

NewsLetter

Week of May 23, 2005

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Mini Isotopes a big hit at the Laboratory

The Española Mini Isotopes and the Albuquerque Isotopes have a few things in common, such as running to the correct base after striking a baseball. The big difference is that the Mini Isotopes are a group of young boys and girls, 5 to 7 years of age.Page 8

DOE issues final RFP

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration issued the final Request for Proposals for the competitive selection of a management and operating contractor for the Laboratory on May 19. The final RFP includes provisions to reward excellence through performance incentive fees and term extensions. Potential bidders have 60 days to submit proposals, which are due by July 19. NNSA anticipates announcing an award by Dec. 1.

The full RFP is available at www.doeal.gov/LANLContractRecompete/RFP.htm on the Web. For more information, see the May 20 Daily Newsbulletin at www.lanl.gov/news/index.php?fuseaction=nb.archive online.



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Laboratory's new director outlines overarching priorities



Laboratory Director Robert Kuckuck

'I believe that Los Alamos is a great scientific lab and the premiere example of science in the service of the nation.'

by Brooke Kent

"I'm not only pleased, I'm excited to be here," Robert Kuckuck told workers at an all-employee meeting in the Administration Building Auditorium at Technical Area 3.

"I believe that Los Alamos is a great scientific lab and the premiere example of science in the service of the nation," continued Kuckuck, who recently was appointed interim director for the Laboratory by University of California President Robert Dynes. "The people here are committed, capable, and stimulating to be with, and the national defense mission has been and continues to be crucial to the nation."

UC President Dynes and Bob Foley, UC vice president for laboratory management, also spoke at the all-employee meeting, which was broadcast live on LABNET Channel 9 and on desktop computers.

Dynes introduced Kuckuck as a physicist with more than four decades of nuclear weapons work, adding that, "with his experience, I know Bob will be an excellent director."

In his opening remarks, Kuckuck said he felt "awesome to be here" and called Los Alamos the "shrine" of the nation's weapons complex.

Kuckuck outlined three overarching priorities. The first objective, changing the external perception of Los Alamos, relies on continued progress in the areas of business, operations, safety and security. "Our grand challenge is to ... meet the needs and challenges of the outside [world] but do science and technology on the inside," Kuckuck said.

According to Kuckuck, the Laboratory answers to a wide range of stakeholders and external constraints. To thrive within this environment, Los Alamos must continue its forward momentum, while simultaneously eliminating unnecessary burdens on daily work. "The essence of Los Alamos is a scientific lab underpinning a nuclear weapons mission. We have to keep the science healthy ... [and] I need from you specifics of what we can change within the constraints we live in to allow science to flourish."

Second, Kuckuck committed himself to advancing an atmosphere of trust, respect, civility and communication. "When I say we," Kuckuck clarified, "I mean 'we' in the sense that I really intend to be part of Los Alamos, not that I presume to have been a part of your hard work and great accomplishments of the past. I want to help us move into the future ... and [I hope] we're ... working together as we go on."

Kuckuck's third priority was addressing employees' uncertainty about the changes ahead. "I will be telling you everything I learn ... as soon as I have it. [By staying] together through this interim period ... we will have done the best we can to position Los Alamos for success in the new contract," Kuckuck said. Dynes added that Linton Brooks, administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, urged employees to avoid making premature retirement decisions.

Regarding the competition for the Laboratory's management contract, Dynes underscored that, "It is my hope that the [request for proposal] still will have science and technology — which is what you do best — at [its] foundation ... If that is the case, I will enthusiastically recommend to the regents that we compete." Kuckuck concurred, garnering widespread applause as he paraphrased a recent San Francisco Chronicle editorial: "Los Alamos has served the nation in ways far beyond the imagination of Robert Oppenheimer, and for the good of the country, the University of California must win."

In the final analysis, Dynes urged employees to "help us define the future of this lab and ... put something in place you can be proud of." The Laboratory's value to the country is inestimable, and now is the "golden opportunity to look to the future, not the past, for how [Los Alamos] can serve the nation."

May is
National
Electrical
Safety
Month



Electrical safety principles

When planning and performing work on electrical systems and equipment, keep the following electrical safety principles in mind:

- Plan every job.
- Think about what could go wrong.
- Use the right tools for the job.
- Use procedures, drawings and other documents as tools to do the job.
- Isolate the equipment from energy sources.
- Identify the electric shock and arc flash, as well as other hazards that may be present.
- Minimize the hazard by guarding or establishing approach limitations.
- Test every circuit, every conductor, every time before touching.
- Use personal protective equipment as a last line of defense in case something goes wrong.
- Ask yourself, "Do I have the skills, knowledge, tools and experience to do this work safely?"

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International* (www.esfi.org)

Los Alamos National Laboratory NewsLetter

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Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) of the U.S. Department of Energy and works in partnership with NNSA's Sandia and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories to support NNSA in its mission.

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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UC/Bechtel name Los Alamos competition team leader

Editor's note: The University of California and a Bechtel-led industrial team recently announced an agreement to prepare for the Department of Energy competition to manage the Laboratory. In the following news release, the UC/Bechtel team names Michael Anastasio, director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, team leader in the competition preparations.

The University of California and Bechtel National named Michael Anastasio, director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, as the team leader in the competition preparations for the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Anastasio, a nuclear physicist, has more than 25 years [of] experience in national security and nuclear weapons and has led the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory since 2002. Anastasio will lead the UC, Bechtel, BWX Technologies Inc. and Washington Group International team through the upcoming DOE competition for management and operations of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The final decision regarding the University of California's participation in the competition is a decision that will be made by the UC Board of Regents following the release of the final request for proposals by the Department of Energy.

"In his distinguished career at the Livermore laboratory, including the last three years as director, Mike has shown a true understanding of the central role of science at the UC-managed national laboratories and has demonstrated, time and again, the depth of knowledge and expertise required to provide the best possible leadership for this competition," said UC President Robert Dynes. "His familiarity with the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the university and the missions of both institutions — as well as the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy — makes him an excellent choice for this key position."

"Mike Anastasio is highly respected throughout the DOE complex and his experience at Livermore laboratory, his commitment to science in the national interest and his fundamental understanding of the importance of science in the work at [the Laboratory] makes him a natural selection for this position," said Bechtel National President Thomas Hash. "Mike is the right leader to deliver science, business and operations excellence to the laboratory."

Anastasio will continue to be director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory throughout the Los Alamos competition process. The existing management team at LLNL will assist Anastasio in the day-to-day operations of the laboratory as he assumes these additional responsibilities.

"The UC-Bechtel team is very serious about this competition," Anastasio said. "UC has a proven track record of strong scientific and technological expertise in support of national security."

"I am honored to have this opportunity, and I look forward to leading our team."

In late March, UC announced it also would partner with a consortium of New Mexico institutions to form the Advanced Studies Institute at Los Alamos National Laboratory. These institutions include the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University and New Mexico Institute for Mining and Technology. The agreement with these institutions solidifies the role of New Mexico universities as part of a bid to compete for the Laboratory contract.

"I absolutely believe it is in the best interest of the nation to have two strong weapons physics laboratories," said Anastasio. "This allows for a vigorous competition of technical ideas within a balanced, fully integrated program."



Michael Anastasio



Conference encourages exchange of educational ideas

U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., talks with Kurt Steinhaus, center, deputy secretary of the New Mexico Public Education Department, and Peter Faletta, right, assistant director of the Department of Energy's Office of Science and director of work force development for teachers and scientists, at a Math and Science Academy teacher professional development conference earlier this month in Santa Fe. Bingaman's office co-sponsored the workshop with the Laboratory and the Laboratory Foundation. Before the conference, KSL Services, the Laboratory's facilities and site services contractor, gave the Math and Science Academy \$200,000 in a presentation at the State Capitol. The Lab's Math and Science Academy program has 70 teachers in 14 schools in five Northern New Mexico school districts. Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

Update on appendix F fiscal year '04 mid-year meetings



by John Immele,
deputy director for
National Security

On May 11 and 12, I joined senior leaders and staff from the National Nuclear Security Administration, the University of California, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and

our laboratory to review accomplishments, issues and challenges for our performance objectives and measures in Appendix F of the contract. The meetings provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the significant progress on both mission and operations [the Lab] has made in the first half of the year, as well as the issues we need to work together to achieve the best year-end performance against our contractual commitments.

The Appendix F process was reworked three years ago to improve engagement of senior managers (both at the Labs and NNSA) on the "critical few" performance objectives for mission and operations. Tom D'Agostino, the new acting deputy administrator for Defense Programs, called the May meetings the best yet. The May 11 meeting, or pre-meeting, was led by me and other senior deputies (D'Agostino; Steve Black,

chief of staff for Nonproliferation; Tim Harmeson, acting deputy NNSA site manager for Los Alamos; John Birely, UC associate vice president for Laboratory Programs; and Lee Younker, associate deputy director for Operations at Livermore). We scrutinized issues and identified ones [that] needed to be considered at the May 12 meeting, which included the principals, NNSA Administrator Linton Brooks, [then Los Alamos Director] Pete Nanos, Livermore Director Mike Anastasio and UC Vice President Bob Foley. [The Laboratory's] new director, Bob Kuckuck, also attended, [and held additional meetings] with Secretary Bodman and Ambassador Brooks.

The focus of the mid-year assessment was UC's self-assessment and issues that both NNSA and UC raised. The meeting was very constructive, and I believe our customers concur that [the Lab's] mission accomplishments range from excellent to outstanding and [our] operations are strongly vectored in the right direction. Ambassador Brooks always makes sure that key action items are identified and assigned. Below are some of the actions from the mid-year meeting:

- The labs will generate an unclassified paper for Brooks, describing the major stockpile stewardship accomplishment of understanding the energy balance in weapons, which was achieved through an integration of small- and large-scale experiments, modeling and analyzing past underground nuclear tests. Ambassador Brooks is a strong supporter of LDRD.
- The labs will propose to NNSA an integrated resource-loaded plan with priorities for work at critical nuclear facilities including the Device Assembly Facility at the Nevada Test Site.
- The labs with Sandia and NNSA will

review the existing rules for foreign nationals to assure we are not over-constraining ourselves in their application. Ambassador Brooks noted the recent speech by Secretary Bodman supporting foreign nationals in science.

- The NNSA will work with its contractors to address the current skills shortage in managing the safety authorization bases for nuclear facilities.

- The NNSA will work with the Department of Energy and the Laboratory to develop a baseline plan for the major environmental clean up project to which we are committed under the Consent Order with the state of New Mexico.

Given the tight budgets projected for several years, Tom D'Agostino emphasized the need for integrated approaches in which security, safety and environmental requirements are folded into program planning and execution to yield the greatest value for mission and operations. Linton Brooks reiterated the high priority he places on the successful completion of the Operational Efficiency Project to assure the appropriate return on the tremendous investment the Laboratory and the NNSA made last year in assessing and improving the safety and security of our operations. Finally, Ambassador Brooks extended his appreciation for the director's leadership [former Director Pete Nanos] through a time of great change at the Laboratory.

All-in-all, it was a very productive set of meetings. I want to express my appreciation for the tremendous effort that people across the Laboratory spent to help us prepare, with special thanks to Janine Fales and Carol Mahan of the Laboratory's Prime Contract Office for pulling it all together. Your work certainly paid off.

NMSU partnering with CFO to offer on-site MBA program

by James E. Rickman

Laboratory employees this fall can sign up for an on-site Master's of Business Administration program offered by New Mexico State University.

Laboratory personnel in the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Division have been working with NMSU officials for several months to bring the MBA program here. The associate Laboratory director for administration has made the program open to all Laboratory employees, and the first session, scheduled to begin in August, is open to at least 25 people. Lab organizations can cover the cost of tuition and books for individuals accepted into the NMSU program. Lab employees also can continue to enroll in other MBA programs.

The MBA degree program is a professional, accredited course of study designed to provide Laboratory employees with a solid background in business practices and the problem-solving and people skills needed to become successful leaders in a global business environment, said Carolyn Romero of CFO-DO, which is sponsoring the program. The program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Once instruction begins, classes will be held locally every other weekend on Friday and Saturday. For more information about the program, contact Leo Jaramillo of CFO at 7-3848.

Sustaining change

by Tom Bowles, chief science officer



The Laboratory continues to experience a great deal of change — most recently with the appointment of Bob Kuckuck as the Laboratory director. While the last year has certainly been very stressful, it also has been one in which we have made definite progress in some areas.

[University of California] President Robert Dynes pointed out in his recent visit to the Laboratory that [Department of Energy] Secretary Samuel Bodman, [National Nuclear Security Administration] Director Linton Brooks and others have repeatedly told him that Los Alamos has made significant progress since last summer in mission performance.

While that is encouraging, both President Dynes and Director Kuckuck also have said that we must continue to drive change and that we cannot afford to backslide. I would like to echo their statements.

The next year holds many uncertainties, largely driven by the contract re-bid. One thing is certain — we need to sustain change at the Laboratory. There are many issues that need to be addressed if Los Alamos is going to be an institution in which world-class science is not only possible but straightforward.

This is a tremendous challenge. It also is a goal that the new director, senior management, and the University of California are committed to achieving. Whether or not we achieve that goal is to a large extent up to us. We need to continue to drive the changes that will enable us to more effectively carry out R&D. We also need to do that in a safe, secure and compliant manner. These two goals do not need to be mutually exclusive.

If we are committed to making constructive changes in how [the Lab] implements safety, security and compliance, we can achieve best-in-class operations. I am convinced that this is a prerequisite to sustaining world-class science.

The jury is still out on whether or not we can achieve the changes needed. Commonsense, mutual trust and commitment to change are necessary elements. I know our new director is committed to working with everyone at the Laboratory to achieve the changes we need to make. Let's help him make this possible.

Tech Transfer

Technology Maturation Fund helps bring Laboratory science to the world

Editor's Note: The Technology Transfer (TT) Division provided the following article on the Lab's Technology Maturation Fund, which aims "to provide small amounts of funding for highly focused projects to move early-stage technologies along the road to commercialization."

by Jeff Stewart

In 2004, John Ramsey of Electronic and Electrochemical Materials and Devices (MST-11) had a problem. His team had used its normal programmatic funding to explore the science of a next generation fuel-cell stack, but the funding wasn't there to build a prototype. "DOE and DARPA were looking for more fundamental science and not applied science," said Ramsey. Building a prototype was not a programmatic goal, so Ramsey could not simply build a prototype as part of his programmatic funding. He already had a company interested in licensing the fuel-cell stack — if his team could just build a working prototype.

That's when Ramsey turned to the Lab's Technology Maturation Fund (Tech Mat). The fund is in place to bridge the

"Valley of Death" between science and the commercial world, according to Erica Sullivan of Technology Transfer (TT) Division, the Tech Mat administrator. Most Laboratory technologies with commercial potential reach a point where traditional government funding is no longer available, noted Sullivan, and after this point, technologies often need prototype development or other engineering to turn scientific idea into reality.

TT Division recognized this problem and set out to solve it. Under Appendix M of the Laboratory's prime contract, the Lab is charged with transferring some of its technology to the commercial realm, where these new technologies can improve lives. The Technology Maturation Fund, derived from a combination of licensing/royalty revenues and monies earmarked for this purpose under Appendix M, awards moderate dollar amounts — up to \$50,000 — to technologies that are on the cusp of commercialization. Generally, for these technologies, a prototype must be built or perfected; computer code written; or a concept that works in the lab proven in a near-commercial product.

Tech Mat appeared to be a fit for Ramsey of MST-11 and his team's fuel-cell

stack. He applied for \$50,000 in funding to build a prototype fuel-cell stack and was awarded the money very quickly. "The fact that we had money available to use within a couple of days really was quite amazing," said Ramsey.

The turn-around time is so quick, because the review process is done in-house, noted Sullivan. The call for proposals is continuous, and employees can apply at any time. Proposals received before the 20th of each month are considered during the following month's Tech Mat meeting. Sullivan said the review process works in the following manner:

- A panel of tech transfer professionals — business development or licensing executives with diverse technical and business backgrounds — considers the market for the technology and the impact the technology will have in the market. If both are significant, the research proposed is reviewed to see if it is appropriate for the funding requested.

- Consideration is then given to what stage the technology is currently in, and if there has been commercial interest expressed in the technology. About 50 percent of the proposals receive funding.

For many projects, \$50,000 may not seem like a large sum of money, but Ramsey said in her experience the funding goes a long way. "The way the money was burdened was very good," said Ramsey. "It stretched a lot farther than I thought it would. That \$50,000 can feel like it's worth \$100,000."

Soon after Ramsey's team successfully completed its working prototype, the design was transferred to Mesoscopic Devices of Broomfield, Colo. under a government-use agreement. According to Ramsey, Mesoscopic's Laboratory-based fuel-cell stack has the highest power-to-weight ratio on the market. "It was that number and the clean packaging of that thing that attracted Mesoscopic," said Ramsey.

Since its inception in December 2002, the Technology Maturation Fund has awarded 24 proposals for an average amount of \$38,000. The entrepreneurial and commercial catalyst of these small funds has been phenomenal, said Sullivan. Funded projects have led to five commercial start-up companies: ENKI, ART, Caldera Pharmaceuticals, Nitrate Environmental and Underground Radio. Also, the Lab has entered into six licensing agreements to commercial interests as a direct result of Technology Maturation funding.

Funded technologies include the following:

- Electrochromic (automatically dimming) automobile mirrors
- Nitrate pollution remediation
- Micro X-ray fluorescence, a technology for discovering drug interactions
- Computational image analysis
- Nonthermal plasma processor
- Portable air elemental pollution monitor
- MgB2 superconducting wires

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Lab, NCAR sign joint research agreement

Timothy Killeen, right, director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, signs a memorandum of agreement at Los Alamos for joint research and development projects. The agreement addresses pressing national security issues in energy infrastructure security, remote sensing, space weather, climate sciences and computational sciences. Left is Terry Wallace, associate director for strategic research. Standing is Gary Geernaert, director of Los Alamos' Institute for Geophysics and Planetary Physics (EES-IGPP). Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

Release 3a to expedite purchasing process

by Brooke Kent

The Enterprise Project's Release 3a software product debuted earlier this month.

Release 3a facilitates selected purchasing functions for Laboratory employees. With the new software, employees will utilize the Enterprise Project's Oracle interface to request or approve the purchase of both simple fabrication services (such as custom circuit boards) and personal safety items, such as safety glasses, computer glasses, safety shoes and protective clothing.

The software was written for EP by Oracle Corp.

According to group leader Julie Allen of Streamlined Purchasing (SUP-7), "Release 3a streamlines and expedites the purchasing process. Employees can use the online Oracle application to request personal safety items and simple fabrication services. At that point, the Oracle system consults its integrated HR record and sends the purchase request to the appropriate manager for electronic approval. The result: a completely online experience replaces the old system of filling out, approving and storing paper forms."

"In the short term, Release 3a will simplify how we deal with the Local Vendor Agreements and Rapid Release Blankets covering the affected items," Allen said. "In the long term, it will support the Enterprise Project's larger goal of increased transparency, visibility and control of the whole purchasing process."

The Enterprise Project, named in 2003 as one of [former] Laboratory Director Pete Nanos' "big rocks" or critical priorities, aims to support "good business for great science." Release 3a marks just one step in the Enterprise Project's phased multi-year approach. Over time, the Lab will install several Oracle integrated software modules, covering everything from human resources, budgeting and accounting to program and project management.



In preparation for the debut of the Enterprise Project's Release 3a, Acting Deputy Laboratory Director Don Cobb bookmarks the "Start Your Day" Web page at his office in the Administration Building at Technical Area 3. Release 3a will facilitate selected purchasing functions for Laboratory employees.

Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

Allen noted that, "While Release 3a may seem small in scope, it affects the entire institution. Since every badge holder has the ability to ask for personal safety items, moving the request and approval processes online will help us all work more efficiently and cost-effectively. That supports the Enterprise Project's larger goal: streamlining the Lab's business practices while containing costs and improving the management of human, technical and financial resources."

Users can access the new request and approval forms through the Enterprise Project's "Start Your Day" Web site at <http://startyourday.lanl.gov> online. "We

encourage every employees to 'start your day' by visiting this Web site. Not only does it contain links to training courses, user manuals and request forms, but it also shows managers which pending requests require approval," said Allen. "Additionally, as the Enterprise Project adds functions through subsequent releases, the 'Start Your Day' Web site will show employees new ways that the Oracle software can automate, expedite or streamline their daily activities."

For more information and updates, go to the Enterprise Project's Web site at <http://ep.lanl.gov> online, or contact the Enterprise Project Office at 5-9067.

May is "Electrical Safety Month"

Be safe
Be aware
Be smart

Electrical safety involves everyone

Tech Mat ...

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- A radio that works deep underground and transmits through buildings
- Software to monitor the structural health of such critical structures as bridges and skyscrapers
- Advances in practical fuel cells
- Cleaner plasma-assisted combustion
- Quantum dot light-emitting diodes
- DNA "dipstick" for disease diagnosis.

Sullivan encourages Lab researchers to apply for Tech Mat funding. "We always can take more proposals," said Sullivan. "We still have funding available for this fiscal year. Since Oct. 1, 2004, we have funded four proposals for \$120,000." She noted that multiple submissions for different technologies are welcomed. "There have been a lot of people who have received multiple funds for different projects," said Sullivan.

For more information, see the Technology Maturation Fund Web site at http://www.lanl.gov/partnerships/tech_mat.html online.

So...what do you think?

Q: The University of California recently announced its intent to partner with a Bechtel National Inc.-led industrial team that includes BWX Technologies Inc. and Washington Group International to prepare a bid for the competition for the Laboratory's management contract — that is, if the UC regents decide to compete for the contract once the final request for proposal is released. The university also announced that it would partner with a consortium of New Mexico institutions — University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University and New Mexico Institute for Mining and Technology — to form the Advanced Studies Institute at the Laboratory. What do you think about this announcement?



Laura Lovato of Small Business Program Team (SUP-4)

The Laboratory has been here more than 60 years, and while it is a government institution, it still needs to evolve its processes in the technical and administrative areas like private industry. In saying that, I think UC's decision to partner with Bechtel National Inc. would be beneficial for the changes required to move this institution in the right direction. This Laboratory has been known as a world class scientific institution, let's also become a world leader in the business industry.



George Zvoloski of Hydrology, Geochemistry, and Geology (EES-6)

I like the UC announcement. From my experience, I think we are benefiting greatly from UC's involvement with the Laboratory.

The proposed relationship with the New Mexico universities will be good for the Lab and those institutions.



Debra Saiz of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics (IGPP)

I believe that with UC partnering up with the three major New Mexico universities and Bechtel, UC will have an excellent chance to retain the contract. I believe UC has made a good choice. Good luck UC!



Phillip Baca of Personnel Security (S-6)

I think this is a wonderful opportunity for students and our up-and-coming scientists.



Mike Boule of Staffing, Technical Support and R&D (SUP-10)

I am delighted to see New Mexico universities participating in this important national contribution. The nation will be well served.

PEOPLE



New appointments made in SR Directorate



Don Rej

Don Rej is the acting program manager for the Laboratory's Office of Science, replacing B. Ray Stults, who left the Lab to take a position at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Rej had been the acting director of the Science and Technology Base (STB) Programs Office. Before taking the lead at STB, Rej was leader of the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) Division, which helped build the SNS at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

"As program manager for the Los Alamos portion of SNS, Don gained valuable expertise dealing with the Office of Science on one of its leading projects. I am quite confident in Don's abilities to lead the Office of Science programs here at Los Alamos," said Associate Director for Strategic Research Terry Wallace.

The DOE Office of Science invests approximately \$90 million annually in a broad portfolio of research at the Laboratory. The program manager is responsible for overseeing this portfolio. A national search for a permanent Office of Science program manager will begin later this year.

Replacing Rej as acting STB leader will be former Materials Science and Technology (MST) Deputy Division Leader Terry Lowe. Most recently, Lowe served as acting program manager for division and program reviews, working at the behest of the University of California Office of the President to assess the quality of the science and technology conducted at the Laboratory.

According to Wallace, "Terry Lowe has brought tremendous energy and talent to the DRC/PRC process, and I believe that he will bring a similar strong leadership to STB."

In other changes in ADSR, Duncan McBranch was named acting division leader of the Technology Transfer (TT) Division,

replacing Donna Smith who is retiring.

McBranch currently is a technical staff member in the Chemistry (C) Division, working with the Softmatter Nanotechnology Team to accelerate the commercialization of quantum dot technologies. Before founding QTL Biosystems in 2000, a Santa Fe start up company that licensed and developed Los Alamos technologies, McBranch was a technical principal investigator and team leader in C Division.

"I am sorry to see Donna go, but am just as pleased to have Duncan move into this position," said Wallace, "He brings a unique combination of technology and commercialization leadership that will be essential if the Laboratory is to continue to realize commercial value from its strategic R&D investments."

Laboratory employee Wismer in Iraq



Mike Wismer

Laboratory employee **Mike Wismer** is familiar with Iraq. In 1991, he was a security officer at Riyadh Air Base in Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm.

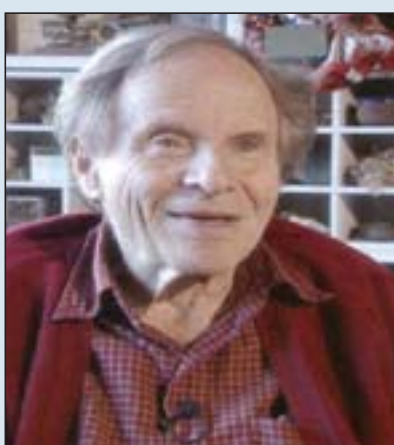
This month, he's back in Iraq in a different war, but not as a soldier. Wismer,

of Security Integration (S-2), is on a leave of absence from the Lab to spend up to two months in Iraq helping that country's new government form a human resources infrastructure.

Wismer left Los Alamos May 11. He also took a leave from the Los Alamos County Council and from his non-Lab job teaching sociology courses at University of New Mexico, Los Alamos.

"I actually think it's a unique professional challenge. You get to help lay the foundation for a democratic process," said Wismer. "All of my qualifications matched what

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In Memoriam

Philip Morrison

Manhattan Project pioneer Philip Morrison, a distinguished theoretical astrophysicist, died April 22. He was 89. Morrison, who was at Los Alamos in the 1940s during the crash project to build the world's first atomic bomb, was a professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Born in Somerville, N.J., in 1915, Morrison was associated with the Manhattan Project, first at the University of Chicago and later at Los Alamos. Before joining the Manhattan Project, Morrison was a faculty member at San Francisco State College and the University of Illinois. He

received his bachelor's degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1936 and his doctorate in theoretical physics in 1940 from the University of California, Berkeley under the supervision of the Lab's first director, J. Robert Oppenheimer.

At Los Alamos, Morrison joined the former Gadget (G) Division, which had overall responsibility for developing the implosion weapon, named "Fat Man." The other device, the uranium gun weapon, was named "Little Boy."

Morrison was part of the contingent of Laboratory technical staff members who traveled to Trinity Site in southern New Mexico in July 1945 for the testing of the bomb. Morrison wrote of the test on July 16, 1945: "Immediately after this brilliant flash, which was somewhat blinding, I observed through the welding glass, centered at the direction of the tower, an enormous brilliant disk of white light. The disk was a true white in color, even through the welding glass, which makes the sun's disk distinctly deep green."

He later traveled to Tinian from which the two bombs dropped against Japan were launched. And he traveled to Hiroshima to view the aftermath of the bombs. Morrison left Los Alamos in September 1946, returning to academic life at Cornell and MIT. He was a MIT faculty member since 1964.



May service anniversaries

35 years

Diane Martinez, DX-TSO

30 years

John Flemming Jr., CCN-4
Steven Cocking, CFO-3
Richard Oldenborg, D-DOD
Richard Olivas, DX-5
Kenneth Rea, ENV-ECO
Lorraine Salazar, ESA-EDE
Pamela Rogers, ESA-ES
Thomas Petersen, ESA-WR
Joe Lopez, HSR-4
Patricia Ytuarte, IM-3
Phillip Duran, MSM-2
Manuel Lovato, MST-8
Clifford Morris, N-3
Alden Oyer, N-3
George Sandoval, P-24
Matthew Murray, P-25
Frank Ortiz, S-4
Edith Trujillo, SUP-6
John Dienes, T-14
Anthony Peratt, X-1

25 years

Christine Munk, B-5
Carol Waters, CCN-DO
Lucille Jaramillo, DX-TSO
Rudy Archuleta, DX-3
Robert Hurdle, ENV-DO
Larry Ulibarri, FM-CMR
Magdalena Vigil, HSR-4
Richard Naranjo, ISEC
Lloyd Hunt, LANSCE-3
Barbara Stevens, N-5
Carol Lopez, NMT-11
George Idzorek, P-22
Martin Pacheco, SUP-3
Joann Sandoval, SUP-7
Eric Pitcher, T-16

20 years

Mary Salazar, ADWP
Robert Habberset, B-2
Iverson Ebanks, CCN-5
Shirley Roybal, CER-1

Marison Pulliam, CFO-2
Barbara Vigil, CFO-2
James Doyle Jr., CHS
Albert Hsu, DX-5
Johnny Salazar, EES-2
Steven Rivera, ESA-MEE
Mark Bayless, HSR-1
Elizabeth Miller, HSR-5
Annmarie Cutler, IM-EP
Sharon Mikkelson, IM-1
Mary Cassidy, ISR-DO
Steven Wallin, ISR-DO
Leonard Burczyk, ISR-3
Ralph Stiglich, ISR-4
Ross Muenchausen, MST-8
Ricardo Schwarz, MST-8
Fredrick Hampel, NMT-16
Linda Gallegos, PM-DS
Debbie Martinez, STB-DSTBP
Edward Kober, T-14

15 years

Christopher Brink, C-CSE
Allen McPherson, CCS-1
Patrick Kelly, CCS-3
Adrienne Borrego, CFO-1
Tracy Lattin, CFO-2
Paul Ortega, DX-3
William Purtymun, EMR
James Tsiagkouris, FM-DX-ESA
William Somers, HSR-1
Amy Anderson, HSR-2
Margaret Burgess, IM-1
Judyth Prono, IM-1
Scott Volz, ISR-5
Mary Jane Hoover, LC-IP
James Muller, MSM-DO
Stephen Sterbenz, X-4

10 years

Victor Klimov, C-PCS
Stephanie Lovato, CCN-2
Becky Fernandez, CCS-DO
Marion Davis, CCS-3
Kenneth Menefee, CFO-DO
Piedad Chavez, CFO-1
Sherilyn Robinson, CFO-1

Randy Roberts, D-4
Robert Bishop, DX-2
Monica Brown, DX-2
George Randall EES-11
Michael Butler, ESA-ESA
Terrence Buxton, ESA-ESA
Bradley Baas, ESA-WDS
Kristi Keffer, ESA-WSE
Brian Fishbine, IM-1
Francesca Chavez, ISR-RD
Vince Melton, ISR-5
Eron Kerstiens, LANSCE-6
Samuel Borkowsky, LC-IP
Mary Medina, MSM-4
Rosemary Romero, MST-DO
Derek Dinwiddie, N-2
Paula Knepper, N-3
Vance Hatler, NMT-15
Simon Balkey, NMT-2
Deirdre Espinoza, NMT-7
Nancy Teague, NMT-9
Rachel Benavidez, NWIS-TP
Eric Raby, P-21
Kevin Hogan, PM-DS
Terry Chacon, SUP-9
Steven Nolen, X-3

5 years

Darrin Visarraga, D-4
Daniel Shevitz, D-5
My Hang Huynh, DX-2
James Carothers, DX-3
C. Aviles-Ramos, ESA-WR
Darby Luscher, ESA-WR
Kevin Smale, ESA-WSE
Bryant Roybal, FM-DX-ESA
Mark Martinez, IM-EP
Brenda DeVargas, IM-1
Taber West, IM-3
Derald York, MSM-4
Tommy Rockward, MST-11
Joshua Narlesky, NMT-11
George Neal, NMT-5
Justin Torgerson, P-23
Andrea Martinez, SUP-10
Crystal Tafoya, SUP-3
Brian Lansrud, X-3

Wismer ...

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they were looking for," he said, noting that he has trained and worked as a facilitator.

Wismer said he learned of the opportunity after a call went out for individuals willing to travel to Iraq to help the nascent Iraqi government. He's in the Middle East under the auspices of the State University of New York (Albany) Center for International Development. The United States Agency for International Development and the National Democratic Institute fund the program.

Majidi named Chemistry Division leader

Los Alamos scientist and former group leader **Vahid Majidi** is the new leader of the Chemistry (C) Division.

Laboratory Associate Director for Strategic Research Terry Wallace said, "In addition to his significant chemistry research experience, Vahid brings to this position extensive experience in working with universities and governmental agencies. From his most recent position with the United States Department of Justice, he brings an awareness of not only the nation's current



Vahid Majidi

national security research needs, but a deep understanding of the importance of the Laboratory's relationship with its stakeholders as well."

Majidi returned to the Laboratory after serving two years as the Chief Science Adviser to the United

States Department of Justice. Before that, he was the group leader of Actinide Analytical Chemistry (C-AAC) and Analytical Chemistry Sciences (C-ACS).

Majidi came to Los Alamos in 1997 from the University of Kentucky, where he was an associate professor in the chemistry department for nearly a decade. During that time he also was a visiting scientist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Majidi received his bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1983 and his doctoral degree from Wayne State University in 1987.

In addition to a long history of service to the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, Majidi has served on a number of editorial boards and currently is on the Board of Directors of the International Forensic Research Institute.

This month in history ...



May

1541 — Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto discovers the Mississippi River.

1626 — Peter Minuit buys Manhattan for the Dutch.

1754 — Benjamin Franklin's "Join or Die," the first newspaper cartoon, is published.

1796 — The smallpox vaccine is developed by Dr. Edward Jenner, a physician in rural England.

1848 — The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is ratified, officially making New Mexico and other southwestern states part of the United States.

1862 — Mexican forces defeat French invaders in the Battle of Puebla, a victory celebrated as Cinco de Mayo.

1884 — The Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers is founded.

1918 — Manhattan Project pioneer Richard Phillips Feynman is born in New York on May 11.

1927 — Charles Lindbergh completes the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

1936 — Joe DiMaggio makes his major-league debut with three hits for the New York Yankees.

1937 — In San Francisco, 200,000 people celebrate the grand opening of the Golden Gate Bridge by strolling across it.

1944 — First chain reaction at the Water Boiler, a Lab reactor built to provide neutrons for experimental purposes and to help study the designing and building of reactors.

1945 — Germany surrenders, ending World War II in Europe.

1946 — An accident at the Lab during experiments on critical assemblies results in the death of Louis Slotin.

1954 — The U.S. Supreme Court holds in *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

1961 — Alan Shepard rides "Freedom 7" to become the first American in space.

1964 — J. Robert Oppenheimer gives his first public talk at Los Alamos since resigning as director, speaking on "Niels Bohr and Atomic Weapons."

1973 — The first U.S. space station, "Skylab" is launched.

1977 — The Weapons Neutron Research Facility produces neutrons for the first time.

1980 — Mount St. Helens in Washington erupts.

1983 — Production begins on the Lab-designed and developed W85 warhead, which was used for the Pershing II missile.

1989 — The Lab and DOE sponsor a cold fusion workshop in Santa Fe attended by more than 430 researchers from 14 countries.

1991 — The first New Mexico High School Supercomputing Challenge concludes with day-long activities at the Laboratory.

1992 — The Los Alamos Canyon bridge closes for repairs, forcing traffic between the town and Lab to go through the canyon.

1993 — President Clinton visits the Laboratory.

2000 — A prescribed burn is started May 4 on the slopes of the Cerro Grande. The burn turned awry and destroyed hundreds of homes in Los Alamos, burned some 48,000 acres in and around the Lab and led to a short-term closure of the Laboratory.

And this from the May 1946 "Los Alamos Times" — Bathtubs for the 300 permanent dwellings soon to be constructed on the golf course were assured this week ... This was the best news received by Hill householders since the inception of the project.

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.

Batter up Mini Isotopes a big hit at the Laboratory

by Kathryn Ostic

The Española Mini Isotopes and the Albuquerque Isotopes have a few things in common, such as running to the correct base after striking a baseball. The big difference is that the Mini Isotopes are a group of young boys and girls, 5 to 7 years of age, who have acquired a passion for baseball and are sponsored by Neutron and Nuclear Science (LANSCE-NS).

Andrea Tuero Montoya of LANSCE-NS sought sponsorship for her five-year-old son's inaugural baseball season last summer. Tuero became involved at the first Mini Isotopes team meeting after parents were told of a shortage of funds to purchase needed baseball equipment and uniforms. Tuero's response was to pass out fliers at work, and Steve Wender and Bruce Takala of LANSCE-NS helped out by requesting donations from the entire group to sponsor the team, Tuero said.

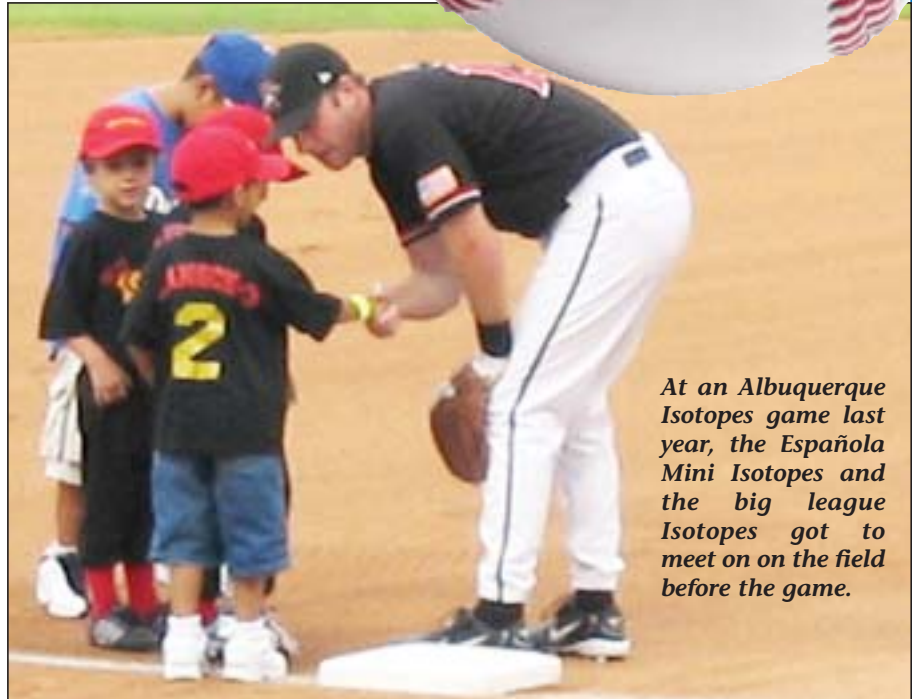
Now these youngsters are showing potential for becoming future Derek Jeters and Alex Rodriguez's thanks to the sponsorship of LANSCE-NS. The Mini Isotopes had a highly successful 2004 season in the Española All American Baseball Congress league and are excited about the 2005 season, said Tuero Montoya. And LANSCE-NS is again sponsoring the team this season.

The LANSCE group provided the team with pants, socks and baseball equipment, and also funded a trip to a see an Isotopes game last summer. The AABC purchased the team's jerseys, caps and a pitching machine.

At the Isotopes game, the Mini Isotopes and the big league Isotopes stood on the field together during the national anthem. After a round of handshakes, autographs and introductions to the fans, the aspiring players got to watch the Isotopes play under the bright lights of a summer evening, said Robert Kramer of the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE) Division Office. The Mini Isotopes plan to see another Albuquerque Isotopes game this month.

According to Tuero Montoya, the rules for Mini Isotopes games are quite different than the pro game. Games are two innings long and there are no pitchers; a pitching machine pitches the ball to the youngsters.

"Although many youth baseball leagues have young players hit the ball off a tee, the AABC believes the moving ball from the pitching machine eases the transition to the more traditional baseball at the next age level," said Takala.



At an Albuquerque Isotopes game last year, the Española Mini Isotopes and the big league Isotopes got to meet on the field before the game.

Everyone gets to bat and run the bases; there are no outs. However, if the pitching is too fast for the youngest of the players, the coach throws the ball out into the field as a hit, he added.

Each of the 14 players also received a trophy at the end of the season, not to mention hugs from the team grandpa and the team's coaches, Angelo Garcia of Telecommunications (CCN-4) and Chris Archuleta who works for Xerox.

On average, one practice session a week plus two games were held in Española. Family members, such as siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and LANSCE-NS employees attended, said Tuero Montoya.

"My son made a lot of friends and looked forward to the practice sessions and games. He loves the game and was disappointed when the season ended," said Tuero Montoya. "The real benefit of this extracurricular activity later in life, is that it provides a hobby and gives him something to occupy himself instead of getting into trouble."

The Mini Isotopes' 2005 season began last month.

