

MRS **Featured Volunteer**

Jeff Tsao

What is your favorite element?

The column III and V elements, because it is in devices fabricated from these elements that “bandgap nanoscience meets electronics and photonics” in such scientifically fascinating and technologically important ways.

What do you read first in MRS Bulletin?

The feature technical stories.

What was the last book you read?

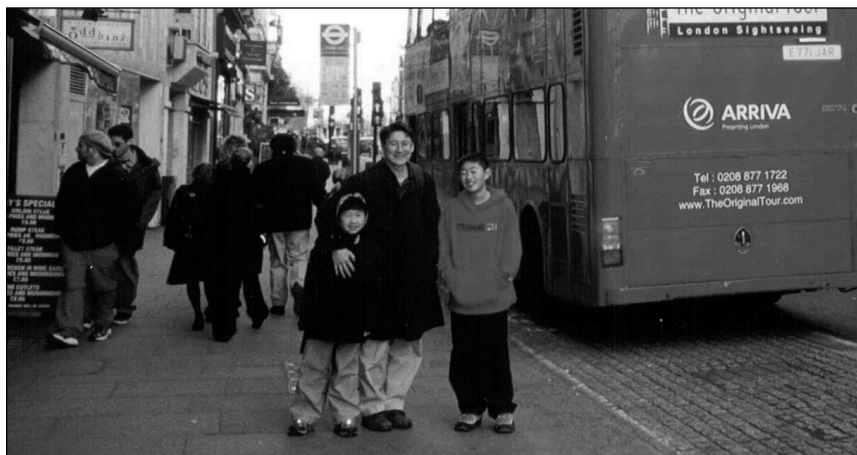
Stephen King’s *On Writing*, a semi-autobiographical sketch of his career and what he has learned about the craft of writing. Also Edward Tufte’s *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*, a wonderful book about the art and “science” of technical graphics.

What inspired you to be a materials researcher?

My wife, Sylvia. I was really a student of nonlinear optics and spectroscopy, but took a few materials science courses because I wanted to know what she was up to. Turns out those courses were taught by Frans Spaepen and David Turnbull, and I *really* enjoyed them. Ever since then, I have steered myself more and more toward materials research.

What did you first do as an MRS volunteer?

Co-chaired a Symposium on Evolution of Thin Films and Surfaces.



Jeff Tsao and his two sons, Emil (11) and Eugene (7) vacationing in London.

What is your Motto?

“The most important things in life, money can’t buy.”

If you were not a materials researcher, what would you be?

Probably an economist. I’ve always been fascinated by how individual entities (like people or atoms) interact to create bigger things (like societies or materials) that then take on an interesting and useful life of their own.

What common household item do you use in your lab?

What lab?!

Jeff Tsao is currently a member of technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories, working on strategic planning and program development in the area of

Solid-State Lighting. He just completed a one-year stint as VP of R&D for E2O Communications, a start-up company in VCSEL-based fiber communications (www.e2oinc.com). Before that, he managed the Chemical Process Science and Semiconductor Materials Departments at Sandia National Laboratories. For MRS, he has co-chaired several technical symposia in the area of thin film science, and co-chaired the 1993 Spring Meeting. He served on the Program Committee from 1993 through 1999, and chaired the Graduate Student Award Subcommittee in 1999 and 2000.

To contribute to **MRS Featured Volunteer**, send in your responses to the questions to *MRS Bulletin*, 506 Keystone Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086-7573, USA; fax 724-779-8313; e-mail Bulletin@mrs.org. Include your name, volunteer activity, address, fax, and e-mail.

