

## News of MRS Members/Materials Researchers

**Suhas Bhandarkar** has joined the faculty of the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science at Alfred University as an associate professor of materials

science. He will be part of the university's Advanced Research Center in photonics. He comes to Alfred from Sydney, Australia, where he directed research and

development for Redfern Integrated Optics for the past year.

**Marcela Bilek**, professor of physics at the University of Sydney, was awarded the **2002 Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year** from the Prime Minister of Australia for making substantial contributions to materials science. Bilek is internationally recognized for her skills in the fabrication of super-tough thin films and materials. The prize is awarded annually to an outstanding scientist in the physical sciences who is 35 years of age or younger.

**C. Jeffrey Brinker** (Sandia National Laboratories and the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque) has been selected to receive the Department of Energy's **E.O. Lawrence Award** in the materials research category for his innovations in sol-gel chemistry to create nanostructured materials that have applications in energy, manufacturing, defense, and medicine.

**Anne Meyer** of the State University of New York at Buffalo received the **2002 C. William Hall Award** from the Society for Biomaterials.

*For information on recent MRS awards, see MRS News on page 909.*

## Gareth Thomas Receives 2003 Acta Materialia Gold Medal



Gareth Thomas

The 2003 Acta Materialia Gold Medal has been awarded to Gareth Thomas, professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and vice president of research and development at MMFX Technologies Corp. in Irvine, Calif. Thomas' lifetime in research has been devoted to understanding the fundamentals of structure-property relations in materials, for which he has also pioneered the development and applications of electron microscopy and microanalysis. He established the first laboratory for high-voltage electron microscopy at UC—Berkeley. Thomas' research has contributed to the development and microstructural tailoring of materials from steels and aluminum alloys to high-temperature and functional ceramics and magnetic materials, resulting in a dozen patents.

In recognition of these achievements, Thomas was elected to both the National Academy of Sciences (1983) and the National Academy of Engineering (1982). With his students and colleagues, Thomas has over 500 publications and several books, including the first text on *Transmission Electron Microscopy of Metals* (Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1962) and, in 1979—with M.J. Goringe—a widely used reference text, *Transmission Electron Microscopy of Materials* (TechBooks, Fairfax, second edition in 1981), which was translated into Russian and Chinese.

The medal will be presented to him at the Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society's annual meeting in San Diego, Calif., in March 2003.

The following recipients of the U.S. **2001 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)** have been selected:

**C. Allan Guymon**, assistant professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, is cited for contributing outstanding research in photopolymer kinetics to predict and control the nanostructure of liquid-crystalline systems, creating new possibilities for the polymer industry. Also, he is bringing polymer science concepts to rural public high schools, especially to areas where there are large numbers of underrepresented students, incorporating a modified teaching module for introductory chemistry courses at community colleges and universities.

**Veena Misra**, assistant professor at North Carolina State University, is cited for conducting noteworthy research to advance the development of nanoscale electronic devices in an innovative vertical format, decreasing the size and increasing the power and efficiency of the next generation of silicon-based components. She is developing an electrical engineering course on vertical devices, an instructional videotape for

high school students, and a "nano-chip kit" for middle school students to introduce them to nanotechnology concepts.

**Christine Ortiz**, assistant professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is cited for conducting creative materials research studies on nanoscale properties of polymers inspired by nature that are bridging the physical and biological sciences, thus meeting the needs of new research priority areas in nanotechnology and biomaterials. Her innovative outreach activities include reaching high school teachers with a special course on nano- and biomaterials and creating interdisciplinary undergraduate courses in biomaterials.

Among the **2002 Fellows and Foreign Members of the U.K. Royal Society** are the following:

**Thomas Maurice Rice** (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, Zurich) for important theoretical contributions to the understanding of electronic properties of materials;

**John Roy Sambles** (University of Exeter) for his experimental studies of the optical properties of thin films and interfaces;

**John Stace** (University of Sussex) as the leading U.K. expert on gas-phase microclusters, key intermediates between the gaseous and condensed states, with important implications ranging from atmospheric chemistry through liquid/solid-phase dynamics to factors governing quantum size effects in aggregated systems;

**Mark Edward Welland** (University of Cambridge) as a world leader in nanotechnology and scanning probe microscopy;

**Hubert Simon Markl**, president of the Max Planck Society, Germany, as the most influential figure in European science policy and a key person influencing the relationship between science and society; he has been an outstanding and bold advocate for scientific research in Germany and throughout Europe; and

**Alexander Pines** (University of California, Berkeley) for making profound theoretical and experimental contributions to nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, through which NMR has become an analytical tool for solid materials. □