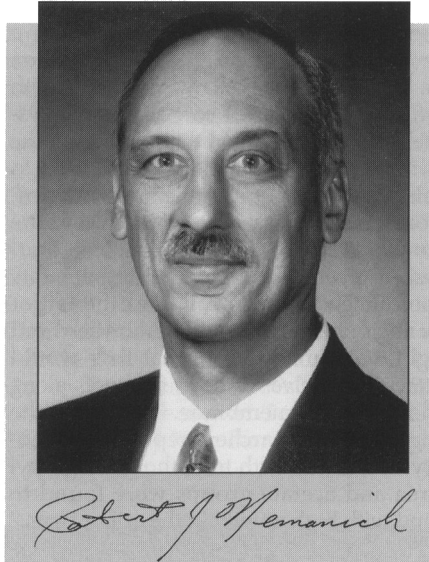


MRS Volunteers Contribute to Building a Professional Identity

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the activities of the Materials Research Society in its 25th year. We have again had two very exciting meetings at San Francisco and Boston, and our array of publications and other activities continue to be successful. Even with this success, in many ways this has been a year of planting seeds, and several of our new projects are already bearing fruits.

One of our goals this year has been to emphasize activities which contribute to building a professional identity of MRS as a Society which we belong to throughout our careers. We have just implemented a program to encourage undergraduates to become involved in materials research (see the Call for Proposals for the Undergraduate Materials Research Initiative in this issue). Several of the MRS leaders have visited Washington, DC to express support for scientific and engineering research. We are very encouraged that our efforts contributed to the passage of a bill in the Senate to double research funding by 2010 (see *MRS Bulletin*, September 1998, p. 14). And in the process of bringing awareness of materials research to the general public, a task force has conceptualized and brought into reality three travelling, interactive displays. I hope you had a chance to see them at the MRS Fall Meeting in Boston.



In efforts to have a true international perspective, we have asked a group to join the Public Affairs Committee and look for ways of expanding our activities to support the advancement materials research throughout the world. Also, at the Fall meeting we joined the International Union of Materials Research Societies in presenting a forum of distinguished leaders speaking on global research perspectives of materials research.

To better serve our members in new

ways we have initiated the first MRS workshops on materials topics, and to make our symposia more effective we have initiated an experiment on electronic publication of the symposia proceedings. We have also worked toward creating a welcoming environment for our members and the materials community. We have worked closely with MRS staff to put into place a new organizational structure that will be responsive and efficient. In a more tangible item, I hope you enjoyed the MRS poster to highlight accomplishments in materials research.

I began this year by noting that there is "an MRS way of doing things"; namely, to involve our member volunteers in ways that use their scientific and technical expertise to all of our best advantage, and to rely on the excellent staff of MRS to help facilitate our projects. I am so very impressed by the work of everyone.

While we have had the opportunity to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Materials Research Society this year, in many ways our meetings, our awards, and our other special Society activities are opportunities for us to join and celebrate the success of materials research every year.

I sincerely appreciate all of your support for MRS.

ROBERT J. NEMANICH

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Proposal Deadline: January 15, 1999 • Funding to be Awarded: February 15, 1999 • Projects (Final Reports) to be Completed: May 1, 1999

MRS Undergraduate Materials Research Initiative (UMRI)

Sponsored by the Academic Affairs Committee of the Materials Research Society

Purpose: To introduce undergraduates to the excitement of discovery through research in materials science and engineering by providing funds for research and subsequent awards.

General Information: Each awardee will receive a grant for the cost of a moderate research project of no more than \$750 plus an additional award of \$250 payable directly to the undergraduate researchers upon completion of the project. If the researcher feels that he/she requires up to \$1000 for research, he/she may forfeit the \$250 personal award, providing sufficient justification is included in the proposal. In no case will a proposal requesting more than \$1000 be considered. Cost sharing is encouraged but will not influence the selection of successful proposals. MRS will award approximately \$20,000 total for this program for fiscal year 1999.

Eligibility: Undergraduates of any major who want to conduct research relating to materials are eligible to apply. The main thrust of the UMRI Program is to make research experiences available to the largest possible number of eligible undergraduates. The overall interests of MRS can be assessed through our website at <http://www.mrs.org>.

For the purpose of this program, an undergraduate is defined as a student enrolled in a degree program (part-time or full-time) leading to a bachelor's degree or an international equivalent. Eligible students must maintain undergraduate status throughout the duration of the project (final project reports are due May 1, 1999). Students may receive credits for their research, but the project may not be the result of a structured lab course in which projects are not independent. Student teams may apply as a single entry (the total research budget per team is limited to \$750 plus the \$250 student award which is to be divided among the team.)

To Obtain Complete Information: Copies of the complete announcement may be obtained from the MRS website at <http://www.mrs.org>, or ordered by electronic mail from info@mrs.org, or ordered by telephone through MRS Member Services at (724) 779-3003. Please provide your name, complete mailing address and number of copies of the UMRI announcement required.

