Mohawk Valley – Scholarship Awarded

Daniel Gardner, a senior at Mohawk High School in N.Y., received a $500 college scholarship from ASM Mohawk Valley Chapter at their annual Awards Banquet and Spring Outing at Vernon Downs in June. Mr. Gardner was chosen because of his impressive academic achievements, varied extracurricular activities, community service, and excellent recommendations. He plans to major in aerospace engineering at the University of Buffalo next fall. Mr. Gardner participated in ASM’s “Operation Shadow,” last year, where he visited Special Metals Corp. in New Hartford, N.Y., a company that makes high-temperature superalloys for jet aircraft engines, along with other specialty alloys. The Mohawk Valley Chapter wishes Mr. Gardner a great academic experience and a rewarding career.

VOLUNTEERISM COMMITTEE
Profile of a Volunteer

Peg Jones
GM Powertrain Materials Engineering

Peggy “Peg” Jones is one busy engineer…and loving it. In her professional life as a senior project engineer for GM, she supports transmission shafts for all hybrid and electric vehicles including the Chevrolet Volt. That job alone would be plenty for most people, but Peg’s not finished when she walks out the doors at GM. Since 1979, she’s built a “volunteering career” with ASM. It started in her undergrad days when she recalls, “Professor Hosford told us to join ASM on the very first day of physical metallurgy at the University of Michigan.”

After graduation, Peg joined GE Aircraft Engines and the Cincinnati ASM chapter. She then completed her Ph.D. in materials engineering at the University of Dayton where she chaired the ASM Student Chapter and served on the Dayton ASM Chapter’s Executive Committee.

In Dayton, Peg discovered a passion for introducing kids to materials engineering. During the year that nothing went well in her Ph.D. research, she kept her spirits up by doing hands-on chemistry with sixth graders. Although 95% of the in-class activities went exactly as planned, one reaction failed because the school water was too hard. At the end of the year when Peg asked the students what they had learned, the most animated reply was: “We learned that engineers and scientists aren’t always right!”

After graduate school, Peg moved home to Michigan and joined General Motors in 1998. She soon volunteered to show up 15 minutes early to network as a “greeter” at the Saginaw Valley Chapter’s monthly meetings. Those 15 minutes a month quickly led to commitments – as membership chair, newsletter editor, Chapter secretary, and chair. Peg went on to represent Michigan on the Chapter Council, chair the Council, and participate in the 2007 ASM Strategic Planning session. She served on the 2010 Nominating Committee and on the ASM Materials Education Foundation Board of Trustees as a liaison with the Chapter Council. So much for 15 minutes a month! She particularly enjoys working with the Chapter Council and remains active as an advisory “emerritus” Council member.

But the greatest pleasure Peg finds in her volunteer work is the ASM Foundation’s Teachers Camp program which equips K-12 teachers with hands-on activities to introduce kids to materials science and engineering. For the past 8 years, she’s helped at the Detroit ASM Chapter’s Teacher Camps, held at the University of Michigan and supported by the ASM Foundation, local ASM chapters, and many generous donors.

“I love the Teacher Camps! I even use my vacation days for this,” says Peg. “We work with about 35 teachers each summer...including exceptional Master Teachers who teach Materials in high school. The K-12 teachers who attend are so excited to discover materials science and engineering for the first time. Their enthusiasm inspires me.”

Why volunteer for ASM? For Peg, three simple reasons come to mind: 1) to recharge professionally, 2) to celebrate and encourage talented young ASM volunteers, and 3) to challenge yourself by learning new problem-solving skills – both “people challenges” and up-and-coming new technologies.

Cleveland – Awards Trilogy

The President’s Award, presented annually by the Cleveland Chapter, recognizes a person the Chapter chair feels contributed the most to the Chapter through exceptional service and dedication. Dr. Cheryl Bowman, NASA (left), Website Committee chair, is the 2011 recipient. Dr. Gary Coubrough, Chapter chair, presented the award.

Alan Vormelker (center), Babcock and Wilcox, Nuclear Operations Group - Euclid, ASM Cleveland Chapter officer, received the Cleveland Technical Societies Council 2011 Technical Achievement Award. This award recognizes an individual less than 40 years of age, who has demonstrated outstanding performance, creative ability, technical competence, and integrity in the conduct of his professional duties. Also pictured (from left), Gary Coubrough, Chapter and Cleveland Technical Societies Council chair; Howard Vormelker, Alan’s father; and Bob Vigneulle and Ray Cribb, Cleveland Chapter Executive Committee members.

The ASM Cleveland Chapter Outstanding Company Support Award, presented annually, recognizes a company that clearly demonstrated over the years sustained, unselfish contributions to the Chapter and ASM. QTS, Quality Technology Services, is the 2011 recipient. David Johnson (right), Awards Committee chair, presented the award to Ed Basta, president, QTS.