Los Alamos NATIONAL LABORATORY
NewsLetter

Week of Nov. 25, 2002 Vol. 3, No. 23

Lab honors its veterans

Lt. Judy Griego, left, and Lt. Don Funk, both of Protection Technology Los Alamos, present the American flag during the Laboratory's Veterans Day observance at Technical Area 3. The New Mexico and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flags also were presented. *Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez*

The Laboratory honored this country's veterans with a flag-raising ceremony and other activities on Nov. 12 at Technical Area 3. The Lab was closed Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

Lab veterans and nonveterans heard White Rock native and veteran Bernard "Bun" Ryan recount his wartime experiences in the South Pacific at the annual veterans breakfast in the Otowi Building Cafeteria. Activities then moved outdoors to the flagpoles in front of the Badge Office.

Laboratory Director John Browne urged Lab workers to show their appreciation to veterans. He also noted Los Alamos' efforts in service to the nation and how veterans play a role in this effort. "We all, as citizens, are increasingly aware of the cost of the freedoms we enjoy, and our veterans are especially familiar with the price we pay," said Browne.

The Lab's Veterans Committee and the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) sponsored the observance. Activities concluded with a fun run and walk also at TA-3.

A new way of looking at performance: Strategically

Rolling out the FY2003 performance objectives and measures

by Bill Dupuy

At first glance, perhaps the most dramatic difference managers will find between the Performance Objectives and Measures for FY2003 (Appendix F of the University of California contract) and last year's is the visible lack of bulk in the new document.

And that, says Bill Press, deputy director for science and technology, is both its beauty and its challenge.

Weighing in at just seven typewritten pages, the FY03 version of the Laboratory's objectives and measures is some 93 pages shorter than last year's. Closer examination reveals the reason: Unlike the FY02 document, the new one contains significantly less detail about measuring specific operations. Its thrust is strategic, versus the tactical approach taken every year for the past decade.

The most dramatic difference managers will find … is the visible lack of bulk … And that is both its beauty and its challenge.

Bill Press, deputy director for science and technology

"The old way of defining our objectives and measuring our progress in achieving them worked just fine in the years just after the former system was devised in 1992," says Bill Wadt, Quality Improvement Office director, who Laboratory Director John Browne selected three and a half years ago to coordinate the annual process. "But we later recognized it was a staff-driven activity based on specific administrative and operating procedures that often were not in close alignment with the Laboratory's 10 institutional goals or, in fact, with NNSA's strategic objectives."

A major fault with the old system was its detail on administrative and operating measures and its lack of focus on strategic direction, Press explains. "In prior years, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy were involved too deeply in the "how" of running the labs. John Browne recognized this and so did [former NNSA administrator] Gen. John Gordon."

Bill Wadt, Quality Improvement Office director

The new concept was born at a pivotal meeting among the top leaders of the labs, UC and the NNSA last year. With newly appointed Acting NNSA Administrator Linton Brooks in agreement, the labs began implementing the concept in earnest.

The old way of defining our objectives and measuring our progress in achieving them worked just fine in the years just after the former system was devised …

For FY03, the focus is on critical areas of systems and outcomes — the "critical few." The top leaders at NNSA, UC and the Labs will be asking two key questions in assessing the Lab's performance under the contract between UC and NNSA:

- Is the Lab producing appropriate national security, science and technology results?
- Is it producing those results efficiently, safely and securely?

The NNSA sets the program directions — the "what" and the Laboratory determines the best way to achieve those directions — the "how." "That's the beauty," Press says, "and it's also the challenge of the new process. It truly enables everyone to contribute to our institutional performance objectives." He stresses, "It's our chance to have more control over our destiny."

In all, FY03's program will have nine performance objectives, six of them programmatic and three on operations, with 39 underlying measures. Sixty percent of NNSA's appraisal of the Lab's performance in FY03 will be based on the programmatic objectives and 40 percent

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Don't fall for it!

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'Tips' from the Ombuds

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Los Alamos NewsLetter

The *Los Alamos NewsLetter,* the Laboratory bi-weekly publication for employees and retirees, is published by the Public Affairs Office in the Communications and External Relations (CER) Division. The staff is located in the IT Corp. Building at 135 B Central Park Square and can be reached by e-mail at *newsbulletin@lanl.gov*, by fax at 5-5552, by regular Lab mail at Mail Stop C177 or by calling the individual telephone numbers listed below.

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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.

NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration

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FROM THE TOP

UC President Atkinson to retire in October 2003

University of California President Richard Atkinson has announced his intention to retire on Oct. 1, 2003.

Atkinson, UC's 17th president, has directed the UC system since Oct. 1, 1995. He previously was chancellor of UC San Diego and director of the National Science Foundation.

"That is a lengthy period of time for positions of this kind," Atkinson told the Board of Regents at a meeting in San Francisco recently. "These have been extremely rewarding years — challenging, stimulating and deeply interesting years. But the time has come to bring them to a close and to allow the University to move forward under new leadership. It also is time, I might add, for my grandchildren to see more of their grandfather."

The UC Board of Regents will conduct a national search for Atkinson's successor, and a search committee of Regents will be appointed shortly by Chairman John Moores.

Following is a message from Atkinson to the UC community.

Richard C. Atkinson

Members of the University of California community

Today [Nov. 13] at the Board of Regents meeting in San Francisco, I announced my retirement as president of the university, effective Oct. 1, 2003. I wanted to pass along word of my decision to the rest of the University of California community as quickly as possible.

I reached my decision to retire only after careful consideration of both the university's needs and my own. I took office on Oct. 1, 1995, and when I step down next fall, I will have served for eight years. Of the 17 presidents of the University of California, only four have served longer. In addition, at the time of my retirement I will have spent 27 years as either director of the National Science Foundation, chancellor of UC San Diego or president of the University. That is a lengthy period of time for positions of this kind. These have been extremely rewarding years — challenging, stimulating and deeply interesting years. But the time has come to bring them to a close and to allow the university to move forward under new leadership. It also is time, I might add, for my grandchildren to see more of their grandfather.

One of the principal conclusions I have drawn from my time in office is that the University of California is an incredibly robust institution. When I became president, the university was grappling with severe budget constraints and a bitter conflict over affirmative action. I think it is fair to say that we have not only recovered from the difficulties of that era, but we have thrived. We have continued to recruit and retain faculty of the highest quality — faculty who, at every campus, have maintained and heightened the university's

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Editor's note: The following information was taken from a University of California news release issued Nov. 8.

McTague announces plans to leave UC lab management position

John McTague

After leading the University of California to strong improvements in the management and oversight of the Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos national laboratories, Vice President of Laboratory Management John McTague has announced his intention to return to UC Santa Barbara, where he holds a position as professor of materials.

McTague has served as the vice president of Laboratory Management since the university created the position in 2001 to help strengthen oversight and management of three national laboratories that the University of California operates for the Department of Energy and its National Nuclear Security Administration.

"It has been an honor and pleasure to work with an exceptionally able and collegial team at the laboratories, the UC Office of the President, DOE and NNSA. These laboratories are unique national resources, and I look forward to continuing to help them perform their invaluable service to our nation in any way I can," said McTague.

During his tenure, McTague initiated efforts that improved the university's management of the laboratories in a number of key areas including security, safety and accountability. Under his leadership, for example, UC engaged industrial firms to obtain important expertise in security and project management to first reassess and then strengthen the labs' internal systems in these areas.

McTague's announcement comes a month after the NNSA, the semi-autonomous agency that oversees the national security labs at Livermore and Los Alamos, completed a focused

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New buildings replace Cerro Grande Fire losses

by Jim Danneskiold

The Laboratory has dedicated two new buildings to replace office space lost in the Cerro Grande Fire.

The two office buildings, each roughly 22,000 square feet, will house about 100 staff each from the Chemistry (C) and the Engineering Sciences and Applications (ESA) divisions. Employees already have begun moving into the C-Division building and soon will begin moving into the ESA building.

The C-Division building is located at Technical Area 46, and the new ESA Division building is located on the east side of NM 502 about a quarter mile past the main entrance to Technical Area 16.

"We're proud of the close cooperation among the contractor, subcontractors, the Laboratory and NNSA in getting these office buildings completed on time, within budget and with no time lost to accidents," said Jim Jones, construction manager for the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project Office (FWO-CGRP). "In a small way, these buildings signify that the Laboratory is recovering from the fire and is committed to providing its employees with a comfortable, modern workplace."

Flintco Inc. of Tulsa, Okla., and the integrated project team from the Laboratory and the Office of Los Alamos Site Operations met all the University of California performance measures for the project, Jones said.

"On several occasions, there were more than 70 workers in each building, which made for some tight working quarters. Good planning and excellent communication among all the members of the project team made it possible to meet the challenging schedule milestones required for the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project," Jones said.

Chemistry (C) Division Building

Engineering Sciences and Applications (ESA) Division Building

Portable buildings used as offices and other structures burned at both TA-46 and TA-16 during the Cerro Grande Fire that struck the Laboratory in May 2000. Jones praised NNSA and the Congress for having the vision to provide funds to replace those buildings and remove others that are vulnerable to future fires.

Construction of both new buildings followed a design-build approach, in which a single contractor integrates facility planning, design and construction, along with budgets, scheduling and quality control. Jones said the approach represents the best value for the Laboratory when schedule constraints drive a project.

"The teamwork on these two projects produced some great working relationships that we can build on as we improve the facilities and infrastructure critical to the Laboratory's mission," Jones said.

The new structures are the fourth and fifth small office buildings completed for employees previously housed in substandard and portable buildings. Six more of the buildings, which cost less than $5 million each, are under contract.

Jim Holt, associate director for operations, served as host for the dedication ceremonies, which were attended by officials from NNSA and OLASO.

Laboratory officials and invited guests cut a ribbon on the Lab's new Chemistry (C) Division Building earlier this month at Technical Area 46. Officials also dedicated a new Engineering Sciences and Applications (ESA) Division office building at TA-16. Among Lab staff and invited guests taking part in the ribbon cutting at the C Division Building are, from left to right, Judith Bannon Snow, deputy associate director for strategic research (ADSR); Dick Burick, former deputy Lab director for operations and now a consultant to the Lab; Carol Burns, C Division deputy leader; Jim Holt, deputy Laboratory director for operations; Carolyn Zerkle, deputy for institutional facilities and construction; and Dennis Miotla of the National Nuclear Security Administration. The two buildings replace structures lost in the May 2000 Cerro Grande Fire. Each building will house 100 staff members. *Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez*

TO YOUR HEALTH

Exercise and appetite

Here's a good reason to go for a walk before that Thanksgiving feast.

The belief that exercise will make you hungry is largely a myth. Appetite actually is more manageable after exercise. Furthermore, if you eat a little more after exercise, the extra food is more than offset by calories expended during the exercise.

— American Institute for Preventive Medicine

A new way ...

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on operations. In contrast, last year's appraisal was a 50-50 split with hundreds of performance measures.

Rolled out to the associate directors in October, the document will be introduced Labwide after Thanksgiving.

Press chairs the Contract Performance Evaluation Board with members John Immele, deputy director for national security; Jim Holt, associate director for operations; and Rich Marquez, associate director for administration. The board is charged with developing, implementing and overseeing the process. Wadt is executive secretary to the board.

Browne has assigned each of the 39 performance measures to an associate director, who has developed a one-page implementation guideline explaining how the evaluation will work. The board is working over the next month with each associate director to refine and improve the guidelines.

Says Press, "This new procedure is a major step toward achieving John Browne's vision of integrated management, providing clear direction about the Lab's strategic objectives. More than ever, we're accountable for the objectives and measures process, a process that gives all of us much more control together with much more responsibility and accountability."

Uninvited guests can spoil holidays

by Fran Talley

With all the time, effort and planning that goes into holiday cooking, it's tempting to take a few shortcuts when it comes to preparing the meal. But don't.

Food preparation practices popular during this time of year can increase the risk for unwelcome bacteria and food-related illness. Hectic schedules may contribute to cutting corners in the kitchen, and home cooks may be less familiar with cooking the large pieces of meat often served at this time of year. Buffet dinners and large-group meals also pose special challenges.

Keep dining experiences safe and enjoyable this holiday season by following these tips:

• Practice the clean-separate-cook-chill guidelines.

Clean: Wash hands and food-contact surfaces often.
Separate: Don't cross-contaminate; this is especially important for raw meat and seafood.
Cook: Cook to proper temperatures. Use a food thermometer.
Chill: Refrigerate promptly.

• Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. The "danger zone" for the growth of harmful bacteria is 40-140 degrees F.

• Perishable foods should not be left at room temperature for more than two hours. (Try not to be the last through the buffet line!)

• Enjoy commercial eggnog, but stay clear of home-prepared eggnog made with raw eggs. Salmonella, present in raw and undercooked eggs, also is a risk in raw, homemade cookie dough containing eggs.

• Follow food-safety guidelines for the preparation, handling and storage of homemade food gifts that you give and receive.

These food-safety tips are courtesy of the Wellness Center (HSR-2). For more information, visit the Gateway to Government Food Safety Information seasonal advice pages at *http://www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/holiday.html*.

Safe kids in the kitchen

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign, a national, nonprofit organization dedicated solely to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury, recommends the following tips for keeping children safe as they learn to help out in the kitchen. For more information go to *http://www.safekids.org* online.

• Have a fire extinguisher nearby and post emergency numbers near the phone.
• Never leave a child unattended in the kitchen.
• Never hold a child while cooking.
• Put pans on back burners and turn all pot handles toward the back of the stove.
• Use caution when heating food and liquids in a microwave.
• Supervise the child when he or she is near or using a microwave, and never let a young child (under age 10) remove heated items from the microwave.
• Make sure you and your children wear close-fitting clothing when cooking.
• Never leave cooking food unattended — it is the number-one cause of house fires.
• Place hot foods and liquids away from the edges of counters and tables.
• Pay particular attention to items sitting on tablecloths or place mats, so that young children cannot pull hot food or liquid down and scald themselves.
• Unplug appliance cords when not in use and keep them tied up out of children's reach.

Atkinson …

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standards of excellence in teaching and research. We have continued to provide access to a world-class education for California's highest-achieving students, and the dramatic expansion of our outreach and teacher professional development programs has helped ensure that the University of California will be within the reach of students from all backgrounds and walks of life. We have planned intelligently for growth, expanding our capacity to keep the university open to future generations of California's youth. And we have reached out to the state in countless innovative ways, increasing our service to the people of California and providing solutions for many of the problems facing our society.

It is not the president who is solely, or even chiefly, responsible for these achievements. It is the University of California community — The Regents, faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni and friends of the university. And that is why, even in a time of budget uncertainty once again, I am confident in the university's continued vitality. Over the next 10 months, I will work to keep the university's budget on as firm a footing as possible and to provide a smooth transition for my successor as president. But for the long term, this university's success lies in the capable hands of our creative, energetic and dedicated community of people. I am enormously proud of all you have achieved, and I will look back on my years at UC with great fondness.

McTague …

continued from Page 2

two-year review of the university's contract in five specific areas: management accountability, safety and security, facilities safety, project management and critical skills (skilled work-force retention). The university received the highest performance rating possible from the NNSA in all categories. Additionally, the labs consistently receive outstanding rankings from NNSA for the quality of their science and technology programs.

McTague also improved the internal procedures for completing large-scale, complex scientific projects on budget and on time.

"It's clear that John's leadership and private sector experience have led to real changes in the day-to-day management of the labs," said UC President Richard Atkinson. "These improvements come at a time when once again all of us are reminded of the critical importance of the scientific mission of the men and women working in these laboratories."

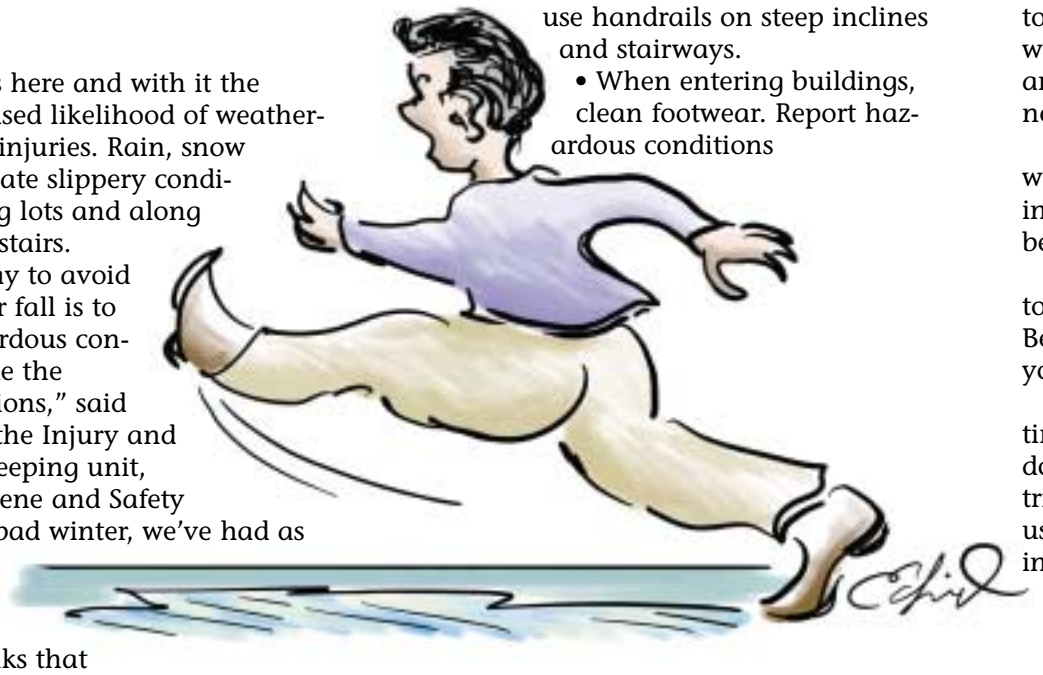
"While I am pleased with our progress, the university will continue to pursue every opportunity to strengthen our management performance of these important national science and technology assets. Therefore, the appointment of a successor will have my highest priority," President Atkinson concluded.

McTague's resignation will become effective with the appointment of a new vice president.

Don't fall for it!

Winter weather can bring hidden risks

by Fran Talley



Winter is here and with it the increased likelihood of weather-related worker injuries. Rain, snow and ice can create slippery conditions in parking lots and along walkways and stairs.

"The best way to avoid a serious slip or fall is to recognize hazardous conditions and take the proper precautions," said John Vance of the Injury and Illness Recordkeeping unit, Industrial Hygiene and Safety (HSR-5). "In a bad winter, we've had as many as 90 falls on ice in parking lots and on sidewalks that resulted in minor and some recordable injuries," he added.

Vance encourages workers to "take a fresh approach" in addressing winter safety hazards. "Under the director's safety and security policy, the 'stop work and address the hazard' concept also must apply here," explained Vance. "In other words, it is simply not acceptable to walk on icy surfaces or expect others to do so. If a worker is the first to arrive at the workplace [and de-icer is readily available], his or her first obligation is to de-ice the sidewalks before other work is done, but only if it can be done safely. "

Other recommendations:

• Wear the appropriate footwear. Flat shoes with slip-resistant soles or rain/snow boots are best because they provide traction.

• If an employee is required to work on an icy surface, the supervisor should provide the worker cleats.

• Be observant. Watch out for ice that may be covered by snow. Take note of buildings that have snow and ice accumulation on the roof.

• Walk slowly and stay alert. Take short flat steps with feet slightly spread apart.

• Watch for warning signs in areas where danger is most prominent. Always use handrails on steep inclines and stairways.

• When entering buildings, clean footwear. Report hazardous conditions to the facility manager during normal work hours or to Emergency Management and Response (S-8) at 7-6211 outside normal work hours.

• Don't carry cumbersome packages while walking on icy surfaces. Leave them in the car until the ice and snow have been cleared.

• In the event of a fall, there are ways to help prevent or mitigate serious injury. Be prepared to just sit down if you feel yourself losing your balance.

"Slip-and-fall injuries can occur anytime," added Vance. "Workers also fall down (and up) stairs, slip on wet floors, trip on objects and fall off ladders. Each of us has a responsibility to prevent our own injury, as well as that of our coworkers."

During inclement weather, dial UPDATE at 7-6622 or 1-877-723-4101 (toll free) to find out about delays or closures at the Laboratory.

Ombuds Tips

Editor's note: Starting with this issue, the online Daily Newsbulletin and Los Alamos NewsLetter are featuring a column from the Ombuds Program Office, "tips," that provides advice, vignettes and ideas for promoting a cooperative and collaborative workplace and minimizing damaging conflict (some types of conflict are useful). The column will appear regularly and, in the online Daily Newsbulletin, will include links to sites that will avail the reader of more in-depth information and suggestions.

Communication tips for working in an organization

Switch from being on automatic to being on purpose

1. Solicit feedback from others on your communication style and effectiveness.
2. Assess your own knowledge and training about communication.
3. Define organizational communication protocols.
4. Look at the structure of the organization and how it impacts all communication.
5. Use active listening.

1) Actively solicit feedback about your own communication and communication within the organization. Ask colleagues questions like the following:

- When we talk, are you generally clear about what I am saying?
- Do you think we communicate well around here?
- Do you have any ideas about how we could communicate better?
- Consider including these questions (or similar ones) in your performance-management process or staff meetings.

2) Assess your own communication knowledge and understanding

3) When working with your staff, define how you should communicate in the organization. Develop consensus regarding

- how disagreements should be handled.
- how horizontal communication should work (colleague to colleague).
- how vertical communication should work (manager to staff, staff to manager).
- what information should be available and when.

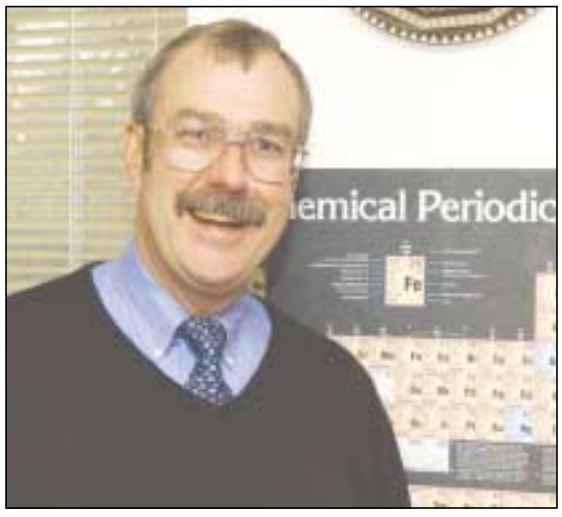
Once consensus is reached, support the achievement of these goals through positive reinforcement and coaching.

4) Look at the impact of the structure of your organization and how it impacts communication. Indirect communication (communication that is transferred from person to person) is notorious for causing problems. Look at increasing direct communication in which the person with the message to send does it directly with the receiver.

5) Learn about, and use, active listening techniques. This will set a tone and contribute to a positive communication climate. If you don't know what active listening is, find out. It's important.

Useful Links:
http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/extension/areas/workplace/communication.html
http://www.lanl.gov/ombuds/

For more information and options contact, DeeDee McInroy or Lorrie Bonds Lopez in the Ombuds office at 5-2837 or *Ombuds@LANL.gov*.



Alfred Sattelberger

Sattelberger elected AAAS Fellow

Alfred Sattelberger has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Leader of the Chemistry (C) Division, Sattelberger was elected a Fellow by the AAAS Council for his "distinguished contributions to early transition metal and actinide chemistry and for building an outstanding inorganic chemistry program at Los Alamos National Laboratory."

AAAS is a nonprofit professional society dedicated to the advancement of scientific and technological excellence across all disciplines and to the public's understanding of science and technology. AAAS membership comprises more than 134,000 scientists, engineers, science educators, policymakers and other professionals worldwide.

As a Fellow, Sattelberger joins an elite group of more than 10,000 of the nation's leading researchers. He will be honored this coming February in Denver, during the AAAS Fellows Forum, part of the organization's annual meeting.

"I am honored that my peers in AAAS have recognized my work in this way," Sattelberger said. "I share this award with my mentors, colleagues and collaborators. I'd also like to acknowledge the Chemical Sciences, Geosciences and Biosciences divisions in the Department of Energy's Office of Basic Energy Sciences for their generous support of inorganic chemistry research at Los Alamos."

Sattelberger received his doctorate from Indiana University in inorganic chemistry and was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at Case Western Reserve University before joining the chemistry department faculty at the University of Michigan. He moved to Los Alamos in 1984, working as a staff member in the Isotope and Nuclear Chemistry Division.

Since 1988, he has held various leadership positions at Los Alamos, including deputy division leader for the Isotope and Nuclear Chemistry Division; deputy director and later director for Science and Technology Base Programs; and director of Energy Research Programs. His research interests include actinide coordination and organometallic chemistry, technetium chemistry, multiple metal-metal bonding and transition metal allyl chemistry.

Albert selected to present lecture at Ohio State University

Diane Albert of Materials Science and Technology (MST-DO) was selected to give the Department of Materials Science and Engineering Distinguished Alumna Lecture last month at Ohio State University, where she received both of her bachelor degrees.

The lecture series was established in 1984 to recognize a graduate of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering who has made significant contributions to advancement in the field.

Diane Albert

At the Laboratory, Albert addresses technical work-force career-succession issues; introduces materials science to Northern New Mexico students in grades kindergarten through beginning college courses; and creates educational partnerships among the Lab, the private sector, and New Mexico universities and community colleges. She has been a Lab employee since 1993.

Albert received her first bachelor's degree in math education at Ohio State University in 1979. She then received a second bachelor's degree in metallurgy in 1982. Subsequently she attended Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, where she received both her master's degree and doctorate in metallurgical engineering and materials science.

Charlotte Lindsey

Robert Teller

Two employees help shape culture/policy

Two New Mexico natives, **Charlotte Lindsey** and **Robert Teller** of the Chief Information Office, are doing their part to shape culture and policy at the Lab.

Teller is the new Information Architecture Project leader (CIO-PO) and Lindsey is a new adviser to Chief Information Officer Richard Kendall (CIO-PO). Both have been employed at the Laboratory in various capacities for many decades.

As an information architecture project leader, Teller will help set various standards for desktop computing, software engineering, Web computing and cyber security.

He said he will look at the Lab as a whole to find out what kind of standards are needed to make the Lab more uniform. He said one of his goals is to convince people that following guidelines will make work easier at the Lab.

"We'll also save a lot of money by standardizing, which means having the same machines, same memory and same operating systems," he said.

Teller is a 1971 graduate of Academy High School in Albuquerque. After attending the University of New Mexico for two years, he transferred to Harvard where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's of business administration.

Lindsey reviews the best business practices from the private sector and other government agencies, incorporating those ideas into the Lab whenever possible. Like Teller, she also is concerned with all aspects of information management. She helps form policies, resolve issues and improve procedures for information management, cyber security and software quality.

She is a former chief information officer for the Health, Safety and Radiation Protection (HSR) Division. With a bachelor's degree in math from New Mexico Tech in Socorro and a master's of business administration from the University of New Mexico, Lindsey came to the Lab in 1983.

NEWS FROM DOE

Bennett new program manager of DOE's Nanoscale Science Research Centers

Kristin Bennett

Kristin Bennett, formerly of the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center, has been named program manager of the Department of Energy's Nanoscale Science Research Centers.

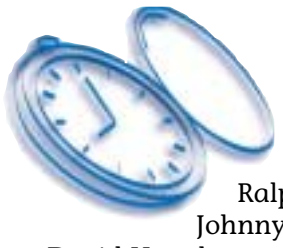
In her new role, Bennett will be responsible for the construction — and ultimately the operation — of five new user facilities that will focus on the fabrication, utilization and characterization of nanoscale devices. A nanoscale device could be something like a computer the size of a grain of sand, an extremely small medicine-delivery-control system that could be implanted in humans or one of a number of extremely tiny devices that could perform a variety of functions; nanoscience is the development and study of such devices.

Under the National Nanoscience Initiative, the DOE Nanoscale Science Research Centers are part of a nearly $680 million budget request in fiscal year 2003 for nanoscience and nanotechnology research in the United States. The DOE Basic Energy Sciences program requested $25 million in FY '03 for the project engineering design and construction of three Nanoscale Science Research Centers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory/Los Alamos National Laboratory. Planning for two additional centers is under way at Brookhaven National Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory. The anticipated operations budgets of all five centers will total approximately $100 million when they are fully operational in several years.

Laboratory retirees learn about health-care-plan changes

Open enrollment continues through Nov. 30

Chris Binns, left, of Benefits and Employment Services (HR-B), talks with Laboratory retiree Darrell Call and his wife Shirley during an open enrollment 2003 presentation last week in Surprise, Ariz. Some 50 University of California Lab retirees attended the presentation in Arizona. The presentations are designed to present UC Lab employees and retirees with information on health-care-plan changes for next year. For more information about open enrollment 2003, go to www.lanl.gov/source/worklife/benefits/health/openenrollment/index.shtml online. *Photo by Mike Terrill, Laboratory retiree*



November service anniversaries

30 years
John Bdzil, DX-2
Ralph Brewer, DX-2
Johnny Herrera, LANSCE-7
David Honaberger, DX-8
Rosemary Martinez, MST-6
Anthony Montoya, FWO-CFS
Dennis Montoya, LANSCE-1
John Nyhan, RRES-ECO
Ronald, Oliver, EES-7
Dean Peterson, MST-STC
Martin Piltch, MST-6
William Porch, EES-2
Bruce Wienki, X-7

25 years
Peter Anders, NMT-4
Rebecca Baca, ESA-FM-ESH
Geoffrey Dransfield, NIS-6
John Fitzpatrick, NMT-11
Victor Gavron, DIR
Raymond Jermance, NIS-DO
Thomas Kozlowski, LANSCE-12
Stella Ledbetter, CER-20
Carlos Martinez, DX-6
Tim Merrigan, CCN-5
Michael Oothoudt, LANSCE-6
Lawrence Stretz, ESA-WMM
Richard Warren, EES-6
Edwina Wood, BUS-DO

20 years
Carla Brewer, X-4
Bonita Busse, ADO
Deborah Ehler, C-SIC
Amy Martinez, NMT-4
Jungjo Pyun, X-4
Dale Talbott, ESA-WR
Michael Trujillo, HSR-5
Cynthia Wallace, IM-8

15 years
Benjamin Adams, CCS-4
Mary Cisper, C-ADI
Patricia Montoya, IBD
Linda Nonno, RRES-R
Steven Rae, RRES-WQH
David Romero, PM-DS
Bill Zwick, PS-DO

10 years
Tanmoy Bhattacharya, T-8
Michael Clevenger, RRES-R
Kathryn Creek, MST-6
Mark Dunham, D-DoD
Hans Frauenfelder, T-CNLS
Gilbert Gonzales, RRES-ECO
Cyril Jakubowski, HSR-3
John Lucero, BUS-5
Neomi Salazar, NMT-7
Michael Smith, ESA-GTS
Philip Tubesing, MST-6
Bernice Williams, LANSCE-12

5 years
Orlando Archuleta, FWO-SWO
William Averill, D-7
C.S. Randa Brown, HSR-4
Albert Chacon, BUS-4
Dayna Cordova, T-6
Stephen Dennison, DX-3
Audra Espinoza, LANSCE-5
Louis Fernandez, DX-8
Reiner Friedel, NIS-2
Michael Gallagher, CCN-2
Debra Griego, PM-18
Luciano Gutierrez, S-4
Rita Henins, PS-7
John Kaszuba, C-INC
Mark Kozubal, C-ACS
Therese Lowery, NIS-1
Leonard Maez, FWO-DF
David Martinez, C-ACT
John Mitchell, ESA-AET
Donna Osborn, ADSR
Susan Pollard-Walker, ADWEM-QAO
Elaine Rodriguez, ADWEM
Belinda Teller, B-DO
Claudette Trujillo, NMT-16
Sandra Turner, CCN-4
Peter Walstrom, LANSCE-1
Stephen Watkins, CCN-2
Allen Wood, HSR-12

Because of the winter closure Dec. 25 through Jan. 2, the Los Alamos NewsLetter will not publish the week of Dec. 23.

There will be newsletters the weeks of Dec. 9 and Jan. 6.

This month in history ...

November

1883 — Railroads create the first time zones. At exactly noon on Nov. 18, American and Canadian railroads begin using four continental time zones to end the confusion of dealing with thousands of local times.

1916 — Jack London, one of the University of California, Berkeley's, more famous drop-outs, dies Nov. 22.

1924 — New York City's Macy department store holds its first Thanksgiving Day parade down a two-mile stretch of Broadway from Central Park West to Herald Square.

1929 — American explorer Richard Byrd and three companions make the first flight over the South Pole, flying from their base on the Ross Ice Shelf to the pole and back in 18 hours and 41 minutes.

1941 — President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs a bill officially establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. President George Washington became the first president to proclaim a Thanksgiving holiday, when, at the request of Congress, he proclaimed Nov. 26, a Tuesday, as a day of national thanksgiving. However, it was not until 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving to fall on the last Thursday of November, that the modern holiday was celebrated nationally.

1950 — Two Puerto Rican nationalists attempt to assassinate President Harry S. Truman at Blair House, Washington, D.C., (where the Truman's were living during a three-year renovation of the White House). One of the gunman and one White House policemen were killed.

1963 — John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, is assassinated Nov. 22.

1969 — The first space-to-ground news conference is telecast. Reporters in Houston submitted written questions to a lieutenant at the Houston NASA base, who read them to astronauts aboard Apollo 12.

1982 — Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated Nov. 13 after the end of a week-long national salute to Americans who served in the Vietnam War and a march to its site in Washington, D.C., by thousands of veterans of the conflict

And this from the Nov. 28,1958, LASL Bulletin: Certain portions of Los Alamos County are closed to hiking, hunting, picnicking, horseback riding and other unofficial activities. The major portion of the closed area is bounded on the north by East Jemez Road (Sandia Access Road), on the west by the West Jemez Road and on the south and east by State Road 4. The prohibited area also includes the approaches to TA-33 and portions of Los Alamos and Bayo canyons.

The information in this column comes from several sources including the online History Channel, Chase's 2002 Calendar of Events, the Newsbulletin and its predecessors, the atomic archive.com, Echo Virtual Center, Science & Technology and Real History Archives.

Submissions are welcome. Send them to goldie@lanl.gov and be sure to reference your source.

United Way: It's never too late

As of press time, this year's United Way campaign has raised $734,606, including a $25,000 donation from the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation, in pledges and donations. Though the Lab's campaign to help those in the Northern New Mexico region officially closed Nov. 15, it is never too late to give. Donations and pledges that come in after Nov. 15 still will be counted toward this year's campaign.

"Spotlighted" on this page are but a few of the many, and certainly varied, ways the Laboratory and its employees rose to the call to help those in need — and had a good time while they were at it!

Campaign kickoff drew large crowd

Above: Members of Mariachi Encanto of Santa Fe provide musical entertainment at this year's United Way kickoff. From left to right are Gilbert Lopez, Albert Martinez and Bob Anaya.

Left: Donna Vigil of Accounting (BUS-1) looks at one of a number of cookbooks for sale at the United Way book fair in Fuller Lodge. The book fair was part of the kickoff for this year's Laboratory United Way giving campaign. *Photos by LeRoy N. Sanchez*

Raffles, other events helped raise funds for United Way

Elmer Torres of the Community Relations (CRO) Office holds a piece of pottery that was raffled to raise funds for the Lab's 2003 United Way campaign. The weaving on the wall and numerous other prizes donated by local businesses also were raffled. Lab personnel who returned their United Way pledge card or pledge online were eligible for additional prizes, including airline tickets, placards for government vehicle parking spaces, mineral-spa passes, Santa Fe Opera and dinner theater tickets. *Photo by Vanessa De La Cruz, CRO*

'Dunking for dollars'

Rich Marquez, associate director for administration, steps out of the dunk tank at the Business Operations (BUS) Division fund-raising event for United Way at the Los Alamos Research Park. Marquez and several managers from BUS agreed to be dunked to raise money for this year's campaign. More than $4,500 was raised at the event. *Photo by Vanessa De La Cruz, CRO*

Halloween fun

"The Black Widow," also known as Lucy Maestas, right, of Plasma Physics (P-24), was one of several costume contest entrants in the United Way Halloween fund-raising event in the Otowi Cafeteria side dining rooms and outdoor patio. Maestas won second place in the costume contest. Nikki Gaedecke, left, of Enterprise Support and Computer Education (IM-2) won the costume contest wearing a Ghostbuster costume made by Audra Tucker also of IM-2. *Photos by LeRoy N. Sanchez*

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