

Lehigh Valley Chapter of ASM Engages Young Professionals



The Lehigh Valley Chapter of ASM International (LVASM), located in eastern Pennsylvania, has a close relationship with nearby universities (Lehigh University) and manufacturing or material testing companies (Carpenter Technology Corporation, Materion Corporation, and Laboratory Testing Inc). A perennial goal of the chapter is to support and highlight the exciting work of our young professionals and students. To achieve our goal, we hold two annual showcase events.

Our Fall event is called “Young Members’ Night,” which seeks to highlight undergraduate research at Lehigh and the work of new hires at the technical firms in the region. The main feature of “Young Members’ Night” is a poster competition where Lehigh students display their results from a metallurgical reverse engineering project. All attendees vote, and the winner is announced at the end of the meeting. Many alumni can reminisce about their own submissions in past years. This local vote allows the entire class a chance to win under different voting criteria. The winning posters are submitted to the International Metallographic Society (IMS) micrograph competition to compete amongst other undergraduate and/or professional submissions in the country. The chapter also presents the LVASM “Outstanding Young Member” award during this meeting. The award recipient is a graduate student or young professional who has provided excellence in service to the chapter, for example organizing the annual LVASM Student Materials Camp. The award recipient presents on their career thus far and the aspects of their job that interest them the most. In past years, the chapter has also invited recruiters to present on how to best interview for a job or prepare a resume, or held panel discussions with young professionals, senior Lehigh undergraduate and graduate students, and Lehigh faculty who answer questions that are targeted towards helping the sophomore and junior students better achieve their career goals.

The second annual event, held in the Spring, coincides with the “Undergraduate Research Symposium” in the Materials Science and Engineering Department at Lehigh. Here, undergraduates present 10-minute summaries of their research in a conference-style format. Additional aspects of the event are undergraduate and graduate micrograph competitions and a voluntary semi-final competition for the Material Advantage “Undergraduate Student Speaking Contest” held each year at Materials Science and Technology (MS&T). The winner of this contest is chosen to represent Lehigh at the national competition. LVASM has found that this Spring event is perfect for recruiting since it is easy to meet the students and interact with them face-to-face. Overall, LVASM always aspires to promote the development of our young members and we like to highlight their successes as much as possible.