

## New "Show" about PPPL is a Big Hit!

*Viewers use Mosaic to see Computer File on Lab*

**W**atch out, Oprah! People are tuning in to a new "program."

This recent hit, which is available on computer rather than TV, is the PPPL "show."

Using a computer tool called Mosaic, hundreds of viewers across America, and from as far away as the University of Düsseldorf in Germany and Kyoto University in Japan, have picked up information on PPPL and fusion energy since June.

### Computer Tool

Mosaic is an easy-to-use, computer tool that offers a collage of information, from a map of PPPL to photographs of the Hubble Space Telescope to current weather forecasts. Since the Lab's file was added to Mosaic this summer, more than 1,500 people have tuned into it. Viewers have accessed as few as a couple of pages on PPPL to as many as the entire file, which is 60 pages. And since many are repeat viewers, the total number of PPPL pages accessed so far is about 15,000.

"Mosaic is a top-level tool that allows people throughout the world—anybody who is on Internet—to gain access to a massive amount of data," said PPPL's Steve Davis. "You can run it on virtually any computer that you happen to have, as long as you have access to Internet, which is an international network."

Added PPPL's Jack Mervine, "Mosaic helps you find your way

through the World Wide Web documentation on Internet. By simply clicking text "buttons" with your mouse, you can jump into and out of documents."

Mervine took existing information about the Lab that had been prepared by Information Services and translated it into Mosaic form. The result is the 60-page PPPL file, complete with photographs and a map. The document is broken down into subcategories, giving users their choice of several topics, from energy and the future to a history of the Laboratory.

### Point and Click

Said Davis, "All you do is point and click. Hit the word in blue, such as "locate" on PPPL's file, and up comes a map of the Lab. Another click and there's a list of information on PPPL. You can even click on pictures."



According to PPPL's Walter Stark, who installed the PPPL server for Mosaic, those who are tuning in to PPPL are largely from commercial, educational, and government institutions across the globe. Noting that a sample week



*From left are PPPL employees Steve Davis, Walt Stark, and Jack Mervine.*

in July saw 161 new "visitors" to the PPPL server, Stark said, "We're still being discovered."

Davis said Mosaic, which is free and available from the National Center for Superconducting Applications (NCSA), offers educational and public relations advantages. It allows the Lab to provide timely information about PPPL activities to researchers and students, as well as to the public.

"This software can be used to provide general information to the public. It can also provide researchers with tools to access information that they need such as TFTR run schedules, TFTR status information, TPX documents, and so on," said Davis. "Several hundred pages on PPPL are accessed per week. People are accessing this from the

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## Mosaic

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Department of Energy (DOE) Laboratory at Los Alamos, General Atomics, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Joint European Torus in England, to name a few. There are hits from all over the world."

### Faster Way

Added PPPL's Head of Information Services Anthony DeMeo, "This is a faster way to get information out to the public. Once the text has been through the approval cycle, it can immediately be put on the Mosaic file. We don't have to wait for a commercial printer to produce a document."

He said all the public information already printed about PPPL is on Mosaic and accessible to anyone interested. Updated information is placed on the computer as progress occurs. "This is much more immediate," DeMeo said.

He noted that PPPL is also referred to in other Mosaic files, such as the file on Department of Energy (DOE) Laboratories. "References



Anthony DeMeo

to our file show up in a myriad of references from other files, which is nice because most brochures from institutions don't mention other institutions," said DeMeo.

### Far Outnumber

He said the number of people who learn about PPPL through Mosaic far outnumber those who receive printed material about the Lab. PPPL distributes about 2,500 copies of printed material annually. Through Mosaic, more than half that amount have reviewed information on the Lab in just two months. "We never reach that many people with our hard-copy publications," said the Information Services Head, adding that printed

materials will continue to be produced and distributed.

Davis, lauding the benefits of publicizing PPPL projects and successes, said, "If you're going to get people to spend money to build a machine, you have to make sure they are familiar with it."

### Library of Information

Besides the PPPL server, there's a library of scientific and other information available to Mosaic users. "You can get all sorts of information. You can see the White House budgets. You can open the file on NASA [National Aeronautics and Space Administration]. There's even a research file on the white rhinoceros," said Davis, adding that Mosaic is available to staff.

The documents in Mosaic include text, still pictures, animated pictures, and sound bytes. NASA's file includes a picture of the U.S. that is dotted with NASA sites around the country. Punch on the star of the Kennedy Space Flight Center and the file from that center will pop up, complete with pictures. Select the section on shuttle mission information and the latest information on the shuttle flights is available. "NASA keeps this completely up-to-date," said Davis.

He noted that the file from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., includes an audio section in which the Center's activities are described. Davis said PPPL will shortly add audio to its server, and would like to tape Lab Director Ronald Davidson as he describes PPPL's mission.

Information is continually added to Mosaic files, including the PPPL server. In addition, new servers come on board regularly, adding to the mountain of information available to users. "This is just the beginning of the information that will be available," said Davis. ●

## Mosaic

Mosaic is available to all Lab employees. This user-friendly computer tool helps users find their way through the World Wide Web (WWW) of hypertext documentation on Internet and houses documents that range from an overview of PPPL to space shuttle information. Each Mosaic "trip" starts at a home page, which for PPPL is at Uniform Resource Locator (URL) address "<http://www.pppl.gov>". From there, one can read the PPPL overview or start a journey through the WWW of information.

To use Mosaic, a Macintosh computer with the System 7 operating system, MacTCP, and at least 4 megabytes of free space on the hard disk are needed. In addition, one needs a copy of the program, along with a set of Mosaic tools (both are in the PublicMac area of the MacUser file server). There are also IBM and X-windows versions available. For more information, call the Computer Help Desk at ext. 2275.

# Carpentry Skills Passed to "Student" at Lab

## PPPL Carpenter Teaches Fellow Employee Through DMAC Program

When Robert Tucker found out Wilbert Barlow would join him in PPPL's Carpenter Shop a couple of days a week, he dusted off an assignment from his high school days and handed it to his new co-worker.

The task for Barlow, in Tucker's words, was simply, "Build yourself a toolbox."

Tucker, a seasoned carpenter who hails from a family of carpenters, said the toolbox project helps the builder understand how measurements change on the pieces from the interior to the exterior. For instance, the dimensions for the bottom are different inside than outside.

"I learned by the assignment so I thought I might as well teach that to Wilbert," he said.

Barlow, who works in Building Services, acknowledged that he indeed culled something from his first carpentry project. "I learned not to make it so heavy," he said with a chuckle.

### Brought Together

The two—Barlow and Tucker—were brought together as carpentry teacher and student through the PPPL Director's Minority Advisory Committee's (DMAC's) newly implemented Mentoring/Skill Development Program. The program gives employees the opportunity to learn new skills and prepares them for more advanced positions.

This summer, Tucker and Barlow were given awards for their participation in the DMAC Mentoring Program at the Laboratory. Barlow received a "Certificate of

Completion" as a Carpenter's Helper and Tucker was recognized for his "dedicated services" as a teacher/mentor.



Ronald Davidson

how such a program should work. I congratulate them both on an outstanding job, and look forward to many more such mentoring projects in the future."

### On-the-Job Training

Barlow and Tucker were the first selected to participate in the program for minority employees, which includes on-the-job-training and a formal course curriculum that must be completed. As part of the program, Barlow completed a math class.

"I was going to school at the Mercer County Technical Vocational School at night, taking industrial math," said Barlow, adding that he would like to eventually work permanently in PPPL's Carpenter Shop.

Barlow said he has always been interested in carpentry, but his only experience was on small projects at home. As part of the mentoring program, he spent two days a week for a couple of months under the tutelage of Tucker. Barlow said he learned how to figure measure-

ments, cut different types of angles, and operate a planer, a drill press, a sander, and various saws. One project was to make large skids for the TFTR project.

Said Tucker, "I did not try to lead him by the hand." For instance, if the shop was asked to make dollies, Tucker would hand the task over to Barlow and be available to answer questions as Barlow progressed on the project.

Both noted their different ways of tackling the same project. Barlow likes to use a calculator to figure out measurements, while Tucker is from the old school. "When you get out in the field, you have a pencil and a ruler. That's the old-fashioned way," said Tucker.

Tucker noted that Barlow became acquainted with the more advanced tools of carpentry before his term was up. "He's ready for the

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From left are Wilbert Barlow and Robert Tucker in PPPL's Carpenter Shop. The two were the first to participate in the Lab's DMAC Mentoring Program. Tucker, a carpenter at the Lab, taught carpentry skills to Barlow, who works in Building Services.



## Carpenter

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next step," said Tucker, who has been at the Lab's Carpenter Shop for 14 years. Added Barlow, "I've gone from the minors to the majors ... I learned a lot."



**Tucker carves wood objects in his spare time. Here he is with a sampling of his craftwork.**

Commenting on his duties as a mentor, Tucker said, "It was fun. I enjoyed it. If you have someone willing, it's not hard." He added that having Barlow in the shop actually took a load off of him.

Tucker and Barlow both said they hope the program continues and that Barlow can complete advanced carpentry training through it. In the meantime, they are carrying on their work with wood. Barlow and a friend recently completed a deck with sunburst railing at his home. And Tucker, when he's not

***"I learned by the assignment so I thought I might as well teach that to Wilbert."***

**—Robert Tucker**

involved in carpentry projects at the Lab, enjoys wood carving. His handiwork—from a wooden foot that holds pencils to a wood face—dot the Carpenter Shop.

Barlow said of his mentor, Tucker, "He knows wood like Bo knows Didley." ●

## HOTLINE

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## Classified

Now taking orders for **Entertainment '95 Discount Coupon Books**. Still only \$40. Call Gregg at ext. 3370 to place an order. Books are available for pick up and use in late September.

# What's Happening at PPPL?



**PPPL'ers Sharon Sherman and Scott Sweeney have more than just the same initials in common. Both received advanced degrees from Rutgers University during the university's graduation ceremony this spring. Sweeney, at left, received a Master's of Science in Human Resources Management, while Sherman received a Ph.D. in Administration and Supervision with a specialty in organizational theory.**

## Latest CRADA Celebrated

The Laboratory recently teamed up with the Rhode Island company Vertère to develop computer software that streamlines the inventory and tracking of chemicals and the management of waste products. The result of the collaboration is the Chemical and Waste Management and Report Generating System for personal computers, which also gives users the capability to generate documents for regulatory compliance. (See May 9th HOTLINE for complete story.) In August, the "partners" got together at PPPL to celebrate the joint effort, which is the Lab's latest Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA). From left are PPPL Director Ronald Davidson, Vertère President Sharon Stasko, PPPL employee Peter Del Gandio, Robin Bauer of the Department of Energy's Princeton Area Office, and Lewis Meixler, PPPL's Head of Technology Transfer.

