

# 1986 MRS Spring Meeting

*Message from MRS President Gordon E. Pike*

Many of you have received this issue of the **MRS BULLETIN** as part of your registration materials for our 1986 Spring Meeting. On behalf of the Materials Research Society I would like to welcome you to this meeting. This is only the third annual Spring Meeting of MRS, but already it has become a popular forum for the presentation of leading edge, interdisciplinary materials research. Our first such meeting was held in Albuquerque just two years ago. Comprised of 133 papers spread among four symposia, it was established essentially as an overflow meeting to relieve room space pressure at our annual Fall Meeting in Boston. However, it developed a life of its own at the successful second Spring Meeting in San Francisco last year. Like an adolescent, it is growing rapidly.

This year we have over 500 papers being presented throughout nine technical symposia. There are also several new features at this meeting contributing to its personality. Since this growth is characteristic of the Society membership as well, this is the first MRS meeting for many attendees. For those people especially I would like to give a descriptive tour of our meeting. I suspect that attendees who have attended previous MRS meetings will also learn something from it.

## **Tour of the Spring Meeting**

The centerpiece of this gathering in Palo Alto is, of course, the technical program. The overall organization of this program is due to the inspiration, dedication and downright hard work of three men, the meeting chairs. Wei-Kan Chu of the University of North Carolina, Rod K. Quinn of Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Malcolm J. Thompson of Xerox PARC first identified symposium topics and organizers appropriate for this meeting. They then worked with those organizers of the symposia to insure that a technically excellent and smooth running program would result. The meeting chairs faced an added challenge this year because the meeting is split between two hotels, the Hyatt Palo Alto and the Hyatt Rikeys. Although both hotels are sites for many activities, the Hyatt Rikeys is the headquarters hotel and contains the registration desk for the meeting.

Nine technical symposia comprise this meeting. Some are easily identified with dominant interests of industrial and university laboratories in the surrounding Silicon Valley. However it is not merely the geographic location which determines the symposia topics. Instead it is their timeliness based on rapid evolution of interdisciplinary

research in the chosen topic. The symposium organizers have done a superb job of identifying the forefront areas of research, and assembling papers into sessions focused on these areas. This is a task which is rewarding in its outcome, but filled with considerable hard work between inception and completion. The Society is grateful to the symposium organizers for their dedicated service.

A tenth symposium, of a different nature, is making a return appearance. This is Symposium X, Frontiers of Materials Science, in which two tutorial reviews are presented for the non-specialist during lunchtime on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This symposium is a tradition at our Boston meetings, and was immensely popular last Spring.

Seven of our symposia will have their proceedings published. Since proceedings are meant to be snapshots in time of the progress in a selected research field, their timely publication is vitally important. The MRS Symposia Proceedings Series has a reputation for rapid, but accurate, publication of symposia papers under the direction of Gail Oare, MRS director of publications. Several volumes from the December 1985 meeting have already been published and may be inspected at the MRS publications desks at this meeting. To facilitate such rapid publication, Manuscript Rooms have been set up in both hotels to help with the collection and the technical and mechanical review of manuscripts at this meeting. They have been chosen for the convenience of authors and reviewers.

New to the Spring Meeting this year is the addition of a program of Short Courses. While all of the 16 Short Courses provide continuing education to professionals in materials research, many of these courses are new and have been created specifically for the Materials Research Society. This tremendous program was developed by Vivienne Harwood Mattox, MRS short course manager, with the able assistance of the instructors and of L. Ralph Dawson, co-chair of the Education Committee. For the first time the Short Course program will run concurrent with the technical program instead of at the end.

On Wednesday evening the Society will hold a ceremonial session at the Hyatt Palo Alto hotel, during which charters for newly formed Student Chapters and Local Sections will be granted. During this session the Society will also recognize the high-quality research of graduate students participating in the meeting. Their awards

consist of a cash grant and a waiver of the meeting registration fee.

The session will conclude with a Plenary Address by Dr. Pieter Meyers. This well-known researcher and speaker is the Director of Conservation at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He will discuss "Materials Studies in the Examination of Works of Art." Following the ceremonial session the Society will host a reception for all meeting participants.

From the description above, it is apparent that even our "small" meeting has many features, which I hope attendees will utilize. What is not so apparent in a complex meeting such as this one, especially if it is running smoothly, is the source of logistical support. The MRS Headquarters staff of eight tireless individuals, headed by Executive Director John Ballance, has performed superbly in supporting the meeting chairs, symposium organizers and short course manager, and preparing generally for this meeting and the subsequent publication of the proceedings. Credit for most of the on-site arrangements and their successful operation is due to Marilyn Hauck and Merry Geil of The Complete Conference.

## **Welcome to MRS**

Those of you who were not members of the Materials Research Society before this Spring Meeting are being given the benefits of membership on a complimentary basis. Your presence at this meeting demonstrates that you are involved with the kind of materials research for which MRS exists. We feel that there will be a mutual benefit from your participation not only in our meetings, but also in our other activities as well throughout 1986. Our newest activity, one in which we take great pride, is the publication of the *Journal of Materials Research*. This is our archival journal for the type of wide-ranging, interdisciplinary materials research reported at our meetings, including this one. Although new, *JMR* can already be found in libraries of research laboratories around the world. As a member of the Society, you automatically receive a subscription to this journal. A sample copy of the recently published first issue is available for inspection at either of the Publications desks at this meeting.

If you benefit from our meetings and other activities and if your participation enriches the event for your colleagues, then what we have provided is serving its intended purpose. I therefore invite you to join with us in the pursuit of exciting and ground-breaking opportunities.

**MRS**