

Report from San Francisco: 1985 MRS



Northern California Section kicks off Spring Meeting on Sunday evening.



Left to right: MRS Executive Director John Ballance and ASM Trustee C. Sheldon Roberts.



MRS Graduate Student Award winners (left to right): Howard P. Sawhill (MIT), Eric Marshall (University of California at San Diego), Chih-Chen Cho (Princeton University), Charlene J. G. Kubiak (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), and Aubrey L. Helms, Jr. (Princeton University).

Seven symposia spanning current topics in electronic materials and surface analysis were the center of attention for materials scientists during the week of April 15-18 in San Francisco, as MRS conducted its second annual Spring Meeting. Drawing nearly 900 attendees—many from the nearby Silicon Valley and Japan—the meeting also featured an informal social gathering sponsored by the MRS Northern California Local Section and Plenary Address by George Pake of Xerox Corporation on technological advances and materials development.

Poster sessions began Tuesday evening and remained on display throughout the remainder of the meeting. An informal augmentation of the symposia sessions, the poster presentations enabled participants to casually mingle with MRS members attending other symposia, and led to informal discussions of materials issues, renewal of acquaintances, and exposure to topics other than those in their particular areas of expertise. The traditional lunchtime sessions of Symposium X drew a large crowd which gathered daily to hear lectures on topics dealing with the preparation and characterization of thin films.

Northern California Section Welcomes Attendees

MRS Northern California Section (NorCal MRS) hosted a “bash” on Sunday evening at the start of the San Francisco meeting to welcome visiting MRS members to the Bay area. Over 100 thirsty travelers were entertained with three “Böhmische-style” lectures. Entertainment was provided by three outstanding contributors to the field of ion-solid interactions, Drew Evans of C. Evans and Associates, Tom Cahill of University of California-Davis, and Jim Mayer of Cornell University. They presented talks which can be described as “intensely informal,” a hallmark of the Böhmische Society.

Following welcoming remarks by Michael Current of Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, Drew Evans led off the entertainment with a selection of “Jim Mayer stories.”

Tom Cahill then related the story of his use of ion beam analysis to determine the composition of the paper and inks used in the Gutenberg Bible. The special “sample holding” procedures required for a

Spring Meeting Draws 900 Scientists

non-destructive analysis of large, bound volumes amazed and delighted the group. Cahill's work confirmed that the Bible was printed on multiple presses and that the inks were made up in limited batches. Comparisons of atomic composition variations between different sections of the Bible led to the conclusion that the printing process provided a high day-by-day accuracy for an operation that occurred 500 years ago.

Jim Mayer concluded the evening with a call for a stronger sense of collaboration between materials scientists in the areas of planning for facilities and for stable and adequate levels of government funding of individual research groups. Mayer pointed out the power of coordinated efforts with examples of wide-scale and funding proposals demonstrated by astronomers and high-energy particle physicists.

The refreshments were funded through grants from Tegal Corporation, Prometrix Corporation, AG Associates, and Applied Materials.

Plenary Session Recognizes Student Award Winners

Prior to George Pake's Plenary Address which included a special focus on the proposed Super Conducting Super Collider and its potential impact, five graduate students received awards from the Society in recognition of their work which they reported in Symposia A and E during the week. The students hailed from MIT, Princeton, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and University of California-San Diego—demonstrating that their institutions of higher learning were as widespread as their various areas of research.

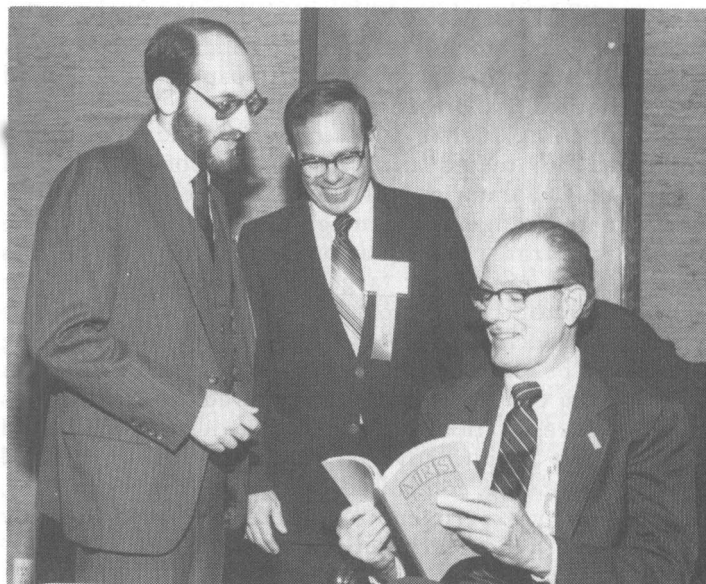
New MRS Proceedings Debut

The first four proceedings volumes published from the 1984 Fall Meeting were on display at the meeting, attesting to the Society's ability to rapidly publish the results of its technical meetings. Five proceedings will be published from the symposia presented at the Spring Meeting. See information on page 38.

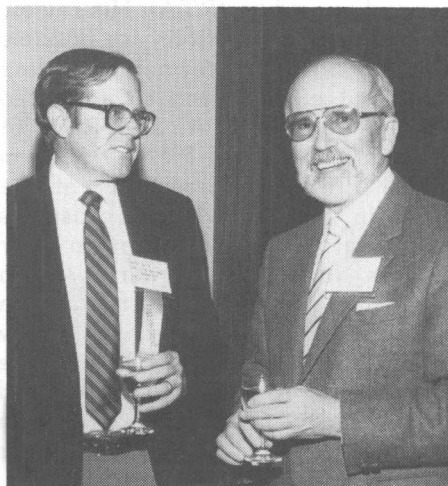
See summaries of Spring Meeting Symposia on the next page.



Left to right: R. S. Claassen, member of the Local Program Advisory Group, P. S. Peercy, MRS Program Committee Chairperson, and Don Mattox, President of AVS.



Left to right: MRS President Elton Kaufmann, President-Elect Gordon Pike, and George E. Pake, Spring Meeting Plenary Speaker.



Left to right: MRS Past President Woody White, and Roy Potter, representative of SPIE.