



## At PPPL THIS WEEK

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

### GFDL Events and Seminars

10:30 a.m. - Noon ♦ GFDL  
Smagorinsky Seminar Room

Regional Sea Level Change...

G. Philander & M. Barreiro (AOS)

[www.gfdl.noaa.gov/events](http://www.gfdl.noaa.gov/events)

(Gov't, Univ. or 2 other forms of I.D. needed)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

### PPPL Colloquium

4:15 p.m. ♦ MBG Auditorium

The Rosslyn Code: Can Physics Explain  
a 500-year-old Melody Etched in the  
Walls of a Scottish Chapel?

Christopher Wilson (Slate Magazine)

[CLICK HERE FOR ABSTRACT](#)

### GFDL Events and Seminars

Noon ♦ GFDL  
Smagorinsky Seminar Room

Sea Ice in NCEP

Robert Grumbine (NWS)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

### GFDL Events and Seminars

2 p.m. - 3 p.m. ♦ GFDL  
Smagorinsky Seminar Room

Quo Vadis WAVEWATCH III

Hendrik Tolman (NOAA)

### MacLean House Lecture

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
101 McCormick Hall, Princeton Univ.

Nuclear Fission Power: Some Challenges

M.V. Ramana (Woodrow Wilson School)

<http://alumni.princeton.edu/learntravel/events/macleanhouse>

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

### PPPL Google Info Class

9 a.m. ♦ B-318

### DIID-D Science Meeting

1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. ♦ B-233

## Guest Corner

# Mentoring Students

By **Charles A. Gentile** - Head, PPPL Tritium Systems

About the time the swallows are returning to Capistrano, I start to hear the familiar question by those I pass in the hallways and corridors at PPPL: "Charlie, how many do you have this year?" What my colleagues are referring to are the intern students who I have accepted to work on various, mostly work-for-others (WFO) projects that I have underway. This year I had 11 interns working in my group. These included Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship (SULI) students that Andrew Zwicker and James Morgan steered my way. These also included Engineering Apprentice students that Andrea Moten has found for me, and very often these include students who have worked on my projects in the past, and have returned to PPPL to continue on with their participation in on-going work. One intern I had during the early 1990s, Patricia Hillyer, went on to become a science school teacher, and has returned to PPPL these many years later to participate in the zero-gravity flight that the Science Education Group sponsors in a collaboration with NASA. Kelsey Tresemer and Tiana Dodson also started as interns at PPPL working in my group. Both Kelsey and Tiana, both now regular PPPL employees, work as mechanical engineers assigned to tasks on NTSX-U.

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# PPPL Intern Receives SOFE Honors

by Patti Wieser

Kelsey Pagdon, a Drexel University student who worked at PPPL one summer as an engineering apprentice and two semesters as a co-op in the Tritium Group, received the second-place award for Best Student Paper at the 2011 Symposium on Fusion Engineering (SOFE) in Chicago earlier this year. Pagdon, a junior majoring in biomedical engineering, presented her work on the production of medical isotopes from naturally occurring molybdenum during the SOFE meeting. She was one of three students chosen to present; the other two were Ph.D. students in plasma physics.

"We couldn't be any happier with Kelsey's performance and her commitment to seeing her projects succeed. Her work at PPPL reflects well on the quality of students that Drexel University provides through their student co-op program," said Charles Gentile, a mentor to Pagdon.



Kelsey Pagdon

## Mentoring

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During the summer of 2011, the students in my group, who for the most part academically represent the top 5 percent of their class, came from Penn State, Duke, Howard, Princeton University, Purdue, Rutgers, and Drexel. These are exceedingly bright students who are motivated to learn and to participate in a laboratory setting.

I have been asked why I mentor so many students. My response is that these students accepted to the SULI program or coming in from the Engineering Apprenticeship program are among the brightest students in the country. They do very good work, to the point of winning awards and recognition for the work they perform at PPPL. These are talented individuals who are motivated and have passion for working at PPPL. But a driving force from the beginning (I have been mentoring students for more than 20 years at the Laboratory) is from an experience I had when I was a student.

One of my professors, Alan K. Bruce, provided me an opportunity to do research at the Nuclear Science Technology Facility (2-megawatt open pool reactor) at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, where I was a student. Working at the NSTF reactor for me was a dream come true, and in the words of Robert Frost, “made all the difference” in launching me on a career that spans almost 35 years.

After 20 years of being a mentor, the students and I were able to resolve one of life’s pressing questions. In our group we believe we are all responsible for each other’s success and safety. Interns — no matter what project they are assigned — are also responsible for supporting and watching out for the other student(s). As a result, we foster a core group value: while working at PPPL you are very much your brother’s keeper. For the past two decades this philosophy has served us very well. ■

## SOFE Honors Intern

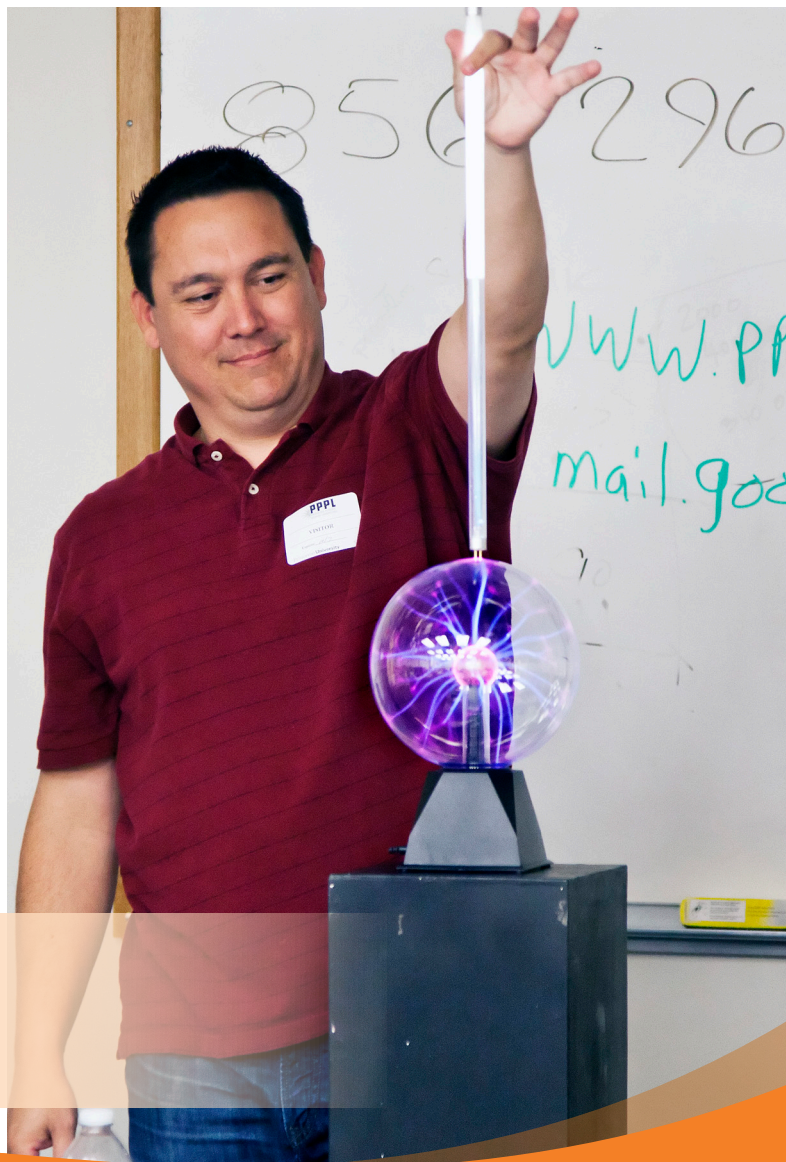
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She spent her first summer at PPPL’s Plasma Surface Modification Lab with PPPL research collaborator Lenore Rasmussen, along with PPPL’s Lewis Meixler and Gentile. There Pagdon was involved in research for the development of contractile electro-active polymer-based materials and actuators that act as artificial muscle. In 2010 and 2011, she mainly worked on the molybdenum-medical isotope project with mentor Gentile.

“Basically I have been working with Charlie and other PPPL employees to produce Technetium-99m — the world’s most widely used medical isotope, which is used for imaging — from naturally occurring molybdenum,” said Pagdon. “The current methods for producing this medical isotope are very expensive and centralized to only about five locations. Our goal is to create a device that can produce Technetium-99m locally at hospitals and radio-pharmacies worldwide, which would also allow for these imaging techniques to be employed in countries that might not have access to them now.”

Pagdon said she plans to continue the medical isotopes research at PPPL and hopes to present at more conferences. “This research at PPPL not only projected Drexel University and our biomed department into the field of fusion research, but also gave me the opportunity to learn more about fusion engineering and plasma science.” ■

## SPIN at PPPL



Ian Cahir, right, the social media coordinator for Princeton University’s Office of Communications, discovers plasma — the fourth state of matter — inside a tabletop globe during an October 7 tour of PPPL for SPIN members. PPPL hosted a luncheon meeting and tour for SPIN, which includes communications professionals from the University.

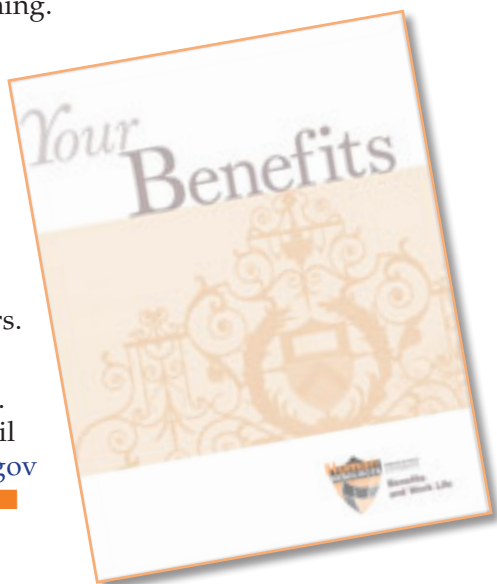
## Open Enrollment Begins Today, October 17

The annual Benefits Open Enrollment begins on Monday, October 17. If you choose to make changes to your benefit plans or participate in the Health Benefit Expense Account or the Dependent Care Expense Account programs in 2012, you will be able to make your elections online at eBenefits, [www.princeton.edu/selfservice](http://www.princeton.edu/selfservice). This link is available daily from work or home from Monday, October 17 through Friday, November 18 from 8 a.m. until midnight.

In order to sign into eBenefits you will need your University NetID and password. If you have forgotten your password, please call the University's OIT Help Desk, (609) 258-HELP(4357) to have it reset.

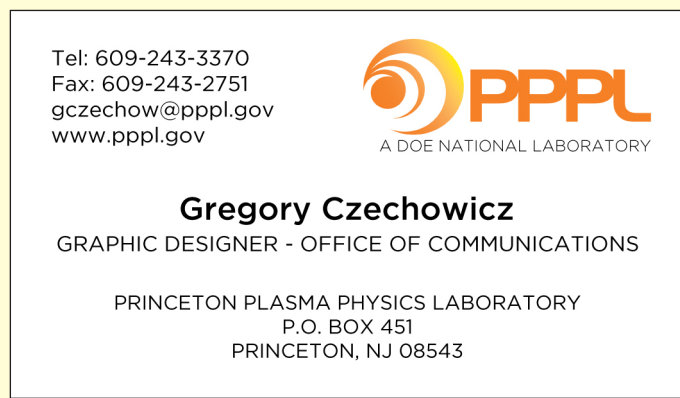
If you do not wish to change anything and are NOT enrolling in any of the expense accounts for 2012, you do not need to do anything.

The PPPL HEALTH FAIR will be held on Tuesday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Lobby. Stay tuned for more information on the participating vendors. Please contact Kim Mastromarino at ext. 2101 or send an email to [kmastrom@pppl.gov](mailto:kmastrom@pppl.gov) with any questions. ■



## New PPPL Business Cards Now Available

The PPPL business cards have been redesigned incorporating the new PPPL logo in a new standard format for all. A sample card is shown below.



The cards are printed here at the lab. If you would like to order the new business cards, please email Greg Czechowicz at [gczechow@pppl.gov](mailto:gczechow@pppl.gov).

Please include the following information:

- Name
- Title
- Telephone Number
- Fax Number (optional)
- Cell Number (optional)
- Email Address

Cards will be done on a first come-first served basis with a standard order quantity of 100. ■

Download the **NEW PPPL LOGO** at <http://www-local.pppl.gov/identity.cfm>



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# ART OF SCIENCE

Princeton University is sponsoring its fifth "ART OF SCIENCE" competition, open to all members of the Princeton community. Submissions are limited to digital images.

Deadline for entries is 11:59 p.m., October 17, 2011.

<http://aos.cs.princeton.edu/>

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# Google Apps Sessions

Google Apps training sessions covering the use of the web interface are scheduled for October 24 and 25. Below are the topics, locations, and times.

## Google Mail, Calendar and Chat

Monday, October 24, 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., MBG Aud.  
Tuesday, October 25, 10:30 a.m., B-318

## Google Docs and Sites

Monday, October 24, 10:30 a.m., MBG Auditorium  
Tuesday, October 25, 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., B-318

## Google Training Questions

Tuesday, October 25, 3 p.m., B-318

*(All sessions are 90 minutes, except for the "Questions" session.)*

All sessions will be videotaped and available on the web for those who cannot attend.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.pppl.gov/google-info>

or send an e-mail to [google-info@pppl.gov](mailto:google-info@pppl.gov)  
or attend information sessions held each Friday.



# COLLOQUIUM

THE ROSSLYN CODE: CAN PHYSICS EXPLAIN  
A 500-YEAR-OLD MELODY ETCHED IN THE  
WALLS OF A SCOTTISH CHAPEL?

**CHRISTOPHER WILSON**

Slate Magazine

Wednesday, October 19

4:15 p.m. (Coffee/Tea at 4 p.m.)

M.B. Gottlieb Auditorium, Lyman Spitzer Building

# HR Happenings

**Open Enrollment** begins today  
**Monday, October 17.**

Deadline to make changes is  
**Friday, November 18.**

**ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATION** with TIAA-CREF consultant Helena Gaffney. To schedule the appointment time, contact TIAA-CREF by phone (800-842-8412). Available dates are October 21, November 8 and December 21.



MONDAY, Oct. 17

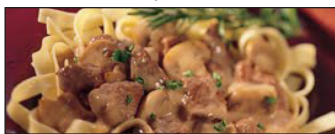


**Spicy Thai Fried Rice with Pork**

Deli: Egg Salad w/Smoked Bacon

SOUP DU JOUR: BEEF AND RED BEAN CHILI

TUESDAY, Oct. 18

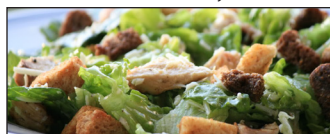


**Thyme-Scented Beef Tips and Mushrooms Stroganoff over Parsley Egg Noodles**

Deli: Muffaletta with Ham, Salami

SOUP DU JOUR: ITALIAN MINISTRONE

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 19



**Grilled Chicken Caesar over Crisp Romaine with Housemade Croutons**

Deli: Grilled Chicken Caesar Wrap

SOUP DU JOUR: NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER

THURSDAY, Oct. 20

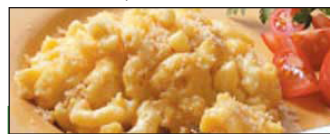


**Fried Flounder with Spicy Fries and Cole Slaw**

Deli: Crispy Chicken BLT

SOUP DU JOUR: BEEF BARLEY

FRIDAY, Oct. 21



**Baked Macaroni and Cheese served with Stewed Tomatoes**

Deli: Authentic Italian Hoagie

SOUP DU JOUR: WHITE BEAN CHICKEN CHILI

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL WEEKLY MENU](#)

# WEEKLY

Editor: Patti Wieser ♦ Copy Editor /Graphic Design: Gregory Czechowicz  
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PPPL WEEKLY is published by the PPPL Office of Communications on Mondays throughout the year except for holidays.

Deadline for submissions is noon on Thursdays. Send to: [pwieser@pppl.gov](mailto:pwieser@pppl.gov) ♦ Comments: [commteam@pppl.gov](mailto:commteam@pppl.gov)

PPPL WEEKLY is archived on the web at: <http://www.pppl.gov/ppplweekly.cfm>