

Volunteers for MRS Support *Strange Matter* in Minnesota

Did you ever want to play with gallons of slime at one time, or camp out in a science museum overnight? Volunteers of the Materials Research Society helped Minnesota youths do that and more last spring when the MRS *Strange Matter* exhibition came to the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

Once the dates were official, Beth Stadler, a professor at the University of Minnesota and a member of the MRS Oversight Committee for the science exhibition, joined colleagues Lorraine Francis, Chris Leighton, and Traian Dumitrica in a meeting with Shari Hartshorn of the Science Museum to see how they could help. Hartshorn suggested that the MRS volunteers "adopt a shift" on Saturdays



and do hands-on demonstrations during that time. It only took one e-mail from each professor to their home departments to rally 45 student volunteers. Students came from the departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering (Stadler), Chemical Engineering and Materials Science (Francis and Leighton), and Mechanical Engineering (Dumitrica). With so many volunteers, the team had to adopt Saturdays *and* Sundays for every weekend of the tour, just to allow everyone to have at least one turn!

At Hartshorn's suggestion, the volunteers made slime by the tablespoon, along with several other polymer-related demonstrations. The slime was collected tablespoon by tablespoon until there were Gallons O'Fun ready for the grand finale—an overnight "Science Madness: 36 Hours of Science" on the last weekend of the exhibition. Some of the volunteers also gave daytime presentations to museum visitors to show how current research topics are affected by the science of stuff that *Strange Matter* represents.




The Materials Research Society *Strange Matter* exhibition entertains and educates the local community during daytime hours and overnight camp-ins at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

Eric J. Jolly, president of the Science Museum, said, "At the Science Museum, we know that an understanding of science is essential to success in day-to-day life. Our goal is to get kids—and adults—excited about science. *Strange Matter* provides the perfect opportunity to make the science that touches our lives each day memorable and fun."

The 6000-sq-ft version of the traveling exhibition, presented locally by Ford and 3M, was on display from February 4 through April 2, 2006, at the Science Museum of Minnesota. MRS has also produced a smaller version—1700 sq ft—which was shown at the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, from January 21 to May 7, then at the Da Vinci Discovery Center of Science and Technology in Allentown, Pennsylvania, through

September 10. The larger exhibition has since been shown at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, through September 4, and is now at the Space Center Houston in Texas.

Stadler said, "My favorite activity was running demos for 'camp-ins' where 400 students stayed overnight in the museum. Overall, we had a great time with *Strange Matter* in Minnesota. I'd recommend every MRS member call their local science museum and ask them to book a tour!"

Strange Matter is produced by the Ontario Science Centre and presented by the Materials Research Society. The exhibition and its tour are made possible by the generous support of the National Science Foundation, Alcan, Dow, Ford Motor Company Fund, Intel® Innovation in Education, and the 3M Foundation. 

MRS Elects Officer, Board of Directors for 2007

Members of the Materials Research Society have elected one officer and five directors to join the 2007 MRS Board of Directors. The board is composed of the officers and up to 18 directors. The officers of the Society are the president, the vice president (who is also the president-elect), the secretary, the treasurer (a position appointed by the Board of Directors), and the immediate past president. Due to the results of the election, the position for secretary in 2007 is temporarily vacant. The annual election ended September 28, 2006.

The Board of Directors is organized into the following governing committees: Planning, Operational Oversight, External Relations, and Governance. The president, who serves as chair of the board, appoints each of the directors and officers to one of the first three governing committees, and designates the chairs of these committees. Terms of office expire at the end of the year indicated in parentheses. The asterisk (*) designates those who are newly elected.

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Plenary Speaker Pat Dehmer to Discuss Science and the Future of Energy

Pat Dehmer, director of the Office of Basic Energy Sciences (BES) in the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science, will present the plenary address at the 2006 Materials Research Society Fall Meeting in Boston on Monday, November 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Boston Hotel. In her presentation, "Science, Scientists, and Our Energy Future," Dehmer will discuss the scientific challenges resulting from a global energy problem.

The projected increase in the Earth's population, accompanied by rapid technology development and economic growth, is projected to double the demand for energy by mid-century and more than triple the demand by the end of the century. Dehmer says that transformational changes and disruptive technologies will be required to provide clean, reliable, economic solutions. As in the past, many of



Pat Dehmer

these changes will likely come from fundamental research in the physical sciences. Dehmer will review some "energy facts" and present the scientific challenges that the materials research community faces.

As director of BES, Dehmer manages a

\$1.4 billion portfolio of research in condensed matter and materials physics, chemistry, geosciences, and biosciences, as well as the DOE's suite of user facilities for x-ray, neutron, and electron-beam scattering. Included in this suite are the new Spallation Neutron Source and the Linac Coherent Light Source, a short-wavelength free electron laser, which is still under construction.

Prior to coming to DOE, Dehmer was a senior scientist at Argonne National Laboratory, where she led research activities in experimental atomic, molecular, and optical physics; chemical physics; and multiphoton processes. She has published more than 125 refereed articles. Dehmer has been honored with the Meritorious Presidential Executive Rank Award (2000) and the Distinguished Presidential Executive Rank Award (2003) for her exemplary federal service. MRS

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