

MRS Birthplace at Penn State Celebrated

Rustum Roy (The Pennsylvania State University), principal architect since 1967 and co-founder of the Materials Research Society and 1977 president, and Harry C. Gatos (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), co-founder and the first MRS president (1973–1976), unveiled the Semi-Perpetual Motion Mobile at Penn State's Materials Research Laboratory (MRL), marking the birthplace of MRS. During the dedication ceremony held on August 29, current MRS president Ronald Gibala (University of Michigan) presented to Roy and Penn State an MRS Council resolution, "The Council of the Materials Research Society commends and thanks its charter members from The Pennsylvania State University and the University itself for their incisive roles in the formation and growth of the Society."

The Motion Mobile consists of a 12-in. diameter pink quartz sphere precisely machined to fit a partial spherical cavity in a natural block (about a 3 ft. cube) also of translucent rose quartz. Cut



Present at the unveiling of the Semi-Perpetual Motion Mobile on August 29, marking the birthplace of the Materials Research Society at The Pennsylvania State University in 1973 are (left to right) current MRS president Ronald Gibala of the University of Michigan, and past MRS presidents Elton N. Kaufmann of Argonne National Laboratory (1985), Kathleen C. Taylor of GM Research and Development Center (1987), Harry C. Gatos of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (co-founder and the first MRS president, 1973–1976), R.P.H. Chang of Northwestern University (1989), and Rustum Roy of Penn State (co-founder and 1977 president).

into the base is a passage for a stream of water and a light; the water flow is enough to keep the glowing sphere rotating continuously on a glowing pink base.

The structure sits on a wooden platform. The stone sculpture is the design of Manfredo Egger of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and is manufactured in his works there. Inscribed on the marble surface of the platform is the dedication, "This building is the birthplace & home for ten years of the Materials Research Society. The quartz sphere symbolizes the contributions of materials research to the world, and its rotation the power of innovation driven by the ever-flowing water of new ideas. Dedicated August 29, 1999."

Also present at the dedication were co-founder and first Secretary of MRS Mark B. Myers (Xerox); former MRS presidents Elton N. Kaufmann of Argonne National Laboratory (1985), Kathleen C. Taylor of GM Research and Development Center (1987), and R.P.H. Chang of Northwestern University (1989); Ernest Hawk, the first staff person to run the Society; and John B. Ballance, current executive director of MRS. MRS

Comments made during the Dedication Ceremony of the Materials Research Society Birthplace

Harry C. Gatos (Co-founder and 1973–1976 MRS President): The founders of MRS were just a small but driven minority with a vision of a "materials-blind" materials Society.

Kathleen C. Taylor (1987 MRS President): "From time to time we considered whether we should keep the Fall Meeting in Boston. The Boston location was working well for us, and besides my family lives in Boston, and I expected to be there during Thanksgiving, just before the Meeting. So I voted 'no' on moving out of Boston."

Elton N. Kaufmann (1985 MRS President): My first introduction to MRS occurred as I walked down the

hall at Bell Labs and came across an MRS council meeting. They not only let me sit in on the meeting, but allowed me to vote as many as three times.

Mark B. Myers (Co-founder of MRS and 1973 MRS Secretary): The "founders" had an idea and they needed a worker, so they invited me.

Ronald Gibala (1999 MRS President): I served as a symposium co-organizer at the 1988 Spring Meeting in Reno. Near the end of the Meeting, I recall the owners of the hotel/casino telling the Society officers "Don't even think about bringing your Society here again. Your people are in meetings all day and at poster sessions the whole evening. Our

gambling income has gone to nothing!" My reaction was "Gosh! These are my kind of people!" Being President of MRS is a fun job. MRS is a unique Society; it is interdisciplinary and is egalitarian and progressive. Its uniqueness reflects the qualities of those people who decided to start it a few decades ago.

Rustum Roy (Co-founder and 1977 MRS President): The first steps toward forming MRS were taken in 1967 when I approached Fred Seitz, then president of the National Academy, and he approved a committee. The inaugural meeting of the Society was held at Penn State on May 23, 1973. The theme was a perfect cross-cutting topic: Phase Transitions.

Materials Research Society Website
www.mrs.org