

Member News



Updates on friends and colleagues in the materials community

In Memory of T.R.A. Davey

By Rod Grant and John Floyd

Editor's Note: This article was excerpted from a much longer tribute, which can be accessed at <http://materialstechnology.tms.org/EST/article.aspx?articleID=4976>.

The distinguished and well-known Australian extractive metallurgist, T.R.A. (Ron) Davey, died in Melbourne, Australia, on January 7, 2013, at the age of 87. Ron's papers, patents, and plant improvements made lasting contributions to industrial operations and he became a world-recognized authority on the extraction and refining of lead and other base metal.

Ron earned a BSc and BEng (1944), a Master MetEng (1954), and a Doctor of Applied Science (1967) from the University of Melbourne. He had many links to the metallurgical industry in the United States and Canada and was a very active member of AIME/TMS, joining in 1970. He served on a number of AIME (American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers) committees, including the World Advisory Committee on Lead-Zinc Symposium (1968–70), Extraction & Processing Division (EPD) Pyrometallurgy (1969–72), Standing



Ronald A. Davey

Pradeep Rohatgi Named an MRS Fellow

Pradeep Rohatgi, Distinguished Professor of Materials Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), was inducted as a Fellow of the Materials Research Society (MRS) in April. He was named a TMS Fellow in 2012. In receiving the MRS Fellow Award, Rohatgi was recognized for sustained



Pradeep Rohatgi

Committee on Environmental Protection (1969–72), Awards (1969–1992), and Lead-Zinc-Tin (1969–1992).

Ron was a professor of Metallurgical Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines (1969–72), and from that position, consulted to a number of leading metallurgical companies. He held several other significant positions in other organizations outside Australia. In Australia, he worked on research and development for lead smelting and refining at BHAS, Port Pirie, and held senior positions over twelve years at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Melbourne.

Ron published more than 60 technical papers, many regarded as seminal in his area of work. He also produced 26 patents, many leading to new operating plants or improvements.

He received many awards throughout his career, including the inaugural Gold Medal of AIME (1955), the Hofmann Prize Consortium Special Medal (1987), the TMS EPD Distinguished Lecturer (1988), and AusIMM President's Medal (1988).

The metallurgical world has lost one of its most distinguished scientists and engineers.

This tribute was prepared with the help of Kathleen Davey, Jim Happ, and Denby Ward.

leadership in research on solidification synthesis and characterization of metal-matrix composites, pioneering initiatives in technology and product development, education, materials policy, and institution-building.

Rohatgi also serves as the founding director of the UWM Center for Composites, and the Center for Advanced Materials Manufacturing. The holder of 20 U.S. patents, he has been a consultant to the World Bank and the United Nations on materials policy.

Jud Ready Receives CASIS Grant

The Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS), the nonprofit organization promoting and managing research onboard the International Space Station (ISS), U.S. National Laboratory, announced in March that Jud Ready, Senior Research Engineer, Georgia Tech Research Institute, received one of its prestigious grants. The funding will enable further development of Ready's work on cost-effective, energy-efficient photovoltaic cells made of lightweight carbon nanotubes.

Ready's experiment will make use of the NanoRacks External Platform, which allows exposure to the extreme conditions of space for development and testing of new materials, components, and systems. To view a NASA video that features Ready's discussion of his experiment, visit http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html?media_id=161218851.



Jud Ready

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TMS Member Profiles

Meet a Member: Subodh Das Puts His Stamp on Sustainability

By Lynne Robinson

Subodh Das has made it his life’s mission to engage the materials science and engineering (MSE) community in developing solutions for a more sustainable future. As the chief executive officer and founder of Phinix, LLC, he has accomplished much of this work as a TMS symposium organizer and presenter, as well as contributing a number of articles to *JOM*. It was a long wait in a post office line in the fall of 2011, though, that launched him on a new quest to promote environmental stewardship to the general public.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) had just introduced its “Go Green” stamp series. Each of the collection’s 16 stamp designs highlights a specific, small step that individuals can take to contribute to a healthier and more energy-efficient world. Das, who maintains a blog on recycling and carbon management at www.phinix.net/blog, knew immediately that he had found inspiration for his next blog topic. He purchased several books of the “Go Green” stamps, as well as the accompanying reusable shopping bags, contacted Austin McKinney, Phinix’s communications

expert, and started to write.

“Although we initially only planned to promote and endorse the stamp series, we quickly realized that each of the topics addressed in the collection deserved its own article,” said Das. “Over the next several months, we ended up publishing a 15-part blog based on the tips recommended by the ‘Go Green’ stamp collection.”

Das’s “Go Green” blog debuted in October 2011, and by the time the last entry was posted in March 2012, he and McKinney had decided to expand the blog into a book. “The motivation for the book came from our desire to promote the USPS and to recognize its commitment to combating climate change, as well its great service to our nation since 1775,” said Das.

“We thought it was a great way to promote sustainability and low carbon lifestyle’ in simple, jargon-less terms, explaining 15 everyday ideas that require no cash or drastic lifestyle changes.”

The third edition of *Sustainability Gone Postal: A 15-part Guide to Green Living Inspired by the USPS “Go Green” Stamp Collection* was just

released in April 2013 and is available on *Amazon.com*. Das said that this latest edition “incorporates suggestions made by friends, colleagues, and readers who read, reviewed, and commented on the first and second editions.” Filled with colorful, whimsical illustrations, the book provides easy-to-digest facts, suggestions, and references that relate to each of the “Go Green” stamp themes. “The most difficult aspect of writing was to keep it simple and easy-to-follow for our audience, without complicating the text with jargon,” said Das.

Das and McKinney are now planning to take their book and message of sustainable living on the road. Several book stores in Lexington, Kentucky, where Phinix is based, have arranged book signings and the Phinix team participated in several Earth Day celebrations to promote the publication of the third edition. The local school district has also invited Das and McKinney to present the ideas outlined in the book to local elementary and middle school students, while the Lexington Public Library has agreed to order copies of the third edition for each of its six branches.

Many of the strategies suggested by the “Go Green” stamps and Das’s book are very simple, common-sense practices—“Turn Off Lights Not in Use;” “Fix Water Leaks;” “Use Efficient Light Bulbs.” Others, such as “Recycle More” and “Plant Trees” require a little more conscious effort. All, said Das, can make a significant impact if more people adopt them. “It starts with one person deciding to make a difference,” he said. “Leading a healthier and happier lifestyle leads to a sustainable planet for all of us.”

Each month, *JOM* profiles a TMS member and his or her activities both in and out of the realm of materials science and engineering. To suggest a candidate for this feature, contact Lynne Robinson at lrobinson@tms.org.



The USPS “Go Green” stamp collection (L) was the inspiration for *Sustainability Gone Postal*. (Above) a book devoted to educating the public on simple ways to save energy and protect the environment. For additional information on this project, contact Subodh Das at skdas@phinix.net.