President's Report
FACSS 2011

It has been my great honor and pleasure to serve as President of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy this past year. I want to extend my thanks to all the Society volunteers, Journal office staff, and Frederick office staff for their efforts and help. Below are some key highlights:

Journal. This year, under the leadership of Editor-In-Chief Peter Griffiths, Editor Michael Blades, and Managing Editor Rebecca Airmet, our Journal, *Applied Spectroscopy*, has made some significant strides. We have introduced color to all articles (free for SAS members, see June 2011 editorial), substantially reduced our printing costs (by over $5000/month), and dramatically increased the number of Focal Point articles (nine in 2011). Focal Point articles are now open access on the OSA Optics Infobase platform, beginning with the April 2011 issue. While we were unable to open up access to previously published material with OSA, that material *is* open on Ingenta. Since the April issue, we have published one Focal Point Review article in every issue and this should continue into the foreseeable future. This should lead to an improvement in the Impact Factor (IF). SAS members can now access any *Applied Spectroscopy* article on Ingenta using their SAS website login.

Website. We are making steady progress with the website, with member login ids now having been issued. The entire site, including the membership database and all journal issues, is now completely searchable from the homepage if you are an SAS member. If you haven't used your new member login id yet, I encourage you to explore the website and the member benefits it offers, which in addition to the search function, include updating your own profile, access to all SAS Newsletter issues, and joining and paying dues online. I think the website is absolutely critical to being able to convince non-US spectroscopists, who are looking for a sense of community, of the benefits of belonging to SAS.

International Participation. A key highlight of 2011 was official opening of the first Regional SAS section outside the US. I attended the grand opening of the UK SAS Regional Section in Manchester on May 17, where they had a one-day symposium with over 20 vendors/sponsors and over 110 attendees. More details and pictures about the event can be found in the SAS Newsletter, which you can access from the website. I showed some screenshots from the website during my inaugural address and pointed out, using the "search" function, that there were only 40 UK members of SAS. Today there are 100 UK SAS members. All 48 students in attendance received a one-year SAS student membership funded using the sponsorship money from the event. I think the UK experience is a great model for growing SAS membership in other countries/regions. I have been traveling internationally a lot this year and discovered there are spectroscopists in India and South Korea interested in starting SAS regional sections. I think China and Japan are also good candidates for future regional SAS sections, as well as the rest of Europe.

Student Involvement. I want to thank John-David McElderry for all his efforts at vitalizing student involvement in SAS. As John's term concludes this year, the SAS Executive Committee looks forward to working closely with our new Student Representative, Ryan Schmeling. We currently have six chartered SAS Student Sections: Arizona State University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Utah, Brigham Young University, University of Idaho, and Truman State University. At the Sixth International Conference on Advanced Vibrational Spectroscopy (ICAVS-6) held in Sonoma County, CA in June, SAS partially sponsored the poster sessions and nine Student Poster Awards. The winning poster presenters were each presented with a certificate and a one-year SAS membership, which included a free hardcopy of the Journal. Each student poster award winner then presented a brief 10 minute oral presentation of their work to the entire conference. In addition, sponsors stepped forward and the remaining 28 student attendees were offered free one-year student memberships with internet only access to the journal. Almost all the students in attendance at ICAVS-6 were from outside the US and many had little knowledge of SAS. We also had an SAS booth near the registration desk all week which was manned by our first SAS Student Ambassador, Mark Boatwright from Kansas State University. SAS paid his registration so he could attend the conference and help spread the word about SAS.

It has been a great pleasure serving as President of the Society over the past year. I especially thank Bonnie Saylor and the Frederick office for their guidance and efforts in support of the Society. Bonnie's office has put in a substantial effort toward website development this past year, which is very much appreciated and should pay big dividends in the future. I also want to thank Jim de Haseth for getting this important website project started, having put in many more hours than anyone should expect from a Society volunteer. Finally, I offer my best wishes to incoming SAS President Mary Kate Donais. I have enjoyed working closely with Mary Kate over this past year and am confident the Society will be in good hands under her leadership.

Curt Marcott
2011 SAS President