



**Materials
Research
Society**

506 Keystone Drive
Warrendale, PA 15086-7573
www.mrs.org

TEL 724-779-3003
FAX 724-779-8313

Press Release

Contact: Anita B. Miller
724.779.3004, ext. 551
amiller@mrs.org

Date: November 15, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PHOTO AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

William Nix to Receive Materials Research Society's Highest Honor

The Materials Research Society's highest honor, the Von Hippel Award, will be presented this year to **William Nix**, professor emeritus, Stanford University. The Von Hippel Award is given annually to an individual in recognition of outstanding contributions to interdisciplinary research on materials. Nix is being recognized for "*his original contributions on the deformation and failure of materials, particularly in the areas of thin films, small volumes, and high-temperature alloys; for pioneering mechanical test methods; and for educating and mentoring future generations of materials scientists.*"

Nix will accept the honor during the awards ceremony at the 2007 MRS Fall Meeting in Boston on Wednesday, November 28, at 6:15PM in the Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Boston Hotel, where he will also present his award lecture, *Exploiting New Opportunities in Materials Research by Remembering and Applying Old Lessons*.

The Von Hippel Award includes a \$10,000 cash prize, honorary membership in MRS, and a unique trophy—a mounted ruby laser crystal, symbolizing the many-faceted nature of materials research. The award recognizes those qualities most prized by materials scientists and engineers—brilliance and originality of intellect, combined with vision that transcends the boundaries of conventional scientific disciplines, as exemplified by the life of Arthur von Hippel (<http://vonhippel.mrs.org>).

-more-

William Nix

Add-1-

Nix obtained his BS in metallurgical engineering from San Jose State College, and his MS and PhD in metallurgical engineering and materials science, respectively, from Stanford University. He joined the Stanford University faculty in 1963. From 1968 to 1970, Nix was director of Stanford's Center for Materials Research. He was appointed professor in 1972. Named the Lee Otterson Professor of Engineering at Stanford University in 1989, Nix served as chairman of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering from 1991 to 1996, becoming professor emeritus in 2003. He was awarded honorary Doctor of Engineering degrees by the Colorado School of Mines and by the University of Illinois.

Throughout his career, Nix has received many awards, among them: the Western Electric Fund Award for Excellence in Engineering Instruction; the Bradley Stoughton Teaching Award of ASM; the 1979 Champion Herbert Mathewson Award; the Institute of Metals Lecturer; the Robert Franklin Mehl Award of the (TMS) Metallurgical Society; the Educator Award from TMS; a Distinguished Alumnus Award from San Jose State University; the Acta Metallurgica Gold Medal; and the Nadai Medal from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He has been the recipient of numerous honors from the American Society of Metals and has been elected: a Fellow of the American Society for Metals; a Fellow of the Metallurgical Society of AIME; to the National Academy of Engineering; a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and to the National Academy of Sciences.

In 1966, he participated in the Ford Foundation's *Residence in Engineering Practice* program as assistant to the director of technology at the Satellite Division of Union Carbide Corporation. He is co-author of over 425 publications, and of *The Principles of Engineering Materials*, published in 1973 by Prentice-Hall, Inc.

The Materials Research Society is a not-for-profit scientific association founded in 1973 to promote interdisciplinary goal-oriented research on materials of technological importance. Membership in the Society consists of more than 15,000 scientists from industry, government, academia and research laboratories in the United States and nearly 50 other countries.

For further information about the Materials Research Society, contact Anita Miller at the Materials Research Society, 506 Keystone Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086; phone 724-779-3004 ext. 551; amiller@mrs.org. For the most up-to-date information, visit our Web site at www.mrs.org.

###