

Operating Committees Drive MRS

Operating committees, which form the operational heart of the Materials Research Society, are made up of energized volunteers who wish to help drive forward specific aspects of MRS. Typically, volunteers serve on a committee for three years and are subsequently encouraged to consider participation in other committees. To learn more, contact MRS at info@mrs.org.

The *Academic Affairs Committee* is responsible for assessing existing educational curricula in materials science and engineering and evaluating the need for materials specialists in current and emerging technical areas. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to MRS university chapters. The committee sponsors the graduate student receptions and the university chapter representatives' luncheons at the Spring and Fall Meetings.

The *Awards Committee* oversees the selection process for the Society's awards and recommends new awards or changes to existing ones. MRS honors include the Von Hippel Award, the Turnbull Lectureship, the MRS Medal, the Outstanding Young Investigator Award, and Graduate Student Awards.

The *Information Services Committee* oversees the Society's print publications

and electronic delivery services, including the *MRS Bulletin*, Meeting Proceedings, the *Journal of Materials Research*, and the MRS Web site. The committee oversees editorial quality, business practices, new electronic initiatives, publications planning, and the identification of technological and other resource needs.

The *International Relations Committee* fosters relationships between MRS and international technical societies and organizations, including the International Union of Materials Research Societies (IUMRS), and identifies initiatives to enhance the quality of services provided to the international members of MRS and the global materials community.

The *Materials MicroWorld Committee* oversees the design, development, and publicity for the traveling Strange Matter exhibition (originally known as Materials MicroWorld) and the Strange Matter Web site, concentrating this year on activities associated with launching the Strange Matter tour across North America.

The *Membership Committee* is concerned with ensuring that the Society is meeting members' needs, conducting membership surveys, evaluating and communicating the results to the membership and the board of directors, and recommending

actions or new initiatives to the board. The committee also serves in an advisory capacity to local MRS sections.

The *Program Committee* (which includes the meeting chairs for upcoming MRS meetings) formulates the technical programs for MRS meetings and workshops. The committee solicits and develops suggestions for new symposia, evaluates current symposia for timeliness and relevance, recommends candidates for future meeting chairs and workshop organizers, and oversees co-sponsorships and approves endorsements of non-MRS meetings.

The *Public Affairs Committee* responds to and initiates opportunities to interact with government officials and public and private organizations on matters of science and technology policy, participates in or plans events related to those policies, and engages in outreach activities for the general public. The committee also assists the board of directors in identifying policy issues relevant to the Society's interests and proposes policy statements and responses for the board's consideration and disposition. In cooperation with the Optical Society of America, the committee selects the MRS/OSA Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow each year. 