Student Representative Report to the SAS Executive Committee

My term as the SAS Student Representative commenced in January 2014. Since this time, my efforts have focused on organizing successful student events, creating awareness of student-specific SAS awards, and increasing the visibility of the student population within the monthly newsletter. It's my belief that prioritizing financial awards and networking opportunities for SAS student members will improve membership retention as they transition into careers.

Over the next year I would like to continue working on my original goals stated at Pittcon:

1) Creating consumable content that is relevant to SAS student membership. This will require collaboration with the newsletter editor, as a continued presence from the student body in the newsletter will encourage future student engagement with the Society. Steven Asiala, a long-serving SAS student member, was profiled in the July 2014 newsletter and having at least three profiles a year is a reachable goal. I also think it is important to have content that is informative for the student body – i.e., *a question-and-answer piece with a long-standing SAS member and how their careers have benefitted from a Society membership*. Soliciting students to write pieces on their supervisors would be the easiest gateway into developing such content. This suggestion leads directly into my next goal**;**

2) Improving the student section of the website. It's the first place any potential student member visits to gauge the value of the SAS to their future, and that means it has the potential to leave an impression. I mentioned in my Pittcon 2014 report that valuable student content already exists (presentation slides from David Butcher, Gary Hieftje, Christian Hassell, and Randy Bishop posted in 2005 newsletters). Updating these presentations or collecting new ones from other SAS members would provide a strong basis for a student web section on *"SAS Career Advice*". Other sections I envision are: *"Previous Award Winners"* or *"Where Are They Now?"* (list previous winners of the SAS Graduate Student Awards and their current career outcomes), *"Testimonials"* (student representatives/student ambassadors/student award winners, etc. discuss their positive experiences with the Society), *"SAS Student Pictures"* (self-explanatory). This goal requires collaboration with the web editor.

Items of SAS Student Business:

- Review of student event at Pittcon 2014

This was my first official responsibility as the Student Representative. The student event was held March 3rd, 2014 at a traditional Chicago blues bar called Buddy Guy's Legends. Appetizers and drinks were complimentary to students, and those who stuck around long enough were treated to a rare performance by Buddy Guy himself. I would estimate attendance at 70 members (more than double our initial projection), and I thank members of the EC who attended and provided financial flexibility.

- Student event at SciX 2014

My goal with organizing events has always been to find an experience unique to the host city. Reno is slightly challenging in this regard, as its well-known claim to fame is gambling and the SciX conference venue is far removed from the city center. The last two SAS student events in Reno were confined by these restrictions (2008 – a casino night organized by Michelle Meighan, and 2011 – a video game event in the GSR hotel organized by John-David McElderry). With the hope of creating a new Reno experience, I have organized a pub-crawl in Downtown Reno close to the historic Riverwalk District. It is scheduled

for **September 29th, 2014** (Monday), 8pm-11pm, with a chartered bus leaving the Grand Sierra Resort lobby at 8pm (see attached poster for further details). As previously mentioned, the student section of the SAS website is lacking in content, so a photo scavenger hunt element will be included in this event, allowing students to submit photos using a particular hashtag (#SASstudents) in hopes of claiming a small prize. This will serve to create a picture database while also functioning to create connections within the SAS membership (e.g., "Take a photo with the SAS President"). Everyone on the executive committee is encouraged to attend.

- SAS student ambassador program

To recap the 2013 cohort, there were four successful applicants and all completed reports were received by the main office. Only two were published in the newsletter, however, due in large part to lack of detail in the other reports.

As for the 2014 cohort, there were also four successful applicants. At the time of this writing (August 28th, 2014) three conferences have been attended, two reports have been received, and one report has been published. The outstanding 2014 applicant* applied for a conference in 2015 and will be represented in that cohort.

Name of Applicant	Conference Attended	Location	Report Received?
Brett Brownfield, *Idaho State University*	Chemometrics in Analytical Chemistry	Richmond, Virginia, USA	Yes
Dane Grismer, *University of Notre Dame*	Bioanalytical Sensors GRC	Newport, Rhode Island, USA	Yes (published in August 2014 newsletter)
Elizabeth Kish Perrin, *CEA Saclay*	ICORS	Jena, Germany	No
*Anna Donnell, *University of Cincinnati*	*European Winter Plasma Conference	*Münster, Germany	*2015

Based on recommendations from the EC, the deadline for the ambassador program has been moved from February to September to more effectively integrate the awards into the budget. Having personally gone through the adjudication process with the 2014 applications, I would like to propose an addition to the application form to assist in future competitions. I believe the essence of an ambassador is someone who has familiarity with the Society and is able to speak at length about those experiences to others. After a year in this role of student representative, I have found the quality of an ambassador's report – which is often a reflection of their effort at the conference – depends on previous exposure to the SAS community. To address this concern, I've attached below the current application form with my suggested addition in bold red text.

Student Ambassador Program

The Society for Applied Spectroscopy is a non-profit organization formed to advance and disseminate knowledge and information concerning the art and science of spectroscopy, and other allied sciences, to advance the professional standing and growth of the Society and its members, to coordinate cooperative endeavors of its individual members and sections, and to promote and maintain a close bond among its members.

The Student Ambassador program was started to promote growth of the society and to help to disseminate knowledge to new members. The role of the student ambassador is to speak with potential members, particularly students, at conferences and inform them of the benefits of being a member of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. This would require a small portion of time at the conference, mainly working a table at the conference and speaking with attendees. In addition, the award recipient will be asked to do a short write up of the experience as an Ambassador for our online newsletter, *The Spectrum.*

There is funding to assist 4-6 students for travel to area specific conferences (e.g. ICORS, Winter Plasma Conference, etc.) Please note that we do not accept applications to attend Pittcon or SciX as SAS already has a strong presence at these meetings. Please visit the SAS Website for more information and the award application.

Applications and/or additional questions can be emailed to sasadmin@s-a-s.org

The deadline for applications is **September 15, 2014**.

Student Ambassador Application

Name:
School:
Phone:
Email:
Advisor:
Conference interested in attending:
Date of conference:
Registration cost:
Travel and room costs:
Amount you are requesting:
What would make you a good student ambassador for the Society for Applied Spectroscopy? **(up to 400 words, include relevant leadership experience, previous conferences attended, and when you became a member of the Society)**

➔ Also link to previous ambassador reports that have been published in the newsletter as examples

#SASstudents

SOCIETY for APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY

SAS Student Event

MON SEPT 29

BEER CRAWL

MEET: Lobby of Grand Sierra Resort
BUS LEAVES: 8:00pm
START: The Waterfall

Returning bus trips if needed - last trip at 11:30pm

BONUS: PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

- Meet fellow students
- Experience Reno

#SASstudents

CHANCE TO WIN

The Waterfall
Our Bar
Jungle Vino
Ole Bridge Pub

Lost or Late? SAS Contact Info: Stephanie at 301-674-1458