



## meet a member

### Deborah Fourney Knows the (Fantasy Football) Score

Lynne Robinson

Football playoffs in January, for many in the United States, is a holiday season in its own right, with the wishes, hopes, and dreams of thousands pinned on the maneuvers of their favorite teams. Deborah Fourney, Senior Metallurgical Engineer, Metallurgical Technologies, and vice chair, TMS Professional Registration Committee, counts herself among the faithful, although to her, football is much more than a game. It's family.

One of Fourney's earliest recollections is of her grandmother watching football on television, her kitchen radio tuned to a different game, and a transistor radio held to her ear to follow a third. Her parents had season tickets for the West Virginia University (WVU) Mountaineers and some of Fourney's fondest childhood memories are built around the road trips to the games. One, in particular, foreshadowed her career as a metallurgical engineer.

"The New River Gorge Bridge was being built, and when we drove to Morgantown for the games, my dad would stop to see how much progress had been made," Fourney recalled. "We looked at it from underneath and were able to walk on it before it was opened. That was pretty incredible."

Fourney carried these warm memories into her adulthood to build her own passion for the game. A graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in materials engineering, she is a diehard Hokies fan and holds season tickets, commuting from Mooresville, North Carolina, to attend the games. When she lived in Jacksonville, Florida, for a time, she bought season tickets for the local National Football League (NFL) team, the Jaguars, and kept them even after moving four hours away to Charleston, South Carolina. "I never missed a home game," Fourney said. "I used to know how many miles were on

each stretch of highway." She sadly gave the tickets up when she moved to North Carolina: "A six-hour drive one-way was just too long every other weekend, even for me."

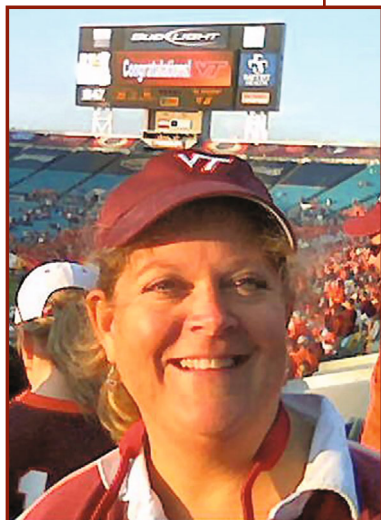
As if being a road warrior for her favorite teams were not enough, Fourney has extended her devotion to the game into the realm of fantasy—fantasy football, that is. Offered through a variety of sports networks, the NFL, and online sources, fantasy football allows users to compete against each other as general managers of virtual teams. Team "owners" build their rosters by "drafting" actual players from professional or college teams and then fielding a lineup each week. The touchdowns, field goals, yards gained, and other statistics achieved by the real players during a game means points gained for the fantasy football teams that include them.

Anyone with a keen interest in football and statistics can play, noted Fourney. "There are always open leagues. You just need to find one that has the kind of scoring options and other characteristics that you like," she said. "I would also recommend finding one that has a nice visual display for keeping track of your player scores."

Fourney has played fantasy football since 1990, and has been skilled and lucky enough to make it to the second round of the playoffs. "If your favorite team isn't doing so well or for games between low ranked teams, it makes the games worth watching," she said.

Still, Fourney prefers the real thing when it comes to her spectator sport of choice. Among her favorite experiences is attending milestone games during Virginia Tech's 1999 undefeated season. She also still follows the Mountaineers with her family, noting that she is the only one of them who didn't attend WVU.

"I cheer for WVU unless they're playing Virginia Tech," she said. "But, Virginia Tech fans will tell you that is just wrong."



Deborah Fourney celebrates the win of her beloved Hokies at the 2007 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship Game.

# member news

## TMS Members Honored at MS&T14

TMS congratulates the following members who were recognized for their exceptional professional accomplishments by the The American Ceramic Society (ACerS) and ASM International at Materials Science & Technology 2014 (MS&T14), October 12–16, 2014.

### ACerS 2014 Annual Honors and Awards Banquet

Monday, October 13

#### 2014 Class of Fellows

*Darryl P. Butt*, Boise State University

*Joanna McKittrick*, University of California,  
San Diego

*Elizabeth J. Opila*, University of Virginia

*Ivan E. Remanis*, Colorado School of Mines  
and Colorado Center for Advanced Ceramics

#### W. David Kingery Award

*Gregory S. Rohrer*, Carnegie Mellon  
University

#### Richard M. Fulrath Award

*Edward D. Herderick*, Advanced  
Manufacturing Initiatives  
Group, GE Corporate

#### DU-CO Ceramics Scholarship Award

*Kevin R. Talley*, Boise State University

#### Richard and Patricia Spriggs Phase Equilibria Award

*Baojun Zhao*, University of Queensland



### 2014 ASM Awards Dinner

Tuesday, October 14

#### Gold Medal

*Tresa Pollock*, University of California,  
Santa Barbara

#### Silver Medal

*John Nychka*, University of Alberta

#### Honorary Membership

*Chandra Sekhar Pande*, Naval Research  
Laboratory

#### Engineering Materials Achievement Award

*James Wilcox*, IBM Systems & Technology  
Group

#### Albert Sauveur Achievement Award

*Yuntian T. Zhu*, North Carolina State University

#### William Hunt Eisenman Award

*Robert E. Schafrik*, GE Aviation (Retired)

#### J. Willard Gibbs Phase Equilibria Award

*Zi-Kui Liu*, Pennsylvania State University

#### Bradley Stoughton Award for Young Teachers

*Amber Genau*, University of Alabama at  
Birmingham

#### Jacquet-Lucas Award

*Thomas Nizolek*, University of California,  
Santa Barbara

#### Marcus A. Grossmann Young Author Award

*Joo Hyun Park*, Hanyang  
University

#### Edward DeMille Campbell Memorial Lecture

*Ian M. Robertson*, University of  
Wisconsin, Madison

#### 2013 ASM/TMS Distinguished Lectureship in Materials and Society

*Robert E. Schafrik*, GE Aviation (Retired)

#### Alpha Sigma Mu Lecturer

*Alexander McLean*, University of Toronto

#### 2014 Class of ASM Fellows

*James C. Foley*, Los Alamos National  
Laboratory

*Hani Henein*, University of Alberta, Edmonton

*Alan F. Jankowski*, Texas Tech University

*Mary C. Juhas*, The Ohio State University

*Bruce A. Pint*, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

*Claudia J. Rawn*, University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville

*Sergei A. Shipilov*, Metallurgical Consulting  
Services Ltd.

*Haiyan Wang*, National Science Foundation and  
Texas A&M University

*Andrzej Wojcieszynski*, ATI Powder Metals

