

Make the MRS “House” Your Home

Many materials researchers enter the Materials Research Society (MRS) “house” by way of attending one of our Spring or Fall Meetings. Opportunities for scientific discourse can be found in every session, the exhibit and poster halls, the corridors and the coffee shops. Over the years, MRS meetings have become venues for more than technical information exchange. They are places to convene, to network, to develop, to honor, to mentor. What did you do at your last MRS meeting?

Engage in a conversation with a colleague that resulted in collaboration that made a marked difference in your research, your teaching, or your program management? Like the field of materials research, MRS is interdisciplinary. Opportunities abound to meet and interact with researchers from all over the world with various technical and professional backgrounds. Conversations lead to technical exchange and later to collaboration.

Interact with the government agency representatives who came to discuss their materials research programs and funding opportunities? In the past year alone we have had presentations by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Energy-Basic Energy Sciences, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the National Science Foundation. These forums are held at each of our meetings to give you the chance to learn about agency programs and funding outlooks and opportunities.

Stop by the Public Outreach Center to learn more about our informal science education activities? The MRS cornerstone outreach activity, the Strange Matter traveling museum exhibit, has been touring since 2004 and reached over two million visitors in its first five years. Its award-winning, interactive Web site has had over a half million unique visitors and its downloadable guides for family and teachers are reaching homes and classrooms all over the world. In addition, MRS is an active partner in the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network, designed to foster public awareness, engagement, and understanding of nanoscale science, engineering, and technology. A more recent addition to the MRS outreach portfolio of activities includes Discoveries and Breakthroughs Inside Science, a syndicated science and engineering news service which brings 90-second stories to the U.S. public, showcasing ways in which science influences our daily lives. MRS thus far has provided 20 stories which will soon be available on a Web site for you to use in outreach and



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shefford P. Baker".

educational efforts. And, if you read the November 2009 issue of *MRS Bulletin* or if you were at the 2009 MRS Fall Meeting, you know that we are partnering with public radio and television station WGBH in Boston to produce a four-part NOVA documentary series on materials science, scheduled for release in Fall 2010.

Take advantage of the professional development opportunities offered at this year's Meetings? They include our communication tools seminars and education showcase, the NSF broader impacts session, and the women's workshop series. MRS volunteers and staff have been partnering to introduce seminars and other opportunities for you to enhance not just your meeting experience but also your professional skills. And MRS volunteers are working to further develop activities and programs to support the global materials community.... we look forward to your participation.

Accept an award or support the acceptance of one by a mentor, a colleague, or a student? MRS recognizes the achievements of its top graduate student researchers as well as the ground-breaking research and significant accomplishments of those honored by the Outstanding Young Investigator Award,

the MRS Medal, the Turnbull Lectureship, the Von Hippel Award, and the recently introduced Innovation in Materials Characterization Award. Additionally, the MRS Fellow program annually recognizes outstanding members whose sustained and distinguished contributions to the advancement of materials research are internationally recognized. We invite you to nominate a colleague for these prestigious awards.

Spend time in committee meetings, contributing your ideas and enthusiasm to furthering the MRS mission and strategic objectives? MRS was founded by volunteers and proudly remains a volunteer-driven society, dedicated to serving the needs of the materials profession and those that are part of it. We are led by our Board of Directors and are fortunate to have the input and commitment of hundreds of volunteers each year. These include the leaders and members of our nine operating committees and their subcommittees and various task forces, our editorial and advisory boards, our meeting chairs, symposium organizers and session chairs, our *MRS Bulletin* volume organizers, guest editors, and authors, and many more. We hope that your experience as a volunteer has been rewarding and that you will continue to work to further the MRS mission. Not a volunteer yet? We invite you to contact us to find the best match for your interests and talents: info@mrs.org.

Having started as a “meetings society” committed to technical excellence, MRS has continued to be the leader in meetings that promote and further interdisciplinary materials research. We have also strived to broaden our service to the community and have done so with publications such as the *MRS Bulletin* and the *Journal of Materials Research*; by taking a leadership role in advocating for funding for the physical sciences and on other matters of importance to the profession; by bringing the wonders of materials science to the public through *Strange Matter* and a number of other outreach programs; by providing professional opportunities through our Career Center, Awards program, tutorials, seminars, and workshops; and by encouraging our members to contribute their ideas and enthusiasm to MRS.

Take time to experience all that MRS has for you... at our meetings, in our publications, on our Web site, through our volunteer opportunities. You decide what you want your MRS experience to be. Next time, don't just stop by the “house”; come inside and make it your home.

SHEFFORD P. BAKER
2009 MRS President