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HOTLINE

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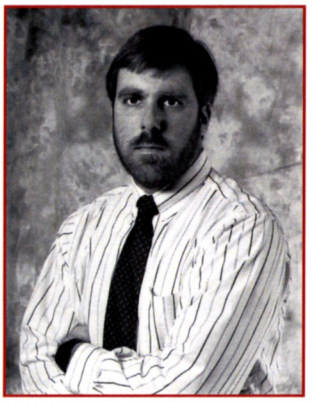
American Nuclear Society Awards Williams

Michael Williams is the recipient of this year's Outstanding Achievement Award from the American Nuclear Society's Fusion Energy Division. Williams is Head of the Engineering and Technical Infrastructure Department at PPPL. He received the award October 18 during the American Nuclear Society's 14th Topical Meeting on the Technology of Fusion Energy in Park City, Utah. The award recognizes Williams' longstanding research and leadership in the Poloidal Divertor Experiment, Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor (TFTR), and National Spherical Torus Experiment (NSTX) projects at PPPL.



Michael Williams

It is the most prestigious award from the society's Fusion Energy Division and is presented to a member in recognition of exemplary individual achievement requiring professional excellence and leadership of high caliber in the fusion science and engineering area.

PPPL Director Rob Goldston said, "Mike has been a spark-plug of PPPL's engineering efforts, as he continues to this day. It is great that the American Nuclear Society has chosen to honor him for his many accomplishments."

Williams, who is also Deputy Director of NSTX, led several project teams and served as the Deputy Project Head of TFTR from 1992 until it was closed down in 1997.

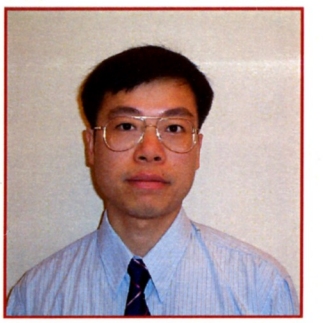
Williams has been Head of the PPPL Engineering and Technical Infrastructure Department since 1991, where he is responsible for managing all technical engineering and computing resources at the Laboratory. He is the recipient of PPPL's 1999 Kaul Foundation Prize for Excellence in Plasma Physics and Technology Development, of the Fusion Power Associates' 1999 Excellence in Fusion Engineering Award, and of the 1993 Fusion Technology Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers-Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Section's Standing Committee on Fusion Technology.

Williams came to PPPL in 1976 after graduating magna cum laude from Rutgers University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Congratulations, Mike! ●

President Honors PPPL Scientist Lin

Lin Also Receives Department of Energy Early Career Award

On October 24, President Clinton named 59 young researchers — including Zhihong Lin, a physicist at PPPL — as recipients of the fifth annual Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). This award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on young professionals at the outset of their independent research careers. The researchers received their awards during a White House ceremony.



Zhihong Lin

Established by President Clinton in February 1996, the award embodies the high priority the Administration places on producing outstanding scientists and engineers ready to contribute to all sectors of the economy. Eight Federal departments and agencies join together annually to nominate the most meritorious young scientists and engineers who will broadly advance the science and technology that will be of the greatest benefit to fulfilling the agencies' missions."These extraordinarily gifted young scientists and engineers repre-

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Lin

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sent the best in our country," President Clinton said. "Through their talent, ability, and dedication, they will quicken the pace of discovery and put science and technology to work advancing the human condition as never before."

The young scientists and engineers receive up to a five-year research grant to further their study in support of critical government missions. The Federal agencies involved include: the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation.

Also on October 24, Ernest J. Moniz, Under Secretary of Energy, Science and Environment, presented Lin and three others with the Department of Energy's Office of Science Early Career Award in Science and Engineering during a Department reception prior to the White House ceremony.

Both the Presidential and Department of Energy awards cited Lin for "performing advanced simulations with unprecedented realism and resolution leading to results demonstrating the positive impact of modern massively parallel computers and for outstanding contributions to improved understanding of plasma turbulence."

Lin's goals are to advance the physics understanding of transport processes in magnetically confined, high-temperature plasmas and to demonstrate the exciting discoveries that are made possible by the application of modern, massively parallel computers in challenging areas of plasma physics research.

Major Benefit to Plasma Science

PPPL Chief Scientist William Tang said, "Dr. Lin is an extraordinarily talented young physicist whose accomplishments have been of major benefit to plasma science and to Department of Energy programs in both fusion energy science and advanced scientific computing. I am confident that his performance will be even more impressive in the future and will help our field to both attract and retain bright young scientists."

Lin received a bachelor's degree in physics from Beijing University in China in 1989. He came to PPPL in 1990 as a graduate student and joined the research staff in 1997 after receiving a Ph.D. in plasma physics from Princeton University in 1996. He is a recipient of PPPL's 1999 Kaul Foundation Prize for Excellence in Plasma Physics and Technology Development and of the Department of Energy's Fusion Energy Postdoctoral Fellowship (1996). Congratulations, Zhihong! ●

Lab Hosts Reception

On September 28, PPPL hosted a Leadership Giving Reception for the United Way of Greater Mercer County. Forty-eight members of the community attended the event. PPPL Director Rob Goldston presented an overview lecture about PPPL and John DeLooper coordinated the hands-on science fair exhibits, which were the highlight of the evening. The event, organized by Steve Iverson and Mary Ann Brown, was capped off by tours of the National Spherical Torus Experiment led by DeLooper, Henry Carnevale, and Bill Slavin. At left, Carnevale shows a group of visitors a model of the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor. ●

HOTLINE

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Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow

A recent donation by PPPL's Andrew Post-Zwicker is dramatically cutting shampoo costs in his household.

In September, Post-Zwicker lopped off his hair — about 10 inches in length — to donate to Locks of Love, a charity that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children with medical hair loss.

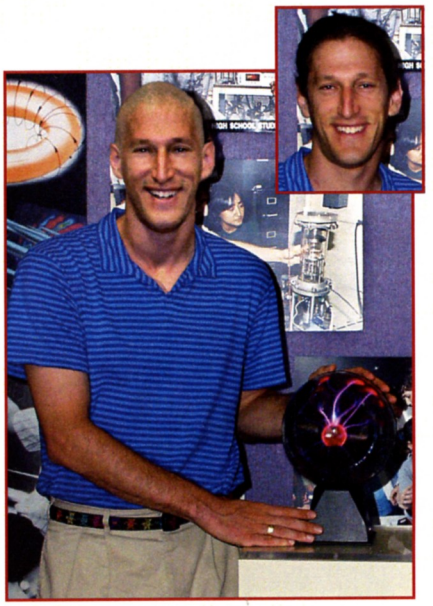
He got the idea about a year ago when he saw a newspaper photo of a man getting his ponytail cut. Post-Zwicker thought it would be nice to donate such a ponytail to charity. "So I checked on organizations that had hair drives, and found Locks of Love," recalled Post-Zwicker, Lead Scientist for the Lab's Science Education Program.

He went to work on his contribution by swearing off haircuts for about a year. When his locks reached 10 inches — the minimum donation length — Post-Zwicker's wife, Tracey, cut them off. The couple's three-year-old son, Max, helped with the clippers, while their seven-month-old daughter, Louisa, watched. "It was a real family affair," Post-Zwicker said.

Once his hair was cut, he packaged it into an envelope with a note accompanied by a monetary donation and mailed the donation to Locks of Love. Most of the Locks of Love recipients have lost their hair due to a medical condition known as alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The not-for-profit organization uses the donations to provide custom, vacuum-cap hair pieces. According to the charity, these prostheses help to restore the youngsters' self-esteem and self-confidence, which enables them to face the world and their peers.

Post-Zwicker said he had some reservations about how he would be perceived sans hair when he returned to work the following Monday. "But people here have been extremely supportive," he said.

His biggest dilemma? "Should I use shampoo or soap on my head in the shower?" He kept his head shaved, a daily chore, until the first frost earlier this month.



Andrew Post-Zwicker, before and after he cut off his hair.

Oh, and according to Post-Zwicker, it's true about the heat loss resulting from an uncovered head. Now on cool mornings he dons a cap purchased for him by his wife.

He's had no regrets about giving up his hair. "I feel good about it. I'm glad I did it," Post-Zwicker said. ●

For more information about Locks of Love, check out the organization's web site at www.locksoflove.org or write:

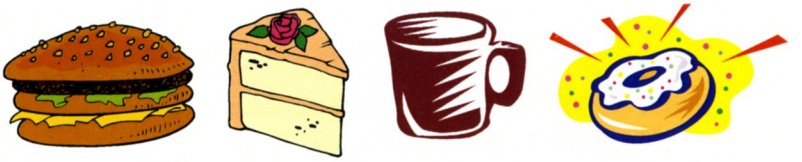
Locks of Love
1640 S. Congress Ave., Suite 104
Palm Springs, FL 33461
TOLL FREE INFO 1-888-896-1588

New Food Service at PPPL

On October 2, Eurest Dining Services, a division of Compass Group, took responsibility for PPPL's Cafeteria and vending operations.

A Laboratory committee, headed by Mary Ann Brown, worked diligently to select this new vendor. A special thanks goes to Mary Ann and committee members Ray Camp, Connie Cummings, Steve Iverson, Carl Scimeca, and Patti Wieser.

PPPL welcomes new Chef-Manager Laura Blasucci (at left) and her crew! ●



Splish, Splash ...Picnics are a Smash!

This summer and fall, PPPL Director Rob Goldston and his wife, Ruth, hosted four staff picnics at their home. More than 200 employees enjoyed the soirees, which included dips in the pool, grilled hot dogs, refreshments, and plenty of conversation. Rob and Ruth anticipate that these pinics will become an annual event, offering various staffs a chance to get acquainted. Thanks, Rob and Ruth! ●