



Updates on friends and colleagues in the materials community

TMS Launches New Resource on Travel to the United States



In response to questions and requests from its international members, TMS has developed an online library of tools and information to assist with acquiring a visa and preparing for travel to the TMS 2011 Annual Meeting and Exhibition, as well as other scientific meetings or business events taking place in the United States.

Titled, "Resources for International Travelers," the compendium is the newest addition to the TMS Job and Financial Security Center. It is accessed by logging into the TMS Members Only

home page and selecting the title from the tool bar on the left. "Resources for International Travelers" is organized into two sections:

- Navigating the U.S. Visa and Entry Process: Articles and information of specific interest to international scientists and engineers, as well as links to official government and agency resources, updates, forms, and websites. Also included in this section is information on U.S. Customs considerations and port of entry procedures.
- Traveling and Doing Business Abroad: Articles, websites, checklists, and other resources to help international visitors interact com-

fortably within the United States business and social culture. Similar information is provided for a number of other countries, as well.

Because obtaining a visa for travel to the United States can take a minimum of three months in many countries, TMS urges its members to begin the process early to ensure that they have their necessary travel papers in time for the 2011 Annual Meeting, February 27 to March 3 in San Diego, California. Visa Waiver Program travelers should also be aware that the Electronic System for Travel Authorization is now mandatory and should factor this into their travel planning.

Tresa Pollock Assumes New Post at U.C. Santa Barbara



Tresa Pollock, 2009 TMS Fellow and 2005 TMS President, will join the University of California, Santa Barbara, faculty as the new Alcoa Professor of Materials. Prior to this appointment, she was the Van Vlack Professor of Materials at the University of Michigan.

Pollock's impact on materials technology and its underlying science is reflected in numerous prestigious

awards and appointments. In 2005, she became one of the youngest materials science leaders elected to the National Academy of Engineering. She is also a 2002 ASM International Fellow and received the 2005 Magnesium Technology Award and the 2008 Raymond Memorial Best Paper Award from the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME). She has also led a major National Academies study on Integrated Computational Materials Engineering and serves on the Advisory Committee for the Engineering Directorate of the National Science Foundation.

Michael K. Miller Appointed UT-Battelle Corporate Fellow



UT-Battelle has named Michael K. Miller, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), a UT-Battelle Corporate Fellow. The honor is UT-Battelle's highest level of recognition for career achievements in science and technology, performance, and leadership. A

2009 TMS Fellow, Miller's tenure with ORNL spans 26 years.

A member of ORNL's Materials Science and Technology Division, Miller is a recognized scientific leader in the field of atom probe ion microscopy and atom probe tomography. He is currently leading ORNL's fundamental experimental efforts to understand and exploit the unique properties and behaviors of nanostructured ferritic stainless steels.

Duane Johnson Joins Ames Laboratory

Duane D. Johnson, a TMS member since 2007, is the new chief research officer (CRO) at Ames Laboratory. He will be the first individual to hold this position. Johnson will be responsible for initiating, developing, and supervising the lab's scientific programs and overseeing the scientific division, including 90 researchers, 20 students, and 20 support staff. In addition to his role as the laboratory's CRO, Johnson will be appointed the F. Wendell Miller Professor of Energy Sciences at Iowa State University, with a tenured faculty appointment in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and courtesy appointments in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering and the Department of Physics, subject to receiving the necessary approvals.

Johnson comes to Ames Laboratory from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was the Ivan Racheff Professor of Materials Science and Engineering. He was also principal investigator in the Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory and the director of the National Science Foundation-supported Materials Computation Center.



TMS Member Profiles

Meet a Member: Julia Greer Scales New Heights in Piano Performance

By Lynne Robinson

Piano Concerto No. 2 by Johannes Brahms is not merely played with the fingers. It makes demands of the heart, soul, and entire physical being to interpret its complex and, at times, explosive beauty.

For Julia Greer, performing the notoriously difficult piece with the Redwood Symphony in San Francisco stands as one of her greatest musical accomplishments. “It’s an athletic workout—an hour-long solo performance,” she said. “I had to overcome the technical challenges, while making it look easy and transmitting one of the most powerful pieces of classical music to my audience.” The performance, she notes, was also special because it marked her last appearance as principal pianist with the symphony, before moving to Pasadena to assume her current position as an assistant professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

Since then, Greer has found new performance opportunities, most recently giving a violin-piano recital as part of the Lagerstrom Chamber Music Series at Caltech. Still, juggling her work commitments with the needs of two children under the age of three has pushed much of her time at the piano to stolen moments after midnight. “I make

sure to practice every day. My day is not complete if I have not touched a piano, even if only for 10 minutes,” she said.

Greer’s passion for music was kindled early as child in Moscow, when she began taking piano lessons at the age of five. Quickly recognizing that their daughter had a rare talent, her parents encouraged her to audition for the Gnessin School of Music, a prestigious conservatory focused on preparing young people for careers as professional musicians. She was accepted in fifth grade and studied there until her family immigrated to the United States when she was in high school. While a student at Penfield High School in New York, she received a scholarship to study piano at the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, and performed as a soloist with local orchestras.

Even with her early musical accomplishments, Greer said she did not seriously entertain ambitions of becoming a professional pianist when the time came for her to choose a career path. “When I asked one of my piano teachers whether I should pursue music performance professionally, he said ‘if there is anything else you are good at, you should do that and keep music

as your non-professional career,’” she recalled. “Unfortunately, the ambiguity of from where—and if—your paycheck is coming is too high. So, I make money by doing something else, but I always have my music with me.”

Greer kept her music close throughout her undergraduate studies in Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she participated in the Advanced Music Program under a full scholarship and played numerous recitals in the Boston area, including a stint as a featured artist at the Museum of Fine Arts. From there, she moved to California to pursue her doctorate in Materials Science and Engineering from Stanford University and to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at the Palo Alto Research Center. It was during that time that she won first prize in the Concerto Division of the U.S. Open Music Competition and performed extensively as a chamber musician and a soloist.

Greer’s next big musical goal is to compete in (and win) the Van Cliburn International Competition for Outstanding Amateurs once she reaches age eligibility. Greer believes the training required to master the most challenging works in classical music actually makes her a better scientist and educator. “Being a pianist has taught me discipline, patience, and persistence—all of which are necessary skills in academia” she said.

“Music is such an incredibly important part of my life,” Greer continued. “I can never stop playing and performing. It would be like losing a body part—I would survive but would not be complete.”



Figure 1. Greer prepares to perform Piano Concerto No. 1 by Dmitri Shostakovich with the Redwood Symphony, San Francisco.

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 Maureen Byko, *JOM* editor, at mbyko@tms.org.