Updates on friends and colleagues in the materials community

In Memory of Former TMS President Kenneth J. Richards, 1932–2008

Editor's Note: *This tribute was adapted from a submission by J. Brent Hiskey, University of Arizona.*

In May, Kenneth Richards, retired vice president of Kerr-McGee Corporation and former president of its Technology and Engineering Division, passed away at the age of 75. A senior member of TMS, Richards joined the society in 1963 and served as president in 1981.

Richards earned a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Utah in 1955 and then worked as a process engineer with Union Oil Company and Fractionation Research Incorporated and as a development engineer with the U.S. Intelligence Agency in the area of rare earth production and separation. He then went on to earn a Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering from the University of Utah. Upon graduation, he served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force at the Aerospace Research Laboratory, working in the Metals and Ceramic Division. In 1967, Richards joined Kennecott Copper Corporation in Salt Lake City, Utah, as a senior scientist. He was promoted to director of R&D in 1974 and vice president of process technology in 1979.

Richards was instrumental in the first commercial installation of a distributed digital control system for copper smelting. He was the principal inventor of the solid matte-oxygen converting process, which represented a notable advancement in copper smelting practice and provided the impetus for next- and future-generation copper smelting. He moved to Oklahoma City in 1984 to become president of the Technology and Engineering Division of Kerr-McGee Corporation and remained there until his retirement in 1994.

After retiring, Richards formed a successful consulting practice and served as assistant secretary of commerce for technology for the state of Oklahoma. In this position, he brought extensive experience in the areas of research and technology management, process and production development, and technology transfer. He was respected internationally for his contributions to extractive metallurgy and his pioneering efforts in advanced copper smelting processing, and his colleagues knew him as someone who could integrate technology and business with uncommon skill. He was a mentor to many young engineers.

Osman Selected as New MRS Executive Director

In September, Todd M. Osman, former director of materials technology for TMS, takes on the position of executive director of the Materials Research Society (MRS). Osman joined the staff of TMS in May 2006 and has worked as a liaison to TMS technical committees, in developing technical programming, in securing grants to support TMS projects, and in developing the Materials Technology@TMS on-line technical communities, among other projects.

Osman will succeed another former TMS employee, John B. Ballance, who is retiring as MRS executive director after 25 years. Before joining MRS in 1983, Ballance served as editor of *JOM* (then the *Journal of Metals*).

Osman holds a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering and, prior to working at TMS was technical manager of the Product Technology Division, Research at the United States Steel Corporation. He was instrumental in founding the Pennsylvania NanoMaterials Commercialization Center, a nonprofit R&D organization.

LANGDON HONORED BY EUROPEAN AND CHINESE ACADEMIES

Terence G. Langdon, a senior member of TMS and a fellow of the society, has recently been honored with awards from European and Chinese organizations for his excellence in research. Langdon is the William E. Leonhard Professor of Engineering at the University of Southern California Viterbi School's Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering.

Langdon has won the 2008 Blaise Pascal Medal for Material Science from the European Academy of Sciences. This award recognizes outstanding and demonstrated personal contribution to science and technology and the promotion of excellence in research and education.

He was cited for his outstanding achievements and pioneering research in the processing of ultrafine-grained metals by severe plastic deformation. He also was recognized for fundamental investigations into the properties of materials processed by equal-channel angular pressing and, more recently, high-pressure torsion.

In addition, Langdon has accepted an invitation to become a member of the European Academy of Sciences. Academy members are elected solely on their scientific merit and many are Nobel laureates.

Langdon also recently received the Lee Hsun Award from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. This award honors outstanding accomplishments by worldwide scientists in the fields of materials science and engineering. As part of the award, Langdon will deliver next year's Lee Hsun Lecture at the Institute of Metal Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shenyang, China.

Langdon has been a member of TMS since 1966 and was elected a fellow of the society in 2005.