

Feature

Early Career Faculty Fellow Update



While many other awards solely recognize past accomplishments, the TMS Early Career Faculty Fellow (ECFF) program has a decided focus on the future. With its stated goal of “broadening the society’s technical



“The Early Career Faculty Fellowship draws you more closely into TMS-related activities, such as symposium organization, which provides a lot of opportunities to make others in your field aware of your work.”

—Michael J. Demkowicz, Assistant Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (ECFF 2012)

profile,” the ECFF initiative opens doors that promising young faculty members can enter to advance their passion for emerging disciplines, new ideas, and innovative approaches within TMS and materials science and engineering (MSE) as a whole.

“Starting a career as a young faculty member these days is not an easy task, and it can sometimes be difficult for such a person to find a good ‘home’ in TMS,” said Garry Warren, TMS Past President and member, Board of Trustees of the TMS Foundation, which funds the ECFF program. “The Early Career Faculty Fellow Award is aimed at making that transition easy and beneficial for both TMS and the award winners. It really is a win-win proposition. The award requirements, such as speaking at the Young Leader Tutorial Luncheon Lecture and organizing a symposium, provide a valuable head start on building a resumé and networking that will assist young faculty members throughout their careers.”

Ryan Roeder, named the first ECFF in 2007, said that the leadership opportunities made available through the award enabled him to contribute significantly to his field of



Ryan Roeder

interest, biomaterials. Roeder chaired the Biological Materials Science Symposium in 2008 as a requirement of the award, and then chaired it again

NOMINATE THE NEXT EARLY CAREER FACULTY FELLOW

Nominations are being accepted through April 1 for the 2014 Early Career Faculty Fellow. **This year will mark an expansion of the program to support two Fellows.** Aimed at individuals employed in the tenure-track position of assistant professor or equivalent at an academic institution, the award serves the dual purposes of recognizing professional accomplishment while also providing the award recipient with the technical and financial support needed to contribute to TMS activities and his or her own professional development. A key criterion is a demonstrated ability to “broaden the technological profile of TMS.” Nominees do not have to be TMS members. Award requirements include attending two TMS Annual Meetings, making a brief presentation at the Young Leader Tutorial Luncheon Lecture in the first year of the award, and organizing a symposium during the second year.

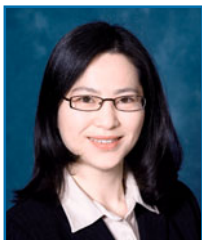
For information and access to the nomination form, go to <http://www.tms.org/Society/TMSawards.aspx>.

in 2009. “TMS has been historically rooted in traditional engineering materials and metallurgy,” he said. “(As the ECFF,) I was able to work with others to promote the growth of biomaterials programming within the society. I feel that my most important contribution to organizing the symposium was initiating a student poster contest to increase student enthusiasm for and interest in the field of biomaterials, while also raising the visibility of biomaterials within TMS.”

Long after his obligations as an ECFF had been fulfilled, Roeder continued to be a leading advocate for the biomaterials field, most recently as chair of the TMS Biomaterials Committee. “I am very pleased that the state of biomaterials programming within TMS was able to grow substantially during these years due to support from the society and many other individuals who fostered and supported my leadership,” he said.

Roeder, an associate professor in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at the University of Notre Dame, feels that the recognition of being an ECFF has also helped contribute to his own growth as a professional. “One cannot know for certain which specific events were key

to other specific events on the journey of one’s career,” he said. “However, I can say that this recognition was followed by many invitations and opportunities to serve on journal editorial boards, peer-review for federal funding, academic, and industrial advisory boards, and other programming initiatives within the field of biomaterials. On a personal level, the award certainly preceded my own promotion to tenure within my university.”



Katsuyo Thornton

Katsuyo Thornton, associate professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan, followed a similar trajectory after

being named the ECFF in 2008. “The Early Career Faculty Fellow Award has definitely helped solidify my career in several ways,” said Thornton. “It enabled me to network with top materials scientists and engineers with whom I could share my passion in computational materials science and engineering. The discussions during these networking events led to my participation in the Integrated Computational Materials Engineering (ICME) Ad Hoc Committee, which then evolved into the full-fledged TMS ICME technical committee—I was selected to be the inaugural chair.”

Over the three years that she chaired

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

AIME Robert Lansing Hardy Award

Another TMS award opportunity specifically geared to supporting the careers of young professionals is the AIME Robert Lansing Hardy Award. Winners are selected based on their exceptional promise of a successful career, rather than for any specific accomplishment. Candidates must not have reached their 35th birthdays by December 31 of the year in which the initial nomination is made, and unlike the ECFF, they must be members of TMS. The award also highlights young professionals making contributions to industrial advancements in metallurgy and materials science, including minerals processing, extractive, physical or adaptive metallurgy, and metal processing. Established in 1956, the Hardy Award claims some of the most prominent figures in MSE within its roster of winners. Nominations for the Hardy Award are being accepted until April 1.

For information and access to the nomination form, go to <http://www.tms.org/Society/TMSawards.aspx>.

the ICME Committee, Thornton was pleased to see it grow to more than 60 members with active subcommittees on education, programming, and cyberinfrastructure. “The committee is thriving, and I believe it has helped to



“Winning this award has greatly expanded my network in the professional community. It is an excellent opportunity for young professionals.”

—Xingbo Liu, Associate Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, West Virginia University (ECFF 2010)



A few ICME Committee members thank Katsuyo Thornton (ECFF 2008) for her service as inaugural chair at the TMS 2012 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (left to right): David Howe, George Schmitz, George Spanos, Paul Mason, Carrie Campbell, Thornton, Peter Collins, Laura Bartolo, Mark Tschopp, Greg Olson, and Neeraj S. Thirumalai.

bring the community together to move the field of ICME forward,” she said.

Like Roeder, Thornton found the award requirement to organize a symposium in her area of interest particularly fulfilling. “I themed it around the synergies of experimental and computational materials science. It was a great experience, and we are running a follow-up symposium at TMS2013,” she said. These and other experiences originating from the ECFE program, she noted, “helped me establish my core area of service and research.”

Recognizing the value that the ECFE program has brought to both the

MEET THE 2013 EARLY CAREER FACULTY FELLOW



Julia Greer, the 2013 TMS Early Career Faculty Fellow and assistant professor, Materials Science and Mechanics, California Institute of Technology, will present “A Scientist, a Parent, a Teacher, a Mentor . . . How to Balance it All?” at the Young Leader Tutorial Luncheon Lecture on March 5 at The TMS 2013 Annual Meeting & Exhibition in San Antonio, Texas. Her talk will explore issues related to living and working in a world where career, family, and personal pursuits simultaneously require 100 percent of one’s attention.

As part of the discussion, Greer will provide examples of effective and ineffective situations, while bringing to light the consequences of neglecting to achieve internal balance. “As a mom of two little girls, trying to set up a work/life balance has been more challenging than I had ever imagined,” said Greer. “Yet, it is of key importance as I find that spending quality time with my children makes me a better scientist, and intense scientific pursuit facilitates better parenting.”

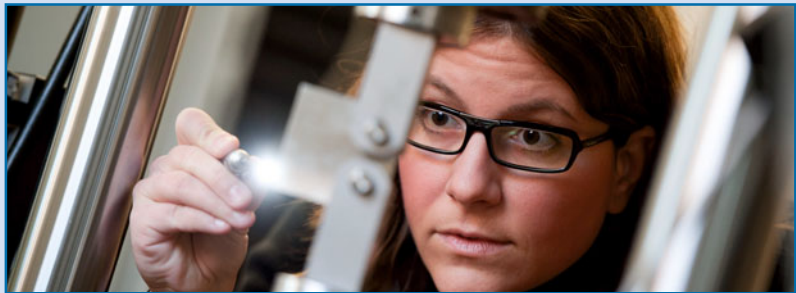
award winners and the TMS organization, the TMS Board recently voted to expand the initiative to fund two Fellows a year instead of one, starting in 2014. (See sidebar: “Nominate the Next Early Career Faculty Fellow”.) “I believe the benefits that TMS has received through this program have been tremendous,” said Warren. “The high level of participation by the Fellows that it supports is of great value to the health of the society. We look to this group as potential future TMS leaders.”

Diana Lados, associate professor of Mechanical Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the 2011 ECFE, also applauds the program as a conduit for presenting fresh and evolving concepts to the greater MSE community. Lados explained that the goal of her group’s work is to advance sustainable materials design and manufacturing by merging fundamental materials processing knowledge with materials performance and reliability. “Being a TMS Early Career Faculty Fellow Award recipient provided



“The contacts I developed through receiving this award enhanced the impact of my team’s work of making simulation tools available to the MSE community via the National Science Foundation’s nanoHUB.org.”

—Alejandro Strachan, Associate Professor of Materials Engineering, Purdue University (ECFF 2009)



Being named the ECFE in 2011 provided Diana Lados with opportunities to share her work and passion for materials design integration with a wide audience.

me with the very special opportunity to organize a symposium, Integrative Materials Design: Performance and Sustainability, at TMS2012,” she said. “This enabled me to introduce and discuss these concepts in a broader context and disseminate the ideas and developments to a larger and more diverse audience.” Lados said that her initial symposium was so well received, that the Mechanical Behavior of Materials Committee has endorsed it as a regular TMS annual meeting event. “This series will facilitate enhanced communication and more effective collaborations within the MSE community in the

broad and fertile ground of materials design integration,” Lados said.

Warren echoed Lados’s perspective. “I firmly believe that the ECFEs are and will continue to be active, enthusiastic supporters of TMS and will have a positive influence on one of our most important goals—high quality technical programming,” he said. “I also think they will have a strong influence on their students, encouraging them to do the same and ensuring future generations of leaders for both TMS and the MSE community.”

Lynne Robinson is a news and feature writer for TMS.