

# LANL

## LOS ALAMOS NEWS LETTER

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## New burners reduce smoke emissions

by James E. Rickman

The Laboratory has begun employing special equipment to safely burn thousands of tons of wood without producing large amounts of smoke and particulate matter.

The Lab is using “air-curtain destructors” to safely and cleanly burn piles of downed trees, stumps and slash from forest thinning projects located near the Lab’s southern boundary. The newly employed burners work similarly to low-emission “pellet stoves” by blowing a curtain of air over materials as they burn within a semi-enclosed environment. The fan-driven curtain of air introduces a steady oxygen supply into the fuel and helps ensure that nearly all fuel and gases are consumed. The machines can burn up to 20 tons of wood an hour and produce about one tenth of the smoke and particulate material that is normally produced by traditional open burning. What’s more, the machines are safe — burning all material within deep trenches or an open-top fire box.

*To dispose of tons of trees and slash that had been thinned in Technical Area 16 as part of fire mitigation efforts, crews have begun using an “air-curtain destructor,” an apparatus that blows a high-power “curtain” of air over wood as it burns inside a trench. The burners work similarly to low-emission “pellet stoves.” A fan-driven curtain of air emanating from an outlet above the trench introduces a steady oxygen supply into the fuel and helps ensure that nearly all fuel and gases are consumed. The wood burns at temperatures as high as 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit.* Photo by James E. Rickman

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## United Way update

The Laboratory’s United Way campaign is under way. The campaign, initially slated to start 24 Sept. began a week early because of the terrorist attacks on the east coast. A special fund, called “The September 11th Fund,” was set up by the United Way and contributions to this fund will be used to mobilize resources to respond to the urgent needs of victims and their families affected by these attacks. “The September 11th Fund” does not appear on the pledge forms, but employees wishing to contribute can write it in.

In the first week, University of California Laboratory employees contributed nearly \$64,000 to this year’s United Way campaign. In addition, the book fair, held Sept. 24 through 27, raised approximately \$2,000 toward this year’s campaign. Employees wishing to contribute have until Nov. 16 to make donations.



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## DIRECTOR'S NEWS



In reflecting on the challenges our Nation faces after the events of Sept. 11, the Senior Executive Team and I believe it is important to remind ourselves and our colleagues of the importance of incorporating all of our institutional values into our actions and behaviors. Those values include trustworthiness, attention to safety and security, public service, teamwork, diversity, and excellence in accomplishing our work and meeting our strategic business direction of a unified workforce.

The events of Sept. 11 have stirred different emotions throughout the country and here at Los Alamos, ranging from confusion to fear and anger. We have heard stories on

television and the radio of extraordinary heroism and generosity. Unfortunately, we also have heard reports about some individuals venting their anger on others, including people of Arab descent, turbaned Sikhs, and those who appear to be Middle Eastern. I have received e-mails indicating a few isolated instances of conversations in which a co-worker has expressed anger in terms of racial and ethnic identities. Such behavior is simply unacceptable.

Now is the time for us to recommit ourselves to continue to work together. Our Laboratory is home to a diverse population, encompassing workers from more than 100 countries with different talents, languages, religions, cultures, races, and ethnicities. We are united in our vision to

serve the Nation by applying the best science and technology to make the world a better and safer place. It is important as individuals and as teams that we maintain awareness and sensitivity in our daily interactions with others.

Our individual differences are one of the key factors in making this Laboratory what it is — a world class institution. Please join me in reaffirming the value we place on our diversity as we also reaffirm our dedication to our increasingly important activities in the areas of threat reduction and stockpile stewardship. If we are successful in our work, we can help prevent other tragedies such as those of Sept. 11 from happening.

## Burners ...

*continued from Page 1*

In addition to helping solve wood-disposal problems in an environmentally friendly manner, the decision to use the air-curtain destructors helped with the Lab's on-going efforts to stimulate business activity in Northern New Mexico. The Laboratory has entered into a contract with Anvil Welding Enterprises of Hernandez, N.M., for wood burning and related services associated with wildfire mitigation activities. The one-year, renewable contract with Anvil Welding Enterprises is worth approximately \$1.6 million.

After the May 2000 Cerro Grande Fire, which burned nearly 8,000 acres of Laboratory property, Laboratory officials accelerated an aggressive wildfire prevention plan that includes thinning thousands of acres of Laboratory property. The areas are badly overgrown and rife with so-called ladder fuels, which allow flames to reach tree canopies and create dangerous "crown-fire" conditions.

Crews have thinned numerous trees, shrubs and other vegetation in accordance with the wildfire prevention plan. A large amount of wood from these thinning efforts remains at Technical Area 16, so crews will use the new burners in that area first while thinning efforts continue at other areas of the Lab.

Once crews finish burning downed wood and slash from the TA-16 area, they will move to other areas to dispose of thinned trees and slash. Under the current operating plan, crews will begin stoking up the burners in the morning and will continue operating them nonstop for the entire day, if possible. Burning operations may be suspended due to unfavorable weather or operational conditions. Because of the configuration and operational nature of the burning machines, crews can curtail combustion quickly if in-progress burns need to be suspended.

Members of the public may notice small amounts of smoke from time to time in association with the burning activities. Personnel in Air Quality (ESH-17) will monitor all emissions to ensure that the Laboratory doesn't exceed any federal, state or local air-quality standards. The TA-16 burn plan has been reviewed by safety personnel, regulators from the New Mexico Environment Department, and by Laboratory and Los Alamos County fire officials.



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**Editor:**

Kathy DeLucas, 7-1455

**Assistant editor:**

Judy Goldie, 5-0297

**Managing editor:**

Denise Bjarke, 7-3565

**Graphic designer:**

Edwin Vigil, 5-9205

**Contributing photographers:**

LeRoy N. Sanchez, 5-5009

James E. Rickman, 5-9203

**Contributing writers:**

Kathy DeLucas, 7-1455

Kevin Roark, 5-9202

Fran Talley, 7-5225

Steve Sandoval, 5-9206

Shelley Thompson, 5-7778

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# 2001 Checkpoint Survey results are in

by Shelley Thompson

Laboratory employees who responded to this year's Checkpoint Survey are generally proud to be associated with the Laboratory, are satisfied with their work and feel safe in their workplace.

Though results are up from the 1999 survey, employees feel division management doesn't always seek employees' opinions on issues impacting their job and that there isn't sufficient contact between employees and division management.

Those were some of the results from the 2001 Checkpoint Survey. Training and Development (HR-6), which distributes the survey and analyzes the results, submitted survey results to Laboratory senior managers last month.

"The survey, conducted since 1994, allows employees the opportunity to give feedback to their managers and provides Lab leaders with data on how employees feel about the Lab," said Dolores Jacobs of HR-6. The results of the survey can be found at <http://www.hr.lanl.gov/TD/pdf/cphistory01.pdf> online.

Forty-seven percent of the nearly 7,300 surveys sent out to University of California Lab employees were completed and returned to HR-6. In 1999, 46 percent of the surveys were returned, and in 1998, the response rate also was 46 percent. The survey was not conducted in 2000.

The 2001 Checkpoint Surveys were distributed in June to University of California Laboratory employees who had three weeks to complete them. The Checkpoint Survey contained 48 questions about career development, communication, diversity, job satisfaction, management, pay, productivity, performance management, safety and security. Employees could respond by checking agree, tend to agree, neutral, tend to disagree, disagree and don't know.

Group leaders have received results from the survey specific to their groups. Managers are encouraged to share the results of the survey with employees.

For information about the survey go to the June 19 Daily NewsBulletin at

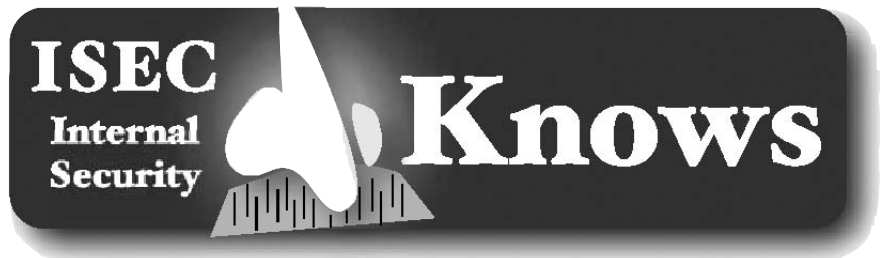
<http://www.lanl.gov/orgs/pa/News/061901.html> online.

Overall, safety and security received the highest marks by employee respondents. Eighty-eight percent said corrective action is taken when unsafe conditions are brought to management's attention, 74 percent feel safe reporting potential security incidents that they are directly involved in, and 89 percent of employee respondents

said their group management assures a safe work environment and use of safe work practices.

In the area of job satisfaction, 81 percent of employee respondents are proud to be associated with the Laboratory and 77 percent said their work gives them a sense of personal accomplishment, down 4 percent from 1999 and 1998. And 71 percent of

*continued on Page 4*



## Don't answer those e-mails

by Kevin Roark

Have you ever gotten an e-mail from some foreign country promising to share a huge amount of money with you if you'll just facilitate the transfer of funds? Before you agree and respond, remember the old adage, "If it's too good to be true, it probably is."

Such schemes are all too common and Internal Security (ISEC) recommends that these types of e-mails should be trashed and not answered.

One scheme popular at the Laboratory is the so-called "Nigerian Scam."

It has come to the attention of ISEC that over the years many employees have received letters or e-mails from individuals purporting to be officials of the Nigerian government. The contacts advise the recipient that because of some nebulous reason the Nigerian government has an excess of funds that, for one reason or another, need to be invested out of Nigeria.

These letters/e-mails usually claim that the amount needed to be invested is in the millions of dollars and the recipient will get a large percentage for his or her assistance. The recipient is asked to provide a host of information including full name, bank name, address and bank account number. The recipient also is instructed to keep the transaction confidential.

Exactly how a recipient's name and address is obtained is unknown. Individuals who have been foolish enough to provide their bank account numbers to the senders have had funds removed from their accounts.

There also are e-mails circulating that want the Los Alamos employees to be business partners and the employees stand to gain a lot of money. These messages also are a scam and should be trashed.

Also, employees often get e-mail requests for a variety of information. If the information is publicly available, the employee may assume they can forward the information. However, there are specific requirements for the release of information, any information, even if it is publicly available. All requests for information should be forwarded to Information and Records Management (IM-5) to initiate the formal process for information release.

If you get an unusual request for information from an unknown entity (outside those mentioned above), especially if it is a request for classified or sensitive information, contact ISEC right away. For more information call 5-6090 or contact Judy Rose Archuleta in IM-5 at 7-4515.



# Halloween safety

by Fran Talley

There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a treat for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches or spirits but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes. To help make this Halloween a safe one, the Integrated Safety Management Program Office (ISM/PO) and the National Safety Council offer these tips.

**Motorists:** Watch for children darting out from between parked cars and walking on roadways, medians and curbs. Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.

**Parents:** Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12. Establish a return time and tell youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.

**Costume design:** Costumes should be made of fire retardant material and be loose so warm clothes can be

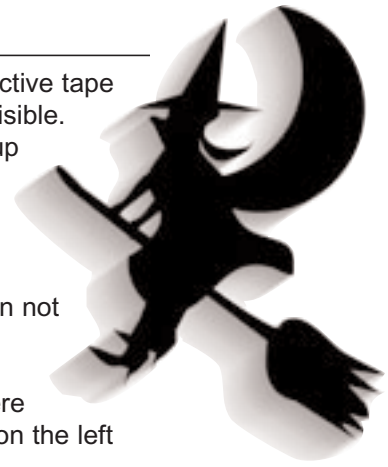
worn underneath. Strips of reflective tape can be used to make children visible.

**Face design:** Facial make-up is recommended. If trick or treaters wear masks, they should have nose and mouth openings and large eye holes.

**On the way:** Instruct children not to enter homes or apartments without adult supervision. They should walk on sidewalks. If there are none, remind them to walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.

**Treats:** Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten. Wash fruit and slice into small pieces. When in doubt, throw it out.

For more Halloween safety tips, log on to the National Safety Council's Web site at <http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/halloween.htm>.



## Survey...

continued from Page 3

employee respondents said they would recommend the Laboratory as a good place to work.

Forty-two percent of employee respondents feel morale in their group is high, down 2 percent from 1999 and down 7 percent from 1998.

In the area of communication, 43 percent of employee respondents said that existing channels for employee communication with upper management are adequate. Sixty-six percent of employee respondents feel safe stating their opinion in their group, down 4 percent from 1999 and 1998. Sixty-two percent of employee respondents said group management communicates decisions to employees, down slightly from 1999 and 1998. Forty-one percent of employee respondents said their division management communicates decisions to employees. And 26 percent, up 2 percent from 1999, feel that division management seeks their opinion on important issues impacting their jobs.

Fifty-seven percent of employee respondents think the Laboratory keeps employees informed about matters affecting them, and 60 percent are satisfied with their involvement in decisions that affect their work.

In the area of career development, 59 percent of employee respondents said there is an ongoing interest in their professional development in their group. And 54 percent of employee respondents, just as in 1999, said they are not frequently worried about their skills becoming obsolete.

In general, Lab employees responded favorably about diversity issues in the workplace. As in 1999 and 1998, 84 percent of employee respondents said their work environment is accepting of ethnic/cultural differences and 64 percent said employees are treated with respect, regardless of their position. Down 2 percent from 1999, 82 percent of employee respondents said their work environment is accepting of gender differences.

Sixty-six percent of employee respondents said their group management recognizes the value of diverse perspectives and backgrounds, down 4 percent from 1999. And 59 percent said their division provides management opportunities independent of ethnic, cultural and gender differences.

In the area of management, 57 percent of employee respondents said their group management generally understands the problems they face on the job. Sixty-one percent, 3 percent less than in 1999, of employee respondents said there is sufficient contact between group management and employees in their group. Thirty-two percent said there is sufficient contact between division management and employees in their division.

Seventy-nine percent of employee respondents said their supervisor is competent in the technical aspects of the job.

Similar to 1999 survey results, 50 percent of employee respondents said that compared with other people performing similar work, they think they are fairly paid. Fifty-four percent understand how their pay is determined, and 59 percent are satisfied overall with their compensation, including benefits.

Forty-four percent of employee respondents believe the goals by which their performance is evaluated are specific and measurable. The figure is 16 percent less than in 1999.

Eighty-five percent of employee respondents say they have a clear understanding of their job responsibilities; 54 percent, down 3 percent from 1999, said their supervisors provide regular feedback on their performance.

In the area of productivity, 46 percent of employee respondents, down 7 percent since 1999 and down 11 percent since 1998, think productivity has increased in their group during the past year. Only 31 percent of employee respondents said inadequate Laboratory infrastructure and facilities do not hinder their productivity.

Only 33 percent of employee respondents believe Lab management will act on problems identified in this survey.

# Be wary of bears on Lab property

by James E. Rickman

Personnel with Emergency Management and Response (S-8) are urging employees to be aware that bears are foraging for food on Laboratory property.

Employees have reported seeing several black bears in wilderness areas of the Lab in recent weeks, and authorities recently captured and relocated one hungry bruin who was snacking in trash dumpsters in Technical Area 16.

"Because of the potential for conflict and injury if humans and bears come into contact, we're urging Lab employees to do whatever they can to avoid bears during the coming weeks," said Manny L'Esperance of EM&R, who also is a reserve officer for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. "A bear encounter can be dangerous. The best strategy for humans to adopt is avoidance. Stay out of areas where bears may be present and do everything possible to reduce artificial food supplies, such as garbage, that may attract bears to human-inhabited areas."

Hungry bears are on the prowl for food as hibernation time draws near. The animals are doing everything they can to load up on calories that will sustain them through the winter after they hibernate in mid-to-late October. Bears must consume thousands of calories a day throughout the coming weeks to build up fat reserves that will allow them to survive in their dens through the winter. This means the ravenous creatures will eat most anything they can get their paws on — hummingbird-feeder juice, fruit from backyard trees, morsels discarded by humans. Once bears locate a promising food source, they'll stay in the area until it disappears.

A late-spring frost this year decimated acorn supplies in the region, so bears are coming into human-populated areas to search for food. Bears have been spotted in some canyon areas on Lab property where employees hike or jog during off hours. In addition, local residents have reported dozens of bear sightings, including at least one report of a bear with cubs, to authorities throughout the last several weeks.

"An encounter with a mother bear with cubs

can be especially dangerous for people because the mother sow will attack if she thinks her cubs are in danger," L'Esperance said. "The best thing for people to do if they encounter a bear in the wilderness is to back away. In addition, if people make noise while they're in wilderness areas, they'll alert bears to their presence. Bears mostly are solitary creatures that avoid contact with humans."

During the day, most bears rest in canyon bottoms or shady areas where temperatures are cool. They prefer to feed at night.

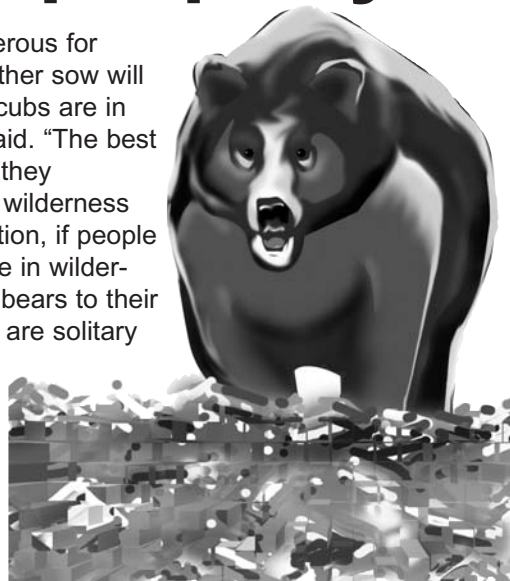
L'Esperance said Lab employees can do several things to reduce the chances of turning their work areas or residences into bear smorgasbords:

- People should avoid discarding food refuse in outside trash receptacle whenever possible or deposit that type of refuse in bear-proof trash containers.
- Bird enthusiasts should take hummingbird feeders inside at night; bears enjoy sugary liquids.
- Hikers and picnickers should pack out all trash they generate from wilderness areas.
- And most of all, people should not try to tempt bears into an area for photo sessions or entertainment by purposely leaving food out. As the old saying goes, "a fed bear is a dead bear," because manmade food sources cause animals to abandon natural food sources in favor of the easier-to-come-by artificial ones. Most human-fed bears become nuisances or threats to human populations and often must be destroyed by Game and Fish officers, L'Esperance said.

Lab employees can report bear sightings to James Biggs or Leslie Hansen of Ecology (ESH-20) by calling 5-5714 or 7-9873, respectively. Biggs, Hansen and others in ESH-20 are keeping a log of wildlife activity on Lab property to study how external factors such as Lab operations or the recent Cerro Grande Fire affect animal habitat and behavior.

If employees encounter a menacing bear or a bear that is destroying property, they should report it immediately to EM&R by calling 7-6211.

If attacked by a black bear — an extremely rare and unlikely occurrence — people should fight vigorously. Kicking, punching and shrieking all can help drive a bear away. If people encounter an aggressive bear, they should leave the area as quickly as possible and report the incident to authorities.



## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

### Anti-breast cancer nutrition

Studies show that a low-fat diet, maintaining a moderate weight and limiting alcohol consumption to two drinks or fewer per week decrease the risk of breast cancer.

Source: American Institute of Preventive Medicine.



# Director announces new Senior Executive Team



**Joe Salgado**



**John Immele**



**Bill Press**



**Don Cobb**



**Jim Holt**



**Ray Juzaitis**



**Rich Mah**



**Thomas Meyer**

Laboratory Director John Browne has announced the composition of his new Senior Executive Team. These senior managers are responsible for providing leadership and integrated management to the new approach in accomplishing the Lab's mission. The announcement is the next step in implementing the realigned nuclear weapons program Browne announced at an all-hands meeting Aug. 22.

The Senior Executive Team is composed of the following people:

- **Joe Salgado**, principal deputy director
- **John Immele**, deputy director for national security
- **Bill Press**, deputy director for science and technology
- **Don Cobb**, associate director for threat reduction
- **Jim Holt**, associate director for operations
- **Ray Juzaitis**, associate director for weapons physics
- **Rich Mah**, associate director for weapons engineering and manufacturing
- **Thomas Meyer**, associate director for strategic research

• Vacant, associate director for administration (J. Salgado, acting)

• **Jo Ann Milam**, executive staff director

The team will integrate science, technology, programs and business operations and improve customer/stakeholder relationships — goals for improved performance that Browne defined early in his directorship. They also are responsible for incorporating Lab institutional values of safety and security, teamwork, diversity, public service and excellence in the Lab's approach to carrying out its work.

Browne said he selected the individuals based on their individual strengths as well as their ability to work together as a team. "All of these people have committed themselves to our new approach and to living our values in how they carry out their responsibilities. I intend to hold them accountable to this commitment," said Browne. For more information, see the Sept. 19 Daily Newsbulletin at <http://www.lanl.gov/orgs/pa/News/091901.html> online.



**Chad Olinger**

**Chad Olinger** has been selected as the new group leader for Safeguards Systems (NIS-7). NIS-7 solves problems of national security interest in domestic and international safeguards,

nonproliferation and arms control through research, development and implementation of advanced systems and methods. Olinger previously was the deputy group leader for NIS-7. Olinger joined the Laboratory as a post doc in 1990 and worked in the mass spectrometry section of Isotope Geochemistry (INC-7). Olinger has a doctorate in physics from Washington University.



**Charles Keilers**

**Charles Keilers** recently has been assigned the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board site representative at the Laboratory. Keilers will advise the DNFSB regarding the overall safety and health condi-

tions at the Lab and will participate in DNFSB reviews and evaluations that relate to the design, construction, operation and decommission of nuclear facilities. He is the DNFSB's liaison with Department of Energy and Lab management; federal, state and local governments; and industry officials. Keilers has been with the DNFSB since 1993. Before coming to Los Alamos he was the site

representative at Savannah River. He received his doctorate and master's degrees in aeronautics from Stanford University and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## In Memoriam

### Robert "Bob" Rupprecht

Laboratory retiree Robert "Bob" Rupprecht died at his home in Rio Rancho on Sept. 26 after a brief illness. Rupprecht served in the U.S. Army for two years. He began his career as a design draftsman at the Lab in 1964, in the CMB division. He retired in 1988 from the Nuclear Materials Technology (NMT) Division.



# October service anniversaries

## 35 years

Joseph Nasise, ESA-TSE  
Richard Okinaka, B-1  
Henry Thiessen, LANSCE-AHF

## 30 years

Thomas Kwan, X-1  
Irvin Lindemuth, X-1  
Carl Lund, X-4  
Edwin Peña, CCN-5  
Ramiro Pereyra, NMT-16

## 25 years

Thomas Bieri, ESH-5  
Patricia Grall, IBD  
Deborah Herrera, IM-5  
Thomas Houston, BUS-4  
Robert Jones, ESA-DE  
Wayne King, DX-2  
Paul Lisowski, LANSCE-DO  
Joseph Lowery, NMT-11  
Mary Agnes Lujan, BUS-5  
Richard Mah, ADWEM  
Janet Martinez, MST-OPS  
Carolyn Mills, X-5  
Donald Nye, MST-6  
Margaret Reeves, ESA-EA  
Terrance Robinson, ESA-WE  
John Sarracino, X-5  
Florence Serna, BUS-5

## 20 years

Wallace Anderson, MST-7  
James Babich, NMT-8  
Paul Baca Jr., CCN-4  
Barbara Blind, LANSCE-1  
Jay Boettner, DX-DO  
Manuel Bustos Jr., CCN-4  
Edwin Davis, CCN-4  
Carol Estes, S-DO  
Walter Griego, NMT-2  
Thomas Hardek, SNS-2  
Gordon Jio, DX-2  
Marie Keady, D-1  
Earl Peterson, NIS-6  
Mark Rivera, NMT-8  
Patricia Romero, HR-7  
Louis Rosocha, P-24  
Steven Valone, MST-8  
Peggy Volz, ESA-DE  
Robert Weeks, C-FM

## 15 years

Kent Abney, NMT-2

Alice Barr, ESH-19  
Ada Deaguero, CCN-2  
Wilfred Griego, ESH-1  
Rex Hjelm Jr., LANSCE-12  
Robert Jenkins, CCN-4  
Deniece Korzekwa, MST-6  
Myra Martinez, ESA-TSE  
Roberta Mulford, NMT-15  
Peter Olivas, LANSCE-7  
David Reagor, MST-STC  
Robert Teller, IM-3  
Peter Veverka, ESA-FM-ESH  
Stanley Zygmunt, NMT-15

## 10 years

Alonso Castro, P-21  
Susan Catherwood, ISEC  
William Chroninger, NMT-13  
Virginia Cline, ALDTR  
James Johnson, BUS-3  
Michael Kuchinsky, IM-4  
Ning Li, MST-10  
Sandra Lucero, NMT-7  
Minnie Martinez, NMT-15  
Melissa Miller, ESS  
Edward Rodriguez, ESA-EA  
Nadine Shea, ADNW

## 5 years

Douglas Alde, EES-11  
Francis Alexander, CCS-3  
Bani Chatterjee, BUS-2  
Franz Freibert, NMT-16  
Michael Fugate, CCS-3  
Thomas Hale, ESA-MT  
Richard Kapernick, D-10  
David Lawrence, NIS-1  
Paul Leslie, DX-5  
William Mugford, NIS-8  
Jonathan Rau, C-SIC  
Jeanne Ritter, D-7  
Ray Roybal, LANSCE-1  
Daniel Tartakovsky, T-7

# This month in history

## October

**1604** — A supernova called “Kepler’s nova” is first sighted

**1783** — Jean Francois Pilatre de Rozier and Francois Laurent, Marguis d’Arlandes, became the first people to fly when they ascended a Montgolfier hot-air ballon at Paris, France

**1851** — William Lassell discovers two moons of Uranus: Ariel and Umbriel

**1884** — Elfego Baca arrested a cowboy near Frisco, NM, for shooting a gun, then holds off, for 30 hours, a group of the cowboy’s friends seeking his release

**1886** — Statue of Liberty dedicated this date

**1942** — Gen. Leslie Groves asks J. Robert Oppenheimer to head Project Y, the proposed central laboratory for weapons physics and design

**1946** — The UN General Assembly convenes for the first time

**1947** — Flying a Bell X-1 at Muroc Dry Lake Bed, CA, Air Force pilot Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier, ushering in the era of supersonic flight

**1974** — President Ford signs the Energy Reorganization Act, abolishing the Atomic Energy Commission and creating the Energy Research and Development Administration, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Energy Resources Council



## Did you know...



Paper cups consume trees, water and chemicals, and they are not recyclable. They are often wax-coated, which reduces their bio-degradability further. They are the largest contributor to our country’s municipal solid waste.

# Woodworking: It's in his roots

by Kathy DeLucas

Ask Tony Beugelsdijk, of Industrial Business Development's Strategic Partnerships Office, for the time, and, if you're lucky, he may just build you a clock. Beugelsdijk has been using his woodworking skills to fashion intricately made clocks.

Beugelsdijk comes from several generations of wood workers from Holland. His grandfather built windmills that helped remove water from low-lying areas making them habitable and arable. His grandfather subsequently became a contractor in Holland and built homes as well as the elegant St. Agatha's Church in Lisse, Holland. Each of his six sons, including Beugelsdijk's father, grew up as carpenters.

Born in Lisse, Beugelsdijk emigrated with his parents to America where he received his education including college degrees and doctorate in analytical and inorganic chemistry. He eventually came to the Laboratory where he built robotic systems and managed the Laboratory's robotics program. But he has never forgotten his woodworking roots.

In his off-time, Beugelsdijk has built two elaborate clocks from patterns he ordered from a Minnesota company. He prefers hardwoods, especially cherry since it machines and carves wonderfully and finishes beautifully, but also works with walnut, mahogany, oak and maple. He bought roughsawn cherry boards from a hardwood dealer in Albuquerque and planed them down to the proper thickness in his home basement shop. His basement studio is equipped with tools that are reminiscent of the famous T.V. carpenter and woodworker Norm Abrams. To make these clocks, Beugelsdijk depended primarily upon his modern scroll saw, spending one to two hours a night and his



**A windmill stands near Tony Beugelsdijk's birthplace of Lisse, Holland. The lower level is a home of the family that operates the mill. Beugelsdijk's grandfather built many of the windmills in Lisse, Holland.** Photo courtesy of Beugelsdijk



**Tony Beugelsdijk examines the first clock that he built. The clock is more intricate than the second clock, which he will give to his sister-in-law.** Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

Fridays off to cut and piece the delicate wood. On most pieces, he had to thread the blade through the portion to be cut, one hole at a time.

His most prized tools, however, are not powered by electricity: The tools include his grandfather's old planes and chisels, adding that he would be very pleased to see them still being used. "There is still no substitute for skilled handwork," Beugelsdijk said. "It's really a shame that fine workmanship is so hard to find anymore — just a shame," Beugelsdijk added.

Overall, the clock took about four months to build. He delivered it to his sister-in-law in Wichita, as a housewarming gift, in a specially built case so it wouldn't be damaged. His next project may be a piece of furniture or another clock.

"The wood really tells you what to do, cutting it in the right places brings out its natural beauty and inner strength," Beugelsdijk says.

## Los Alamos News Letter

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