

## A Simple Plan Revisited:

James C. Foley



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**Editor’s Note:** James Foley completed his term as TMS President at the TMS 2020 Annual Meeting & Exhibition, February 23–27, 2020, in San Diego, California. *JOM* invited him to reflect on his experiences as president, as well as his hopes for the future of TMS.

When I began my tenure as TMS President, we had just announced a new strategic plan for the Society—TMS Aspires—which painted a picture of what our ideal professional community would look like. At the same time, I announced some aspirations of my own: a simple, five-step plan for a successful year. Let’s see how we did on both fronts.

First, from a Society-wide perspective, the TMS Aspires plan consisted of three overarching goals.

**Goal 1: TMS aspires to be a highly inclusive society where all materials students and professionals feel welcome and diversity is celebrated.**

One example of how we worked toward this goal was attending the STEM Inclusion Study Best Practices Workshop in Washington, D.C., last summer. This workshop was based on the results of the



Foley presented Kevin Hemker, right, with a gift for his service as 2018 TMS President during TMS2019, when Foley officially began his presidential term.

## 2019 TMS President James Foley Talks With JOM

2018 *STEM Inclusion Study*, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). I, along with several other representatives from TMS and 15 or so additional science and engineering organizations, spent a day discussing and brainstorming how we can all better promote equality and inclusion among the STEM communities represented by our memberships. TMS was the only materials professional society that participated in this groundbreaking assessment of diverse groups in the STEM workplace, and many of the ideas they discussed are now being explored and developed more fully through the TMS Diversity Committee.

**Goal 2: TMS aspires to be the place where global materials practitioners come together and participate in vibrant annual meetings, specialty conferences, courses, student activities, and other events.**

We made great strides on this front, both with some of our bigger conferences and our smaller specialty meetings. The TMS 2020 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (TMS2020) attracted a record number of abstracts—surpassing 5,000 abstract submissions for the first time in TMS history—while our upcoming fall meeting, Materials Science & Technology 2020

(MS&T20), will be hosting roughly 100 symposia—a 10% increase over previous years. And I know that bigger doesn't always mean better, but in this case, it does mean that more and more people are recognizing the value of presenting at and attending TMS meetings.

In addition, we moved forward with several collaborations with partnering societies. This included participating in the first Materials in Nuclear Energy Systems (MiNES) conference, which was hosted by the American Nuclear Society in 2019 and will be hosted by TMS in 2021, and signing a new agreement with the Association for Iron & Steel Technology to jointly plan the 2021 Austenite Formation and Decomposition Conference. TMS is also a lead organizing society for the inaugural Congress on Safety in Engineering and Industry 2020, which brings together the perspectives and talents of seven leading engineering societies and the National Academies, with support from the United Engineering Foundation.

**Goal 3: TMS aspires to be the society that envisions, defines, and enables the future by gathering and empowering materials experts to scope the future of materials science, engineering, and technology.**

In 2019, we introduced *three* new studies. Two of them, *Metamorphic Manufacturing: Shaping the Future of On-Demand Components* and *Verification and Validation of Computational Models Associated with the Mechanics of Materials* were available in March in time for the TMS 2019 Annual Meeting & Exhibition, while the third, *Creating the Next-Generation Materials Genome Initiative Workforce*, was released in December.

The newest TMS study team is currently working on *Accelerating the Broad Implementation of Verification and Validation in Computational Models of the Mechanics of Materials and/or Structures*, supported by the NSF and set to be released in August 2020. TMS is really becoming a leader in developing these influential technology studies and getting them into the hands of people who can use them.



Past, present, and future: TMS leaders gathered together at MS&T19 in October 2019 in Portland, Oregon. From left to right: Tom Battle, 2020 TMS President; Jim Robinson, TMS Executive Director; Foley, 2019 TMS President; and George T. "Rusty" Gray, 2010 TMS President.

That's just a quick look at some of the ways the year stacked up to our aspirational goals as a Society. Now here's how my own personal plan measured up. In my speech last year as incoming president, I promised to do five things—and I encouraged all of you to adapt this simple, five-step plan for your own use:

- **Volunteer my time.**
- **Nominate people for awards and positions.**
- **Donate to the TMS Foundation.**
- **Promote TMS.**
- **And encourage others to do the same.**

Volunteering my time was easy enough. There were plenty of Presidential duties to keep me busy throughout the year!

As TMS president, I had plenty of opportunities to promote TMS and encourage others to do the same. My travels as an ambassador for TMS took me to Sweden for the Federation of European Materials Societies' EUROMAT conference, which featured programming organized by TMS; to Dallas for a Board of Trustees meeting of American Institute of Mining,

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Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME); to Portland for MS&T19; and to Washington D.C. for a congressional briefing on Metamorphic Manufacturing, to name a few. I’ve definitely checked those two boxes.

On a personal level, I was able to nominate deserving individuals for several awards and leadership positions within TMS, which is something that is very important to me. But I also got to see the introduction of **three new awards**, the first recipients of which were honored at the TMS2020 Awards Ceremony in February. These were:

- **Frontiers of Materials Award**
- **Young Innovator in the Materials Science of Additive Manufacturing Award**
- **William D. Nix Award**

None of these awards would be possible without the support of the TMS Foundation, and yes, I made my contribution this year. Hopefully, many of you did the same. A significant



What’s your word? Foley used “community” to describe TMS membership in one word during a stop at the TMS Member Lounge at MS&T19 in October 2019.



During his year as president, Foley traveled to TMS headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in July 2019 along with the rest of the Board of Directors for its annual summer retreat. Pictured, from left to right, is: Cindy Belt, Extraction & Processing Division Chair; Raymundo Arroyave, Functional Materials Division; Alexis Lewis, Membership & Student Development Director; John Howarter, Public & Governmental Affairs Director; Kevin Hemker, 2018 TMS President; Brad Boyce, Programming Director; James C. Foley, 2019 TMS President; Jim Robinson, TMS Secretary/Executive Director; Mark Stoudt, Materials Processing & Manufacturing Division Chair; and Michele Manuel, Content Development & Dissemination Director.

undertaking for the Foundation in 2019 was redesigning its website, refreshing its brand, and more specifically highlighting its strategic focus. If you haven’t already, please check out [www.TMSFoundation.org](http://www.TMSFoundation.org) to learn more about how the Foundation supports students and young professionals in our field, including awards like the ones that I previously mentioned.

All in all, I think the Society and I both did a pretty good job of making good on our promises. And I’m sure that most of you will find, if you look back over the past year, that you’ve contributed in some way, too, to advancing our Society and our profession.

Maybe you promoted a deserving colleague with an award nomination. Maybe you donated to the future of our profession through the TMS Foundation. Maybe you shared important research at one of our conferences or through one of our journals.

No matter what form it takes, I’d encourage each and every one of you to continue making contributions, in your own way, according to your own plan, in the coming year. I know I will.

