The Detroit Section held its first meeting of the 2007-2008 season on September 25th. Stanford Ovshinsky, founder of Energy Conversion Devices (Rochester Hills, MI), presented a topic of great societal importance, entitled “Solar Hydrogen - The Ultimate Solution to Pollution, Climate Change Gases, and Wars over Oil.” This thought-provoking and awe-inspiring presentation touched on highlights from over 47 years of Mr. Ovshinsky’s pioneering work. The presentation prompted a lengthy standing ovation from the attentive audience, which completely filled the auditorium.

On October 16th, the Section hosted a talk by Masaki Matsui from Toyota Motor Corporation, entitled “Effects of Electrochemical Oxidation of Non-Aqueous Electrolyte on Lithium Transition Metal Oxides.” By studying degradation processes via in situ FTIR spectroscopy, Dr. Matsui described a pathway that may be used to help overcome some challenges associated with promising lithium ion battery technology.

Additionally, the Section hosted a talk by Ted J. Miller and Xiao-Guang Yang from Ford Motor Company (Dearborn, MI) on November 6th, entitled “Hybrid Electric Vehicle Battery Technology, Modeling, and Validation.” The talk struck a common chord with the enthusiastic audience, and inspired an interesting post-presentation Q&A session.