

Getting to Know the Incoming 2024 TMS Board Members

Kelly Zappas

In 2024, two new members will join the TMS Board of Directors for three-year terms. This month, *JOM* talks with our new leaders about their past experiences as TMS members and active volunteers and their hopes for the Society's future.

These new board members will begin their term at the end of the TMS 2024 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (TMS2024) in Orlando, Florida, March 3–7.



Dan Miracle
Presidential Cycle

Pennsylvania, in October 1980, shortly after receiving his B.S. degree. However, it took him a long time to realize just how essential it is for materials scientists and engineers to come together to discuss their

Dan Miracle, a senior scientist in the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory, will begin his three-year term in the TMS presidential cycle. He'll serve as vice president in 2024, as president in 2025, and as past president in 2026.

Miracle began his involvement with the Society when he gave his first technical talk at a TMS meeting in Pittsburgh,

recent results and new ideas.

"While the publishing outlets associated with TMS have been very important in my career, without a doubt I've benefited most from attending the regular and specialty meetings organized through TMS," said Miracle. "The professional relationships, the partnerships, and the new ideas produced at these meetings have been foundational in helping advance my career."

For Miracle, TMS has always offered a good balance of basic and applied content, and the volunteer-led, 'bottom-up' approach to programming appealed to him. "Together, these features soon drew me in as a member of the technical committees, where the ability to contribute to the Society and our profession has kept me active for many years," he said.

As Miracle's career has progressed, so has his interest in contributing to TMS. He previously served

"I hope to contribute to the continued growth of TMS to address new needs and opportunities, so that we remain a highly inclusive society where global materials practitioners come together to envision, define, and enable the future."

–Dan Miracle

on the TMS Board of Directors as the chair of the TMS Structural Materials Division. "From my previous time on the TMS Board of Directors, I found that TMS is a well-organized, well-run, forward-looking professional organization. I also learned that it's not easy to maintain this position in a changing world, and I'm motivated to help TMS continue to flourish and grow as a vibrant and engaging society," he said.

"Most of all, I'm looking forward to working together with the talented volunteer leaders and passionate TMS staff and leadership that ensure that TMS runs smoothly," Miracle said. "I hope to contribute to the continued growth of TMS to address new needs and opportunities, so that we remain a highly inclusive society where global materials practitioners come together to envision, define, and enable the future."

Robert Maass is head of the Materials Engineering



Robert Maass
Program Director

Department and a member of the directorate at the Federal Institute of Materials Research and Testing (BAM) in Berlin, Germany. At TMS2024, he will also step into the role of Program Director on the TMS Board of Directors. Maass first learned the value of TMS programming while earning his Ph.D. in materials science from the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland.

"I had the privilege of being in a very international group during my time as a graduate student in Switzerland," said Maass. "It was completely normal that fore-front results would be presented to our international peers at TMS meetings, which always have been a hot spot for structural materials research."

From there, he said, a colleague suggested he attend a technical committee meeting. "It was an eye opener," said Maass. "I realized that if I want to, I can get involved and contribute, learn, and lead. So, TMS became much more than just a meeting to go to, but a part of my personal and professional development. As of today, this is what makes TMS so unique and inclusive."

TMS, he said, is a place where he learns about the newest topics on the horizon, meets the best scientists in his field, and learns to take responsibility for the community in different service roles.

"I really encourage young peers to take advantage of getting engaged," said Maass. "It is a very rewarding experience and throughout my journey at TMS, I had the luck of learning from the best: my two programming chair predecessors, Brad Boyce and Tim Rupert."

Joining the Board of Directors, he said, is a natural consequence of having been involved in different

"Programming is the heart of all TMS meetings. Fore-front topics and high-quality programming is what has brought the world together at our meetings."

–Robert Maass

committees. "There comes the point at which you either step down to give space for others," he said, "or you have to take more responsibilities. I love TMS, and therefore there was only one option."

His hope is that his continued involvement with TMS will also help to promote the Society in Europe, where he currently lives after many years in the United States, and to allow him to meet outstanding leaders in the field.

"Immersion in TMS is a fantastic way to lead, give back, and learn," he said.

Maass will give back by leading programming for the Society. He looks forward, specifically, to building up the TMS Fall Meeting, where he believes the Programming Committee will play a central role in creating a strong new identity for our Society at that event.

"Programming is the heart of all TMS meetings," he said. "Fore-front topics and high-quality programming is what has brought the world together at our meetings. Looking forward, this will remain our core mission, but I am also committed to strengthening our young scientists' opportunities, developing innovative programming items, and improving our communication with the technical committees."

Nominations Now Open for 2025-2028 TMS Board of Directors

TMS is now accepting nominations for two positions on the 2025–2028 TMS Board of Directors. The open positions are the Presidential Rotation and the Membership Diversity and Development Director/Chair. Nominations will be accepted until **January 15, 2024**. Additionally, positions for three division chairs (Light Metals, Materials Processing & Manufacturing, and Structural Materials) are open on the 2025–2028 Board of Directors, but nominations for these positions are developed directly through the technical divisions.

Applicants' packages for the two open positions will be considered by the Society's Nominating Committee, which will then recommend a candidate for each position to the Board of Directors. If approved by the Board of Directors, these endorsed candidates will be presented to the general membership for approval by July 2024.

To access complete job descriptions and qualifications for each office, as well as the Nominee Statement Form and nomination instructions, visit www.tms.org/BoardNominations. For additional information, contact Deborah Hixon, TMS Awards Program Manager, at hixon@tms.org.