

To the Editor:

Scientists and Local Schools

I recently read the article, "I Could Use the Help," in the September issue of MRS Bulletin. I think the author made some very important points.

My own personal interest in science and math education arises from my days in graduate school at Drexel University when I was trying to teach physics to freshmen engineers who used the "When am I gonna use this, anyway?" line quite frequently. I modified my lessons to point out connections to engineering and such real life problems as thermal diffusion through the walls of a beer cooler. Although my career led to industry rather than academics, my interest in scientific education remained.

Recently, here at Miles I have become involved in some programs that interact with the local school systems. These programs were started and are currently run entirely by scientists. So far they have been very successful and we have about 75 scientists involved. I thought your readers might like to see a copy of the flyer that describes our programs. Please feel free to contact me with any inquiries, comments, criticisms, ideas, etc. that you may have.

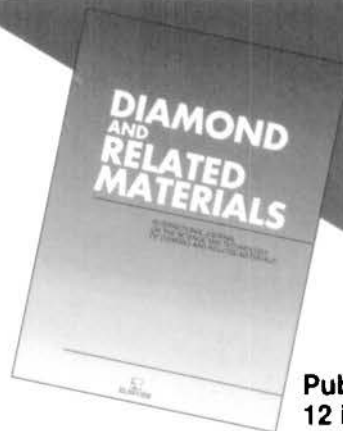
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Editor's Note: The Miles Science Forum School Programs for 1991-1992 feature:

- Adopt-a-Scientist: A science class "adopts" a scientist who visits the class about once a month and is also available to answer the teacher's questions.
Speakers Bureau: Abstracts of available talks are distributed to teachers each fall.
Magic with Miles: Interactive demonstrations for grades 1-6 involve simple yet visually exciting experiments that teach important concepts in science.
Flying Circus of Physics: Involves experiments and demonstrations that use everyday objects. Most experiments are based on Flying Circus of Physics by Jearl Walker.
Shadowing: A scientist is paired with a student who has some interest in a scientific career. The student can come into the laboratory with the scientist and may be allowed hands-on experience in simple procedures.
Mentorship: Scientists from Miles and other companies meet with junior and senior high school students to guide them in the development of science projects.
Science Fair Judging: 60-75 volunteer judges evaluate 600 to 750 projects.

For:

- Materials Scientists,
Solid-State Physicists,
Solid-State Chemists,
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