

Connections

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Lots of Ways to Give

In Autumn we kick off a series of giving campaigns and volunteer opportunities here at Los Alamos National Laboratory. It all began last month with our “Backpack Challenge” that provided school supplies for students across Northern New Mexico, and then we saw the start of our Employee Giving Campaign that runs through October 30. In November we have our “Take a Turkey to Work” drive followed by a Holiday Gift Drive in December. This year we’re adding “Make A Difference Day,” also in October, that will be held in conjunction with national Make A Difference Day. As ever, I’m impressed with how our employees, retirees, and contractors are willing to give, not only of their time, but also of their money, to make their communities a better place in which to grow up and live.

We hope not only to raise more than \$2 million in cash for charities this year, but to also collect 700 turkey dinners for Thanksgiving and 1,500 holiday gifts for children, the elderly, and others who need support and consideration during the fast-approaching holiday season.

The great thing about donations is how even small ones, when added together, can create tremendous impacts within communities. For instance, one person, giving one hour a week, can help spruce up a playground; at the same time, if 20 people spend an hour a week, they can totally rebuild the playground and help make it a safer, healthier place for neighborhood children. When it comes to contributions, there is definitely strength in numbers.

Then there’s the satisfaction of helping others. Altruism just feels good!

I invite you to join us in this season of giving. Both United Way organizations in Northern New Mexico are holding their community campaigns concurrently with our Employee Giving Campaign. You are also invited to join us for our first-ever joint Laboratory/Community “Make A Difference Day.” More information on this event is contained in this issue of *Connections*.

I look forward to sharing information about our campaigns and successes during the coming months. Stay tuned for updates as we begin this exciting time.



Annual Employee Giving Campaign/Make A Difference Day

Join Us in Volunteering!

With a record campaign last year of more than \$1 million donated by employees and a \$1 million match from the Lab's manager, Los Alamos National Security, LLC, hopes are high for an even more successful campaign this year. The campaign kicked off on September 28 with a book fair and will run through October 30. Last year more than 150

nonprofits benefited from contributions which were distributed among social service, education, and arts organizations.



The theme for this year's campaign is "Growing Our Communities." The drive includes some changes, such as going to an online pledge system and participating in the national, ongoing "Make A Difference Day." While the national event is centered around the fourth Saturday each October, some of the projects for Make A Difference Day will take place over multiple days. See the descriptions below for more details.

Sponsored by USA WEEKEND and its 600 carrier newspapers, Make A Difference Day encourages people to come together and volunteer to work on charitable projects in their communities each October. Last year more than eight million people joined in and worked on more than 1,000 different projects.

You are invited to volunteer alongside Lab employees, their families, retirees, and contractors. If you would like to volunteer, you may choose one, or more, of the following projects we've selected for our inaugural year:

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in



Espanola: This project will include a remodel of the state's Children, Youth and Families Division Visitation Center, where foster children meet with parents and other

relatives, and building a playground that the children can use while they are at the facility. Volunteer dates: October 16, 17, 23, and 24.

Casa Mesita Group Home in Los Alamos:

This project will entail building a greenhouse that the residents of the group home (up to eight girls aged 12 to 18 who need a safe place to live) will use to grow their own food, learn about horticulture, and build self-esteem. Food grown in excess of what the residents need will be donated to LA Cares for community distribution. Volunteer dates: October 16, 17, 23, and 24



MAKE A
DIFFERENCE DAY
NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD



Santa Fe Children's Project (United Way of Santa Fe):

This project will help the Kaune Elementary School in Santa Fe assemble and decorate birdhouses, feeders, and



install a birdbath. The finished projects will be used to help teach children about birds in conjunction with The Santa Fe Raptor Center. Volunteer dates: October 23 and 24.

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact the LANL Community Programs Office at (505) 665-4400 or (888) 841-8256 (toll free).

Los Alamos Report Hot Off the Presses

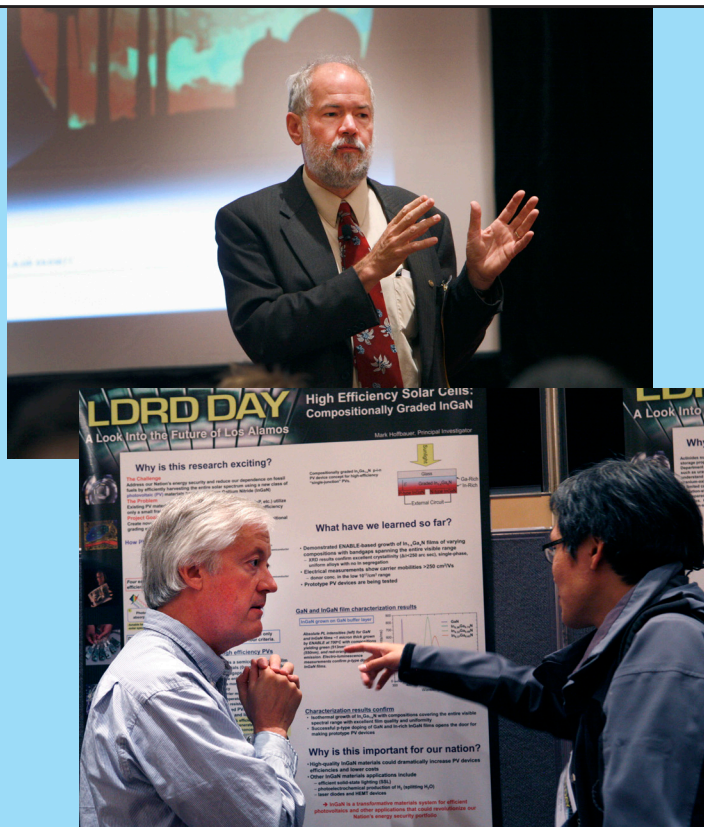
Each Friday, the Lab compiles links to news stories that mention it. Some sources include videos and references in fictional stories. To check out the latest collection of stories, go to <http://www.lareport.blogspot.com>. Alternatively, go to listmanager@lanl.gov and put "subscribe losalamosreport" in the body of the e-mail to have the news stories collections automatically delivered to your e-mail address each week.

First LDRD Day a Success

More than 175 people turned up last month to get a look at cutting-edge science during the Lab's first LDRD (Laboratory-Directed Research and Development) Day. More than 40 posters developed for the event covered issues such as pattern recognition systems, energy security, cosmic accelerators, nuclear security, and synthetic visual cognition.

Attendees included representatives from the private sector, energy businesses, students, state government, and representatives from the Department of Energy. Many participants commented on the presenters' success at cutting through scientific jargon and making the science ideas covered more understandable to a general audience. Along those lines, Malcolm Andrews, with the Lab's Computer, Computational, and Statistical Sciences organization, won the award for best poster as voted by attendees.

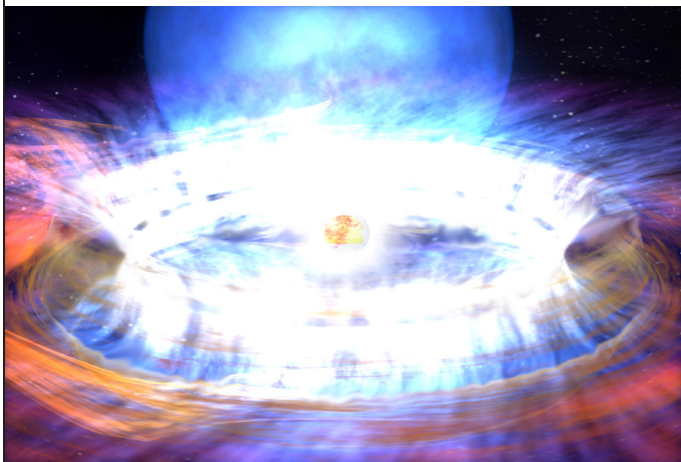
To obtain more information about the event, including the opening presentations and the complete posters, go to <http://www.lanl.gov/science/ldrd/> or write to ldrd@lanl.gov or call 667-1235.



Above: Bill Priedhorsky, LDRD Program Manager, makes one of the opening presentations. Below: Two Lab staff members exchange ideas about one of the posters.

Neutron Stars the Subject of Next Frontiers in Science Talk

Last month's Frontiers in Science talk on "Looking Inside Explosions" was a success, with more than 175 people attending the talk in Albuquerque alone. The next presentation is scheduled for early November and will focus on neutron stars. Neutron stars are so dense that a tablespoon of their material would equal the matter contained in the Empire State Building. To learn more about this and other fascinating facts, plan to attend one of the talks, which are free and open to the public. There is no need to preregister—just show up.



November talk schedule on Neutron Stars:

- November 3
Los Alamos High School, Los Alamos, at 7 p.m.
- November 5
New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, Albuquerque, at 7 p.m.
- November 10
Nick Salazar Center for the Arts, Northern New Mexico College, Espanola, at 7 p.m.
- November 16
James A. Little Theater, Santa Fe, at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact the Community Programs Office at (505) 665-4400, or check <http://int.lanl.gov/science/fellows/lectures.shtml> in the coming weeks for a complete abstract. Want notices of these talks to come directly to you so you don't miss a single one? Subscribe to the Frontiers in Science e-mail list by sending an e-mail to anderman@lanl.gov. (Your e-mail address will be housed on a secure server and will not be shared.)

“Out of this World” High-Tech Halloween on October 30

“Astronomy, Under Cover Of Darkness” is the theme for this year’s Bradbury Science Museum annual High Tech Halloween event scheduled for Friday, October 30. Running from 4 to 7 p.m., it is being held in concert with the Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce’s Trick Or Treat on Main Street Halloween activities.

In keeping with their International Year of Astronomy events, Museum staff will provide demonstrations on moonscapes, constellations, and give participants an opportunity to “mix up a comet” through “Comet Cooking.” There will even be a real meteorite to see and touch. In response to previous visitor suggestions that there be more activities for the younger set, children five years of age and under can also participate in an obstacle course emphasizing “astronaut skills.” There will be fun and learning for the entire family.

Registration is not necessary, but parents are asked to accompany their children. Costumes are encouraged for adults as well as the children.

The Bradbury Science Museum is located at 15th Street and Central Avenue in downtown Los Alamos. Regular Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday and Monday.

For more information, contact the Museum at (505) 667-4444 or visit www.lanl.gov/museum/.



Hot Topic at the Bradbury Science Museum: Climate Change

Despite all the publicity about the potential impacts of climate change, lots of questions remain. Is climate change occurring? What is humanity’s role? How do we sort through the various scenarios in the media? Make plans to join David Herring, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, on Thursday, October 8, from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. at the Bradbury Science Museum, where he will present the science behind climate change.

The talk will include the past, present, and future of climate-change science. After the presentation, join in over dinner for a community dialogue about climate change. You’ll have an opportunity to ask questions in an informal environment and hear the concerns of your neighbors.

The talk is presented by The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and, due to grant funding, will be free. Seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Funding for the program is being provided by the Association of Science - Technology Centers’ Communicating Climate Change project and New Mexico EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research).

For more information, please contact Eileen Everett, Climate Change Educator, at EileenM.Everett@state.nm.us or call (505) 841-2837.



LabStart Looks for Diamonds in the Rough

A self-described miner panning for technological gems, Russ Hopper begins each day by inviting Lab investigators and managers to learn about LabStart – with hopes of uncovering their market-potential technologies.

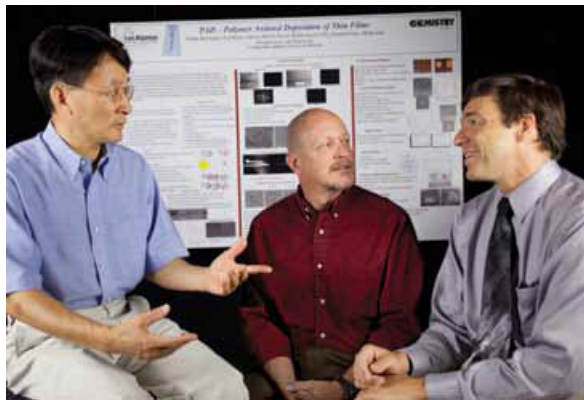
LabStart is a joint undertaking between two venture capital firms, Verge Fund and ARCH Venture Partners, each with a long history of starting companies based on national laboratory and university inventions. It is part of the Los Alamos Venture Acceleration Initiative developed by the Technology Transfer Division and managed by Northern New Mexico Connect in conjunction with the LANL Community Programs Office.

Hopper, LabStart's entrepreneur in residence, envisions the joint venture's efforts will produce the seeds of 10 to 20 startup businesses from Lab technologies and provide employment opportunities for talented individuals in the region.

With the goal of starting three companies in the next three years, Hopper has identified three promising technologies to date: polymer-assisted deposition, with applications from microelectronics to solid state lighting; Lasonix, which grows crystals with a laser to make electronic devices for microelectronics and photovoltaics; and Reagentless Biosensor, a field-deployable waveguide spectrometer that may have agricultural applications.

These Lab-developed technologies, deployed through LabStart, could help build a more diversified regional economy, benefit industrial competitiveness, and help the country's economic security.

For more information, contact Hopper at brhopper@lanl.gov or 665-1578.



Researchers Quanxi Jia (left) of the Superconductivity Technology Center and Mark McCleskey (right) of Materials Chemistry discuss with Russ Hopper (center) of LabStart the prospect of taking polymer-assisted deposition technology to market.

Open Hands Holds Halloween Fundraiser

Open Hands, an organization that helps the elderly and disabled, will hold a Halloween Fantasy Masquerade event on Saturday, October 31, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino.

In addition to helping raise funds for the organization, participants can listen to the music of DJ King George as well as the Santa Fe Little Big Band. Disco and '80s oldies by DJ duo Brooklyn Powerhouse and performances by Moving People Dance will also be featured. And it wouldn't be a costume party without a contest with cash prizes. A mask or costume is required to attend and the tickets are \$40 per couple or \$25 for a single. For more information on the event, go to www.openhands.org/events.htm.



For more information on the Open Hands organization, go to www.openhands.org.

New Mexico Women in Technology Scholarships Available

The New Mexico Technology Council has scholarships available for female students in New Mexico who intend to start or continue their education in a technology field. Nominees can include high school seniors, or students currently enrolled in a trade school, community college, or university who have chosen to pursue a technology-oriented career. Nominees can also include women who are returning to school to pursue a technology career.

The Women in Technology Student Scholarships are worth at least \$5,000, and half of the scholarships will be awarded to students in Northern New Mexico. In addition to the scholarships, the winners will be eligible to receive mentoring to help them through their education and into the workforce.

For more information, including the nomination form, go to http://www.nmtechcouncil.org/surveys/?id=WIT_ScholarshipNomination. The deadline is Thursday, October 15.

Calendar

October 6	Business	The Press Release Workshop http://www.nmsbdc.org/losalamos/showevent.html?command=Event&command_arg=showAll&center_id=8
October 8	Education	Dialoging About Climate Change www.lanl.gov/museum
October 8	Business	Simplifying Market Research http://www.nmsbdc.org/santafe/showevent.html?command=Event&command_arg=showAll&center_id=10
October 13-14	Education	Los Alamos Computer Science Symposium http://www.lanl.gov/conferences/lacss/2009/
October 14	Environment	Community Radiation Monitoring http://www.lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/d091014.htm
October 14	Environment	Northern New Mexico Community Advisory Board: Environmental Monitoring, Surveillance & Remediation Committee http://www.lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/d091014.htm
October 15-19	Education	New Mexico Bioneers Conference http://www.bioneers.org/conference/2009-conference-schedule-overview
October 20	Business	Social Security 2009 Annual Wage and Tax Reporting http://www.nmsbdc.org/losalamos/showevent.html?command=Event&command_arg=showAll&center_id=8
October 21	Environment	Northern New Mexico Community Advisory Board: Environmental Monitoring, Surveillance & Remediation Committee http://www.lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/d091021.htm
October 21-23	Education	New Mexico Technology in Education Conference http://www.nmtie.net/conferences/2009/
October 22-24	Education	New Mexico State Math, Science & Environmental Education Fall Conference http://nmteach09.eventbrite.com/
October 30	Education	High-Tech Halloween at the Bradbury Science Museum http://www.lanl.gov/museum/
October 31	Community	Open Hands Halloween Fundraiser www.openhands.org

Do you have an event that you would like to see considered for the calendar? If so, send it to connections@lanl.gov.



Kudos

- Kudos to Sig Hecker, former Laboratory director, who won the Department of Energy's Enrico Fermi Award. It is considered one of the most prestigious science and technology awards awarded by the U.S. Government.
- Kudos to Anthony Mortillaro, who was recently appointed as the new Los Alamos County Administrator.

Contact Information

Connections is published by the Community Programs Office at Los Alamos National Laboratory.
Office: (505) 665-4400
(888) 841-8256
For more information, e-mail connections@lanl.gov or visit our website at <http://community.lanl.gov/>