

PPPL HOTLINE

The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory is a United States Department of Energy Facility

PPPL Goes to Washington

By Patti Wieser

PPPL hosted an exhibit at the 2011 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meeting in Washington, D.C., February 18-20. John DeLooper, Charles Gentile, and James Morgan staffed the booth, providing hands-on plasma demonstrations and fielding questions about fusion energy research and plasma science. Gentile also gave demonstrations of the Miniature Integrated Nuclear Detection System technology he developed for anti-terrorism use. The meeting drew hundreds of scientists and area residents. The exhibit hall was open to the public over the weekend for "Family Science Days." PPPL's Adam Cohen and Kitka MacPherson assisted with PPPL exhibit planning.

As a kick-off to the AAAS meeting, the Laboratory co-hosted the U.S. ITER and ITER Fusion Energy Information Reception for Congressional staffers on February 16 at the Rayburn House Office Building. PPPL Director Stewart Prager co-hosted the reception with Oak Ridge National Laboratory Director Thom Mason and Savannah River National Laboratory's Terry Michalske. PPPL's Adam Cohen, John DeLooper, James Morgan, and Patti Wieser participated in the event. ●

In photo at top right, PPPL's John DeLooper shows a plasma tube to AAAS Family Science Days attendees. In photo at right, PPPL's James Morgan chats with MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center Communications and Outreach Coordinator Paul Rivenberg at the PPPL exhibit at AAAS.



Photo by: Ethan Laidacker



Photo by: Jamie Payne



Photo by: Jamie Payne

At the Congressional staffers reception are, from left: PPPL Director Stewart Prager, U.S. ITER Project Manager Ned Sauthoff, DOE Associate Director for Fusion Energy Sciences Ed Synakowski, DOE Office of Science Director William Brinkman, ITER Director General Osamu Motojima, ORNL Director Thom Mason, and Savannah River National Laboratory Director Terry Michalske.

MacPherson to Head PPPL Communications

By Kitta MacPherson

Kitta MacPherson, an award-winning science writer, has been named director of communications for PPPL. MacPherson joined PPPL after three years with Princeton University's Office of Communications, where she served in the positions of senior writer and science writer/coordinator. Her new appointment was effective Feb. 1.

"We are delighted that Kitta is joining us so we can continue to tell the exciting story of fusion energy and plasma science," said PPPL Director Stewart Prager. "Communication of our research is a crucial component of our laboratory activity, and we welcome her expertise."

Scientists at PPPL are collaborating with researchers across the globe to harness fusion energy, a clean, potentially limitless energy source based on the same reaction that powers the sun. The lab is managed by the University for the DOE Office of Science.

MacPherson is responsible for directing media relations at the lab and overseeing external and internal communications, for which she will collaborate with University offices as well as groups in the energy policy community and the local community. She serves as the lead media contact and spokesperson for the lab. She will write stories and edit other materials produced by the lab's Office of Communications, and will lead an effort to develop new content employing video, social media and other communications tools to tell the story of fusion energy.

"The long time scale in making fusion energy a commercially available source only emphasizes the need for a good, balanced communications effort," MacPherson said. "I am so excited to be part of this effort to convey the importance of this research."



Kitta MacPherson

With the University's Office of Communications, MacPherson won gold and silver medals from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education for her news releases on subjects including astronomical sciences, chemistry, physics, mathematics, molecular biology, music theory and public health.

During an award-winning career in daily newspaper journalism, most of it at The Star-Ledger of Newark, MacPherson reported on numerous breakthroughs in science -- including PPPL's Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor experiment that attained record levels of fusion power — and examined the research behind the controversies over genetically engineered food and global warming. Earlier, she was a reporter and manager of the Star-Ledger's Passaic Bureau in Paterson and a police reporter at the Bergen Record in Hackensack.

A magna cum laude graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, MacPherson has won a Science-in-Society Award from the National Association of Science Writers, a National Communications Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and several awards from the New Jersey Press Association. She succeeds Anthony DeMeo, who retired in June as PPPL's head of Information Services after 34 years. ●

Milling Around at PPPL



Ted Franckowiak, a PPPL machinist, mills a vacuum vessel made of bulletproof polycarbonate that will be part of the Princeton field-reversed-configuration-2 (PFRC-2), a research device for developing small advanced fusion reactors. PFRC-2 will be driven by many technological innovations, including high-temperature superconducting magnets. Construction is supported by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Operations are scheduled to begin in December.

HOTLINE

Editor: Patti Wieser
Graphics: Greg Czechowicz
Photography: Elle Starkman
Layout Design: Greg Czechowicz

The HOTLINE is issued by the US DOE Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, a research facility supported by the U.S. Department of Energy. It is primarily an internal publication. Correspondence and requests to reprint material should be directed to Editor, PPPL HOTLINE, P.O. Box 451, Princeton, NJ 08543; Interoffice correspondence should be addressed to MS-38, LSB Bldg.; tel. 609-243-2757; fax 609-243-2751; e-mail pwieser@pppl.gov.

PPPL Draws Dozens for Middle School Science Bowl®



P PPL hosted fifteen teams from 13 New Jersey schools on February 25 for the New Jersey Regional Competition of the National Middle School Science Bowl®. Area school teams competed in an academic, fast-paced question-and-answer contest in which students answered questions about earth, physical, life, and general sciences, and math. Each team was made up of four students, a student alternate, and a teacher who served as an advisor and coach. Between rounds, students stopped by science exhibits in the Lobby and participated in hands-on science demonstrations.

In photo above, a team from Hedgepeth-Williams School in Trenton watched a plasma and magnet demonstration by PPPL post-doc Jerry Ross. From left are students Andrew Holt, Edward DeLeon, Luis Martinez, Tanzila Mohsin, and Michelle Mora, PPPL's Cassandra Pugh, and Ross.

The U.S. Department of Energy sponsors the regional middle school competition; this is the seventh year PPPL has organized it with James Morgan serving as the lead organizer. ●

Thank You, Science Bowl® Volunteers

Tyler Abrams
Jessica Baumgaertel
Dennis Boyle
Josh Bruby
Tracey Burke
John DeLooper
Lee Ellison

Eliot Feibush
Michael Gonzalez
Michael Hay
Bob Herskowitz
Craig Jacobson
Jennifer Jones
Josh Kallman

Margaret King
Greg Kwolek
Brendan Lyons
Clayton Myers
Luc Peterson
Cassandra Pugh
John Rhoades

Jerry Ross
Barbara Sarfaty
Paul Schmidt
Kelsey Tresemer
Gretchen Zimmer



Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Time: 1:30P.M.

Place: MBG Auditorium

*After Dr. Prager's presentation,
the Kaul Award will be presented.*

Refreshments to follow.

All Staff are Invited to Attend.