



**Society for Archaeological Sciences (SAS)**



**SAS PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**2021-2022**

**Evangelia Kiriati**

This year I took over as President of SAS, after two years as Marcos Martín Torres's *apprentice* as President Elect. I would like to express my appreciation to Marcos and the SAS Executive Board for all their patience and support in helping me get accustomed to my new role, and to the SAS membership more generally for giving me this opportunity. Camilla Speller was voted last year as the new SAS President elect, and since the beginning of her term she has had a very active role collaborating with other Board members in number of initiatives.

The globe has faced another challenging year both due to the continuing covid-19 pandemic as well as the new war in Europe that many consider as the beginning of a Third World War. From our side, we remain positive as we look ahead to the future, hoping for health and peace for all, and making our best to promote research and dissemination of scientific knowledge across the globe. To achieve this objective, a number of initiatives got crystallized this year, and a few others have been launched. I will only highlight a few here, and further details can be found in the individual reports by Board members.

Emphasis has been put on promoting the new funding programme of the **SAS Student and ECR research support awards** that aims at providing support during the covid-19 pandemic. There were two calls during 2021 (June 20 and December 20). A total of six awards were offered (4 for PhDs and 2 for ECRs) to young scholars from across the world (Argentina, Greece-Germany, USA, India, UK-Canada and USA-Australia) undertaking research on a variety of subjects (from archaeometallurgy to isotope analysis, geoarchaeology, and organic residues analysis). The huge increase seen in the number of applications received following the winter call (from 4 to 26) reflects not only the effort made to circulate the information but also the actual need for such awards. In the coming years, we hope to create more opportunities for young scholars from the **Global South** to apply for such research support awards.

Beyond the SAS and JAS "Emerging Investigator" Award, we have initiated the **Charles C. Kolb award** to promote and acknowledge research excellence in the interdisciplinary study of ceramics but also honor a longtime member of SAS and editor of its Bulletin. The high number of papers nominated for the Kolb Award (22), but most importantly the high quality of those publications, comprises the most promising sign for the future of the field. I would like to thank, both personally and on behalf of the SAS Executive Board, the members of the selection panel (professors Ian Freestone, Sandra Lopez Varela, Kostalena Michelaki, and Valentine Roux for the huge amount

of work, dedication and excellent collaboration. The panel has reached a unanimous decision on the winner to be announced very soon and also discussed a renewed call for the Charles C. Kolb award for 2022 that will be soon re-advertised.

Last year many developments took place in the SAS **Intersociety relations**. Through the tireless efforts of Andrew Zipkin (see report of VP for Intersociety relations) , as well as our SAS Inter-organisational Delegates (Marcela Sepulvéda, Adrian Burke, Rebekah Kurpiel and Mary Kate Donais), SAS has strengthened existing partnerships with other organizations and event organizing clusters and develop new ones (Federation of Archaeological Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies -FACSS, Society for American Archaeology-SAA, Groupe des Méthodes Pluridisciplinaires Contribuant à l'Archéologie -GMPCA, International Symposium for Archaeometry-ISA, Australasian Research Cluster for Archaeological Science, International Obsidian Conference, International Congress on Archaeological Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East). SAS welcomes recommendations for new partnerships with national and regional organizations (with particular emphasis on those based in the Global South), as well as recommendations (including self-nominations) for SAS Inter-organization Delegates who will foster the Society's partnership with such organizations and promote the development of joint activities.

The **SAS Student Ambassador Programme** launched in 2019, coordinated by Tatsuya Murakami (see report of VP for Membership Development), has expanded across North America (Arizona, Tulane, Winnipeg and Berkeley). During last year, due to the limitations imposed by covid-19, emphasis was put on internet-based activities. The Student Ambassadors have started interviewing archaeological scientists, and the resulting videos are uploaded to YouTube. We would like to thank them all for their continuous efforts for new initiatives and encourage more to join the community of SAS student ambassadors.

In 2021 SAS **Membership** numbers increased with a significant rise of new Lifetime members and mainly Student members (see report by Kyle Freund, SAS General Secretary). This trend reflects SAS's growing emphasis on research support and professional development for students and young scholars. More effort will be invested towards this objective in the coming years, providing new opportunities for younger members. This will be hopefully combined with an increased emphasis on fundraising. A limited number of donations have been recently received by SAS Lifetime members. Such very welcome donations, from different sources, will be crucial for building up our support of the younger generation of archaeological scientists across the globe in research and professional development, as well as for further promoting international collaboration. For this reason, the SAS Executive Board has started discussions on setting up a **legacy fund for donations**.

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