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# Editorial

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By the time you read this editorial, summer (in the Northern Hemisphere) will be past and memories of high school graduations will dim for the several million young people who made that rite of passage in May or June. It is my fervent hope that many of these recent graduates, as well as many from last year, will be pursuing college/university studies by the time this editorial is printed.

I want to make it perfectly clear at the outset that I am aware that all of these students will not pursue engineering studies. It is a pity, but I know that is the way the world works. Some will choose studies in finance or in psychology, or the theater, or international relations, or whatever. All these are honorable pursuits and I would be the last one to minimize their importance. After all, we certainly do need international diplomats to make the world a safe place to live, and we need good thespians to make us laugh, and we need psychologists to help us understand ourselves when we laugh, and we need financial wizards for all kinds of reasons.

However, I must confess that my own passion is in engineering and in materials engineering/materials science in particular. I certainly hope that some of these very intelligent young people will choose a career in Materials Science/Engineering.

ASM International has an outstanding summer program at many locations (Seattle, Wash., Ann Arbor, Mich., Toronto, Canada, and Cleveland, Ohio) in which very smart high school students are exposed to the joy of materials science. During this last summer, it was a real thrill to teach a group about X-ray diffraction analysis and those Miller Indices and, most of all, to see their faces light up when they learned how to calculate the “sizes” of iron atoms in BCC iron.

I might want to expound on all the good reasons a young person should want to enter this field, but to do so, I would be like the preacher talking to his own choir. Most of you who stop to read this editorial have already selected materials science/engineering for your career.

The one thing each of you can do on a continual basis is to “talk up” your profession—in your own way. I see insurance agents and car salesmen do that at all kinds of social-business events. We need to do the same. (Of course, we will do it more discreetly and in better taste.)

After all, we are materials scientists and engineers.



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