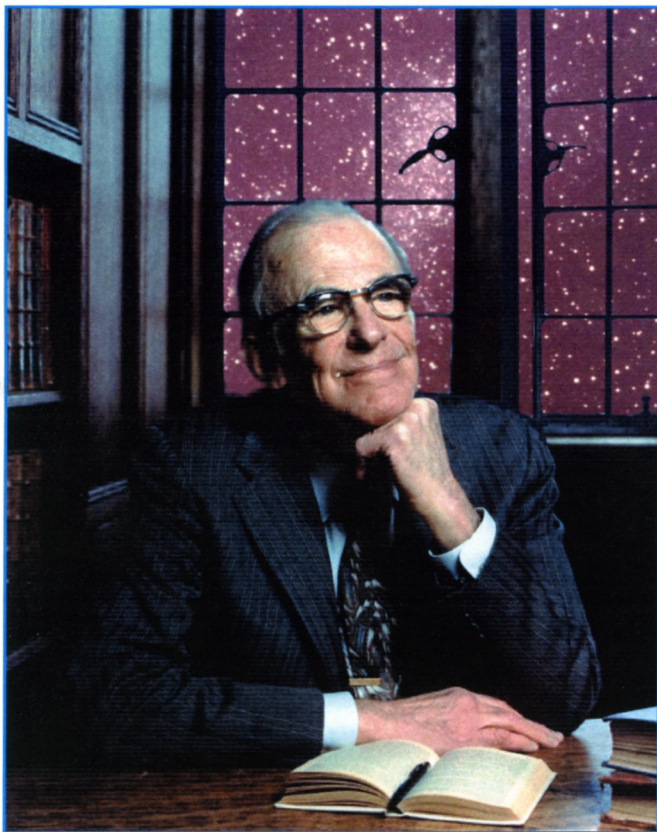


HOTLINE

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

NASA Names Telescope After PPPL Founder

Photo by Denise Applewhite



Lyman Spitzer, Jr. founded PPPL in 1951 and served as the Lab's Director until 1967.

By Steven Schultz

NASA has named a major new space telescope after PPPL founder Lyman Spitzer, Jr. The Spitzer Space Telescope, formerly the Space Infrared Telescope Facility, is one of three companions to the Hubble Space Telescope. Spitzer, a giant in theoretical astrophysics and plasma physics who died in 1997, first advocated placing observatories above the Earth's atmosphere.

"The Spitzer Space Telescope takes its place at the forefront of astronomy in the 21st century, just as its

Continued on page 2

Employees Honor Fellow Employees

Friendly and willing to help out others. Dedicated. Courteous and professional. A gifted manager.

That's just a sampling of how fellow employees described the thirteen recipients of the 2003 Employee Recognition Awards. The award winners, honored during a ceremony in the LSB Lobby on January 28, included Michael Bell, Robert Cutler, John Edwards, Bobbie Forcier, Michael Kalish, Penny Neuman, Larry Nixon, Lisa Owen, Bob Reed, Lane Roquemore, Carl Scimeca, Robert Tucker, Sr., and Al von Halle.

PPPL Director Rob Goldston presented the awards, along with a gift certificate to the Princeton U-Store. "I congratulate the recipients on their overall contributions

Continued on page 2



PPPL Director Rob Goldston and Deputy Director Rich Hawryluk (from left, back row) with Employee Recognition Award recipients Lisa Owen and John Edwards.

Telescope

Continued from page 1

namesake, Dr. Lyman Spitzer Jr., was at the forefront of astronomy in the 20th,” said NASA’s Associate Administrator for Space Science Ed Weiler.

“Lyman Spitzer was the father of space telescopes,” said Neta Bahcall, a Princeton University professor of astrophysics who worked closely with Spitzer for many years. Spitzer proposed the idea of launching a telescope into space in 1946, long before the technical capacity existed, and worked for decades to convince political and scientific doubters of its worth.

“It is very appropriate that this massive undertaking, which has been so successful and so revolutionary for our understanding of the universe, is commemorated with the name of Lyman Spitzer,” said Scott Tremaine, chair of astrophysical sciences at Princeton.

The Spitzer Space Telescope is the fourth observatory to be launched under NASA’s Great Observatories program. The first of the series was the Hubble telescope, which was launched in 1990 and observes the visible and ultraviolet portions of the electromagnetic spectrum. The second was the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory, which was taken out of orbit in 2000. The third is the Chandra X-Ray Observatory. Each type of radiation allows scientists to observe different aspects of the solar system, the galaxy and universe.

The infrared portion of the spectrum is particularly important for studying the birth of stars and galaxies, which are shrouded in dust clouds that block most visible light but not the infrared. It also will allow scientists to observe relatively cool objects, such as very small stars only slightly bigger than planets, as well as objects at the farthest reaches of time and space.

Spitzer was one of the world’s leading scientists in studying the interstellar medium — the gas and dust between stars — and understanding how stars and galaxies formed from this material. The infrared telescope, which was launched in August after more than 20 years of planning, is expected to advance this line of research dramatically.

A 50-year Odyssey

The idea of putting telescopes in space and avoiding the blurring effects of the Earth’s atmosphere had captured Spitzer’s imagination for five decades. In a 1946 report un-



NASA’s newly named Spitzer Space Telescope has captured dazzling images, including this glowing, stellar nursery, demonstrating the power of its infrared eyes to spy hidden objects. Resembling a flaming creature on the run, this image exposes the hidden interior of a dark and dusty cloud in the emission nebula IC 1396. Young stars previously obscured by dust can be seen here for the first time.

der Project Rand, and more than a decade before the launch of the first artificial satellite, he proposed the development of large space telescopes that would overcome astronomical “seeing” problems, increase the wavelength coverage available and function better in the stability of low-gravity environment. He eventually steered the development of the Hubble Space Telescope through several difficult stages of development and refurbishment. After Hubble was launched, Spitzer participated in brainstorming ways to repair a flaw in the telescope’s mirror.

First Images

The first images from the Spitzer Space Telescope were released December 18. The infrared space telescope project is managed by NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. Science operations are conducted at the Spitzer Science Center at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. ●

Hotline

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PPPL Director Rob Goldston and Deputy Director Rich Hawryluk congratulated recipients of the Employee Recognition Awards. From left are Hawryluk, recipients Larry Nixon, Michael Bell, Al von Halle, Lane Roquemore, Goldston, Bob Tucker, Penny Neuman, Bobbie Forcier, Carl Scimeca, Bob Reed, and Mike Kalish.

Awards

Continued from page 1

to the Laboratory and for their efforts toward encouraging a congenial and respectful work environment,” said Goldston. The ceremony was followed by a luncheon for the recipients in the overlook area to the NSTX Control Room.

The Employee Recognition Program was established seven years ago to recognize those PPPL employees who

“significantly contributed to a productive and harmonious work environment.” Several employees are recognized each year. Those honored are selected from nominations submitted by other employees. All full-time staff at all levels are eligible for nomination.

The 2003 Employee Recognition Program Committee included Steve Kemp, Dolores Lawson (Chair), Ben LeBlanc, John Luckie, Joanne Savino, and Hans Schneider.

Congratulations, honorees! ●

Spotlight



Name: Jaclyn Pursell

Position: Budget Analyst. Providing administrative support to PPPL principal investigators for proposals for the Work-for-Others program, and contributing to the primary objectives of the Budget Office. Responsible for assisting with field work proposals, year-end analyses, and the establishment of budget and indirect rates.

Quote: I always liked working with numbers. My job is challenging and varied, with different twists on budget issues, as well as contact with scientists, engineers, and other staff. I learn something new every day — not just about budgets, but about science, people, and PPPL’s projects. Since coming here four years ago, I’ve learned so much through working with Marie [Iseicz]. I look forward to coming to work every day.

Other interests: Spending time with husband, Torrey, and eight-month-old daughter, Brooke. Watching sports, especially college basketball, and playing basketball.

Science Bowl Volunteers Needed

About 40 volunteers are needed for the New Jersey Regional Competition of the National Science Bowl®, which will be held at PPPL on Saturday, February 28. If you are interested in serving as a judge, timekeeper, moderator, or scorekeeper, or could assist with logistics, e-mail James Morgan at jmorgan@pppl.gov or call him at ext. 2116. No experience necessary. ●

Employees Enjoy Holiday Festivities at PPPL



Staff came together December 23 to enjoy the PPPL Holiday Party in the LSB Lobby and the Cafeteria. The festivities featured music by the Unity Community Center Jazz Ensemble, a raffle, and food galore. Above, PPPL'ers fill their plates.

Transitions

Births

Congratulations to **Howie Caruso** and his wife, Christina, on the September 30 birth of their baby daughter, Madison Nicole. Caruso works in the Emergency Services Unit.

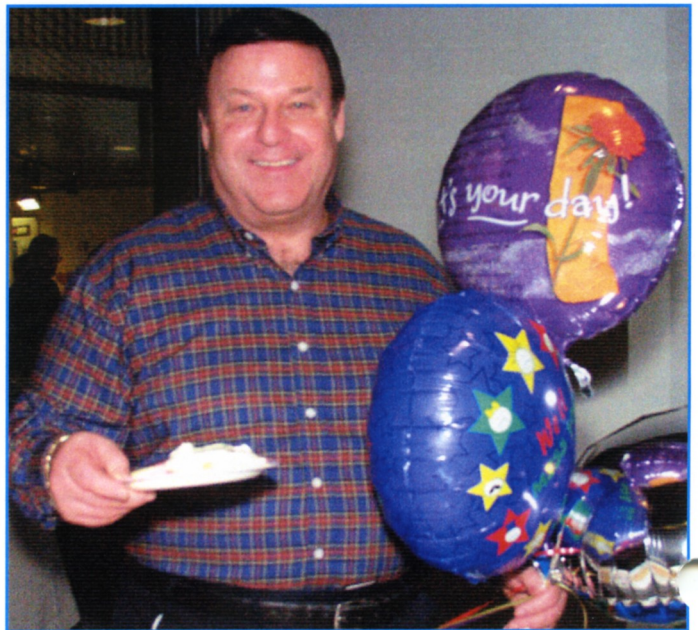
Chris Snyder, of the Emergency Services Unit, and his wife, Heather, welcomed a baby boy, Christopher, Jr. ("C.J.") on December 31.

Retirements

Steve Iverson, Head of Human Resources, retired on January 5. He had been at PPPL for 26 years.

Chris Gillars, Head of the Materiel Control Division, retired on January 15 after 23 years of service at the Lab.

Dave O'Neill, Head of the Power Branch, retired in December. He had been at PPPL for 23 years.



Steve Iverson enjoys cake at his retirement party in the LSB Lobby.