

Behind the Themes and Between the Lines

The saga of materials tells us all about materials but not of the people who make them. But people matter for they alone transform nature's artifacts to useful materials. And how does it feel to be a materials scientist or an engineer? The private frustrations, the public postures and feelings of personal satisfaction or effacement are all lost between the lines of scientific articles and patent descriptions.

Is it possible to explore what makes scientists pursue a certain line of reasoning?

How was a particular experiment or a material chosen and why were the others abandoned? How were the moments of discovery and invention encountered and how did failures fracture the road?

To look behind the scenes and to reveal the people who have helped move materials science along its course, this month's issue of *MRS Bulletin* introduces a new department called PROFILES & PERSPECTIVES. This department presents interviews with researchers, developers, technologists, and other contributors who have a special

insight into the development and status of the field of materials research because of their unique placement in the field's history.

Interviews were conducted by the *Bulletin* editorial staff and volunteers, and were held at the most accessible "home base" of those interviewed. We hope readers enjoy eavesdropping on these conversations.

ELIZABETH FLEISCHER, EDITOR
bulletin@mrs.org

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO:

Editor, *MRS Bulletin*, Materials Research Society, 506 Keystone Drive,
Warrendale, PA 15086-7573

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Tel. Office: 81-3-3740-5172
Fax: 81-3-3740-5190



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