particularly students, is a top priority. Here are two ideas that I plan to pursue:

- 1) I plan to make SAS student chapter material available at the student event. My goal is to successfully encourage at least one student to start a new student chapter on Monday night and perhaps renew the energy of current student chapter leaders while doing so. I also challenge the EC to make student chapters a part of their conversation while at the student event.
- 2) I hope to establish a new program of sending "SAS Student Ambassadors" to conferences beyond FACSS and PITTCON where SAS might have a valued presence. Please see the attached page for a more detailed description of the proposed program.

Realizing these ideas will undoubtedly have a positive impact on student enthusiasm on the chapter level and on the whole, and we may see increases in student memberships.

Dear SAS Executive Committee:

The SAS Student Representative would like to propose the creation of a new student program called "SAS Student Ambassador". The purpose for creating the program is to boost the student membership accrual rate. A description of the program is as follows:

The SAS Student Ambassador (SA) program is an opportunity for student members of SAS to act as a spokesperson for SAS at spectroscopy conferences beyond FACSS and PITTCON. The SA position will be a temporary assignment where a graduate student in good standing with SAS will prepare and maintain a decorated table containing pamphlets, pins and poster boards which advertise the mission of SAS and the benefits it provides to its members. The SA will not be expected to stand by the table; however, during poster sessions he/she will be encouraged to direct interested students to the table for more information about SAS. The SA will feel free to participate in any other part of the conference or attend to other responsibilities. The SA would be encouraged to wear a SAS provided name tag through the duration of the conference and acknowledge SAS in any presentations given while at the conference. All responsibilities after the conference is completed will be dissolved.

In support of the SA, the SAS will provide table decorations, pamphlets, pins and hand-outs and mail them to the SA before the trip. SAS will gain approval for the decorated table from the conference coordinators. In return for their generous service SAS will subsidize the student's conference registration fee up to a limit (TBD). The budget necessary for the function of this program is based on the cost of the table contents, the registration fee limit, and the number of students chosen to serve as SA per year.

Choosing the SA will be based on three criteria: enthusiasm to represent SAS, activity in student chapters, and a statement of purpose. Student chapter officers would be ideal candidates for this position. The position will be advertised via email to students and mentors of SAS along with inclusion on the website. Student volunteers at FACSS should also be encouraged to participate.

Conference selection will be determined with the program purpose in mind: to boost student membership. Conferences that attract spectroscopy students will of course be the first criterion. It will be most efficient to target small conferences which provide intimate and prolonged networking opportunities.

The goal for initiating this program is to send out the first emails by January 1, 2011 for the upcoming year of conferences.

Should the EC decide to move forward with this proposal it would be imperative to establish a budget and approve a conference list. It is recommended that student selection for the SA position be left up to the elected Student Representative.

Sincerely,

John-David McElderry

SAS Student Representative