

# TMS: An Essential Connection to an Evolving Profession

George T. “Rusty” Gray III



It is with excitement and a great sense of honor that I accept the Presidency of The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society for 2010–2011. Let me introduce myself. My name is George Thompson Gray III, but no one calls me that.

To family, friends, and the materials community, I’m “Rusty;” a nickname given to me by my grandfather.

My education includes a B.S. and M.S. from the South Dakota School of Mines, a Ph.D. from Carnegie-Mellon University, and a three year postdoctoral fellowship at the Technical University in Hamburg-Harburg, Germany. Today, I’m a Laboratory Fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where I have pursued both fundamental and applied research for the last 25 years.

When not at work, I enjoy a number of activities outside of materials science including bee-keeping, weaving baskets, and designing and building stained glass lamps. I also have a passion for volunteering to help those less fortunate. For each of the last eight years, for example, I’ve spent a week in Mexico as site-boss for 50–80 high school students there to help build houses.

I have been supported in all of these activities, in more ways than I can name, by my wife Altana and our two children, Alex and Krista.

As a professional, I have been an active member of TMS since 1986. As a young professional, TMS served as my primary conduit of materials science knowledge and the principle place for me to present and receive technical feedback on my research. Within TMS, I have served on the Programming, Ti-

tanium, and Mechanical-Behavior committees and served two terms on the TMS Board of Directors—first as chair of the Structural Materials Division and then as the Director of Publications.

As is undoubtedly the case with many of you, TMS has been—and is—my central networking tie into the evolving world of materials and a welcoming venue to meet twice a year with research colleagues and friends.

My goals as TMS president are to work with you, the volunteers, along with TMS staff, to maximize the value of TMS to its membership by strongly supporting our core strengths. These include maintaining TMS as:

- The preferred source of and dissemination venue for leading-edge technical information and knowledge for its members
- The home society for the manufacturing, engineering, research, and materials education communities and cultures, bridging science and engineering technologies critical to industry, research, and academia
- The society dedicated to excellence and growth in supporting the evolving field of materials science and engineering through education, and the application of materials to benefit societal needs

As president I hope to positively impact TMS’s value to members in three specific areas: international liaisons, leadership development, and the society’s value proposition.

A focus on international liaisons is critical because TMS must remain agile in the rapidly changing materials field; one avenue is through international teaming initiatives. This year’s jointly organized conference with the Brazilian Metallurgical, Materials, and Mining Society (ABM) builds on the TMS Al-

liance of the Americas initiative aimed at working with society partners from South America and Canada. To the north, initiatives are underway with the Metallurgical Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, especially with our participation on Lead-Zinc 2010 during their Conference of Metallurgists.

Next, leadership development is key because leaders within strong, enduring organizations don’t happen by chance; they are sought, most often through informal and personal contacts and thereafter developed and nurtured on an ongoing basis. While staff can help coach the process, the volunteers are best positioned to influence members’ engagement in committees, boards, etc.

Finally, the focus on our “value” proposition: TMS is committed to demonstrating its ability to remain relevant to meet the ever-changing needs of our diverse membership through innovations in our technical meetings and exhibits, publications, information technologies and content, and member services while continuing to focus on fostering an inclusive environment for the very diverse community that is materials science and engineering.

As TMS continues to develop and grow new initiatives in many of these areas, it is you, the membership, who I challenge to both support our society and our materials community. Seize any opportunity to mentor a new engineer or scientist, promote your field through organizing a symposium, volunteer in your local schools promoting science and math, or join a TMS committee.

We’ll all be richer for the effort.

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