

“Plus ça change...”

Several months ago, at a gathering that took place during the ECS meeting in Los Angeles, my family and friends in the Society celebrated my 25 years of service to ECS. The time has passed very quickly and it has been filled with extraordinary accomplishments, which have been achieved through the work of wonderful and talented people. I truly value the close relationships that I have built in ECS; and I wish to express my appreciation to all of you who have been with me on this great 25-year ride.

French author Alphonse Karr wrote, “Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose,” which means: “the more things change, the more they are the same.” I feel that Karr’s reflective quote accurately describes my experience at ECS over the past 25 years (1980 -2005). What has changed? If you look at the comparisons on the next page you would have to say, “Just about everything!” It is interesting and informative to compare because it reveals some of the true dimensions of the organization. The changes we have experienced are even more dramatic when you narrow the time frame and consider what has happened in just the past 10 to 15 years. The changes have been driven primarily by technology and member needs; so it is hard to imagine where we will be in the year 2020.

Starting with the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, which is our “technical flagship,” it seems that everything about it has changed. It is larger in size and scope; faster, with online publications lag-time averaging 8 months; available in 3 different formats (paper, CD-ROM, and electronic); and according to the *ISI Science Citation Index*, it is technically better. Fundamentally, however, it is the same publication because it continues to be our technical flagship carrying the same type of information on solid-state and electrochemical science and technology as it did 25 years ago; and it is still the primary benefit of membership, just as it has always been.

Scientific meetings are the Society’s oldest and most enduring activity. In fact, we have never missed a biannual meeting (spring and fall each year); and if you’re keeping the statistics that would make 208 consecutive ECS meetings and counting. What has changed? Again, just about everything, including: the scope and number of attendees, meeting locations, author requirements, availability of technical meeting content, and presentation techniques. But if you were caught in a time warp, and you were able to walk into Howard Huff’s¹ “Silicon Materials Symposium” in Minneapolis, MN in May 1981 (my first meeting), it probably would not seem much different than the sessions he will be conducting this spring at the Adam’s Mark Hotel in Denver, CO. Although the meetings today are broader in scope and more effective in their delivery, the time-tested ECS meeting format is still a very effective way to share research and advance the science.

Membership in ECS has changed quite a bit since 1980 when membership included the paper *Journal* and the educational opportunities afforded at the biannual and Section meetings. Dues back then were only \$40 for active members and \$4 for student members, compared to \$95 and \$15 in 2006. That is a pretty big change, but in comparison to the cost of living index, ECS membership dues have actually decreased when measured in current (2006) dollars. What is more important is that the members get much more value for their dues now including: our quarterly *Interface* magazine, *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters*, the significant discounts on all our other publications and meetings, as well as the powerful information retrieval tools available at the ECS website. What is the same? For a modest dues payment, we still offer the top publications in solid-state and electrochemical science and technology as part of the membership package; and ECS is still an organization run by the members for the benefit of all members throughout the world.

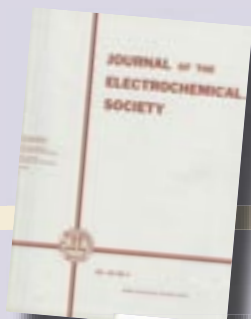
Finally, I have to admit that I have changed too (after six trips to Paris I even speak a little French). Since I was hired in 1980, by V. H. “Bud” Branneky (Executive Secretary 1972-1991), I have moved from Accounting Supervisor, to Assistant Executive Secretary, and finally to Executive Director, a position I have held since 1991. What is the same? I have had to continuously manage the dramatic changes in ECS and that is what has kept me excited and challenged throughout my years of service. Although the ECS leadership spends a lot of time planning for the future, I cannot tell you what is going to happen to ECS in the next 25 years. I can tell you that you are in a very good place if you happen to be a solid-state or electrochemical scientist or engineer and you are a member of ECS. So, in the words of Krishnan Rajeshwar, the insightful editor of *Interface*, “Stay tuned!”



Roque J. Calvo
Executive Director

¹ Since 1969, Howard Huff has been the lead organizer and proceedings volume editor for every one of the highly successful Silicon Materials symposia, and he is organizing his 10th and final symposium in Denver this spring. He has served as the chair of the ECS Electronics Division and on the ECS Board of Directors (1989-91). Huff is a Fellow of ECS and the American Physical Society. He recently retired as a Senior Fellow at SEMATECH.

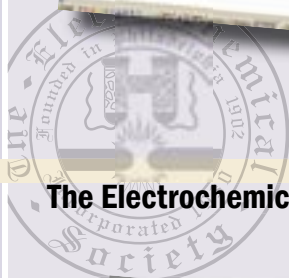
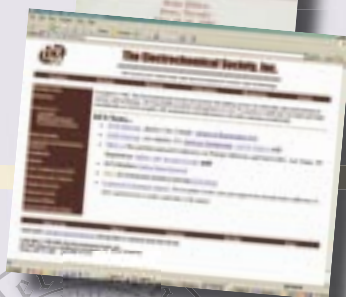
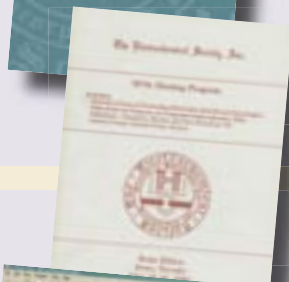
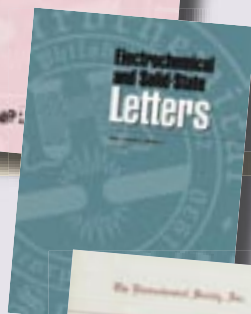
1980s



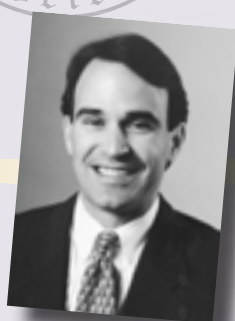
The Electrochemical Society, Inc.



1990s



The Electrochemical Society



2006

