Gary L. Messing Named Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Materials Research*

Gary L. Messing of The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) has been named editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Materials Research (JMR)*, an archival monthly publication of the Materials Research Society. Over the past 23 years, *JMR* has published articles, rapid communications, and reviews addressing more than 150 different topics on materials synthesis and processing, microstructure, and properties. Messing succeeds Gordon E. Pike, Sandia National Laboratories, who is retiring after eight years of distinguished service as *JMR* editor-in-chief.

The 2009 MRS President, Shefford P. Baker, speaking on behalf of the Search Committee and Board of Directors, said, "In Gary Messing we have found the ideal editor-in-chief to take *JMR* to new levels of excellence and build upon the foundation built by Gordon Pike, who in the past eight years has made monumental advances in improving the quality and technical scope of *JMR*. Dr. Messing brings with him years of experience editing respected journals, and we look forward to watching *JMR* continue to grow and develop under his leadership."

Messing brings a strong record of editorial accomplishment and leadership experience to his new role at MRS. He was co-editor of the *Journal of the American Ceramic Society* (1993–1998) and editor-in-chief of *Ceramics International* and principal editor of *Materials Letters* (2003–2009). He has co-organized the International Ceramic Processing Science Conference with Professor Shin-ichi Hirano of Nagoya University since 1986, and he has published over 250 papers and co-edited 13 books on various aspects of ceramic processing.

Gary L. Messing

Messing is Distinguished Professor of Ceramic Science and Engineering and head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at The Pennsylvania State University. He served as director of the Materials Research Laboratory at Penn State, and was founding director of the NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Center on Particulate Materials at Penn State. Messing received his BS degree (1973) in ceramic engineering at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University and his PhD degree (1977) in materials science and engineering at the University of Florida.

Messing has received numerous awards for his research and leadership in the field of ceramics including the Richard M. Fulrath Pacific Award and he gave the Robert M. Sosman Memorial Lecture of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS). He was elected Fellow of the American Ceramic Society in 1990, served on its Board of Directors for many years and was later elected president. In 1999 he was elected to the World Academy of Ceramics. In 2003 he was recognized as one of the most "Highly Cited Researchers" in materials and was honored with the International Award of the European Ceramic Society for his international collaborations.

In 2005 he received the Outstanding Educator Award of the Ceramic Education Council of ACerS. He served as chair of the University Materials Council (2005–2006) and was elected president-elect of the International Ceramics Federation (2008).

Scientific Societies Meet at MRS Headquarters to Explore a Cooperative Influence on Washington D.C. Policymakers

An Advocacy Summit of scientific societies, representing almost one-half million voices from across the United States, convened at the Materials Research Society headquarters on January 16, 2009. The goal of the Summit was to begin finding new, innovative approaches and a common voice to convince the U.S. Congress and the new administration that investments made in support of science and technology will lead to economic growth, national security, and improved quality of life.

The last two years have demonstrated that the physical sciences are in a serious fight for federal funding, and the current economic crisis makes the situation more difficult and challenging. But this economic and legislative climate also provides new opportunities for scientific societies to engage in the process of providing unbiased information to assist members of Congress and the new administration in making wise investments for the future of the United States and for the global society.

Joining with MRS in this Summit were the American Chemical Society (ACS); American Physical Society (APS); ASM International; Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST); the Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America (ASTRA); The Electrochemical Society (ECS); Federation of Materials Societies (FMS); The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society (TMS); National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE); SAE International; and the University Materials Council (UMC).

While much of this first meeting was used to "brainstorm" on collaboration options and ways to leverage the collective member base around a common message, it was universally agreed that the number one issue is to educate Congress on the need for a long-term, sustainable funding effort for the physical sciences. This is essential in order to ensure that U.S. students, teachers, businesses, and workers are prepared to create world-class progress in innovation, research, and technology.

As a first-step toward this effort, it was decided that a large-scale letter writing campaign in support of the Congressional leadership's funding provisions for research and development in the American Economy Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 was of high priority and mutual interest for the participating organizations. MRS posted its advocacy letter on the MRS Materials Voice Web site (www.mrs.org/materialsvoice) and sent a call-to-action to its members.

A second phase of this effort will focus on materials, with a goal of educating and engaging legislators on the role materials can, and will, play in solving many public-policy issues. Materials will be the enabling technology, contributing in great part to improving energy efficiency and independence, bolstering national security, managing global climate changes, guaranteeing clean drinking water, and developing health care and diagnostic initiatives—all leading to job creation. MRS

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