



Annual Report 2008–2009



MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY

Advancing materials. Improving the quality of life.

Continued Growth, Greater Impact



Shefford P. Baker



Todd M. Osman

2009 was another year of solid growth and innovation for the Materials Research Society (MRS). Despite global economic challenges, the 2009 MRS Spring and Fall Meetings continue to grow, with 9,400 presentations in 91 symposia, extending a long succession of record-setting meetings. In addition, MRS expanded its meetings portfolio with a major new collaboration—a jointly organized meeting with MRS-Mexico, held in Cancun in August. These meetings carried on the MRS tradition of technical excellence, with Nobel Laureates and graduate students alike contributing to symposia that advance materials science and innovation.

The past year saw the MRS reputation expand as well. The Fred Kavli Distinguished Lectureship in Nanoscience prominently displayed the cutting edge of nanomaterials research. National Public Radio highlighted the MRS Plenary Lecture on *Science Friday*. The U.S. State Department selected MRS as a resource for scientific advice for Foreign Service Officers. And thanks to a generous endowment from Professors Gwo-Ching Wang and Toh-Ming Lu, MRS also launched the Innovation in Materials Characterization Award.

In publications, *MRS Bulletin*, *Journal of Materials Research (JMR)* and *Materials360®* continue to be primary venues for critical, cutting-edge research for the global materials community. In March, we proudly welcomed Gary L. Messing as Editor-in-Chief of *JMR*. Later in the year, the MRS Board of Directors took on a major new strategic initiative to ensure that MRS publications, indeed all communications, define the leading edge. 2009 also saw a marked increase in MRS proceedings volumes and revenue. This strong performance has enabled us to invest in the future, initiating new communication efforts that will launch in 2010.

Due to an egalitarian approach to excellence, MRS expanded its reach in other noteworthy directions, broadening our impact within and outside the scientific community. For example, MRS, in cooperation with public radio and television station WGBH in Boston and the U.S. National Science Foundation, began production of a NOVA television documentary series on materials science. The Strange Matter museum exhibit traveled to Montreal, Quebec, and the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network engaged MRS members to increase scientific communications to the general public. MRS commissioned and authored the first-ever chapter on U.S. federal funding for materials science for the *AAAS Report XXXIV: Research and Development FY2010*. We also extended the reach of our advocacy efforts for basic

MISSION

...An organization of materials researchers from academia, industry and government that promotes communication for the advancement of interdisciplinary materials research to improve the quality of life.

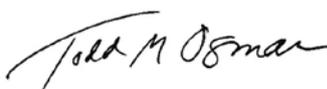
research and the physical sciences, most notably through collaborations with U.S.-based professional societies for energy advocacy in Washington, D.C. and with E-MRS and C-MRS for the Second World Materials Summit on Advanced Materials in Energy Applications and Sustainable Society Development held in Suzhou, China.

MRS continues to foster global networks, connecting researchers using science, and materials, to make a difference in the world. Beyond promoting technical solutions to societal challenges, the 2009 MRS Spring Meeting set a spotlight on Materials for the Developing World. MRS (Osman) presented a plenary talk at the Emerging Technologies/Emerging Economies Conference at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, highlighting the role scientists and professional scientific societies must play in improving the quality of life. The MRS Board of Directors also issued a Diversity Statement in 2009, building on progress made by the MRS Women in Materials Science and Engineering Group and charging our membership and our leaders to foster greater diversity wherever scientists and engineers are educated and employed.

As we turn the page on 2008-2009, it is the perfect time to thank our members, partners, exhibitors and sponsors. Your commitment to excellence has enabled MRS to make a difference, and to lead the way—advancing interdisciplinary materials research, broadening the impact of materials science, and improving the quality of life.



Shefford P. Baker, PhD
2009 MRS President



Todd M. Osman, PhD
MRS Executive Director

November 2009

“...fostering greater diversity wherever scientists and engineers are educated and employed”

The scientific and engineering communities must strive to become more inclusive, engaging all demographic groups in advancing science and technology. MRS recognizes that Diversity drives Innovation, Excellence and New Discoveries. Although progress has been made, women and under-represented groups still remain a largely untapped resource in research and innovation.

We affirm the critical role that professional societies must play at all levels of education and professional pursuits. Recent programs by many professional societies have provided benchmarking data collection, forums to discuss diversity issues in science and opportunities for professional development training. More needs to be done. The Materials Research Society therefore charges our membership and our leaders to continually engage the science and engineering enterprise, promoting greater participation from all demographic groups, proactively addressing barriers and fostering greater diversity wherever scientists and engineers are educated and employed.

VISION

...Will build a dynamic, interactive, global community of materials researchers to advance technical excellence by providing a framework in which the materials disciplines can convene, collaborate, integrate and advocate.

A Growing Global Community

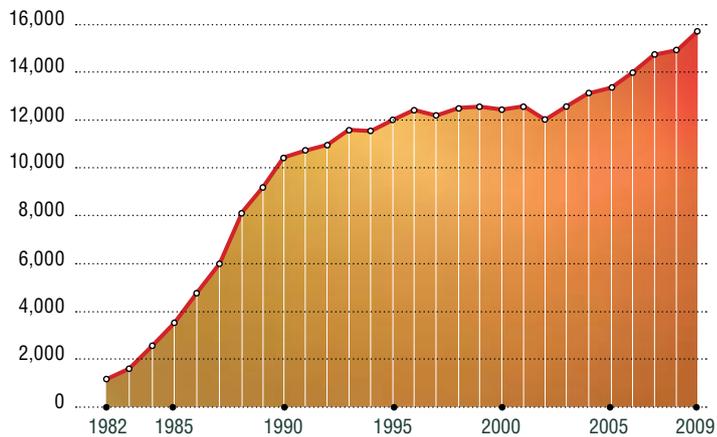
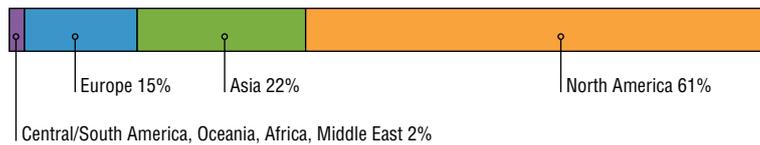
MRS membership through June 2009 exceeds 15,800 researchers, scientists and engineers from more than 80 countries. They are engaged and enthusiastic professionals at the cutting edge of materials research and reflect a truly interdisciplinary global community hailing from physics, chemistry, biology and engineering.

The Society's growth is predicated on building solid, responsible, working relationships with its colleagues around the world. In particular, membership from Asia expanded significantly this year as a result of the Society's partnership in the first MRS International Materials Research Conference, held in China in June 2008. Membership from Central and South America also shows marked growth due to a new collaboration with MRS-Mexico—the jointly organized XVIII International Materials Research Congress, held in Cancun in August 2009.

MRS Membership by Category



MRS Membership by Geographic Region



MRS Membership Growth, 1982–2009

Networking, Collaborating, Inspiring

MRS meetings continue to grow year after year, serving as a major international stage for the examination of leading-edge materials research. Mirroring membership, MRS meetings are multidisciplinary and multinational, attracting global experts and providing a glimpse of the future of materials science. Overseen by the Technical Program Committee, the meetings portfolio is structured to achieve balance among fundamental, emerging and new topics.

At the heart of the meetings portfolio are the MRS Spring and Fall Meetings. The [2009 MRS Fall Meeting](#) has a long history of growth and strong international attendance, and 2008 was no exception, with a record-setting 45 technical symposia, a record 4,600 oral/poster presentations, over 5,000 paid attendees and more than 225 exhibitors. In addition to well-established and popular topics, special sessions and new symposia provided forums for hot topics such as energy, the environment and biomaterials. The 2008 MRS Fall Meeting was also the launching pad for new MRS professional development initiatives.

The [2009 MRS Spring Meeting](#) also set new records for size and technical scope with 41 technical symposia, almost 3,700 oral/poster presentations and more than 4,000 attendees. Topical clusters covered an interdisciplinary spectrum, from electronic and optical materials, to energy and the environment, nanomaterials and devices, and biological and bio-inspired materials. The Meeting Chairs also devoted an entire day of activities (WEDNESDAY SPOTLIGHT) to Materials for the Developing World, emphasizing the special needs and opportunities for materials-related activities in underdeveloped areas.

In August 2009, MRS was proud to partner with the Sociedad Mexicana de Materiales (MRS-Mexico) on its annual conference, [XVIII International Materials Research Congress 2009 \(IMRC\)](#), held in Cancun, Mexico. According to MRS-Mexico President, Luis Enrique Sansores Cuevas, this new collaboration "will result in an increase in the academic impact of our meeting." While the long-term goal is to establish a joint "MRS Summer Meeting" of the scope and quality of the MRS Spring and Fall Meetings, both Societies report that the inaugural partnership was a success, with 22 technical symposia (five co-organized by MRS), 1,625 abstracts accepted from 28 countries, and final attendance of almost 1,100.

MRS has long been touted for its meeting expertise and operational infrastructure and now those trademark talents are being offered to other scientific communities in need of conference support. In 2009, MRS partnered with the [2009 International Conference on Neutron Scattering](#), held in May in Knoxville, Tennessee, and the [New Diamond and Nano Carbons Conference](#), held in Traverse City, Michigan, in June, providing logistical and operational expertise. In both instances, the scientific communities maintained their programming autonomy while taking advantage of MRS expertise in communications, logistics and business management.





MEETING CHAIRS

2008 MRS Fall Meeting, Boston

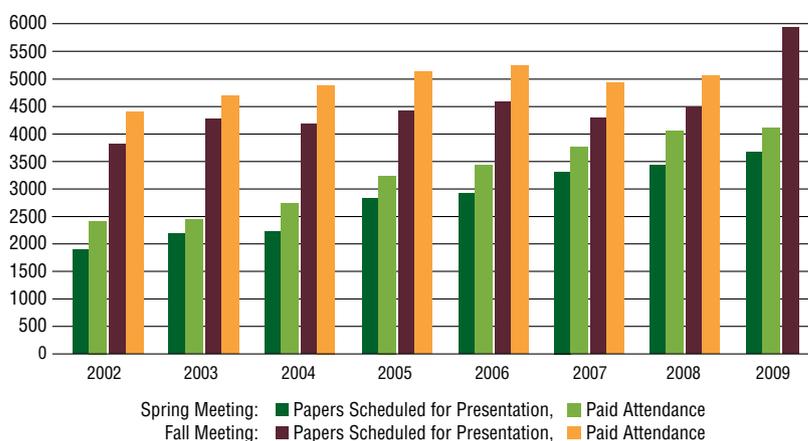
S. Ashok, The Pennsylvania State University
 Shenda M. Baker, Harvey Mudd College
 Michael R. Fitzsimmons, Los Alamos National Laboratory
 Young-Chang Joo, Seoul National University

2009 MRS Spring Meeting, San Francisco

Paul R. Besser, CMOS Industry
 Peter Fratzl, Max-Planck-Institute of Colloids and Interfaces
 Nicola Spaldin, University of California, Santa Barbara
 Terry M. Tritt, Clemson University

XVIII International Materials Research Congress 2009 (IMRC), Cancun

Luis Enrique Sansores Cuevas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico
 Alan J. Hurd, Los Alamos National Laboratory



MRS Spring and Fall Meetings Attendance, 2002–2009

“...connecting researchers using science and materials, to make a difference in the world”

The goal of MRS meetings is to provide a forum for the exchange of technical information, enable networking opportunities, and offer researchers from all scientific fields, backgrounds and employment sectors an opportunity to grow professionally and contribute to the advancement of materials research. Perhaps a student member said it best in a 2009 MRS Spring Meeting blog. “MRS is awesome because as grad students, we can get put in the same sessions as Nobel Prize heavyweights. It’s humbling and awe inspiring to present your work right beside some of the biggest names in the field.”

MRS will continue its commitment to building meetings globally that address regional priorities and expand research and industrial partnerships across borders. Meeting collaborations are already in progress with partners in Asia, Central America, South America and Europe. MRS meetings will also continue to be the leading source for informed dialog on materials design and development for global social challenges—a global classroom of sorts—for improving the quality of life.

Building Blocks for a Better Tomorrow

MRS print and electronic publications provide the R&D community with a vast collection of high-quality information on critical, cutting-edge research for the global materials enterprise. The Materials GatewaySM (www.mrs.org) houses an extensive library of current and archival content including *Journal of Materials Research (JMR)*, *MRS Bulletin* and the MRS Online Proceedings Library (OPL). In addition, *Materials360*[®] delivers timely, electronic updates on the rapidly changing world of materials.

Journal of Materials Research

Journal of Materials Research has become one of the most well respected and highly cited journals in the field of materials research. Its 2008 Impact Factor was a healthy 1.743 in the category of Materials Science, Multidisciplinary; its cited half-life is an impressive 8.4 years. Over the past year *JMR* has maintained a 53% rejection rate and a time-to-publish of 6.8 months—further attesting to its high value as an archival journal.

While 2008 was a year of transition for *JMR*, its commitment to uncompromised quality and editorial excellence remained unchanged. Gary L. Messing, The Pennsylvania State University, was appointed Editor-in-Chief, continuing a tradition of editorial accomplishment and leadership set by Gordon Pike, who retired from this role after eight years of distinguished service.

Although *JMR* represents developments across the materials spectrum, two special focus issues were published over the past 12 months, *Biomimetic and Bio-Enabled Materials Science and Engineering, December 2008* and *Indentation Methods in Advanced Materials Research, March 2009*. Manuscripts have been solicited for two additional focus issues that will publish in 2010.

MRS Bulletin

MRS Bulletin has been one of the most highly valued MRS member benefits since its inception in 1975 and continued to increase its editorial scope and impact in 2008-2009. The 2008 Impact Factor of 5.290 and half-life of 5.8 years placed it 15th in the Materials Science, Multidisciplinary category.

Published monthly, *MRS Bulletin* features technical theme topics that capture a snapshot of the state of the art of materials research. These coordinated collections of articles are written by experts in the field but are presented in a way that is understandable to a broader scientific audience. Recent theme issues included:

- nuclear energy systems
- bulk crystal growth
- nitride-based materials
- nanofunctional materials in cancer research
- hard materials with tunable porosity
- electromechanics on the nanometer scale
- atom-probe tomography

MRS Bulletin Volume Organizers • 2008

Yang-Tse Cheng, University of Kentucky
Rachel S. Goldman, University of Michigan
Ramanan Krishnamoorti, University of Houston
Alan Sellinger, Stanford University

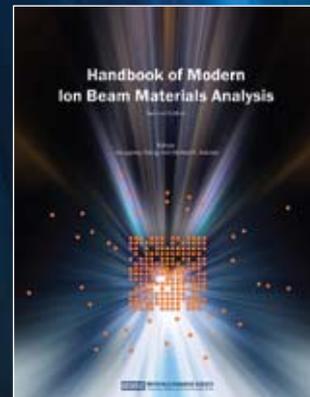
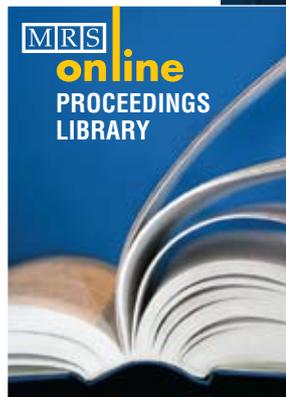
MRS Bulletin Volume Organizers • 2009

Amit Misra, Los Alamos National Laboratory
Ryan O'Hayre, Colorado School of Mines
Kenneth R. Shull, Northwestern University
Susanne Stemmer, University of California, Santa Barbara



MRS Online Proceedings Library

Proceedings of MRS meeting content have been a staple of materials research libraries since the series started in the early 1980s. In addition to more than 1,100 proceedings titles in print—16 published in 2008 and 36 added in 2009—MRS proceedings papers are also published online as part of the MRS Online Proceedings Library (OPL), which serves a rapidly growing worldwide community. While the OPL currently includes more than 40,000 papers, MRS is in the process of scanning proceedings volumes back to 1981 and will add these papers to the collection in the coming months.



Handbook of Modern Ion Beam Materials Analysis—2nd Edition

Production is underway on the second edition of the *Handbook of Modern Ion Beam Materials Analysis*—a revised and significantly updated version of the popular handbook first published by MRS in 1995. Written and compiled by over 30 leading authorities in the field of ion beam analysis, the handbook, with 17 chapters and 21 appendices, will present information unavailable collectively from any other source. Edited by Yongqiang Wang and Michael Nastasi, both of Los Alamos National Laboratory, it is targeted for publication by December 2009.

Electronic Newsletters

MRS keeps its members and the materials community current through a series of electronic newsletters.



Materials360[®] electronic newsletter, issued twice a month, reaches over 85,000 readers worldwide, providing research alerts, product and service summaries, and professional opportunities and news from Internet sources and The Materials GatewaySM (www.mrs.org).

Meeting Scene provides on-site coverage of important materials research conferences to over 37,000 subscribers. In recent months, Meeting Scene has provided reports from the 2009 MRS Spring Meeting (San Francisco), 2009 International Conference on Neutron Scattering (Knoxville), XVIII International Materials Research Congress 2009 (Cancun, Mexico), and the IUMRS International Conference on Advanced Materials 2009 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). MRS will also cover the 2009 MRS Fall Meeting (Boston) in December.

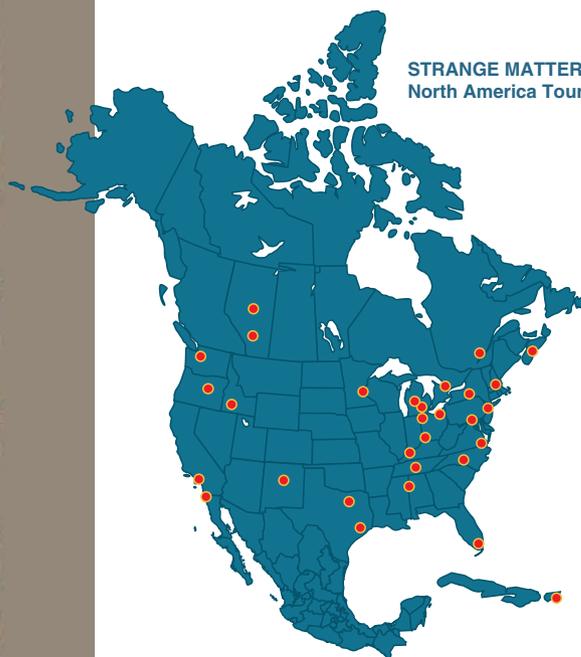
The **Women in Materials Science and Engineering** newsletter complements workshops and events at MRS meetings and offers ideas and strategies for career development of women at all levels. Driven by the active involvement of MRS members and volunteers, topics include career strategies, family management issues, and announcements of meetings and Web sites of particular interest to women and their professional lives.

“...initiating new communications efforts”

The MRS publications and information services portfolio strives to be a leading source of authoritative scientific information, and will continue to grow in scope, impact and reach. In 2010, *MRS Bulletin* launches Energy Quarterly to address the world's accelerating needs for secure, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy. *JMR* also concentrates on energy in 2010, with two special focus issues—Photocatalysis for Energy and Environmental Sustainability in January and Materials for Electrical Energy Storage in August. MRS will strive to build archival and news coverage via the MRS Web site, the Materials GatewaySM, and will continue to explore ways to effectively cover emerging technologies via multimedia approaches that will increase content value and accelerate information access.

Opening Minds, Opening Doors

MRS has developed a far-reaching series of educational outreach programs to engage K-12 students and teachers and the general public on the significance of science in their daily lives and the opportunities it holds for future career paths.



STRANGE MATTER
North America Tour

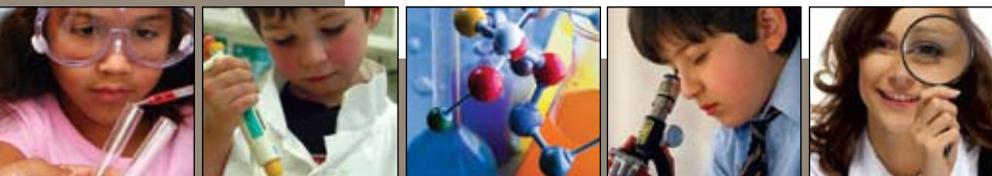
A long standing focus of the Society's outreach activities is *Strange Matter*—a traveling interactive museum exhibit where users enter the fascinating, practical, occasionally bizarre and often beautiful world of materials science through over a dozen hands-on experiences. The exhibition includes programs to equip science professionals and university students with outreach materials, encouraging them to become involved in public education in their local communities. Over 2 million visitors have seen the exhibit since its debut in 2004 and an estimated 3 million additional students, teachers and families have benefitted from the downloadable guidebooks and the award-winning *Strange Matter* Web site. The family guidebook is also available in Spanish and a French translation is in progress.

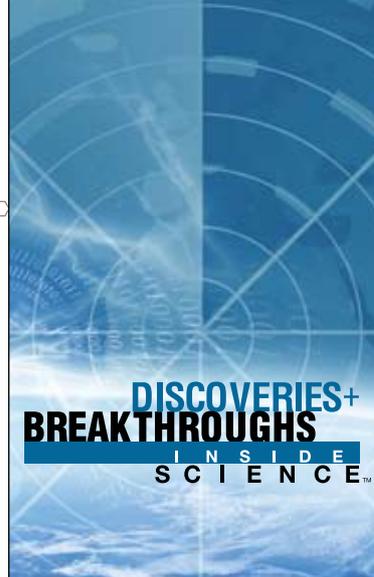
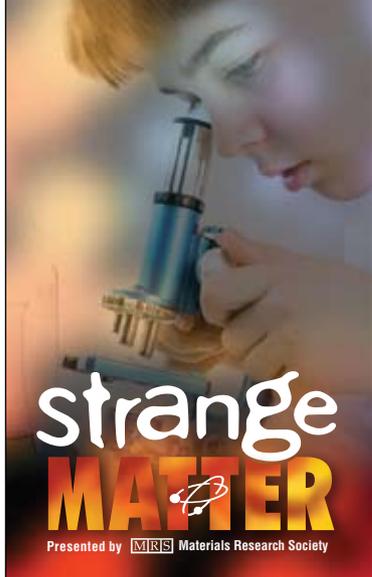
The *Strange Matter* exhibit will continue to tour through 2010. A recently completed French translation opened in Montreal in early October 2009.

The *Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Network)* was created to engage the public in advances in nanoscale research, to capture the imagination of young people who may subsequently choose careers in nanoscale science or technology, and to foster new partnerships among research institutions and informal science centers. This 5-year, \$20 million NSF initiative teams MRS and a national community of researchers and informal science educators with three principal partners—the Museum of Science in Boston, the Exploratorium in San Francisco, and the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

MRS plays a leading role in the NISE Network, facilitating public outreach with informal science education projects and providing meeting venues for NISE Network activities. MRS meetings are now considered key events for the informal science education community to meet, network, collaborate and educate. In addition, MRS and the NISE Network science educators have joined forces over the past year with hands-on demonstrations at the San Diego Science Fair, professional development workshops and seminars at MRS Spring and Fall Meetings, and with promotional efforts for NanoDays, a nationwide festival of educational programs about nanoscale science and engineering and its potential impact on the future.

MRS continues its partnership with *Discoveries and Breakthroughs Inside Science (DBIS)*, a syndicated science and engineering news service which brings 90-second stories, in both English and Spanish, to the U.S. public, showing ways in which science influences our daily lives. Knowing that 44% of the U.S. public cite television news as their primary source of science and technology education, DBIS brings a





broad range of accurate reports across the physical and biological sciences. MRS has contributed over 20 stories since partnering with DBIS, including the following five that were produced in the past year:

- Reducing Your Lead Footprint—April 2009
- Better Tasting Tap Water—April 2009
- Going Green and Saving Jobs—May 2009
- Cleaning Up Toxic Playgrounds—October 2009
- Exclusive! First Look at the Bottom of the Sea—October 2009

A Web site for materials-specific DBIS stories is in development and will house television segments for MRS members to use in their outreach and educational efforts.

The [MRS University Chapter](#) program also continues to flourish. Created on university campuses, the goal is to generate student interest in materials science. Five new Chapters were added this year, bringing the total to 51 nationwide—most are located at universities granting PhD degrees, others at four-year colleges with strong undergraduate research programs.

NOVA

“...broadening our impact within and outside the science community”

When considering mechanisms for reaching the general public and conveying the excitement and implications

of materials science, one medium clearly comes to the forefront—television. MRS is proud to announce that it is teaming with the award-winning producers of the science documentary series NOVA to bring to the worldwide public a four-part PBS primetime television series on materials science.* Slated to air in fall 2010, the WGBH Boston production will present dramatic stories about how materials have changed history and are shaping our future. While reports on “smart materials” or “bionic humans” are familiar enough from TV news and magazine shows, the documentary will be the first to provide the basic science behind these and many other technological breakthroughs.

When complete, the NOVA project will be multiplatform. In addition to the four-part documentary, components include a Web site, digital interactives, extensive educational outreach and a national promotion campaign.

*major funding provided by the National Science Foundation

Prosperity through Informed Policy

MRS strives to contribute to the development of science and technology policy by responding to, and initiating, opportunities to interact nationally and internationally with government officials as well as public and private organizations. Led by the MRS Government Affairs Committee, these efforts have been far-reaching, consistent and unbiased, building trust and respect in Washington, D.C., both on Capitol Hill and within government agencies.

The past year has been an extremely active one, producing a number of significant accomplishments. MRS strengthened relationships and built new ones through Congressional visits, established itself as a scientific resource for policymakers, extended its relationships with leadership in federal agencies, and took collaborative steps in the U.S. and abroad with sister societies and other advocacy organizations when a larger voice for science was required.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Leading multi-society advocacy efforts for the materials community

MRS hosted 11 sister societies, representing one-half million voices, for a Materials Advocacy Summit in January. It jointly recommended candidates for key science and technology positions in the new U.S. Administration and initiated a collaborative study on *Advanced Materials for Our Energy Future*. On an international level, MRS partnered with the European MRS (E-MRS) and Chinese MRS (C-MRS) on the Second World Materials Summit on Advanced Materials in Energy Applications and Sustainable Society Development, held in Suzhou, China.

Establishing MRS as a scientific resource

MRS accepted a U.S. State Department invitation to provide scientific advice for Foreign Service Officers and responded to DOE Secretary Steven Chu's request for assistance in identifying technical leaders for high-level review of proposals generated in response to the American Economy Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It also contributed the first-ever Materials Chapter to the AAAS R&D Budget publication and sponsored, with the American Chemical Society (ACS), a Congressional Luncheon Briefing on energy storage challenges.



Supporting and providing informed opinions to policymakers

Throughout the year, MRS advocated for increased and sustained funding of the physical sciences, expressed concerns about recent trends in visa issues and practices, and highlighted the importance of research on innovation, workforce growth and economic development.

Engaging members

MRS offers Government Agency Sessions at both its Spring and Fall Meetings—providing information on government funding opportunities and access to agency representatives. MRS also sends Public Affairs Alerts to subscribing members, with occasional calls-to-action and/or summaries of current public policy issues affecting the materials science and engineering communities. Materials Voice also affords MRS members a convenient way to create and send personalized letters to their representatives on Capitol Hill.

Providing opportunities to work in science policy

MRS, in partnership with the Optical Society of America (OSA), has sponsored a Science and Engineering Congressional Fellow for more than ten years. 2008-2009 Fellow Amit Mistry served in the office of Congressman Edward Markey; 2009-2010 Fellow Gavi Begtrup is serving in the office of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

In 2008, MRS undertook sponsorship of a second Fellowship—the Materials Societies Science and Engineering Congressional Fellowship—in partnership with the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS) and the American Ceramic Society (ACerS). Inaugural Fellow Ticora Jones (2008-2009) served in the office of Senator Russell Feingold; 2009-2010 Fellow Ed Herderick is serving in the office of Senator Sherrod Brown.



“...extending the reach of our advocacy efforts”

Using its current Congressional Visits Day (CVD) program, MRS has developed a successful operational process and identified a strong core group of CVD participants while maintaining the agility to include and support new participants each year. With the new Administration and a new Congress, we believe this is an opportune time to build on the current program and take it to the next level. It is clear that the initial messages and goals of increased science funding are being heard. With this in mind, the Government Affairs Committee is working to develop an updated communications package for 2010—one that will be valuable in a wide range of advocacy activities. New printed resources will complement CVD advocacy documents and specific MRS legislative requests during the calendar year. MRS will also build upon its global partnerships to increase the international impact of its advocacy efforts.

2008 Audited Financial Report

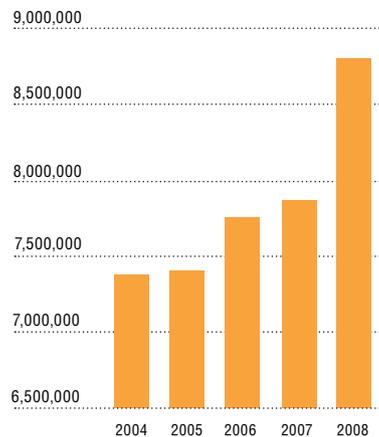
Like most organizations, MRS has faced challenges in the economy and financial markets for 2008, however it remains financially strong. Core operations remain vibrant and growing as a result of increased meeting attendance, gains and other support. Total assets stayed strong at over \$8 million, while debt continues to decline year after year to under \$2.7 million. Revenues from core operations have continued to stay strong and exceeded \$8.7 million for FY2008, the highest it has been in the last five years. Net assets change was due primarily to investment market declines.

MRS has a solid financial base and leading indicators for 2009 are good—with a continued increase in meeting attendance, as well as increased revenue from publications and other core operations. Its balance sheet and 2009 operating plan are poised for growth in concert with the Society's strategic goals.

Year Ending December 31	2008	2007	2006
Meeting Revenues, Gains & Other Support	8,780,010	7,836,640	7,757,255
Investment Income	(1,700,144)	229,084	731,653
Total Revenues, Gains & Other Support	7,079,866	8,065,724	8,488,908
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets	(2,327,388)	194,994	1,013,550
Financial Position			
Total Assets	8,101,198	10,767,417	10,509,648
Total Debt	2,638,993	2,877,824	2,917,899
Net Assets	5,462,205	7,889,593	7,591,749

Total Revenue from Core Operations

2004	7,389,860
2005	7,391,845
2006	7,757,255
2007	7,836,640
2008	8,780,010



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“... it is the perfect time to thank our members, partners, exhibitors and sponsors. Your commitment to excellence has enabled MRS to make a difference, and to lead the way—advancing interdisciplinary materials research, broadening the impact of materials science, and improving the quality of life.”





MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY

Advancing materials. Improving the quality of life.

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