

SAS President's Report 2019/20

Marcos Martín-Torres, 13 May 2020

This year I took over as President of SAS, after two years as Rachel Popelka-Filcoff's understudy as President Elect. I am very grateful to Rachel and the SAS Executive Board for their patience and support in helping me get up to speed, and to the SAS membership more generally for giving me this opportunity. Several initiatives crystallised this year, and a few others are in motion as I write. I will only highlight a few here, and further details can be found in the individual reports by Board members.

A major undertaking this year was the update of our [by-laws](#), led by Rob Sternberg and involving wide scale consultation and much input from members. Our by-laws are adapted to current technology, they reflect better our international membership and our will to serve the archaeological sciences, they ensure wide representation and accountability in our decision-making processes, and they are more explicit in our stance against any form of discrimination (as also reflected in our new protocol for the handling of misconduct at SAS-led events).

A key concern of SAS continues to be the support of early career scholars. In addition to our traditional grants to support fieldwork and conference attendance, and conference poster awards, we were overwhelmed by the success of the [SAS-JAS Emerging Investigator Award](#), in collaboration with the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, which attracted hundreds of submissions. We are about to announce the winner for the first edition while we continue to receive submissions for the current year. The [SAS Student Ambassador Program](#), led by Tatsuya Murakami, has also proved very successful in getting graduate students more actively involved. Early career researchers need role models, and as such we were very pleased that our nomination of [Steven Shackley](#) to the Fryxell Medal for Interdisciplinary Research was successful.

SAS sponsored a very successful session at the SAA Meeting in Albuquerque, as well as the GMPCA conference in Montreal. Our participation in international conferences in 2020 has been disrupted by the cancellation of both SAA and ISA, although we continue to engage with other major groups. A particular highlight is the prominent role of SAS in the huge [SciX conference](#) of the Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies (FACSS), and we look forward to working more closely with the Standing Committee of the International Symposium on Archaeometry.

This year has been the first for Evangelia Kiriati as President Elect, and for Carmen Ting as Bulletin Editor. Carmen has significantly renewed and expanded the [editorial team](#) and the Bulletin itself, combining the traditional PDF with a more dynamic [blog format](#). Our social media engagement has continued to rise steadily under Andrew Zipkin's energetic steer, with thousands of [Facebook interactions](#). The next stage in our digital renovation will be the launch of a much-needed new website that will also integrate better our blog and social media. Work on the new website is underway, and we have just invited expressions of interest for a Vice-President for Digital Media who will lead this development in collaboration with the Executive Board and volunteer members. We have only just welcomed Brandi MacDonald as the newest member of the Executive Board, taking over from Marc Walton as the SAS representative in the Editorial Board of the journal *Archaeometry*. As I talk about key individuals, I must commend the painstaking and essential efforts of Kyle Freund as General Secretary and Destiny Crider as Treasurer – we simply would not be able to operate without them. Finally, I would like to acknowledge in particular the many initiatives and contributions of Andrew Burke as our Vice-President for Intersociety Relations and as a committed Board member.

I am especially happy to see more and more people engaging with SAS, both members and non-members, at all career stages. 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.