

Hotline

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

PPPL Staffers Receive First-time Employee Recognition Awards

Honored by their co-workers for their "outstanding professional achievements and personal characteristics," twenty-eight PPPL employees received the newly created Employee Recognition Program awards on Wednesday, July 24.

The 1996 recipients are J.W. Anderson, Wilbert Barlow, Dori Barnes, Michael Bell, Robert Cancel, James Chrzanowski, Lloyd Ciebiera, Connie Cummings, Michael Diesso, John Garboski, Gerald Hart, Sue Hill, Larry Jones, Paul Kivler, John Krzywulak, Dolores Lawson, Antonio Morgado, Richard Palladino, Subrahmanya "Raki" Ramakrishnan, Christine Ritter, John Robinson, Lane Roquemore, Barbara Sarfaty, James Taylor, Kenneth Tindall, Walter Weyman, Raymond Whitley, and Virginia Zelenak.



The recipients of the Employee Recognition Awards for 1996 are, from left (seated), Dori Barnes, Virginia Zelenak, Barbara Sarfaty, Dolores Lawson, Connie Cummings, and Christine Ritter; (standing) Lloyd Ciebiera, James Chrzanowski, John Krzywulak, J.W. Anderson, Larry Jones, Paul Kivler, Antonio Morgado, Kenneth Tindall, Richard Palladino, John Robinson, Michael Bell, and Lane Roquemore. Not pictured are Wilbert Barlow, Robert Cancel, Michael Diesso, John Garboski, Gerald Hart, Sue Hill, Subrahmanya "Raki" Ramakrishnan, James Taylor, Walter Weyman, and Raymond Whitley.

Respectful Work Environment

"I congratulate the recipients on their overall contributions to the Laboratory mission and for their efforts toward a congenial and respectful work environment," said PPPL Director Ronald C. Davidson. "You are all role models for the entire staff."

The first-time recipients of the annual awards were honored at a luncheon at the Lab and later at an awards

ceremony in the LOB Lobby. Employee Recognition Awards Review Committee member Barbara Sobel presented the certificates to the recipients during the ceremony, which was open to all staff.

Said Sobel, "It is important that the humanistic and professional qualities of employees be recognized as factors in the attainment of Laboratory goals and objectives. This

year's recipients were nominated by their fellow workers because of the positive impact — both professionally and personally — that they have had on the Laboratory as a whole."

The Director's Advisory Committee on Women and the Quality Improvement and Renewal Committee established the Employee Recog-

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Recognition

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nomination Program this year to honor those employees whose "personal qualities and professional achievements have significantly contributed to a productive and harmonious work environment." Through the program, several employees will be cited annually after being selected from nominations submitted by their co-workers. All full-time PPPL staff at all levels are eligible for nomination.

"This year's recipients were nominated by their fellow workers because of the positive impact — both professionally and personally — that they have had on the Laboratory as a whole."
—Barbara Sobel

Nomination forms will be given to staff once a year, and a committee selects from the submissions.

This year's committee includes Robert Ellis, III, Suzanne Homer, Hyeon Park, Phyllis Schwarz, Barbara Sobel, Nathaniel Thomas, and Michael Vocaturo. ●

Congratulations to the 1996 recipients of the Employee Recognition Awards!

Employee Recognition Award Recipients

J.W. Anderson

Wilbert Barlow

Dori Barnes

Michael Bell

Robert Cancel

James Chrzanowski

Lloyd Ciebiera

Connie Cummings

Michael Diesso

John Garboski

Gerald Hart

Sue Hill

Larry Jones

Paul Kivler

John Krzywulak

Dolores Lawson

Antonio Morgado

Richard Palladino

Subrahmanya Ramakrishnan

Christine Ritter

John Robinson

Lane Roquemore

Barbara Sarfaty

James Taylor

Kenneth Tindall

Walter Weyman

Raymond Whitley

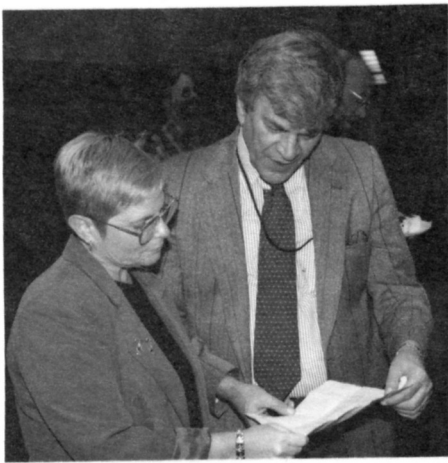
Virginia Zelenak

HOTLINE

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Barbara Sobel and PPPL Director Ronald C. Davidson compare notes for opening remarks at the Employee Recognition Awards ceremony.



At the awards ceremony are, from left, John Robinson, Richard Palladino, and Michael Bell.



Gathering around the cake table are (from left) Lane Roquemore, Phyllis Schwarz, Michael Bell, Richard Palladino, Connie Cummings, and Suzanne Homer (back to camera).



The Employee Recognition Award recipients are treated to a luncheon prior to the awards ceremony.



Dishing up a Chinese lunch in B-318 are Larry Jones (left) and Bob Cancel.



John Krzywulak



Recipient Kenneth Tindall (left) and co-worker Carl Scimeca read over the citation.

SPOTLIGHT: Emergency Services Unit

PPPL Firefighters Provide Emergency Response to Both Lab and Community

When President Clinton delivered remarks at Princeton University's commencement this year, a three-person ambulance crew from PPPL's Emergency Services Unit (ESU) stood nearby, ready to transport the nation's chief executive to the hospital should a medical emergency arise.

During the massive oil tank fire at the Shell Oil storage facility in Woodbridge earlier this summer, ESU crews delivered water to firefighters to use while hosing down oil tanks near the blaze to prevent it from spreading.

And when a fire broke out recently at an office building off Princeton-Hightstown Road in West Windsor, four ESU staffers hopped into the PPPL firetruck to back up the

Princeton Junction fire crew on the scene.

The Laboratory's ESU staff, which provides fire protection, security, emergency medical, emergency preparedness, and fire prevention services at the Lab, also provides emergency response to PPPL's neighboring communities.

"We play a vital role in the community," said Security and Emergency Preparedness Division Head John Bavlish.

Cross trained

ESU's 21 staffers in the Operations Division include captains, driver operators, and emergency services officers, who are all emergency medical technicians. All are cross trained to handle a variety of situations. And



From left are Jim McGuire, Mike Loh, and Bob Lamb at the scene of the oil tank fire.

there is a minimum five-person crew on duty at PPPL every hour of every day of the year. They serve as guards at the security offices at the main entrance to the Lab and as dispatchers, as well as maintain the command and communications center and perform a host of fire prevention tasks, such as inspecting sprinkler systems.

Prepared for the Worst

"Prevention is one of the main things we keep on top of," said Bavlish. "We ensure that our training is current and continually participate in exercises that keep us prepared for the worst."

ESU employees — many of whom are involved in fire and rescue squads in their hometowns as well — are also adept at operating the machinery lodged at the PPPL firehouse, including two fire engines that are pumpers, an ambulance, a rescue vehicle equipped for confined-space emergencies, and a tactical vehicle.



Dave Neuman (left) and John Bavlish settle in at the new Communications Center on the first floor of the LOB. The upgraded center includes all alarm, communications, and security systems at the Lab.



In photo at left are Kevin Rhoades (left) and Robert Hutchinson, who were part of the PPPL crew that responded to an office building fire in West Windsor in June. Not pictured are Robert Lamb and Dan Tomalin. In right photo are, from left, Wesley Foraker, (in driver's seat), Dave Gayley, Jim McGuire, and Bob Brown. The four, along with Kevin Brink, Mike Loh, Robert Lamb, and Bert Allen, assisted at the oil tank fire.

Besides their duties at the Lab, the ESU serves the community through mutual aid agreements with Plainsboro Township, Princeton Borough and Township, and Princeton University. The group is also part of the mutual aid system of the Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management, which brought PPPL firefighters to the scene of the oil tank blaze last month.

Supply Water

"Our primary operation there was to supply water to cool oil tanks at the scene. There were a number of fuel tanks in the area," said ESU's Jim McGuire, who assisted at the fire caused by lightning striking a 3 to 4 million gallon tank containing a gasoline mix.

McGuire described the scene as "chaotic," with numerous entities from local, state, and federal organizations, and about 90 pieces of firefighting apparatus. "There were loads of people, a lot of smoke and a lot of fire," he recalled.

About a dozen PPPL firefighters were among many from the region who were on the scene during a 24-

hour period until the blaze was quelled.

On a Saturday evening last month, PPPL received a request for help at an office building fire in West Windsor. The four-person crew, including Kevin Rhoades, Robert Lamb, Dan Tomalin, and Robert Hutchinson, suited up in their fire garb.

"We play a vital role in the community."

—John Bavlish

"We went out there and helped with the salvage and overhaul," said Rhoades. He noted that PPPL received the call when the fire was mostly under control, but extra manpower was needed to relieve the Princeton Junction fire crew on the scene.

And while ESU ambulance crew services were not needed during President Clinton's visit to Princeton University, Allen Davis, Mike Loh, and Robert Lamb were on hand in the PPPL ambulance in case the president needed to be taken to a hospital.

"Our team of professionals can handle just about any emergency that you can think of," said Bavlish. ●



An oil tank at the Shell Oil storage facility in Woodbridge last month took firefighters more than 24 hours to extinguish.



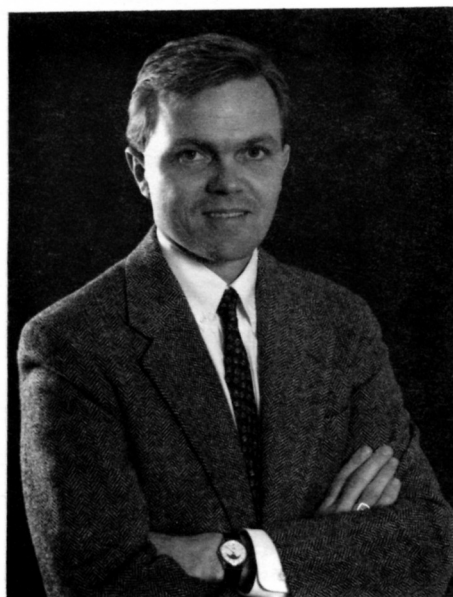
A Word from Human Resources...

The Furlough: The Laboratory's furlough is in effect from Monday, August 19, through Friday, August 30, with employees scheduled to return to work on Tuesday, September 3. A summary of the Furlough Policy and instructions from the PPPL Payroll Office on how to complete monthly and bi-weekly time sheets covering the furlough period was distributed recently to all staff by the Office of Human Resources and Administration.

Employees are urged to review their current vacation balances with their supervisors. If you do not have enough accrued vacation to cover the furlough period, you will be placed on a Leave of Absence Without Pay for the number of days you fall short. To accurately calculate the number of days you have available, remember to deduct any vacation time you have scheduled between now and the beginning of the furlough period from your current balance. Please remember that in accordance with the PPPL Vacation Policy, you cannot take vacation time before it is earned.

If you have any questions about the Furlough Policy Summary or Leave of Absence Without Pay, please contact the Human Resources Office at ext. 2101 or ext. 2033. If you have any questions about the completion of monthly or bi-weekly time sheets, please call PPPL Payroll at ext. 3506.

Training Reminder: Don't forget! Any employee who has training due during the furlough period should complete the training prior to the two-week break. Please call the Human Resources Office at ext. 2220 to schedule or challenge a course.



Anderson Named Chairperson of Quality Committee

The Laboratory recently named J.W. Anderson as the Chairperson of PPPL's Quality Improvement and Renewal Committee.

Anderson (pictured at left), Head of the Lab's Facilities and Environmental Management Division, replaces Geoff Gettelfinger, who resigned from PPPL earlier this month. If you have suggestions for quality

improvement or issues of concern, please contact Anderson at ext. 2207.

The committee members are Dori Barnes, Anthony Bleach, Gary D'Amico, John DeLooper, Robert Ellis, III, Steve Iverson (ex officio), Judy Malsbury, Tom McGeachen, Sue Murphy-LaMarche, Masayuki Ono, Phyllis Schwarz, James Taylor, Al von Halle, and J. Randy Wilson. ●

Lab and University Bring Science and Math Activities to Trenton Students

As part of its partnership with the Trenton schools, the Laboratory and the Student Volunteers Council (SVC) of Princeton University are bringing hands-on science and math activities to more than 400 Trenton students this summer.

Beginning this month, PPPL is placing 15 Princeton University student volunteers as interns in four community-based programs in the Trenton area through PPPL's Summer Internships in Trenton Program. The undergraduates will serve as tutors and mentors to inner city youngsters enrolled in programs at the Young Scholars Institute, Isles, and Hollowbrook Center in Trenton, and Project SMILE (Science and Math, Interesting, Learned Easily) at Mercer County Community College. The interns will focus on developing the Trenton students' problem solving and reading skills, providing hands-on math and science experiences, and increasing technology awareness.

Educating Region's Children

"As one of the major scientific institutions in the area, we want to help in providing assistance in educating the region's children," said PPPL Director Ronald C. Davidson.

PPPL Science Education program administrator Chris Ritter added, "It is wonderful to see the children respond so enthusiastically to the

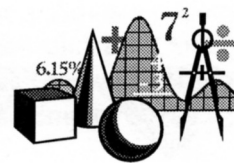


Directors of community-based programs in the Trenton area recently toured the Lab. Seated (from left) are Lisa Muentener, Associate Director, Isle, Inc.; Evelyn Thomas, Associate Director, Young Scholars Institute; Carrie Hoover, Office Specialist, Student Volunteer Council; standing (from left) Angelo Otterbein, Former SVC Student Administrator; Ruth Palmer, Education Specialist; Eleanor Harrison, SVC Director, Princeton University; Kevin Kopp, Environmental Education, Isle, Inc.; and Christine Ritter, Program Coordinator, PPPL Science Education. Not pictured is Herman Kimbrough, Executive Director, Hollowbrook Center.

Princeton students. They are eager for the experience and end up really liking the math and science."

The student volunteers will serve as interns this month and next at the four participating organizations. The Summer Internships program is part

of the PPPL/Trenton Partnership, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The partnership between the Laboratory and the Trenton Public Schools began in 1990 to improve math and science teaching and learning. ●





Sparkling "Best Friend" Recovered

As Tim Vavricka began cleaning the women's bathroom on the second floor of the LOB early on the morning of July 10th, he spotted something shiny on the floor next to the garbage can.

Vavricka, a member of PPPL's Facilities and Environmental Management (F&EM) Division, stooped down to discover a gleaming 2.5-carat diamond ring. He quickly picked it up and made his way to the Security Communications Center at the Laboratory.

"I took the ring to security on the first floor and reported it as being found," said Vavricka.

The evening before, Joan Shands, DOE Counsel, made her own discovery — albeit alarming — while driving down U.S. Route 1 in rush hour traffic after leaving PPPL.

Diamond Ring Missing

"I had my hand on the steering wheel and noticed my diamond ring missing and almost stopped right there. That was my engagement ring that my husband had given to me 26 years ago," said Shands, a member of the negotiating team to extend Princeton University's contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the operation of PPPL. "I pulled

over to the side of the road and began looking for it."

When she had no luck in finding the ring in the car, Shands drove back to PPPL and enlisted the help of Dottie Kerr, DOE Princeton Group, and two colleagues from the DOE's Chicago Operations office. Kerr reported the loss to security and then the foursome scoured the area from 5:45 p.m. until 8:50 p.m. hunting for the precious stone.

**"I could not believe
that a person could
be so honest."**

—Joan Shands

"We searched from the office to the parking lot," recalled Shands.

As night set in, they called it quits and Shands returned to her hotel room for what she described as a "sleepless and excruciating night." She even placed a call to her mom to commiserate over the uninsured ring.

The next morning, she arrived at the Lab around 6 a.m. and told the security guard on duty her name to gain entrance. The guard asked, "What did you say your name was?"

Once Shands repeated it, the guard informed her the ring had been found by Vavricka. Shands broke into tears of joy. "I had that wracking kind of cry that happens when you are so happy," she said.

Soon after recovering the ring, which she quickly insured, the DOE attorney met up with Vavricka. "She ran up and congratulated me for finding it," said Tim, who has been at PPPL for five years.

Said Shands, "I could not believe that a person could be so honest. Whatever I can say about him is not enough. I am still in awe."

In a thank-you card inscribed with "It is more blessed to give than to receive," Shands placed a reward and her own handwritten message to Vavricka, "I will be forever grateful to you — everyday I have a reminder of your honesty."

Lot of Integrity

F&EM Head J.W. Anderson said, "I am very happy for Ms. Shands that the ring was found. It's a tribute to Tim — he really takes pride in what he does and he has a lot of integrity."

Vavricka, however, insists he had little choice in the matter. "After all, diamonds are a girl's best friend," he said with a smile. ●

