



**Society for Archaeological Sciences (SAS)**  
**SAS President's report**

**2024-2025**

**Camilla Speller**



As my term as President of the Society for Archaeological Sciences comes to a close, I want to express what a privilege it has been to serve this community. Over the past two years, I have deeply valued the opportunity to support our members, help advance the society's mission, and connect with new colleagues across the broad and growing field of archaeological science. It is now time to pass the torch to our President-Elect, Dr. Andrew Zipkin. I am excited to see the direction Andrew will take the Society in the years ahead, and I look forward to continuing to support the Society in my new role as Past President.

*SAS Executive Board Changes:* This year has brought several important changes to the SAS Executive Board. In August, we welcomed Ester Oras as the new SAS representative on the Journal of Archaeological Science editorial board, taking over from Rachel Popelka-Filcoff. On behalf of the Society, I want to thank Rachel for her many years of dedicated service in this role.

In January, Catherine Klesner assumed the position of General Secretary. Catherine is already doing a fabulous job, particularly in streamlining our membership renewals. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to James Davenport, who served as the SAS General Secretary since early 2023, and who continues to be an active member of the Society.

In April, we created a new Executive Board position: Vice President of Member Communications. Braden Cordivari has taken on this role, which plays a crucial part in disseminating information about the Society's activities through oversight of the newly launched SAS News webpage and through regular communication with our members. This new VP position replaces the former *SAS Bulletin* Editor role, which is obsolete following the formal discontinuation of the long-running *SAS Bulletin*. I want to take this opportunity to thank Carmen Ting for her hard work and dedication as Bulletin Editor, where she not only organized numerous issues but also led a fantastic team of associate editors.

Finally, we have formally designated the 'Webmaster' role—currently held by AJ White—as a Vice President position in Web Administration. This change acknowledges AJ's vital contributions to the Society and ensures that this important role now carries voting rights on the Executive Board.

*SAS By-Law changes:* In April 2025, the Society passed several important revisions to its By-Laws by majority vote. The approved By-Law changes include procedural updates to better align with the current operations of the SAS Executive Board, including the removal of references to the *SAS Bulletin* Editor position and a number of minor clarifications to ensure the By-Laws accurately reflect the Society's

governance practices. One of the key goals of SAS is to foster a diverse, global community of scientists, educators, and supporters who uphold shared professional values. To advance this goal—and to align with the objectives outlined in Article II of the By-Laws—the SAS Executive Board developed and adopted a Code of Conduct. This Code outlines the professional standards and expectations for all SAS members and is the product of member feedback on a draft circulated between December 2023 and January 2024. Moving forward, all members will be expected to agree to the Code when joining or renewing their membership.

#### *SAS Activities:*

Our Vice President for Social Media, Vana Orfanou, along with her dedicated team, has continued to expand the Society's social media reach this year. Thanks to their consistent and strategic posting schedule, we've seen steady growth across all platforms (see the 2025 SAS Social Media Report). The "Researcher Spotlight" series—introduced last year—has gained real momentum in 2025 and remains a popular way to highlight the innovative and inspiring work of our members around the world. Meanwhile, our Vice President for Web Administration, AJ White, has implemented several important upgrades to the SAS website. Notably, he launched the new SAS News page, which will serve as a central hub for updates on Society programs and partner activities. This initiative helps increase transparency around how SAS allocates resources and showcases the current research of our award winners (see the 2025 Webmaster Report).

We recognize that early career researchers (ECRs) drive innovation and produce groundbreaking work that advances archaeological science. The SAS Executive Board remains deeply committed to supporting these emerging scholars and fostering the growth of their research networks within our global community. Thanks to the hard work of our Vice President for Intersociety Relations, Rachel Kulick, SAS has expanded its sponsorship of international conferences and prizes. This past year, we supported events including SCI-X 2024, the Congreso Latinoamericano de Arqueometría, Arte y Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural (CLASMAC, Mexico), the Landscape Archaeology Conference (Spain), and the Group of Multidisciplinary Methods Contributing to Archaeology (GMPCA, France) (see the 2025 Intersociety Relations Report). The SAS Student Ambassador Program, launched in 2019 and coordinated by our Vice President for Membership Development, Tatsuya Murakami, continues to thrive, creating meaningful opportunities for ECRs to connect and collaborate across international borders. Looking ahead, SAS is eager to continue building new partnerships with national and regional organizations—particularly in East Asia and countries across the global south—as part of our broader commitment to expanding and diversifying our global network.

The R.E. Taylor and SAS Poster Prizes were awarded at the International Symposium on Archaeometry held in Melbourne in May 2024, as well as last month at the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado—both competitions smoothly organized by Tatsuya Murakami. Over the past year, SAS has distributed \$3,000 in Research Support Awards to students and ECRs, following our annual call in February 2025. This year, we also introduced two new awards specifically aimed at supporting technical analyses to advance cutting-edge research by students and ECRs: the Beta-SAS Radiocarbon Dating Award and the Eurofins EAG Laboratories – The Society for Archaeological Sciences Student Pilot Research Award. We are actively

exploring more opportunities to support technical analyses in partnership with other archaeological science laboratories.

We are pleased to announce that the 2024 Charles C. Kolb Award for Archaeological Ceramics was granted to Andrea Martínez-Carrasco and colleagues for their paper in *Ethnoarchaeology* titled “South of the Empire: Inka-Style Pottery Production in Relation to Local Pottery Traditions in the Upper-Middle Basin of the Aconcagua Valley (Central Chile).” We look forward to receiving another strong group of nominations for next year’s prize.

I am truly delighted to witness the continued growth and vitality of archaeological science, especially the enthusiastic engagement of early career researchers who are driving innovation and expanding our global community. SAS remains dedicated to promoting research and the dissemination of scientific knowledge of our human past through diverse analytical techniques, while upholding the highest ethical and technical standards. It is a privilege to have led such a distinguished society of scholars, students, and professionals from around the world over the past two years, and I look forward to seeing where we will go next.