

Member News



Updates on friends and colleagues in the materials community

TMS Members Tapped for Science & Engineering Ambassador Program



Brian Gleeson



Robert Davis

Two TMS members have been named as inaugural ambassadors for the Science & Engineering Ambassador Program, a new initiative created by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering. They are Brian Gleeson, the Harry S. Tack Chair in Materials Science and director, Center for Energy, University of Pittsburgh; and Robert Davis, Bertucci Distinguished Professor, Carnegie-

Mellon University.

Gleeson and Davis both work and reside in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, named as the pilot city for the initiative. As program ambassadors, they will be prepared to work in their local communities to improve the public understanding of and engagement with energy-related issues. A goal of the initiative is for community members to become more comfortable discussing energy topics, explaining energy information to others, and assessing the validity of others' claims and conclusions. It is also expected that ambassadors will gain valuable insights into the perceptions and concerns of members of their local communities. Eventually, the program will expand to include other complex topics in science, engineering, and medicine.

Jay Narayan Wins Holladay Medal



Jay Narayan

Jagdish (Jay) Narayan, 1999 TMS Fellow and a TMS Life Member, has received the 2011–2012 Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal for Excellence. The Holladay medal, named after the first North Carolina State University (NCSU) chancellor,

is the highest honor bestowed by the NCSU Board of Trustees in recognition of a faculty member's outstanding accomplishments in research, teaching, and other professional services. Narayan is the John Fan Family Distinguished Chair Professor in the NCSU's Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and also has been appointed Distinguished Visiting Scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Make Your Voice Heard on the Travel Restriction Issue

The United States Congress is considering federal travel amendment restrictions to be included as part of the DATA Act (HR 2146) and the 21st Century Postal Service Act of 2012 (S. 1789). These actions would limit federal agency personnel from attending more than one meeting/conference per fiscal year held by an organization (either for-profit or not-for-profit) if there is any agency travel expense. The concern for TMS members is that this action would sever many public-private partnerships and could deny the private sector the ability to meet in-person with government officials on all policy matters. Another unwanted impact of the amendment would be the elimination of the ability for technical exchange between federal employees and the broader technical community.

To make your opinions known on this and other issues, visit the TMS Wired to Washington website. From there, you can send convenient, pre-written messages to Congressional leaders on issues of importance to the materials science and engineering community. Additional active topics include streamlining the visa process for scientists and opposing scientific research cuts. Wired to Washington can be accessed at <http://www.tms.org/PGA/PGAw2w.aspx> at the TMS Public & Governmental Affairs Resource Center.

Have All TMS Journals at Your Fingertips with JOMGateway.net

TMS and its journal publishing partner, Springer Science + Business Media, have launched *JOMGateway.net* to provide convenient, centralized access to all of five of its journals: *JOM*; *Integrating Materials and Manufacturing Innovation*; *Journal of Electronic Materials*; *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions A*; and *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions B*.

In addition, the site offers a single point of access to 20 other materi-

als journals TMS members are offered electronically. Logged-in TMS



members can access *JOMGateway.net* from the TMS members only home page at members.tms.org/MEMhome.

Once on the Gateway site, users can:

- Read the most current issue of each journal.
- Search for articles across the site using general search terms or keywords.
- Submit manuscripts to any of the five journals
- Sign up for alerts to new Online First articles added to *JOMGateway.net* as they are published.
- See the most viewed articles for each journal.



TMS Member Profiles

Meet a Member: On the Road with Cindy Belt

By Lynne Robinson

Since the fall of 2011, Cindy Belt and her husband, John, have made the open road their home, streamlining their lives and possessions to fit in the confines of 26-foot motor home, commonly known in the United States as an RV (recreational vehicle).

“We’ve always wanted to travel at some point and wanted to go before we were too old to really enjoy all the hiking and activity,” said Belt. “Plus, we reached a point with a change in my work and our son’s attending college where it made sense to go now.”

The couple had never owned or even vacationed in an RV before this adventure, so learning the finer points of living on wheels full time has brought its share of challenges—and amusement. (“You need to have a sense of humor when traveling,” advises Belt.) Important RV life lessons have included finding a place for the wet sponge in the sink; securing possessions inside the RV so they don’t fall when making turns; and filing taxes and insurance claims while traveling from post

office to post office. “Our first lesson in RV’ing is that yelling is acceptable while driving,” said Belt. “There is a lot of noise from the road or rattles in an RV, so talking quietly is pretty much impossible.” The Belts have also had to contend with inevitable mechanical difficulties (three flat tires in three days), weather issues (storm winds rocking the RV at night), and a bewildering GPS system that has directed them into more than a few tight spots.

But for Belt, this has all just served to enrich the journey, with many of her wry observations posted on her blog, “Travels and Trials of RV Life.” (To view Belt’s blog, go to www.tandtrv.blogspot.com.) Since pulling out of their driveway less than a year ago, the Belts have traveled through more than half the contiguous United States and visited countless parks, monuments, museums, and natural wonders. Belt noted, though, that her favorite stops are often the quirky ones, which she dubs the “ball of twine” attractions. (“Those are the places that promote

having the biggest ball of twine or biggest pistachio nut,” she explained.) Among these, her top choice so far has been Cadillac Ranch, an interactive public art installation in Texas consisting of ten graffiti-encrusted vintage Cadillac cars buried nose first in the ground.

The couple generally doesn’t plan an itinerary much further than two to three weeks in advance. (“Things seem to change—weather, work, family—so anything longer never seems to work,” said Belt.) Often, their longest stays are near airports, so that Belt can travel for her work as an Energy Black Belt for Kaiser Aluminum, which combines her experience in energy management with her expertise as a certified Six Sigma Black Belt. “Luckily I’m working with a company that is understanding of my lifestyle,” she said. “Sometimes I work online with e-mail or phone calls, sometimes I work offline by analyzing data and writing reports, and sometimes I travel to a plant for a week’s work by flying out of the nearest airport. It works for both of us since the company only pays me for my working hours. For me, I’m making gas money.”

The Belts plan to eventually settle on a permanent location, but for the next year or so are looking forward to pursuing the nomadic life, with a new tale to tell around every turn. While chalking up an impressive list of sights and experiences, Belt said that one of the unexpected benefits of living on the road is simplifying life, and not just in terms of possessions. “I really don’t have to be ‘connected’ all the time,” she said. “Cell phone and internet service is spotty in many of the places we visit. And that’s OK.”



(Above right): John and Cindy Belt with their RV. (Left below): Among many other places, the Belts have explored ancient ruins in the southwestern United States (below left) and the gypsum dunefield of White Sands National Monument, New Mexico (above left).

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.