

# NewsLetter

Week of Feb. 14, 2005

Vol. 6, No. 4

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Last fall, Karen Fisher of Continuum Dynamics (CCS-2) and Matthew Murray of Proton Radiography (P-25) were driving between work sites on East Jemez Road when they saw a man laying in full view near his car. The victim had been changing a tire before collapsing. . . . .Page 8



Safety walkarounds are an important part of the Laboratory's overall safety-awareness program. As a Laboratory employee, how does the safety walk-around program help you be safe in your workplace? Learn what your co-workers had to say on Page 6.



*The Hubble Space telescope captured the image of the bow shock around the very young star, LL Ori, featured in this Hubble Heritage image. A similar bow-shock image would be visible if an observer outside our solar system were to look back at the sun and its neighborhood in space. Image courtesy of NASA and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)*

## Los Alamos instrument to be on NASA IBEX mission

by Nancy Ambrosiano

A new NASA mission, IBEX, will probe the very edge of the solar system, capturing the quiet hum of a vast, distant shock wave. One of its two instruments is a compact Los Alamos device called the High Energy Neutral Atom Imager. The mission, called the Interstellar Boundary Explorer satellite, will launch in 2008 and carry two energetic neutral atom cameras out beyond Earth's magnetosphere, where they will watch for telltale particles ricocheting back across millions of miles from the outer boundary of the solar system.

Our solar system lies in a protective bubble, or cul-de-sac, that is created by material and magnetic fields that flow out of the sun. As the solar wind streams out far beyond Pluto, racing a million miles per hour, it reaches the edge of our bubble and collides with the material between the stars, the interstellar medium. A shock wave forms at that intersection point. The Los Alamos camera is designed to detect the particles that are heated and stream away from that boundary.

"The only emissions from the shock that we can measure at Earth are these atoms that have been heated and thrown out from the shock. These atoms are the quiet hum of the distant shock wave," said Herb Funsten of the Center for Space Science and Exploration (ISR-CSSE).

"The new technology on IBEX will finally let us measure this hum in all directions of the sky and see how it changes over time. This will allow us to understand the properties of the shock and the nature of local interstellar clouds," he said.

The craft itself will be launched on a Pegasus rocket released from an airplane, and the rocket will carry the satellite out to a high-altitude, highly elliptical orbit that will reach 150,000 miles above Earth.

Said Funsten, "these are baby steps out of our cul-de-sac and into our galactic neighborhood, and I think we are in for some great surprises."

David McComas of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio will lead the IBEX mission, which will cost approximately \$134 million. In addition to its boundary-zone studies, the mission will study galactic cosmic rays, energetic particles from beyond the solar system that pose a health and safety hazard for humans exploring beyond Earth orbit. IBEX will explore how the solar wind regulates this cosmic ray radiation. These observations will be made from a highly elliptical orbit that takes the satellite beyond the interference of Earth's magnetosphere.

Images from the boundary studies are expected to be released within two years of the launch.

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## Snowplow drivers need motorists' cooperation when clearing roads

by Kathy DeLucas

**K**SL Services snowplow drivers have witnessed bad driving behaviors this winter, including people tailgating snowplows and sanders, drivers attempting to pass plows and not allowing plows adequate room to pass.

Laboratory personnel are reminded that there should be a minimum of a 30-foot distance between the plows/sanders and vehicles following this equipment. Motorists also should not hug the centerline of a roadway — this does not allow snow removal equipment adequate room to pass.

Some drivers have been very impatient with snow-removal-equipment operators and have attempted to pass on the solid yellow line and on blind hills, said John Keene of KSL Services' Operations Support, Manager Services Department.

Additionally, motorists are cutting off snow-removal equipment while attempting to pass. This driving has forced snowplow operators into curbs and caused damage to equipment and curbs, he said.

Keene encouraged motorists to remember that snowplow/sander drivers have a tough enough job trying to clear roads for the safety of motorists. He asks motorists to allow snowplow operators to complete their work safely.



FROM THE TOP

## Spotlight on safety

**A**s I emphasized in my recent all-employee talk, safety is critical to the Lab's mission, existence and continued success. In fact, safety — along with security, compliance and environmental stewardship — is one of our top five performance priorities over the next 10 years.

Safety matters for a simple reason: safety affects people. Every safety incident can cause human pain and suffering, and that's why we must work together to achieve nothing less than best-in-class safety performance.

Because safety is so essential, I personally will be championing the Lab's behavior-based safety program. This program focuses on management accountability, and also hinges on the full realization that each person is ultimately responsible for his or her safety. Future articles in the Daily Newsbulletin, weekly Director's Notebook and Los Alamos NewsLetter will provide details about the program's schedule and training modules. At the outset, however, I wanted to brief you on this initiative's basic theoretical foundation.

Any behavior-based safety program starts from [the] simple premise — that safety is everyone's responsibility. Once we accept this principle, two conclusions follow. First, if safety is everyone's responsibility, then all employees are responsible for their own safety, their own safe behaviors and the safety of those around them. Second, if we collectively meet these responsibilities, then we can significantly reduce, or *ideally* totally prevent, all occupational injuries and illnesses.

The program establishes a feedback loop based on behavior: safe work practices will be positively reinforced; unsafe practices and conditions will be corrected promptly; and willful safety violations will not be tolerated.

Although we can measure safety in terms of statistics like TRC or DART rates, at heart safety means that each employee returns home safely every day. That's a fundamental human objective that matters deeply to us all, and that's why I'm committed to instilling a behavior-based safety program in every corner of this institution.



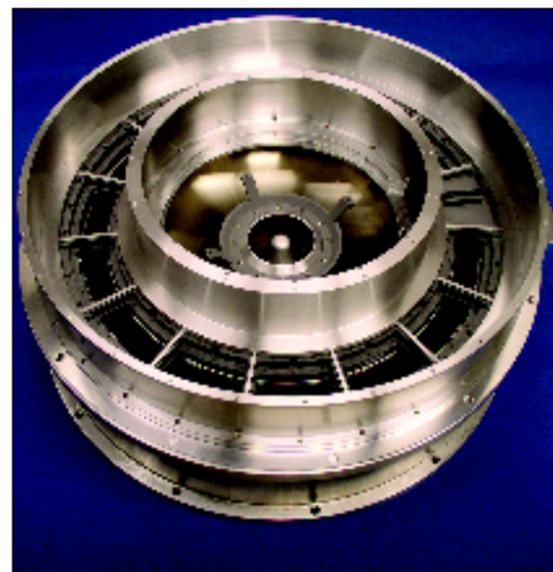
Laboratory Director  
Pete Nanos

## Los Alamos instrument ...

continued from Page 1

The Lab is partnering on IBEX with SwRI; Orbital Science Corp.; University of California, Riverside; Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Center; NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; the University of New Hampshire; the Applied Physics Laboratory; and the University of Southern California. The team also includes a number of American and international scientists from universities and other institutions, as well as Chicago's Adler Planetarium, which is leading education and public outreach for the mission.

For more information and illustrations of these missions, go to [www.ibex.swri.edu/](http://www.ibex.swri.edu/) online for IBEX and <http://www.nustar.caltech.edu> for NuSTAR.



High Energy Neutral Atom Imager

## Laboratory seeking applicants for machinist apprenticeship program

by Steve Sandoval

**A**pplications are being accepted for the Laboratory's Machinist Apprenticeship Program. The deadline to apply for the program is March 11. Individuals selected will begin their apprenticeships Aug. 15.

The Lab, in collaboration with Northern New Mexico Community College in Española, offers the program, which provides machinist apprentices with a combination of classroom instruction and on-the-job training in machine-tool operations, said Patrick Martinez of Weapons Manufacturing Technologies (MSM-6), coordinator of the program.

The Machinist Apprenticeship Program is open to all Laboratory workers and non-Lab individuals, and the class is limited to eight. While in the program, machinist apprentices earn a salary in accordance with the program's salary schedule.

Individuals who complete the program will receive nationally recognized journeymen certificates from the New Mexico State Apprenticeship Council. Some may even be hired as full-time regular machinists at the Lab.

Lab workers interested in applying for the program must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen and able to obtain a Q clearance. There are other application requirements as well.

For more information, contact Mollie Spaulding of MSM-6 at 7-9979 or write to [mspaulding@lanl.gov](mailto:mspaulding@lanl.gov) by e-mail. Application information can be submitted to Spaulding at Mail Stop D471.

Also, read about the Machinist Apprenticeship Program in the September 2000 issue of Reflections magazine available online at [www.lanl.gov/worldview/news/refl\\_archive.shtml](http://www.lanl.gov/worldview/news/refl_archive.shtml) (Adobe Acrobat Reader required).

### Los Alamos NATIONAL LABORATORY 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](mailto: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. For change of address, call 7-3565. To adjust the number of copies received, call the mailroom at 7-4166.

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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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# Mangeng highlights TS Directorate in talk

by Kathy DeLucas

Carolyn Mangeng, acting associate director for the Technical Services Directorate, talked about the mission of the directorate as well as accomplishments at a State of the Directorate talk.

Mangeng noted the TS Directorate's mission, "Provide corporate and local technical services to manage risk and enable safe, reliable mission execution to improve the competitive position of the Laboratory," and emphasized the importance of establishing a partnership with other Lab directorates and with the Los Alamos Site Office. She provided details and accomplishments of the divisions and offices within the directorate, including many nationally recognized

programs. Resumption efforts also were highlighted.

The multimedia presentation featured videotaped messages from Los Alamos Site Office and Laboratory senior managers. Ed Wilmot, LASO manager, sent the following message:

"I believe that the skill sets that you bring are skill sets that other organizations will need to embrace ... You are fundamental in the success of the organization. The future rests in your organization."

Mangeng said she sees a bright future for the directorate and outlined eight key initiatives for the 2005 fiscal year:

- Provide assistance for resumption
- Implement the Operational Efficiency Project
- Refine a business model for service delivery
- Improve the Laboratory's Assurance Program
- Provide tools to increase productivity
- Proactively manage regulatory relationships
- Improve directorate business efficiency
- Develop career paths

"The good news for people in ADTS is they're right in the center of the action," Laboratory Director Pete Nanos said in a video message. "A big part of this transition is making their model work, and if you all make that work, we will be light years ahead of where we would be otherwise."



Carolyn Mangeng, acting associate director for the Technical Services Directorate

Divisions and offices in ADTS include Performance Surety (PS); Health, Safety and Radiation Protection (HSR); Environmental Stewardship (ENV); Engineering; Project Management (PM); Internal Security (ISEC); the COMPASS Project; and the Price Anderson Amendment Act Office (PAAA).

## Making things better



by Tom Bowles,  
chief science officer

The Laboratory is going through a great many changes. We have managed to make some changes for the better, such as reducing the dollar cost of doing business.

On the other hand, all of the corrective actions have resulted in an increased workload. Thus, it is not yet clear if the end result will be a Laboratory in which it is easier to carry out our science mission. I am convinced that it is possible to be fully safe, secure and compliant, while also maintaining excellence in science. Whether or not we are able to do that depends on two elements.

The first is the commitment of management to drive change in a positive direction. I now see the Executive Board lining up behind the drive to improve the Lab's ability to do science. There still is a great deal that the board and senior management need to do to carry this out. However, if this is solely a top-down process, it will take a considerable amount of time before this effort takes hold. This brings me to the second element: the Laboratory staff.

If the Laboratory staff is proactive in this effort, we can accelerate the process. What can you do? Many procedures are being implemented at group and division levels that senior management never sees. I would ask that whenever you are asked to do something that just does not make sense, you should object and push to get a better procedure in place. This will require time and effort on your part. However, if you take the time to do this in the short term, you will benefit everyone in the long term. If you find that you can't get something changed, contact me at [CSO@lanl.gov](mailto:CSO@lanl.gov), and I will try to help. However, my office can't deal with everything that comes up, so you need to make your best effort to deal with the issue first. If that does not work, then contact me. I cannot guarantee that I can resolve your issue, but I will [try] my best to do so.

**Editor's note:** The following is from a Feb. 1 Department of Energy news release. To see the entire release, go to [www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?BT\\_CODE=PR\\_PRESSRELEASES](http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES) online.

## Bodman sworn in as 11th Secretary of Energy

Samuel Bodman was sworn in as the 11th Secretary of the United States Department of Energy on Feb. 1. Bodman was confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate on Jan. 31, replacing Spencer Abraham who resigned Nov. 15, 2004.

[The] private ceremony represents Secretary Bodman's official swearing in, beginning his first day as energy secretary. Bodman will be sworn in by President George W. Bush at a later date.

"It is a great honor and personal privilege to serve President Bush and the American people as Secretary of Energy," said Bodman. "I look forward to working with the fine men and women of the Energy Department to advance this department's critically important missions, including preserving America's pre-eminence in the physical sciences, ensuring the responsible stewardship of our nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, advancing our international nuclear nonproliferation efforts, and ensuring reliable, secure, affordable and environmentally responsible supplies of energy for our growing economy."

Before being tapped by President Bush to lead the Energy Department, Bodman served as both deputy secretary of the Treasury (2003-present) and deputy secretary of Commerce (2001-2003). Before joining the Bush Administration, Bodman was chief executive officer of Boston-based Cabot Corp. and president and chief operating officer of Fidelity Investments. For six years prior to joining the private sector, Bodman served as an associate professor of chemical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In nominating Bodman on Dec. 10, 2004, President Bush said, "In academics, in business, and in government, Sam Bodman has shown himself to be a problem solver who knows how to set goals and he knows how to reach them. He will bring to the Department of Energy a great talent for management and the precise thinking of an engineer."

Bodman holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Cornell University and a doctorate in science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is married to M. Diane Bodman and has three children, two stepchildren and eight grandchildren.



# S Division Complex to become limited access

by Kathy DeLucas



Leigh Barnes of Security Support (S-5) swipes his badge through an access-control reader at the Security and Safeguards (S) Division complex at Technical Area 3.

The S Division complex off Pajarito Road recently became limited access. Only personnel with L and Q clearances will be allowed unescorted access in the buildings. Photos by LeRoy N. Sanchez

New access rules for the Security and Safeguards (S) Division Complex recently went into effect. The S Division Complex at Technical Area 3 consists of the buildings just north and across Pajarito Road from Occupational Medicine (HSR-2). Each building inside the complex is now considered a limited area and requires an L or Q clearance for unescorted access.

Vehicle and pedestrian traffic is limited. A concrete barricade has been placed in the old access gate. New scissor gates are in operation near Building 1409, the new building that houses Security Systems (S-3). Vehicle traffic going into the complex is limited to government, KSL Services and delivery vehicles. Privately owned vehicles must have a handicap placard or a temporary government parking pass to be allowed inside the complex.

In addition, the east pedestrian gate to the complex has been secured and the north vehicle and pedestrian gates next to Building 1409 are opened only during emergencies. Badge readers control both the walk-in and drive-in access points. Any authorized Laboratory badge will allow access into the area.

Access to the S Division Office is limited to a turnstile located across from the office and adjacent to Building 1409.

For more information, contact Ken Martinez of Security Support (S-5) at 5-0111 or [kmrtnz@lanl.gov](mailto:kmrtnz@lanl.gov) by e-mail.



## Enterprise Project completes personnel data conversion

by Brooke Kent



The Enterprise Project team recently reached a major milestone in preparation for the project's Release 2, which will include human resources, payroll, time and labor entry and advanced benefits functions.

In December, the team finished con-

verting the Lab's personnel data from the legacy Employee Information System (EIS) to the Enterprise Project's new Oracle system. "The amount of data that we needed to convert was staggering," said Doris Bryant, a member of the Release 2 technical team (IM-EP). "Around 1.4 million personnel records existed for almost 200,000 people, a population that includes everyone who has worked for, contracted with, or officially visited the Laboratory during its entire history." These records are integral to Release 2's suc-

cess, since they encompass information required for the Lab's badging system, as well as its equal employment opportunity reporting, training programs, time-and-effort entry, payroll and so on.

"Although my particular role was to lead the conversion strategy and to develop the conversion code used to migrate the data from the legacy system into the new Oracle system, it was only through the efforts of the whole team — Laboratory employees plus people who work for Oracle, IBM and other organizations — that we accomplished the conversion on schedule," said Bryant.

Bryant applauded the Human Resources (HR) Division for cooperating closely with the project team. "We began by reviewing what the HR staff needed, what data already existed, where that information was and how we needed to prepare the legacy databases for a trouble-free conversion," said Bryant. "After the conversion, we cooperated with HR again, this time to validate our converted data."

What's next? "For the next few months, the legacy EIS database and the new Oracle database will work in parallel," Bryant said. "As employees enter information each day into the old EIS program, we will migrate that data nightly into the Oracle program. This ensures that the two systems remain 'in sync' and prepares us for retiring the EIS system and adopting the Oracle software as the system of record for personnel data."

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.

## Nominations sought for Student Programs Advisory Committee

Nominations are being accepted for Laboratory personnel interested in serving on the Student Programs Advisory Committee. The Student Programs Advisory Committee provides oversight of student programs, and recommends policy changes and initiatives for improvement in student programs to ensure a quality experience for all students.

Nominations are being sought for appointments lasting a maximum of three years; undergraduate students in active status for one year minimum (appointment is for at least one year); graduate research associate students in active status for one year minimum (appointment is for at least one year); and short-term UGS or GRA students (appointment is less than one year).

An all-employee memo, which includes membership selection and other contact information, was recently issued.

The deadline to submit nominations is Feb. 25, and nominations should be submitted to Alexis Lavine of Environmental Geology and Spatial Analysis (EES-9), chair of SPAC, at Mail Stop D462 or [alavine@lanl.gov](mailto:alavine@lanl.gov) by e-mail.

To read the all-employee memo, go to [int.lanl.gov/memos/alldist/LANL\\_ALL809.PDF](http://int.lanl.gov/memos/alldist/LANL_ALL809.PDF) (Adobe Acrobat Reader required). For more information about SPAC, go to [int.lanl.gov/education/spac/index.shtml](http://int.lanl.gov/education/spac/index.shtml) online.

# Beating the drum of mixed waste

by Kathy DeLucas

Waste experts at the Laboratory have eliminated nearly 98 percent of legacy mixed low-level waste. As of October 2004, the total amount of this type of waste was 11 cubic meters, down from as much as 850 cubic meters in the past.

According to Gilbert Montoya, acting group leader for Solid Waste Operations (NWIS-SWO), the Laboratory has exceeded every milestone — in some instances by as much as two years — based on a 1994 agreement between the Laboratory and the New Mexico Environment Department.

More than 10 truckloads, or 34 cubic feet, were shipped off-site in September 2004, only two months after the suspension of operations. Accomplishing those shipments required a small mountain of paperwork and a huge amount of cooperation between the site office, the contractors and the Laboratory.

Mixed low-level waste is waste that is both radioactive and hazardous. Low-level mixed waste can include discarded protective clothing, rags used to wipe down pipes, disassembled gloveboxes and drums of excess chemicals. Although these items may be contaminated with only low-levels of



radioactivity, the components have various hazardous characteristics: Some items may be flammable, corrosive or toxic. Materials with these characteristics cannot be disposed of on Laboratory property. The Laboratory has shipped to 12 commercial facilities where the waste has been treated to remove or neutralize the hazardous components.

The pedigree of the waste is well documented before officials determine which facility to send it to. SWO specialists research the waste history and characterize it to determine its exact makeup to ensure it meets individual treatment facility criteria. Each commercial facility requires a detailed waste profile.

Most waste ends its journey in a permitted out-of-state landfill, with a small amount coming back to the Lab as non-hazardous low-level waste.

The Los Alamos Site Office and the radioactive-material management company

*In Dome 215 of TA-54's Area L, Ken Oshel of Solid Waste Operations (NWIS-SWO) checks waste drums against a shipping manifest in preparation for the drums' shipment to offsite storage. Oshel verifies each drum's contents and identifying numbers, as documented on the drum's label, against information on the manifest.* Photo by Patricia Leyba of the Environmental Stewardship (ENV) Division

Duratek have assisted the Laboratory in quickly identifying and using the commercial offsite treatment facilities. "Through our collaboration with LASO and Duratek, we have been able to work creatively with the offsite waste-treatment facilities to develop innovative treatment solutions," Montoya said. "As a result, we lead the national effort to dispose of mixed waste and are helping other DOE sites manage their waste issues."

Solid Waste Operations workers are now working to dispose of the last drums of legacy mixed waste.



## Speaker: Ports may be vulnerable to terrorists

*Jonathan Medalia, specialist in national defense, foreign affairs, defense and trade at the Congressional Research Service, highlighted the concern that ports are at risk from possible terrorist use of oil tankers as bomb platforms. Medalia spoke at the Laboratory's Physics Building Auditorium at Technical Area 3. While container ships have been considered in counter-terror planning, Medalia said the massive oil supertankers moving back and forth from the Middle East pose a technical challenge that he sees as yet unaddressed. The talk was sponsored by the International, Space and Response (ISR) Division.* Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

## Donations needed for Lab's catastrophic leave program

by Steve Sandoval

Laboratory employees who have a large amount of vacation time may want to consider donating some of it to a catastrophic leave bank that was recently established. Donations are needed to meet several recent requests for leave from Lab workers.

The Catastrophic Paid Leave program allows Laboratory employees to donate up to one half of their unused vacation time to a "bank" for use by other employees who don't have sick or leave time available and are suddenly faced with a truly catastrophic situation, typically life-threatening, that forces them to be off work for an extended period. Only vacation time can be donated and employees have to use up all their sick and leave time before they are eligible for catastrophic leave.

The program was started in 2003 and is available to University of California Laboratory employees who accrue vacation and sick time. Catastrophic paid leave requests can be made for any sudden illnesses or accident for the employee or employee's family member, but cannot be used for noncatastrophic events, such as scheduled surgeries or pregnancy leaves. It also cannot be used to extend a bereavement period.

The employee who requests catastrophic paid leave can receive a maximum of 160 hours per calendar year, but the amount an employee receives depends on the total amount available in the "bank" and the number of other requests pending in the program at the time, said Tawanda Dickman of Occupational Medicine (HSR-2).

"Currently, we have several of our co-workers in critical need. The only way we can assist them is if more of us donate time to the fund," said Dickman.

Donation forms can be found online under "Select a Shortcut" to Official Documents, to online forms, to Catastrophic Paid Leave on the Lab's home page. Click on form number 1851, "Request to Donate Leave."

UC Lab employees who want to donate vacation time to the sick leave bank should contact Kathy Reyes of Accounting (CFO-1) at 7-8186 or 5-5562 by fax.

For more information, contact Dickman at 5-4147 or see the Sept. 8, 2004 Daily Newsbulletin.

# So...what do you think?

**Q:** Safety walkarounds are an important part of the Laboratory's overall safety-awareness program. As a Laboratory employee, how does the safety walkaround program help you be safe in your workplace?



**Johnnie Martinez of the Community Relations Office (CER-30)**

I think safety walkarounds help managers maintain closer contact with employees and their work environments. It is other-

wise too easy for managers to get tied up with other tasks and become unaware of employee safety and security needs and concerns.



**Terry Roth of Internal Security (ISEC)**

Safety walkarounds are a good way to remind Lab employees to take a second look at everyday occurrences wherein safety or security items

may be overlooked.



**Felicia Rider of Enterprise Support and Computer Education (IM-2)**

It allows for a second opinion on my work area. Sometimes you see something everyday, and you become oblivious to your surroundings. Walkarounds help bring awareness to your surroundings.



**Barb Stine, associate director for Technical Services (ADTS)**

Doing safety walkarounds lets me know that our employees are working in a safe manner and a safe environment. They also give

me, as a manager, an opportunity to talk with individual workers about their work and their ideas for performing their work more safely.



**Julianne Stidham of High Performance Computing Systems Integration (CCN-9)**

It provides another set of eyes to ensure workplace safety.



**Ray Stults, associate director for Strategic Research (ADSR)**

The safety walkarounds are critical; they are a hands-on opportunity to see what is going on in your organization, which is

something you cannot do sitting in your office. They also are a way for management to elevate their awareness, and the more aware you are, the easier it is for you to do business.

## PEOPLE



### Ortega named new Prime Contract Office deputy



**Joe Ortega**

**J**oseph (Joe) Ortega is the new deputy office director of the Laboratory's Prime Contract Office (PCO).

"As the new deputy for PCO I see the role of the office as establishing a stronger University of California/ National Nuclear Security Administration connection and employing robust

business practices with regards to the contract" said Ortega.

Ortega, a Laboratory employee for more than 25 years, joined Los Alamos right after graduation from Santa Cruz High School in Espanola. Working summers at the Lab, Ortega attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, where he earned

a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

"I have a strong passion for the Laboratory and Northern New Mexico and the continued relationship with UC; I want to add value and make us successful," noted Ortega.

Ortega has been in PCO and its precursor offices since 1993 in the role of office leader, program manager and project leader prior to being named deputy office director. Before joining PCO, Ortega held management positions in the former Safety and Risk Assessment (ESH-3), Industrial Hygiene and Safety (ESH-5) and as a mechanical engineer for the Laboratory's former prime contractor Zia Company. Ortega also worked as an explosives engineer for a brief period at the Pantex Plant in Texas after graduation from NMSU.

"The new contract emphasizes the need for a strong prime contract management system at the Lab that requires us to partner across the Lab in order to do business in a cost effective manner," noted Ortega.

Ortega and his colleagues at PCO are the Laboratory's contract contacts and interfaces between the UC and the Department of Energy/NNSA Los Alamos Site Office.



*Officers of the Aggies on the Hill New Mexico State University alumni chapter show off the NMSU alumni association's chapter of the year, Eagle Award. Standing from left to right are Lab employees and Aggies on the Hill officers, parliamentarian, Tania V. Martinez of Weapons Budget (CFO-3), vice president, Ed Vigil of Public Affairs (CER-20), secretary, Carla D. Martinez of Procurement (SUP-7) and chapter president Tim Martinez of the Community Relations Office (CER-30). Not pictured is treasurer, Abran Romero of Investigations (AA-4). Photo by Mike Kolb, CER-30*

### Lab employees' NMSU alumni chapter nabs top award

**T**he Aggies on the Hill, a New Mexico State University alumni chapter at the Laboratory, recently was awarded the Eagle Award recognizing Aggies on the Hill as NMSU alumni chapter of the year for 2004.

"This group has so much energy and has been willing to go the extra mile for the university and its alumni," said Deborah Widger, executive director of the NMSU alumni association.

"It's been a real joy to work with Aggies on the Hill and to take their energy back to campus where it is truly appreciated," added Monica Martinez, assistant director of alumni relations at NMSU.

Widger and Monica Martinez presented the award to Tim Martinez, Aggies on the Hill chapter president and a staff member in the Community Relations Office (CER-30) at the Aggies on the Hill Holiday Social in December.

"We were totally surprised to receive the Eagle Award from the university," said Tim Martinez. "We've only been together since May, but we have been working really hard to bring NMSU alumni at the Laboratory and on the hill together and apparently people have noticed.

"With more than 600 University of California employees who are NMSU alumni, along with hundreds of others who work for Lab contractors, and the signing of memorandum of

*continued on Page 7*



## February employee service anniversaries

### 35 years

Bernard Ginsberg, DX-DO  
Sharon Velarde, HSR-12

### 30 years

Fred Archuleta, P-24  
Guy Dimonte, X-4  
Finnie Garcia, HSR-1  
Karen Humphrey, ESA-AET  
David Keffeler, LANSCE-5  
Morris Pongratz, ISR-2  
Connie Schneider, N-1  
R. Ralph Trujillo, MST-6  
Maria Vigil, NMT-4

### 25 years

Carolyn Algire, NMT-1  
Brodie Anderson, P-22  
Diana Armijo, CFO-SYSTEM  
Mary Barbe, DIR  
Gregg Chaparro, LANSCE-3  
Thomas Dey, X-7  
Gerald Dunlop, NMT-1  
Buddy Everett III, ESA-TSE  
Michael Garcia, ESA-WSE  
Kay Grady, T-16  
Mary Hopson, CCN-5  
Michael Mauro, MST-6  
Benjamin Montoya, N-5  
Larry Pacheco, HSR-1  
Sylvia Quintana, ADSR  
David Redman, D-3  
Deborah Thompson, D-DO  
Paul Weber, ADTR

### 20 years

Elaine Best, CCN-12  
Peter Haase, STB-LDRD  
Donald Helmer, HSR-8  
David Lizon, MST-11  
Noah Pope, N-4  
Lennett Rendon, STB-LDRD  
Horace Sprouse, S-5  
Yolanda Trujillo, CFO-1  
Robyn Zaelke, NMT-14

### 15 years

Christina Armijo, SUP-DO  
Randi Moore, IM-1  
Julie Romero, SUP-6  
Lonnie Theye, NMT-15

### 10 years

Aaron Archuleta, ISR-5  
Annie Castaneda, CFO-1  
Jane Enter, C-INC  
Kapil Goyal, NMT-7  
Judi Hammer, B-3  
Lisa Harris, STB-LDRD  
Steven Hench, CCN-12  
Robert Jones, NWIS-TP  
Mark Kenamond, X-3  
Michael Koscielniak, D-4  
Stanislaw Marczak, NWIS-TP

Joyce Martinez, X-5  
Avril Millensted, NWIS-TP  
Jeremy Mitchell, NMT-16  
Kelly Nasise, AA-3  
Jane Riese, CCN-12  
Wolfgang Runde, C-INC  
Theresa Sandoval, IM-3  
Jeffrey Schroeder, PM-DS  
Deborah Summa, ESA-AET  
Denise Tiede, S-3  
Yvette Trujillo, NMT-12  
Scott Twary, B-3  
Annabelle Valdez, CCN-DO  
Benjamin Warner, C-SIC  
Meilin Yan, CCN-12

### 5 years

Wendy Bisset, NWIS-RLW  
Dana Dattelbaum, DX-2  
William Dearholt, X-8  
Phillip Grogin, PS-13  
Elvin McDougald, FM-MSE  
Monica Misra, B-5  
Gregory Mitchell, P-23  
Ha Nguyen, N-1  
Juliet Padilla, P-23  
Gary Parker Jr., DX-2  
Matt Riggs, NWIS-TP  
Richard Schirato, P-25  
Marc Witkowski, EES-9

## Lab employees' NMSU ...

*continued from Page 6*

agreement between the Laboratory and NMSU, we felt the time was right to build on our strengths and connections as NMSU Aggies," added Martinez.

Martinez noted that the chapter was more than just an opportunity to socialize and network with fellow Aggies. "We are looking to build a bridge between the Laboratory and the university in the areas of recruitment, student interns and educational program development, and I strongly believe that the Aggies on the Hill can be strong ambassadors for both the university and the Laboratory."

NMSU currently has 54 alumni chapters across the country and outside the United States with each chapter having at least 25 active members.

The Aggies on the Hill alumni association is open to any graduates of NMSU who live and work in Los Alamos and the surrounding communities.

For more information on the Aggies on the Hill, contact Tim Martinez at [info@nnmsa.org](mailto:info@nnmsa.org) by e-mail.



**For Lab  
closures,  
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information,**

**call UPDATE at 667-6622  
or 1-877-723-4101  
(toll free).**

## In Memoriam

### Douglas Venable

Laboratory retiree Douglas Venable, who became known as the "Father of PHERMEX," died Jan 7. He was 84.

Venable was born in Charleston, W.Va., to Earnest and Elizabeth Habney Venable. He attended Charleston High School from 1935 to 1938. In 1942, he received his bachelor's of science in mathematics and physics from Hampton-Sydney College in Virginia. Venable later earned his master's in physics in 1947 and a doctorate in physics in 1950 — both from the University of Virginia.

Venable played a notable part in the history of the Laboratory. He was hired in July 1950 as a member of the former GMX Division (GMX-7) and became alternate group leader in 1954.

According to Laboratory retiree Bill Deal, Venable recognized immediately the great benefit that would accrue from having a source of penetrating X-rays emitting an extremely short pulse of extraordinarily high intensity. As such, he designed (or caused to be designed) a pulsed electron-beam accelerator to generate the X-rays. He further devised a way to enable both the X-ray source and the film container to survive the adjacent detonation of several tens of pounds of high explosive. Thus, PHERMEX (Pulsed High Energy Radiation Machine Emitting X-rays) was conceived, and Venable became known as the "Father of PHERMEX."

In 1960, he joined a group (GMX-11), which soon brought forth the birth of the machine and subsequently proved it an invaluable tool for studying and understanding explosive events. Venable became group leader of GMX-11 and specialized in substantially improving PHERMEX quality (source size) and intensity, as well as explored using it for fundamental hydrodynamic experiments. PHERMEX was then the premier facility of its kind in the world.

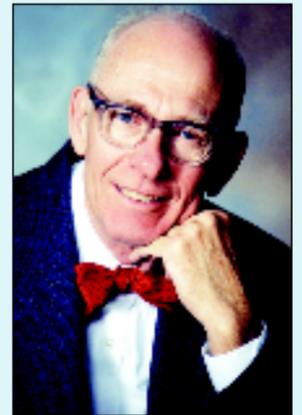
In the fall of 1972, he became deputy division leader of the newly created Dynamic Testing Division, which included the now world-famous PHERMEX group. In this capacity, he continued generation of ideas for progress in the Laboratory. Among other concepts, Venable studied details of a dual-axis PHERMEX, which became and was built as the Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test facility (DARHT), the successor to PHERMEX.

In 1976, he joined Los Alamos' Office of National Security Programs (NSP). At NSP, Venable served on the Weapons Planning Committee. In 1981, he became deputy associate director for weapons research and development under Paul Robinson, now the president of Sandia National Laboratories.

Venable retired from Los Alamos in 1986 but continued to serve as a Lab associate for the next decade.

Colleague Denny Erickson of Weapons Physics said of Venable, "I counted Doug as a special friend and mentor. We became close when I was the [former] M-Division deputy division leader. In the mid-to-late 1980s, Doug taught me (as a younger physicist) much about weapons-related research and applied hydrodynamics. He provided invaluable counsel as we shaped our proposal for what became DARHT. I valued Doug for his wisdom and encouragement. Doug kept track of me over the years and always exercised positive reinforcement. I cherish my many times with Doug. I, along with many others, will truly miss him."

Venable is survived by his wife, Mary; his son Gordon and wife, Denise; stepchildren Jean Paff, Susan Rome and Jeffrey Pettitt; and several grandchildren.





# Laboratory employee responds quickly to collapsed victim

by Kathryn Ostic

Last fall, Karen Fisher of Continuum Dynamics (CCS-2) and Matthew Murray of Proton Radiography (P-25) were driving between work sites on East Jemez Road (the truck route) when they saw a man laying in full view near his car. The victim had been changing a tire before collapsing.

A series of events helped to save the victim's life: a male bystander witnessed the cardiac arrest providing a time frame for the victim's unresponsiveness; a female bystander also on scene called the Emergency Management System summoning help quickly; and Murray performed traffic control at the site.

Fisher assessed the patient and found that he was unresponsive and experiencing "agonal respirations" which are slow, gasping respirations 20-30 seconds apart. Fisher made sure there was no sign of a C-spine injury and began performing the ABC's on the man. The A is for airway, B for breathing and C is for circulation, she said.

According to Fisher, the victim had a very rapid, "thready pulse," which refers to the quality of a pulse when someone is going into shock. Therefore, after opening the victim's airway, Fisher provided rescue breathing.

When the Los Alamos Fire Department arrived, the victim's pulse had subsided and he was experiencing full cardiac arrest, Fisher said. The LAFD restarted the victim's heart without the use of drugs by using a bag valve mask to begin breathing for him supported by 100 percent oxygen. An automated external defibrillator (AED) was quickly applied and the shock successfully converted his heartbeat into a normal rhythm. The victim was transported to Los Alamos Medical Center then later airlifted to an Albuquerque hospital, Fisher said.

An automated external defibrillator is a small, lightweight device used to assess a person's heart rhythm. If necessary, it administers an electric shock to restore a normal rhythm in victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

A microprocessor inside the defibrillator analyzes the victim's heart rhythm through adhesive electrodes — some AED models require the person to press an ANALYZE button. The computer then advises the operator whether a shock is needed. When the operator responds to the prompt to give a shock, an electric current is delivered through the victim's chest wall through adhesive electrode pads. Experts estimate that 100,000 lives could be saved each year if AEDs were widely used.



Karen Fisher

When a person suffers a sudden cardiac arrest, chances of survival decrease by 10 percent for each minute that passes without defibrillation, said Fisher. Having more people who can respond to medical emergencies and are trained in CPR and to use AEDs will greatly increase survival rates for people in sudden cardiac arrest, said Fisher, who is certified for CPR and for outdoor emergency care through the National Ski Patrol.

A few airports across the country and some shopping malls have AED devices mounted on the walls, in cases similar to fire extinguishers, Fisher said.

It's also very important for people to think ahead when making emergency calls. Information such as status [of the person in distress], helping with traffic control and clearing a path to the victim are crucial to success, said Fisher. (To see a "chain of survival" chart, go to the American Heart Association Web page at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org) online.)

"There are about 100 AEDs at the Lab; they cost \$3,123.74 a unit. Many CPR courses are offered through the Lab and community, and the more exposure a person has, the better," said Fisher.

Fisher received her emergency medical technician training as a bunker in the Ithaca, N.Y., Fire Department while participating in the Americorps Program.

"As an oceanographer, we would be at sea far from medical help, and I thought it would be good to get trained as an EMT," Fisher explained about her decision to seek emergency medical training. "The Ithaca Fire Department was recruiting for bunkers, and [I] decided that would be a great experience," she said.

Fisher received her doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology with an emphasis in biological oceanography from Cornell University.

For more information about automated external defibrillators, contact Betty Colyer of Occupational Medicine (HSR-2) at 5-7264. Colyer is program director for AED's at the Lab. Or go to [int.lanl.gov/worklife/health/occmcd/aedprogram.shtml](http://int.lanl.gov/worklife/health/occmcd/aedprogram.shtml) online.



An automated external defibrillator