

SAS SPECTRUM eNEWS



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Newsletter Editor's Remarks

In the last issue, I asked readers to "... take a minute and send me an email to let me know if you see this." I received 40 responses as of press time (5 Feb). Most respondents clearly took more than a minute to express their thoughts regarding the Newsletter and SAS as whole. Some individuals even recommended more Newsletter outreach to the membership. The Newsletter Committee appreciated receiving every response, but we wanted to highlight a few particularly noteworthy and thought-provoking comments received:

"Thanks for the book recommendation—it was already on my "to read" list so it was good to hear another positive response to it!" — Joel Goldberg

"Your newsletter I found catching, when you have found an eye-safe Raman spectrometer let me know, I would love to show my own son and daughter the power of spectroscopy ..." — Edo Becker

"Also, I have a few ideas for teaching spectroscopy to grade school aged children. ... Let me know if you want help, the Dow Ambassador program can get you supplies too!" — Wendy Flory

"Kudos to you for conducting this "experiment" to gather data on actual readership!!! ... [G]athering good data about the baseline is the important first step! Parenthetically, I think this is not an uncommon problem. Have similar issues with other endeavors/organizations with which I am involved (e.g., my church; undergrad and grad alumni/ae assns.; local homeless/affordable housing org., etc.)." — Linda Anthony

"I read the newsletter! And, I'm not sure who is currently on the committee, but as a former SAS student representative (2013—2014), I'd be keen to help out with any ideas you may have pertaining to the newsletter. ... You seem to be bringing lots of enthusiasm to the role and that's definitely something that's contagious. Thanks for the 'open-door' policy". — Chad Atkins

Your responses have given me food for thought and encouragement to the committee to further improve the Newsletter. Thank you to everyone in the SAS for your support! In response to those interested in STEM education, we are planning an interview with Dr. Regan Silvestri, who has been hosting a program called, "Spectroscopy for Kids". Please watch out for it in an upcoming issue. The Newsletter Committee is also considering reserving a room during SciX 2017 to further facilitate communication for members interested in STEM and spectroscopy education to share their experiences with us. Please email Shawn at xchen4@dow.com if you are interested in getting involved even if you may not be able to attend in person, as we would like to touch base with you.

Interview with Brian Perry

The Cleveland SAS Section was the winner of 2016 SAS William J. Poehlman Award, which recognizes a local section that contributed the most toward accomplishing the goals and ideals of SAS during the preceding year. In this interview, I talked with Dr. Brian Perry who is the Chair of the SAS region section of Cleveland.

1. Please share some of your background information relevant to SAS.

I started as a SAS student member while in graduate school at Case Western Reserve University in 1985 working for Dr. Jack Koenig. Professor Koenig encouraged his students to participate in SAS and that was when I first attended local SAS meetings. I received my PhD in polymer science and engineering from Case Western Reserve University in 1988. I joined the Analytical Services group at LORD Corporation in Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1989, so I am starting my 28th year. My specialty is in NMR and IR analysis of polymers. I was not very active in SAS from 1989 to 2000 due to the long distance I had to travel from Erie to Cleveland in order to attend SAS meetings. I became more involved in early 2000, and then became the president of the Cleveland Section in 2003.

2. Please tell us about Cleveland SAS section.

The Cleveland SAS section has a long history, and it is one of the original local sections formed in 1956. Back then a lot of large companies were present in this region, such as BP/Sohio, BFGoodrich, Diamond Shamrock, etc. Over time, mergers and acquisitions resulted in many companies moving from the area along with many scientists. Our current section is quite small at about 20 members, including a core group of 15 people. The majority come from the chemical industry with a few from academia and government (forensic). Winning the Poehlman Award nine times since 2003 is a reflection of the dedication, engagement, and energy of the core team members.

In addition to the typical networking benefits, our regional section also gives us opportunity to make connections with other local technical and professional societies (more on that later) and establish working relationships with local labs such as Case Western Reserve University's Swagelok Center for Surface Analysis of Materials, which has provided venues for learning new techniques.

We hold a variety of events in our section. Our monthly meetings include activities such as a behind-the-scenes tour of the Natural History Museum, a tour of the art restoration lab at the Cleveland Museum of Art, watching IMAX Movies at Great Lakes Science Center, or attending a lecture and tour of Playhouse Square Center. Everyone is welcome and there is no extra charge for non-members. Families do sometimes attend. We have gained a few new members through such activities. We also have a strong partnership with the Microscopy Society of Northeast Ohio (MSNO). Our joint meetings usually include technical talks. For example, our 2016 SAS tour speaker gave a talk to the combined (MSNO/SAS) group. Through such partnerships, it is easier to reach a larger audience and promote spectroscopy to more people.

3. Tell us about your general and special activities/events.

In addition to the monthly meetings, we have several other noteworthy events around the year. For instance, there is a show called "Spectroscopy for Kids", which Dr. Ken Street started in 2001 and Dr. Regan Silvestri took over in 2014 when Dr. Street retired. This show has great attendance and we have reached approximately 14,000 students in over 150 events.

The local section has always been involved in the Northeast Ohio Science Fair. One of our long-time members, John Bell, was a strong supporter of the fair. After his death in 1994, the section initiated the John Bell Memorial Award. Local students at the Science Fair prepare posters on various science projects. A group of SAS members attend the fair as special judges and award a poster that best uses spectroscopy. The winning student (out of a typical field of 400) receives a monetary prize and is invited to attend our annual May Conference for special recognition. This has been ongoing annually since 1995. Some of the ninth graders have done some impressive work in labs at local colleges. We find it to be an effective way to encourage young people to pursue careers in science.

The Earnest B. Yeager Award was established in 1962. Dr. Yeager was a chemistry professor at Case Western Reserve University, and very devoted to undergraduate research. This annual award goes to an undergraduate student attending a college in the region who is utilizing spectroscopy in their research. We usually receive two to four nominations. The award is a joint SAS-ACS award, which gives the awardee a one-year membership in SAS and a \$400 prize. The awardee gives a presentation at our annual meeting. Most recent awardees continue on with their education in science related fields.

We also have an annual one-day technical meeting called the May Conference, started by our local SAS section in 1956. Initially a SAS-only conference, it has grown to include major contributions from other societies including the Microscopy Society of Northeast Ohio and the American Vacuum Society of Ohio. This year we hope to have one of the sessions facilitated by the local Society of Plastics Engineers. We find that partnering other professional groups is the only viable way to drawing enough participation. The 2016 conference had ~190 attendees, with 32 oral presentations, 33 posters, and a keynote speech. The conference is held at John Carroll University (JCU), which provides the facility at no charge. Dr. Mike Setter handles the on-location set-up as well as the meals and refreshments. We cannot thank Mike and the university enough for their support over the years.

4. What do you think are the critical elements to your section's success?

Start with fun events. If it's too technical, not many people have the energy after a long day's work to participate. Our success also comes from having a core group of dedicated people and from our partnerships and collaborations with other local societies and John Carroll University.

5. Organizing such events can be very time-consuming. What motivates you to volunteer your time?

It's important to me to keep the legacy of the section going. Also, meeting new people and networking are always part of the fun, and I enjoy encouraging students to participate.

6. Is your company/employer supportive?

Yes. LORD has been very supportive by allowing me to take days off to attend the above-mentioned events. LORD has also been a sponsor of the May Conference. A majority of people in our analytical group attends the May Conference and participates as judges or session chairs.

2017 Coblenz Student Awards, and William G. Fateley Student Award Call for Nominations

The Coblenz Society is seeking nominations of outstanding graduate students pursuing studies in vibrational spectroscopy for the 2017 Coblenz Student Awards. The awardees receive a copy of the Society's Desk Book, a certificate, and a year's membership in the Society. The awards will be presented at the end of the SAS Student Poster session at SciX on Sunday, October 8, 2017.

The three leading students automatically become eligible for the William G. Fateley Student Award, which includes a prize of \$1,000 and an invited presentation at SciX. Nominations for must be submitted before March 31, 2017 to the chair of the Student Affairs Committee, Prof. Christian Pellerin, at c.pellerin@umontreal.ca.

Nomination Requirements:

1. Curriculum Vitae of the nominee.
2. Biographical statement (300 words).
3. Letter of nomination from the research supervisor.
4. An additional letter of recommendation.
5. Abstract for presentation at SciX 2017.

2017 Coblenz Professional Awards Call for Nominations

The Coblenz Award is presented annually to an outstanding young molecular spectroscopist under the age of 40. Nominations should include a detailed description of the nominee's accomplishments, a curriculum vitae, and a minimum of 3 supporting letters. Nominations must be received by July 15, 2017.

The Williams-Wright Award is presented annually to an industrial spectroscopist who has made significant contributions to vibrational spectroscopy while working in industry. Government labs are not considered industry in this definition. Nominations must be received by May 1, 2017.

The ABB Sponsored Bomem-Michelson Award honors scientists who have advanced the technique(s) of vibrational, molecular, Raman, or electronic spectroscopy. This award is sponsored by ABB. The recipient must be actively working and must be at least 37 years of age. Nominations must be received by May 1, 2017.

The Lippincott Award is presented in recognition of significant contributions in the field of vibrational spectroscopy. The medal is sponsored jointly by the Coblenz Society, the Optical Society of America, and the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. Nominations must be received by October 1, 2017.

The Craver Award is presented annually to recognize young spectroscopists for efforts in applied analytical vibrational spectroscopy (NIR, MIR, Far), THz, and/or Raman spectroscopy. Candidates must be under the age of 45. Nominations must be received by August 30, 2017.

All nominations for the Coblenz, Williams-Wright, ABB Sponsored Bomem-Michelson, and Craver Awards should be submitted in timely fashion to: nominations@coblenz.org

The Lippincott nomination should be submitted to:

*Lippincott Award Chairperson
Optical Society of America
2010 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036*

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