PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER
Spring 2026 / Vol. 001

Message from the 2026 Chairperson

Velda Vanessa Morris
Chair

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

As we step into 2026, I'm grateful for the strength of this community and the people who continue to shape it, those who laid the groundwork, those who lead today, and those just beginning their professional journeys.

This year's theme, **GenInnovative Connections**, reflects both where we are and where we're headed. Innovation does not happen in isolation. It happens when experience meets curiosity, when knowledge is shared across generations, and when we intentionally create spaces for conversation, mentorship, and discovery. Our focus this year is simple but powerful: connect people to people, ideas to action, and learning to real-world impact.

Throughout the year, we'll continue to elevate meaningful programming, industry tours, roundtables, student engagement, and leadership development, while staying responsive to the evolving needs of our members and the broader manufacturing and STEM ecosystem. Just as important, we remain committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment where every member feels valued and heard. Thank you for your time, your trust, and your willingness to engage. I look forward to a year of shared learning, thoughtful dialogue, and connections that matter.

Sai Aditya Pradeep
Chair-Elect

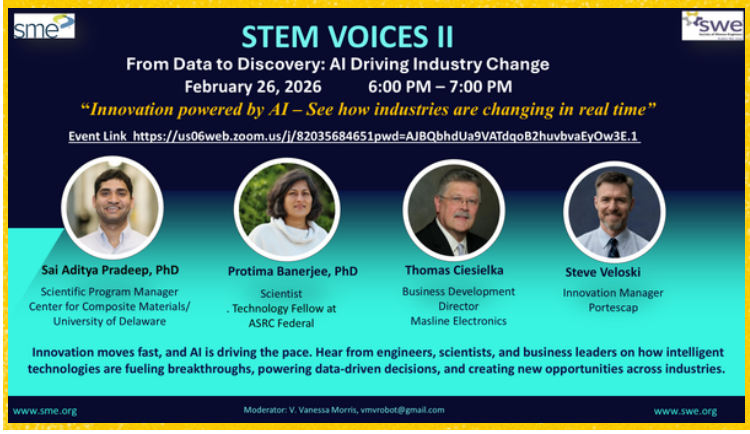
Jane White
Secretary

Anne Barrows
Treasurer

If you are interested in sharing an event with the SME, please reach out to sme.philadelphia.15@gmail.com

2026 Chapter Calendar Board

February



STEM VOICES II

From Data to Discovery: AI Driving Industry Change

February 26
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Invite Link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82035684651?pwd=AJBQbhdUa9VATdqoB2huvbvaEyOw3E.1

March

- **Multi-Generational Programming - Rutgers University Student Chapter Manufacturing Night (Industry Experts) TBD**
- **GoEngineer – Technology-focused session highlighting advanced engineering tools and applications. Action: Solidify two additional partnership commitments (spring). TBD**
- **March 26: Trend Talk: From Silicon to Strategy: AI Powering the Semiconductor Revolution**

April

- **April 23: STEM Voices Roundtable – Multi-generational dialogue on innovation and career pathways.**
- **April 28: Empower Your Members – Maximize Their SME Experience.**
- **Action: Volunteer search internship pipeline/Virtual Engineers Mentoring Unit (VEMU).**

May

- **Center for Composite Materials Tour – University of Delaware (Automation/Materials Lab).**

August

- **August 23: Women's Equality Day Summer Festival (Alice Paul Institute) – SME & SWE Partnerl information table highlighting scholarships and manufacturing pathways.**
- **August 25: Future-Proof Your Chapter – Succession planning for sustainable leadership.**

September

- **University of Delaware - Workforce Innovation & Smart Engineering Forum (growth trajectories/AI) - and Regional partner gathering to strengthen cross-industry connections.**
- **September 25: SME Student Membership – Tools, Perks & Pathways to Your Future.**

October

- **Manufacturing Day Programs – Tours (TBD) and member engagement event.**
- **Scholarship Short-Take – Promote SME credential and education opportunities.**
- **October 30: Lead with Impact – Training for student chapter officers.**

November

- **November 1: SME Education Scholarship Foundation Application (Link - https://scholarships.smeef.org/applications/)**
- **November 17: Behind the Scenes (Chapter leaders share what really works)**
- **November 30: Final Grant Report Due (Data submission and narrative completion)**

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Job Board

Students - it's time to start thinking about summer internships!

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES, POLYMER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING - UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Description

Research Experience for Undergraduates is a ten-week summer program targeted at undergraduate students entering their sophomore, junior or senior year. This program is designed for students who are interested in the research of polymer science for a sustainable future.

Application

- Application close February 1st, 2026
- Program Dates June 1st - August 7th, 2026

Apply via NSF ETAP.

- Register for a student profile via NSF ETAP
- Use the Apply Now button to be taken directly to our USM Polymer REU opportunity.

Research Areas

Functional Polymeric Materials

- Energy and Sustainability
- Materials for Biology and Health
- High-Performance Polymers, Composites, and Coatings

Benefits

- $7000 summer stipend
- On campus meals and housing
- Limited travel budget
- Team building activities and field trips

Other Information

- Location:
  - Hattiesburg, MS
- Eligibility:
  - Undergraduate or community college student
  - Sophomores and Juniors preferred

Click here for more information!

INTERN, R&D UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER - COMPUTATIONAL MATERIALS SCIENCE, SANDIA NATIONAL LABS

Description

We are seeking a Summer R&D Undergraduate Intern to join our dynamic computational materials science team. Are you ready to apply your skills in materials modeling to the nation's challenges? Apply for our summer 2026 internship.

Responsibilities

- Simulate atomistic, molecular, or grain-scale phenomena to understand and predict material behavior during manufacturing, performance, or aging.
- Apply machine learning and artificial intelligence to advance simulation methods, enable high-throughput workflows, or discover data-driven process-property-performance relationships.
- Visualize and interpret data using appropriate software tools and analysis methods.
- Contribute to publications, presentations, and technical reports to communicate your results.

Desired Qualifications

- Currently attending and enrolled full time in the spring term immediately preceding the internship (or scheduled to graduate in the spring) in an accredited undergraduate program
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0/4.0

Preferred Qualifications

- Materials Science, Physics, Chemistry, Chemical Eng., Mechanical Eng., Nuclear Eng., or relevant major.
- Experience conducting simulation and analysis.
- Proficiency with scripting for scientific analysis using languages like Python, MATLAB, R, or similar.

Other Information

- Location:
  - Albuquerque, NM (onsite)
- Salary:
  - pay structure is based on earned credit hours, classification, and degree level
- This position does not currently require a Department of Energy (DOE) security clearance.

Click here for more information!

SUMMER ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING INTERN - BS/MS , APPLIED MATERIALS

Description

Applied Materials' Additive Manufacturing Team is searching for an intern to join our team in Summer 2026! The team works to develop and test components and processes to further Applied Material's standing in the semiconductor industry.

Responsibilities

- Working with other engineers, supporting measurement and analysis efforts associated with Additive Manufacturing design.
- Develop a GUI to control a test stand
- Design and order fixtures for the test stand as needed
- Write procedures or test plans for data collection as needed
- Completing a research project that will expand best known methods. Publish articles on Applied Wiki (internal online encyclopedia).

Requirements

- Student must be pursuing a Bachelor's or Master's degree program in Mechanical Engineering or a related field
- Student must be in good academic standing at their university, with a preferred GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale
- Experience with CAD software, Creo preferred
- Experience with additive manufacturing preferred
- Experience in semiconductor processing or manufacturing preferred
- Quick learner

Other Information

- Location:
  - Gloucester, MA
- Pay Range:
  - $31 - $41 per hour
- Summer Internship program start/end dates:
  - May 26 - August 14
  - June 8 - August 28
  - June 15 - September 4

Click here for more information!

If you are interested in sharing a job posting with the SME, please reach out to sme.philadelphia.15@gmail.com