



The Making, Shaping and Treating of Steel: 101

Conference Review

by Sam Kusic

Maybe the most important thing Katherine Reuning gained from the latest session of AIST's introductory steelmaking course, The Making, Shaping and Treating of Steel: 101 (MSTS 101), was the ability to ask more informed questions.

"I am new to the steelmaking industry, and my education is not related to steelmaking. However, most of my colleagues ... have several years' experience of working in the steel industry. Since the end of the course, I have been able to ask my colleagues more detailed questions about our product application and specifics of steel mill operations in relating to new business," said Reuning, operations manager at Reuning-McKim Inc., a supplier of telescoping lances and rice hull ash insulating powder that is based in Saxonburg, Pa., USA.

"I look forward to continuing to have many more questions about the steelmaking process and even being able to answer some of the questions myself," she added.

Her experience exemplifies the purpose of the course, which is to give industry professionals of all stripes a better understanding of iron and steel production. Although the course offers plenty for those who work on the production line, it's largely intended for those who don't have a technical background but would benefit from knowing more about ferrous metallurgy and the many aspects of iron and steel production.

Reuning was among the approximately 45 people who attended the latest session of MSTS 101, which was held 11–13 October 2016 in Merrillville, Ind., USA.

The instructors for this session were industry veterans Ron O'Malley, a materials science and engineering professor at



Missouri University of Science and Technology, and Steve Jansto, technical and market development manager for niobium supplier CBMM North America Inc.

O'Malley spent the first day reviewing ferrous metallurgy, ironmaking and steelmaking. During the second day, Jansto discussed rolling and finishing operations. It's the second time he has taught the course.

"I really enjoy the opportunity to share the technical, operational, and business knowledge and experience with the students. After all, the importance of continuing metallurgical education is vital for our steel industry," Jansto said.

He also said he was pleased with the class participation, especially considering the diversity of the group.

"There was an interesting blend of application, standards, hot rolling and coating questions. I was very impressed how the group embraced the reheat section of our class and how it relates to quality."

Attendees spent two days in the classroom and a third day touring ArcelorMittal's Burns Harbor steel works in northwest Indiana. The tour included the facility's hot strip mill, coke oven battery and galvanizing line. They also stopped at the No. 2 continuous slab caster just in time to see a ladle change. ♦