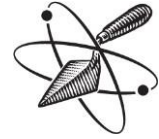


Society for Archaeological Sciences (SAS)



SAS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2022-2023

Evangelia Kiriatzi

As my term comes to an end, I would like to stress that I have thoroughly enjoyed my honour and responsibility as SAS President. It is almost time, however, for our current President-Elect, Camilla Speller, to take on this role. She has been extremely helpful since she joined the Executive Board, and I am confident she will take us in new and exciting directions. I look forward to continuing working with her, once I become Past President, after we have completed the election procedure and welcome our new President Elect.

Changes in SAS Articles of Incorporation: as the current SAS Treasurer (Destiny Crider) is based in Iowa the need has emerged to establish a new bank account there and fill Articles of Incorporation in Iowa with updated information. The SAS President, President elect, Treasurer and General Secretary have already checked and signed the new documents that now need to be approved by the SAS Annual General Meeting on May 16, 2023.

Changes in SAS Board membership: Last December Kyle Freund announced his decision to step down from his role as SAS General Secretary after a number of years in the Executive Board of SAS. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank him for his valuable and always so efficient support of all SAS functions. Kyle has been extremely helpful during the last few months in organizing the handover and ensuring a smooth transition. The incoming General Secretary, Dr James Davenport, a research scientist at the Archaeometry laboratory at the University of Missouri Research Reactor, was among those nominated to the Board by members and he enthusiastically accepted the invitation to undertake this crucial role at very short notice.

Moreover, Ben Marwick, the SAS VP for Digital Media, also announced late in 2022 his intention to step down from the above post due to his heavy workload. Acknowledging the increased workload of this position and the crucial role of digital media in SAS' mission, the Board has decided to split the responsibilities into a post for a VP for Social Media and another one for a webmaster. Availability of SAS members was explored and the first post was offered to Vana Orfanou (Munich) while the second to AJ White (Berkeley). I would like to thank firstly Ben for all his help with the website and social media during his 3-year term with the SAS and welcome Vana and AJ who have been really fantastic adjusting themselves very quickly to their new roles and being creatively proactive. AJ has started already planning the **update of the SAS website software of**, from Joomla 3.0 to 4.0, as the support for the former will end in August.

SAS membership numbers from 2023 (up to 5/2023) are slightly lower than 2022, but are up over the past five years (see report by General Secretary). Emphasis on a more coordinated use of Digital media will hopefully help continuing the increase in the number of new members but also ensuring their wider geographical origin. Moreover, a review of past and current SAS members is planned with the help of a new Member Information form built into the new website.

Poster Prizes/Awards: The SAS has sponsored a number of conferences, held in English, French and Spanish (see VP for Intersociety relations), during which it awarded twelve prizes to postgraduate students for poster presentations. These included the Taylor Awards at the annual SAA Meeting, and the biennial ISA (see report by VP for Membership Development) , but also prizes in archaeological science conferences/sessions hosted in Europe (Cyprus, Croatia, UK, France) and South America (Uruguay).

The SAS, in collaboration with the JAS, will announce very soon the winner of the *JAS/SAS Emerging Investigator award* for 2022, while the winner of the *Charles C. Kolb award* 2022 will be announced in late June 2023. Moreover, the SAS Board is happy to have endorsed the nomination of Luis Barba who won the 2024 SAA Fryxell Award for Interdisciplinary Research in the category of Physics.

Research Awards: There were two calls during 2023 for Research Support funding and five awards were offered to postgraduate students or early career researchers based in institutions in USA (ASU and Missouri), Taiwan, India, and Australia. A wider distribution of the SAS awards and prizes becomes obvious reflecting **a continuous effort to expand the Society's geographical coverage.**

The SAS Board has recently reassessed the impact and outcome of such research support awards, with feedback by the award external reviewers, too, and the decision was made to increase the amount of individual awards from 'up to \$500' to 'up to \$1000' in a single annual call. Moreover, emphasis has been put on promoting the award winners through 1) a new online event that was organized last winter for the first time by the SAS student ambassadors, and 2) one of the Bulletin's issues annually to be dedicated exclusively to the promotion of all the SAS awardees' research.

Digital Media & Bulletin: A more coordinated use of our digital media is planned, including the SAS' social media, the website and the Bulletin, to promote the aims and activities of the SAS and provide a platform for circulating any relevant information in the field concerning new publications, posts advertisements, calls for conferences/workshops/symposia, training workshops etc. Our new VP for SoMe, Vana Orfanou, coordinates an amazing team of volunteers with Elizabeth Velliky (Twitter), Maedeh Darzi (facebook) and Andrew Zipkin (LinkedIn) who seem to be responsible for a steady growth across all platforms through a regular posting schedule; future plans include more emphasis on posts announcing SAS Members' publication (Researcher's spotlight), adding it to the members' benefit), in order to make SAS membership more attractive (see report by VP for Social Media). Carmen Ting and her team of associate editors have produced 4 hugely interesting issues last year, one of them dedicated to Women in Science. In 2023, the plan is to publish 3 issues, reducing by one the total annual number but putting more emphasis on coordination with digital media to increase circulation and impact (see report by Bulletin Editor).

Huge emphasis has been put on expanding intersociety relations (see report by VP for Intersociety relations), with nine conferences sponsored by SAS and an increasing number of applications

received for new ones. Based on this, the SAS Board has started putting together a coherent sponsorship policy to ensure consistency and fairness that will be finalized in the next few months and applied in 2024. Any feedback from the SAS membership will be very helpful.

Finally, I would like to say that I am extremely happy to see more and more people engaging with SAS, mainly at early career stages, from more and more institutions and countries. It is only in this way that we can truly fulfil our purpose to promote and support archaeological sciences and archaeological scientists across the world.

Athens, 16 May 2023