

in the final analysis

"During my almost eight months of discussions, brainstorming, and travel outside the U.S., I am even more proud of being a TMS member. . . . And the reason is simple in retrospect. TMS has a unique asset of active volunteers and expertise from extraction to recycling and all the science and engineering in between."

—Letter to TMS Technical Committee Chairs, 2015 TMS President Patrice Turchi

I've come to know a lot of TMS presidents over the years and have enjoyed working with them all—whether it has been in my role as executive director or deputy executive director, as editor of *JOM*, or in some other capacity. While presidents differ in so many ways, they all have one common trait: A great passion for advancing TMS, alloyed with an unwavering pride of those unique attributes that make TMS, well, TMS . . . the bottom-up DNA, the network, the mentorship, the programs, the interdisciplinarity, and . . . you're a member; you know. While each president would articulate a unique perspective on what makes TMS great, I conjecture that the above observation by President Turchi reflects a universal sentiment among all presidents.

Another sentiment that all presidents seem share is the desire to leave a favorable legacy for the society. How to do this? They hold the title of president for but one year, and the position allows for very little unilateralism. So, the effective president leads by consensus-building, vision-sharing, and the persuasive power to motivate doers to do things. It is one of the great mysteries and joys in any association to see how these characteristics are expressed as new presidents serve their term. I can share that President Turchi is a tireless advocate for nurturing collaboration within the TMS community. I have seen this in countless ways, not the least of which was during the Board of Directors retreat that he convened last July. Here, while considering growth of the TMS Annual Meeting & Exhibition, the board conceptualized a number of cross-cutting collaborations that led to revisions of the 2018 TMS Strategic Plan.

One of the strategic plan revisions focuses on TMS2017. Here, we will host a pair of meetings within the meeting. One is the 3rd Pan American Materials Congress—a collaboration of TMS and Associação Brasileira de Metalurgia, Materiais e Mineração; Asociación Argentina de Materiales; the Chilean Metallurgy and Materials Society; the Colombian Materials Society; Instituto de Ingenieros de Minas de Chile; the Metallurgy and Materials Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum; the Peruvian Association of Metallurgy, Materials and Minerals; and Sociedad Mexicana de Materiales. That's an impressive array of partners assembled to develop a week-long event. The other meeting within the meeting is Energy Materials 2017—the second installment of a rotating conference series jointly conducted by TMS and the Chinese Society for Metals. Again, a week-long program is envisioned. The coordinated intermingling of these events positions TMS2017 to be a remarkable experience for many TMS communities. It also requires proactive collaboration among TMS technical committees and event organizers to minimize potential overlaps and work together where appropriate. President Turchi's letter cited above was one of the opening moves in facilitating such collaboration.

The other revision to the strategic plan involves the creation of a new committee construct within the technical division architecture. It is called a "bridge committee." To outward appearances, a bridge committee looks like a traditional TMS technical committee. It is unique in that it is structured to affiliate with three or more of the society's five technical divisions. The first committee being assembled via this construct is the TMS Additive Manufacturing Committee, which is being established under the patronage of the full division family: Extraction & Processing; Functional Materials; Light Metals; Materials Processing & Manufacturing; and Structural Materials. This interweaving of the committee into the TMS technical structure should facilitate greater collaboration among all technical communities, improve communication among volunteers, and serve as a model for other committees that deal with cross-cutting themes.

While many volunteers contributed to the outcomes of the July retreat and many more will carry the tactics forward, I will always think of "collaboration" as the signature element of the 2015 Turchi presidency, just as I think of the 2018 TMS Strategic Plan with the 2014 Henein presidency, diversity with the 2013 Holm presidency, professional development with the 2012 Schneider presidency, . . . you're a member; you know.

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