

*Updates on friends and colleagues in the materials community*

## TMS Board Actions Focus on Growth

Ensuring the continued strength and development of membership resources and opportunities was the underlying theme of many of the actions considered and taken at the TMS Board of Directors meeting on February 27 and March 2. Highlights included:

- Approval of the TMS Enhanced Volunteerism Roadmap and authorization of funding to support its implementation over the next three years. (For details on this important initiative, read the Society Perspective on page 21.)
- Approval to hold the 2011 Aluminum Electrolysis Short Course for the first time ever in Reykjavik, Iceland, from August 29–

September 3.

- Formation of an ad hoc committee consisting of the TMS technical division chairs and Program Committee chair to explore strategic considerations posed by the ongoing growth of the technical program.
- Review of a new Affiliate Membership Program between TMS and the Associação Brasileira de Metalurgia, Materiais e Mineração (ABM). This will provide a discount to the cost of joining both organizations independently for individual, professional members. Watch for additional information on this opportunity in the near future.

## \$25,000 Prize Commemorates Vittorio de Nora Centennial

Nominations are being accepted until June 30 for the 2012 Vittorio de Nora Prize for Environmental Improvements in Metallurgical Industries. This year's competition commemorates the centennial anniversary of de Nora's birth with a \$25,000 Prize, rather than the \$20,000 awarded in previous years.

The de Nora Prize recognizes outstanding materials science research and development leading to the reduction of environmental impacts, particularly greenhouse gas emissions. With an emphasis on extractive processing, the Prize is aimed at cultivating and recognizing the work of young scientists—priority consideration will be given to individuals 40 years or younger.

Applicants for the de Nora Prize must submit a concise selection of reports, papers, patent applications, and other documentation that demonstrates the significance of their technical contribution. Information regarding technical impact based on cost analyses, scale-up information or plant trials should also be included. Of particular interest to the selection committee are technologies that impact the global metallurgical industry. An application and additional details on the de Nora Prize can be accessed at <http://www.tms.org/Society/PDFs/deNoraApplication.pdf>.

The TMS Foundation established the de Nora Prize in 2009 through an endowment from the de Nora family.

## Howard Kuhn Earns SME Award

Howard A. Kuhn has been recognized with the 2011 Eli Whitney Productivity Award conferred by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) for his "distinguished accomplishments in improving capability within the broad concept of orderly production."

Kuhn, a professor at the University

of Pittsburgh, teaches courses in design, manufacturing, product realization, and entrepreneurship, and conducts research on manufacturing for tissue engineering applications. He also served as director of Prometal Technology for The Ex One Co. LLC. He will receive his award at the SME International Awards Gala in June.

## OneMine Expands Collection



OneMine is a collaborative effort among multiple societies to assemble the world's most comprehensive online collection of mining and minerals-based research. Since January 2011, this valuable reference library has undergone a significant expansion, adding, among other resources, a year of Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) Preprints and even more technical documents, articles, and conference papers from AIME, the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, the International Marine Minerals Society, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. TMS content is also well represented among the nearly 70,000 documents available through OneMine, including the following new publication offerings

- *EPD Congress, 1990–2006*
- *Extraction and Processing for the Treatment and Minimization of Wastes, 1994 and 1996*
- *Extractive Metallurgy of Nickel and Cobalt, 1988*
- *Extractive Metallurgy of Copper, Nickel, and Cobalt, 1993*
- *Extractive Metallurgy of Copper, 1976*
- *Laterite Nickel 2004*
- *Metallurgical and Materials Processing Principles and Technologies (Yazawa International Symposium Three-Volume Set), 2003*
- *Modeling, Control, and Optimization in Ferrous and Nonferrous Industry, 2003*
- *Process Mineralogy, I–XIII*

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## TMS Member Profiles

### Meet a Member: Marc Meyers Explores Scientific Consequences through Fiction

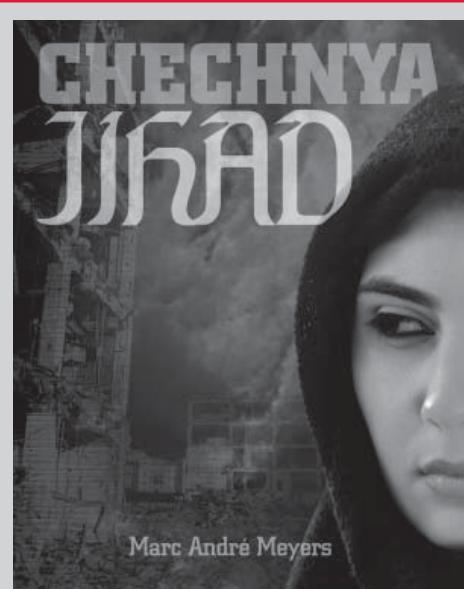
By Lynne Robinson

It was smoldering resentment witnessed at the foot of Mount Elbrus in the Caucasus region of Russia that planted the seeds for *Chechnya Jihad* in Marc Meyers' imagination. Currently professor of materials science at the University of California, San Diego, Meyers was attending a conference on explosive effects in materials and "could feel the tension between the local population and the Russians." The manifestation of this acrimony was generally passive-aggressive in nature. Meyers observed, for instance, that the local Caucasus operators of the funicular that crept up the side of the mountain willfully stranded a group of Russian tourists for an hour or so and that the bus drivers seemed to enjoy giving their passengers a particularly perilous ride. It was after digging a little deeper into the history of the region that Meyers realized how deep the wounds of war ran for the Chechen people and felt moved to shed light on a conflict that had barely grazed the consciousness of most of the world.

Meyers is no stranger to expressing his opinions through works of literature. While an engineering school senior in Brazil, when the country was under military control, he was almost arrested by the Department of Social Vigilance for publishing a poem that ridiculed the military hierarchy and was compelled to leave the country just before graduation. After successfully republishing his poems in English many years later, Meyers was inspired to continue exploring the creative forces of his youth and eventually produced his first published novel, *Mayan Mars*, in 2006.

*Mayan Mars* chronicles the adventures of a scientist trying to save the world from a mutant extraterrestrial virus. *Chechnya Jihad*, Meyers' second novel, published in 2011, likewise has a

scientific experiment gone wrong propelling its action. This time, the technology in question is a super explosive concocted by accident in a New Mexico laboratory by a young materials scientist named Jean-Claude Delvaux, with



The cover of Marc Meyers latest fictional work, released in 2011. His novels are published by Green Grass Press and are available through amazon.com.

much of the subsequent action focused on his attempts to deal with the unintended consequences of his discovery. In the process, he becomes embroiled in the struggles of the Chechen people to preserve their culture and homes.

There are echoes of Meyers' own experiences in the character of Jean-Claude—most notably his Luxembourg heritage and research on the explosive effects in materials, as well as a description of the purposefully stalled funicular that partially inspired the book. "There is no conscious attempt at using real persons as characters in the novel, although I believe that the protagonists in New Mexico are an amalgam of real people," he said. "I deconstruct persons and experiences and

then use these pieces to create different characters." Meyers did note that some of the characters set in Chechnya, Maskhadov, and Basayev, were based on "real fighters that succumbed in the conflict." His extensive research on the region and its people also show in the everyday details he presents on the Chechens and their faith. "One of my hopes is that the reader will develop an appreciation of true Islam, its positive values and strength. It is too often stereotyped in the media," he said.

Many of the characters in *Chechnya Jihad*, including Jean-Claude, are driven to extremes by desperate circumstances, with each act of violence or betrayal only serving to deepen, rather than resolve, the misery. While there are glimmers of hope, Meyers does not offer any pat happy endings to his story. "My intent was to show that violence only begets violence," he said.

Meyers currently has several more novels in various stages of completion and is driven to "keep improving, refining my style and ideas." He said, "I first plow through a book, creating a terrible draft. Then comes the boring part, to rewrite and rewrite. It is an inner struggle."

His reasons for balancing his devotion to the often painful and frequently thankless pursuit of fiction writing with his research and teaching is summarized in the biography that he prepared to support publication of *Chechnya Jihad*: "By writing I can penetrate into unknown worlds, redress wrongs, create beauty and justice, free of the impediments of action and the difficulties and strictures of science."

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](mailto:mbyko@tms.org).