Carl V. Thompson Receives 2006 Woody Award

Bestowed annually to an MRS member who has made extraordinary contributions to the Materials Research Society (MRS), the Woody Award was given to Carl V. Thompson, the Stavros Salapatas Professor of Materials Science & Engineering of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), at the 2006 MRS Fall meeting in Boston by MRS President Peter F. Green.

Thompson served as a member of the MRS Council, and as the second Vice-President of the Society in 1994. He then served as the first Vice-President in 1995, and subsequently the President in 1996. He has had a lasting impact on this Society and its meeting organization. He played a significant role toward building the MRS Headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pa, during his presidency. Moreover, in addition to organizing many MRS symposia during the years, he served as a meeting chair for the 1991 MRS Spring Meeting. He has chaired the Program Development Subcommittee of the MRS



Carl V. Thompson

Program Committee for many years. As chair of this committee, he has devoted countless hours toward working with the meeting chairs as they prepare their final program for the MRS meetings. His job

begins two years in advance of each meeting, with each set of meeting chairs, when the chairs are first identified. This is followed by many hours of conference calls where details of the programs, from meeting philosophy and guidelines to individual symposium topics, are discussed.

Thompson received his SB degree in materials science and engineering from MIT in 1976 and his SM and PhD degrees in applied physics from Harvard University in 1977 and 1982, respectively. In 1984–1985, he was appointed the Mitsui career development assistant professor of contemporary technology. In 1987, he was appointed associate professor of electronic materials, and promoted to the rank of Professor in 1992. Thompson spent sabbatical years at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom and the Institute for Metallkunde in Stuttgart, Germany. He currently chairs the program for Advanced Materials for Micro- and Nano-Systems of the Singapore-MIT Alliance.

Alicia Jackson Selected as MRS/OSA Congressional Fellow

Alicia Jackson has been selected as the 2007–2008 Materials Research Society/Optical Society of America Science and Engineering Congressional Fellow and begins her service in September. During her tenure, Jackson wants to develop policies that will encourage the critical scientific developments and technology transfers necessary to solve the many environmental, health, and defense challenges and that encourage the link between technological and economic development and contribute to human progress.

Jackson's interest in science policy grew out of her desire to have a broader impact on scientific research and its societal impacts than that afforded to her through basic research. While at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she received her PhD degree in materials science and engineering, Jackson worked with Bill Bonvillian,



Alicia Jackson

head of the MIT Washington Office, to create a new science policy course for science and engineering graduate students and postdoctorate associates. The aim of the course is to develop a new generation of policy-versed and active scientists.

During the summer of 2007, Jackson worked at the National Academies of Science as a Christine Mirzyan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellow. While there she worked with the Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy on the project of Ensuring the Utility and Integrity of Research Data in a Digital Era.

Jackson wrote her dissertation on "Phase Separation and Nanostructuring in the Ligand Shell of Nanoparticles." During her thesis research, she discovered that mixtures of molecules, when assembled on nanoparticles, show ordered phase-separation at a molecular length scale, resulting in several novel and unexpected properties. This discovery has a number of biotechnological applications as well as environmental health and safety implications of nanoparticles.



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