

MRS Featured Volunteer

Julia M. Phillips
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What is your favorite element?

Carbon. Where would we be without it?

What do you read first in MRS Bulletin?

Table of Contents. Then I check out "Editor's Choice." A lot of the images are both spectacular and intriguing.

What was the last book you read?

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison....I last read it in high school. It's amazing how the perspective of a few decades can change the way one views things.

What inspired you to be a materials researcher?

It was a gradual evolution, beginning with an elementary school ambition to be an astronomer. That led to a series of degrees in atomic physics, followed by an opportunity to join the staff at Bell Labs to do something that was not defined but was clearly neither astronomy nor atomic physics. My work in materials research grew out of the broad interests of Bell Labs, good management, and a sense of where I could contribute.



What did you first do as an MRS volunteer?

Elton Kaufmann asked me to chair a task force on Publicity and Public Relations which later grew into a committee by the same name. At that time there was barely an MRS Headquarters, let alone support for meeting publicity. I've now been around long enough to see the committee disbanded as many of its functions have been taken over by the Headquarters staff!

What is your Motto?

The closest is probably *Carpe Diem*.

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

I would most likely be a flutist. It's still a strong interest, but materials research pays much better, and I can still play flute for fun.

What common household item do you use in your lab?

When I had a lab, a kitchen timer was indispensable.

Julia M. Phillips is a department manager in Materials and Process Modeling and Computation at Sandia National Laboratories. She is currently a member of the MRS Awards, Membership, and Public Affairs Committees and serves on the Journal of Materials Research Advisory Review Board and Editorial Board and as chair of the MRS Bulletin Book Review Board. She has chaired several MRS committees, co-chaired the 1991 MRS Fall Meeting, and served on the MRS Executive Committee.

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