

**The Annual Election of SAS Officer and Governing Board
Delegates will be held electronically from
July 25-August 26, 2022.**

**All regular members in good standing are eligible to
vote and will receive an email with voting instructions
and login information from our online election provider
Elections Online vote@skypunch.tech. Please check
your spam folders for this email. If you do not receive it
by opening day of the election contact the SAS office at
sasadmin@s-a-s.org or 301-694-8122.**

**The following are the election profiles for each
candidate for your review.**

SAS Candidate Profiles 2022

Officers



President-Elect
Jay P. Kitt

Biography

Jay P. Kitt is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Utah. He completed his PhD in analytical chemistry under Dr. Joel Harris and went on to pursue training in translational biomedical informatics under the guidance of Dr. Julio Facelli. Jay has published 26 peer-reviewed publications spanning vibrational spectroscopy and biomedical data analysis and also earned a master's degree in biomedical informatics. His work in spectroscopy has been focused on the use of Raman spectroscopy and chemometric analysis to investigate chemistry ranging from separation phenomena and transport of small molecules within porous materials to biological investigations of protein-protein and protein bilayer interactions in individual optically-trapped phospholipid vesicles.

For his graduate work in spectroscopy, Jay was recognized by the Society for Applied Spectroscopy with the Barbara Stull Graduate Student Award and the Coblenz Society with the Coblenz Student Award. His postdoctoral work was funded through an NIH-NLM Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biomedical informatics where he was recognized as a program High-Achieving Trainee. Jay continues to research, teach, and mentor in spectroscopy at the University of Utah where his teaching was recognized through the W.W. Epstein Outstanding Educator award. As more than a decade-long member of SAS, Jay has actively served the Society. As a graduate student, he served as the chair of the University of Utah Student Section (2014-2016) and volunteered at SciX in 2011, 2015, and 2016. He has twice served as a judge for the SAS student poster session award (2017 & 2019). As a postdoc and faculty member, Jay has served on a number of Society committees and in Society governance roles including the Regional, Student, and Technical Affairs committee (2017-2019), as an At-Large member of the SAS Governing Board (2017-2019), as part of the Early Career Working Group (2019), on the Tellers Committee (2019), on the Governing Documents Committee (2020-present), and as the Society's Parliamentarian (2019-present). For his extensive work on Revision of the SAS Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and his dedication as Parliamentarian, Jay was the inaugural recipient of the SAS Presidential Service Award in 2021.

Why should you be elected?

I am a dedicated member of the Society, I have a long history as an enthusiastic SAS volunteer, and I have the experience necessary to serve in the role of President.

As a student, my research advisor emphasized to me the importance of professional society membership and in particular SAS membership as a way to expand my horizons in science and make connections to further my career. I began volunteering with SAS as a volunteer at the SAS booth at SciX and Pittcon and as I made connections within the Society, I found myself recruited to contribute further. During my graduate career I served for two years as the Chair of the University of Utah Student Section and as I've progressed forward in my career as a scientist and educator, I've served in many roles involved in the promotion and governance of SAS. In my most-recent volunteer position, I've served for the past few years as the Society's Parliamentarian. In this role I've worked extensively with the Executive Committee, Governing Board, and its individual members. I have learned about the governance of the Society, the roles of the Board and EC in long-range planning and goal setting as well as the day-to-day operations of the Society, and gained an understanding of how the individuals in each role on these important bodies.

During my time as Parliamentarian, I was charged with a complete revision of the Society's Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. I worked in consultation with the Society's Attorney, External Parliamentarian, three Society Presidents, and various iterations of the Board and EC to bring the Society clean, fair, and legal sets of Governing Documents. Through this process I gained intimate knowledge of the history of the Society's governance from the Charter, establishing the Society when it was incorporated in Maryland in 1987, to the documents and governmental structure we operate under today. I've become adept in parliamentary procedure and learned to properly and fairly run a meeting of a deliberative assembly (Society, Board, or Committee).

In short: I am a dedicated member of the Society, I have a long history as an enthusiastic SAS volunteer, and I have the experience to serve as a fair, thoughtful, and knowledgeable leader in the role of President.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS continues to provide an almost family-like atmosphere for collaboration in spectroscopy across industrial and academic fields. Members often speak of the tremendous role SAS has played in developing professional relationships and furthering their careers in spectroscopy. The relationships, both professional and friendly that develop among SAS members are often life-long. This aspect of the Society remains to many the most important of all benefits of SAS membership.

In the field of spectroscopy, SAS operates a high-quality journal that continues to gain in readership and impact thanks to a highly-qualified editorial board (see our latest 3.588 impact factor!). The latest initiative to start a second journal will further the reach of the Society and bring more spectroscopic practitioners (spectroscopers) as they are referred to within our

ranks) into the SAS community. Additionally, the Society offers many important awards to recognize the scientific achievements of its members and lastly, the Society provides members the opportunity to volunteer and educate in the spectroscopic and scientific community, furthering our reach and impact.

Our Society is an excellent resource, a welcoming community, a place to network and advance, and continues to do a great job disseminating the work of spectroscopists and broadening the impacts of spectroscopic research and practice both internal and external to the Society.

What does SAS need to do better and how?

I've really tried to address this in the challenges, meeting challenges, and initiatives sections below. I think the most important thing SAS needs to do better is to enhance its value to members, with a special focus on retaining young members. I think this includes moves toward global networking, education, and new channels of dissemination of spectroscopic knowledge. Please see below for details.

Why is SAS membership important?

SAS provides an excellent resource for networking, developing relationships, and communicating spectroscopic knowledge. The combined expertise and resources of this community are immense and through these resources, SAS provides unique opportunities for professional development, the ability to gain knowledge from experienced leaders in the field, and a great place to establish collaborative efforts in spectroscopy.

SAS is a fantastic community and holds a huge amount of value - we really must convey this to the next generation of spectroscopists.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

From what I've seen, SAS has three major challenges to address: Internal conflict, move to new management, and membership and relevance.

Internal conflict. I am reticent to even bring up the first of these challenges. I worry about the impact of pointing this fact out to the membership, but I think it must be addressed. To be completely fair, I think leaps-and-bounds improvements are being made on this front. For better or worse, SAS is an organization that exists and persists because there is something akin to family here. Much like a family, the Society has a history; It has been occupied by many members, many personalities, and many perspectives. And much like a family, fights have broken out and people have often taken sides. I can't put a finger on the exact issue, but when I came into my role as parliamentarian, it seemed that each side was of the opinion that the other works behind the scenes with motive to undermine the other and more, each side believed that the workings of the other were selfish to the level of being detrimental to the Society.

Though some version of the former is true (politicking toward bringing about a desired result has existed, and will likely continue to exist), the latter is not. People have motives yes, but I haven't met a member yet who doesn't have the interests of the Society at heart. Herein lies

the most important attribute of the SAS and its members and it is something that must be recognized by everyone in this group as we move forward.

Management Company. Our Society is facing the major challenge of moving from our office managing the majority of our day-to-day affairs to a management company. This change is going to represent a budgetary challenge, likely need for Bylaws revisions, and changes in how our website, marketing, and daily operations are carried out. Despite the challenges, this also represents opportunity? we must take full advantage of that opportunity.

Membership and Relevance. The Society has seen declining membership for quite some time now. When I was asked to run for this position, I asked around extensively and especially among students, Do you see any value in professional society membership outside of your time as a student?? The answer was a depressing and overwhelming no. This must change.

How do we meet these challenges?

Internal Conflict. I have worked with three presidents now who have each moved us forward in this realm and I will continue this effort. In my view, the proper way to address this is through empathetic leadership and application of rules that lead to strong and fair representation of members. If you choose to elect me, be prepared for a stronger lean toward implementation of Robert's rules at meetings and toward voting within the assembly to make decisions. One cannot lead through consensus on every issue and we must keep moving forward.

Management Company. The move to a management company is going to be a major challenge. A large portion of this challenge will be faced by our incoming (2023) president. As president-elect, it is my intent to work closely with the President, Bonnie, and our management company such that the Society is prepared to move, under my leadership, into our new era of management where we are likely to not have the extensive support of our office. I think that a strong focus on the positives will help our cause and our move to a management company should allow us to move forward with many new opportunities and free up our large volunteer base to focus on new initiatives and ideas and utilize our management company to implement those.

Membership and Relevance. We've seen a large move toward supporting Early Career Members. I currently support and will continue to support this initiative as President. Our largest loss of membership occurs during the transition from student to career spectroscopists and continued focus on providing benefit to this group should help solidify our member base. Toward gaining new members, I think we must become relevant in the era of the internet. I have heard overseas (outside of the US) members who feel unsupported, and in the time of the internet this definitely shouldn't be the case. To gain and retain members worldwide, our organization must utilize the broad and widely accessible networking capabilities available to us today. I think that this should include: Expanding and continuing our webinar and education pursuits.

Broadening our dissemination of spectroscopy beyond a journal-only approach. Not only do communication channels like YouTube and podcasts enhance membership, but they also provide possible future revenue streams and we should pursue these.

Listen to our students. Our recent move toward student involvement in governance is a good start here. We must encourage student participation

What new initiatives should SAS pursue?

We must find approaches to knowledge dissemination that provide value to our community worldwide and possible new sources of revenue to keep our organization afloat.

I would strongly push for the Society to get involved in and/or focus on the following:

YouTube and podcasts - Both of these channels provide areas for SAS to communicate the art and science of spectroscopy to the next generation and are possible sources of revenue.

Graduate and undergraduate students as well as more seasoned spectroscopists regularly look to these sources to learn. To properly utilize these channels there must be 1. Interesting topics, 2. a strong educational undertone, and 3. efforts toward making our communication channels known (marketing).

Continuing webinars and expansion of webinars - our webinars and education initiatives have been successful, but need a continued push to stay alive. By finding active SAS members and volunteers who are willing to lead these seminars we can push forward in these pursuits, enhancing membership and providing opportunities for revenue-gaining advertisements and relationships with industry.

Student and Early Career support - We've done a great job getting these going and need to keep them going. My opinion is that we need to not only support our students and Early Career members, but bring them into the fold as volunteers. I've noticed that sometimes the value of the Society is best recognized when you're encouraged to actively engage. I think that webinars, as well as online communities can get these members interested, but offering students and early career members the opportunity to present, educate, and participate in these ventures would give both value in CV lines, but also value through developing relationships within SAS. These pursuits drive careers forward and those who've had support as they move up are more likely to recruit and encourage young members moving forward.



**President-Elect
Gloria M. Story**

Biography

Gloria Story received her A.S. in Science Technology from the University of Cincinnati -Blue Ash (1981) and worked towards a B.S. in Chemistry from UC and the University of Utah. She is currently a Senior Scientist with the Corporate R&D Innovation Center Organization of the Procter & Gamble Company as Operations Manager of their Global Technology Export Compliance Program. She has over 40 years of service in spectroscopy applications, including NIR and MIR imaging.

With over 25 years of membership in the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, Gloria is currently serving as an elected Governing Board delegate and sits on the nominations committee. She served as Section Affairs Coordinator, Secretary, Membership Coordinator, Tour Speaker Coordinator, and workshop instructor at Pittcon and SciX.

She's been an active member of the Coblenz Society for over 30 years, currently serving on the Clara Craver award committee and as a mentee in the Speed Mentoring program. She served on their board, as a booth chairman, and as a liaison for Pittcon.

An ACS member since 1994, she is currently serving as coordinator for membership, Education Grants, undergraduate travel awards, and museum NCW programming. She served the Cincinnati ACS section as 2nd Vice Chair, NCW and Earth Day Coordinator, and Auditor. With SciX2022 coming to her hometown, she is currently serving FACSS as the local chair. Gloria Story has co-authored 28 research publications (16 peer-reviewed) and presented over 25 oral presentations. She has received numerous awards including the 2015 SAS Distinguished Service Award, Research Associate of the Year, Outstanding Service, and Outreach Volunteer of the Year Awards from the ACS Cincinnati Section, the Global Analytical Community of Practice Recognition and Pete Rodriguez Analytical Excellence Awards from the Procter & Gamble Company, and the America Service to Youth Award from the Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

In her spare time, Gloria sings in her church choir, serves scouting as a merit badge counselor, and provides STEM community programs.

Why should you be elected?

It's my turn? Seriously, being considered for the presidency of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy is a true honor. I think I'm a candidate to consider because I have a lot of experience serving SAS over the years in several positions. I'm also a person you can count on to put the interests of SAS above my own.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS delivers its mission statement with excellence:

- 1) SAS publishes one of the best journals in the world. We have a dedicated and talented editorial team. SAS members organize symposia of cutting-edge spectroscopic work at globally attended conferences. The journal and symposia are directed to address one of our top mission statements - "to advance and disseminate knowledge and information concerning the art and science of spectroscopy."
- 2) SAS maintains prestigious professional awards, again to address our mission "to advance the professional standing and growth of the Society and its members."
- 3) SAS creates engaging networking events "to promote and maintain a close bond among its members."

What does SAS need to do better and how?

SAS needs to better embrace the digital world because we need to effectively engage our global members. We should utilize our website, newsletter, virtual meeting tools, and regional and technical sections to the maximum level. Now that everyone is getting used to the virtual environment, the time is now to connect members around the world. We need global volunteers to help make it easy. I'd like to see that working on future SAS projects will be so valuable that we'll have more volunteers than projects to assign.

Why is SAS membership important?

Membership to SAS is a huge connector to spectroscopic expertise. I personally know several experts in areas of research that have accelerated my 40-year career. I can partially blame SAS for the 3 promotions I've accomplished. I don't hesitate to email fellow members that wrote the books on the development of FT-IR and FT-Raman, my favorite subjects! I also consider them my friends. I can't imagine NOT being a member.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

- 1) Membership growth
- 2) Business administration changes
- 3) Lack of volunteers

How do we meet these challenges?

1) Membership growth - we need to demonstrate the value to members and our value to the field of spectroscopy. Our biggest membership value is connections and helping spectroscopists gain expertise reputations. We are valuable to the field by clearly demonstrating the value of spectroscopy - knowledge delivery and problem-solving.

2) Business administration changes - none of us are going to work forever and we need to have a continuity plan for those that will follow us. Bonnie Saylor has been amazing as the face, heart, and soul of SAS for as long as I can remember. Thankfully, she will help us with the transition to new management. I know I will do all I can to help ensure the smooth future of the mechanics of running the society. I'm sure others will join me.

3) Lack of volunteers - Everyone is so busy - me included! We need to take a hard look at what we need to cover and simplify as much as we can. More hands do make the work lighter; we've got to make it more fun to help.

What new initiatives should SAS pursue?

Globalization. At our last governing board meeting, Michael George emphasized that we really need to do a better job of including our global members - especially our students. I can't agree more! I'm hoping he, and others, will partner to create a plan that can really work.



**Treasurer
Brandy Smith-Goettler**

Biography

Brandy Smith-Goettler works as a Principal Scientist at Merck & Co., Inc. where she is focused on operations improvement, digital, data, and analytics. She received her Ph.D. from North Carolina State University where she used Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy and applied chemometrics for protein analysis. She began her post graduate career working as a chemometrician at a small biotechnology company, then moved to the Process Analytical Technologies (PAT) group at GSK, and then to the PAT group at Merck. Having experience with artificial intelligence and machine learning as part of her chemometrics background, she transitioned from PAT to a data science role. When not being a science nerd; she enjoys spending time with her family and being outside.

Why should you be elected?

I don't have experience being a treasurer of a non-profit organization, however I have served as Parliamentarian for SAS, as President of the Coblentz Society, and on countless committees. I have served as an Eastern Analytical Symposium Governing Board member since 2007. I enjoy volunteering because I have a passion to advocate for science, am eager to learn, and keen to collaborate. I am confident that my data science background, which includes statistics, forecasting, business intelligence tools, and sentiment analysis, will enable me to excel as SAS treasurer.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS has been good at diversifying membership benefits. The employment page on the SAS website is a fantastic resource for our members and I love Applied Spectroscopy! These are both great benefits, but it is common for professional societies to host a job board and have a publication (or discounts to publications). I am really impressed with SAS thinking outside the box and offering travel grants, certifications, and the Tour Speaker Program.

What does SAS need to do better and how?

If you don't measure it, then it won't get done. Our strategy to sustain and grow the society should have a scorecard (i.e., metrics dashboard) associated with it and both should be transparent to our membership. Being able to review quickly and holistically what is and isn't working will allow us the agility needed to remain relevant in an ever-changing landscape. Also, having a few more corporate sponsors would be fantastic.

Why is SAS membership important?

SAS membership is important because spectroscopy nerds need to unite! Kidding aside, membership is important because we have an awesome mission to sustain. I would tell a potential member that SAS exists to promote your area of expertise, which most, if not all, professional societies do. But SAS also exists to promote you! We care for your career by providing opportunities to develop your skills, showcase your work, network, and make long-lasting friendships. And did I mention, I love Applied Spectroscopy!

What are the challenges facing SAS?

I think the challenges that are facing SAS are the same that plague most non-profits; attracting new members, finding volunteers, finding new sources of revenue, and keeping your expenses lean.

How do we meet these challenges?

We can mitigate these challenges by measuring their impact, as addressed earlier, through representative metrics. We can also continue to embrace diversity and inclusion as noted in our statements on Policy and Social Events. Diversity drives innovation. Innovation solves challenges.

What new initiatives should SAS pursue?

I think SAS should reassess management of regional, student, and technical sessions. I think we should leverage more digital tools to connect with and serve our members. Digital tools can also be used to automate some tasks to relieve administrative stress. I think we should better leverage membership and journal viewership information to better understand the needs and interests of our members.

Governing Board Delegates



Xiaoyun (Shawn) Chen

Biography

Xiaoyun (Shawn) Chen is currently a research scientist at the Dow Chemical Company. He started at Dow in 2007 and has always been working as an optical spectroscopist in the Analytical Sciences group. He utilized all types of optical spectroscopy, especially vibrational spectroscopy techniques such as IR, Raman and NIR, to support both fundamental long-term projects and also short-term problem-solving projects. He has 10 external publications all related to IR and Raman spectroscopic characterization or quantitation of a wide range of systems, and four granted patents since joining Dow. Prior to his career at Dow, Xiaoyun received his PhD in chemistry from University of Michigan. His PhD thesis was on using sum frequency generation vibrational spectroscopy to study biointerfaces such as the interactions between cell membrane lipid bilayers and antimicrobial peptides. Xiaoyun obtained his BS degree in the Chemical Engineering Department at Tsinghua University in China.

Xiaoyun serves as reviewers for multiple spectroscopy-related journals. He has also been volunteering in his local ACS sections and Society of Applied Spectroscopy. He served as SAS Newsletter Editor and is currently SAS's website coordinator. He is very passionate about maximizing the impact of vibrational spectroscopy in his work, and raising people's awareness of the power of vibrational spectroscopy.

Why should you be elected?

15 years will bring diverse view and experience to help SAS fulfil its mission and serve its community.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS is doing well in maintaining its core strength - the Applied Spectroscopy journal and in engaging its diverse pool of volunteers.

What does SAS need to do better and how?

SAS needs to keep up with the tech progress and keep adapting itself to make itself appealing to existing and potential members. This can be done through getting new blood/new members and through management companies who are experts in running volunteer-based societies.

Why is SAS membership important?

It is important because it offers many important benefits: access to our journal articles, to network with your peers, and an opportunity and venues for us to give back to the spectroscopy society, and our human society in general.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

given the rapid change in how people consume information and network some of which were brought about by Covid-19, many of the traditional ways for SAS to bring benefits to its members may need to be re-examined. how to best carry out its mission in the ever-changing world and how to remain relevant are the main challenges.

How do we meet these challenges?

continue to identify and recruit talented members who are willing to take on leadership responsibilities/roles within SAS, and let them work with experienced management company.

What new initiatives should SAS pursue?

make SAS truly international.

make SAS go-to place for anything related to spectroscopy.



Heather Juzwa

Biography

Heather Juzwa graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2000 with an Honors BS in Chemistry. While at Pitt, she was Secretary of the American Chemical Society Student Affiliates. Encouraged by University of Pittsburgh advisors, she attended the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (Pittcon) in her senior year. It was at her first Pittcon that she was offered a position in analytical instrumentation sales and has been working in the field ever since. As of 2006, Heather is a Senior Field Sales Engineer at Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc. She has been recognized with at least one performance award each year and has always placed among the top 10 performers. Her most notable awards include multiple years in the Platinum and President's Club and top Analytical Sales Engineer 2021. Heather joined a group of extraordinary people when she received the Prestigious 2017-18 Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Department of Chemistry Alumni Award from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2019, she received the President's Award, the highest recognition bestowed on a Shimadzu employee.

Heather is most proud of her extensive volunteerism. She served as Chair of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society in 2011. Heather's Chairmanship paved the way for the section receive a ChemLuminary for Outstanding Large Local Section for 2012. Heather also served as Chair of the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh in 2013-2014. In 2021, she became only the fourth person and first woman in history to chair all three major scientific

societies in Pittsburgh when she was elected Chair of the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh. For many years, she has happily served on and chaired over a dozen committees of various scientific organizations on local, regional and national levels. Heather also chaired and led her team to win an American Chemical Society ChemLuminary Award for the best regional meeting for CERM 2014 in Pittsburgh. She received both the Pittsburgh Local Section ACS Distinguished Service Award in 2014 and the 2015 E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society. She won the 2018 Greater Pittsburgh Women Chemists Committee Award for Career Excellence in the Chemical Sciences. Most recently, she was chosen to serve as President of the very conference where she secured her first job, Pittcon. Heather will be president of the 75th Pittcon in 2025 in Boston.

Why should you be elected?

I am now in the 22nd year of my career. I had extraordinary, life-changing mentors early in my profession, and I feel compelled to pay this mentorship forward through service to the scientific community. I have many opportunities to do this within Shimadzu, but volunteerism is such a huge part of my life. I have Chaired all three major scientific organizations in Pittsburgh (The Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, and American Chemical Society Pittsburgh Section). I was also the General Chair of the ACS Central Regional Meeting in 2014. I'm ready to serve a national role!

What is SAS doing well and why?

Robert's Rules!!! In all seriousness, I have been a Lifetime Member of SAS for some time, and I have come to admire the tremendous passion I have seen in so many members. The group is fully dedicated to pursuing our mission, and the inclusive membership system is perhaps our strongest attribute.

I have been quite impressed with the SAS Newsletter and the responsiveness of the Editors. It consistently provides information that is relevant to the field and my career; I especially love when members are recognized. Lastly, the training classes and trainers are top-notch and I frequently recommend them!

What does SAS need to do better and how?

SAS could benefit from a more modern and responsive website. I also think faster responses for requests from regional sections could go a long way in engaging membership.

I would also like to see SAS have a larger footprint on LinkedIn. I would imagine we could get more traction with our great programming simply by posting things on social media more regularly!

Why is SAS membership important?

The SAS has some very charismatic members - they're just plain fun! Comradery with like-minded people is a reward in itself.

I also enjoy being a part of SAS programming at Pittcon and look forward to continuing and perhaps expanding this partnership.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

In various volunteer roles, I have seen a decline in membership and active society participation, particularly within industry. Companies seem to no longer place the value they once did on volunteerism and professional development. Companies are also asking their employees to do more with less, leaving little time for conference travel.

How do we meet these challenges?

The SAS already has great training programs. Perhaps we could try to do more and short pay per view training webinars as a revenue stream (choosing the right accessory, spectral interpretation, etc.) With discounted rates for members, this could not only increase our revenue streams but also show tangible value to companies to justify membership.

What new initiatives should SAS pursue?

As 2021-2022 Chair of the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (or Pittsburgh Section), I actively recruit new members. I'd like to engage current members to understand why membership is valuable to them. Capturing and expressing these benefits might help entice new members to join and contribute to SAS to ensure its future success.

I am very excited to move to a management company and get a new website. I'd like to support this transition any way I can.

I have enjoyed being part of the Early Career Interest Group and wish to continue. This is a great opportunity for us to nurture new active members who will continue the mission of disseminating knowledge.



Benjamin T. Manard

Biography

Benjamin T. Manard earned a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry at Clemson University (2014), during this time he had an appointment as a visiting scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for six months. Benjamin then completed a Glenn T. Seaborg postdoctoral research fellowship at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, NM. After his fellowship, Benjamin was converted to a Staff Scientist position at LANL in the same group (Chemistry-Actinide Analytical Chemistry). Upon arriving at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (2018), Benjamin has focused research and development efforts on elemental and isotopic analysis of nuclear materials. His primary efforts are directed towards improvements in trace element analysis methodologies, sample preparation (i.e., separations), and developments in plasma-based

spectroscopic and mass spectrometric techniques. In addition to his passion for atomic spectroscopy, Dr. Manard enjoys spending time with his family, sports, and smoking delicious meats.

Why should you be elected?

I should be elected as a Governing Board Delegate due to my high enthusiasm, willingness to push ideas, and my knowledge of the society (member 10+ years, Executive committee 5 years). As an early career scientist, I generally believe we are the most underrepresented population of the society as much emphasis is placed on students, and senior members. The decline of SAS membership is a problem and I believe most of this is attributed to the gap post-graduation (i.e., early career). This needs to be addressed moving forward and I plan on pushing this diligently.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS does a great job at enticing students, rewarding scientific efforts across the community, and providing social networking activities at conferences.

What does SAS need to do better and how?

As mentioned above, SAS needs to improve membership retention. In my opinion, this can be achieved by targeting students and early career to incentivize membership retention. SAS also need to gain more of a presence on social media platforms.

Why is SAS membership important?

An SAS membership is important on many fronts. Firstly, the SAS membership, along with attending SAS-related conferences, allows for the connection and interactions with other scientists. The networking aspect allows for very fruitful discussions, sparking interesting collaborations, as well as relationships that can be everlasting. As a student-member, I will never forget meeting the world leaders in atomic spectroscopy.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

Biggest challenges with SAS are centered around membership, retention of student members, and social media presence.

How do we meet these challenges?

SAS can meet these challenges by being more engaged with students, and early career scientist. This could initially be targeted by an improved social media presence.

What new initiatives should SAS pursue?

I want to push issue of student retainment and incentives for early career scientists. I want to promote atomic spectroscopy as I believe that this arena is lacking within SAS. Lastly, I want to push the social media presence of SAS.



C. Derrick Quarles

Biography

C. Derrick Quarles Jr. is a Sr. Scientist working for Elemental Scientific, Inc. since 2016, in the areas of automation, elemental speciation, single particle and single cell, laser ablation, and mass spectrometry. He received his PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Clemson University and did a fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Prior work includes time as guest researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory working in the field of atomic spectroscopy. He has 40 peer-reviewed publications, was named one of the "2014 young analytical scientist" by the Journal of Analytical Atomic Spectroscopy, and received the "2018 Young Alumni Award" from the college of science and mathematics at Augusta University. He has been an active member of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy since 2016 and has held the position of Atomic Section Chair since 2020. Since 2019 he has been chair or co-chair of the Atomic Section for the annual SciX meetings.

Why should you be elected?

SAS is heading into a new and exciting future, bringing a voice from industry and the atomic discipline will be important to the overall shape of our organization.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS is working hard to grow and reach new members, especially students, that will comprise of our organization in years to come.

What does SAS need to do better and how?

SAS needs to increase memberships as a whole. This is something that the current regime has focused on and is trying to put into place.

Why is SAS membership important?

Being part of SAS brings members from across the world in different disciplines together to network and exchange ideas.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

Converting to a modern society that appeals to the new and old members alike.

How do we meet these challenges?

The most important aspect will be to focus on strong leadership and establishing a sound plan for where the society will be at in the next 5-10 years.

What new initiatives should SAS pursue?

Increase membership and increase the SAS sponsored activities outside of the usual main/annual conferences.



Bhavya Sharma

Biography

Bhavya Sharma earned her B.S. and M.S. from SUNY at Buffalo. She then completed her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh under the guidance of Sandy Asher in 2011. In her Ph.D. research, she used UV resonance Raman spectroscopy (UVRRS) and excitation profiles to examine electronic transitions in peptides and proteins. She moved onto a postdoctoral research position in Rick Van Duyne's group at Northwestern University where her research interests included biological applications of surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS). She joined the faculty in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Tennessee in August 2015. Bhavya's research focuses on development of *in vitro* SERS assays for neurochemicals associated with neurological diseases, as well as development of surface-enhanced spatially offset Raman spectroscopy (SESORS) for non-invasive, *in vivo* neurochemical sensing. Bhavya was recently awarded the 2021 Emerging Leader in Molecular Spectroscopy Award.

Why should you be elected?

I believe I have a lot to offer in support of the SAS mission and community, including a fresh perspective, a desire to identify and meet the challenges that society faces, a willingness to meet with SAS members to discuss their concerns and ideas about the future of the SAS, and a commitment to principled leadership. Finally, I will aim to improve my skills in leadership and governing by learning from those who have more experience on the SAS Governing Board, as well as reading about improving leadership skills and participating in leadership trainings/workshops.

What is SAS doing well and why?

The SAS is fulfilling several aspects of its Mission statement well, specifically the endeavors launched by the society to provide pathways for different levels of certification for its members. Also, launching of the Early Career Interest Group and activities that support the early career scientists have been important initiatives undertaken by the SAS. Finally, the involvement of SAS in SciX has always been great.

What does SAS need to do better and how?

The SAS needs to better involve undergraduate and graduate students in the society. While there are several events such as poster sessions and poster awards, an undergraduate travel award, and some student sections of the SAS, we need to involve students more. Some suggestions include development of a graduate student travel award (outside of the travel supported through the Barbara Stull Graduate Student Award), inclusion of graduate students

on society committees (representation matters!), and expansion of the mentoring-mixer programs that have been developed.

Why is SAS membership important?

Being a member of the SAS provides spectroscopists with a strong, supportive community. This community has been wonderful to me. As a graduate student and then a postdoc, I met SAS members who became unofficial mentors through the various stages of my career, even up to today. The SAS provides teaching and learning events, opportunities for networking, support for students, awards for members, and sponsors a fun Wine and Cheese event at SciX! A better question is, why wouldn't you want to be a member of SAS? I look forward to being able to give back to the community that has so often supported me.

What are the challenges facing SAS?

I think increased membership is always a challenge. I think the SAS may be losing membership when students move on from their degrees to professional careers. During the past few years of limited conferences and in-person interactions, fundraising for the society has probably decreased, so finding ways to increase philanthropy are important. There is also limited visibility of philanthropic efforts by SAS in the spectroscopy world.

How do we meet these challenges?

These challenges could be met through engaging with younger members sooner and more often, including simple things like creating a database with graduation dates and sending students congratulations emails upon graduating, along with a discounted membership rate as a graduate gift. Fundraising events could be held at conferences, such as an auction offering goods or services like a talk at an institution by a well-established spectroscopist, items donated by affiliated companies, or even gift cards for dining around the city where the conference is being held.

What new initiatives should SAS pursue?

In my academic career I have long supported the development of underrepresented minorities in STEM fields. I would like to continue that work within the SAS. Also, working with students to increase their representation in the society is an initiative that I would like to pursue.



Lynn X. Zhang

Biography

Dr. Lynn X. Zhang earned her B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering at the Shenyang University of Chemical Technology in China. After graduating from college, Lynn continued her educational experience in chemistry. In 2011, she obtained a Master's degree in chemistry focusing on plasma temperature study at Murray State University. Lynn joined the graduate program to pursue an analytical chemistry Ph.D. in the Chemistry department at Clemson University and obtained her Ph.D. in 2015. Lynn's engineering background has provided a different point of view for her years of research in spectroscopy. Since 2011, she authored/co-authored 12 peer-reviewed articles and presented 10+ oral presentations/posters at various conferences. Lynn has been a member with SAS for 10+ years and served as website editor, social media committee chair and is currently serving the SAS St. Louis location session. Lynn is currently working at Eurofins labs, using her knowledge and skills for industrial applications. She has been with Eurofins for 7 years, started as a Scientist and serves a subject matter expert for the impurities and particulates analysis. In addition to study and research, Lynn is a big fan of beer brewing, and applied her researcher's spirit into homebrewing: creativity and reproducibility.

Why should you be elected?

I have been a member with SAS for 10+ years and served as a student session chair, web editor and social media chair. My years of experience involved with the society will be a plus to further serve SAS with this new role.

What is SAS doing well and why?

SAS provides a platform for spectroscopists to communicate, exchange, and collaborate, last but not least, socialize! The presence in different conferences provide this opportunity. Journal with review papers and application focused is getting high quality articles, journal is our fundamental base!

What does SAS need to do better and how?

The member benefits/attractions, especially for young members. We should provide some opportunities for them to be included, involved, and they can grow with us.

Why is SAS membership important?

Membership in general brings people with the same goal together and generates common interests for members. We will need to maintain a steady number of members to be able to have a strong society!

What are the challenges facing SAS?

Evolve with technology and general trends.

How do we meet these challenges?

Get more younger researchers and spectroscopists involved in SAS and generate content to focus on their needs and interests.

What new initiatives should SAS pursue?

I am not sure there is a need for a lot of new initiatives, but we should focus on a few things, and do them right, and in more depth.