



LIFE MEMBER

DOUGLAS A. HUG

Douglas A. Hug was born and raised in the suburbs of St. Louis, Mo., and graduated from the University of Missouri – St. Louis in 1973 with a B.S. degree in business administration and a minor in marketing. He began working in the refractory business as an office trainee in 1971 at Oswald Refractories/Alsey Refractories while attending college. In the fall of 1971, his father, Allan E. Hug, started ALHUG Refractories Inc. with three owner-operated refractory lines in Ohio and Pennsylvania. The elder Hug was a member of the Iron & Steel Society (ISS) and former secretary-treasurer for its Globe-Trotters Member Chapter. For two years, Mr. Hug worked with his father after school, making sales calls on the local foundry trade. He recalls, “Little did I know that selling refractories to the foundry industry without a local warehouse was extremely difficult, but my father knew that it was good training!”

While in college, Mr. Hug attended the 55th National Open Hearth and Basic Oxygen Steel Conference in Chicago in April 1972, organized by the Metallurgical Society of AIME, which would later become ISS. He also attended his first Globe-Trotters meeting in Kansas City, Mo., in the fall of that year. He became a formal member of ISS in 1975.

After he graduated from college, Mr. Hug began working full-time for the family business. Unfortunately, his father passed away in October 1973. “At that point, I really didn’t know what was in store, but our three principals decided to let me continue representing their organizations,” he said. “However, each was an older, family-operated business, so I was always on the lookout for new lines of products.” As the new president of ALHUG Refractories Inc., Mr. Hug discovered that the major conferences of AIME/ISS were instrumental to his company’s survival. “We had many opportunities for representation through the conferences, and we were able to forge ahead. This allowed us not only to furnish refractory products to the industry, but also to sell other items, such as alloys, cored wire, electrodes, electrode handling equipment,



carbon and fluxes. With our larger product line, we changed the name of our company to Hug Industries Inc.”

During the 1980s, Mr. Hug served on a steering committee for the Electric Furnace Conference. Like his father, he was also secretary-treasurer of the Globe-Trotters Member Chapter, serving the organization in that capacity for five years during the early '90s. He speaks highly of his experience with AIST and its predecessor organizations: “The networking and connections developed at these meetings were very helpful to my career. With the technical papers, exhibits, and myriad of people from all over the world assembled at the meetings, as well as the ongoing technical discussions conducted throughout each year, AIST provides a tremendous resource to all of us connected to the steel industry.”

With its headquarters still in the St. Louis area and operated by his son, Brad, Hug Industries now has a southern branch in Texas which Mr. Hug began operating in 2005. Even after 40-plus years in the business, he continues to find the value in being a member of AIST. “The steel industry has changed dramatically over my career,” said Mr. Hug. “The technical developments have changed steelmaking from an art to a science, thereby reducing costs, improving productivity and enhancing the quality. If you plan to stay in the steel industry, joining AIST is a must! The future of the steel industry is very bright, as the need for high-quality steel will not diminish as the demands for stronger, lighter and metallurgically superior grades will continue.

“The U.S. steel industry is vital to our nation and our future, and I am extremely proud to be a small part of it.” ♦

1. Hug and Ron Quigg at a Globe-Trotters golf outing in Myrtle Beach, S.C., USA, in the 1980s.
2. Elaine Downey, Gary Downey, Brenda Hug and Doug Hug (pictured left to right) at a Globe-Trotters meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., USA, in the 1990s.
3. Hug on a fishing trip in Wyoming in 1993.
4. Hug and John W. Troutman visited Ireland in 1994.
5. Hug on a tour of the lime kiln at Lhoist in St. Genevieve, Mo., USA.
6. Hug, his wife Brenda and dog “Hallelujah” at the family’s ranch in Texas in 2008.

