The Boston area is known for its excellent universities with such world-renowned institutions as MIT, Harvard, Boston University, University of Massachusetts, Northeastern University, Tufts and WPI. Not only do these institutions have research collaborations with numerous companies large and small, they also give rise to start-ups and serial entrepreneurship. Two well-known local serial entrepreneurs are Professor Chris Schuh, Department Head Materials Science MIT who has been instrumental in the founding of such companies as Veloxint, Exponent and DeskTop Metals; and, Professor Donald Sadoway, TED Talk favorite and co-founder of Ambri and Boston Metals. The local universities actively encourage spin-offs of research programs with continuing business and technical support from the universities. We highlighted several of these start-up and early stage companies as part of our “Innovators to the World” program. This past year these included featured presentations by Alex Huckstepp, VP at Digital Alloys; Anvesh Gurijala, CEO of Boston Materials; and, Kim Blair, Senior Manager at Exponent.

In addition to featuring presentations from start-ups we have been active liaisons between these start-ups and industry. Several examples include introducing Boston Materials to GE resulting in a test program at GE of their innovative carbon fiber composites. Anvesh Gurijala at Boston Materials also revealed that he had met a gentleman at one of our meetings who subsequently became a member of Boston Materials Board of Directors as well as a valued technical and business consultant.

We introduced Boston Dynamics, a local robotics company to DeskTop Metals on a 3D printing opportunity for their Atlas robot. Additionally, we have a job openings tab on our website and will be expanding that effort with both local and national companies. Our future plans include featured programs on such topics as entrepreneurship, raising capital, the hiring process, branding yourself and your company and the value of networking. Ultimately we envision being Boston’s dynamic networking venue as well as the go-to source for materials related solutions.

And finally we have been actively encouraging our young professionals to engage in the organization. Ryan Eriksen newly elected Vice-Chair and Caitlin Walde newly elected Secretary are both early stage professionals with less than 5 years’ work experience. They are already working together to find ways to bring more young professionals and students into our chapter thus ensuring the vitality of our Chapter and ASM for many years to come.