

Welcome to the 1985 MRS Spring Meeting

On behalf of the Materials Research Society, I would like to welcome you. Many of you have received this issue of the **BULLETIN** in your meeting registration folder at the second annual Spring Meeting of the MRS in San Francisco. Many others have found it in the registration material of the third annual Spring Meeting of the European Materials Research Society in Strasbourg. And so this is a dual welcome to attendees on both sides of the Atlantic. That such a duality exists in 1985 says a lot about the dynamic growth and ever broadening acceptance of the MRS and its unique forums for the practitioners of interdisciplinary research. I am happy you have joined us and look forward to your continued participation in the U.S. and in Europe.

Welcome to San Francisco

In San Francisco we are seeing a meeting which is twice the size and scope as the first such meeting just one year ago. This is largely attributable to two factors. The need for such a forum in the Spring in the West is present. And, we have benefited from the skillful and indefatigable talents of our meeting chairpersons and our symposium chairpersons. Meeting chairpersons, Susan M. Kelso of Xerox PARC, A. Wayne Johnson of Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, and K. S. SreeHarsha of San Jose State University, have identified topics and organizers appropriate to the technical program and worked with the organizers of each symposium to insure that a technically excellent and smooth running meeting occurs. As a result of their efforts, you will find almost 400 technical presentations among the seven topical symposia offered over the four days of the meeting. The individual symposium chairpersons are to be commended for a job very well done.

Also, the ever popular Symposium X which has become a tradition at our Fall Meeting in Boston has now, for the first time, been transplanted to the West Coast. Unlike in Boston however, this lunchtime symposium will concentrate on a single topical area, that of the preparation and characterization of thin films. Another first for an MRS meeting to be seen in San Francisco is the participation of a Local Section of

the Society. On Sunday evening, the Northern California Section of MRS will provide a combination of refreshments and lectures which are intended to prepare the serious meeting participant for the week to come by offering less-than-serious welcoming festivities.

The city of San Francisco gives us an excellent locale for a meeting such as ours. Of course for tourism, it presents opportunities with sites, character, culture and charm unique to the Bay Area. The technical environment is also most conducive to a materials research gathering. It can boast of prestigious universities, government research laboratories, and a panoply of industrial research and development centers which spills out of the Silicon Valley into the entire Bay Area. To ensure that our first meeting in this venue truly serves not only national and international researchers, but also the particular interests of the local community, we have enlisted the help of a Local Program Advisory Group representing a fair sampling of the research institutions in the area and have greatly benefited from their involvement. Members of this group, whose names are listed on the meeting program, deserve a most sincere thank you.

The logistical aspects of producing a meeting such as this often go unnoticed, especially when all goes well. Nevertheless it must be recognized that considerable time, effort and talent has been devoted to these. Our headquarters staff, which now numbers four, under the direction of MRS Executive Director John Ballance, have done their usual superb job in preparing for this meeting and for the subsequent publication of Proceedings. In addition, we are fortunate to have engaged a Sacramento-based firm, The Complete Conference, which has handled all local hotel and associated planning functions for the MRS. Many of you will undoubtedly see the firm's president, Marilyn Hauck, and logistics director, Merry Geil, involved at the meeting in insulating us all from the inevitable crises which arise.

Welcome to Strasbourg

In Strasbourg, we have three exciting topical symposia which have been organized by distinguished scientists under the auspices of the European

Materials Research Society. The EMRS is related to the MRS in the United States through the International Committee of the Material Research Society which has existed in ad hoc form for nearly three years and was placed on an official basis for U.S. participation by the Council of the MRS at its Fall Meeting in 1984. We know how much time and effort on the part of symposium chairpersons was invested in the EMRS meeting and thanks are due to all of them: V. T. Nguyen, A. G. Cullis, H. Ahlborn, H. Fredriksson, E. Luescher, K. Ploog, and N. T. Linh. Overseeing the entire operation is Paul Siffert of CNRS, who is helped by J. P. Massue and J. G. Wurm on matters of European coordination and the Council of Europe, the facilities of which the EMRS meeting enjoys in Strasbourg. And on program matters, the Committee of National Representatives with members from 13 countries provides assistance. Participants at Strasbourg are indebted to all these far-sighted individuals.

The growth of the European Materials Research Society's endeavors is well illustrated by the need for two meetings in 1985. The second meeting in the Fall of the year will deal with materials in transport. Details can be found in Vol. X, No. 1 and future issues of the **BULLETIN**.

Welcome to MRS

Whether you are attending the Spring Meeting in San Francisco or in Strasbourg, or have received this issue of the **BULLETIN** in the mail as a regular member of MRS, we welcome your participation. I have explicitly recognized the contributions of specific individuals above who are organizing our forums, but the true value of our effort depends quite directly on you. If you attend and benefit from our meetings and other activities and if your participation enriches the event for colleagues, then what we have provided is serving its intended purpose. I therefore call on each of you to participate and to offer your advice and suggestions at every opportunity. We are pursuing some exciting and ground-breaking activities and can only succeed in these with your support.

Elton N. Kaufmann

MRS President