

1986 in Review

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MRS Immediate Past President



Pronko—the proceedings of 23 recent MRS symposia were published. In addition, a new Conference Proceedings series, for non-MRS symposia related to materials research, was inaugurated with the publication of *Tungsten and Other Refractory Metals for VLSI Applications*. Agreements for several more books in this new series have already been secured.

Following 18 months of intensive planning, *Journal of Materials Research* became a reality with the appearance of its first issue in April 1986. Although this issue was delayed a few months, the last issue of Volume 1 is now on schedule due to the diligent efforts of Editor-in-Chief Charles Duke and his Board of Principal Editors. *JMR*, the official technical journal of the Materials Research Society, was established to offer its constituency the same broadly based interdisciplinary research results found at its meetings. The quality and breadth of topical coverage in *JMR* has been monitored and stimulated this year by the Publications Subcommittee on Journals, chaired by Ross Lemons. This group has also aided the rapid acceptance of the Journal by hundreds of technical libraries.

The third medium showing significant progress in 1986 is the one in which this article appears. The MRS BULLETIN under the guidance of its Editorial Board Chairman, Elton Kaufmann, has made tremendous strides in its transformation from simply a Society newsletter to a magazine with broad news coverage plus technical articles (at a generally undergraduate level) about forefront developments in materials. In terms of publications

alone, 1986 has been an exciting year for MRS.

MRS educational activities have also increased significantly this past year. This is most striking in the Short Course Program, managed for the first time by Vivienne Harwood Mattox under the direction of Education Committee Cochair Ralph Dawson. Programs of 16 and 23 short courses were offered in conjunction with the Spring and Fall Meetings, respectively. In addition, several On-Site Short Courses were given at industrial locations, and a two-course program was cosponsored with the New Mexico Section of MRS. Considerable effort was devoted to the development of new courses emphasizing topics covered in the technical symposia.

The 1986 Fall Meeting was the scene of a new educational venture for MRS—the videotaping of interviews with several founders of modern materials research in support of our History of Materials Research project. This two-year project is being organized by Rustum Roy.

In addition to various internal projects, MRS has, during the past year, interacted with other groups concerned with materials. MRS cosponsored ten technical meetings or symposia, and provided publicity assistance for five more. In April at the Palo Alto, CA meeting, MRS provided a venue for an ad hoc group of 25 scientists from many groups. Representing a wide range of materials research interests, they discussed the needs and opportunities for creating a spokesgroup capable of effecting a two-way information flow on materials issues between researchers and government officials. While no formal action resulted from this meeting, its purpose of stimulating discussion among many groups did succeed. Finally, MRS responded to a request for input to the national Materials Science and Engineering Study by soliciting brief papers from its membership. These papers were published in November in *Communications on the MSE Study*, and a subset were selected for presentation at the Forum on the MSE Study at the 1986 Fall Meeting. The Forum, featuring presentations from MSE Study panel representatives, was designed to encourage discussion directly between the Study members and MRS members.

Only a small fraction of all these activities would be possible without consider-

Continued

able support from MRS headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA. A specific goal this past year was to extend headquarters' assistance to the Meeting Chairs and Symposium Organizers. To accomplish this goal, plus accommodate a 35% membership increase, the headquarters staff and space were substantially expanded. Three new positions were filled, and two floors of office space were consolidated into a larger, one-floor operation. In the midst of other ongoing activities, the outmoded com-

puter system was replaced with a new system specifically designed for association operations. Although pinched for training time, headquarters staff were able to complete the entire Fall Meeting preregistration on the new system. It is anticipated that this system will considerably increase the efficiency and productivity of the headquarters office, particularly in data and word processing.

Throughout this past year it has been a distinct privilege for me to work with so

many able, innovative, dedicated individuals. This is particularly true of the officers — Elton Kaufmann, Kathy Taylor, John Baglin, Rod Ewing, and Clif Draper — all of whom contributed to many aspects of the Society's operation. With people like these to assist the new president, Kathy Taylor, we can look forward to another productive year full of new activities.

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