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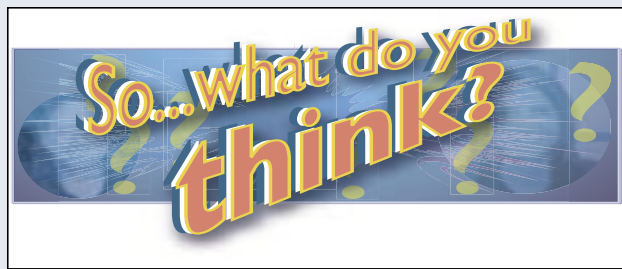
Laboratory scientists keep tabs on Santa

The Laboratory's Space Data Systems (ISR-3) is keeping an eye out for the jolly old man in the red suit, Santa Claus. Beginning at 6 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 24, Los Alamos scientists will track Santa on his whirlwind travels around the world. Page 5



New Mexico's holiday gift to the nation

Few people can resist the appeal of a beautifully decorated, brightly lit holiday tree. Such a tree has held a spot of honor each December on the U.S. Capitol lawn since 1964. Page 8



Diversity is much more than the color of one's skin or his/her gender. What does having a diverse institution or community mean to you and is it important? Learn what your co-workers had to say on Page 6.

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Laboratory names 2005 Fellows' Prize recipients

by Steve Sandoval



Neil Harrison

Four Los Alamos technical staff members are recipients of 2005 Fellows prizes for outstanding research and leadership.

Neil Harrison of Los Alamos' High Magnetic Field Laboratory (MST-NHMFL) and Robert Roussel-Dupré of Atmospheric, Climate and Environmental Dynamics (EES-2) received the 2005 Fellows' Prize for Outstanding Research.

Rick Luce of the Research Library (STB-RL) and Bob Little of Material Science (X-7) received the 2005 Fellows' Prize for Leadership.

The four will be recognized at a Fellows' Prize colloquium at 3 p.m., Jan. 18, 2006 in the Physics Building

Auditorium at Technical Area 3. The Fellows Prize for Research recipients will each give a 15-minute presentation summarizing their prize-winning research. Each will receive a check for \$3,000 and a certificate from Lab Director Bob Kuckuck. The colloquium is open to all Lab personnel.

The Fellows' Prize for Research honors individuals for outstanding research performed at the Lab, published within the past 10 years, and exerting a significant disciplinary or programmatic impact. The Fellows' Prize is open to all full-time staff members; however, fellows and postdoctoral researchers are ineligible for consideration.

In its third year, The Fellows' Prize for Leadership commends individuals exhibiting outstanding scientific and engineering leadership. The prize is open to any currently employed Lab technician, technical staff member or manager, with the exception of fellows.



Robert Roussel-Dupré

"The awards are an important way of acknowledging some of the truly spectacular scientific research and scientific leadership," said Rusty Gray of Structure/Property Relations (MST-8), coordinator of the Fellows' Prize committee. "It was inspiring and difficult because of the number of very exceptional candidates. The number of candidates nominated was large. It was an honor to have the opportunity to consider these nomination packages."

Laboratory employees nominate staff members for the Fellows' Prize. A committee of Laboratory Fellows reviews the nominations and recommends its selection to the director. This year, the committee received nine nominations for the Fellows' Prize for Research and 15 nominations for the Fellows' Prize for Leadership.

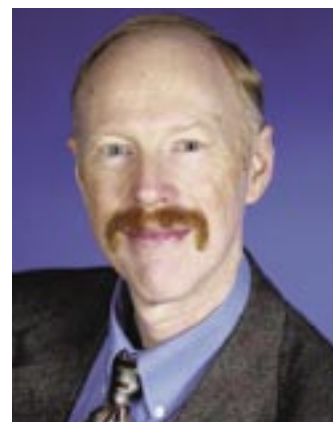


Bob Little

Harrison was recognized for his outstanding contribu-

tions to condensed matter physics using high magnetic fields to make ground-breaking discoveries in strongly correlated materials. "I am delighted, certainly grateful, and very much humbled for having been selected for this award at Los Alamos," said Harrison. "I am much indebted to others at Los Alamos, [the Materials Science and Technology] Division and most importantly the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, who have contributed to the creation of the ideal environment for conducting exciting research in condensed matter physics and material science in high magnetic fields."

Harrison, who came to the Laboratory in 1996 as a postdoc, added that "the resources available here at Los Alamos are beyond comparison. I am glad to have played a part in bringing the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory at [Los Alamos] from near



Rick Luce

continued on Page 3

For Your Safety



Holiday shopping safety tips

Shopping during the holiday season can present unique danger. Taking a few preventive measures can help keep the holiday season joyous.

The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. The following tips can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season.

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If shopping at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry a driver's license or identification card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even if rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to the surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in a front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if a credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if carrying a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops and buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid being overloaded with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking money or belongings.



Laboratory assists Cochiti Pueblo with small-business-development certification

Laboratory Director Bob Kuckuck talks with Cochiti Pueblo Gov. Joseph Leonard Trujillo, right, and Lt. Gov. Ernest Suina at Cochiti Pueblo Golf Course where a ceremony was held to mark the pueblo's certification to participate in the Small Business Administration's 8 (a) small-business-development program. The Laboratory, through its accord agreements with Cochiti, San Ildefonso, Jemez and Santa Clara pueblos, has placed a high priority on creating business opportunities for the pueblos. The 8 (a) certification allows Cochiti Pueblo to conduct business with the Laboratory and federal agencies. "The 8 (a) certification would provide a much-needed boost in business development for the community of Cochiti," said Gov. Trujillo. The tribal relations team in the Government Relations Office (CER-1) worked with Cochiti Community Development Corp., the office of Sen. Pete Domenici and a private consultant on obtaining the small-business certification. Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

Los Alamos National Laboratory NewsLetter

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Los Alamos enhances global security by ensuring safety and confidence in the U.S. nuclear stockpile, developing technologies to reduce threats from weapons of mass destruction and improving the environmental and nuclear materials legacy of the Cold War. Los Alamos' capabilities assist the nation in addressing energy, environment, infrastructure and biological security problems.



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Please recycle.



Black Mesa at San Ildefonso Pueblo

Wishing you peace and joy this holiday season

and happiness throughout the new year

Bob



France's atomic energy officials visit Laboratory

Bernard Bigot, right, France's high-commissioner for atomic energy, looks over some documents with Michael Stevens of the associate directorate for weapons physics shortly before briefings began at University House. Bigot, Claude Guet and Regis Babinet came to Los Alamos for tours of facilities and briefings on Laboratory programs. Guet is scientific director for military applications and director of research for the French Atomic Energy Commission. Babinet is counselor for nuclear energy in the French Embassy in Washington. Stevens is coordinator for foreign collaborations in ADWP. Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

Los Alamos names ...

continued from Page 1

obscurity to being without any question the most scientifically productive high magnetic field lab that has ever existed." Harrison earned bachelor's and doctoral degrees in physics from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.

Roussel-Dupré was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the understanding of upward propagating lightning discharges, in particular through the universally accepted theory of electron runaway breakdown initiated by cosmic-ray showers.

He joined Los Alamos in 1982 and has a bachelor's degree in applied physics from Cornell University and a doctoral degree in astro-geophysics from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is a member of the American Geophysical Union and received a Distinguished Performance Award in 2003 and 2004.

"It is truly an honor and a privilege to be the recipient of an award of this magnitude from one of the most prestigious scientific institutions in the world. I am grateful to the Los Alamos Fellows for taking notice of the research I performed over the past decade in the area of lightning physics," said Roussel-Dupré. "I was fortunate to work in an area where tremendous synergy exists between the programmatic requirements of our sponsors and the [National Nuclear Security Administration] and the basic research necessary to understand the difficult problems at hand and to develop the highest quality tools to address them.



For Laboratory closures, delays or early dismissal information, call UPDATE at 667-6622 or 1-877-723-4101 (toll free).

"It turns out that the electromagnetic pulse produced by a nuclear explosion shares much of the same physics that is now believed to operate in many facets of the lightning discharge. As a result, I was able to develop numerical models that addressed both topic areas simultaneously," Roussel-Dupré continued. "The fundamental theory of runaway breakdown grew directly out of our efforts to understand nuclear electromagnetic pulses and high power microwave discharges in air. None of this work would have been realized without the day-to-day interactions with some of the most talented physicists in the world. I owe a great debt of gratitude to my colleagues here at Los Alamos and to my many international collaborators."

Little was recognized for his scientific leadership and operation of the Nuclear and Atomic Data Team that provides national and international computational communities with neutron-photon data libraries that are the international "gold standard" and with new Monte Carlo physics models, some of which are dedicated to critical applications in Laboratory programs, such as the nuclear weapons program, nuclear nonproliferation and emergency response.

"While it is obviously a great honor to have been selected for the Leadership Prize, it is at least as rewarding for me to know that my colleagues would go through the effort simply to nominate me for such an award. I know that there are many other deserving candidates throughout the Laboratory," said Little. "Any success that I might have had in the 25-plus years that I've been at the Lab can be attributed mostly to the fact that I've been tremendously lucky to have been able to collaborate throughout with tremendously skilled and dedicated people."

Little joined Los Alamos in 1980. He has bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in nuclear engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society and a three-time recipient of the Department of Energy's Award of Excellence for significant contributions to the nuclear weapons program.

Luce was recognized for his technical development and operation of Los Alamos' Research Library, providing vision, leadership and mentoring that have revolutionized the Laboratory's unclassified library through cyber-infrastructure to achieve state-of-the-art desktop information access that is recognized internationally as the "kernel of a National Science Library."

"I am deeply honored by this award from the Fellows. It wouldn't have been possible without

LDRD — Looking up



by Tom Bowles,
chief science officer

It appears that the efforts of a number of people in the Laboratory (in particular David Watkins), our sister labs, and the University of California to get LDRD [Laboratory

Directed Research and Development] back up to the 6 percent level are paying off. In negotiations in the Senate-House conference committee, New Mexico Senator [Pete] Domenici was able to get language in place that should result in the equivalent of 6 percent funding for the LDRD program. I say "should" and "equivalent" because the language provides guidance, not a mandate. It also changes the way LDRD is administered by directing that appropriate overhead costs be applied. However, the bottom line is that the language states "The change in accounting practices should be implemented with no net reduction in LDRD levels below 6 percent of the funds provided by the Department of Energy ..."

We are working with Livermore and Sandia [national laboratories] to develop uniform cost accounting practices that meet the requirements of the language. While we still have issues to be resolved, all three laboratory directors support a 6 percent LDRD program. Thus, we are reasonably optimistic that we will end up with effectively a 6 percent LDRD program this year.

I believe it is essential that the Laboratory continues making the case for a 6 percent LDRD program in the future. Our ability to have a reasonable degree of discretion in the long-term, cutting-edge research we do is absolutely critical to our ability to remain a world-class R&D institution and to meet the future needs of the nation. The Science Council, working with the LDRD office and others, has developed the case to present to the National Nuclear Security Administration and Congress. We will be making this case over the next several months together with our sister labs. Our goal is to provide assurance on appropriate oversight, how investments are made and the return on those investments. The end result of this hopefully will be agreement from Congress and government oversight offices that a stable LDRD program at the 6 percent level is in the best long-term interests of the nation.

the combined efforts and support of a preeminent team of diverse and remarkably talented people at the Research Library," said Luce. "I believe the award, in part, is a recognition of the fundamental importance of a great science library in supporting the Laboratory's world-class research. The opportunity to work at an institution that continually challenges and has supported staying on the leading edge technically to enhance the Laboratory's competitiveness has been an extraordinary opportunity."

Luce joined Los Alamos in 1991; three years later, he was appointed project leader for STB-RL's Library Without Walls project. He received a Distinguished Performance Award in 1996 for his leadership of the library, and the library has received numerous state, national and international recognitions under Luce's leadership. Luce has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of San Diego and master's degrees in public administration from San Diego State and library and information science from the University of South Florida.

Wondering if the Lab will be open or delayed because of snow?

by Kathy DeLucas

Workers can call a toll-free hotline to find out about the status of Laboratory operations during inclement weather. That toll-free number is 1-877-723-4101. The toll-free number provides easy access to the Lab's UPDATE phone line, which employees should call to find out if the Lab's operating schedule is affected by winter storms. The hotline is the Lab's official, primary source for obtaining such information.

The local phone number for Los Alamos and Santa Fe residents is 667-6622. The message will not change unless there has been a change in schedule at the Lab or new information concerning an emergency.

The Laboratory's Early Dismissal/Closure/Delayed Opening Plan for determining the Lab's operating schedule because of inclement weather involves several resources. Gene Darling of Emergency Management and Response (EOO-EMR) said the duty emergency manager keeps up with the latest local forecast and usually knows ahead of time if a weather system can potentially affect the Lab's schedule.

In the case of Lab closures or delayed openings, the process usually begins around 3 a.m. The duty emergency manager begins receiving calls from the Lab's support services subcontractor's roads and grounds group, Protection Technology Los Alamos and Utilities and Infrastructure (FM-UI) to gather information on road conditions at the Lab. The duty emergency manager calls the state Department of Transportation, Los Alamos Police Department, the State Police and Meteorology and Air Quality (ENV-MAQ) for weather and additional information.

Once the duty emergency manager has collected the latest information concerning road conditions, the support services subcontractor's progress in clearing sidewalks and parking lots, current weather conditions and the forecast for what is expected to occur later that day, he or she discusses the situation with other Emergency Operations Office (EOO) personnel before contacting the Director's Office. There are several backup contacts throughout each phase of the plan in case the primary cannot be reached.



That person then confers with Department of Energy senior managers. The final decision and authority on whether to close entirely, delay opening or dismiss early rests with the DOE/National Nuclear Security Administration's Los Alamos Site Office. Once such a decision has been made, the duty emergency manager is contacted; EMR personnel call the

primary contact in the Public Affairs Office. If it's a delayed opening or closure, Public Affairs places the message on the UPDATE information hotline. Public Affairs then calls various radio and television stations, asking them to report the Lab's operating status.

The entire process for delayed opening or Lab closure usually is completed before 5:30 a.m., giving Lab employees and contractor personnel time to find out what the situation is at the Lab. Darling said the plan works relatively well when bad weather occurs very early in the morning, but there's really not much EMR can do in terms of warnings when bad weather strikes the area unexpectedly after 5 a.m. "There's just no time to adequately respond to the situation," he said.

In the case of an early dismissal, e-mail announcing the early dismissal is immediately sent to all employees, including contractors. A message also is recorded on the UPDATE Information Hotline and published in the Daily Newsbulletin.

Emergency Management personnel also contact the Los Alamos Public Schools superintendent, Los Alamos and State Police, PTLA and other organizations.

Personnel who are at work and want to know if the Lab is closing early can periodically call the UPDATE hotline (7-6622) or check the Daily Newsbulletin at <http://www.lanl.gov/newsbulletin> online. Remember to click the "Reload" button if you have previously accessed the site.

Lab workers who are at home and want to know if the Lab is on a delayed opening schedule or is closed for the day should call the hotline first, then check radio or television stations. For more information about the Lab's Early Dismissal/Closure/Delayed Opening Plan, call 7-6211.



Laboratory's protective force in the holiday spirit

Protection Technology Los Alamos personnel John C. Martinez, left, Melissa Baxendale and Adam Jung add to the collection of gifts that have been purchased for children and seniors as part of the Laboratory's annual Holiday Drive. Protection Technology Los Alamos is the Lab's protective force contractor. More than 40 foster children who are in custody of the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department, and about 90 senior citizens also in state custody through the Department for Aging and Long-term Services will receive holiday gifts courtesy of PTLA personnel. The company also has an annual holiday party and collects donations, which are distributed to charitable agencies in Northern New Mexico. And PTLA plans to participate in the holiday party the state agencies host to distribute the gifts. The Lab's annual Holiday Drive continues through Dec. 12 and Lab employees can purchase gifts for children or seniors as well as "adopt" families in need of food, clothing and toys for youngsters. The Human Resources (HR) Division has adopted 12 families, while KSL Services, the Lab's site support services contractor, has adopted 20 families and picked up 250 holiday tags from the Community Relations Office (CER-30), which coordinates the holiday giving program. Some Lab organizations conduct holiday giving programs in addition to participating in the Lab's drive. The Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE), for the eighth year, is hosting its "100-plus Special Children" program. Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez



Laboratory scientists keep tabs on Santa

The Laboratory's Space Data Systems (ISR-3) is keeping an eye out for the jolly old man in the red suit, Santa Claus. Beginning at 6 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 24, Los Alamos scientists will track Santa on his whirlwind travels around the world, and give hourly updates via its Web site at <http://santa.lanl.gov> online on Santa's progress toward Northern New Mexico.

"We expect Santa to arrive in Northern New Mexico around midnight, Mountain Standard Time on Christmas Eve," said Diane Roussel-Dupré of ISR-3. "Basically, we expect that he will be busy chasing midnight in all locations around the world as he makes his deliveries to the good girls and boys."

Laboratory space scientists will use the satellite tracking dish located in Los Alamos, to monitor Santa's progress as he races around the world delivering presents and goodies to children everywhere. In addition, Los Alamos scientists will keep an eye on St. Nick with sensors on the FORTE satellite. The U.S. Air Force with its nine tracking stations around the world also will help monitor the sleigh and its eight tiny reindeer.

"We like to think of our efforts as another way to help spread glad tidings," Roussel-Dupré said. "This is our present to the communities of Northern New Mexico."

Before you leave for the winter closure ...

The Laboratory's annual winter closure is Dec. 24 through Jan. 2, 2006. While facilities management teams will inspect major and problem buildings during the closure, all employees should take precautionary steps to help secure their work space before leaving for the break.

To that end, the Office of Security Inquiries (S-OSI) and the Facility Maintenance (FMD) Division offer the following guidelines:

- Turn off and unplug all electrical equipment, including coffeepots, space heaters, humidifiers, office machines and all experimental equipment that can be turned off.
- Leave thermostats at their normal settings.
- Close all exterior doors, windows and blinds to conserve heat. Where feasible, leave internal doors open to allow heat to circulate.
- Remove all private vehicles from Lab parking lots and park government vehicles where they will not interfere with snow removal operations.
- Make sure plants have enough water to survive through the holidays.
- Secure or lock all exterior doors from the outside.

"The procedural guidelines for closing up leased space during the winter break should be the same as for Lab facilities, with regard to tenants unplugging their equipment and checking and securing doors and windows. However, residents of Lab-leased space should communicate with their landlord about specific concerns and procedures related to their facilities during the closure," said Kenneth Schlindwein, responsible division leader in the associate directorate for security and facility operations. The Security

and Safeguards (S) Division also offers the following reminders to ensure that security controls work smoothly during the closure:

- On the last business day before the closure, authorized workers must properly secure all classified matter.
- Area-access custodians with travel plans or other holiday activities that will prevent them from performing duties on Dec. 24, such as end-of-day checks, should designate an alternate, authorized worker ahead of time to ensure that a substitute is available.
- Ensure that one or more of the authorized workers on the area-access list is available during the closure to make contact with the fire department and protective force personnel during emergency situations or in case a vault/vault-type room has to be re-entered. Update the access list if necessary by completing Form 1088 and send it to Security Systems

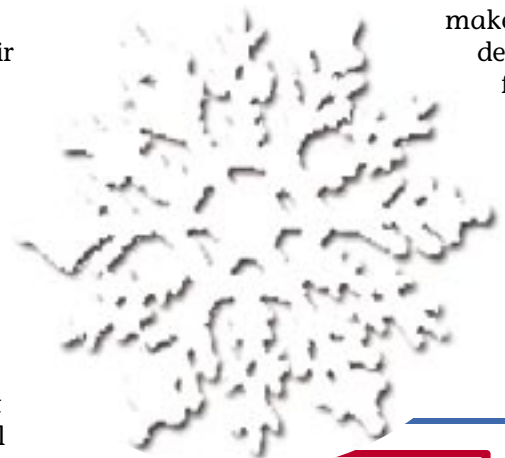
(S-3) at Mail Stop G725

or by fax to 5-8477. If the available workers are

at the bottom of the list, consider posting a memo on the vault/vault-type room indicating which authorized workers to get in touch with during the closure to speed up the contact process.

Information about who is assigned to a particular facility and emergency-contact information for Facilities Management Unit (FMU); Health, Safety and Radiation Protection (HSR); Supply Chain Management (SUP); Chief Financial Officer (CFO); Project Management (PM); and S divisions and KSL Services will be published in the online Daily Newsbulletin.

For more information about this year's winter closure, check the Daily Newsbulletin at www.lanl.gov/newsbulletin.



Annual Holiday Drive

The Laboratory's 2005 Holiday Drive to collect new toys and nonperishable food items for Northern New Mexico continues through Dec. 12.

For more information, contact Debbi Wersonick of the Community Relations Office (CER-30) at 7-7870.

So... what do you think?

Q: Diversity is much more than the color of one's skin or his/her gender. What does having a diverse institution or community mean to you and is it important?



James Bergauer of Institutional Budget (CFO-2)

Yes, it is important. It adds texture to our lives and we all benefit from a different point of view. It also expands our horizons and make us more whole.



Rainee Angel of Biotechnology, Spectroscopy and Isotope Chemistry (B-3)

Yes, diversity is very important. This is a government and national laboratory known around the globe. I would not

want people to decide not to come here because they are in fear of being judged by their skin color.



Donny Ellsworth of Project Controls (PM-4)

I think if you don't have diversity, then your outlook on business and other aspects of personal life are very narrowly focused. You lose sight of what's really important in life ... the people and the many things that they represent.



Cecilia Sanchez of Scientific Software Engineering (CCN-12)

Different minds, different people bring different solutions to a problem. The Lab, from its beginnings, benefited from the diverse people who worked here back in the 1940s.



Larry Ussery of Advanced Nuclear Technology (N-2)

Diversity is extremely important. My idea of diversity goes far beyond ethnicity or gender. Diversity of skills and opinions are extremely important for

a laboratory like Los Alamos. Having a diverse work force is key to our continued leadership in mission areas that are important to our national security. It allows us to put forward the best ideas, because we have looked at problems from many perspectives and can propose more comprehensive solutions.



James Ewert of Departmental Computing (CCN-3)

Diversity keeps situations and institutions vibrant. Stagnation can arise when ethnocentric views prevail, or when philosophical uniformity among peers is

valued above regard for each individual's unique ability to see something new.

PEOPLE



Padilla/Montoya-Rael named New Mexico's power brokers

New Mexico Business Weekly recently recognized Laboratory employees **Belinda Padilla** of Technology Transfer (TT) and **Lillian Montoya-Rael** of the Community Relations Office (CER-30) as two of New Mexico's 2006 power brokers.

Padilla a program manager in TT, said the recognition gives her and TT Division a lot of exposure. "I feel flattered. I think I am in good company," said Padilla. "I get a lot of phone calls now because people recognize you as someone who can make a difference."

Padilla was recognized because of her work in "scouting and assessing technologies with commercial potential" as well as "developing" and "marketing [Laboratory] technologies," according to the publication.

"My job is to facilitate the effectiveness of our tech transfer efforts in the areas of spin-offs and start-ups using Laboratory developed technology and research, and the exposure gives us the ability to leverage those opportunities," commented Padilla.

This isn't the first time Padilla has been recognized as a New Mexico power broker. She also was recognized in 2002 and 2003. Padilla, who has been with the Laboratory for 12 years, came to the Laboratory as student in 1993 in the former Chemical Science and Technology (CST) Division. She later joined the Industrial Partnership Office (IPO), where she worked with staff members to market their newly developed technologies.

"My goal for the future would be to increase our impact on the region with our technology, because we need to work harder to grow a sustained economy outside of the Lab. It would be great for regional economic development," said Padilla.



Belinda Padilla



Lillian Montoya-Rael

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In Memoriam

Richard "Dick" Bohl

Richard "Dick" Bohl died Oct. 5. He was 70.

Bohl came to the Laboratory in 1961 as a staff member in the former Nuclear Rocket Propulsion (N) Division, which later became the former Nuclear Technology and Engineering (N) Division. He retired in 1991 from N Division and came back as a Lab associate from 1992 to 1994.

Bohl received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Texas College of Arts and Industries University. He was a world-renowned lecturer traveling to many universities and government agencies in the United States, the Soviet Union and other countries.

Bohl is survived by his wife, Margie Morales Bohl; his children, Jake and Sabra Bohl, Rick and Dehn Stepp, and Alex Bohl; two stepsons, Mark Weiss and Michael Weiss; as well as seven grandchildren. His first wife, Barbara Jacob Bohl, preceded him in death. He also is survived by his sisters, Laura Maney, Adilene Bohl, Margie Irwin and Betty Ebrom.

John Fickers

Laboratory retiree John Fickers died Oct. 10. He was 78.

Fickers was employed by the Laboratory for 12 years.

Fickers began his career at the Laboratory in 1978 as a staff member in the former Mechanical Fabrication (MEC) Division, where he worked as a supervisor until his retirement in 1990. Fickers was a graduate of Miami University of Ohio.

Fickers is survived by his wife, Marion; sons David and John, daughter Marge and daughter-in-laws Wendy and Michelle; and two grandchildren.

Richard Plehn

Laboratory retiree Richard Plehn died Aug. 31 in Mesa, Ariz. Plehn was 75.

A Wisconsin native, Plehn came to the Laboratory in June 1963 and worked in the former GMX Division. He also worked in the former Configuration Management Branch (CMB) and the former Design Engineering (WX) Division, where he retired in January 1990 as a design engineering specialist.

Plehn is survived by his wife, Mary; children Mark and Cyndee of Arizona, and Diane Bauer of Sturtevant, Wisc.; brother Ray of Palmyra, Wisc.; and six grandchildren.



Ceremony marks opening of dispatch center at EOC

Officials from the Laboratory, National Nuclear Security Administration and Los Alamos County were on hand to celebrate the opening of the Consolidated Dispatch Center at Los Alamos' Emergency Operations Center at Technical Area 69. Shown left to right are Pat Torpy, wife of Los Alamos Police Chief Wayne Torpy; Gerry Schlapper of the NNSA Los Alamos Site Office; and Craig Leasure, principal deputy associate director for security and facility operations. Seated at the dispatch console is Tina Archuleta of Los Alamos County. The Consolidated Dispatch Center is a collaboration between the Lab, NNSA and Los Alamos County, and it was funded through Cerro Grande appropriation funds. One of the goals of this new dispatch center is to have all of the emergency management functions under one roof with the Laboratory, including the Los Alamos Police Department, Los Alamos Fire Department, Los Alamos County and the Lab's fire alarm system, which includes alarm testing and maintenance. Photo by John Harvey, Emergency Operations Office (ADSFO-EOO)

Padilla/Montoya-Rael ...

continued from Page 6

Montoya-Rael, office leader in CER-30, was recognized in a special section of the publication as one of 40 power brokers under 40, her second time being honored.

Recognized for her continuing work in outreach and regional economic development, Montoya-Rael joined the Lab in 2004 after 12 years of state government service, working as deputy director in the former New Mexico Commission on Higher Education as well as for other state agencies and more recently serving for four years as the executive director for the Santa Fe based, private, nonprofit Regional Development Corporation.

Montoya-Rael said her role at Los Alamos is to strengthen the Laboratory's ties to the local and regional community. "This institution is tightly woven into Northern New Mexico's economic, social and political fabric, and I am committed to building a strong, open and mutually beneficial relationship with the Laboratory's neighbors and stakeholders," she said.

Published annually by New Mexico Business Weekly, the Power Book recognizes the movers and shakers in the arts, business, health care, industry, education, research and politics and includes company CEOs, university presidents, artists and politicians amongst others.

Los Alamos weapons program employees receive DOE/NNSA Awards of Excellence

More than 300 Laboratory employees were recognized for outstanding achievements by the Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration with Defense Programs Awards of Excellence. The awards are given to individuals and members of small and large teams from the Laboratory's weapons program.

The awards included the DOE/NNSA Silver Medal, given to **John McClelland**, deputy associate director for experimental programs in the Principal Associate Directorate for Nuclear Weapons Program. McClelland has been at the Laboratory for 25 years and has been instrumental in weapons physics, advanced radiography programs and accelerator physics. He has been in his current position since June 2003.

A fellow of the American Physical Society and a member of the APS Division of Nuclear Physics, McClelland received his doctorate in physics from the University of California at Los Angeles. McClelland's work on advanced radiography includes research and development in proton radiography, optimization of the Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrotest facility, and simulation and analysis of Advanced Hydrotest Facility design and theory.

Additional individual awards were presented to **Sieg Shalles** of PADNWP for his work on the annual assessment of the nuclear weapons stockpile, **Patrice Stevens** of PADNWP for her work on weapons surety and **Cheryll Faust** of Statistical Sciences (D-1) for her technical oversight of pit surveillance.

Team awards went to the **Los Alamos Classified Media Library Start-Up team**, the **Armando Sub-Critical Experiment team**, the **Model Based Engineering W76 JTA Behavioral Modeling team**, the **Plutonium Casting team**, the **TEPLA team**, the **Weapons Manufacturing Procedures Task team**, **Detector for Advanced Neutron Capture Experiments**, the **Process Engineering, Implementation and Maintenance Group**, the **Weapons Program Decision Analysis team**, the **High-Explosive Radio Telemetry team**, the **ESD Technical Basis Development team**, the **Los Alamos Earned Value Reporting team**, the **Lead Slowing-Down Spectrometer team**, the **Qual 2 Metallography team**, the **Understanding Neutron Tube Target Lifetime team**, the **W76-1 Acorn Sub-component Development team**, the **4T Terrazzo Gas Transfer System team**, the **Concept Development team**, the **Full-Scale Test Facility team**, the **Los Alamos High Explosives Study team**, the **Los Alamos Pit Capacity Study team** and the **Los Alamos Radiography Study team**.

Defense Programs Awards of Excellence are given to both federal and contractor employees for significant achievements in quality, productivity, cost savings, safety or creativity in support of the nuclear weapons program. The awards were presented to the winners at a special ceremony held at the Laboratory by David Crandall, NNSA's assistant deputy administrator for research, development and simulation.

This month in history ...

December

1620 — The Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock.

1773 — A group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships and dump 342 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor. The midnight raid, known as the "Boston Tea Party," was in protest of the British Parliament's Tea Act of 1773.

1843 — Charles Dickens' classic story "A Christmas Carol" is published.

1903 — Near Kitty Hawk, N.C., Orville and Wilbur Wright make the first successful flight in history of a self-propelled, heavier-than-air aircraft.

1924 — Edward Hubble announces the existence of other Milky Way systems.

1941 — Adolf Hitler declares war on the United States, bringing America, which had been neutral, into the European conflict.

1942 — First fission chain reaction is achieved at the University of Chicago by a team led by Enrico Fermi.

1953 — President Eisenhower delivers his "Atoms for Peace" speech at the United Nations.

1957 — First full-scale nuclear power plant becomes operational in Pennsylvania.

1961 — The nation's first detonation of a nuclear device for peaceful purposes occurs near Carlsbad, N.M., as Project Gnome.

1971 — The first field tests of the Subterrene, a Lab-developed rock-melting boring device, are conducted.

1987 — The Laboratory initiates a holiday closing period as a cost-saving measure.

1987 — President Reagan and President Gorbachev sign the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

1991 — The Laboratory is designated by the Department of Energy as a National High-Performance Computing Research Center.

And this from the December 1948 Los Alamos Skyliner: With a twist of the wrist, the AEC is about to start a town. ... The new community will be called White Rock, N.M.

The information in this column comes from several sources including the online History Channel, the Newsbulletin and its predecessors, the atomic archive.com, Echo Vitural Center, Science & Technology, Real History Archives, and Carey Sublette, "Chronology for the Origin of Atomic Weapons" from www.childrenofthemanhattanproject.org/MP_Misc/atomic_timeline_1.htm



New Mexico's gift to the nation

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou tree most fair and lovely!
Oh Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!
Thou tree most fair and lovely!
The sight of thee at Christmastide
Spreads hope and gladness far and wide
Oh Christmas tree, O Christmas tree
Thou tree most fair and lovely!
—O Tannenbaum

by Jacqueline Paris-Chitanvis

Few people can resist the appeal of a beautifully decorated, brightly lit holiday tree. Such a tree has held a spot of honor each December on the U.S. Capitol lawn since 1964. Not to be confused with the National Christmas Tree planted near the White House and lit by the president (see sidebar), the Capitol Holiday Tree comes from a national forest each year, usually from a different state, and is affectionately known as “the people’s tree.”

This year, New Mexico has the honor of providing the tree, a majestic 80-foot Engelmann Spruce that was harvested from the Santa Fe National Forest, 24 miles east of Cuba — it was cut back to 65 feet to accommodate placing the star. New Mexico also provided the Capitol Holiday Tree, a Blue Spruce, in 1991.

For this year’s holiday display in Washington, D.C., the state also contributed 65 smaller “companion” trees donated by various New Mexico tree growers that will be displayed in the Supreme Court, the U.S. Senate, Department of Agriculture, Department of Interior and other government offices in Washington, D.C.

Before being trucked across country to the nation’s capitol, the people’s tree got a New Mexican send off as it traveled 1,200 miles through 16 of the state’s cities. Residents didn’t see the tree upright, but they did get a peak at its crown and an idea of its length, as it lay horizontal and bound on a long flatbed truck. Once it reached Washington, D.C., the tree was adorned with more than 10,000 lights and 5,000 handcrafted ornaments. All the ornaments are courtesy of New Mexico students, artisans, civic groups, organizations and ordinary citizens. Ornaments run the gamut, from chili ristras and hot-air balloons to pottery, state symbols and traditional holiday items, all depicting the state’s artistic bent and rich cultural diversity.

The lighting ceremony for the tree is scheduled to take place on the west front lawn of Capitol Hill during the evening of Dec. 8, at which time the Speaker of the House and a student from New Mexico will throw the switch. The student, selected in a drawing, is 7-year-old Steve Castillo of Gonzales Elementary in Santa Fe.

The official lighting of this year’s Capitol Holiday Tree marks the end of the Forest Service’s centennial year celebrations.

The National Christmas Tree

The National Christmas Tree, which sits on the Ellipse near the White House, is a living 40-foot-tall Colorado Blue Spruce from York, Pa. President Calvin Coolidge lit the first National Christmas Tree in 1923. Subsequent National Christmas trees were cut trees until 1973, when a living tree was planted. This first living tree died after a few years, and the current tree was planted in 1978. What started with the lighting of a single Christmas tree has grown into a celebration known as the Christmas Pageant of Peace and includes 56 smaller trees — one for each state, territory and the District of Columbia — forming a “Pathway of Peace.”



Gilbert Zepeda of the U.S. Forest Service, right, holds 7-year-old Steve Castillo as they examine one of the branches of this year’s Capitol Holiday Tree when it stopped in Santa Fe on its way to Washington, D.C. Castillo, a student at Gonzales Elementary School in Santa Fe, will have the honor of helping the Speaker of the House throw the switch to light the tree on Dec. 8. At right is the towering Engelmann Spruce before it was cut from the Santa Fe National Forest. Photo above by LeRoy N. Sanchez; photo at right by Kieman Holliday of the Santa Fe National Forest

