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# Editorial

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Let me start this editorial with a short personal story. Years ago, I graduated with my fancy Ph.D. and went to work for a high quality aerospace company. We were in the process of sending man to the moon.

Headly stuff. Exciting as can be. Lots of uncertainties about how various materials would perform in the strict vacuum of space.

I was in for a culture shock of my life. The folks didn't want to talk about all the good stuff I had learned as a student about Hume Rothery phases or about the different stacking orders in face-centered cubic *versus* hexagonal close-packed structures. They talked only about the immediate programmatic objectives; of how we were going to get our particular job done on time and within the budget. I just could not get any conversation going about dislocation motion . . . until an older scientist sat down and talked to me. He explained the difference between academia and a profit-driven company. He explained the way to reach the top of the corporate ladder in private industry. He patiently explained to me the facts of life.



John R. Ogren

He was my mentor. He was my guardian angel.

Many years later, when I was a slightly more experienced engineer and he was about to retire, he told me he always felt like an old warrior who had survived many corporate battles and management reorganizations and had the (unwritten) task of teaching young warriors how to survive in the competitive, ever-changing work place

I will submit to you, the reader, that all of us, at our various stages of professional growth, need a mentor.

This is particularly important at this time of the year when many young people complete certain stages of their respective educational training programs and enter into new activities that require new, additional responsibility. Now is the time to think of choosing some bright young person for whom you want to be a mentor.

ASM International has numerous opportunities for you to do just this. Additional opportunities are available in the following:

- Local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops (Many ASM members are leaders.)
- Local church groups of all denominations and persuasions
- Guest speaking at local schools at all levels of education
- Judging or organizing a Science Fair (These are really enlightening.)
- All kinds of community service organizations (Kiwanis, Masons, Rotary, etc.)
- Summer camps (ASM also sponsors some super camps!)

My point is that, as materials scientists and engineers, we have a knowledge base that is unique and very exciting to youngsters (of all ages) and we should use this knowledge base to guide young people to pursue education and careers in materials engineering.

We are the professionals who make things. We change lines on drawings and equations in computers into pieces of hardware that work. We must guide the next generation. We must assume the responsibility of being mentors.

**John R. Ogren**  
Editor