

At PPPL THIS WEEK

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

Annual PPPL Service Awards
9:30 a.m. ♦ MBG Auditorium

FRIDAY, JUNE 21



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 24

Patent Awareness Program
6 p.m. ♦ Prospect House,
Princeton University

July 1-5

**European Physical Society
Conference on Plasma Physics**
Helsinki, Finland

July 4

Independence Day
Laboratory Closed

July 8-13

**3rd East-Asian School and
Workshop on Laboratory,
Space, Astrophysical Plasmas**
University of Tokyo

July 15-19

**2013 Plasma Camp for
teachers at PPPL**

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New CFO: On a mission to meet PPPL'ers and learn

By Jeanne Jackson DeVoe

Just a few weeks into her new job as PPPL's chief financial officer, Kristen Fischer is settling into the challenging job of overseeing a budget of approximately \$85 million and managing all financial operations. And she's bringing her own outgoing style to the task as she forges relationships with people inside and outside of PPPL.

Fischer is used to dealing with potentially thorny budgets. She comes to PPPL after working 16 years at the New Jersey State Office of the Attorney General where she oversaw a \$1 billion budget as director of budget and grant operations.

While PPPL's budget is smaller, the job requirements are every bit as demanding, she said. Fischer and other staff members are currently coping with the fiscal year 2013 budget, which ends Sept. 30, while at the same time working on the 2014 budget.

"I'm still wrapping my head around the budget challenges that we face, with the goal of being successful in meeting our mission," she said.

Fischer says she enjoyed working at the Office of the Attorney General primarily because of its public service mission. "I always felt honored to sit beside the Attorney General at budget hearings," she said.

Now she has a similar feeling about helping scientists and engineers at PPPL with their goal of making fusion a viable energy source. "I will devote my time and work ethic towards helping them meet the mission they're so passionate about," she said.

An extensive national search

Fischer was hired after an extensive national search for candidates to fill the position held by Ed Winkler for 23 years until his retirement at the end of April. As PPPL's chief financial officer, Fischer oversees about 30 employees in four divisions: the budget office, planning and control, accounting, and procurement.

"I'm really excited to have Kristen on board and I look forward to working with her," said Adam Cohen, PPPL's deputy director for operations. "The search for Ed's replacement yielded a number of good candidates, and based on the exhaustive review of the various candidates, I believed that Kristen was the best fit for our needs. She has a wealth of experience from her roles with the State of New Jersey, and brings a new perspective to a critical area of operations, that is: the business operations."

A native of Freehold Township, N.J., Fischer studied psychology at Rutgers University. She went on to get her master's degree in business administration at Georgian Court University while she was working full-time. During part of that time, she was pregnant first with her daughter Julia Rose, now 10, and then son Andrew, 9.

She started her career working for the Office of the Attorney General's Division of Consumer Affairs and left that position after two years to work for the Office of Legislative Services as a non-partisan fiscal analyst, advising lawmakers on both sides of the aisle on the cost of legislation. She also helped prepare the state bud-



Kristen Fischer
New PPPL CFO

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New CFO

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get. After a few years, she returned to the Attorney General's Office where she said she had "wonderful mentors who really showed me how to do my job well."

The keeper of the purse strings

Fischer rose through the ranks — eventually becoming budget director about six years ago. It wasn't always easy being the keeper of the purse strings, she said. She was the person who had to go to division heads and tell them their funding was being cut. But she was also the one who gave them the good news — like telling officials from the New Jersey State Police there would be funding for new helicopters or new initiatives to improve security.

Fischer worked closely with the staff from the Treasurer's Office and Governor's Office to develop the yearly budget. She would assist New Jersey Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa (who was just named by Gov. Christie to temporarily fill the seat of U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, who died earlier this month) at budget hearings where legislators peppered him with questions. "It was fascinating — a very memorable experience," she said.

When she saw the PPPL job advertised, Fischer said, she was mulling over a career change, not because she was unhappy — she liked her job — but because she was ready to try something new.

"I wanted to do something that gave me greater responsibilities and this opportunity allowed for that," she said. "Plus, it's Princeton — the importance of educating leaders of the future at the level that they do and to be surrounded by national experts is tremendous."

She began work just a few days before Director Stewart Prager's State of the Laboratory address on May 28 and when she came home "I said to my husband, 'I'm in awe.' It's amazing what they do here."

But she admits that "there's a learning curve" when she faces tasks like trying to procure supplies for a coil that will be built here at the Laboratory and then shipped for use on the massive international ITER fusion experiment in Cadarache, France. "That's part of why I came

here — because I felt I could apply my skills to different challenges."

Trading commutes and office settings

Fischer says she has traded a 45-minute to an hour-long commute from her home in Manchester, N.J. but she has also traded highways leading straight into Trenton for country roads leading to PPPL's more rural setting.

Her husband, Brian Fischer, is a special education teacher at Wall High School and Fischer and her family share a devotion to helping people with special needs. Fischer had a special relationship with her aunt who had Down's syndrome and her daughter Julia has raised funds for the Special Olympics.

As a busy working mother, Fischer spends most of her spare time ferrying Julia to violin lessons and Andrew to travel baseball games as well as overseeing the care of a new puppy, a Maltese-Shih-Tzu mix named Gracie Lorraine. Family vacations often involve the Fischers' large extended family. When she does have some free time, she enjoys putting around the house and gardening.

A mission to learn about PPPL

At PPPL, Fischer has made it her mission both to figure out how the Lab works and to meet people. She has been making the rounds of various departments to introduce herself and talk to PPPL staff about what they do. She also has been building relationships with people at the U.S. Department of Energy and at Princeton University, where she has already met with Nilufer Shroff, the chief audit and compliance officer, and will meet with Carolyn Ainslie, Princeton's vice president for finance and treasurer.

Fischer said she was eager to take part in a business retreat planned for last Thursday and is looking forward to hearing other PPPL staff members' ideas. "I am very approachable and open to people's suggestions and ideas for improvement," she said. "I have an open-door policy. I'm friendly — please say hello to me if you see me! As far as managerial style, I am a good listener and I want to learn, so please be patient and educate me." 📱

150 Korean high school students learn about PPPL



Hans Schneider, an engineer at PPPL, shows a fluorescent bulb to some 150 students from Daegu Science High School in South Korea, who visited PPPL on June 6. Physicist Jong-soo Yoo gave the students a PowerPoint presentation on fusion in Korean and visiting physicist Young Seok Park also helped out with the students.

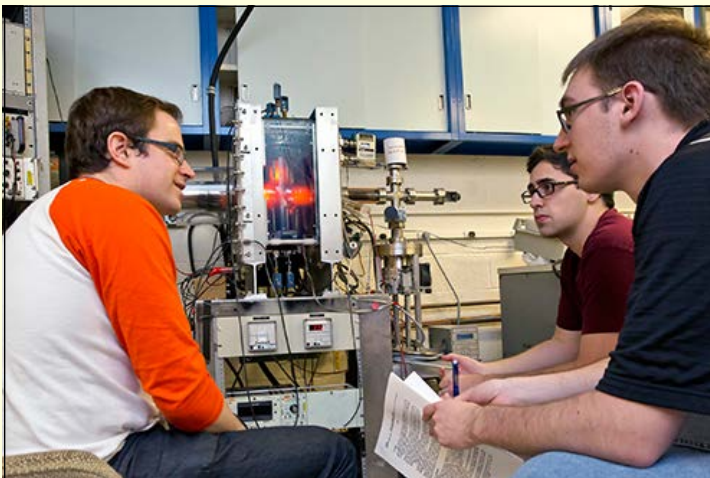


Students crowd around the plasma demonstration machine in the LSB lobby to take photos during their visit to the Laboratory.

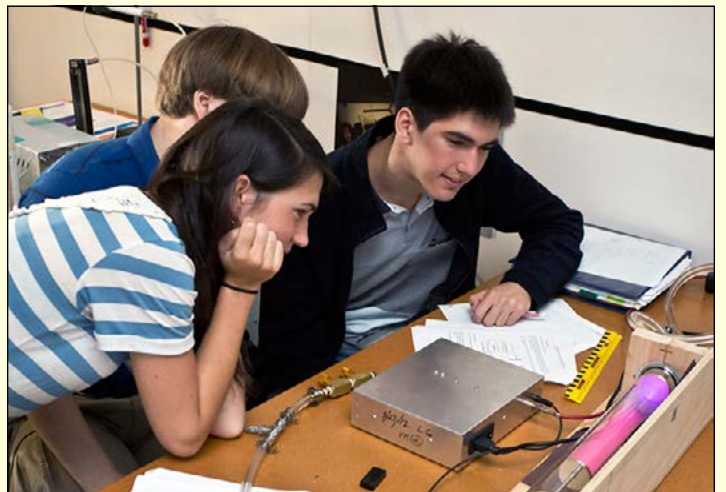
College students at PPPL



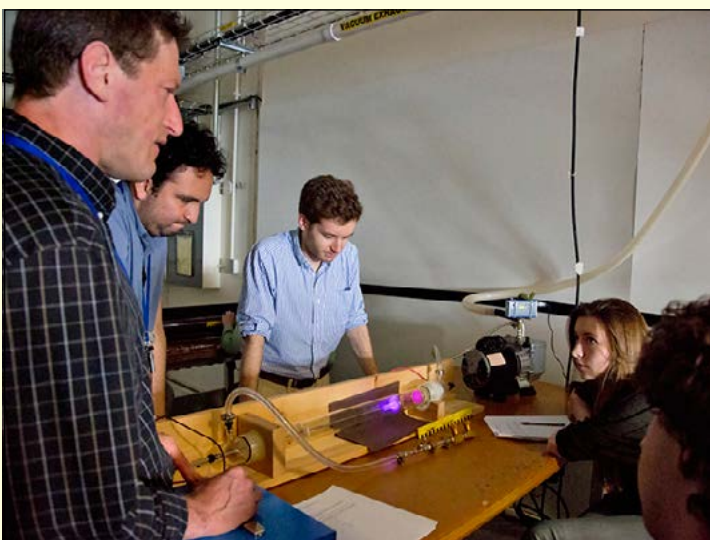
About 50 college students from all over the U.S. were at PPPL last week for a one-week introductory course in plasma and magnetic fusion, including 24 students from the National Undergraduate Fellowship program in Plasma Physics and Fusion Energy Sciences (NUF), 13 from the Summer Undergraduate Laboratory Internship (SULI), three from the Community College Initiative (CCI) and 10 from various other colleges and universities. Most of the students will be staying at PPPL including seven NUF students, while 11 NUF students will go to General Atomics, one will go to Columbia University, two will go to MIT and two will go to the Los Alamos National Laboratory.



Graduate student Tyler Abrams talks to Noah Mandell, University of Maryland, left; and Jimmy Juno, Rice University, in the "Grad Lab."



Students keep a close eye on a plasma in the Science Education laboratory. From left to right: Becca Arbacher, Columbia University; Michael Buttolph, Cornell University; Sean Ballinger, Columbia University.



Andrew Zwicker, far left, and Arturo Dominguez work with students in the Science Education laboratory. From left to right: Jason Parisi, Yale University; Susannah Betts, Wesleyan University; and Ben Horowitz, Yale University.



A group of students gets a closer look at a plasma. From left to right: Timothy Milbourne, College of William and Mary; Ante Qu, Yale University; and Kyle Reuther, Columbia University.

Take advantage of summer training courses at Princeton University

Summer is a great time to take advantage of training opportunities held at Princeton University throughout the summer, which are open to all PPPL employees with the permission of their supervisors. You can register by going to the Princeton Employee Learning Center at www.princeton.edu/training.

Below is a schedule of classes for June through July.

JUNE

- Tue., June 25, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. "Managing Effective Interactions"
- Thu., June 27, 8:30 a.m. to noon "Leveraging Diversity: Challenges and Opportunities"
- Thu., June 27, 1 to 4 p.m. "Leveraging Diversity: Part II"

JULY

- Tue., July 9, 10 a.m. to noon "Interview Preparation"
- Wed., July 10, 8:30 a.m. to noon "Leveraging Diversity: Challenges and Opportunities"
- Wed., July 10, 1 to 4 p.m. "Leveraging Diversity: Part II"
- Thu., July 11, 9 a.m. to noon "Write or Wrong: Improving Written Communication"
- Tue., July 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Legal Aspects of Supervision"
- Wed., July 17, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Getting Started as a New Manager"
- Tue., July 23, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. "Performance Management"



Café at PPPL Menu

BREAKFAST 7 a.m. • 10 a.m.
 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 10 a.m. • 11:30 a.m.
 LUNCH 11:30 a.m. • 1:30 p.m.
 SNACK SERVICE until 2:30 p.m.

Mark Gazo, Chef Manager

	MONDAY JUNE 17	TUESDAY JUNE 18	WEDNESDAY JUNE 19	THURSDAY JUNE 20	FRIDAY JUNE 21
COMMAND PERFORMANCE CHEF'S FEATURE	 VEGETABLE STIR FRY	 ITALIAN TRIO	 CHICKEN ENCHILADAS	 CHEESE RAVIOLI BOLOGNESE	 BLACKENED SALMON
EARLY RISER	Ham & Cheese Muffins	Blueberry Pancakes	Potato Pancakes served with Apple Sauce	Florentine Omelet with Spinach & Feta Cheese	Kielbasa & Eggs
COUNTRY KETTLE	Cabbage & White Bean Soup	Chicken Vegetable with Rice	Cream of Spinach	Chicken Noodle	Chicken Corn Chowder
GRILLE SPECIAL	Turkey Burger with Pepperjack Cheese & Chipotle BBQ Sauce	Buffalo Chicken Wrap	BBQ Beef Brisket Sandwich with Onion Rings	Boneless BBQ Pork Sandwich	Choripan Chorizo Sausage on French Bread With Salsa Criolla
DELI SPECIAL	Grilled Tuna Caesar	Seafood Salad Croissant	Ham & Cheese Hoagie	Churrasco Deli-Style Steak Sandwich	Turkey, Cheddar and Bacon on French Bread
PANINI	Chicken, Mushroom & Peppers Quesadilla	Sliced Roast Pork, Provolone Cheese, Spinach & Apple Ranch	Fresh Mozzarella, Basil & Tomato Panini	Roast Veggie Wrap	Meatball Parmesan Torpedo

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

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

WEEKLY

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Comments: commteam@pppl.gov ♦ **PPPL WEEKLY** is archived on the web at: <http://www.pppl.gov/ppplweekly.cfm>