



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



2023-2024

Camilla Speller

This year, I took over as President of SAS from Evangelia Kiriatzi, after serving for two years as President Elect. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Evangelia and the SAS Executive Board for their support through this process, as well as their continued enthusiasm and hard work in accomplishing the many initiatives of the SAS this year.

We've had a few changes to the SAS Executive Board this year. Committed SAS Board member Andrew Zipkin was elected as the new SAS President Elect last year, and smoothly made the transition to this new leadership position. We welcomed Rachel Kulick into the position of VP for Intersociety Relations, taking over from Andrew who served in the role since 2020. Finally, it is with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to Rob Sternberg, the SAS General Secretary Emeritus and pillar of the SAS community, as he embarks on a new chapter of retirement after years of dedicated service. Rob's contributions to the SAS have been vast and varied, serving in key Board roles including President, Secretary-Treasurer, General Secretary, and Bulletin Editor. Rob has been a major advocat for SAS members, tirelessly nominating them for prestigious prizes and encouraging recruitment of new member. He has organized numerous conference sessions (most recently the 2024 SAA Fryxell Symposium) which have been instrumental in fostering collaboration and scholarship within our community. We offer our sincere thanks and gratitude for his leadership and guidance over the years, and trust that his legacy of service and dedication will continue to inspire us.

Our VP for Social Media Vana Orfanou and her effective team have significantly increased our social media presence this year, with steady growth across all platforms, facilitated by a regular posting schedule (see SAS Social Media Report 2024). Her team recently introduced the 'Researcher Spotlight' to showcase the innovative and inspirational work conducted by our members. This year, our Webmaster AJ White, has helped us navigate through upgrades to the SAS website, and has integrated a new online member information form, so we can better track the demography and needs of our growing community of affiliates (see SAS Webmaster Report 2024).

We appreciate that a significant number of our SAS members are early career researchers (ECRs), and the SAS Board has prioritized work to develop and enhance support for this group. The SAS Student Ambassador Programme launched in 2019, and coordinated by our VP for Membership Development Tatsuya Murakami, continues to thrive and develop new avenues for connecting archaeological scientists around the globe. Through the hard-work of VPs for Intersociety Relations Andrew Zipkin and Rachel Kulick, we have sponsored a growing number of international conferences and prizes, including SCI-X 2023, International congress on Archaeological Sciences in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East (ICAS-

EMME, Cyprus), International Obsidian Conference (Japan), Congreso Latinoamericano de Arqueometría, Arte y Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural (CLASMAC, Mexico) and the UK Archaeological Science conference (UK) (see SAS Intersociety Relations Report 2024). The SAS looks forward to building new partnerships with national and regional organizations to expand our partnership network, and we invite nominations for new SAS Inter-organization Delegates who can promote the development of joint initiatives.

The R.E. Taylor & SAS Poster prizes were recently awarded at the SAA Annual Meetings in New Orleans, organized by our VP for Membership Development, Tatsuya Murakami, and the next set of prizes will follow soon at the ISA in Melbourne at the end of the month. Over the last 12 months, we have awarded \$6,000 to student and ECRs through our Research Support awards, with one call in July 2023, and a second in January 2024, and the board is actively seeking additional avenues to support researchers in underrepresented countries. We recently announced the winner of our annual Charles C. Kolb Award for Archaeological Ceramics for 2023 by Daniel Pereira and colleagues, and look forward to another excellent set of nominations for next year's prize.