cally, also enmeshed in the difficulty of dealing with a government in unusual debt. As a result, a "National University" simply never was. Imagine how different things might be if somehow we had developed the tradition of national pursuit of science in our early years.

But the magic of our democracy is that our fate lies in our own hands rather than in someone else's control. How we succeed depends largely on how those close to science meet their responsibility in developing public appreciation of the importance of government support for civilian research and development.

We should take heart from past difficulties. Even in retrenchment, important initiatives have emerged. Among other important steps, Congress has broadened the authority and responsibility of federal agencies for civilian research in important ways, setting the stage for larger steps when a new administration is willing to go forward.

We have extended the mandate of the National Science Foundation's charter to cover "engineering" as well as "science," in recognition of the essential unity of science and technology and the fact that abstract definition should not block pragmatic possibilities. This change could provide the authority for much broader support of civilian science by the Foundation if someone would use it.

Congress also re-cast the "National Bureau of Standards" as the "National Institute of Standards and Technology," creating at the same time an "Advanced Technology Program" with the authority to act broadly in support of the development of civilian technology.

Despite the hostility of recent administrations, Congress has forced acceptance of both a funding agency and a National Institute ready to openly support civilian research in ways we have not in the past. It only remains for all of us to give life to this responsibility of government.

***Doug Walgren** was a member (1976 through 1990) of the U.S. House of Representatives from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.*

Fleischer Starts as Bulletin Editor

As part of the evolution and growth of the *MRS Bulletin*, Elizabeth L. Fleischer has been appointed to the new staff position of technical editor. In making the announcement, Bulletin Editorial Boards Chairman Elton Kaufmann said, "We are extremely pleased to have Betsy on the staff of the *Bulletin*. This new position brings to the staff technical knowledge as well as additional publishing expertise to give added momentum to the *Bulletin* coverage of materials."

An active MRS member since 1987, Betsy recently received her PhD from Cornell University in materials science and engineering with a minor in biomechanics. Her research, directed by James W. Mayer, focused on mechanical properties and structure of ion-beam-modified metals and ceramics. She also spent a summer, during her undergraduate years, working for Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, NJ, developing contacts to GaAs for integrated circuit technology.

While Betsy directed her formal education towards science, she also pursued writing and newspaper work. As an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania, she spent most of her spare hours as production manager and then as advertising director of the school paper. While in graduate school she became an integral part of the evolution and production of an emerging monthly publication in Ithaca, New York, called *Community Ink*. She wrote environmental articles and coordinated production of the paper.

In 1989 Betsy was selected as a Mass Media, Science, and Engineering Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The AAAS program is designed to give science and engineering graduate students an opportunity to communicate science through the media. Her fellowship took her to Portland, Oregon, where she wrote weekly science articles for *The Oregonian*.

Technical Editor Betsy Fleischer with Bulletin Editorial Boards Chairman Elton N. Kaufmann.

In the coming months, Betsy will be expanding international coverage, maintaining close tabs on materials issues in Washington, DC, and covering broader news issues related to materials science. "The *Bulletin* needs to evolve to reflect the changing interests of the Society, the field, and the readers," she emphasized. "I look forward to the challenge and am eager to hear ideas and comments from the readers."

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