VOLUNTEERISM COMMITTEE
Profile of a Volunteer

Laura Van Steenhuyse
Iowa State University 2012

What does a recent grad do when she can’t find work in her field? She stays involved with ASM—even without a local chapter. That’s the strategy adopted by Laura Van Steenhuyse after she graduated from Iowa State University in May 2012, with a B.S. in materials engineering.

With Laura’s fiancé pursuing graduate studies at Florida State University, she moved to Tallahassee but could not find work as a process engineer in an area with little manufacturing. While she works temporarily as an insurance agent, Laura joined the ASM national committee on volunteerism. “I’m helping work on our goals and I’m contacting Material Advantage chapters at colleges around the country. We’re getting recent grads involved with ASM, because they often don’t know what’s offered beyond Material Advantage.”

Volunteering with ASM helps Laura stay connected with people in her industry, but also allows her to give back to those who first sparked her interest in materials engineering. “I remember in elementary school, staff from Rockwell Collins showed us how a glass saucepan can transfer heat through the bottom but the handle doesn’t get hot—because of different properties and how it’s processed.”

At Iowa State, Laura enjoyed Material Advantage and decided, “Whatever I can do with ASM, I will do!” She credits ASM with helping her keep up on the newest technology and research, even when she’s not working directly in the industry.

After her July wedding, Laura has four more years in Tallahassee. She plans to stay on the volunteerism committee and possibly attend national meetings in the future. And how does selling life insurance fit in? “I’ve learned transferable skills, for example, how to talk to people and be confident about what you’re selling.” Combined with her engineering degree and ASM volunteerism—Laura has found a good recipe for future success.

New Technology Enhances Education Experience at the Dome!

The Education Department’s classrooms and labs at ASM International’s headquarters recently were upgraded to provide instructors and students with an even better learning environment. The enhancements, including new computers, iPads, smart boards, and lab equipment, will significantly improve the experience of instructors and students.

Lecture and Lab Room Presentation Computers: The classrooms have been equipped with new presentation computers. These allow ASM staff to set up instructors’ content before they arrive. This enables instructors to start their classes in a timely fashion and ensures a smooth transition into utilizing the technology in the class.

Portable White Board Recording (Mimeo) and Voice Capture Technology: High-tech lecture capture equipment was installed in the classrooms. This consists of computer screen capture, voice capture, and whiteboard capture. Mimeo Teach and Ink Capture are portable systems that turn any whiteboard into a smart board. They capture instructors’ board notes along with comments made while writing on the board. The captures are then posted online allowing students to review their class sessions.

iPad Technology and Computer Upgrades in the Classroom: The Education Department also added iPads and new computers to the classroom experience. The iPads allow students to record results of their lab work, save images of their microstructures, and share them with the class. The new computers allow students to digitally capture their microstructures and save them to files. Instructional procedures for equipment operation and testing procedures are preloaded on the tablets, bringing all required information to play in a modern interactive package.

Lab Equipment Donations: Two new grinder/polishers, an abrasive cutoff saw, and vacuum-mounting system were donated by Allied High Tech, Rancho Dominguez, Calif. This new equipment allows ten students access to individual machines during hand grinding and polishing activities. The additional Allied equipment to the ASM Metallographic Lab, which is outfitted with donations from Buehler, Leco, and Struers, helps keep lab capabilities current. Buehler also delivered a new abrasive cutoff saw. Solar Atmospheres’ donation of a vacuum furnace is expected in June 2013. The furnace allows lab exercises to augment existing heat treating courses, as well as a new course offering, Vacuum Heat Treating.