



# South African Spectroscopic Society

## NEWSLETTER

2003 issue 1

28 May 2003

Dear Spectroscopists

The Gauteng branch of SASS is in trouble. No, not financial or legal trouble, just time trouble. Every spectroscopist can probably identify with the feeling that the hours trickle out of our days without us noticing where they went. You blink your eyes and another month is spent. This is what happened to the Gauteng branch of SASS over the past year and it is deplorable.

Apart from a very successful Young Spectroscopist meeting in September, user group meetings were non-existent and newsletters too. This is a very sad state of affairs and the committee is heavily burdened by it. The problem is not that the executive stopped caring, but like the members, our workload is ever increasing and it just happened so that all of us had a particularly busy year. This is why we make an urgent appeal to you, the members, to make yourself available for election on the committee. We are looking for some "young blood" and the only qualification you need is enthusiasm and willingness to do a little bit for the advancement of spectroscopy. The eight elected members each have a dedicated portfolio eg. XRF meetings, ICP meetings, newsletter, database upkeep etc. and in this way the workload is evenly distributed.

In the Western Cape where Janette and Timothy has a strong support team SASS is very active and regular meetings are held. We need the same kind of support up here.

The executive members who reached the end of their term according to the constitution are Maggi Loubser and Rob McCrindle. Due to two resignations in 2000 we elected six committee members at the time which resulted in only two end of term vacancies. Nina Oosthuizen has since left for Australia so there is a third position open. **Please use the attached nomination form to nominate candidates for the positions.** The committee could decide to co-opt additional members onto the executive if it is felt that they could contribute.

In these times when work pressure is ever increasing it is more important than ever to provide our spectroscopists with a support structure and some nurturing. Currently the user group meetings serve towards this goal but please think about additional ways in which you think SASS could help. We would include this topic as a discussion point on the BGM agenda.

On the topic of the **BGM** - this was supposed to be held end of last year and we actually considered coinciding it with ANALITIKA 2002 in Stellenbosch but when we saw that relatively few spectroscopists were registering the idea was scrapped. Suppose once again work pressures, money and time robbed many members of a very stimulating conference. Stellenbosch did not disappoint with its beautiful mountains and wonderful wine!

The BGM is currently being organised for **23 July 2003 at the Loerie Symposium Hall, Environtek (CSIR) in Pretoria**. The morning would consist of a general spectroscopy symposium including papers on Laser Spectroscopy, XRF, ICP, Raman Spectroscopy and the afternoon will be spent on laboratory visits to the National Laser Centre and the National Metrology Laboratory. After tea the BGM will be held and the new committee appointed.

We will soon send out invitations for this with more details. Meanwhile we would like to appeal to **any members who would like to present a paper to contact your secretary with a short abstract**.

Also attached you will find an invitation to an **Arc and Spark Emission Workshop**, held at the **Pretoria Technikon on Thursday, 5 June 2003**. Please complete attached invitation and send to Rob McCrindle.

Lastly on the events front, it is time to submit abstracts for the annual **Young Spectroscopist symposium**. Lets have even more participants than last year!

Your Secretary.

**NOMINATION FORM:**

Hon. Secretary SASS  
c/o XRF & XRD Laboratory  
Geology Department  
University of Pretoria  
0002 PRETORIA  
Tel. (012) 420 2137  
Fax. (012) 362 5219  
E-mail: mloubser@postino.up.ac.za

I, ....., would hereby like to nominate

....., contact number:.....

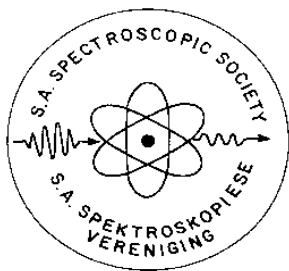
for election onto the SASS executive committee as I feel the above mentioned person, would positively contribute to implementation of the objectives of SASS.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Place: .....

**Please e-mail or fax to the secretary before 6 June 2003.**



## ARC AND SPARK EMISSION WORKSHOP

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to an Arc and Spark Emission Workshop.

One of the Objectives of the Spectroscopic Society is to further the exchange and knowledge of spectroscopy by means of symposia and workshops. In this time of increasing work pressure it is more important than ever to present our members with some stimulation and support.

The workshop will be held at the Pretoria Technikon. in the auditorium of the Arcadia Campus.

Lectures will be given by experts in the field, followed by a discussion session. ARLabs and Spectro will sponsor a cocktail party at the close of the proceedings.

Date: Thursday, 5 June 2003

Time: 13h00 for 13h30

Cost: Students - R25, Non-members - R90, Members - R60

Venue: Auditorium of the Arcadia Campus (175 Nelson Mandela Drive, Arcadia)

Safe parking is available opposite the Church St. entrance to the Campus.

**Looking forward to seeing you there !**

Please return the attached registration form by Friday, 30 May 2003 !

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Confirmation: For catering purposes, fax your confirmation of attendance to:

**Fax No: (012) 318 6286 for attention Rob McCrindle**  
**or email to [mccrindle@techpta.ac.za](mailto:mccrindle@techpta.ac.za)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of persons: \_\_\_\_\_

Company / Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact No: \_\_\_\_\_



# The South African Spectroscopic Society Die Suid Afrikaanse Spektroskopiese Vereeniging

## **YOUNG SPECTROSCOPIST SYMPOSIUM**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The Young Spectroscopist Symposium is an event arranged to give young spectroscopists and students the opportunity to present papers at a national level. It is the tradition of the South African Spectroscopic Society to invite young, promising undergraduates and post graduates to present papers on the results of their spectroscopy-related research at the symposium. Papers may cover any branch of spectroscopy.

The Albertus Strasheim Trophy and a prize sponsored by PANalytical will be awarded to the speaker who gives the best presentation. The symposium is held annually at a tertiary education institution. This year it will be held at the Rand Afrikaans University on 12 August 2003.

An abstract of the proposed paper should be faxed to Janette Cawood by Friday, 25 July 2003 for consideration. Students will be advised one week later by Friday, 01 August of acceptance of their papers. The Society is willing to help students with transport problems.

For further information please contact Janette Cawood.

**[jcawood@telkomsa.net](mailto:jcawood@telkomsa.net)**

**Tel: 083 656-7675**

**Fax: (022) 714-3248**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

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