

PROFESSIONAL PREFACE

Volume 17, Number 1

The Newsletter for Student Members of The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society



GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: PENN STATE AND CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITIES

Last fall, TMS established a Graduate Student Advisory Council to address the professional needs of graduate students within the society. The council held an initial meeting at the Materials Science and Technology 2009 conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, last October and will reconvene at the TMS 2010 Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, this month to further look at ways that TMS can meet the unique needs of graduate students.

On campus, many schools have their own organizations to serve these students. This edition of *Professional Preface* looks at the activities of the on-campus graduate student groups at Pennsylvania State University and Case Western Reserve University.

Pennsylvania State University

In the summer, when most undergraduates head home, student activities on campus often come to a halt. Last year, the graduate students at Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) decided to take advantage of this downtime to plan a lecture series geared toward their own needs, according to James Saal, a doctoral student in Penn State's materials program and vice chair of the TMS Graduate Student Advisory Council.

The graduate students organized a lecture series that featured talks by faculty members and alumni from the materials science and engineering department and focused on post-graduate career options for students. The lecture series also incorporated presentations from faculty members in other disciplines, including a talk by one of Penn State's business professors on entrepreneurship. The summer series ended with a tour of a steel plant outside Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

For the plant tour, it made sense, Saal said, to coordinate the trip with the undergraduate students at Penn State in order to benefit as many students as possible and to help defray the cost of the trip. The undergraduate and graduate groups are mostly separate organizations, but there is a lot of coordination among the different materials groups on campus. Last year, Penn State's graduate group participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. In 2010, they plan to participate again in this competitive fundraising event and may even challenge the undergraduate Material Advantage club at their school to form their own team.

Other plans for Penn State's graduate students in 2010 include activities as varied as movie nights and etiquette dinners. The graduate students also plan to arrange meetings and luncheons that encourage student interaction with the distinguished speakers who regularly visit the campus as part of the materials department's seminar series.

Case Western Reserve University

In 2009, the Graduate Materials Society (GMS) at Case Western Reserve University added a new event to its annual line-up: a graduate student research colloquium. In November, the GMS sponsored an event in which three students gave 15-minute presentations on their research.

It was a volunteer-based activity just for graduate students, according to Lisa Deibler, treasurer of the GMS and secretary of TMS's Graduate Student Advisory Council. The goal was to create a casual environment where graduate students could share their

2010 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Each year, the TMS Foundation and TMS technical divisions fund scholarships and awards to help students pursue their academic goals. The application deadline for 2011 scholarships and awards is March 15, 2010. Scholarship applications and submission requirements can be accessed through www.tms.org/Students/Awards.html. The following student members received this year's awards.



1. TMS J. Keith Brimacombe Presidential Scholarship

"I feel incredibly honored and privileged to receive the J. Keith Brimacombe Presidential Scholarship Award. This award will generously help fund my final year of undergraduate education, and give me the opportunity to attend the TMS conference to network with professionals in my field and further develop my research interests."

Kelsey Stoerzinger, Northwestern University



2. TMS Outstanding Student Paper, Graduate Division, First Place

"TMS has been and will continuously be a very important part in my career development since it was firstly introduced to me by my advisor, Dr. Xinghang Zhang, in 2005. I am very delighted and honored to be the recipient of this prestigious award. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to TMS for providing various good opportunities not only for me, but also for many other young scientists."

Engang Fu, Texas A&M University



3. TMS Outstanding Student Paper, Graduate Division, Second Place

"It is a great honor for me to be recognized by an outstanding society such as TMS with this award. I would like to dedicate this award to my family and my advisors, Profs. Peter K. Liaw and Hahn Choo, for their invaluable support and guidance throughout my Ph.D. study. I would also like to thank TMS for their continuous support to student members. This award has already boosted my confidence and has encouraged me to continue to pursue and achieve my education and career goals."

Soo Yeol Lee, University of Tennessee



4. Electronic, Magnetic & Photonic Materials Division Gilbert Chin Scholarship

"I'm so honored to be the recipient of the EMPMD Gilbert Chin Scholarship. I have dedicated many hours to extracurricular research, and am so pleased to see that it has paid off. This scholarship also encourages me to continue my education and remain an active part of TMS in the future. Thank you EMPMD of TMS!"

Sarah Miller, Washington State University



5. Extraction & Processing Division Scholarship

"I am extremely grateful to be a recipient of the generous EPD Scholarship for the 2009-2010 school year. It is nice to have the backing of such a great organization, as TMS is, to help me get through my final year in college."

(CONT. ON NEXT PAGE)

(CONT. ON NEXT PAGE)

2010 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS (CONTINUED)



The financial, academic, and multiple other resources TMS has provided me with are above and beyond what would normally be expected from a student's standpoint. Thank you once again for your generous gift.
Eric Young, South Dakota School of Mines

6. Extraction & Processing Division Scholarship

"I feel very fortunate for the opportunities I have received as a metallurgical engineering student and as a member of TMS. I am grateful for the scholarship I have received from TMS and the ability to continue studying and being a part of the up and coming technology that is currently being developed."

Ryan Morrison, University of Utah



7. Extraction & Processing Division Scholarship

"It is a great honor for my efforts to be recognized by the TMS. This award will help me to pursue graduate studies in metallurgy."

Kalen Jensen, University of Alberta



8. Extraction & Processing Division Scholarship

"Thank you so much for the opportunity you have provided me by choosing me as the recipient for the Extraction & Processing Division Scholarship Award. I am very grateful to receive this award. Not only will this scholarship help to provide financial assistance for the upcoming school year, it also gives me great encouragement for my future in the materials science field. I will strive to do the very best I can and I hope to be an important asset to the study of metallurgy and materials science."

Erin Diedrich, Washington State University



9. Light Metals Division Scholarship

"It is truly an honor to receive the TMS Light Metals Division Scholarship. This scholarship will help to alleviate the cost of attending The Pennsylvania State University and to further my education in the field of materials science and engineering. My research with magnesium and aluminum has helped me to understand the importance of light metals and I hope to contribute to this specific area of metallurgical sciences. The Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Penn State and my research advisor, Dr. Zi-Kui Liu, have greatly helped me to fully embrace the field of materials. I am proud to be recognized by TMS and appreciate the encouragement to pursue excellence in the fascinating field of materials science and engineering."

Laura Jean Lucca, Pennsylvania State University



10. Light Metals Division Scholarship

"I am very honored to receive such a prestigious award from one of the largest materials science and engineering societies in the world. I am truly grateful to TMS for their generosity and encouragement. The provided financial support will help me pursue my studies and research and attend future conferences. I would also like to thank the students and professors of the Materials Engineering Department of McGill University for their passion and enthusiasm."

Dmitri Nassyrov, McGill University



11. Light Metals Division Scholarship

"This scholarship gives me the funds to continue my education. It allows me to take the 18 credits I want to, instead of working at a minimum wage job. This scholarship will allow me to devote more time to my classes, meaning I will not only continue my education but I will receive a better, more complete education because of this scholarship. And for that, I thank you."

Michael Fank, University of Wisconsin



12. Materials Processing & Manufacturing Division Scholarship

"I am honored to be a recipient of the MPMD Scholarship and to join the prestigious list of others who have received this award before me. As a second year recipient, I feel that the previous support of TMS is making me better all the time. Thanks to the support of TMS, my future is looking brighter all the time."

Eric Young, South Dakota School of Mines



13. Materials Processing & Manufacturing Division Scholarship

"I am exceedingly grateful to TMS and the Materials Processing & Manufacturing Division for honoring me with the MPMD Scholarship. This award is a valuable contribution to my materials education, and it encourages me to pursue greater endeavors in education, professional development, and materials research. I would also like to thank the fantastic faculty at Washington State University for their unwavering support."

Whitney Patterson, Washington State University



14. Structural Materials Division Scholarship

"As a student, I am extremely thankful for the commitment of TMS in developing the next generation of professional engineers. The organization is not only a great technical resource, but it also provides me the opportunity to interact with and learn from other people within the materials community."

David Cole, University of Cincinnati



15. Structural Materials Division Scholarship

"I would like to thank you for awarding me the Structural Materials Division Scholarship. This scholarship has given me the opportunity to continue to excel in my field of study. It has assisted me in funding my education. Given this scholarship I will be able to focus more on my academics and continue to strive to keep my scholarship and to be honored for more scholarships. This will help me in my achievements and provide encouragement to be more successful. I appreciate this scholarship very much, and thank you for the support."

Mohamad Zbib, Washington State University

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT (CONTINUED)

research progress with their colleagues. The three presenters represented various stages of the process, from the beginning stages of master's degree research to a nearly finished doctoral project.

While some of Case Western's GMS activities are exclusively for graduate students, Deibler thinks that coordination with their undergrad counterparts is also valuable.

"Undergraduates have a different focus," Deibler said, explaining the need for separate groups. "But it's good to do things together, too, so they can see what it's like to be a grad student."

The two groups come together for a weekly department lunch, an event typically attended by 20–30 people. Everyone pitches in a few dollars, and students take turns preparing lunch. Other GMS social and community activities in 2009 included a Grad Student Night Out at a local billiard hall, barbeques, and participation in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fundraising project.

For 2010, the Case Western GMS is planning to repeat its successful research colloquium and other events, but also is developing new activities. One new project encourages materials students to share their favorite hobbies. Students will meet regularly to take turns teaching their fellow students about their outside interests, opening these grad students to a whole new set of skills that can't be found in a materials classroom.