



On a beautiful fall day in Boston, a large group of New England Chapter AFS members from CT, RI, NH and MA invaded the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus in Cambridge to take part in a tour of the newly rebuilt foundry and presentations by MIT students and staff.

They were greeted by Michael Tarkanian, lecturer at MIT, Chris Schuh Director of Materials Science and Engineering and Merton Flemings, Professor Emeritus and a long time member of the New England Chapter of the AFS.

Chris spoke about the mission and direction that the Materials, Science and Engineering department was taking, Professor Merton Flemings spoke about the history of the department and Michael Tarkanian explained about the changes and improvement that the group would see when they began the tour of the newly rebuilt foundry.

In addition the group was treated to presentations by students, Carolyn Joseph; Graduate Student spoke about "Jet Processing n DC Casting."

Brad Nakanishi, Graduate Student, and Presented on the topic of: "Sustainable Materials Extraction: Molten Oxide Electrolysis." A more sustainable method of extracting metal from ore through the use of electrolysis.

Ian Chesser and Mary Beth Wagner undergraduates in the material science and engineering program talked about, Wootz: The Blade, The Myth, The Legend. Wootz steel was a type of steel originated in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC and used in India to fabricate high quality steel blades for knives and swords, the process was lost and only recently recovered, researchers were able to duplicate this high quality ancient steel and students fabricated a blade with the steel.

All the presentations were well done and appreciated by the chapter members.

After the presentations, Chapter Chairman Ed Marczyzak made a presentation of a plaque to the Material Science and Engineering Department and also offered a 1 year free student membership to each of the student presenters and a 1 year Teaching Associate membership to Michael Tarkanian, Lecturer courtesy of the New England Chapter.

The group then went downstairs to the newly rebuilt foundry and forging lab, an explanation of the various equipment used and examples of the students projects were on display for the members. Michael explained the improvements and answered questions from the members as he led the tour of the lab.

The visit concluded with some closing remarks and an invitation to revisit in the future. All the chapter members that attended were pleased with the tour and visit and grateful to their hosts.

Ed Marczyzak  
Chairman,  
NE Chapter, AFS