



The Year of “The Move” and Other Milestones: *JOM* Talks with 2016 TMS President Stanley M. Howard

TMS board motions, minutes, and musings

This regular *JOM* feature offers news and perspectives on TMS governance, as well as Board of Directors activities, priorities, and decisions. To find out how you can become involved in these initiatives, contact James J. Robinson, TMS Executive Director, at robinson@tms.org.



Stanley M. Howard

Editor’s Note: Stanley M. Howard will complete his term at the TMS 2017 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (TMS2017), February 26–March 2, 2017, in San Diego, California. *JOM* invited him to reflect on his experiences as president, as well as his hopes for the future of TMS.

JOM: International collaboration continued to be a key strategic priority for TMS during your presidency. What opportunities for international engagement were developed that you would like to highlight?

Howard: TMS is an international society, with 40 percent of our members being from outside the United States. Consequently,

TMS has an abiding interest in international events and services and continues to undertake a number of very significant and important international collaborations. At the 2017 Annual Meeting in San Diego we will hold the 3rd Pan American Materials Congress, which is a collaboration involving nine materials societies residing in the Americas. Additionally, TMS2017 will host Energy Materials 2017, co-sponsored by TMS and the Chinese Society for Metals.

An exciting effort, in collaboration with the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) and the Metallurgy and Materials Society (MetSoc) of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM), is Extraction 2018. Scheduled for August 2018 in Ottawa, Canada, this new extractive metallurgy meeting will involve a wide range of topics, including mineral economics.

TMS has also been actively engaged in collaborative activities with the Federation of European Material Societies (FEMS). In September 2017, TMS will organize several symposia at EUROMAT 2017 in Thessaloniki, Greece. In addition, we are considering to offer young professional meeting exchange slots with Junior EUROMAT in 2018.

In October 2016, TMS held its very successful aluminum electrolysis short course in



Howard traveled to the United Kingdom on behalf of TMS to speak at the 8th International Materials Education Symposium at the University of Cambridge, and to learn about student outreach initiatives developed by Oxford University. Pictured here at Cambridge are (left to right) Marc Fry, director, Education Division at Granta Design, the symposium organizer; James J. Robinson, TMS executive director; and Howard.

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A major undertaking for TMS in 2016 was moving to its new headquarters building. The new address is: TMS, 5700 Corporate Drive, Suite 750, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

China for the first time. The 9th Pacific Rim International Congress on Advanced Materials and Processing was also successful, taking place in Kyoto, Japan, in August 2016, in collaboration with our four Pacific Rim partners representing China, South Korea, Japan, and Australia. TMS is committed to serving the minerals, metals, and materials professional community around the globe and to seeking effective collaborations with societies who share that interest.

JOM: Another priority for your presidential year was examining how to facilitate the transition of students and young professionals to meaningful participation in the life of the Society. What areas would you specifically like TMS to explore going forward?

Howard: TMS continues to welcome students and young professionals through established programs such as scholarships, the Young Leaders Professional Development Awards program, the Material Advantage interface, and student-oriented programming at the annual meeting. Among the most popular of recently created events is the TMS Bladesmithing Competition and an annual meeting symposium organized totally by students.

Younger members and students expect digital access to information. TMS is focused on accommodating this through a new, mobile responsive website rollout in 2017 and continued development of our social media outreach. The Professional Development Committee is also working to offer members new content through

webinars and other technologies. This will be a continuing area of development for TMS members of all ages.

JOM: TMS's move to a new headquarters building was a significant event for the Society during your presidency. How do you feel this will position TMS in providing service and support to its members and to the professional community in the future?

Howard: TMS and the Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST) co-owned a building from 1999 until September 2016, at which time the two societies agreed on the sale of the TMS share to AIST. This agreement enabled TMS to move to a leased headquarters facility that is designed for the future with significant upgrades in information technologies and teleconferencing capabilities. Moving closer to downtown Pittsburgh also offers improved transportation opportunities to support a more diverse workforce. Revenue from the sale is invested in a specially designated fund, which will be available if the Society decides in the future to purchase another headquarters building. Having this liquid asset adds considerably to available TMS reserves.

JOM: In addition to the move, what other milestones or accomplishments would you like to highlight from the last year. How will they benefit TMS members?

Howard: When we speak of accomplishments, I want to make clear that accomplishments come to fruition through the concerted efforts of many, including our TMS members, staff, the executive director, and in some cases, our collaborating societies. Indeed, ideas for new initiatives often come from considerable discussion and consideration. If I had to pick one such accomplishment in the last year, it would be arriving at a completed agreement for Extraction 2018.

JOM: As TMS President, what do you feel are the most significant challenges facing the minerals, metals, and materials professions?

Howard: Leaders have a responsibility to anticipate major trends and suggest successful paths through them. Some trends

are predictable because they have already made their appearance and are affecting our lives, while it is almost certain that the biggest changes are unknowable because of the nature of discovery. Currently recognized trends focus on sustainability and on materials for energy. TMS has addressed both of these subjects with new journals in the last several years: *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions E: Materials for Energy Systems* and the *Journal of Sustainable Metallurgy*. In addition to these topics, the education and training of new professionals is of continuing concern. The need to attract a more diverse cadre of young professionals is becoming increasingly more important. Currently, approximately 20 percent of new professionals entering the workforce are women and that percentage has not increased significantly for some time.

JOM: How is TMS poised to address these challenges?

Howard: TMS knows how to address the technical topics of sustainability and materials in energy. The matter of becoming more diverse is a bigger challenge, but TMS has taken the lead on several important initiatives to address this. In July 2016, TMS organized the 2nd Summit on Diversity in the Minerals, Metals, and Materials Professions on the campus of Northwestern University, building on the good work of the 2014 summit. TMS has also recently established two prestigious awards to honor those who have advanced

diversity and inclusion in our professions: The Frank Crossley Diversity Award and the Ellen Swallow Richards Diversity Award.

JOM: You’ve had quite a busy year, but is there any one experience that stands out to you that you would like to share?

Howard: There have been many valuable and rewarding experiences during my year as TMS President. Among them were meeting with our members and collaboration partners in the United Kingdom, visiting our members at Los Alamos National Laboratory, attending the 2nd Diversity Summit, and attending the National Academy of Engineering–American Association of Engineering Societies Convocation in Washington, D.C. However, the most formative experience for me was a visit to TMS headquarters where each working group presented a review of their operations and tasks.

JOM: What lessons learned have you taken with you from your TMS President experience?

Howard: I have learned that ambitions can easily outpace capacity. Remarkable accomplishments have been achieved and the pipeline of new initiatives is full, but there is always a wish list of unfulfilled things left to accomplish. Outgoing presidents convey these to the incoming presidents and vice presidents and they add them to their list and assign priorities as they see fit. TMS Presidents are never at a loss for new initiatives.

JOM: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Howard: I continue to be greatly impressed by the quality and devotion of TMS volunteers. Their dedicated and effective service to the profession through the society is remarkable and greatly appreciated. My abiding thoughts about leading TMS will be the pleasure of working with exceptional members, a professional staff, and a very effective and helpful executive director. TMS is very fortunate to have such a wealth of talent.



Howard participated in the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME) board retreat in August 2016. Pictured at the event are (left to right): James J. Robinson, TMS executive director; Howard; Hani Henein, AIME trustee and 2014 TMS Past President; Gary Warren, 2015 AIME President and 2011 TMS Past President.

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