

Steve Moss, Recipient of the 2003 Woody Award: A Happy Belated Tribute

Sometimes there are people in the background who just make it all work. Sometimes, they are there for years. They are the foundation of an edifice that can stretch upward for miles, and while everyone stands in awe of the spire, they carry the load.

Steve Moss of Aerospace Corp. is one such individual. He has shepherded the Materials Research Society's Information Services (IS) Committee for over seven years, thereby shaping the offerings of MRS on the web and in the proceedings, *MRS Bulletin*, the *Journal of Materials Research*, and the *MRS Internet Journal of Nitride Semiconductor Research*. In short, technical information that flows through MRS passes directly or indirectly through Steve. Yet, Steve has never had a flashy title or overt recognition. For years, he has chaired the IS committee, working through personal vacations and even his personal pocketbook—when employer travel funds were not available—to make it happen. It is with deep awe and grati-



Steven Moss of Aerospace Corp. (left) receives the 2003 Woody Award from then MRS President Merrilea J. Mayo of the National Academies.

tude that those of us who have had the flashy titles (and the very nice presidential suite at the Meetings) look upon Steve's contribution as a supreme and utterly selfless service to the membership.

In 2003, the Society was finally able to honor Steve in front of the assembled

attendees at its Fall Meeting in Boston. Steve received the 2003 Woody Award, an award given annually to an exceptional volunteer whose sacrifices, intellectual contributions, and long volunteer hours are an inspiration to us all. The award is aptly named after Woody White, whose selfless perpetual energy and commitment as an MRS volunteer made him an icon of MRS legend. I had the pleasure of presenting the award to Steve, all the while thinking, you know, sometimes the good guys win, even outside Hollywood.

One of the reasons I have spent so many of my own volunteer hours with MRS is the altruism of its volunteers. Their energy feeds my energy; their commitment makes me feel that my commitment is worthwhile. Of course, I have no doubt that if Steve had written this tribute, it would have been done six months sooner, but we try not to compare ourselves to our superheroes.

MERRILEA J. MAYO
2004 Immediate Past President

Pavese Named 2004–2005 OSA/MRS Congressional Fellow

Karin Ezbiasky Pavese of General Electric Advanced Materials in Waterford, N.Y., has been named the 2004–2005 OSA/MRS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow. Her tenure begins in September. As the recipient of this one-year appointment, sponsored jointly by the Materials Research Society (MRS) and the Optical Society of America (OSA), Pavese will work directly for a member of Congress or on a Congressional committee as a consultant on scientific and technical matters.

"I have always had a passion for science education and public service," said Pavese. During her two years in a Technical Leadership Program at GE, Pavese interacted with suppliers and research and development groups in Europe and Japan. In her latest position as a silicone hard-coat product development chemist, she has participated in establishing a coatings division in GE's Shanghai facility in China.

"One issue of many that interests me is the globalization of the technology workforce," Pavese said. "It is clear from my time at GE that it is economically favorable to conduct research abroad. It also became clear that this type of change dramatically influences U.S. society."

Arun Seraphin, who serves on the MRS Congressional Fellow Subcommittee, said, "The selection committee was tremendously impressed by Karin's knowledge,



Karin Ezbiasky Pavese

poise, and presence. Her technical expertise and industrial experience will make her a valuable asset in the development of the U.S. science and technology policy."

Pavese's strong involvement in service began in high school as an active Key Club member. During her undergraduate years, she sought out opportunities to influence education for underprivileged groups in Baltimore, Md. In her senior year, she was selected as one of 12 students to lead the community service activities on campus, specifically, the adult literacy programs. Her enthusiasm continued throughout graduate school, where she led science workshops for programs such as "Expand Your Horizons," targeted to motivate and excite under-

privileged students about science. She continues to lead an active life in service as a GE Elfun Volunteer, where she is currently a board member setting the direction for service programs in the area of human services.

"We're really enthusiastic to have Karin as our 2005 Congressional fellow," said Colleen Morrison, director of government affairs for OSA. "Her combination of knowledge and passion, as well as her ability to think on her feet, will make her an excellent addition for staff on the Hill."

Upon earning her PhD degree in inorganic chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania in 2000, Pavese took the position in GE's Technical Leadership Program, where she led technical programs and in parallel completed management training. For the past two years, Pavese has been a product developer and Six Sigma Black Belt (in preparation for a senior level position at the company) in the area of nanoparticle-filled coatings, where her focus has most recently been in the optical media field. Pavese is an author of six publications, three patents, three patent disclosures, four GE proprietary technical reports, and nine conference presentations.

Pavese said she looks forward to her role as the OSA/MRS Congressional fellow as an opportunity to combine her technical competency with her deep passion for service to the community. 

MRS Seeks Nominations for 2005 Outstanding Young Investigator Award

The Materials Research Society is accepting nominations for the Outstanding Young Investigator (OYI) Award to be presented at the 2005 MRS Spring Meeting in San Francisco.

The OYI Award recognizes outstanding interdisciplinary scientific work in materials research by a scientist or engineer under the age of 36 (as of January 1, 2005).

The award recipient must show exceptional promise as a developing leader in the materials area.

The award consists of a \$3,000 prize, a presentation trophy, and a citation certificate. Reasonable travel expenses to attend the MRS Meeting at which the award is presented and the meeting registration fee will be reimbursed.

The deadline for submission of nominations is midnight Eastern time (U.S.) on October 1, 2004. For guidelines and application forms, access the MRS Web site at www.mrs.org/awards/ or contact Kathy D'Biagio, Materials Research Society, 506 Keystone Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086-7573, USA; e-mail dbiagio@mrs.org. 

Strange Matter Web Site Receives Numerous Awards

www.strangematterexhibit.com

Strange Matter, an interactive science exhibition produced by the Materials Research Society, is designed to introduce the public to and excite them about materials science. Along with the traveling science exhibition's large (6000 square feet) and small (1700 square feet) versions is an award-winning interactive Web site: www.strangematterexhibit.com. The Web site offers games, experiments, and videos geared toward youth from 5th to 8th grades, along with guides for families and teachers. Since the Web site's debut in June 2003, it has received awards and special recognition.

The American Association of Museums honored the *Strange Matter* Web site with a 2004 Bronze MUSE Award in recognition of the highest standards of excellence in the use of media and technology for the interpretation of and education in science. The judges said, "This Web site successfully translates a physical experience to an on-line exhibit by containing innovative activities that explain the properties of different materials." The site also received a 2003–2004 Golden Web Award from the International Association of Webmasters and Designers "in recognition of creativity, integrity, and excellence on the Web."

Animated features called "Zoom," "Materials Smackdown," "The Transformer," and "Change-the-World Challenge" entertain viewers on the materials aspects of structure, properties, processing, and performance, respectively. For example, in "Materials Smackdown," viewers watch a competition between two materials as they go head-to-head in a test of strength, such as "Plastica" versus "the Crystal Crusader" (made of acrylic and glass, respectively). At the end of the match, viewers are offered explanations and some experiments to try at home.



Under "Stuff for Family" is an eight-page family guide that can be downloaded which is filled with experiments youth and their parents can perform using the "stuff" they typically have at home. The guide also offers a list of resources. The 64-page teacher's guide that can be downloaded from "Stuff for Teachers" includes background on the exhibition; pre- and post-visit hands-on activities using inexpensive, easy-to-find materials; teaching strategies; a glossary; and resource lists. The hands-on activities, based on the National Science Education Standards, are designed to encourage exploration and inquiry.

The *Blue Web'n*—a library of blue-ribbon learning sites—has given the *Strange Matter* Web site a "Hot" five-star rating. The site is featured among the recom-

mended resources on *Science NetLinks* of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and it is listed as a teacher resource by the U.S. National Science Teachers Association. The *Strange Matter* site has also received special recognition from the American Library Association, the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for educators, the Exploratorium in San Francisco, *The Washington Times*, *USA Today*, *Yahoo*, and *Yahooligans*, a Web guide for children.

The *Strange Matter* exhibition, tour, and Web site, designed by Ontario Science Centre, are made possible by the generous support of the National Science Foundation, Alcan Inc., Dow, the Ford Motor Company Fund, Intel Innovation in Education, and the 3M Foundation. 

www.strangematterexhibit.com