



Society News Briefs

July 2007



FROM THE PRESIDENT: ▶ REACHING OUT AROUND THE WORLD

Two weeks ago, we had the privilege of hosting a group of Chinese Ceramic Society leaders at ACerS headquarters in Westerville, Ohio. Together, we explored ways that our societies might collaborate in the future and talked about how the ceramic materials community is changing. Over dinner, I was once again struck by how small our world has become and how truly global the ceramic materials community is.

In a very real way, The American Ceramic Society has always seen itself as part of a worldwide community. The Society first ventured abroad in 1928 for a European tour and was one of the earlier associations to send a delegation to China (in 1980) after its opening to the West. In 2004, Dr. David Pye was asked to chair ACerS first Globalization Task Force, convening key ceramic community players from around the world to explore ways we could work together more effectively.

Today, ACerS is undeniably international in scope and influence. ACerS members hail from more than 70 countries and those outside the U.S. make up approximately one-third of our total society membership. While Japan, Germany, Canada and France contribute nearly half of our non-U.S. members, other countries are gaining as well.

And while we welcome international engineers and scientists as ACerS members, we also contribute to, and benefit from, our collaborations with a host of other ceramic and materials related societies from around the world. ACerS serves as the secretariat of both the International Ceramic Federation and the Unified International Technical Conference on Refractories, and as a partner and host for several international meetings, including the International Ceramic Congress, UNITECR, the Pacific Rim Conference on Ceramic and Glass Technology, and the International Conference on the Textures of Materials (ICOTOM). We also disseminate knowledge about ceramic materials and technologies through the worldwide distribution of our journals and books.

This exchange is certainly not one way. We learn and benefit from our international colleagues in countless ways, from journal submissions to papers presented at our technical meetings to casual exchanges about the future of ceramics.

This blurring of the lines between national borders, I believe, is good for science and good for ceramics. Let's proactively seize the opportunities globalization offers.

Dr. Katherine Faber, President

▶ NOTES FROM CERAMIC PLACE: A BUILDING YEAR FOR ACERS, PART 2

At their meeting in January, ACerS Board of Directors adopted ten goals for 2007 designed to better position the organization for the future. Last month, I reported on the [first five priorities](#), which range from launching a new ceramics.org website to



Daytona Beach Update!

Call for Papers
Extended to July
30th

[Submit an Abstract](#)

Reserve your room
for the ACerS
Annual Meeting.
Rooms are going
fast!

The Detroit Marriott
is the ACerS
headquarters. The cut
off date to reserve the
\$141 rate is August
13, 2007. For more
information, contact
Liz Roehl at 614-794-
5831 or
eroehl@ceramics.org
or go to
[www.matscitech.org/
2007/housing.html](http://www.matscitech.org/2007/housing.html).

ICOTOM 15 Call for
Papers Deadline
Extended!

Present your work at
the 15th International
Conference on
Texture of Materials
(ICOTOM 15). Submit

conducting a major market and membership study. Below are the final five goals and the progress we have made to date.

6. Enhance membership benefits and launch 2-3 new programs with potential for the future.

Perhaps the biggest new initiative launching in 2007 is the fully redesigned and improved ceramics.org, which was mentioned in a separate goal, and is designed to provide many exclusive member benefits. To help new members become more familiar with the organization, we launched a new member orientation program that will continue at all major meetings. We have also significantly enhanced [corporate membership benefits](#), as well as developed a plan for an e-membership prototype program to be rolled out in cooperation with our international partner societies. In the meetings area, the board has approved proposals for two new meetings in 2008: *Materials Innovations in an Emerging Hydrogen Economy* to be held in March and the *International Conference on Sintering* to be held in November. Finally, in the coming months you will see several initiatives aimed at [students and young professionals](#), an enhanced job board and career services, and new member online communities.

7. Provide the board more opportunities to focus on long-range strategic issues and find new ways to engage members in dialogues about the future of the Society and ceramic materials.

Several changes and initiatives have been undertaken this year to ensure that the organization is best positioned to serve our members in the long-term. Several hours are now set aside at every Board of Directors meeting to explore long-range strategic issues that affect both the organization and our members. We will conduct open member town hall meetings at three Society meetings this year to hear what our members are thinking and address member concerns. To date, our member and market research initiatives have included 70 one-on-one member and nonmember interviews, two focus groups, and responses from more than 500 members to our in-depth survey. All of these will help us achieve our main goal of developing a new, comprehensive strategy for the organization by early 2008.

8. Improve communications with members and strengthen the role and investment of volunteer leaders throughout the Society, especially the board, Principal Activity Committees, and Division Councils.

Improving member communications has been one of the personal goals of Society President Katherine Faber in 2007. Initiatives in this area have included a significant number of officer visits to division meetings, members' workplaces, and universities; the creation of a Division Leaders Council to improve the information flow between society and division leaders and coordinate activities; staff initiatives aimed at improving member service and creating "exceptional member experiences;" and the creation of the *ACerS In Focus* e-newsletter.

9. Enhance ACerS position within the scientific and engineering community.

ACerS has an exceptional history of leadership in the materials science and engineering community. More recently, we have established a track record of effectively partnering with other associations to advance our members' interests. As secretariat of the International Ceramic Federation, we play a critical role in the global ceramic community. We have also strengthened our partnership with ASM International, The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS), and the Association for Iron and Steel Technology (AIST), through projects like the MS&T Conference and Exhibition, the Material Advantage student program, and other initiatives currently in the works. Finally, we are exploring new ways to partner with those in the broader engineering and scientific community for whom ceramic technologies are becoming increasingly more critical.

10. Build staff enthusiasm and morale.

ACerS staff plays a critical role in the organization's success. This year, we have taken several steps to build and strengthen the staff at ACerS, including instituting a monthly staff meeting to communicate key priorities; working together to create

(ICOTOM 15). [Submit your abstract today!](#)
Deadline: September 3, 2007.

We want to hear from you!

Please submit any article ideas, society information or member information that we can highlight in the next newsletter to infocus@ceramics.org

Companion Program at ACerS Annual Meeting and MS&T 2007

For additional information, please contact Liz Roehl at 614-794-5831 or eroehl@ceramics.org.

ACerS InFocus Archive

- [June 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
- [April 2007](#)

service standards and define an "exceptional member experience;" launching the "ACE Awards" to recognize staff for exceptional member service and teamwork; creating a fun committee to promote staff social engagement and team-building; and in general, creating a more positive, open, collaborative and member-focused staff culture.

As always, if you have any questions about the progress we are making, or would like to share an idea, concern, or critique, please send me an email at ssteen@ceramics.org. I'd love to hear from you.

Scott Steen, Executive Director

▶ ACERS IS ON THE MOVE...LITERALLY

The American Ceramic Society Board of Directors voted unanimously to relocate the Society's headquarters to a new location in Westerville, Ohio, by December 1, 2007. The vote to move the headquarters follows a decision in May to call a no interest \$1.1 million loan made by the Society to Colony Investments when the headquarters building was sold to the Ohio-based company in 2004. The decision to call the loan will result in a significant increase to the Society's operating reserves.

The Board felt these moves provided several significant advantages for ACerS. When the current headquarters building was sold, the Society moved to a smaller space in the building that was not originally designed to house staff workstations nor accommodates the display and meeting needs of a national, professional association. It also had a lease rate that exceeded that of brand new office complexes in the area. The move will allow for a more appropriate and functional floor plan, in a new state-of-the-art office building with optical fiber connectivity, and at a lower cost.

"We are very excited about the opportunities this move presents," said ACerS' President Katherine Faber. "Ceramic Place served us very well for more than 15 years, but it was clear to all of us that the needs of the Society have changed. This move will allow us to create a wonderful new headquarters that can take us into the future, while serving as an appropriate showcase for the Society's tremendous heritage."

More details about our new headquarters will be made available as the project moves forward.

▶ EDUCATION RETREAT PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON CERAMIC MATERIALS STUDENTS

The American Ceramic Society hosted an education planning retreat on May 31 and June 1 at the ACerS' Headquarters in Westerville, Ohio. The Education Integration Committee (EIC), as well as six students from across the country, met to outline a comprehensive strategy to promote student interest and engagement in ceramics and The American Ceramic Society.

The EIC is a standing committee reporting to the ACerS Board of Directors. The committee works with Keramos, the National Institute of Ceramic Engineers (NICE), and the Ceramic Educational Council (CEC) plus the sections, divisions, and committees of the Society to organize and promote education-related activities.

The retreat included a series of group brainstorming exercises, such as determining elements of an exceptional student member experience, designing the ACerS Student Experience, and identifying the building blocks for serving current and future Materials Advantage Students. By the end of the exercises, three priorities rose to the top:

- Increasing ACerS interaction at the local university level.
- Including student representation in ACerS governance structure.
- Developing a President's Council of Student Advisors to help ACerS increase interest for undergraduate students, graduate students, and young professionals.

"The EIC Education Retreat was a good experience overall," said Victoria L. Knox, Ceramic Engineering student at the Inamori School of Engineering. "It was not only excellent for me as a student, but for the organization as well. I strongly believe that by getting students more involved in ACerS events, the organization will grow and have a brighter future."

The Society would like to thank Geoff Brennecka, Alex Cozzi, Bill Fahrenholtz, Kevin Fox, Greg Hilmas, John Hellmann, John Kaniuk, Allen Kimel, Fred Stover, Edmund Moore, Josh Haroldson, Christelle Jullian, Victoria Knox, Whitney Patterson, Ben Poquette, and Clarissa Yablinsky, for their time and contributions to the retreat.

A proposal is being developed and will be presented to the ACerS Board of Directors for consideration at the September Board Meeting. If you would like more information about ACerS student programs, contact Tricia Niswonger, Membership Services Manager, ACerS, at tniswonger@ceramics.org.

▶ SECRET SOCIETY MEETINGS--SECTION Q

From the foundation of the Society in 1898 through the 1930s, secret meetings were held during the Society's Annual Meeting at Ratskellers and in "uncatalogued" rooms. Members could be seen with corncob pipes and steins of beer talking enthusiastically about ceramic problems and sharing information that their employers would not allow in open sessions.

"The need for recreation was not satisfied by dancing and moving pictures," said Norah Binns, ACerS Assistant Secretary, for the years 1921-1922. "It was talk and more talk that these men craved. Formal papers were given morning and afternoon, but in the evening, in a private room, refreshments of the good old variety were made available, cigars and pipes were lit and Section Q was on."

In the spirit of this group, ACerS is bringing back Section Q to the Annual Meeting this year, but this time, all ACerS members are invited. Look for the "Section Q" Pub in the Greco room at the Detroit Marriott in the evenings for good conversation, reminiscing of old meetings and refreshments of the "good old variety." Come to the Section Q Pub. The only difference is, we aren't keeping it secret!

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007	1-5 p.m.	Detroit Marriott/Greco Room
Tuesday, Sept. 18	6-10 p.m.	Detroit Marriott/Greco Room
Wednesday, Sept. 19	6 pm - 10 pm	Detroit Marriott/Greco Room

To register for the Annual Meeting and MS&T '07 go to <http://registration.expoexchange.com/showmst071/Default.aspx>.

▶ NEW HYDROGEN MEETING PLANNED FOR 2008

The Materials Innovations in an Emerging Hydrogen, co-presented by ACerS and ASM International, will emphasize materials innovations in an emerging hydrogen economy, in which each branch of materials science represents a critical and important 'enabling technology' and new materials, composites and systems, offer exciting new potential breakthroughs.

Special attention will be given to the practical application of technology in the

context of the larger 'system' rather than at a component level view. Presentations will contain the latest research and developments on applications in the areas of automotive, aerospace, military, medical products, nanotechnology and advanced materials.

The technical program will focus on research activities, materials needs, opportunities and sources for funding in the following four areas:

- Production
- Storage
- Delivery
- Leakage Detection/Safety

The Hydrogen Conference is scheduled to take place in Cocoa Beach, Florida February 24-27, 2008. A Call for Papers will be available in August 2007.

Co-chairs are Dr. George G. Wicks, Consulting Scientist, from Savannah River National Laboratory and Jack Simon, President of Technology Access. George is a current member of the ACerS Board of Directors and Jack is a past president of ASM International.

For more information, visit the Web site www.ceramics.org/hydrogen2008 or contact Mark Mecklenborg, ACerS Director of Meetings, 614-794-5829, mmecklenborg@ceramics.org.

▶ ACERS ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2007-2008

The American Ceramic Society would like to congratulate the following individuals on their election as board members, officers, and division and class officers of the Society.

ACerS PRESIDENT-ELECT (September 20, 2007-October 9, 2008)
John A. Kaniuk

ACerS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (September 20, 2007-October 2010)
Edwin R. Fuller
Carol A. Handwerker
David A. Payne

DIVISION AND CLASS OFFICERS (September 20, 2007-October 9, 2008)

ART DIVISION

Chair: Arun Wagh
Secretary: Irma Starr

BASIC SCIENCE DIVISION

Chair: Martha Mecartney
Chair-Elect: Elizabeth Dickey
Vice Chair: Keith Bowman
Secretary: Helen M. Chan

CEMENTS DIVISION

Chair: Maria Garci Juenger
Chair-Elect: Kimberly Kurtis
Secretary: Florence Sanchez

ELECTRONICS DIVISION

Chair: Robert Schwartz
Chair-Elect: Sharmila Mukhopadhyay
Vice Chair: Paul Clem
Secretary: Shashank Priya

Secretary-Elect: Amit Goyal

ENGINEERING CERAMICS DIVISION

Chair: Dongming Zhu

Chair-Elect: Andrew Wereszczak

V. Chair/Treas: Jonathan Salem

Secretary: Tatsuki Ohji

GLASS & OPTICAL MATERIALS DIVISION

Chair: Mario Affatigato

Chair-Elect: Hong Li

Vice Chair: Mark Davis

Secretary: Steve Martin

NUCLEAR & ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Chair: Connie Herman

Vice Chair: Sharon Marra

Secretary: Allen Apblett

REFRACTORY CERAMICS DIVISION

Chair: Mike Alexander

Vice Chair: Thomas Pompili

Secretary: David A. Larsen

STRUCTURAL CLAY PRODUCTS DIVISION

Chair: Nathan Fields

Chair-Elect: Kevin Ham

Vice Chair: James Hopkins

Secretary: Gregory Grabert

WHITEWARES & MATERIALS DIVISION

Chair: No Nominations Made

Chair-Elect: No Nominations Made

Vice Chair: No Nominations Made

Secretary: No Nominations Made

CERAMIC EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL

President: Paul Salvador

President-Elect: Matthew Hall

Vice President: R. Allen Kimel

Secretary: Elliot Slamovich

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CERAMIC ENGINEERS

President: Edmund Moore

President-Elect: Kathleen Richardson

Vice President: Elizabeth Judson

Sec./Treasurer: Alex Cozzi

▶ **CERAMIC ARTS DAILY WEB SITE LAUNCHES**

CeramicArtsDaily.org offers a free daily newsletter, access to *Ceramics Monthly* and *Pottery Making Illustrated* magazines, and the Potters Council, as well as links to all the related products and services that these groups offer.

The free online newsletter is written and produced by the staff of *Ceramic Arts Daily* for the benefit of potters and ceramic artists worldwide. The newsletter features articles focusing on both renowned and emerging artists, their work, techniques and artistic perspectives. *Ceramic Arts Daily* also features tips and techniques designed to help every artist expand their skill set and widen their artistic horizons. The web site is designed to be interactive, inviting users' comments and fostering a

community in which each person can contribute to the growth of their own and others' skills.

► **EMPLOYMENT CENTER RETURNS TO ACERS ANNUAL MEETING AT MS&T**

The MS&T Employment Center is a great way to get face-to-face contact with potential employees. Job seekers can drop off resumes, review the job postings and sign up for on-site interviews. The Employment Center is open to all attendees, including students. And it's free. Be sure to stop by and check it out.

Employment Center Location and Hours: Cobo Center - W1-54 First Floor

Monday, Sept. 17	2-5:30 p.m. (job and resume drop-off only)
Tuesday, Sept. 18:	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 19:	9 a.m.-5 p.m.

ACerS 2007 Award Winners

See what awards will be presented at the ACerS 109th Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the Materials Science & Technology 2007 Conference and Exhibition - MS&T07, Detroit, Michigan, September 16-20, 2007. [Check out all the winners.](#)

Join the Refractory Division Today!

If you have a passion for, or work anywhere around refractories, we invite you to join the Refractory Ceramics Division. You will have an opportunity to stay up-to-date with refractory technologies and industry, volunteer at many levels, make industry & research contacts while having some fun! Call ACerS customer service at 1-866-721-3322 to add the Refractory Ceramics Division to your ACerS membership.
