

## Eric Werwa Appointed 2001–2002 MRS/OSA Congressional Fellow

Eric Werwa, an assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, has been named the 2001–2002 MRS/OSA Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow. His tenure begins in September. As a recipient of this one-year appointment, sponsored jointly by the Materials Research Society (MRS) and the Optical Society of America (OSA), Werwa will work directly for a member of Congress or on a Congressional committee as a consultant on scientific and technical matters.

Brian Holloway, chair of the MRS Congressional Fellow Subcommittee, said, "I am very happy that Eric has accepted the 2001–2002 MRS/OSA Congressional Fellowship. During the selection process, the combination of his experience as a scientist and an educator helped him stand out in a very strong applicant pool. However, I think that his obvious dedication to public policy, his strong desire to serve in the policy arena, and his innate understanding of the political process are what really set him apart. MRS and OSA have quickly built a tradition of outstanding Fellows. Eric will not only follow in the footsteps of those before him, but he will raise the bar for future Fellows."

Werwa said, "As a Fellow, some of the issues I am interested in working on are science education, funding for the physical sciences, environmental policy, and energy policy." At Otterbein, Werwa has developed and taught the courses "Energy, Science, and Society" and "Our



Eric Werwa

Place in the Universe" for non-science majors. The courses presented the challenge of intertwining science with economics, history, public policy, and other disciplines to demonstrate the relevance of science to students' lives. While observing two focus groups last year, organized by the Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America and designed to learn the public's opinions on science and federal funding of scientific research, Werwa realized that people, including "Washington insiders," viewed math, science, and engineering as "hard" and "boring" fields that they do not know or care about. "I will help staff and elected officials develop some understanding of the technical aspects of relevant pieces of legislation, allowing them to make informed decisions based on

their own opinions," Werwa said. "I will also be a resource for other scientists, helping them participate in the legislative process more effectively."

Werwa serves on the MRS Public Affairs Committee, and as a member of its Public Outreach Subcommittee, he chairs the Materials MicroWorld Task Force, which is developing a traveling museum exhibit about materials science. The task force has obtained a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to help fund this project.

After his Fellowship, Werwa is considering a career in science and technology policy. Werwa's specific area of research is in the synthesis and optical properties of semiconductors and nanoparticles. He received his BSEng degree in 1992 from the University of Pennsylvania and his PhD degree in 1997 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His honors and awards include recognition of Meritorious Service from Otterbein College, the John Wulff Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, the AT&T Bell Laboratories PhD Scholar, 3M Corporation Graduate Fellow, NSF Graduate Fellow, Starr Graduate Fellow, and Benjamin Franklin Scholar. His professional-society memberships include MRS, the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society, ASM International, the Council on Undergraduate Research, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. MRS

## MRS President Presents Plaque Celebrating NIST Centennial

On behalf of the Materials Research Society, MRS President Marty Green presented a plaque at the March 6 Gala Celebration of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), commemorating the 100th anniversary of the agency. "NIST has about 70 MRS members in its ranks, signifying the underlying importance of materials research in NIST activities," Green said. "It was my pleasure to represent MRS on this auspicious occasion. As an industrial materials researcher, I found the NIST tour prior to the reception to be very inspiring."

The inscription on the MRS plaque said, "The Materials Research Society extends its best wishes and congratula-



MRS President Marty Green (right) presents to Karen H. Brown, Acting Director of NIST, a plaque in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

tions to the National Institute of Standards and Technology on the occasion of its centennial. The NIST tradition of excellence in establishing and sustaining standards has been and remains a critical enabler to the nation's industrial, commercial, and scientific accomplishments. We wish NIST continued success as an essential contributor to the complex technologies that provide the foundation for the nation's security and commercial prosperity, and that benefit the health and well-being of its citizens."

Over 40 organizations presented plaques, which will be on display in the Hall of Flags in the NIST Administration Building in Gaithersburg, Maryland, for one year. MRS