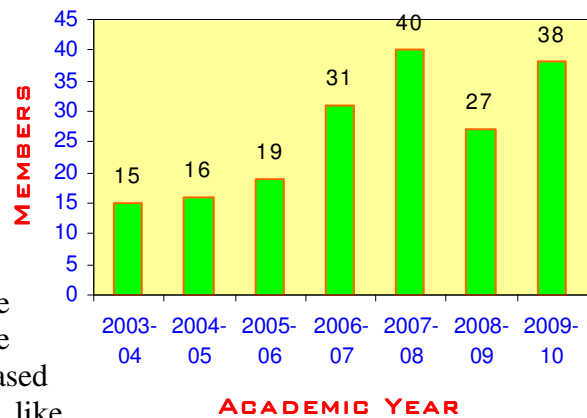


Miami, Florida: Since its inception in 2003, Material Advantage (initially known as ASM-TMS student chapter) at Florida International University has not seen a single year without being awarded for its excellent performance. Our chapter has generated a long list of awards, including Chapter of Excellence, World Materials Day Award, ASM Materials Foundation Student Chapter Grant, Membership Challenge etc. Our chapter has also won the First Materials Bowl 2007. This has been made possible by a good number of highly enthusiastic members, though our university does not have an undergraduate curriculum in Materials Science and Engineering.

Events

Our aim is to “Prepare Tomorrow’s Materials Scientists – Today” and to reach to our goal, all our members work very hard. Our annual event calendar overflows with number of events. While planning for the events, our executive board remembers two important issues – quality and diversity. Maintaining a balance between these issues, we organize fun-filled events like International Food Festival, Materials Science based Technical Game Shows and also arrange events like Technical Oral Presentation Competitions, Technical Poster Presentation Competitions, Materials Quest (as a preparatory event for Materials Bowl) and Invited Lecture Series. Our invited lecture series is honored by presence of eminent scientists from USA, Poland, Sweden, India, Malaysia, thanks to our faculty members.



Networking

Professional networking has remained as one of priorities of all our members. Apart from participating and presenting research work in the conferences like TMS Annual meeting, MS&T and ICACC, our student members take the opportunity to interact with scientists and researchers from around the world and increase their knowledge and network. Members from our chapter have been selected for ACerS President's Council of Student Advisors for consecutive last two years, where they communicated with fellow students from other universities and learnt management skills. In a different approach to spread information about our activities, we have created our own website (<http://students.eng.fiu.edu/~ASM-TMS/index.htm>) and a page in Facebook (Material Advantage@FIU).

Outreach

Spreading the knowledge about materials science and engineering to the high school students has been one of our duties. As part of it, school children from the neighboring schools in Miami are invited and we give them a tour of lab facilities, explain about nanotechnology in simple and fun-filled style. We also have a long-time bonding with Miami Coral Park Senior High School. Every month, our members visit the school to meet a group of students, to show them some exciting hands-on experiments of materials science and to share attractive new inventions of nanotechnology.

