

# Strength in Diversity



**A**s I begin my term as President of ECS, I am very pleased with several events over the past year that illustrate the continued strength, and growth, of ECS. New Sections have been formed in Mexico, China, and Taiwan, with the bylaws of all three sections approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting this past May. The Mexican Section is a result of our successful meeting in Cancun and illustrates the importance of meeting venues outside the United States and Canada. The newly formed China Section has been under discussion for some time now, and evolved after visits by ECS staff and scientists to successful electrochemical meetings in China like the International Semiconductor Technology Conference (ISTC), showing the interest and strength of electrochemistry there. The Taiwan Section evolved during several of my visits to that country on non-ECS business. I noted the strong electrochemical community throughout the country, which has more than 100 ECS members. A group of those members began working on establishing their own Section, and it took shape fairly quickly. Indeed Taiwan will, for the first time, host the Asia Conference on Electrochemistry (ACEC) next year, involving researchers from Japan, South Korea, China, and Taiwan; all four countries now have ECS Sections.

Still on the international scene, I visited Brazil in April and attended the XVI SIBEE (Simpósio Brasileiro de Eletroquímica e Eletroanalítica) meeting in Aguas de Lindoia, outside Sao Paulo. This was a large conference over a four-day period with about 500 attendees, many of them students and post-doctoral fellows. The ECS Brazilian Section was involved in the conference, and ECS sponsored the student award presentation. ECS member Mercedes Villullas played a significant role in contributing to the student program's success. It should be noted that the fastest growing areas of ECS membership are outside of the USA/Canada, highlighting the real importance of the international components of our society. The

Executive Committee of ECS recognizes the significant importance of our international linkages, and hopes to visit on a regular basis our Sections world-wide.

A number of initiatives have been undertaken by the Executive Committee over the past year, and their implementation is on-going. First, and based on a long range planning committee report of several years ago, the reporting structure of the Sections to the Society is being changed in light of new realities, and to streamline the process. The Sections themselves will remain unchanged, but they will report to the Board of Directors through the Individual Membership Committee; the number of members on that standing committee will expand. This will require changes to our Society Bylaws, and this process is now underway.

ECS has been very successful in the establishment of student chapters, with the number growing rapidly each year. At present, there are 11 student chapters, 7 of those having been established in 2006 alone. This is a most encouraging sign for the future of our Society, since today's students represent the next generation of members and leaders in ECS. Different ways of increasing our student membership are being discussed and ideas in this regard are always welcomed by the Executive Committee or Individual Membership Committee.

The recent meeting in Chicago saw the inaugural presentation of the Gordon E. Moore Medal in Solid State Science and Technology. Originally established in 1971 as the Solid State Science and Technology Award, the name was changed in 2006 after Intel Corp. endorsed and helped endow the award in honor of their co-founder, Gordon E. Moore. Dr. Michael Mayberry represented Intel Corp. at the award ceremony and gave a brief outline of the contributions of Gordon Moore to Intel and the electrochemistry community in general. The first recipient of the newly named award was Tak H. Ning from IBM Research Labs; his address on his own experiences during 35 years of research and

development with silicon system was most illuminating, and showed just how much things have changed during that time period. Dr. Ning also discussed how the philosophy of industrial research and development at a company like IBM has evolved over these decades.

In Chicago, we also noted the passing of another winner of this award. Dr. Bruce Deal, an ECS past president, received the SSS&T Award in 1993 and was a co-worker with Gordon Moore at Fairchild Semiconductor in the 1960s. Besides being a giant in the solid state research and development field, Bruce was also a gentleman and scholar whose many contributions to our Society are remembered and appreciated by those of us who knew him. His presence and involvement in the ECS will be missed.

As noted several times by my predecessor, Mark Allendorf, thoughtful input by ECS members to the President or other members of the Executive Committee is always solicited and appreciated. The strength of our Society is in no small way dependent on the involvement and ideas of its members. ECS represents a very diverse cross-section of the electrochemical community: fundamental as well as applied, solid state as well as electrochemical science and technology, and with members in university, industrial, and government laboratories and offices. Our strength is that diversity, but the associated challenge is to make certain that all sectors are represented (at the Sectional, Divisional, and Society levels) and understood. In that way, the Society can best serve the needs and interests of its members, and indeed the scientific community at large. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry MacDougall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barry" and last name "MacDougall" clearly legible.

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