

Letter from the President

On to Boston

The MRS Fall Meeting has become one of the annual highlights for me, both professionally and socially, and I suspect it is the same for most of you. A great scientific gathering, in a great city, and—in my own mind at least—the beginning of the “festive season,” with all of Boston freshly garlanded and prepared for the holiday shoppers.

From December 2 until December 6, about 4500 materials researchers from industry, academia, and governmental laboratories will gather in the Hynes Convention Center and the Sheraton Boston Hotel, not to mention innumerable bars and restaurants, to inform and be informed. Meeting Chairs Marie-Isabelle Baraton (University of Limoges), Eric L. Garfunkel (Rutgers University), David C. Martin (University of Michigan), and Stuart S.P. Parkin (IBM Almaden Research Center) have created a technical program of 38 symposia, arranged in seven topical clusters—Polymers and Biomaterials; Nanomaterials and Technology; Electronic and Photonic Materials; Spin, Superconductivity, and Ferroelectricity; Surfaces, Interfaces, and Membranes; Metals, Alloys, and Inorganics; and Materials Science and Society. There is something here for almost everyone. Of the 3986 papers to be presented, 2306 will be oral presentations, and 1680 will be posters. They were selected by the more than 160 symposium organizers from the 4442 abstracts that were submitted (or invited) for inclusion in the program.

The technical symposia form the heart of the meeting and define its unique nature and strength, as usual. A large number of additional activities are also organized for the week, including a special session on



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Alex King

opportunities for funding international research collaborations, an extensive equipment exhibit, a career center, a plenary session, an awards ceremony featuring the Von Hippel lecture, graduate student award presentations, and numerous opportunities for networking. We anticipate that a number of venture-capital investors will be at this Fall Meeting, as they have for several of our recent ones, seeking new ideas and technologies in which to invest. The uncertain

state of the stock market has little impact on this form of investment, it seems.

Our meetings have grown considerably over the years, and the Fall Meeting has been through a number of changes, first taking place in a single hotel, then in various permutations of multiple hotels, occasionally supplemented by armories and cinemas. For a few years now, it has been housed in the Hynes Convention Center and the Sheraton Boston Hotel, representing a loss of the intimacy of a hotel setting but a gain in the convenience of having all of the sessions close enough together to allow the participants to browse and sample widely among the symposia. We have also taken some care to reverse a trend toward holding smaller and more narrowly focused symposia, consciously returning to our tradition of interdisciplinary programming intended to bring together researchers from a range of disciplines and backgrounds. You should not come to hear just a little more of the “same old thing” at an MRS Meeting: You should come expecting to be drawn to a few posters or talks at (or beyond) the edge of your usual subject matter, and perhaps benefit from a few surprises, too.

The Meeting Chairs and their symposium organizers have done a wonderful job of putting together a really strong meeting in the MRS tradition. I urge you to come and take advantage of it, to find out what is new and interesting in all areas of materials research—it is, without doubt, one of the most efficient and cost-effective ways of gathering up-to-date information in this technical area.

ALEX KING
2002 MRS President

Plan Now To Attend...



Exhibit and
research
tools
seminars

2002 MRS FALL MEETING

DECEMBER 2–6 • BOSTON, MA

The 2002 MRS Fall Meeting will serve as a key forum for discussion of interdisciplinary leading-edge materials research from around the world. Various meeting formats—oral, poster, round-table, forum and workshop sessions—are offered to maximize participation.

For more information on the 2002 MRS Fall Meeting, see the preview beginning on Page 786.

For additional meeting information, visit the MRS Web site at www.mrs.org/meetings/ or contact:



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