

SAS President's Report 2020/21

Marcos Martín-Torres, 1 June 2021

To say that this year was tumultuous would be an understatement. Focusing on the positive, however, I have been encouraged by the resilience of the archaeological science community, and particularly by how SAS members have found ways to remain engaged and supportive of each other.

I am particularly glad to see how our network continues to be strengthened, expanded and diversified. While our membership remains more or less stable, we have been developing ties and synergies with overlapping interest groups such as the Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies (FACSS), the Australasian Research Cluster for Archaeological Science (ARCAS), or the Society of Black Archaeologists (SBA). Among other initiatives that you find in the individual Executive Board reports, I highlight here as examples our multi-pronged engagement that put archaeological science at the centre of the SciX conference, and the very well-attended workshop co-organised with the SBA on 'How to get published in a scientific journal'.

With our own Society, members are more involved than ever, as reflected in the growing number and activities of Student Ambassadors, the uptake of new positions as Inter-Organisation Delegates, and volunteers helping with social media. Several new Associate Editors in our Bulletin are also helping keep it current and relevant. While we have a long way to go, it is encouraging to see that these various groups are also progressing our agenda of diversity and inclusivity.

In trying to support our membership and the broader archaeological science community during these challenging times, we have created a new Student and Early Career Research Support Award. We have also just launched the first Charles C. Kolb Award, honouring our decades-long member supporter, and soon we will be announcing the winner of this year's SAS-JAS Emerging Investigator Award. You can read about these awards, and many other things, in our great new website, and our also refreshed Bulletin. Our social media engagement continues to grow impressively, and it is fair to say that the SAS platform has become a leading source of information about research, publications and events in the broader field.

This year we also secured a long-term deal to make sure the SAS-sponsored Encyclopedia of Archaeological Sciences is available for free to all of our members, and continued to engage actively with the leading journals in archaeological science on various topics including transparent peer review, open data, and inclusivity.

The above are just a few highlights of the many initiatives developed by our Executive Board. Both old and new members have continued to work selflessly to serve the broader community, and I am constantly impressed by their generosity, enthusiasm and ideas. After this Annual General Meeting, Evangelia (Vangelio) Kiriati takes over the role of SAS President, as I move to an advisory role as Past President. While we await imminent news about the search for a new President Elect, I would like to thank all the members of the Executive Board over the past four years, and the membership more generally, for sharing excitement, ideas, and hard work. I have learned and enjoyed myself, and found the role both challenging and gratifying. I look forward to continuing to support SAS, and Vangelio in particular, in years to come.