

At PPPL THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

PPPL Holiday Luncheon
Noon ♦ LSB Lobby and Dining Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Lab Closed
University Holiday

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Lab Closed
University Holiday

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Lab Closed

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Lab Closed

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

Lab Closed

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Lab Closed
University Holiday

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2012

Lab Closed
University Holiday

*Warmest Greetings and Best Wishes
for the New Year*



from

The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

Director's Corner

Happy Holidays

By **Stewart Prager** — Director, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory



We are drawing the year to a close with three pieces of great news within one week. Just today we received official approval from the Department of Energy to begin construction of the NSTX-Upgrade. This approval, known as Critical Decision-3, is based on extensive review of all aspects of the upgrade: engineering design, technical plans, schedule, cost, safety, and project management. This approval is wonderful for the U.S. fusion program and for PPPL. In 2.5 years we will begin operation of NSTX-Upgrade — the newest fusion facility in the U.S. It is a privilege to initiate a new experiment in these difficult economic times. Approval of the upgrade reflects the key importance of NSTX-U to U.S. fusion strategy and the value of the physics discoveries to come.

Last week we received the annual DOE evaluation of PPPL performance for 2011. This is a rigorous assessment of all aspects of the laboratory — our complete science mission and our diverse operational functions. I am delighted to congratulate the PPPL staff on delivering a year of outstanding accomplishment. The DOE assessment recognized the value of our physics advances, the success of our operations, the leadership role of the laboratory in the fusion and plasma communities, and the wisdom of our strategic direction.

And just last Friday we learned that the Fiscal Year 2012 fusion budget is \$402M, which will allow \$105M for ITER, while maintaining the domestic program roughly at constant level — a terrific result, given the economic times.

Despite the financial turmoil out there beyond the PPPL gate, within the PPPL campus our staff has performed magnificently. It is now time to relax over the break, and I wish you and yours a very happy holiday.

Stewart C. Prager



2011 The Year in Review



Richard Hawryluk, a senior scientist at PPPL, assumed the post of deputy director-general of the ITER Organization and director of its administration department in April. ITER is an international fusion project based in France.



PPPL Director Stewart Prager delivered his annual State-of-the-Laboratory talk to hundreds of Lab staff on March 1, praising employees who had won acclaim over the previous year, describing ongoing research experiments, outlining budget trajectories and the likely impact on programs, and mapping out a science strategy for the future.



In March, Joe Winston, the lead technician for the National Spherical Torus Experiment at PPPL, received the President's Achievement Award, one of the university's top honors.



Charles Kessel, an engineer with a long, distinguished career at PPPL, received the Kaul Foundation Prize for Excellence in Plasma Physics and Technology Development on March 1. Kessel, a pioneer in the field of plasma engineering and simulation, was among the first to identify specialized plasma configurations, which have become the basis of advanced tokamak design. Princeton University awards the Kaul Prize, which was endowed by former PPPL Director Ronald Davidson.

In October, Energy Secretary Steven Chu recognized the Fugitive Emissions Working Group (FEWG) — which includes PPPL — with the Secretary's Achievement Award, the Department's highest non-monetary honor for a group or team effort. PPPL earned a place on the Working Group by significantly cutting greenhouse gas emissions from sulfur hexafluoride, a gas used to insulate electrical equipment. PPPL'ers who helped with the reductions are shown below.



Andrew Zwicker, Head of PPPL's Science Education Program, hitched a ride on the Zero-G aircraft this summer through a partnership with NASA. PPPL sponsored teams of teachers and researchers who conducted experiments on the aircraft, known as the "Weightless Wonder," to study the effects of working in a reduced-gravity environment. The PPPL teams had journeyed to NASA Johnson Space Center's Ellington Field in Houston to participate in NASA's Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program July 22-29.

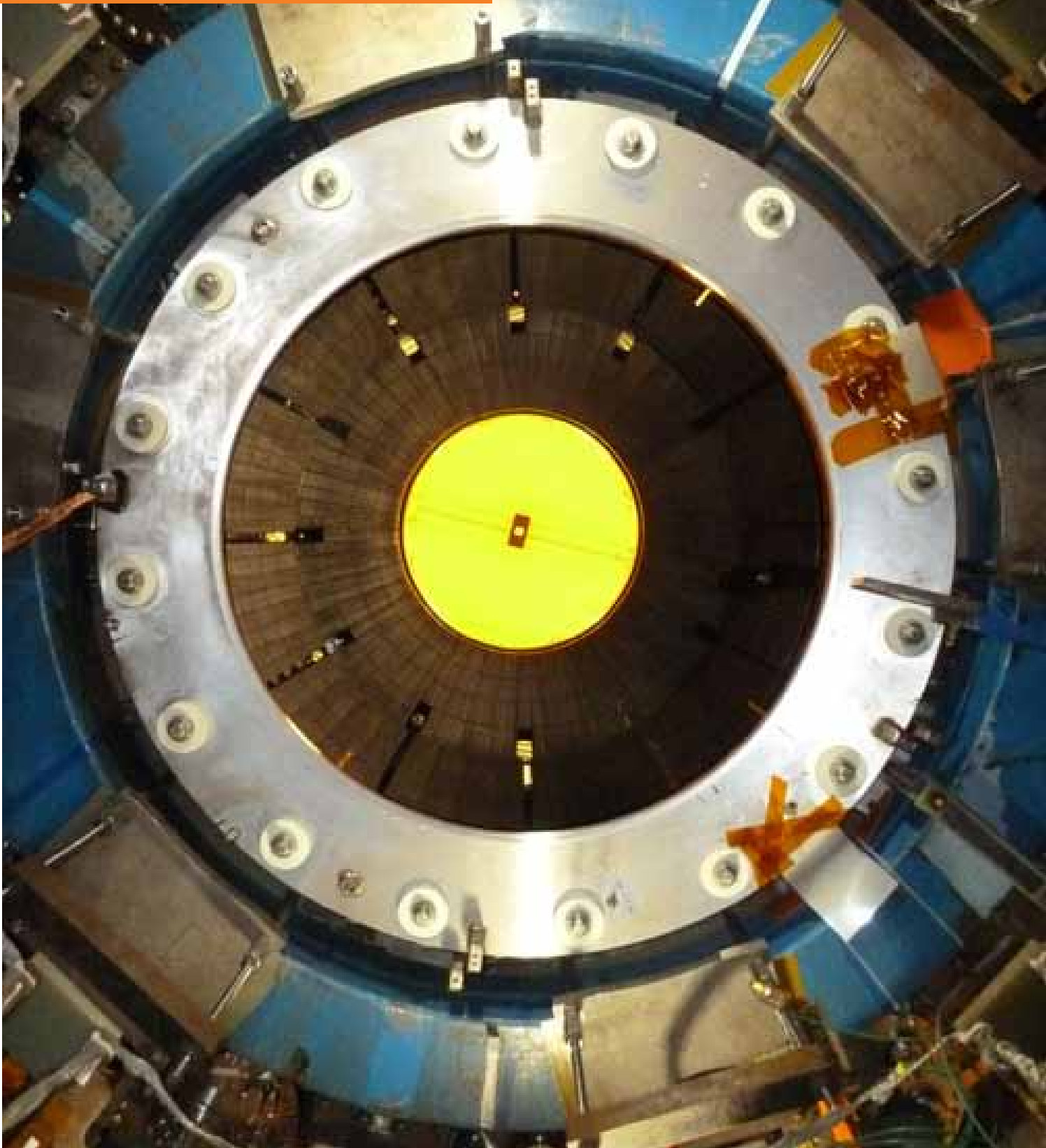


PPPL's Lyman Spitzer Building (LSB) was certified LEED gold, one of the highest environmental distinctions for buildings, by the U.S. Green Building Council during the spring. From left, outside the LSB, are PPPL Facilities Head Shawn Connolly, PPPL Deputy Director for Operations Adam Cohen, and PPPL Maintenance Manager Bill Gervasi.



PPPL rolled out its new logo and graphic identity system this fall, following more than 14 months of a collaborative effort between the Princeton University Office of Communications and a team at the PPPL Office of Communications. Hundreds of PPPL'ers enjoyed refreshments during the logo rollout party in the Lobby on November 8.

What Is *This*?



Can you generally identify what this photo shows, including the experiment?

The first person to correctly describe what is in the image will receive a **FREE CUP OF COFFEE** at the Cafeteria. Please send your descriptions by email to commteam@pppl.gov.

*Warmest Greetings and Best Wishes
for the New Year*



from

The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

PPPL Holiday Card designed by Adam Cohen and Elle Starkman



PPPL
Holiday Luncheon
Thursday, December 22

12:00 NOON - LSB LOBBY AND CAFETERIA

- Roast Turkey / Roast Beef Carving Station • Tossed Green Salad •
- Fresh Mozzarella Volcano Display • Bread Display Table •
- Italian Vegetable Display Table • Assorted Passed Hors D' oeuvres •
- Fruit and Cheese Display Table • Italian Sausage with Peppers •
- Mashed Potato Bar • Vodka Rigatoni Station • Hot Coffee and Tea •

Open to Everyone Working at the Lab!

WORLD FAMOUS PPPL SKIT
 IN THE AUDITORIUM

GIFT RAFFLE (donations made by PPPL Council)
 AFTER THE SKIT IN AUDITORIUM - YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

Interested in contributing a dessert? Contact Kim Mastromarino
kmastrom@pppl.gov



2012 Science on Saturday
 Princeton University Plasma Physics Laboratory Lecture Series

**Out of Africa:
 Genetics and Human Migrations**

GYAN BHANOT
 Rutgers University

Saturday, January 7, 2012

9:30 a.m.

M.B. Gottlieb Auditorium, Lyman Spitzer Building

THANK YOU for Your UNITED WAY Donations

United Way

Our Goal: \$30,000

Donated: \$36,932

Brook PPPL CAFÉ MENU

MONDAY, DEC. 19


TUESDAY, DEC. 20


WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

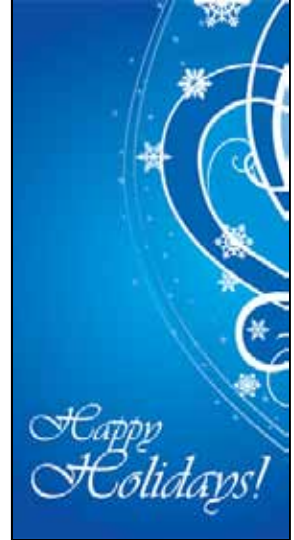
THURSDAY, DEC. 22

FRIDAY, DEC. 23

COMMAND PERFORMANCE CHEF'S FEATURE	 Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo
EARLY RISER	Pork Roll, Egg, Hash Brown and Cheese Sandwich
COUNTRY KETTLE	Hearty Chicken Rice
GRILLE SPECIAL	Pizza Chicken Cheese Steak
DELI SPECIAL	Egg Salad and Bacon Hoagie
PANINI	Salami, Capicola, Pepperoni and Provolone

 Meatball Parmesan Hoagie
Steak, Egg and Cheese Quesadilla
Cream of Tomato
The Black and Blue Burger
Grilled Chicken BLT
Tuna Melt with Cheddar and Tomato

 Turkey Meatloaf over Rice
Spinach, Onion, and Tomato Omelet
Split Pea with Ham
Chicken Tender Ranch Hoagie
Classic Italian Hoagie
The Ham and Swiss Griller



MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

[CLICK HERE FOR A PRINTABLE WEEKLY MENU](#)

WEEKLY Editor: **Patti Wieser** ♦ Copy Editor/Graphic Design: **Gregory Czechowicz**
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Send to: pwieser@pppl.gov ♦ Comments: commteam@pppl.gov
 PPPL WEEKLY is archived on the web at: <http://www.pppl.gov/ppplweekly.cfm>