

MRS Committees Announce 1989 Goals

Academic Affairs Committee

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The broad objective of the MRS Academic Affairs Committee is to provide the necessary vehicle to promote awareness of materials science. The Committee provides educational materials and activities to a full spectrum of individuals from the high school student on through to the professional.

The immediate objectives are, however, geared to address the University Chapters because they are the immediate source of the Society's future leadership. Our aim is to substantially improve the visibility of MRS to these University Chapters, and in turn, promote communications in order to enlarge their role in Society activities. In addition, during the forthcoming year, we would also like to expand the number of University Chapters.

The Educational Materials Subcommittee of the Academic Affairs Committee was formed to investigate the role of MRS in addressing the needs of the academic community in educational materials. This Subcommittee also serves as the MRS liaison to the Materials Education Council (MEC) which meets biannually. Presently, the activities of the Committee have focused on identifying the needs of the academic community.

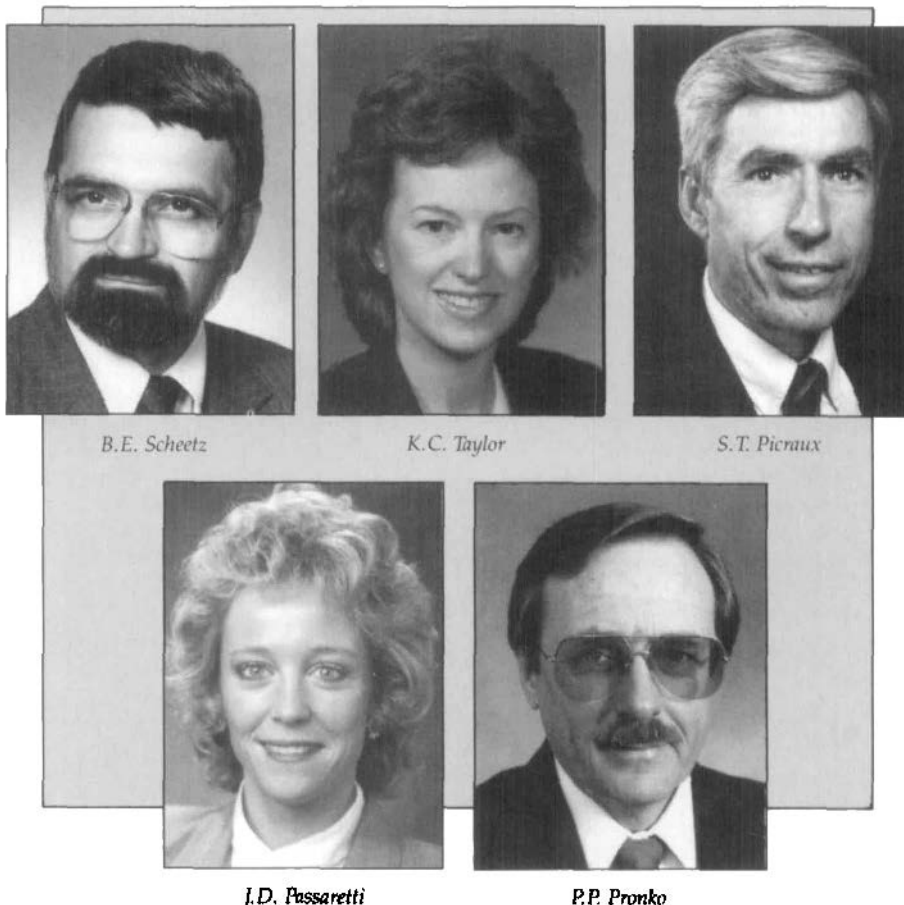
The Committee has two main objectives for 1989. The first is to ensure that MRS continues to take an active role and continues to support ongoing efforts such as those sponsored by the MEC. At the 1988 MRS Fall Meeting, there was some discussion on the merits of conducting a survey of materials science curricula in the United States. This topic has been discussed several times and will hopefully be launched in the next year or so.

The second objective is to work toward organizing a workshop/symposium where the needs and concerns of the academic community can be openly discussed. Ideally, this event would involve interested members from other professional societies and could even be a joint effort with them.

External Affairs Committee

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The MRS External Affairs Committee



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operates through three subcommittees: International Relations, Domestic Activities, and Public Relations. The International Relations Subcommittee, chaired by C.W. White (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), has responsibility for interfacing with all international MRS-type organizations, including E-MRS. This year a major goal of this Subcommittee is to implement the formation of the International Materials Research Committee.

The Domestic Activities subcommittee chaired by G.E. Pike (Sandia National Laboratories) has responsibility for implementing the newly formed MRS Affiliated Organization program. In addition, this subcommittee handles correspondence with other U.S.-based technical societies, including co-sponsorships and endorsements.

The Public Affairs Subcommittee, chaired by E.N. Kaufmann (Argonne National Laboratory), has responsibility for administering MRS public affairs activities at the request of the MRS Council and Ex-

ecutive Committee.

In addition to these subcommittee activities, the External Affairs Committee handles requests from government institutions requesting information or assistance. Occasionally the Committee sponsors special events at MRS meetings (e.g., panels or discussion groups) which serve the entire materials research community.

In 1989 emphasis will be placed on the international scene through participation on the International Materials Research Committee and collaboration on planning MRS-style meetings. Attention will also be given to enhancing communication channels within the materials community through cooperative programs with other societies.

Program Committee

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The MRS Program Committee exists to

provide guidance and coordination for technical programming. In a broader sense it is the responsibility of the Program Committee to ensure that the "MRS Spirit"—the exciting atmosphere and interdisciplinary environment of technical meetings—is preserved and enhanced wherever possible. Clearly the quality of our technical meetings must remain the highest priority of the Society. It is only by maintaining exceptional quality that we can enlist the involvement of the most outstanding people, and in the end it is the people who make the difference.

The Program Committee is composed of appointed members, the first vice president, and the Spring and Fall meeting chairs for the current and immediate past two years. In terms of specific activities, the Committee has previously focused on reviewing the technical symposia proposed by the meeting chairs. The Committee also serves as a focal point for the input of new ideas for symposia, and for concerns about program coverage. The innovation for the meetings over the years has really come from the meeting chairs with input from the membership. It is essential that the meeting chairs continue to provide the technical vitality for the MRS meetings and that the Program Committee do everything it can to nourish that process.

In order to provide more effective and timely feedback to meeting chairs, a Program Development Subcommittee was recently established and is currently chaired by Paul Peercy (Sandia National Laboratories). This Subcommittee reviews the proposed program with meeting chairs about 14 months in advance of the meeting, with special consideration to program balance, coverage of major constituencies, and any potential problems or conflicts. For example, this past February the Subcommittee met with one of the Spring 1990 meeting chairs by conference call. This process allows questions to be addressed in advance of the full Program Committee meeting and adjustments to be made at an early stage.

This approach is working effectively. I'm proud of the fact that the MRS has a well-thought-out technical program in place 12 months in advance of its meeting. In addition, symposia covering exciting new developments can be incorporated as needed. This strong but flexible programming is something few other societies achieve. The entire process of establishing the final program for our Spring and Fall meetings requires the input of many people. I like to think of the Program Committee's role as a healthy mixture of coaching and cheerleading.

For the future, the Program Committee must increasingly concern itself with overall technical program coordination. Since the Fall Meeting has grown to approach its physical and technically optimal limits, we have increased our focus on the Spring Meeting to accommodate necessary expansion. Of course the best way to do this is to field an outstanding technical program. As an important step in this direction the Spring 1990 Chairs—John Bravman (Stanford University), Jeff Brinker (Sandia National Laboratories) and Bill Butler (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) have just finished putting together an outstanding program with about 24 symposia, substantially more than previously held at a Spring Meeting.

We're also continuing to look for better ways to ensure that we keep a good balance of topical areas to meet the needs of our constituencies. For example, we are exploring the development of selected topical meetings or workshops outside the Spring and Fall meetings.

Public Relations and Publicity Committee

Chair, J.D. Passaretti, Pfizer Minerals Research Center, 9 Highland Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18017; telephone (215) 861-3431; fax (215) 861-3412.

The Public Relations and Publicity Committee was established in 1984 in response to the growing interdisciplinary role of the Society as the major forum for materials research. One of the roles of the Committee between 1984 and 1989 was to publicize MRS activities to members through the *MRS BULLETIN*, publicize MRS activities to nonmembers through articles and calendar entries in appropriate journals, and arrange for press coverage at Society meetings. The committee currently works with MRS headquarters to continue this role.

Over the next year, the PR&P Committee will focus on developing increased public awareness of the Society's expanding role as the vital link between fundamental research and the technological advances which benefit mankind. Publicity about MRS will also help inform the general public about materials research and issues so that when the government makes funding or policy decisions that affect them, the decisions are made in the environment of a knowledgeable public.

The Committee works with the media and the MRS members to accomplish this task. For example, the press and other media specialists are well represented at each meeting. In addition, for each Spring and Fall meeting, a select number of speakers

are nominated to write lay language abstracts of their presentations which may be used as feature articles in laymen's journals, the science section of major newspapers, and television news.

The current PR&P Committee is comprised of representatives from the East and West coasts, Europe, and MRS headquarters. The representatives serve for three-year periods to provide continuity and to preserve long range contacts with the press and the technical community.

The future of science and technology in the U.S. and the policies affecting both are enhanced by the resources of the Materials Research Society. The Public Relations and Publicity Committee will pursue all possible opportunities to advance this position of the MRS and its members.

Publications Committee

Chair, Peter P. Pronko, Universal Energy Systems, Inc., 4401 Dayton-Xenia Road, Dayton, OH 45432; telephone (513) 426-6900; fax (513) 429-5413.

The Publications Committee for 1989 has been selected and associated subcommittee chairs are in place. The Subcommittee for the *Journal of Materials Research* is being chaired by Paul Peercy (Sandia National Laboratories), the Book and Proceedings Subcommittee is being chaired by Syd Wilson (Motorola), and the Subcommittee for the *MRS Bulletin* is being chaired by Elton N. Kaufmann (Argonne National Laboratory).

Journal of Materials Research (JMR) is now well established as a respected materials science archival journal and is proceeding through its various anticipated growth stages. During 1988 186 articles were published in *JMR*. We expect a continuation of growth in *JMR* during the coming months. We will all be working to build upon the original goal of making *JMR* the premier journal in its field.

The proceedings and books section of MRS publications activities are, as always, the mainstay of the Society and continue to represent the core of MRS participation in the materials science community. We anticipate continued stability and growth in this arena. Monographs and special topic books are being added to our title list and a new review book series is being considered as a way to examine and condense the more mature topics covered in the ongoing MRS symposia.

As always, we are open to suggestions and comments from the membership concerning our publication activities and welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues individually through private contact or collectively at MRS meetings. 