

Behind the Themes and Between the Lines

MRS Bulletin is a product of a network of scientists, including guest editors, authors, board members, visiting scientists, and other contributors who channel their interests and concerns into the publication through the *Bulletin* editorial staff. Many of our contributors are listed near the front of the *Bulletin*. Participation of these community members provides the publication with the ability to reflect the interests of the dynamic community we serve. Our readers are also our contributors.

To ensure continued involvement of the community, the volunteer structure supporting the *Bulletin* has been considerably revamped. In 1995 we initiated a "visiting scientist" program, inviting one scientist a year to spend about four weeks spread over several visits working in our editorial office, helping define new technical themes, starting new departments such as Links of Science & Technology (see article in this issue), and infusing a fresh perspective into the *Bulletin's* development. Our visitors thus far have been Robert L. Fleischer (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Frank W. Clinard (Los Alamos National Laboratory), and Robert W. Cahn (University of Cambridge), in 1995, 1996, and 1997, respectively.

With this issue of *MRS Bulletin* we introduce two additional modes of volunteer involvement, a newly structured Editorial Board and a group of Volume Organizers.

The Volume Organizers, Orlando Auciello (Argonne National Laboratory), Russell Composto (University of Pennsylvania), and Philippe Fauchet (University of Rochester), and I will develop an appropriate set of theme topics and guest editors for 1998. We will assemble themes

not only from our own areas of expertise, but also from ideas encountered at conferences and suggestions in the hallways. Themes may also be contributed from the community. After proposals for theme topics are reviewed, guest editors invite appropriate experts to write a set of mutually complementary articles related to their chosen theme topics. To help locate a particular topic on your *Bulletin* shelf, we began indicating the theme topic on the spine with the March 1997 issue. The *Bulletin* also occasionally publishes single articles rather than a theme, as is the case this month.

To many, theme topics are the *Bulletin*. Others, however, visit many of the two dozen or so departments that cover news, conferences, government policy, materials-related history, publications, education, and other materials-related issues and events. Members of the restructured editorial board will not only guide technical content development, but will also enhance these departments. They have already begun realigning our book reviews in the Library department and expanding our news-gathering network. New departments are now under development and existing departments are experiencing new twists.

Bulletin departments track the rise and fall of interests in our materials community. For example, the Career Clips department debuts in this issue. It addresses career challenges faced in the changing research environment and associated job market.* Career Clips will profile those

* See *MRS Bulletin* Public Affairs Forum, August 1995, p. 13 and September 1996, p. 15 and Washington News, January 1996, p. 12.

trained in and/or currently practicing materials science and will trace the sometimes previously uncharted career paths they have taken. The first contribution is the story of my own transition from researcher to editor. Such "alternative careers" bridge materials science to other communities—journalism, law, public service, business—providing the connection necessary to fully utilize and, in return, support the discoveries and developments from the research laboratories of universities, industry, and government.

Another aspect of *Bulletin* growth is its integration with electronic media. Abstracts of articles in the *MRS Internet Journal of Nitride Semiconductor Research*, which first appeared in the *Bulletin* in the February 1997 issue, is one indication of this. *MII-NSR* is an all-electronic journal, an experiment implemented through the volunteer efforts of Eric Hellman (Bell Labs, Lucent Technologies) and others. It not only reflects the emergence of a new medium to complement the printed page, but also reveals the continuing role of print to point readers to these new resources. A second example is found in the calendar at the back of the *Bulletin* which contains a growing number of e-mail and web address citations. Conversely, *MRS Bulletin* itself is directly utilizing the power of the internet through its website at <http://www.mrs.org/publications/bulletin/> which continues to grow, keeping visitors updated on future themes and other information. Internet innovations have become a routine part of doing science, and *Bulletin* innovations, as described here, continue to be a routine part of serving you, our readers.

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Deadline Alert! Deadline Alert! Deadline Alert! Deadline Alert! Deadline Alert! Deadline Alert!

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD APPLICANTS FOR 1997 MRS FALL MEETING

In order to have your 1997 Fall Meeting paper considered for a Graduate Student Award, you must submit your abstract to MRS by the following Fall Meeting abstract deadlines:

JUNE 20, 1997

For abstracts submitted by e-mail, fax, or mail

JUNE 23, 1997

For abstracts submitted over the World Wide Web

Abstracts received after these dates will not be accepted for the meeting and therefore cannot be considered for a Graduate Student Award.

Your Graduate Student Award application (with a copy of your abstract) is not due until August 29, 1997 for review by the Awards Committee. For more information on abstract submission or the Graduate Student Award process, see the 1997 Fall Meeting Call for Papers booklet or the MRS website (<http://www.mrs.org/>), or contact MRS Headquarters, 9800 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237; 412-367-3003; fax 412-367-4373.



ABSTRACT DEADLINES FIRM FOR 1997 MRS FALL MEETING

In recent years an increasing number of authors have submitted abstracts after the published deadline. These late submissions obstruct the review process and delay preparation

of the final technical program. Late abstracts are also unfair to those who submit by the deadline.

In an effort to provide more efficient service to the meeting participants, this year's deadlines will be strictly enforced. And, because MRS believes that the most efficient way to submit an abstract is by using the abstract template on the MRS Website, the deadline for abstracts submitted over the World Wide Web will be extended.

THE FALL 97 ABSTRACT DEADLINES ARE:

June 20, 1997 for all abstracts submitted by e-mail, fax or the postal service

June 23, 1997 for abstracts submitted via the World Wide Web:

<http://www.mrs.org/>

(The Society will begin accepting electronic submittals on May 20, 1997.)

In fairness to all potential 1997 MRS Fall Meeting authors, abstracts must be received at MRS headquarters by the relevant deadline.