

# NVLAP<sup>®</sup> NEWS

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

[www.nist.gov/nvlap](http://www.nist.gov/nvlap)

## NVLAP Celebrates World Accreditation Day



Sally Bruce, NVLAP Chief, on the telecast to other NIST locations in Boulder, Colorado and Charleston, South Carolina.



Looking over the cake that was decorated with the World Accreditation Day logo are NVLAP staff, from foreground clockwise: Lori Gruber, Beth Hackett, Sally Bruce, Ileana Martinez and Barbara Belzer.

Photos courtesy of Lena Kem of NVLAP Staff

NVLAP celebrated World Accreditation Day on June 8, 2010, one day early, by sponsoring a NIST-wide activity on customer service. The day-long event featured speakers Ms. Monica Wofford, CSP of Contagious Companies, Inc., who spoke on *Meeting Yours and Your Customer's Needs and Contagious Customer Service*, and Mr. Bob Norton, of the NIST Employee Assistance Program who presented *Making the Most of Change*. NVLAP provided employee-donated goodies for the reception held during the day-long program.

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World Accreditation Day is a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation activities. 2010 marks the 10th anniversary of the ILAC MRA, of which NVLAP has been a full member for the entire time.

# NIST Reorganization 2010

**The following was published in the *NIST Standards Alumni Association* newsletter and offers a very good summary about the NIST reorganization.**

In July, the U. S. Congress approved the second and final phase of NIST's reorganization. The changes are intended to improve delivery of services and tie NIST's individual laboratory programs more directly to specific mission goals. The proposed arrangement provides a more stable management structure and allows the director to focus on NIST-wide goals and strategic directions, while strengthening relationships with NIST's many external stakeholders.

The realignment effort was divided into two phases—the first phase was a change in the organization of the Director's Office and senior executive management. This part replaces the previous deputy-director position with three associate-director positions. The Associate Director for Laboratory Programs will oversee the NIST technical laboratory programs and functions and will serve as the principal deputy when the director is unavailable. The Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services will coordinate the externally focused programs: the Technology Innovation Program, Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and Baldrige National Quality Program. The Associate Director for Management Resources will direct all support services and business operations at NIST. A nationwide search for candidates for these positions is ongoing. The first phase also creates the position of Chief Safety Officer, which reports to the Associate Director for Management Resources. Dr. Richard Kayser will assume this new position and will direct NIST's Gaithersburg and Boulder organizations dedicated to strengthening, promoting and sustaining a stronger safety culture in all aspects of NIST programs. Also included is a new entity called the Office of the Boulder Site Manager, which will report to the Associate Director for Management Resources.

The second phase comprises a reduction in the number of major operating units from ten to six and an associated realignment of their responsibilities. It restructures NIST's technical programs into two measurement laboratories (Materials Measurement Laboratory and Physical Measurement Laboratory), two technology laboratories (Engineering Laboratory and Information Technology Laboratory), and two user facilities (Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology and the NIST Center for Neutron Research). This phase also includes changes related to coordination of crosscutting programs within the NIST laboratories and to organizational placement of several administrative programs such as those now housed in Technology Services.

NVLAP will be moving from Technology Services to the Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML) with NIST's Calibration Services, Metric Program, Physical Reference Data, Precision Measurement and Weights and Measures. The PML mission and related activities include: realize and disseminate the national standards for length, mass, time and frequency, electricity, temperature, force, acceleration, pressure and vacuum, flow, acoustical pressure, and microwave, optical and ionizing radiation by activities ranging from fundamental research in measurement science to provision of measurement services and standards.

## ***NVLAP Documents – New/Revised (April-June 2010)***

The following publications and forms have been issued since the last newsletter, and may be downloaded from the NVLAP web site. For revised publications and forms, the edition noted supersedes and replaces the previous edition. In accordance with NVLAP's document control policy, NVLAP-accredited laboratories and NVLAP assessors must ensure that all obsolete documents are removed from points of use.

If you have questions about these updates, please contact the NVLAP Program Manager assigned to the specific LAP (see Staff Directory at <http://www.nist.gov/ts/ssd/nvlap/nvlapstaff.cfm>), or Vanda White, NVLAP Quality Manager, at [vanda.white@nist.gov](mailto:vanda.white@nist.gov).

### ***Biometrics Testing LAP***

- Biometrics Testing Application Form (rev. 2010-06-23)

### ***Calibration Laboratories LAP***

- NIST Handbook 150-2 Checklist, *Supplemental Checklist for Verification of Compliance to ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994, Part I* (rev. 2010-04-12)

### ***Construction Materials Testing LAP***

Construction Materials Testing Application Form (rev. 2010-05-06)

### ***Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry LAP***

Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry Proficiency Testing Registration forms (rev. 2010-06-22)

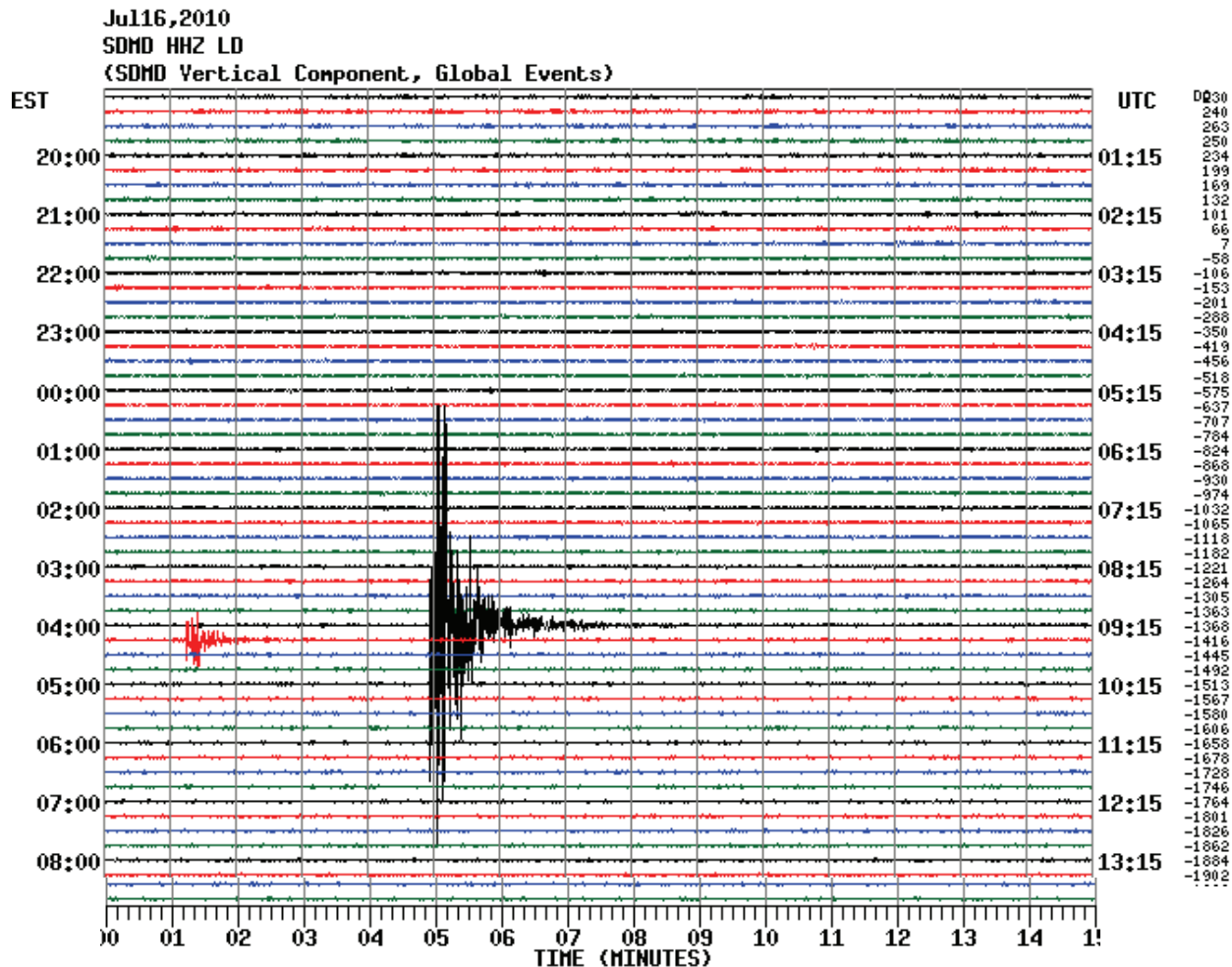
### ***Radiation Detection Instruments***

- NIST Handbook 150-23:2010, *Homeland Security Applications: Radiation Detection Instruments* (April 2010)
- NIST Handbook 150-23 Checklist, *Homeland Security Applications: Radiation Detection Instruments* (2010-04-13)
- NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-51-2010, *Release of NIST Handbook 150-23, April 2010 Edition* (2010-05-06)

## Gaithersburg Experiences an Earthquake!



Maryland Geological Survey  
<http://www.mgs.md.gov>



Maryland Geological Survey, *Baltimore Sun*, July 16, 2010—Seismograph record from the earthquake from Soldiers Delight station

On Friday, July 16, 2010, at 5:04 a.m., Gaithersburg experienced a 3.6 magnitude earthquake centered about three miles from NIST, in Germantown, Maryland. It was the first reported earthquake to originate in Montgomery County, Maryland and the major effect was vibration. Earthquakes in Maryland and Northern Virginia are uncommon but not unprecedented. Since 1980, 14 earthquakes have been felt within about 50 miles of the July 16th earthquake, but all were smaller than this event.

According to the U. S. Geological Survey, the quake was felt in much of central Maryland, in northern District of Columbia and in much of Loudon County, Virginia. It was also felt from Charlottesville, Virginia, to Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Newark, Delaware, and from Martinsburg, West Virginia into the Eastern Shore of Maryland. It was also felt in parts of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Ohio, with isolated reports as far away as Indiana, Massachusetts and South Carolina.

## *Did we have a tornado on the NIST campus?*



The Gaithersburg, MD area has had a rough summer this year that has included prolonged temperatures over 100 degrees and thunderstorms with heavy winds. On Sunday, July 25, a short period of heavy rains and straight line winds hit the NIST Gaithersburg campus around 3:15 p.m. The campus lost power for a brief period of time, but many trees were down across the site and blocked roads, parking lot spaces and sidewalks. Fortunately, the NIST campus was not closed, but it is taking quite a while to remove the downed trees and debris from the site. These photos provide an overview of some of the devastation endured by the NIST campus.



Jeffrey Horlick, NIST Guest Researcher and NVLAP retiree, standing beside one of the many trees that were uprooted during the storm.

Photos courtesy of Lori Gruber and Hazel Richmond of NVLAP and Jim Filliben of NIST ITL

## Recent Staff Activities



NVLAP assessor training seminar at IEEE Symposium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, July 25, 2010.

NVLAP staff have been busy during the month of July, traveling far and near, since the last newsletter. Barbara Belzer participated on an evaluation team in South America for the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC).  
Brad Moore participated on an evaluation team in Japan for the Japanese Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (JAB).  
NVLAP sponsored a tutorial at the NCSLI Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, conducted by Barbara Belzer and Tom Hettenhouser. Brad Moore and Beth Hackett chaired an assessor training session at the International Electrical and Electronics Engineers Symposium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



While in South America, Barbara Belzer met up with this "little" fellow, an Iguana affectionately nicknamed "Chaz."

## NVLAP at Biometric Consortium Conference



NVLAP staff will attend the 2010 Biometric Consortium Conference & Technology Expo, September 21 – 23, 2010, at the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, Florida. The NVLAP exhibit will also be displayed at the Expo.

The Conference is supported by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Security Agency (NSA), the Biometrics Consortium Conference is focused on Biometric Technologies for Defense, Homeland Security, Identity Management, Border Crossing and Electronic Commerce. The Conference will be two and a half days of presentations, seminars and panel discussions with the participation of internationally recognized experts in biometric technologies, system and application developers, IT business strategists, and government and commercial officers. For more information please go to the web site at <[www.biometrics.org/bc2010](http://www.biometrics.org/bc2010)>.

If you are in the area, please stop by to say "Hello" at booth 112.



## WHAT WE DO

The National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) provides third-party accreditation to testing and calibration laboratories. NVLAP's accreditation programs are established in response to Congressional mandates or administrative actions by the Federal Government or to requests from private-sector organizations and government agencies. NVLAP operates an accreditation system that is compliant with ISO/IEC 17011, which requires that the competence of applicant laboratories be assessed by the accreditation body against all of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.

### NVLAP Mission Statement

To deliver high quality, value-driven accreditation services to testing and calibration laboratories by:

- ◆ meeting or exceeding customer expectations;
- ◆ operating to globally accepted requirements for accreditation bodies;
- ◆ promoting world-wide acceptance of test and calibration results of NVLAP-accredited laboratories; and
- ◆ pursuing organizational and technical excellence.

### NVLAP Vision Statement

To be a world-class accreditation body recognized nationally and internationally for raising the bar and setting the standard for excellence in accreditation.



*Photo taken by Brian Renegar of NIST*

### **Flag-Draped Administration Building**

*NVLAP is located on the campus of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD*

**NVLAP News** is published by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, Standards Services Division, Technology Services, National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce. Comments are welcome. **Hazel M. Richmond**, Editor, NIST/**NVLAP**, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2140, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2140. Phone: (301) 975-4016; Fax: (301) 926-2884; E-mail: [nvlap@nist.gov](mailto:nvlap@nist.gov). The URL address for the **NVLAP** Home Page is <<http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>>.