EAS 2000

Neil Jespersen
Department of Chemistry, St. John's University,
New York, NY 11439

The 2000 Eastern Analytical Symposium and Exposition was held October 29 through November 3, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. There were 4162 attendees and the event was based in the New Atlantic City Convention Center, a state-of-the-art facility.

The technical program—our 39th Symposium—consisted of over 700 presentations distributed among invited and contributed sessions as well as the very popular poster format. EAS continued its long-standing tradition of being focused on "Practical Solutions to Real Analytical Problems." 360 attendees benefited from 30 EAS Short Courses, while 212 attended 17 Exhibitor Workshops. The American Chemical Society offered Short Courses in conjunction with our week and EAS provided the services of an Employment Bureau. The exhibitor exposition was housed in the new, much larger facility, allowing many more multi-booth setups. There were 315 booths that were efficiently arranged so the attendees comfortably covered the expo with time available in concert with other activities of the week.

EAS presented a number of awards to those individuals who have made significant contributions in several areas of interest to analytical chemists. The EAS Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Fields of Analytical Chemistry was presented to Isiah M. Warner, Louisiana State University. The EAS award for Achievements in NIR was presented to Tony Davies, Norwich Near Infrared Consultancy, Norwich, UK. The EAS Award for Achievements in Magnetic Resonance was presented to Hans W. Spiess, Max-Planck-Institut fur Polymerforschung, Mainz, Germany. The EAS Award for Achievements in Separation Science was presented to Peter Carr, University of Minnesota. The Galactic Industries Award for Achievements in Chemometrics, presented by EAS was given to Svante Wold, Umea University, Sweden. Other awards presented included the New York Microscopical Society Ernst Abbe Memorial Award honoring Maria Kuhnert-Brandstatter; the New York Section of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy Gold Medal Award, honoring James Robinson; the American Microchemical Society Benedetti-Pichler Award presented to Andy Ewing; and the Analytical Division of the American Chemical Society Findeis Young Investigator Award, honoring Kimberly Prather. We were very proud to have added the Coblentz Society as one of our sponsoring organizations earlier in 2000. They made significant contributions to our organization and the Symposium for 2000. And, of course we offered the special undergraduate student awards which had been so very successful and well received in past years.

The Eastern Analytical Symposium will meet again in Atlantic City in 2001. The dates of the meeting are September 30 through October 4, 2001. Persons interested in exhibiting or contributing to the program should visit the EAS website at www.eas.org for details.

The 2000 Materials Research Society (MRS) Fall Meeting Report

Winnie Wong-Ng, Ceramics Division, NIST

Keeping with tradition, the 2000 MRS annual meeting again took place in Boston Copely Plaza from November 27 to December 1. This was the second time that MRS held its meeting at the spacious Hynes Convention Center. The meeting location was convenient—in addition to being in the proximity of two underground metro stations, the attendees also have easy access to hotels, restaurants, food court, specialty shops, and business centers in the plaza.

The 2000 meeting was well organized and well attended, with a total of 4600 attendees representing industrial, academic, and government sectors. The four meeting chairs (Sungho Jin from Bell Laboratory/Lucent Technologies, Antonios Mikos from Rice University, David Srolovitz from Princeton University, and Bernd Stritzker from University of Augsburg) assembled an outstanding series of technical symposia. The meeting also highlighted an extensive exhibit, and other well organized events.

The rich technical program was multi-disciplinary and covered a wide range of topics to meet the needs of the attendees. It was comprised of nine groups of symposia, each with a common theme: Nano/microstructural materials (6 symposia); Semiconductors (4 symposia); Metals (4 symposia); Materials processing and analysis (8 symposia); Defects, mechanics, and length scales (4 symposia); Device and functional materials (4 symposia); Inorganic materials (4 symposia); Organic and biomaterials (6 symposia); and General (1 symposium). The range of the above 41 symposia represented many important and new areas of material science and material engineering. Offerings new for this year included the following: nanoscale materials and fabrication, microphotonics, novel semiconductor materials, glassy and quasicrystalline alloys, applied magnetic field effects in processing, thermal barrier coatings, ultrafast optical phenomena, irradiation effects, interfaces, and the limits of strength of materials. The popular symposium X featured a series of reviews for non-specialists and discussed forefront developments in materials science. There were nearly 4000 presentations covering a full range of materials science topics.

Prior to the main meeting, a few events took place on Sunday. Five MRS tutorial sessions which were integrated into a related symposium program took place Sunday afternoon. These tutorials which featured new and rapidly advancing areas of research, included Nanofabrication for molecular electronic systems, Material characteristics of the III-nitrides, Measuring mechanical properties in the nanometer regime, Ferroelectric thin films, and Microelectromechanical systems (MEMS)-Fabrication and "hot topics." While most of the tutorials concentrated on providing instructions and information on new fields or late-breaking technologies, some gave systematic reviews of popular subjects from a new point of view. On Sunday evening, the student mixer and the MRS presidential reception took place. The presidential reception was a form of acknowledgement of those who have made significant contributions to the Society during the year. Since students provide future leadership materials research, it is the tradition of MRS to organize a student mixer during the annual meeting to promote interactions among members.

There were a number of memorable special lectures, including the plenary session by Pierre-Gilles de Genes on "Soft Matter in Research and Industry." The Von Hippel Award winner George Whitesides of Harvard University presented his award lecture on "Organic Materials Science."