

Encouraging Engagement and Expanding Representation: *JOM* Talks with 2017 TMS President David H. DeYoung

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David H. DeYoung

Editor's Note: David H. DeYoung will complete his term at the TMS 2018 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (TMS2018), March 11–March 15, 2018, in Phoenix, Arizona. *JOM* invited him to reflect on his experiences as president, as well as his hopes for the future of TMS.

JOM: Advancing diversity and inclusion within the Society and profession remains the number one strategic goal for TMS. Could you briefly describe the work done specifically this year to support achieving this?

DeYoung: Updating the Fellows Program to support greater participation from a

broad representation of our membership was a major focus of time and effort this year. The Fellows selection process was transitioned from one that was overly rigid in terms of quantitative numbers—numbers of patents, numbers of papers, numbers of students mentored—to one that emphasizes the significance of the accomplishments of the candidate, as well as the impact of those accomplishments. For example, a career of demonstrated technical leadership could qualify one to be a good candidate for TMS Fellow. Changes were also made to the composition of the Fellows selection committee, incorporating several members who are experienced and longstanding TMS members, but not Fellows. This enables us to immediately add diversity to the committee that is not reflected within our current cadre of TMS Fellows. These changes were adopted by the TMS Board of Directors in December 2017. (For more specific details, read the March 2018 *JOM* article, “The TMS Fellow Nomination Process: Ensuring a More Complete Picture of Professional Excellence.”)

To ensure that as many viewpoints as possible are represented throughout our entire volunteer leadership structure, the TMS Technical Division Council, made up of our technical division chairs, also looked at ways to stimulate nominations for leadership positions on our technical committees that would help increase the diversity of the candidate pool. The TMS Board established an ad hoc committee to address the same issue for TMS functional committees.



David H. DeYoung, 2017 TMS President, introduces himself to the membership at the TMS-AIME Awards Ceremony held during the TMS 2017 Annual Meeting & Exhibition in San Diego.



DeYoung, who is the Director of R&D, Breakthrough Technology for Alcoa Corporation, hosted a visit by TMS Board of Directors members and several staff members to the Alcoa Technical Center as part of the Board's strategic planning retreat weekend in July.

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

DeYoung: In fulfillment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with FEMS (Federation of European Materials Societies) in 2016, TMS members and volunteers organized several successful symposia at EUROMAT 2017, the FEMS biannual meeting, held in September in Thessaloniki, Greece. TMS programming accounted for about 10 percent of the approximately 1,600 oral presentations offered at EUROMAT 2017. To support their commitment in the MOU, FEMS volunteers have developed a keynote symposium of invited talks on Energy and Transportation from a European Materials Perspective, to be held at the TMS 2018 Annual Meeting & Exhibition in Phoenix.

Another initiative that has continued during my Presidential year is the Extraction 2018 conference developed as a collaboration of the Metallurgy and Materials Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum; the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME); and TMS. We greatly exceeded our target for abstract

submissions and will be offering five professional development programs, an industry-focused trade show, and several high-value networking events.

The meeting will take place August 26–29, 2018, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The TMS International Affairs Committee, along with the TMS Extraction & Processing Division leadership, are already communicating with other international societies about the possibility of making this event an ongoing series that

will pull the global extractive metallurgy community together.

JOM: Another priority for your Presidential year was focusing on the particular needs and interests of TMS members who work in industrial settings. What specific initiatives have been advanced to address this area?

DeYoung: Our work on updating the Fellows program, as I described previously, is a good step to support members who work in industry, who are underrepresented in the program.



During the annual AIME Board of Trustees meeting in August, David DeYoung and other members of the delegation toured the EP Minerals pit mine outside of Reno, Nevada. Pictured from left are: 2011 TMS President and AIME Trustee, Garry Warren; 2015 TMS President and incoming AIME Trustee, Patrice Turchi; DeYoung; James J. Robinson, TMS Executive Director.



DeYoung's participation at EUROMAT 2017 in September included celebrating the accomplishments of the 2017 TMS-Federation of European Materials Societies (FEMS) Young Leaders International Scholar, Mohsen Asle Zaeem. Pictured from left: James J. Robinson, TMS Executive Director; DeYoung; Zaeem.

Feedback from our ad hoc Industrial Advisory Committee underscores the need to offer professional development opportunities. There is likewise a feeling that there are too many meetings on similar topics. The Extraction 2018 meeting that we have undertaken to address this need consolidates extractive programming thrusts by three different societies.

We are also in the early planning stages of developing a new stand-alone meeting on safety with our American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME) sister societies—SME, Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST), and Society of Petroleum Engineers. Our intent is to offer a high-value meeting with strong industrial application on a topic that is not covered comprehensively in other venues. The proposed meeting is slated for 2020.

JOM: What other TMS milestones or accomplishments would you like to highlight from the last year. How will they benefit TMS members?

DeYoung: TMS rolled out a new website in 2017, which better facilitates access

to member information and benefits. The TMS Board also analyzed certain financial aspects of TMS to ensure the long-term financial viability of the society. Finally, with ASM International's decision to exit the Materials Science & Technology (MS&T) conference, TMS and the other MS&T partners—AIST and the American Ceramics Society—have defined a very exciting path forward to continue and expand this important meeting. I firmly believe these efforts will result in an enhanced MS&T meeting experience.

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

DeYoung: Globalization of our industries brings both challenges and opportunities, and we need to support our members in their abilities to negotiate these ongoing changes. I believe that TMS maintains a strong leadership position in addressing this since the Society already facilitates interactions among technical professionals across the globe. Our annual meeting is a great example, with more than half of the attendees representing nations outside the United States.

JOM: Is there any one experience from your Presidential year that stands out to you?

DeYoung: One experience that stands out to me is the strong participation of TMS in EUROMAT 2017 and the great reception and recognition that we received from the FEMS leaders. It was heartwarming to see many TMS members at the meeting in Greece and a great example of the way TMS represents itself extremely well in the broader technical community on the global stage.

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

DeYoung: My experience as TMS President has reinforced to me how powerful it is to get a group of individuals engaged on a topic and give them the freedom to act and to look at the results they can deliver.

