Member News

Ibrahim Karaman Appointed to Chevron Professorship


Ibrahim Karaman

Texas A&M University has announced that Ibrahim Karaman will assume the Chevron Professorship in the Dwight Look College of Engineering. The appointment is effective for a term of three years.

Karaman is the interim department head of Texas A&M's newly created Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and chairs the university's materials science and engineering program. He has made numerous contributions in the areas of processing and characterization of crystalline materials and has published more than 160 refereed journal articles. His many honors and recognitions include an AIME Robert Lansing Hardy Award and a National Science Foundation CAREER Award. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Bogazici University of Istanbul, Turkey, and received his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Garry Warren Appointed AIME President-Elect


Garry Warren

The TMS Board of Directors has appointed Garry Warren, 2011 TMS president, as its President-Elect Designate to the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME). Warren will serve as the AIME president for 2016–2017.

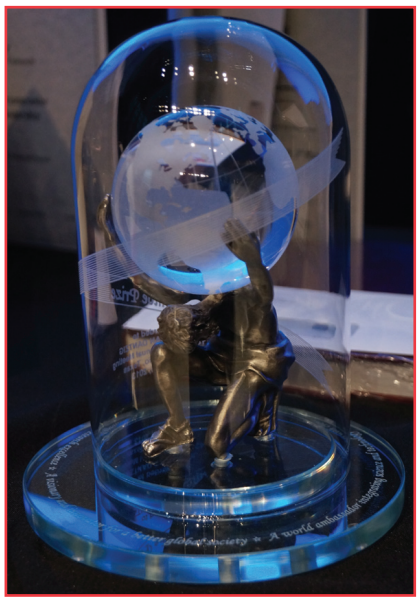
Warren is a recently retired professor from the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Utah in 1978 and spent eight years as a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University before moving to the University of Alabama. In his volunteer service with TMS, Warren has been especially active in the Extraction & Processing Division (EPD), where he has served in numerous capacities as a leader on the EPD Council, including representing publications, programming, and continuing education. He has served as editor of the EPD Congress and chair of the Aqueous Processing Committee, among many other responsibilities. He has also served on the TMS Board of Directors as chair of the Publications Coordinating Committee, and as a member of the Financial Planning Committee.

AIME is governed by a Board of Trustees, with eight voting members, two appointed by each member society—of which TMS is one. Service as the AIME president involves a four-year term: the first year as president-elect fesignate, the second year as president-elect; the third year as president, and the fourth year as past president.

Brimacombe Prize Seeks Nominations

TMS members are encouraged to submit nominations for the Brimacombe Prize, established in 2000 to recognize outstanding accomplishments in materials process engineering. Conferred every two years, the prize honors the memory of J. Keith Brimacombe, 1993 TMS president and a leading innovator and educator in his field during the 20th century. Award winners receive the Brimacombe award statue (shown on the right) and a cash prize.

The prize is awarded for a single or sustained outstanding contribution to materials process engineering. The work should demonstrate a high degree of creativity, imagination, and engineering/scientific depth, with evidence of significant scientific or industrial impact being an important measure of eligibility. The selection criteria mirror the special qualities of J. Keith Brimacombe and include: research excellence and creation of new insight; a world ambassador; and an innovator and visionary for a better global society.



Nomination packets should include the nominee's current curricula vitae and a summary of how his/her achievements and contributions relate to the selection criteria, as well as the significance or impact of the achievement(s) on the field. The nomination should also include the names and contact information of five people who can assess the nominee's eligibility for the award.

Nomination packages should be sent to B.G. Thomas, Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering, University of Illinois, at bgthomas@illinois.edu. The deadline for nominations is December 1, 2013, with the winner being announced in spring, 2014.

The Brimacombe Prize is funded through an endowment of the Brimacombe Foundation, held by the Vancouver Foundation.

Meet a Member: Tennis Serves Douglas Hofmann Well

By Lynne Robinson

Douglas Hofmann quite literally took his first steps on a tennis court, which eventually led to his current work as section technologist for Mechanical Fabrication and Testing at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

Playing tennis has been a passion of Hofmann's from his earliest memories, when his parents first put a racquet in his hands on the tennis court that they designed and built themselves for their Sonoma, California, home—the same tennis court where he learned to walk as a toddler. Throughout high school and college, he distinguished himself as a competitive tennis player, ultimately achieving the rank of 50 in the nation in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II while an undergraduate at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

When it was time to define his career path after college, Hofmann again found inspiration in the sports that he loved. "I had spent so much of my undergraduate years playing sports, that I really didn't have any internships or extensive experience with research," he said. "I was looking for a subject in materials science where I had a competitive advantage based on my background in tennis and golf. (Hofmann was also a near even-par golfer throughout college.) My UCSD advisor, Ken Vecchio, pointed me to William Johnson at Caltech, who was working on commercializing Liquidmetal, a bulk metallic glass (BMG) that was being used for golf clubs and tennis racquets. After talking with him, I decided that I could contribute to this area for my Ph.D."

Tennis continued to dominate much of Hofmann's time when he wasn't juggling the demands of his graduate work. In addition to being Caltech's assistant men's tennis coach, he played a number of low-level professional events in the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Pro-Circuit, and was eventually ranked 56 in the Men's Open Division of Southern California. He was also regularly called upon to be a "hitting partner" for some of the world's top ranked female tennis players, including Conchita Martinez and Serena Williams. "My job was basically to hit hard to get them ready for their matches," he said.

His work with Williams, in fact, yielded some of his most memorable tennis moments. "During one of my teaching-assistant sessions, Serena Williams's father called to ask if I could hit with her. I immediately packed up, leaving my bewildered class behind," Hofmann recalled. "Later, after hitting with Serena, a crowd of fans had gathered around the court, waiting for autographs. Serena asked me to hold her purse and pink tennis bag while she signed autographs. Somewhere, there are pictures of me holding a purse and pink tennis bag, looking embarrassed."

Upon earning his Ph.D., Hofmann worked for two years with Liquidmetal, with the intent of commercializing the BMG alloys from his thesis into a next-generation golf club. His work caught the notice of JPL for the purpose of developing new metals and manufacturing technologies for spacecraft. Three years after joining JPL, Hofmann has built an extensively equipped laboratory for fabricating and developing BMGs and is focusing on new areas of metallic glass research.

Hofmann had officially retired from professional tennis by the time he worked for JPL, but continued to volunteer at a local tennis academy to help aspiring young players earn college scholarships. Since the birth of his son in 2011, Hofmann notes that his time for tennis has become much more constricted, although it is still very much a part of who he is. "I'm proud of what I have done with tennis. The only accomplishment I look forward to now in the sport, however, is playing with my son someday," he said. "Life is full of phases and the current phase has me coming to terms with no longer being a competitive athlete, but rather being an involved father."

(Left): Douglas Hofmann after a workout on red clay with former Wimbledon champion and number two ranked female tennis player in the world, Conchita Martinez. (Below): Hofmann in his days as a college tennis player.

Each month, *JOM* profiles a TMS member and his or her activities both in and out of the realm of materials science and engineering. To suggest a candidate for this feature, contact Lynne Robinson at lrobinson@tms.org.