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# CHALLENGES AS THE MRS GROWS

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## *Dynamic Growth Requires Dynamic Solutions: A Status Report On How We Are Coping With Success*

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Although we are only one third of the way through the 1984 calendar year, the Materials Research Society has made enormous progress during this relatively short period of time. The MRS is a very dynamic society and its activities continue to grow at an unbelievable pace. In February, the Society held the first of its Annual Spring Meetings, in Albuquerque. The quality of the technical program was outstanding and the attendance (almost 500 participants) was nearly double our most optimistic estimates. The success of this meeting was critical to the future growth of the MRS. The Spring Meetings will give us the opportunity to include many more topical symposia in materials science in Society meetings; they will provide a greater opportunity for individuals on the West Coast to participate in the Society's meetings, and they will provide a degree of flexibility that we have not had in the past. The Spring Meetings will grow rapidly to become approximately the same size as the Annual Meeting in the fall. At this time plans are developing rapidly for the 1985 Spring Meeting, which will be held in San Francisco next April. The next issue of the BULLETIN will contain a major announcement on the technical symposia to be included in that meeting.

### **Unparalleled Membership Growth**

Due primarily to the outstanding success of the Annual Meeting last fall and the Spring Meeting in Albuquerque, membership in the MRS has increased by approximately 50 percent this year and now stands at more than 2,000 members. Growth of this magnitude is unparalleled in the recent history of technical societies, and demonstrates the overwhelming response of materials professionals to the goals and objectives of the Materials Research Society.

Our European colleagues have organized the second MRS-Europe meeting, which will be held in Strasbourg, France, in June. This year the technical program has been expanded to three symposia, and the meeting is expected to attract participants from a large number of European nations, as well as a substantial number of others from outside Europe.

### **Annual Meeting Expanded**

Plans are developing rapidly for the 1984 Annual Meeting, to be held in Boston Nov. 26-30. A superb technical program consisting of 17 topical symposia has been put together by members of the Program Committee responsible for the technical content of the meeting—Walter Brown, Jagdish Narayan, and Paul Percy. This represents the largest number of technical symposia ever included in an MRS meeting. (Members are reminded that the deadline

for abstracts for contributed papers is June 15.) For the first time an equipment show will be included. More than 70 manufacturers are expected to display the latest in analytical and processing equipment during the show, which has been organized by the American Institute of Physics. During the Boston meeting, we will also institute a formal job placement service. In the past, job opportunities have been posted on a bulletin board during the meeting, but this is the first time a formal service has been offered. This service should be of significant benefit to student members, regular members, and corporate affiliates. Finally, a greatly expanded list of short courses will be offered. Subject content has been chosen to complement the technical program and to provide participants with an introduction to other technologies of current interest. With an expanded technical program and the additional meeting activities, the 1984 Annual Meeting promises to be the best that the MRS has ever held.



**"WOODY" WHITE**

To accommodate the expanded technical program and the additional activities that are planned for the Annual Meeting, we have extended the session to five days and have changed the meeting hotel. The 1984 meeting will be held in the Boston Marriott Hotel/Copley Place. This hotel has the finest facilities available in the Boston area for our meeting. The added meeting day will help to reduce the inevitable conflicts that arise due to parallel sessions and should permit attendees to participate more actively in a larger number of symposia.

### **Administrative Consolidation**

The phenomenal growth in the membership of the Society and our ever increasing number of activities have placed an enormous burden on our new Headquarters Office and staff, but they have responded with dedication and enthusiasm to this challenge. All Society literature is being produced through the Headquarters Office, all Society activities are being coordinated through that office, and all Society records are being maintained there. The centralized Headquarters Office has been brought up to speed in a

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Topics to be discussed in this symposium include radiation effects on insulators (modification of optical, mechanical, chemical properties and electrical conductivity); film adhesion on insulators and interface modification effects; hydrogen as a defect in glasses (effect on physical properties); electronic energy deposition and damage in glasses and polymers; defect analysis techniques in insulators; nuclear waste management; optoelectronics; chemical element sensors, and plasma erosion of insulating surface coatings.

Invited speakers include G. Foti (Italy), D.L. Griscom (U.S.A.), L. Laycock (U.K.), K. Rossler (Germany), B. Scherzer (Germany), and J.P. Thomas (France).

## Plenary Sessions

Several sessions of general interest are planned. Tentative titles are: "Materials Aspects of Nuclear Waste Management," "Characterization of Materials by Synchrotron Radiation," "Composite Materials: Present Status of Research," "The Basic Electronic Properties of Amorphous Silicon," and "The Deposition of Glow-discharge Silicon and its Device Applications."

Additionally, P. Aigrain will moderate a roundtable discussion June 5 on the topic, "Needs of New Materials in Industry." Conference organizers indicate participants will include the research directors of the leading industrial companies in Europe.

## National Representatives

A distinguished group of scientists serve as National Representatives. They are:

*Austria:* D. Bauerle (Linz)

*Belgium:* M. Laude (Mons)

*Denmark:* J. Bottiger (Aarhus)

*France:* M. Balkanski (Paris), P. Pinard (Lyon), M. Rodot (Paris)

*Germany:* M. Cardona (Stuttgart), S. Kalbitzer (Heidelberg), E.F. Krimmel (Munich), B. Stritzker (Julich)

*Great Britain:* A. Cullis (Malvern), C. Hill (Towchester), J.B. Speight (London)

*Italy:* G. Bentini (Bologna), E. Rimini (Catania)

*Netherlands:* F. Saris (Amsterdam), J.Th.M. de Hosson (Groningen)

*Sweden:* H. Fredriksson (Stockholm)

*Switzerland:* M. von Allmen (Bern)

## Registration

The cost of the conference is FF 1,000, which includes the proceedings. Students may enroll for FF 350 (this fee doesn't include the conference proceedings). The meeting will be held at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Advance registration is recommended but not essential. For

information, including a list of recommended hotels, write to the Secretariat, Centre de Recherches Nucleaires, Laboratoire Phase, F-67037 Strasbourg Cedex, France, Attention P. Siffert.

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## CHALLENGES

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remarkably short period of time, and the Society is very fortunate to have engaged an outstanding Executive Director, John Ballance, and a remarkable Executive Secretary, Anne Wagner, to staff the office. A permanent, centralized Headquarters Office will provide a continuity to the Society's activities that has not been possible in the past.

## MRS Committees

Finally, it is with great pleasure that I can report that the MRS committees have taken on a much greater

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### *MRS Committees Assume Larger Role In Determining The Society's Future Growth*

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responsibility in determining the future direction of the Society, and a greatly expanded role in carrying out the Society's activities. In the past, the Society's direction and activities were determined primarily by a relatively small number of the most dedicated members of the Program Committee and the Executive Committee. Our membership and our activities are so large and are growing so rapidly that this could no longer be possible. Fortunately, a large number of our colleagues have come forward and revitalized our Committees, which are already formulating recommendations on the direction and activities the Society should undertake. Following approval, the Committees will devise procedures and implement these new programs. The expanded role of the Committees is crucial to the future growth of the MRS. Their responsibilities will continue to be greatly expanded throughout the remainder of this year. Detailed accounts of the Committees' work are being reported in this and future issues of the BULLETIN.

In sum, the membership of the Materials Research Society is growing at a remarkable rate, and our activities and the services we provide are increasing accordingly. This dynamism will continue to accelerate. Only our goal remains unchanging: Insuring that the Materials Research Society is responsive to the needs of the world community of materials professionals.

**C.W. "Woody" White**  
MRS President