



member news

IIT Kanpur Wins TMS Member Recruitment Contest

Kaitlin McMahon



Kantesh Balani, Material Advantage advisor for the chapter at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Congratulations to the Material Advantage (MA) chapter at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) for recruiting the most graduating students to become professional TMS members and winning the TMS membership recruitment contest. With 93 recent graduate applications submitted, the chapter received \$1,500 for their efforts. Kantesh Balani, associate professor and MA faculty advisor at IITK, commented that although he used his position as a professor and workshop organizer to spread the word about TMS membership, the students were the biggest factor in the chapter's success. Taking the recruitment challenge to heart, students talked with their peers—even going door-to-door with their message—and helped interested students fill out their applications. “This team effort led to the overwhelming success of Material Advantage at IITK,” said Balani.

“TMS professional membership connects and provides a strong means of networking with other professionals in industry and academia alike,” said Balani, noting that it's important to help students recognize that MA and TMS membership can provide them with a platform to a variety of opportunities. As a former secretary and chair of the MA chapter at Florida International University, Balani knew how students could benefit from an MA chapter at IITK. “After returning to India in July 2008 as a faculty member, I realized that students were not aware of the Material Advantage program. I got involved in creating the chapter at IIT Kanpur, which was formally established in September 2009.”

Most of the students that Balani talked with during this process were also unaware that TMS offers the first year of professional membership free to

graduating students. Upon learning more about the opportunities available to them, they were eager to join the TMS community. “What we forget to realize is that as science and engineering come together, it is all ‘materials.’ That gives material scientists an edge over any other science or engineering discipline. The member recruitment contest provided a forum to remind us that materials are a major part of our lives,” said Balani. “But mainly it was about joining TMS as a family member of Material Advantage.”

To learn more about the Material Advantage program, or to fill out a recent graduate application to join TMS at no cost, visit www.tms.org/Students.



Student members of the Material Advantage chapter at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur recruited 93 recent graduates to join TMS as professional members.

Krishna Rajan Appointed Erich Bloch Endowed Chair

Krishna Rajan has been appointed the Erich Bloch Endowed Chair in the new Department of Materials Design and Innovation (MDI) at the University at Buffalo (UB). The MDI will focus on training students to use advanced computational tools, in conjunction with bench science, with the goal of reducing the time and cost it currently takes to develop new materials. Similar to the goals of the U.S. Materials Genome Initiative, the department plans to apply information science and data to help develop new

materials that can aid in solving economic and societal problems.

Rajan previously served as the Wilkinson Professor of Interdisciplinary Engineering at Iowa State University, directed the school's Institute for Combinatorial Discovery, founded the Combinatorial Science and Materials Informatics Collaboratory, and worked at the U.S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory as an associate research scientist. He has authored or co-authored more than 300 publications.



Krishna Rajan

Dan Thoma Returns to University of Wisconsin

Dan Thoma was named the first director of the Grainger Institute for Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) in June. Thoma earned his Ph.D. from UW-Madison in 1992, returning to his alma mater from Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he served as the deputy division leader for the Materials Science and Technology Division.

The institute, established in June 2014 through The Grainger Foundation, will focus on transdisciplinary research for advanced manufacturing and materials

discovery. The main idea is to help predict the behavior of new materials and control external variables, which will aid in integrating new materials into society. "The big issue right now is how do we jump technical readiness levels? How do we take a discovery into the prototype stage, and this prototype into production?" said Thoma. "That can only be accomplished with a multidisciplinary approach."

Thoma is the recipient of the 2007 TMS Alexander R. Scott Distinguished Service Award and served as 2003 TMS President.



Dan Thoma

Ainissa Ramirez Wins 2015 Gemant Award

Science communicator and Yale University professor Ainissa Ramirez was honored with the American Institute of Physics' 2015 Andrew Gemant Award at the American Association of Physics Teachers' (AAPT) Summer Meeting in July. The Gemant award recognizes individuals who have contributed to the cultural, artistic, or humanistic dimension of physics. In accepting the award, Ramirez presented the public

lecture "Our Sputnik Moment in STEM Education," offering an evaluation of the American commitment to education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In addition to a cash prize, the award also offered Ramirez a \$3,000 grant to an academic institution of her choosing. She named her childhood library, the Jersey City Public Library-Marion Branch, as the grant recipient.



Ainissa Ramirez

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with the global minerals, metals, and materials community. Renew your membership by December 31, 2015 to make sure you receive continued access to these and all the TMS membership benefits for the whole of 2016. Log on to members.tms.org today to get started.