EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

FROM THE FOUNDATION

Strategic Planning: Part I
David B. Spencer
Chairman of the Board, wTe Corp.

The VISION of the ASM Materials Education Foundation is as follows:
A diverse workforce skilled in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through hands-on, discovery-based learning.

In our previous Strategic Plans, we sought to implement this vision by putting Materials Camps in place. We are proud to have met our goal of 50 Teachers Camps and 25 Student Camps two years ahead of schedule. But that creates a new challenge: What to do next?

Our MISSION is “To excite young people in materials, science, and engineering careers.” Our Board of Trustees is choosing to continue our camp programs and scholarships, but we also believe a strong need exists within the materials field for more—and better trained—technical workers. Further, we want to help create a more diverse STEM community by getting kids interested in science, engineering, and materials at an earlier age. Finally, we believe that when we develop exciting curricula, we should give it away—and share it on a broad platform both in the U.S. and globally—using the Internet as our pathway to potential learners.

The Foundation has implemented a system of powerful business committees, which will reach into the ASM community, engage members with a broader mission, draw on past board members for leadership and counsel, and pull in diverse outside resources as needed in the following areas:
1. STEM Curricula for K-6 students—exciting kids about STEM in grade school
2. Middle School after-school programs—Materials Matter
3. Underserved/Workforce Development & Community College Programs
4. Broader Global Outreach sharing our development programs through the Internet
   a. Attracting new members
   b. Reaching into the broader community both nationally and internationally

We are proud of the accomplishments achieved through the Materials Camp programs for teachers and students and with our scholarships. These efforts will continue. In addition, we are also excited about our new initiatives aimed at giving back even more to educational efforts in our community. We hope you will volunteer to help.

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

Transitioning from Technical Contributor to Manager
Dharma Maddala,
Alcoa Technical Center

For many individuals, their initial career is based on technical merit and advancement depends on enhancing technical skills, expertise, and capabilities. At some point, a career in management appears, presenting different challenges. This new role is based on a skill set that involves delegating, mentoring, coaching, situational awareness, monitoring behaviors, handling and managing conflicts, and many other tasks that are distinctly different from dealing with technical issues as an individual contributor.

Making the transition from technical contributor to manager is challenging. In my case, the Emerging Leaders Alliance (ELA) gave me an arsenal of tools and acquainted me with “soft skills,” which are difficult to master but important to focus on. I felt privileged to attend the ELA conference in November 2015 via a sponsorship provided by the TMS Foundation. It was a great learning opportunity and very timely, as I recently moved into a managerial role.

Valuable aspects of the program included learning how to acknowledge various social styles, engineering an ideal team by building productive relationships, recognizing and managing conflict, and managing upward. The ELA platform not only provides training to help prepare future leaders to advance their organizations within complex business and social environments, but also provides a venue to network with individuals in other professional organizations. For example, the “gummies” team exercise emphasized the need for effective communication and concise messaging, which will enhance my work skills as well as future leadership roles within ASM and TMS. To learn more about the ELA conference, visit emergingleadersalliance.org.

VOLUNTEERISM COMMITTEE

Profile of a Volunteer
Jacquelyn MacCoon, Product Specialist,
Hitachi High Technologies

Jacquelyn MacCoon’s day job is at Hitachi High Technologies, Ontario, Canada, where she works on application engineering and sales of giant electron and transmission
microscopes. But the 25 year-old University of Toronto graduate moonlights for the Toronto ASM Chapter and describes herself as “a strong advocate for getting beyond the books and increasing our emotional intelligence.”

MacCoon credits ASM with helping improve her professional skills and confidence. She’s grateful for friendships formed with career veterans, including three mentors who generously share wisdom not found in a textbook or online. “Everyone pretends we have a plan but we’re all shaking in our boots,” she observes. “So many people just fall into their careers. At ASM, I’ve found people willing to talk about this.”

As an undergraduate in materials science and engineering, MacCoon began attending Chapter meetings, attracted to broad meeting topics and a balance of industry veterans and students. “It’s nice to go with a social safety net of other students—and be brave enough to talk with people well-established in their careers,” she says. MacCoon became an ASM university representative and after completing her master’s degree became communications director. She is currently vice chair. “I have a title now and can reach out and ask for speakers at our events. It’s so much fun!” she says with a smile.

MacCoon sees a need to build awareness of ASM and attract members beyond materials science, especially from fields like bio-materials or even dentistry. “We collaborate with so many fields one step removed but still dealing with materials and metals.” She’s excited about creative Toronto Chapter events like “Young Professionals Night” featuring trampoline dodge ball followed by dinner and “Speed Interview Night” for members to practice being both interviewer and interviewee. “We don’t usually practice until we need it. This brings in new people we don’t often see at meetings!”

**Free Access to Shape Memory and Superelasticity**

Did you know that you can read the first volume of *Shape Memory and Superelasticity: Advances in Science and Technology* for free? This journal functions as a forum for researchers, scientists, and engineers of various disciplines to access information about the ever-expanding field of shape memory materials. To access this official publication of the International Organization on Shape Memory and Superelastic Technologies, an affiliate society of ASM, visit link.springer.com/journal/40830.

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**CHAPTERS IN THE NEWS**

**Albuquerque Celebrates Henning’s 33 Years as Treasurer**

The Albuquerque Chapter announces that Robert “Bob” Henning has retired as Chapter treasurer after 33 years of service. Henning began his metallurgy career with the Air Force Research Lab at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio. He later worked at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M., first as a contractor and later as an employee. In 1954, he was one of the charter members of the Albuquerque Chapter. In addition to serving as chair in 1987, Henning worked with 27 other chairs during his 33-year tenure as treasurer. Several years ago, he received the ASM Allan Ray Putnam Service Award in recognition of his longstanding service to the Society.

**Italy-Switzerland Chapter Hosts Ceramic Lecture**

Arrigo Borin (center), chair of the Italy-Switzerland Chapter, recently gave a presentation on the evolution of advanced ceramic materials at the University of Ferrara, Italy. Approximately 75 students and graduates attended the lecture.