

The Public Relations and Publicity Committee Promotes Society Events

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The Public Relations and Publicity Committee is the newest committee of the MRS. The charter of the Committee is to disseminate information about the Society and its activities to MRS members, potential MRS members, and the press, in addition to playing a role in the smooth running of MRS meetings.

To date the primary responsibility of the Committee has been distribution of press releases and announcements regarding MRS meetings, awards, and special events such as plenary sessions. The articles you may have seen in trade publications such as *Physics Today* and *Semiconductor International* regarding MRS meetings were written on the basis of material supplied by the Public Relations and Publicity Committee.

Of course, in order to be most effective, information on MRS must be disseminated widely to publications which are read by members of the materials research community. The Committee has assembled an extensive list of such journals, as well as news publications in areas where meetings are held. This has played a major role in the



Julia Phillips

increased attendance at recent MRS meetings.

The Committee also has responsibilities toward the publication of the **MRS BULLETIN**. The Calendar showing meetings of interest to MRS members, which has become regular feature of the **BULLETIN**, was instituted and is maintained by the Committee. MRS members who know of meetings which should be included in the Calendar are encouraged to call me at (201) 582-4428 with the information, so that the Committee can continue to expand its coverage of these upcoming events.

Informing potential members of the Materials Research Society of its activities

and the benefits of Society membership is accomplished through the wide distribution of brochures about the Society.

The most recent brochure was designed by the Committee. Many new members were registered as a result of its dissemination.

Oversight of the publicity-related functions at MRS meetings is also a responsibility of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee. These functions include training audio-visual personnel and overseeing meeting photography. Packets are also assembled for distribution to the press who attend. At the 1984 Fall Meeting, lay language abstracts were collected from selected authors. These were distributed to the press, and also appeared in the **MRS BULLETIN**.

All of these activities contribute to the growth and vitality of MRS by providing useful information to interested persons, helping membership growth, and contributing to the success of MRS functions.

**Julia Phillips is chairperson of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee.*

Education Committee Establishes New Student Chapter Benefits

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Two new programs have been instituted specifically to benefit MRS Student Chapters. The Student Travel Award and the Distinguished Lecturer programs were recently approved by the Council to enable students to participate more fully in Society activities and to benefit from the knowledge of scientists in the field. Starting this Fall, funds will be available to assist students who wish to attend MRS meetings. Allocation of funds will be administered through individual MRS Student Chapters. The awards are open to all undergraduate or graduate students members of MRS Student Chapters. Chapters are being given considerable autonomy in disseminating these travel funds to their members based on their own selection criteria. Application should be made directly to the chapter concerned.

The new Travel Awards are separate from and in addition to the existing MRS Graduate Student Awards program, which continues to provide cash grants and to waive registration fees for graduate student authors and co-authors of MRS Fall or Spring Meeting papers. The Graduate Stu-



Linn Hobbs

dent Awards are competitive, and recipients are selected for each meeting by the MRS Awards Committee. Details on this program may be found on page 29 of the 1985 MRS Fall Meeting Preliminary Announcement and Call for Papers brochure.

Travel support will also be provided for distinguished lecturers who, starting this Fall, will make visits to student chapters and give seminars of broad, general interest on the practice of materials research in their specialty fields. The roster of lecturers is comprised of prominent MRS members who have volunteered their services to coincide with visits to the Chapter's institution for other business or travel to nearby regions. MRS Headquarters will coordinate

lecturers' travel schedules and will advise Student Chapters of possible dates for MRS lecturer visits. Chapter officers should contact Anne Wagner at MRS Headquarters to register their preferences for subject matter and to complete visit arrangements.

MRS currently has student chapters at UCLA, Case Western Reserve University, University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and an active local section in the North Carolina Research Triangle area which serves the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, and Duke University student communities. Several other student chapters and sections are in the process of formation. Information about establishing an MRS Student Chapter may be obtained from Linn Hobbs, Room 13-4066, MIT, Cambridge, MA 02139, telephone (617) 253-6835.

News about chapter activities and experiences will appear regularly in the **MRS BULLETIN**. Chapter Officers should send their contributions to Gail Oare at MRS Headquarters.

**Linn Hobbs is co-chair of MRS Education Committee*