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Establishment And Maintenance Of An ASM Student Chapter

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problems of underrepresentation. In 2002, he was asked to develop and be chair of the ASM Minority Coalition, which consists of all the ASM minority committees. The Coalition coordinates the actions of these committees, and has helped to bring more minority students into microbiology and more microbiologists into ASM. As a result of his devotion to this cause and his excellent work, George won the 2006 ASM Founders Distinguished Service Award. The award honored his work on behalf of underrepresented minority members of both ASM and NIH. George is also credited with being instrumental in developing the series of articles in ASM's *Microbe* known as Faces of ASM, which highlights the diversity existing among ASM members. His other ASM activities included membership on the Committee on Diversity and the Committee on Microbiological Issues Impacting Minorities.

George Counts is committed to his cause, is fair, gentle, a pleasure to work with, and has made his mark in breaking down barriers in health care disparity. His leadership has allowed ASM to increase the participation of underrepresented members in leadership positions and to bring attention to the issues associated with underparticipation of minority microbiologists. He has been a great mentor to African-American students. As one wrote to him in 1992, "I wish more successful African-Americans could be like you; unafraid to extend, assist, mentor, guide, advise, listen, direct, praise, encourage, etc. I could go on and on."

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Establishment and Maintenance of an ASM Student Chapter

Student members represent the future of the ASM. The Student Membership Committee is enthusiastically encouraging the formation of new Student Chapters as well as actively supporting existing ones. In most cases, ASM Student Chapters are formed by students from a single campus. Students who are galvanized to form a

Chapter need to identify a faculty advisor, and then they should contact the local ASM Branch for support. The formal application process is greatly aided by Jennifer Mercurio, the staff member who supports the Student Membership Committee activities at ASM. She can supply a template for a Chapter constitution to the interested parties. Currently we have 58 active Student Chapters in the United States.

There are also three multicampus Student Chapters. The oldest of these is the Student Chapter supported by the Eastern Pennsylvania Branch of the ASM (EPAASM). In the Philadelphia region, graduate students from Temple University, Drexel University, Thomas Jefferson University, and the University of Pennsylvania have a robust group that meets monthly with programs about career options, and once a year for a full day in their Infection and Immunity Forum, complete with keynote speakers, student and postdoctoral speakers, and poster sessions with prizes. In addition, Student Chapter members are invited to attend and participate in the monthly meetings of the EPAASM that feature speakers in basic research, clinical microbiology, industry, and education. Currently, the EPAASM Chapter is advised by Simon Knight at the University of Pennsylvania.

A newer Student Chapter that was organized by faculty and students at predominantly undergraduate institutions is the Shenandoah Valley Student Chapter that includes students from the campuses of Bridgewater College, James Madison University (JMU), Eastern Mennonite University, and Mary Baldwin College (primary participating institutions). Faculty and students from the Virginia Military Institute, Washington and Lee University, and Southern Virginia University also attend their activities. The Chapter is advised by Louise Temple of JMU.

Finally, the ASM Student Committee has just received an application from students in the Boston area, who are being advised by faculty on each of the participating campuses: Alan Grossman (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Ralph Isberg (Tufts University), Roberto Kolter (Harvard University), Kim Lewis (Northeastern University), and Jack Murphy (Boston University). This level of faculty

support indicates how important the Chapter is to microbiologists in the region! More recently, I have had a conversation with faculty in the Los Angeles area (University of Southern California, University of California Los Angeles, and the California Institute of Technology) who may be interested in a multicampus chapter there.

To us, the continuing stream of applications to form new Chapters is evidence that we have many student members who are excited about the opportunities to network and grow professionally within the ASM. If you are a student and are not currently a member of the active Student Chapter in your area, contact the Chapter's advisor through the list accompanying this article online.

Unfortunately, there are also a number of Chapters that were once active and have now gone dormant. In some cases, this occurred when the microbiology department at a particular university was merged with another department. In other cases, the faculty advisor was no longer available or interested. The Student Membership Committee would like to revive as many of these dormant Chapters as possible. A list of them accompanies this article online. If you are a student or a faculty member who would like to help reactivate a Chapter or organize a new Student Chapter, please contact Jennifer Mercurio at ASM (jmercurio@asmusa.org) or Student Membership Committee Chair Amy Cheng Vollmer (avollme1@swarthmore.edu).

Amy Cheng Vollmer

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ASM Salutes Its 50-Year Members

ASM proudly recognizes those members of the Society for whom 2007 marks the 50th year of their membership. The participation and achievements of the following members have helped make ASM one of the most prominent and prestigious scientific societies in the world. The Society thanks its 50-year members and is pleased to acknowledge their significant contributions to ASM and to modern science.

Arthur Aronson

Robert Boley

Peter Bonventre