

2020 TMS President Tom Battle: *Be a Part of TMS's Future*

Thomas Battle



Tom Battle attends a mentoring event, as sharing his own experiences with young scientists and engineers to help nurture the next generation of the minerals, metals, and materials community has long been a passion of his.

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—Tom Battle

It is hard to believe that I first attended a TMS annual meeting almost 40 years ago!

I was in graduate school at the Colorado School of Mines when my thesis advisor, John Hager, an active TMS volunteer, recommended that I attend the annual meeting. So, a number of us grad students drove from Denver, Colorado, to Dallas, Texas, in an unheated van in

mid-winter. I don't remember many details of that meeting—except the cold—but I was hooked.

I made my first presentation at another TMS meeting in New York City, this time encouraged to do so by my University of Michigan Ph.D. advisor, Robert Pehlke, 1983 TMS Fellow, and one of my instructors, Wayne Jones, 1999 TMS President. I have been involved in TMS ever since.

Like most of you, my volunteer involvement started at the technical committee level, in areas corresponding to my college interests—Solidification, Pyrometallurgy, what is now Process Modeling and Analysis, and later Titanium. Through these committees, I started becoming involved in the planning and running of technical symposia and other events that make the TMS experience special. As time went on, my involvement came at a higher and higher level, until I joined the Society's Board of Directors, first as chair of the Extraction & Processing Division ten years ago and now as part of the Presidential rotation. It really isn't all that difficult to progress to this level in the Society—it just requires you to do two things.

First, if you agree to a task, do it as well as you can, despite all the issues distracting you from your volunteer work (such as the requirements of a job, of raising a family, your social life, sleep...).

Second, forget how to say "no." If you're enthusiastic and do a decent job, someone on TMS staff or the volunteer leadership will notice and find something else for you to do, from technical committees to technical divisions, from functional and awards committees to the Board. Just persevere and keep saying "yes!"

I will be taking over the leadership of the Board of Directors and the Society at a good time. More than 1,000 volunteers have joined 2019 President Jim Foley to continue to make TMS and, in particular, our annual meeting, a special experience.

During my career, I have seen TMS become more broadly based, in terms of technology areas we cover and the members and attendees we attract. We have moved from a focus on minerals and metals to cover all materials, including polymers, ceramics, biomaterials, electronic materials, and composites. We have helped to improve the understanding of established technologies and embraced new ones, including additive manufacturing and integrated computational materials engineering (ICME).

Our membership base has expanded in all of our technical constituencies—industry, academia, and government. It has also expanded to include a large contingent of members from other parts of the world. Our membership, volunteers, and volunteer leadership are more open than ever to working with any metals or materials scientist or engineer, regardless of gender, nationality, or area of expertise. In fact, we are actively *encouraging* more diversity in our volunteer and leadership ranks. Our goal now is to make diversity not something external and unique, but part of

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—Tom Battle

how we function all the time, as a Society. To that end, our 4th Summit on Diversity in the Minerals, Metals, and Materials Professions will not be a standalone event, but an integral part of the TMS 2021 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (TMS2021) next year in Orlando, Florida.

We will be hosting another event at TMS2021, as well: the 5th International Symposium on Nickel and Cobalt, which will be organized with our partner society in Canada, the Metallurgy & Materials Society (MetSoc) of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM). Based on member needs, interests, and passions, we are involved more and more with our sister societies, both those based in the U.S. and around the world. This is evidenced, for example, by our hosting of the 9th International Symposium on Lead and Zinc Processing at TMS2020 last February. This event is now in its 50th year and recently expanded to include five organizations from the

United States, Canada, Germany, Japan, and China. Also at TMS2020, we hosted the 3rd International Symposium on Electrometallurgy with MetSoc.

This is where we currently stand, but how should we evolve going forward? That is up to you. TMS is an organization that is driven from the bottom up, so we rely on our volunteer members at the technical committee level to help the rest of the organization and the Board move forward.

Now is a great time for you to become more involved with the Society. Let us know how TMS can help your organization, but also how we can further *your* professional and personal development. Better yet, attend a few committee meetings, talk to your volunteer leaders and staff coordinators, and become part of the process! Whoever you are, of whatever background, you are welcome to become part of the future of TMS and the future of metals and materials science and engineering.

2020 TMS Board of Directors

Thomas Battle was officially installed as the 2020 TMS President at the TMS 2020 Annual Meeting & Exhibition in February. The following individuals join him on the TMS Board of Directors to lead the Society in the coming year:

TMS President

Thomas Battle

Extractive Metallurgy Consultant

TMS Past President

James Foley

Sigma-1 Group Leader,
Los Alamos National Laboratory

TMS Vice President

Ellen K. Cerreta

Deputy Division Leader,
Explosive Science and Shock
Physics Division,
Los Alamos National Laboratory

TMS Financial Planning Officer

Charles H. Ward

Chief of the Manufacturing and
Industrial Technologies Division,
U.S. Air Force Research
Laboratory's Materials and
Manufacturing Directorate

Membership & Student

Development Director/Chair

Alexis C. Lewis

Program Director,
National Science Foundation

Programming Director/Chair

Brad L. Boyce

Distinguished Member
for the Technical Staff,
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Professional Development Director/Chair

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Temple Foundation Professor
of Mechanical Engineering,
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Content Development & Dissemination Director/Chair

Judith Schneider

Professor,
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Public & Governmental Affairs Director/Chair

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Division Leader, Explosive Science
and Shock Physics Division,
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Extraction & Processing Division Director/Chair

Christina Meskers

Senior Manager, Open Innovation,
Umicore

Functional Materials

Division Director/Chair

Paul R. Ohodnicki

Associate Professor,
University of Pittsburgh

Light Metals Division Director/Chair

Eric Nyberg

Technology Development Manager,
Tungsten Heavy Powder & Parts

Materials Processing & Manufacturing Division Director/Chair

Mark R. Stoudt

Materials Research Engineer,
National Institute of Standards
and Technology

Structural Materials Division Director/Chair

Daniel Miracle

Senior Scientist,
Air Force Research Laboratory

TMS Secretary/ Executive Director

James Robinson

