

*As the Presidents See It...***MRS Grows with its Members*****Kathleen C. Taylor, 1987 MRS President***

While 1987 was the year of my MRS presidency, my tenure on various committees and in other elected positions with the Materials Research Society spans more than 16 years, dating back to my first MRS meeting in 1976. Following that, I went on to be a symposium organizer and meeting chair, then held every elected office except secretary before assuming the presidency. Over the course of those 11 years, I experienced the transformation of the Materials Research Society from a small annual "meeting in Boston" to a well-respected technical society. Everything we did during that period was always the first or the largest ever for MRS—the largest meeting to date, the largest equipment show, the first short-course program, the first MRS Spring Meeting.... The rapid growth in the size of our meetings (including the nuclear waste "mega" symposia), the popularity of the MRS Proceedings volumes, and the tireless assistance of Ernie Hawk at the Penn State Materials Research Lab gave MRS the strength to hire a full-time executive director (John Ballance) and secretary (Anne Wagner). Support from the funding agencies and corporate sponsors contributed to the high quality of meeting symposia.

My strongest memory as MRS President is the tremendous dedication and effort of MRS volunteers—the community of researchers who worked for MRS. Running MRS is a team effort. My team was made up of Gordon Pike, Past President; John Baglin, First Vice President; Bob Chang, Second Vice President; Julia Phillips, Secretary; and Sue Kelso, Treasurer. Our mode of operation was a monthly conference call with MRS Executive Director John Ballance. These calls were our mechanism for executing the operational aspects of the Society. Close communication among the officers and staff allowed us to make quick decisions, as needed, during this period of tremendous growth.

The major events for MRS, then as now, were the annual MRS Spring and Fall Meetings. Our 1987 Spring Meeting was held in Anaheim, organized by Meeting Chairs Russ Chianelli, Graham Hubler, and Greg Olson. The 1987 Fall MRS Meeting was organized by Tom Picraux, Barry Scheetz, and Murray Gibson. All details of on-site meeting arrangements were handled by The Complete Conference under

the direction of Marilyn Hauck and Merry Geil. (Merry has since joined the staff of MRS.) Our equipment exhibit was put on by the American Institute of Physics under the direction of Ed Greeley and Bob Finnegan. The MRS Short Course Program was organized by Vivienne Harwood Mattox under the oversight of Short Course Committee Co-Chair Al Romig. Our philosophy was that the nontechnical meeting operations should be run by experienced professionals.

Dave Campbell co-chaired the MRS Publications Committee. During 1987 the *MRS Bulletin* grew from six to eight issues per year under the continuing direction of MRS Bulletin Chair Elton Kaufmann. Frank Gambino, MRS Journals Chair and Editor-in-Chief Walter Brown saw *JMR* through its second year of publication. Twenty-five books were scheduled for publication under the direction of MRS Proceedings Chair Peter Pronko and MRS Publications Director Gail Oare.

1987 was also the year that high-temperature superconductivity took off, drawing large crowds at MRS meetings and significant press coverage—a busy time for Public Relations and Publicity Committee Chair Carol Jantzen. The MRS Graduate Student Awards continued to be eagerly sought. The Student Mixer at MRS Meetings was started in 1987 under Education Committee/University Relations co-chair Gary Tibbetts. 1987 also saw the initiation of the MRS Symposium Development Subcommittee of the Program Committee under the direction of Jim Roberto. This subcommittee examined the need for both balance and continuity in symposium programming. Other MRS committee co-chairs were Clif Draper—

Finance, Rod Quinn—Program, Julia Phillips—Membership, Elton Kaufmann—External Affairs, Michael Quick—Corporate Participation, and Gordon Pike—Awards, Long Range Planning, and Nominating.

The 1987 MRS Spring Meeting included 13 topical symposia and was attended by more than 1,500 scientists from around the world. The symposium on high-temperature superconductors, organized by Mike Schluter and Don Gubser, was videotaped and offered for sale after the meeting. The Plenary Address by NASA astronaut Bonnie Dunbar provided an inside look at her work as a mission specialist.

The 1987 MRS Fall Meeting broke another attendance record with more than 3,500 participants. Twenty-nine short courses were offered at the meeting. The symposium on Biomedical Materials and Devices organized by J.S. Hanker and B.L. Giannara was highlighted by the Plenary Address by William C. DeVries on "Medical and Materials Issues of the Total Artificial Heart." A special symposium on "Education in Materials Science and Engineering: The Changing Role of University, Industry, and Government Interactions" featured an address by National Science Foundation director, Erich Bloch. The 1987 Von Hippel Award was presented to Sir Charles Frank for his wide-ranging impact on modern materials science.

During 1987, MRS membership rose to 5,900. I attribute that growth and success to the dedication and efforts of MRS volunteers. MRS, a society run by researchers for researchers, is responsive to the needs and interests of its members. MRS symposia are what people are working on. That is, after all, what a technical society is about—a forum for the exchange of scientific information.

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Answering the Call of MRS***Gordon E. Pike, 1986 MRS President***

It was a quiet fall day in 1980 at Sandia. I was absorbed in a technical problem when the phone call came—a call that would make a profound and encompassing change in my life. The caller was Harry

Leamy, whom I did not know, and he was calling as a meeting chair for the Materials Research Society, of which I had never heard. He described an "alien" idea: that there was great benefit to be gained in