Abstract Guidelines:

- **Preliminary Abstract:** Within one month of receiving this author packet (or by a date agreed to with the Guest Editor, whichever comes first), please send a one-page preliminary abstract of your article to the Guest Editor. The purpose of this version of the abstract is to delineate the scope of coverage so that the guest editor can prevent overlap with other articles, ensure adequate coverage of the overall theme, and write an introduction to the issue. The form can be an abstract or an outline. Length is not critical, as long as the content clearly summarizes the key points and conclusions of the article. Avoid the use of jargon and other specialized terminology in your abstract; it should be understandable to a lay audience.

- **Final abstract:** Include a final abstract with your completed manuscript. The purpose of the final abstract is to provide a sufficient summary of the content of your article so that (1) readers can determine their interest in reading further, (2) literature searches will find the article in relevant searches, and (3) a broad audience can appreciate the significance of the article. The final abstract should be complete and understandable in itself, adequate as a summary of your primary points and conclusions, and should briefly describe all subjects, major and minor, reviewed in your article, as well as the conclusions. Do not include references, figures, tables, or equations, or cite any that appear in the article; all symbols must be defined. Preferred length for your final abstract is 100–150 words. The guest editor and the *MRS Bulletin* editorial office reserve the right to edit the abstract so that it meets these criteria.

Sample Final Abstract:

Abstract

Shape-memory alloy (SMA) thin films formed by sputter deposition have attracted considerable attention in the last decade. Current intensive research has demonstrated that the unique fine microstructure of thin films is responsible for their superior shape-memory characteristics, compared with bulk materials. Simultaneously, much effort has been undertaken in the development and fabrication of microdevices actuated by SMA thin films. This article reviews the research to date on shape-memory behavior and mechanical properties of SMA thin films in connection with their peculiar microstructures. Furthermore, promising applications such as microvalves are demonstrated, along with a focused discussion on process-related problems. All of the results indicate that thin-film shape-memory actuators are ready to contribute to the development of microelectromechanical systems.

Keywords: *intermetallic alloys, phase transformation, thin films.*

[From *MRS Bull.* **27** (2) (2002) in press]