



# December, 2008

## FRED LAPLANT ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SAS



SAS is pleased to announce that Dr. Fred LaPlant has been elected president of SAS in 2010. He will serve as President-Elect of the Society in 2009.

Fred received his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Purdue University under the direction of Dor Ben-Amotz in 1995. Fred's research focused on developing novel applications of Raman spectroscopy, including fiber-based sensors, detection of subsurface materials, and high-pressure high-shear modeling of fluids.

Fred spent five years in product development at Perceptron in Ann Arbor, Michigan, a developer of process control and monitoring devices for the auto industry. His principal contribution was the development of a non-contact, laser-based ultrasound system to measure wet paint film thickness. He then moved into Analytical Research and Development at the Pfizer Ann Arbor site, where he applied his process monitoring experience to PAT, as well as promoting the use of spectroscopic tools in pharmaceutical development. He is currently in the Corporate Analytical Spectroscopy group at 3M in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he is involved in a wide variety of projects, including introduction of new spectroscopic technology, nanomaterial characterization, and development of on-line monitoring methods.

Fred has been active in revitalizing the local Minnesota section of the SAS, serving as both president and treasurer. With the help of the other officers, the Minnesota section has attracted many new members and students, increased the number of regular meetings and social activities, and sponsored student speakers. Fred is currently an at-large member of the governing board of the SAS.

## CALL for NOMINATIONS: 2009 GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Nominations are being sought for the 2009 Gold Medal Award of the New York Section of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. This coveted award was established in 1952 to recognize outstanding contributions to the field of Applied Spectroscopy. The Gold Medal will be presented at a special award symposium, arranged in honor of the awardee, at the 2009 Eastern Analytical Symposium. A nominating letter describing the nominee's specific accomplishments should be submitted along with a biographical sketch by December 31, 2008. Please send all materials to Deborah Peru, Colgate Palmolive Co. 909 River Road, Piscataway N.J., 08833 or by email to: [debbie\\_peru@colpal.com](mailto:debbie_peru@colpal.com). Questions should be addressed to Deborah at 732-878-7295, or email at [debbie\\_peru@colpal.com](mailto:debbie_peru@colpal.com).

## OBITUARY - PAUL WILKES

Distinguished SAS Member Paul A. Wilks, Jr. died Saturday, October 11, 2008 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire after a brief illness. He was 85 and lived an active and productive life until the end.

Paul was born on June 16, 1923 in Springfield, MA. He was the son of the late Paul A. Wilks and Ethyl Libby Wilks and the husband of the late Laura Parsons Wilks.

He graduated from Harvard University in 1944 with a BS degree in Engineering and joined the Perkin-Elmer Corporation in Norwalk, CT that same year. Paul helped create Perkin-Elmer's analytical instrument division and the development and introduction of their first infrared spectrophotometer. He was the recipient of many awards for his contributions to the field of infrared spectroscopy, including the Williams-Wright Award from The Coblenz Society of which he was a founding member and the Gold Metal Award from NY Section of the Society of Applied Spectroscopy.



## PHOTOS FROM SAS 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



**Left:** Stan Smith, who has been an SAS member for 50 years, attended the Wine & Cheese reception.

**Right:** FACSS provided an anniversary cake at the conference all-inclusive event.



## DECEMBER HISTORICAL EVENTS IN SPECTROSCOPY BY LEOPOLD MAY CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



December 3, 1886 Karl M. G. Siegbahn, who was a researcher on x ray spectroscopy and received the Nobel Prize in 1924 for his discoveries and researching the field of X-ray spectroscopy, was born on this day.

December 13, 1939 Perkin-Elmer Corp. was incorporated on this date.