

# Materials Research Society

Newsletter

October 1979

## ANNUAL MEETING

The 1979 Annual Meeting will take place November 26-30 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The program has been organized by John M. Poate (Bell Labs), Kathy Taylor (General Motors) and Bill C. Giessen (Northeastern University).

Registrants will choose among the following thirteen symposia: Laser and Electron Beam Processing of Materials, Surface Modification of Materials by Ion Implantation; Advances in Defect Characterization in Semiconductor Materials and Devices; Semiconductor Interfaces; Material Problems in Microstructure Fabrication; Nondestructive Optical Techniques for Interface and Thin-Film Analysis; Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management; Coal - Material Properties and Conversion; Coal Conversion Catalysis; Catalyst Preparation Techniques and Maintenance of Catalyst Activity; Glassy Metals; EXAFS in Materials Research - Past, Present, and Future; Adhesion to Polymer-Solid Interfaces.

The Von Hippel Award committee will announce this year's honoree and make the presentation at the Wine and Cheese Reception on Tuesday evening.

Registration fees (same as last year except reduced for students) are \$65 for a member, \$75 for a non-member and \$10 for students.

A block of rooms at the host hotel (617/492-1234) is being held until November 1. Also some six blocks away is a Howard Johnson Motel (617/492-7777) which will hold a block of rooms for MRS meeting registrants until November 5.

Complete program information and registration forms with hotel information have been mailed to all members. Any interested person may receive same by contacting the MRS office (814/865-3424).

## 1980 MEETING

Next year's meeting will be November 16-21 at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston. Program chairmen will be King N. Tu (IBM) and Clyde J. Northrup (Sandia Laboratories). Please let them have your suggestions for topical symposia before or at this year's meeting.

## DUES

The Materials Research Society is a membership society. Its activities are made possible by the voluntary participation of those who wish to advance its objectives. Its activities are financed primarily by membership dues and annual meeting registration fees.

This is a gentle reminder to members to renew their membership by sending in dues now. It is also an invitation to those not affiliated to do so. Whatever your category use the membership form included in this mailing.

## ELECTION

The Council submits the slate of nominations as shown on the ballot below. Provision for write-in candidates has also been made; persons receiving the highest number of votes per office and the top six vote-getters for Council will be declared elected. Terms begin in 1980. Members of record as of October 1, 1979 are eligible and urged to vote; if in doubt as to your status, cast your ballot and let the office check on your eligibility; better still renew your membership now (see form enclosed).

### MRS BALLOT - 1979

Return by  
November 10 to:  
102C Materials Research Lab.  
The Pennsylvania State Univ.  
University Park, PA 16802

	OFFICERS		COUNCIL	
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## MRS: WHY, WHAT, HOW

The role of man's control over materials in the development of civilization is evident throughout the sweep of history. Today, the uses of materials are diverse, complex and sophisticated. There are groups of experts for various classes and even sub-classes of materials. Their expertise must be called upon for the construction of any advanced or complex system, since the materials properties usually limit the performance of the system. The problems addressed by materials researchers are of ever-expanding complexity and diversity. They are often the focus of multidisciplinary efforts in industrial laboratories and in some universities.

A researcher in the materials field regularly attends meetings within his own discipline, be this physics, chemistry, metallurgy, or any of their subdivisions. The meetings are hence those of the Physical Society, or the Chemical Society, or the Metallurgical Society, or the Ceramic Society, or the Electrochemical Society, etc. In addition, an increasing number of topical symposia are organized, some on a continuing basis, some ad hoc. While each of these meetings has value, and interactions of materials researchers with colleagues in their own discipline are to be encouraged, the situation has limited truly interdisciplinary interactions in many areas. And it has not been conducive to the development of a professional identity in materials research.

From its formation, the goal of The Materials Research Society has been to remedy this situation. It organizes meetings at which a number of interdisciplinary topical symposia are held concurrently. In principle, this permits scientists to participate in a series of sessions with the same continuing group actively working in the same field as one's own, for more intense discussions, while it also becomes possible to attend at least some talks at topical symposia in areas of overlapping interest. More importantly, the focus of each symposium is on the efforts of several disciplines to achieve a specific common goal in new materials, new characterization methods or new process technology. Such meetings increasingly promote and stimulate multidisciplinary materials research. Attendance of graduate students is strongly encouraged, with a special registration rate.

**MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY**  
102C Materials Research Laboratory  
University Park, PA 16802

- The symposia are organized under two guiding principles:
- (1) Each symposium is to provide an important forum for the exchange of ideas at the forefront of research by those actively involved in the field. The "education" or instruction of non-specialists is not the primary purpose.
  - (2) The topics are to be treated at a sophisticated level, from an interdisciplinary viewpoint, so that all possible physical, chemical, engineering insights may be presented and discussed.

This format is providing a long overdue interdisciplinary forum in the materials area focused on goal-oriented research.

## ORGANIZATION, 1979

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