



*Updates on friends and colleagues in the materials community*

## Robert Shull Appointed NIST Fellow

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has appointed Robert D. Shull a NIST fellow. Shull joined NIST in 1980 after completing his post doctoral fellowship with the California Institute of Technology, and is currently the group leader of the NIST Magnetic Materials Group. He earned his B.S. in Materials Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Metallurgical and Mining Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has authored or co-authored more than 150 publications and presented more than



250 invited talks. He also has been a member of the International Committee on Nanostructured Materials since 1990, chairing the group from 1999–2001.

In addition, he is a founding member of the Office of Science and Technology Policy subcommittee on Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Technology, the group which drafted the original National Nanotechnology Initiative in 2001. For more than 20 years, he has led a pre-high school science program for 200 children each year, called 4H Adventure In Science.

Shull served as TMS president in 2007 and has been active in numerous TMS committees, including the Public and Governmental Affairs, Nanomaterials, and Nominating Committees. He joined TMS in 1976.

## Markus Buehler Wins Raymond Award

Markus Buehler, associate professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was announced as the winner of the 2011 Rosier W. Raymond Memorial Award, conferred by the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME). The award recognizes the best paper published by one of AIME's member societies—of which TMS is one—in which the lead author is under the age of 35. Buehler's paper, "Failure of Alzheimer's AB(1-40) Amyloid Nanofibrils under Compressive Loading" was published in the April 2010 issue of *JOM* with co-author Raffaella Paparcone. Buehler will receive his award at the TMS 2011 Annual Meeting, February 27–March 3, in San Diego.

*For a listing of the other awards, honors, and recognitions to be conferred at the TMS 2011 Annual Meeting, refer to the "News and Update" section of this issue of JOM, starting on page 3.*



## Al Romig Assumes New Post

Alton D. Romig started his new position of vice president and general manager of the Skunk Works Advanced Development Program for the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in January. Skunk Works is known for its work in building the SR-71, F-117, and F-35. Prior to this, Romig served as executive vice president, deputy laboratories director, and chief operating officer of Sandia Na-



tional Laboratories. He joined Sandia in 1979 as a member of the technical staff.

While still at Sandia, Romig was also one of 12 individuals honored with the 2010 Governor's New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award in November 2010. The award recognizes "outstanding contributions to the public service and to the improvement of government at all levels by both government employees and private citizens." He was nominated in the category of federal government and national laboratories. Romig is also a 2005 TMS Fellow.

## Xun-Li Wang Named American Physical Society Fellow

Xun-Li Wang, distinguished scientist and group leader in the Neutron Scattering Science Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), has been elected to fellowship in the American Physical Society (APS). He was cited by the APS "for sustained contribution in neutron diffraction studies of structure, phase transformations, and

mechanical behavior in materials and engineering systems and leadership in the design and construction of a versatile engineering diffractometer at the Spallation Neutron Source." Wang serves as the lead instrument scientist for VULCAN, a state-of-the-art engineering diffractometer at the Spallation Neutron Source.

### In Memoriam

TMS extends its condolences to the families and friends of the following members who passed away in the last year:

**G. Robert Couch**, 1979 TMS President and 1982 TMS Fellow, Allamuchy, New Jersey

**Doris Kuhlmann**, 2006 TMS Fellow, Charlottesville, Virginia

**Daniel J. Maykuth**, Columbus, Ohio

**D.L. Martin**, Corvallis, Oregon

**Bernard H. Morrison**, Victoria, British Columbia

**Peter H. Thornton**, Dearborn, Michigan

**Herbert D. Wedge**, Lancaster, Ohio



*TMS Member Profiles*

## Meet a Member: Happiness Is in the Cards for Randy Helmink

By Lynne Robinson

There are 635,013,559,600 possible bridge hands, and Randy Helmink and his wife, Noel, would happily play them all.

Addictive in its complexity and competitiveness, bridge has attracted a storied following since it evolved from the British card game, whist, in the late nineteenth century. In what became known as the “Bridge Murder Case,” Myrtle Bennett, a Kansas City housewife, shot her husband to death in 1929 over a poorly played bridge hand. Dwight Eisenhower famously played bridge to relax while serving as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces during World War II. Current celebrity bridge devotees include millionaires Warren Buffett and Bill Gates and tennis legend Martina Navratilova. “Bridge players generally have very competitive personalities,” observed Helmink.

The preferred game of the Helminks is duplicate bridge in which the same hands are played multiple times by different pairs of players. About 26 hands are played in a session, with the scores for each hand compared relative to each of the pairs holding the same cards. Pairs receive a point for each of

the other pairs that they beat and half a point for each that they tie. In tournaments, each event generally consists of two sessions in a single day, with new events offered each day for three to ten days. Smaller tournaments might have 100 to 300 people playing at the same time, while larger tournaments can have thousands of people playing simultaneously.

“Duplicate bridge eliminates more of the luck factor involved with many card games, since you are measured on how well you play the cards you have, as opposed to how lucky you are to have good cards,” said Helmink. “There is still some luck involved, but the challenge of pitting our skills against the other players is the primary appeal of the game.”

Both Helminks were introduced to bridge in college, after being reared in families who avidly played such card games as Hearts and Pinochle. They met at the bridge table in 1987, introduced by a mutual bridge-playing friend. Within a year, Helmink proposed to his future wife before starting a tournament session. “Yes, I did get down on one knee,” he laughs at the recollection. “I can’t remember

exactly how we did that day, but I’m guessing we played pretty well. Once the game starts, we focus all of our concentration on each hand as it is being played.”

The Helminks have been partners in life and bridge ever since, playing together at a local club near their Indianapolis home once a week and participating in about five to ten tournaments a year. Over the years, they have steadily accumulated points in tournament play tracked by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). Helmink, in fact, is now a Gold Life Master, which requires 2500 points. Noel, a retired junior high math teacher who now teaches bridge and plays with other partners several times a week, has achieved Diamond Life Master with 5000 points. The pair also recently finished in the top 100 in a World Mixed Pairs event held in Philadelphia.

The couple eschew online play, said Helmink, because, “I don’t think that the caliber of play is quite as high as for regular tournaments.” They also enjoy the social aspect of traditional tournament play, with Helmink noting, “We’ve met a lot of good friends in the Midwest and, to a lesser extent, across the country, playing bridge.”

However, the biggest draw for the Helminks is the intellectual challenge of applying the myriad of strategies and maneuvers to any one of the 635,013,559,600 bridge hands that may arise during a game. “One never stops learning and never stops making mistakes,” Helmink said. “The mistakes simply become more sophisticated as one improves.”



Randy Helmink and his wife, Noel, met at the bridge table in 1987 and have been partners in bridge and life ever since.



The Helminks play at a local bridge club once a week near their home in Indianapolis and participate in about five to ten tournaments a year. Currently a Gold Life Master in bridge, Helmink says his next goal is to achieve Diamond Life Master.

Each month, *JOM* profiles a TMS member and his or her activities both in and out of the realm of materials science and engineering. To suggest a candidate for this feature, contact Maureen Byko, *JOM* editor, at [mbyko@tms.org](mailto:mbyko@tms.org).