

Penn State University Chapter Organizes Co-Sponsored Programs

The MRS Pennsylvania State University Chapter has organized a collaboration of student society chapters for co-sponsored programming, which may prove to be a model for future activities on Penn State's campus and other campuses. Along with the MRS University Chapter, student chapters of the American Ceramic Society, Alpha Sigma Mu (metallurgy students), SAMPE (engineering, science, and mechanics students), Society of Physics Students, Keramos, and the Polymer Science Club marked the January 29 event by co-sponsoring the National Academy of Science's International Science Lecturer, Rustum Roy, speaking on "New Materials: Fountainhead of New Technologies and New Science," an address he is giving in various countries. He was introduced by Russell Messier, acting director of the University's Materials Research Laboratory. About 150 guests attended the occasion.

The gathering also marked the birth of a united approach to high school outreach programs, to complement one already under way under the Penn State University Chapter. The current objectives of this joint effort are: (1) to pool resources to provide materials science demonstration kits for students to use on visits to their previous high schools; (2) to prepare a videotape, with science-made-easy demonstrations;

and (3) to continue visiting high schools in the area and to spread further afield to inner-city schools in nearby cities.

It was decided that students would be recruited on a volunteer basis to ensure high quality and genuine commitment, rather than offering monetary and other incentives for support. "Our wide combined student base should guarantee us a steady source of personnel to provide the consistency that such projects demand," said University Chapter president, Kamau wa Gachigi. "All our efforts will be finalized for implementation after prior consultation with selected high school teachers," he said.

Alfred University Speakers Program Helps Graduates Improve Their Presentations

Alfred University graduate students who are required to make presentations on their thesis topics now have some extra help and an incentive. Working with the New York State College of Ceramics departmental faculty, members of the MRS Alfred University Chapter arranged for a semester-long speakers' seminar, designated a list of criteria to help both judges and presenters, and created an award for the best speaker.

Every week during the past semester, two graduate students each gave half-hour presentations on their thesis work to a



Mark Rodriguez (right) accepts his "Best-Speaker" award from James McCauley, dean of the New York State College of Ceramics.

group of faculty and students. Instead of simply making the presentations, the speakers were forearmed with the judging criteria and prepared with advice on what constitutes a good presentation. Faculty and students voted on the best presentations after the first seven weeks and then, again, after the next eight weeks. The winner was chosen based on the highest number of votes.

"Making presentations is an essential skill for scientists," said University Chapter president Jim Fagan. "We wanted to make sure everyone had the advantage of knowing the best way to do that," he said. "Our other goal is to gain wider recognition for the best presenters."

Mark Rodriguez was honored by the Alfred University Chapter as the first recipient of the graduate student speaker award. Rodriguez's presentation, "Peritectic Reactions in the Yttrium-Barium-Cuprate Compound Upon Heating," outlined the results of his *in-situ* study of the crystal changes within the superconducting ceramic material while it is heating. Rodriguez used dynamic x-ray diffraction techniques in his analysis.

For more information about the speakers program and the award criteria, contact: James Fagan, MRS University Chapter President, Alfred University, New York State College of Ceramics, McMahon Bldg., Alfred, NY 14802; phone (607) 871-2710; fax (607) 871-3469.

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Committee members of the organizations that co-sponsored Rustum Roy's International Lecture Series talk (left to right): John Dumm (president, Keramos-PSU Chapter), Rustum Roy (Evan Pugh Prof. of Solid State Science), Kamau wa Gachigi (president, MRS University Chapter), Sue Cha (president, American Ceramic Society-Penn State Chapter), Kelley Markowski (treasurer, MRS University Chapter), Suresh Kumar (vice president, MRS University Chapter), Brian Lynch (activities director), Jack Shindle (treasurer, American Ceramic Society-Penn State Chapter), Joe Wallen (Polymer Science Club representative), and Chris Hoppel (president, SAMPE-PSU Engineering Science and Mechanics student society). Photograph by Mark McNeal, MRS University Chapter.

Materials Science Policies and Programs in Japan

A Study by the Science Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo

Detail-filled 23-page report describes and analyzes the extent and focus of the Japanese government's contributions—both current and planned—to advanced materials R&D. Policies, programs, funding, technologies, materials, and goals are identified.

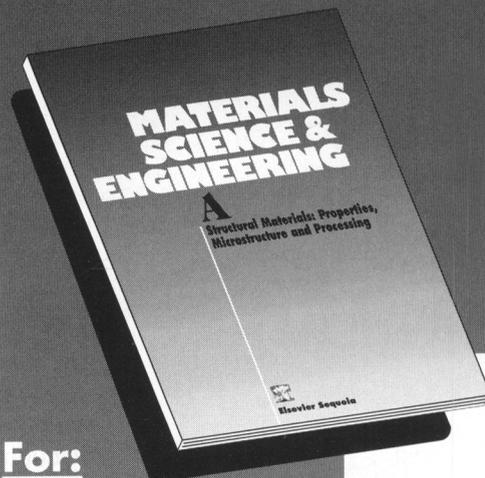
Contents:

- Capsule history of the Japanese government's approach to technological/industrial development, its materials science policies, and stated goals.
- Ministerial Materials Science Policies—basic descriptions of a special coordination fund for promoting science and technology, the Science and Technology Agency (STA), the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), and ministry goals; policy recommendations of the Council for Aeronautics, Electronics, and Advanced Technologies.
- Materials Programs in STA, MITI, Other Ministries—programs, topics, funding, expectations.
- International Cooperative Research Activities.
- Government-Industry Connection—examples of how Japan's government encourages industry participation in commercializing research.
- Future Plans—cites a systematic study by Japan's Economic Planning Agency which forecasts the timing for practical use of 101 future-oriented technologies in nine technology areas over the next 20 or more years, and their effects on society and the economy.
- Implications for the U.S.—with specific recommendations.

For a free copy of this report, send your request and a self-addressed business envelope to: Japan Report, Materials Research Society, 9800 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 USA.

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◆ EQUIPMENT EXHIBIT ◆

San Francisco Marriott Hotel
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As part of the 1992 Spring Meeting, a major equipment exhibit will be held to display analytical and processing equipment closely paralleling the nature of the technical symposia. The exhibit will be in the Yerba Buena Room, San Francisco Marriott Hotel. The technical program has been arranged to allow meeting participants ample opportunity to visit the exhibit.

Exhibit Hours

Tuesday	noon - 7:00 p.m.
Reception	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

◆ Partial List of 1992 Spring Equipment Exhibitors ◆

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