

Hotline

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

Governor Whitman Visits Lab

Tours the TFTR, Meets Staff, Answers Reporters' Questions

During a recent tour of the TFTR, Governor Christine Todd Whitman declared her backing of PPPL and fusion energy research.

"You're seeing a whole new source of energy ... [a source] that doesn't hurt our environment and doesn't pollute," said Governor Whitman, who visited the Lab on Tuesday, February 7. "Our delegation is going to be right there [in Washington, D.C.] supporting this."

Promise for the Future

The Governor called fusion research a "big commitment of dollars," but a worthwhile investment because it holds such promise for the future. "The potential is real. It's not just in a scientist's daydream," she said.



Governor Whitman answers reporters' questions while standing in the TFTR Test Cell. Behind the Governor is Herbert Tate, President of the Board of Public Utilities.



Photo by Diemar Krause

Governor Christine Todd Whitman shakes hands with PPPL employees who had lined up in the TFTR Mock-Up area to greet her.

The Governor's 30-minute tour began at the LOB Lobby, where she was greeted by Laboratory Director Ronald Davidson and Princeton University President Harold Shapiro, as well as about 50 PPPL employees and several news reporters. Davidson led Governor Whitman around the exhibits in the Lobby, describing the basics of fusion. He also told the Governor of PPPL's accomplishments on TFTR and its plans for the Tokamak Physics Experiment (TPX).

Davidson referred to Governor Whitman as a "quick study." "She soon was asking insightful questions like 'Where does the deuterium and tritium fuel come from?' and 'How does a magnetic field confine the plasma?'" he said.

Governor Whitman and her party then were driven to the TFTR site, where she shook hands with many of the more than forty employees who had lined up in the TFTR Mock-Up area to welcome her.

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Whitman

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The Governor was led through the TFTR Test Cell by Davidson and PPPL Deputy Director Dale Meade. Also on the tour were Gualberto Medina, New Jersey Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development — who planned the Governor's stop at the Lab — Barbara Wright, 14th District Assemblywoman, Herbert Tate, President of the Board of Public Utilities, and Jason Volk, an aide to Governor Whitman.

“They’ve [PPPL scientists] actually produced energy. They know it can work ... It’s worth a further investment.”
—Governor Whitman



Photo by Dietmar Krause

PPPL Director Ronald Davidson (left) leads the Governor (right) on a tour of the LOB Lobby. Behind the Governor is Princeton University President Harold Shapiro.

Asked by reporters surrounding her in front of TFTR if she would be willing to go to Washington to urge Congressional representatives to keep PPPL open, the Governor replied, “Certainly.”

“The long-term potential for energy is so important and [since] this is an entity that can provide that, it’s worth the investment that

we’re asking government to make,” Governor Whitman said.

She added that a huge investment in PPPL’s research has already been made and the Lab is drawing closer to its goal.

“They’ve [PPPL scientists] actually produced energy. They know it can work ... It’s worth a further investment,” she said. ●

Photo by Denise Applewhite



Photo by Dietmar Krause



In the photo at left, the tour group is shown selecting hard hats before entering the TFTR Test Cell. From left are Herbert Tate, President of the Board of Public Utilities (in background), Lab Director Ronald Davidson, Princeton University President Harold Shapiro, and Governor Whitman. In the photo at right, Davidson is shown presenting Governor Whitman with one of two 16 by 20 framed pictures. The pictures were a color photograph of TFTR’s interior and an artist’s color rendering of TPX. From left are Milton Johnson, Manager of the Department of Energy’s Princeton Area Office, Davidson, 14th District Assemblywoman Barbara Wright, Tate, and Governor Whitman.



Gregg Tompkins likes the “instant carpool.”

Tom Carroll enjoys having a steady lunch date.

And Lynne Yager is glad to have a resource for lunch money when she's left her cash at home.

The three were among several of the 20 married couples at PPPL who — prompted by the celebration of Valentine's Day this month — reflected on what they like best about having their spouses at the same work site.

“I like driving together and eating lunch with my great wife,” said Rick Cargill, stores contract administrator at Materiel Control. “It's the only time we really have time to talk since we have three boys at home who love to talk — usually at the same time.”

Rick and his wife, Fran, celebrated their third anniversary on Valentine's Day.

TFTR technical assistant Allen Patterson, who married his high school sweetheart, Sonja, in 1966 — the same year he began working at PPPL — said he enjoys working at the same place as his wife because of “the use of one car and doing things together after work.”

Sonja, a secretary for Certification and Training, agreed, saying that it lends to the “convenience of doing things together.”

Lunch

One of the top benefits cited by the couples was having a steady lunch date.

Computer Systems Division system analyst Tom Carroll, who has been married to Science Education Program Head Diane Carroll for 20 years, said the best part of working with his wife is having “lunch together.”

Newlywed John Citrolo, principal engineer for TPX, said the highlight of sharing an employer with Sallie Citrolo, his wife of three months, is, “Lunch!”

Met at Work

The Citrolos, as well as the Cargills, are among some of PPPL's couples who were struck by cupid's arrow while they were at work.

Others who met on-the-job are Molly and Gregg Tompkins, who have been married for 13 years, and Sara Flohr and Rich Myslinski, who were married four years ago.

“When we thought about getting married, there was no question about whose job we would move close to!”

—Sallie Citrolo

Then there's the two PPPL employees, Lynne and Dick Yager, whose paths — and stars — didn't cross until they participated in a Princeton University bowling league.

Lynne, an administrator for Cost and Schedule Control, and Dick, an engineering technical associate, were married five years ago after being introduced while bowling.

Describing an advantage of working at the same place, Lynne said, “When your wallet is at home, there's always someone to borrow lunch money from.”

Planning and control officer Sara Flohr said the thing she and Rich Myslinski, a technical associate, like most about sharing an employer is commuting together. “It saves travel costs, and gives us that much extra

time each day to communicate,” Sara explained.

Added Molly Tompkins, who is PPPL's Telecommunications Manager, “You always have a ride home.”

Molly's husband, Gregg, Operations Manager for Security and Emergency Preparedness, said, “It's an instant car pool!” He noted that working at the same place also provides an extra hour each day together.

Pat Newman, a secretary for Occupational Medicine, also lauded the advantage of carpooling “when possible” with her husband of 38 years, Richard Newman. Richard, a Neutral Beam Operations engineer, said he likes being able to share with Pat in the success of the Lab's programs.

Knowing Others

Some couples remarked on how working at the same place makes communications on work-related people and issues simpler.

“It's easier to discuss the day's activities since the other person knows the players, systems, and locations,” said Gregg Tompkins.

Pat Newman said, “(We) are able to compare our individual perspectives of the Lab community.”

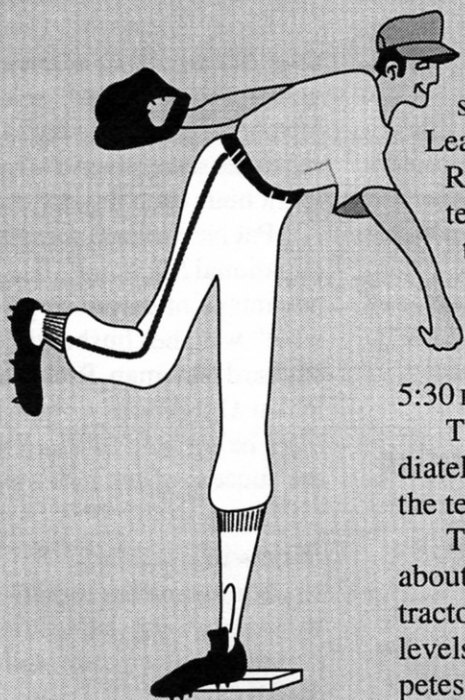
Added Sallie Citrolo, “When we complain about somebody, the other knows who it is!”

Sallie, who is secretary to TPX Project Director John Schmidt, said the benefits of having her mate at the same workplace are abundant, ranging from sharing an interest in fusion to widening their circles of friends to having the option of carpooling — even though they “can't seem to get out the door together.”

Giving another advantage, she said, “When we thought about getting married, there was no question about whose job we would move close to!”



Softball Coach/Manager Needed



The PPPL Softball League is looking for a Coach/Manager to lead this year's team.

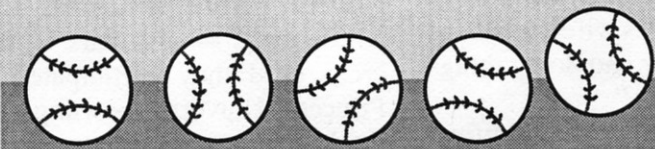
"Someone is needed to take charge of the team," said Tom Holoman, a longtime organizer of the Lab's League.

Responsibilities for the position include organizing a team at the Lab, interacting with League representatives, and working with PPPL's Personnel to obtain funding for the team. Once the season starts, the Coach/Manager will lead the team during 28 games — 14 double headers — on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 PM. to 8 PM. The season will begin sometime in April.

The new Coach/Manager will be asked to begin immediately, spending a couple of hours each week organizing the team during pre-season.

The team, which has been in existence at the Lab for about 25 years, is open to all Lab employees and subcontractors and welcomes men and women of all experience levels. As part of the Princeton Softball League, it competes with teams from such businesses as McGraw-Hill and FMC.

If you are interested in coaching the team, please contact **Tom Holoman** at ext. 2250 or **Colin McFarlane** at ext. 2851.



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