

Steel Founders' Society of America

National T&O Conference – December 10-12, 2026

Wright Ballroom, Loews Hotel, Chicago, IL

Session 1	Thursday Morning, December 10	9:00 AM
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1.1 Misleading Sand-Lab Results: A Root Cause Investigation of Binder Performance in Foundry Sand

Jorge León, Tonkawa Foundry

1.2 Sand Control Practices

George Hartay, SFSA Alumni

1.3 Sand - Things They Didn't Teach Me in Metallurgy School

John Cory, Magotteaux

1.4 Preventing Moisture in Mold with Dried Air Application

Rémi Godfroy, Ferry-Capitain

1.5 Addressing Shell Molding Issues on Investment Cast Component

Thomas Van Wingen, MetalTek - Wisconsin Investcast

1.6 Quality Investigation and Improvement of Chaplets

Payton Altum, Harrison Steel Castings Company

1.7 Pattern Tooling Design

Brian Miller, Vulcan Metals - London, Ontario

1.8 Direct Pouring of 3D Printed Molds

Joseph Hutto, Howell Foundry

1.9 Ladle Stopper Rod Failure Investigation

Christopher Kluka, Newport News Shipbuilding

1.10 Reducing Bottom Pour Freeze Offs Though Preheat Optimization

Matthew Balint, American Steel Castings

1.11 Slide Gates for Steel Foundries

Jim Conrad, Kutztown Foundry and Machine

1.12 Keyence Scanner Applications

Nic Tarzwell, Eagle Alloy

1.13 Utilization of QQIs for Magnetic Particle Technique Development

Aaron Wilkinson, Vulcan Metals - Tacoma, WA

1.14 Market Forecast

Joe Plunger, SFSA

Industry Luncheon

2.1 Research Portfolio

David Poweleit, SFSA

2.2 Process Improvements at Fisher Cast Steel Products

Jay Harmeyer, Fisher Cast Steel Products

2.3 Transforming the High-Mix, Low-Volume Foundry for Growth

Jim Myers, MetalTek - Wisconsin Investcast

2.4 Making Up for 50 Years of Under Investment in the Foundry

Bill O'Grady, CPP Corp

2.5 Acquiring a Foundry: to Buy or to Build

Peter Macler, SFSA alumni

2.6 Expanding a LoRaWAN Environmental Monitoring System to Production, Maintenance, and Industrial Hygiene

Evan Arachikavitz, Viking Pump

2.7 Staying Sustainable with EcoVadis Certification

Nick Formato, Duraloy Technologies

2.8 Driving Toward Zero Waste - Recycling and Beneficial Reuse Initiatives at Magotteaux, Inc.

John Cory, Magotteaux

2.9 Kurhi: An In-House ERP Built by a Steel Foundry, for Steel Foundries

Javier Arce, Fundidora Morelia

2.10 Scaling Industry 4.0 Across Borders: A SCADA/MES Blueprint for Mexico, the U.S., and Canada

Antonio Feraco, Magotteaux

2.11 Implementation of SCADA Architecture for Process Visibility, Asset Monitoring, and Operational Analytics

Sam McGinnis, MetalTek - Carondelet

2.12 IoT Implementation

Nic Tarzwell, Eagle Alloy

2.13 GET Primer

Paul Rudd, SFSA Alumni

Discussion Session followed by an Industry Reception

- 3.1 Accelerating the NDT Result Review Pipeline using AI and Systems Integration
Seamus O'Keefe, D.W. Clark
- 3.2 Robotic Visual Inspection and Weld Mapping
Tom Davenport, Ashland Foundry and Machine Works
- 3.3 Three Levels of AI with Foundry Applications
Chase Fisher, ME Global
- 3.4 AI - When and Where to Begin
Joe Plunger, Midwest Metal Products
- 3.5 Discovering Manufacturing Data using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Python
Alexander Delgado, Vulcan Metals - Tacoma, WA
- 3.6 AI Driven Dashboards for Efficient Foundry Performance
Henry Selig, Southern Cast Products
- 3.7 Improving Productivity, Consistency, and Workplace Safety with AI Adaptive Robotic Grinding
Kyle Smith, Duraloy Technologies
- 3.8 Cleaning Room Upgrades
John Anderson, Northern Stainless
- 3.9 Improving Induction Furnace Safety Through the Adoption of Quick-Reference Safety Cards
Christian González, Castmetal FWF de Mexico
- 3.10 Minor Servicing and the Control of Hazardous Energy on Large Machining Centers
Nate Bird, Naval Foundry and Propeller Center
- 3.11 Recovery from a Fire at Quaker City Castings
Joseph Korff, Quaker City Castings
- 3.12 Metalcasting in High School
Nelson Brownell, Pewaukee High School
- 3.13 2026 Cast in Steel Winner
Chase Edwardson, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Industry Luncheon

- 4.1 **A Technique for Problem Solving**
Tom Stevens, SFSA alumni
- 4.2 **Problem Solving Process Case Studies**
Josiah Pyles, Howell Foundry
- 4.3 **Evaluating Paper-Based Production Reporting Through Time and Documentation Analysis**
Ryder Aldrich, Harrison Steel Castings Company
- 4.4 **MetalTek Investcast Casting Capacity Tool**
Mikey Clingsmith, MetalTek - Wisconsin Investcast
- 4.5 **Bearing Press Operation Improvement**
Jacob Bender, Harrison Steel Castings Company
- 4.6 **The Creation and Development of Industrial Sensor Systems**
Jace Pearson, Midwest Metal Products
- 4.7 **Using Sensors with Microcontrollers and Single-Board Computers for Proactive Maintenance and Monitoring of Foundry Conditions**
Garret Venzke, Midwest Metal Products
- 4.8 **Part and Spec Database**
Reece Johnson, Harrison Steel Castings Company
- 4.9 **HSLA Heat Treatment Cycle Development**
Jack Nemshick, Ashland Foundry and Machine Works
- 4.10 **Effect of First Temper Temperature on the Hardness of Double-Tempered CA6NM Martensitic Stainless Steel**
John Akins, MetalTek - Wisconsin Centrifugal
- 4.11 **Investigation of Lustrous Carbon in WCB Steel Castings**
Anthony Smith, Southern Cast Products
- 4.12 **Optimizing Alcohol-Based Mold Wash Consistency: Moving from Baumé to Viscosity**
Levi Houck, Harrison Steel Castings Company
- 4.13 **Characterization of Open Riser Sleeves**
Nathan Day, Howell Foundry
- 4.14 **Production Evaluation of Commercial Riser Sleeve Systems - Including Can You Improve a Sleeve with a Sleeve**
Andy Williams, Goodwin Steel Castings
- 4.15 **Exploring the Application and Implications of Commercially Available Highly Exothermic Riser Sleeves**
Jacob Gearon, Metal Tek - Pevely, MO

Discussion Session

- 5.1 **Design Guide: Cast Steel Components for Steel Construction**
Robert Fleischman, University of Arizona
- 5.2 **Use and Improvements in the Casting Process Through Reverse Engineering**
Raúl García Lazcano, FYMSSSA
- 5.3 **Sculpting New Flow: Refilling and Milling Impeller Sand Core Hydraulics**
Uriel Hernández, Fundidora Morelia
- 5.4 **Converting Loose Machining Chips into Meltable Pucks for Improved Metal Recovery**
Nick Formato, Duraloy Technologies
- 5.5 **Producing Industrial Scale Nickel Alloy Castings for High Temperature Application**
Joshua Wildgoose, Goodwin Steel Castings
- 5.6 **Integrated Alloy and Process Design of Austenitic High-Manganese Steels for Mining Wear Components**
Ricard Leiva, ME Elecmetal
- 5.7 **CW12MW Mechanical Properties**
Ana Salcedo Martinez, Wirco
- 5.8 **Investigation of Low Tensile Strength of a CB7Cu-1 Casting**
Mark Emmendorfer, Stainless Foundry & Engineering
- 5.9 **Vibratory Conditioning: An Alternative to Thermal Relief of Residual Stresses**
Justin Chamberlin, MetalTek - Wisconsin Centrifugal
- 5.10 **CA6NM**
Caelan Kennedy, SFSA
- 5.11 **Evaluation of a VOC-Exempt Solvent Carrier Mold Wash**
Tory Wendlandt, SFSA
- 5.12 **Clean Steel Practices and Slag Making for Basic EAF**
Thomas Simpson, Vulcan Metals - Atchison, KS
- 5.13 **Tracing Non-metallic Inclusion Sources in Steel Castings: SEM/EDS Characterization of Source Materials and Casting Defects**
Amir Baghani, FerroWorks – McConway & Torley
- 5.14 **ISO 9001:2026 - What's New**
Jeanne Wagner, Midwest Metal Products

Adjourn