

SAS SPECTRUM eNEWS

Student Ambassador Report for the 2016 Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry

The SAS was represented at the 2016 Winter Plasma Conference in Tucson with a booth. Thanks to volunteers Debbie Bradshaw, Ben Manard, and Lynn Zhang for staffing the booth and talking to conferees about SAS! Below is a report from Lynn:

I was a PhD candidate from the Department of Chemistry at Clemson University working under the supervision of Dr. R. Kenneth Marcus from which I graduated this past December. I was selected as a student ambassador for the Society for Applied Spectroscopy for the 2016 Winter Plasma

Conference and had the pleasure to travel to Tucson, Arizona, this January. The Winter Conference is a unique conference that focuses on plasma spectrochemistry, which discusses a large range of plasma-based spectroscopies, from inductively coupled plasma to arc, then to glow discharge. A wide range of topics was discussed, from the basic principles to in-depth knowledge, from general instrumentation to advanced technologies, and of course, the interesting applications of all of these plasma-based spectroscopies.

The Winter Conference is a very concentrated and intense conference. There are more than 700 pre-registered attendees from different places in the world that came to meet at Tucson this year. This is one of the a few conferences I know of that has professional travel agents taking care of all your traveling needs, including but not limited to the hotel, flight, airport, and transportation. It is also very generous in that the agents will even provide you information about interesting things to do locally. The conference planning provided conveniences that made traveling and attending easier and more pleasant. One good example for international attendees is all the information needed to obtain a US visa is provided on the winter conference website and also can be emailed to you individually if requested. These nice things make Winter Conference a great experience for every attendee, especially myself.

The SAS booth was located in the lecture hallway at the Winter Conference, which was a huge benefit to us in making connections and being able to introduce this professional society of spectroscopists to the conference attendees. We passed some gifts to the attendees that stopped by the booth, including pens with the SAS logo and info, our *Applied Spectroscopy* journal, and our uniquely designed phone pockets, which is the most popular one among students. I wore the SAS member sticker on my badge, and we also put them on our members' badges at the conference. We received friendly feedback for the Society from the conference attendees, including our current members and potential members. There were discussions about the future of the society, including ideas of how to bring in more members and how to get tighter member relationships, especially between the members focusing on instrumentation development and the rest of applied spectroscopy. I have also learned a lot from all the experienced professors and scientists in this industry that I talked to during the conference, which is exactly what I needed as a newly graduated PhD. I also had the opportunity to speak to some graduate students from Europe that are currently SAS student members, and passed along the information about how to start a student chapter, hopefully they will get into it and make SAS bigger and stronger!



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In conclusion, this trip to the winter conference as a student ambassador was a wonderful experience for myself. I hope that communications with the conference attendees will encourage them to want to join SAS and start a great journey with us! At the end, to all of our student members, I encourage you guys to be more active and join the student ambassador program! Let all of us work together and making our non-profit organization to be one of the best professional society for spectroscopist.

Contributed by Lynn Zhang, Student Ambassador

Emerging Leader in Molecular Spectroscopy

Spectroscopy magazine is seeking nominations for a new award, the Emerging Leader in Molecular Spectroscopy Award. The Emerging Leader in Molecular Spectroscopy Award recognizes the achievements and aspirations of a talented young molecular spectroscopist who has made strides early in his or her career toward the advancement of molecular spectroscopy techniques and applications. The winner must be within 10 years of receiving his or her highest academic degree. Submissions are due by February 24, 2016.

Please consider nominating one of our young members for this Award. More information can be found at <http://bit.ly/1ZH9O9i> or by contacting Laura Bush lbush@advanstar.com.

Contributed by Laura Bush,
Editorial Director of *Spectroscopy Magazine*

Award to SAS Member Sandy Asher

Editorial Advisory Board member Sandy Asher, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh, is the winner of the Pittsburgh Analytical Chemistry Award. Dr. Asher pioneered the development of deep UV resonance spectroscopy for use in biophysical, physical chemistry and analytical chemistry. His group developed both instrumentation and methodologies for determining protein structure and protein folding. They are developing standoff instruments for detection of explosive molecule, as well as novel photonic crystal optical devices and responsive materials.

Contributed by SAS Award Committee

Recognizing the Importance of Pittcon 2016

As the electronic version of the Newsletter is going out, many of us will be traveling to Pittcon. As a last minute reminder, please take the opportunity to attend the SAS-sponsored sessions, network with your colleagues and remind them of the benefits of being an SAS member. Let us know what you are doing at Pittcon or let us know of events or announcements your fellow members should know about. Just fill out the form at <http://tinyurl.com/SASNewsSubmission>, and we will take care of the rest!

A SAS and Journal Thank You to Lee Craven

Longtime Society for Applied Spectroscopy member Lee Craven recently stepped down from his venerable role as editor of the monthly Marketplace feature (formerly What's New Buyers' Guide) for *Applied Spectroscopy*. The journal team and SAS send him best wishes and many thanks for his editorial services over the years.

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