

For Immediate Release

Microscopy Society of America Creates Student Council

Council resolution improves student leadership presence within Society.

RESTON, Virginia – Mar. 31, 2017 – The Microscopy Society of America (MSA) approved a resolution at its annual Winter Council Meeting to improve the level and sustainability of student input in its decision-making by creating a Student Council. The Student Council features offices that parallel those of the Executive Committee and the major standing committees of the Society. This structure was proposed by MSA's student leaders in order to provide leadership opportunities to the Society's members at the earliest stages of their careers.

The inaugural Executive Officers of the Student Council are: Joshua Silverstein, Miami University of Ohio (President); Janet Gbur, Case Western Reserve University (President-Elect); James Kilcrease, Hitachi High Technologies America, Inc. (Past President); Cameron Varano, Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Secretary); and Ethan Lawrence, Arizona State University (Treasurer). In addition, William Bowman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been appointed Chair of the Student Council Program Committee, and is principal organizer of a Pre-Meeting Congress in conjunction with the Society's 75th anniversary meeting, the first-ever Pre-Meeting Congress organized by student leaders. Additional committee chair offices will be created as additional Society roles are delegated to the Student Council.

The Student Council replaces a Student Committee, which was created in 2013 to provide a student voice at the biennial MSA Council meetings. The transition to a Student Council was in response to a recommendation by an ad-hoc committee of early career professionals within the Society, the "75th Anniversary Committee on Future Directions of the Society". Reporting to the MSA membership at its 2016 Annual Members Meeting, 75th Anniversary Committee Chair, Beth Dickey, noted that there was widespread consensus that the creation of the Student Committee was an important step forward for the Society, but that it needed to be restructured to achieve a more sustainable model. The Student Council does just that.

New officers will be elected annually at Microscopy & Microanalysis, the Society's annual meeting, by the students in attendance. All Student Council officers must be students at the time of their election, but serve their terms to completion even if graduating in the interim. "We believe that

the Student Council fulfils the recommendation of the 75th Anniversary Committee,” said MSA President Ian Anderson. “It has resulted in an unprecedented level of student leadership and activity in the life of the Society during the past several months.”

The Microscopy Society of America was founded as the Electron Microscope Society of America in 1942, a time of rapid development for an instrument that promised, for the first time, much better resolving power than that of a traditional light microscope. The Society adopted its current name on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, to reflect the diversity of microscopy techniques represented by its membership, and the development of new technologies. Today, a variety of microscopes are capable of imaging individual atoms and providing chemical information to identify what kind of atom is being imaged, while a variety of microscopes of lower resolving power continue to play an enabling role in understanding the world around us at a microscopic scale. As it celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, the Microscopy Society of America champions all forms of microscopy through its annual meeting, its publications, and its educational outreach.

Microscopy & Microanalysis (M&M) is the annual meeting of the Microscopy Society of America and the Microanalysis Society (MAS). M&M 2017, to be held August 6-10 in St. Louis, Missouri, will be co-sponsored for the first time by the International Field Emission Society (IFES). M&M 2017 marks significant anniversaries for all three societies: the 75th anniversary of MSA, the 50th anniversary of MAS, and the 50th anniversary of the invention of the atom-probe field-ion microscope, an instrument based on high-field science, the scientific emphasis of IFES.

The Microscopy Society of America is an affiliate society of the American Institute of Physics (AIP) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

###

For promotional purposes, photographs and biographical profiles of individual Student Council officers can be found on the MSA web site: http://www.microscopy.org/students/student_council.cfm

For more information, please contact:

Bethany Blackwell, Communications Manager
Microscopy Society of America

11130 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 350
Reston, VA 20191
Office: +1 703 234 4115
Fax: +1 703 435 4390
E-mail: associationmanagement@microscopy.org