

ASM-DETROIT & DWAFS DINNER MEETING | OCTOBER 13

Breaking Molds: Building a Career in the Foundry and Beyond

Sandy Calabrese's journey from the gritty floors of the foundry to a trailblazing career beyond its walls is a testament to resilience, innovation, and defying expectations. *Breaking Molds* explores her evolution in a traditionally male-dominated industry, highlighting how she forged new paths through technical mastery, leadership, and a commitment to mentorship. This narrative not only chronicles her professional ascent, but also reflects on the broader impact of challenging norms and inspiring change across industrial and creative landscapes.

GUEST SPEAKER



SANDY CALABRESE is the North American Director of Sales for DISA and Simpson brands, part of Norican. She brings nearly three decades of experience in metal casting and automotive operations, with a career that began at General Motors. Over the years, she has held leadership roles ranging from Chief Metallurgist, Melting Superintendent, Maintenance and Engineering Superintendent. She served as the Site Manager for GM's Brownstown Battery Plant, responsible to launch the first generation BET RESS units for the Cadillac Lyriq and GMC Hummer. Sandy earned her Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Master's degree in Metallurgical Engineering from Michigan Technological University, and she has always combined her technical knowledge with a passion for collaboration and innovation.

ANGELA SELL
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Outside of her professional role, Sandy is a strong advocate for women in manufacturing and for inspiring the next generation of engineers and leaders. She has led initiatives with the GM and AFS Women in Manufacturing group, co-founded the non-profit STEM Foundation – Get WISE, and continues to serve the industry through her work on the boards of the American Foundry Society, the Foundry Educational Foundation, and the Trine University Metals Advisory Board. Today, she leverages her deep industry and technical expertise to continually drive DISA and Simpson's growth in North America—delivering advanced green sand molding technologies to customers while empowering her sales teams, whose skill and passion keep the industry moving forward.

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Micro EXAMINER

ASM DETROIT CHAPTER & DWAFS DINNER MEETING MONDAY, OCT. 13

GUEST SPEAKER:

SANDY CALABRESE

DIRECTOR OF SALES – DISA &
SIMPSON NA, NORICAN

"BREAKING MOLDS: BUILDING A CAREER IN THE FOUNDRY AND BEYOND"

LOCATION:

LIVONIA MARRIOTT

SCHEDULE:

- 5:30 PM | SOCIAL HOUR
- 6:30 PM | DINNER
- 7:00 PM | ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 7:15–8 PM | GUEST SPEAKER

PRICING:

- \$30 WITH RESERVATION
- \$25 RETIREES/UNEMPLOYED
- \$5 STUDENTS

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**RAJAN
BHAMBROO**

MATERIALS
ENGINEER -
TENNECO INC

AS I GLANCE OUT THE WINDOW, leaves drift gently from the trees—Fall has officially arrived. With the crisp air and changing colors comes the return of our monthly Dinner Meetings, a cherished tradition of reconnecting with colleagues and friends.

The ASM Detroit Chapter kicked off the year with our annual Student Mixer on September 18th at Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub in Ann Arbor—and what a fantastic start it was! Over 30 students from Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Schoolcraft College joined us for an evening of networking, conversation, and community.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of AFC-Holcroft and Allied High Tech, attendees enjoyed a lively atmosphere with plenty of food and drink. The energy and engagement throughout the evening set a promising tone for the year ahead. If this event is any indication, we're in for an exciting Chapter year filled with meaningful connections and memorable gatherings.

We're excited to kick off our first joint meeting of the year with DWAFS and ASM Detroit on October 13th. Join us for an inspiring presentation by Sandy Calabrese, Director of Sales at DISA & Simpson NA, Norican Group, titled: "Breaking Molds: Building a Career in the Foundry and Beyond." Sandy brings a wealth of industry insight and personal experience that promises to resonate with professionals at every stage of their careers.

Looking ahead, be sure to mark your calendars for November 10th—our next Chapter meeting is in the works, and more details will be shared soon.

We're excited for the events ahead and look forward to seeing you there! For details on upcoming meetings, chapter news, and resources, please click here: [ASM DETROIT CHAPTER](#).

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ASM-DETROIT ADMINISTRATOR



**ERIN
LEYBOURN**

ADMINISTRATOR,
ASM-DETROIT
CHAPTER

Welcome Erin Leybourn! Our New ASM Detroit Chapter Administrator!

I grew up in a small town in western New York and earned my degree in Interpersonal and Organizational Communications from the State University of New York at Geneseo. I began my career in the group insurance industry, where I held management and sales roles for nearly a decade.

After stepping away from the corporate world to raise my young family, I remained deeply engaged in my community—serving on numerous nonprofit and civic boards over the past eight years. This work has allowed me to give back while keeping my professional skills sharp and relevant.

I'm excited to join the ASM Detroit Chapter as Chapter Administrator and look forward to collaborating with all of our members to support meaningful programming and engagement.

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The ASM Detroit Chapter Thanks It's Sustaining Members for Their Continued Support!

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FORGINGS**

Annual Student Mixer, Thursday, Sept. 18th



Over 60 students and professionals attended the mixer on September 18th. Thanks to our sponsors: AFC-Holcroft and Allied High Tech!

THE ASM DETROIT CHAPTER extends its sincere thanks to all the professional and student members who joined us on Thursday, Sept. 18th for our annual Student Mixer at Conor O'Neill's in Ann Arbor.

This year's mixer welcomed over 60 attendees who spent the evening exchanging ideas and insights on the latest trends in materials science and engineering. The energy was fantastic—and we even managed to squeeze in a lively round of Materials Science Pictionary, adding a playful twist to the night's networking. It was inspiring to see such strong participation from students representing the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Michigan State University, and Schoolcraft College.

We are especially grateful to our evening sponsors, AFC Holcroft and Allied High Tech. Their continued support of ASM and AFS has been instrumental in making events like this possible.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the night a success—we look forward to seeing you at future Chapter events!

Our Materials Science Pictionary Winners! Luke Brydges (Michigan State) and Chase Walraven (UofM).



Inaugural Material Science Pictionary With our new ASM Detroit Admin, Erin Leybourn as game host



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ASM Teacher's Camp

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ASM Teacher's Camp

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Thanks to Fluxtrol's generous donation we are able to offset the dinner cost at our monthly chapter dinner meetings for our STEM Outreach attendees. These attendees include: Teacher Scholarship Winners, University Scholarship Winners, Community College Scholarship Winners, Metro Detroit Science Fair Winners, and ESD Future City Winners.

College and university students can also attend our ASM Detroit Chapter dinner meetings for just \$5 thanks to this generous donation!



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CHAPTER PROGRAM

OCTOBER 13
ASM & AFS
COMBINED MEETING
LIVONIA MARRIOTT

NOVEMBER 10
NATIONAL OFFICERS
NIGHT

GUEST SPEAKER:
ERIK M MUELLER, PH.D., P.E.,
FASM

ASM Trustee (2025-2028)
Materials Research Engineer-
NTSB

FEBRUARY 9
MEMBERSHIP NIGHT

MARCH 9
SUSTAINING
MEMBERS NIGHT

APRIL 9 – (THURSDAY)
ASM & AFS
COMBINED MEETING

MAY 11
WOODSIDE LECTURE

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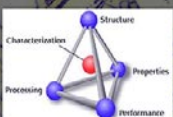
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With Gratitude from the ASM Materials Education Foundation

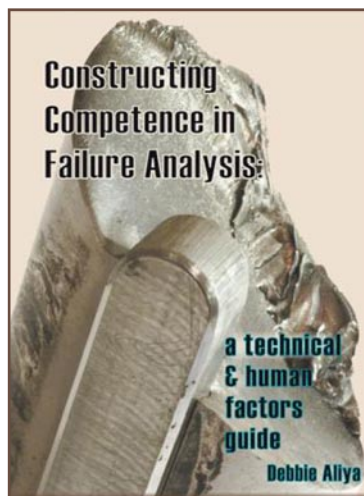
THE FOUNDATION TEAM extends heartfelt thanks to the Detroit Chapter for supporting the Materials Camp – Teachers in Ann Arbor. Teachers enjoy professional development that's second to none—fun, hands-on, and inspiring—so they can spark curiosity and creativity in their students. From first-class facilities to homemade cookies, this support makes the camp experience truly unforgettable.

In appreciation, Chapter members are invited to the Ignite the Night Celebration & Cocktail Reception on **Monday, October 20, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at The Westin Book Cadillac Detroit.** This special evening will celebrate the teachers who inspire and the students who imagine what's possible.

Guests will also get the chance to step into the camp experience through interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities - the same engaging programming that makes the camp such a game-changer for teachers and students.

To **RSVP**, please contact Kristie Maravalli, Campaign Director, at 440-671-3813 or KRISTIE.MARAVALLI@ASM.INTERNATIONAL.ORG.

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**DAVID
SPONSELLER**

OCTOBER 2, 1931 –
SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

We are deeply saddened by the passing of longtime ASM supporter, David Sponseller. David was a dedicated member of ASM for 75 years, and his unwavering enthusiasm and generous spirit left a lasting impact on our community. His zest for life and steadfast support of ASM will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

DAVID L. SPONSELLER's remarkable career in metallurgy spanned more than six decades, marked by innovation, leadership, and a deep commitment to advancing his profession.

His industrious spirit showed early, beginning with newspaper routes in Canton, Ohio, where he grew up and graduated from Lincoln High School. A proud Eagle Scout, he carried those values of perseverance and service into every part of his life.

Dave graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Notre Dame in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science in Metallurgy. He then served in the U.S. Navy through ROTC, spending two years aboard the battleship USS Missouri and the aircraft carrier USS Bennington, followed by two years teaching engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He earned his Ph.D. in Metallurgy from the University of Michigan in 1962 and later returned to Notre Dame as a faculty member, where he taught engineering.

After earning his doctorate, Dave joined Climax Molybdenum Lab in 1965, where he developed high-strength alloys for jet engines and the energy industry. Ahead of his time in sustainability, he often biked to the lab on his green Schwinn, rain or shine. In 1987, he founded OMNI Metals Laboratory in Ann Arbor, which he led for 38 years. True to his passion for discovery, he continued working at OMNI until the end of his life. His professional accomplishments included six patents, more than 50 publications, and regular participation in national conferences, where he presented research, served on committees, and mentored younger engineers.

Dave was also a dedicated member of ASM International for 75 years, a testament to his lifelong commitment to the field of metallurgy. One of the highlights of his career came in 2022 when he delivered the prestigious ASM Detroit Chapter Woodside Lecture, speaking on "The Golden Age of Metallurgy, Our Rich Heritage." He and his wife Katherine were frequent attendees at ASM Detroit Chapter meetings, where they enjoyed engaging with colleagues, students, and friends in the profession.

Outside of his professional life, Dave was known for his love of music and performance, singing with the Notre Dame Men's Glee Club, local choirs, and at countless family celebrations. As Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 8, he was especially proud that all six of his sons earned the Eagle Scout Award. He also embraced his German heritage, teaching himself the language and keeping up with world news on his shortwave radio. An avid hockey player, he even earned local newspaper fame for his skating adventures on Ann Arbor's Thurston Pond.

In 2015, Dave married Katherine Noeltner Davis, with whom he shared more than 10 years of partnership, travel, and teamwork in running OMNI Metals Laboratory. Kathie's love and support sustained him during a 10-year battle with bone marrow cancer, and together they continued to live life to the fullest—returning from a trip to Scotland just days before his passing.

David Sponseller will be remembered not only for his groundbreaking contributions to metallurgy and his decades of service to ASM, but also for his energy, curiosity, and generosity as a mentor, colleague, husband, father, and friend. To see details on the visitation and funeral, follow [THIS LINK](#)