

## Member News

Updates on friends and colleagues in the materials community

### Remembering Warren E. Haupin: April 20, 1920–June 20, 2007

**Editor's Note:** This tribute was submitted by Gary P. Tarcy of Alcoa.

There are a few superlatives that describe Warren Haupin's stature as a scientist, such as world class and renowned. Alcoa recognized Warren and named him the winner of its very first Francis C. Frary Award in 1984 for individual technical excellence. TMS also recognized Warren by awarding him the very first Light Metals award in 1985 for individual excellence of a paper presented at the TMS annual meeting and the first TMS Light Metals Technology Award in 1996. Warren also won the 2002 Light Metals Division *JOM* best paper award and lectured at the TMS short course on Industrial Aluminum Electrolysis, where his lectures on the history of the aluminum smelting process were greatly admired.



In a scientific world replete with people possessing masters and Ph.D. degrees, how did a man with only a B.S. degree to his name rise to the top of his field? A few things stand out: a spirit of cooperation with other aluminum researchers at both Alcoa locations and outside of Alcoa, a willingness to share knowledge and ideas with others and an openness to learn from those interactions, an astounding ability to generate new ideas, and an attitude of eternal optimism that prevented him from giving up on ideas until they were thoroughly tested and evaluated—and then only reluctantly.

Although Warren held a fondness in his heart for the “old days,” he applauded the work being carried out in today's research laboratories.

“We're much deeper into real science

and better at understanding fundamentals today than in the past,” Warren said in an article published in Alcoa's newsletter, *The LabLog*, when he retired in 1985. “Much research in the old days was Edisonian research. That was not necessarily bad, because we often discovered things we wouldn't have found through fundamental research. On the other hand, trying everything and hoping something works is a much less efficient process.”

Warren's accomplishments—many of which are enumerated in the more than 135 technical reports, 20 addresses and seminars, and 24 publications he prepared and in the 20 patents he received—had their most profound impact in the smelting area. And in that regard, he shared a kinship with the person who developed the process that founded the company, Charles Martin Hall. “I think if Charles Martin Hall were here today he would be proud that his patent pretty much still describes the process today.”

Although his technical accomplishments will continue to be felt throughout the aluminum industry for years to come, Warren always believed his biggest contributions were made as both a formal and informal teacher of engineers. “By sharing my understanding of the fundamentals of smelting, it enabled others to understand the fundamentals and apply them to the process, and thereby do better work.”

“I always considered the projects that I worked on to be ones that had high probabilities of success, even though they probably had low probabilities of success in other people's minds,” he chuckled. “Fortunately, I was able to prove myself correct on a few occasions.” Although we are all going to miss Warren, we will never forget the contributions he made to the aluminum smelting industry.

Member News is a new *JOM* department that will feature updates on the professional activities of TMS members, including announcements of awards, promotions, new jobs, and retirements, as well as tributes to members who have recently passed away. To submit an item for consideration in a future issue of Member News, contact Kelly Roncone Zappas, *JOM* news editor, at [kzappas@tms.org](mailto:kzappas@tms.org).

## METALEADERS



Robert E. Brown

TMS Senior Member **Robert E. Brown** (pictured) has been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Magnesium Association (IMA) for his outstanding dedication and commitment to the magnesium industry. The award was given at the 64th Annual World Magnesium Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in May. Brown has been involved with the magnesium industry for more than 50 years, working in the technical and management areas of the primary magnesium and magnesium foundry industries. He has been a member of the TMS Magnesium Committee since its inception in 1998, written articles and technical papers, and organized seminars on magnesium. He has been publishing the newsletter *Magnesium Monthly Review* for more than 35 years.

“He has literally spent the better part of his life promoting and advocating the use of magnesium worldwide,” said Greg Patzer, IMA executive vice president. “We as an industry should not only be grateful but also learn from the example of dedication which he has set.”

Tom McNulty

TMS Member **Tom McNulty** has been promoted to vice president of materials analysis at Rigaku Americas Corporation, where he will supervise Rigaku's small molecule crystallography, general purpose x-ray diffraction, small angle x-ray scattering, and general purpose x-ray fluorescence product lines in North and Central America. McNulty joined Rigaku in January 2004.