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MARYLAND PHYSICS ALUM WINS MRS MEDAL

WASHINGTON-- Maryland alum Dr. Norman C. Bartelt was awarded the 2001 Materials Research Society (MRS) Medal for an exceptional recent achievement in materials research. Bartelt is a member of the Thin-Films and Interface Science Department at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, California.

He is a leading theoretician in the area of statistical mechanics and thermodynamics of surface dynamical processes and morphological evolution, which is essential to the development of self-assembly and nanotechnology.

“Capitalizing on his computational fluency, he is unrivaled in his ability to bring theoretical ideas to bear on actual experimental data in materials science,” said Theodore L. Einstein, Maryland Physics professor, condensed matter theory.

In particular he has developed a set of theoretical models linking the temporal evolution of solid surfaces to their atomic structure. This work has transformed the way experiments are performed and analyzed by researchers using real-time imaging techniques. His most recent work
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has focused on gaining an understanding the dynamics of alloying on metal surfaces and how mass exchange between surface and bulk affects the evolution of surface morphology.

“Because of his commanding overview, profound insights, prodigious industry, and remarkable versatility, his advice and collaboration are widely sought. He has always insisted on the highest standards in his research,” said Einstein.

Bartelt has over 70 publications in major journals, including Physical Review Letters, Science, and Nature. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, Division of Materials Physics, and currently serves on the editorial boards of Physical Review Letters and Surface Science. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1986 earning a PhD in Physics, and later joined Sandia in 1995.

“I am delighted that his accomplishments have been recognized by this well-deserved award,” said Einstein.

During the MRS 2001 Fall Meeting in Boston, Ma., Bartelt will give a presentation on Nov. 29.

Information on Bartelt and MRS was extracted from the following web address: