

other countries within South America, maintaining SAM-Delegations in Brazil and Chile, countries from which many researchers and professionals habitually attend the annual SAM meetings.

Jorge N. Feugeas (Instituto de Física Rosario, IFIR) is the president of SAM, Liliana Nosei (Instituto de Macánica Apli-

cada y Estructuras, Universidad Nacional de Rosario) is Secretary, Jorge O. Tormo (Instituto Argentino de Siderurgia) is Treasurer, and Lucio Iurman (Universidad Nacional del Sur) is Past-President. The Council members are Carlos Gonzalez Oliver (Comisión Nacional de Energía Atómica), Juan E. Perez Ipiña (Universidad

del Comahue), José Ovejero Garcia (Comisión Nacional de Energía Atómica), and Ricardo Romero (Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires).



MRS NEWS

Frans Spaepen Receives 1998 Woody Award

Frans Spaepen, Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics at Harvard University and Director of Harvard's Materials Research Laboratory, is the recipient of the 1998 Materials Research Society Woody Award. Robert J. Nemanich, 1998 MRS president, made the presentation to Spaepen at the 1998 MRS Fall Meeting in Boston.

The Woody Award, which recognizes "outstanding service and dedication on behalf of MRS as exemplified by Woody White, MRS president, 1984," is bestowed annually by the Society president to a single individual for his or her extraordinary contributions to MRS. Spaepen's service includes over five consecutive years as chair of the Program Committee, which is a leadership role critical to the development of the Society's technical meetings.

"Our meetings are different from any other Society's," said Nemanich. "Our programs start from a clean slate and are reinvented with every meeting. Frans understands this process. His broad knowledge of materials research and the way he is able work with the meeting chairs to bring ideas together in developing our programs inspire our confidence in his leadership."

1997 MRS president Robert Hull echoed Nemanich's words, praising Spaepen's "encyclopedic knowledge of materials science" and calling him "one of the leading materials researchers in the world today."

"Frans has played an enormous role in



Frans Spaepen (left) receives the 1998 Woody Award, presented by Materials Research Society president Robert J. Nemanich (right).

the success of MRS meetings for many years," said Hull. "He is diplomatic and persuasive, enormously efficient, competent, and effective in his role as chair of the Program Committee. He's an absolute joy to work with."

In addition to his service to MRS as chair of the Program Committee, Spaepen has contributed to the Society as a Symposium Organizer (1985, 1987), a Meeting Chair (Fall 1990), and as a member of Council (1986-1988 and 1990-1992). "During his years on Council, Frans was widely re-

spected for his thoughtful counsel," said Julia M. Phillips, 1995 MRS president, who served with Spaepen as a fellow Councillor in the early 1990s.

A native of Flanders, Spaepen received an undergraduate degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Leuven and a PhD degree in applied physics from Harvard University in 1975, where he has remained ever since. His research interests include structure, diffusion, and mechanical properties of amorphous metals and semiconductors; crystal nucleation and glass formation; structure and thermodynamics of solid-liquid and solid-solid interfaces; and the formation and mechanical properties of thin films and multilayers.

Spaepen is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society, and he currently serves on the Science & Technology Steering Committee for Brookhaven National Laboratory. He is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Applied Physics* and *Applied Physics Letters*.

"I was delighted to learn that the 1998 Woody Award was bestowed on Frans Spaepen," said Phillips. "Under Frans' leadership, the MRS meetings have grown tremendously, both in size and in technical breadth. Keeping balance among the various MRS 'constituencies' in programming and preserving the MRS 'feel' of the meetings in the face of such growth have been a major accomplishment of which Frans and the rest of the Program Committee should be very proud." MRS

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