

HOTLINE

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

Director Goldston Garner's Fusion Power Associates Leadership Award

In recognition of his influence on the course and content of the national fusion program and his effectiveness in communicating the value of fusion research to the U.S. Congress, Fusion Power Associates (FPA) gave PPPL Director Rob Goldston its Leadership Award for 2001. Goldston is one of two recipients this year. The other is Ron Parker, former director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Plasma Fusion and Science Center and former leader of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor Co-center in Garching, Germany.

The awards were presented during FPA's annual meeting, held this year September 25 and 26 in Washington, D.C.

The citation for Goldston states, "You have provided forceful and effective guidance to a wide spectrum of fusion scientific topics and have helped put fusion back on the U.S. national political agenda."

In addition to lauding Goldston's influence on the course of the national fusion program, the FPA Board noted his "outstanding leadership of the Laboratory."

Said Goldston, "I am delighted to receive this award. I have worked broadly to develop a vision of fusion energy science which respects the range of scientific judgment in our community, and which moves forward both the science of plasmas and the development of fusion energy."

Distinguished Career

Goldston came to PPPL as a graduate student in 1972 after receiving his bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Harvard University. He served as a research assistant at the Lab for five years and earned his Ph.D. in astrophysics, Program in Plasma Physics, from Princeton University in 1977. Over the next 15 years, he advanced

to progressively responsible positions on the PPPL research staff. Goldston was named professor of astrophysical sciences at Princeton University in 1992, a position he continues to hold, and Associate Director for Research at PPPL in 1995. In 1997, he became the Laboratory's fifth Director.

Goldston has had a distinguished career pursuing experimental and theoretical research on the high-temperature plasmas required for producing thermonuclear fusion. Goldston is the author and coauthor of more than 200 scholarly articles, and is coauthor with Paul Rutherford of the textbook, *Introduction to Plasma Physics*.

FPA Awards are given annually for Leadership, Distinguished Career, and for Excellence in Fusion Engineering. Special Awards also are occasionally presented. Leadership awards have been presented annually since 1980 to individuals who have shown outstanding leadership qualities in accelerating the development of fusion. Other PPPL scientists to receive the FPA Leadership Award are Dale Meade (1999) and Harold Furth (1982).

Fusion Power Associates is a nonprofit, tax-exempt research and educational foundation that provides timely information on the status of fusion development and other applications of plasma science and fusion research. ●



Rob Goldston

DOE Extends Contract for Management and Operation of PPPL for Five Years

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has signed a five-year extension of its contract with Princeton University for the management and operation of PPPL. The new agreement will run from October 1, 2001, to September 30, 2006, and is valued at approximately \$350 million based on current funding.

“Under this agreement, the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory will continue to be an important DOE science facility, helping to build the knowledge base we need to understand the behavior of a fusion plasma and to achieve some day the energy and environmental benefits that fusion promises,” said Acting Director of the Office of

Science James F. Decker. Added DOE Chicago Operations Office Manager Marvin E. Gunn, Jr., “Assuring that world-class research facilities such as PPPL are effectively managed and safely operated is one of the department’s most important responsibilities. These laboratories possess unique scientific facilities that contribute to our nation’s international science and technology leadership.”

The Chicago Operations Office provides on-site administration of the department’s contract for PPPL through its Princeton Area Office under the direction of Area Manager Jerry Faul. ●

Lab Installs New Business Computing Systems

In September, the Laboratory signed a \$1.5 million contract with Business Management International, Inc. (BMI), to upgrade PPPL’s business computing systems. During the 12-month project, new budget, accounting, procurement, and property management systems will be designed and implemented at the Lab. BMI will install Microsoft Great Plains Enterprise software — an up-to-date commercial product — as a “skeleton” for the new system, which is expected to be operational in Fiscal Year 2003.

“I am very excited about the Microsoft Great Plains software product. This product is significantly more user friendly, has a materially improved reporting capability, and will provide greater functionality than the legacy systems that it replaces. When installed, it will provide our staff with the opportunity to spend more time productively analyzing and utilizing data, and less time manipulating data. This will permit each of our staff to make a greater individual contribution to the overall success of the Laboratory,” said PPPL Business Operations Head Ed Winkler.

The Laboratory has been using a 20-year-old mainframe to operate its business information systems. The new system will be comprised of four new servers and the Great Plains software, which will be tailored for each area and installed on individual personal computers.

About two years ago, a committee that included Tony Bleach, Chris Gillars, Marie Isecz, Jim McTaggart, Gary Oliaro, Ron Strykowski, and Rod Templon evaluated the Lab’s needs and budget for the project before deciding on the new system. The committee sought and evaluated bids, looked at demonstrations, received statements of work and estimates, selected software, and made a recommendation to management.

One consideration was finding a system that could handle the special requirements of a government-funded facility under federal agency restrictions. Steve Baumgartner, Information Technology Manager for PPPL’s Business Operations, explained that the Lab’s reporting and accountability are much different than they would be in the private sector.

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Systems

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Installations of the customized base software, which uses Windows 2000, began the first week of October and will continue for about 12 months. Software modules tailored for each group, such as Procurement, Accounting, and Receiving, must be able to interface with one another after installation.

During the year, the modules will be installed department by department and tested, and pertinent staff will learn how to use the new system. "Testing and training go hand-in-hand," said Baumgartner, explaining that Great Plains personnel are installing the computer codes for the project and teaching Lab employees how to use the programs.

Big Bang

The "big bang" is to take place in the fall of 2002. That's when the entire system is scheduled to come on line with each module in place, fully integrated with one another. During the implementation phase, installation, testing, and training occur area by area, but will not be used by the Lab until integration is complete.

"We start with a test, do a module, sign off on it, test it completely, retest it as other modules are added, and finally bring them all together," said Baumgartner. "Early next fall, the rest of the staff will learn how to use the new system, which will require going to a web site, logging on, and typing in the necessary information on-line." He compared the change to PPPL's switch a few years ago from paper to electronic time sheets.

The Project and Budget module is the first to be installed and tested. This will be followed by the module for Procurement, then those for Property Administration, Receiving, the Stockroom, Accounting, and Auxiliary.

Giving an example of how the new system would work, Baumgartner described the changes that will take place in the procurement process. Presently, PPPL has no automated requisition system; requisitions are prepared manually by many PPPL staff members. With the new system, requesters will fill out an electronic requisition on the web that will flow to Procurement. Using e-mails, requisitions will be routed electronically, gaining approval signatures and purchase orders without ink. Requesters will be able to view the status of their requisitions all the way through the procurement process. In addition, new requisitions can easily be created from past ones. "That's a major improvement," said Baumgartner. "Users will have a lot of control with their data."



Photo by Dori Barnes

Left to right, at the contract signing, are PPPL Business Operations Head Ed Winkler, Business Management International Project Leader Craig Greitzer, PPPL Information Technology Manager Steve Baumgartner, and PPPL Procurement Head Rod Templon.

As a result, there will be less paper and better tracking. Requisitioners, supervisors, and Procurement staff will have the ability to view electronically what was charged to a cost center, who prepared and approved requisitions, and the progress in the procurement process, beginning with the request and ending with the delivery of goods. "This will help the flow of work," said Baumgartner.

Leading up to this end product is a year of work he described as, "all testing and training and tweaking and signing off as pieces are put into place."

Once in place and operating, the new system is expected to offer many benefits.

"A great many of our staff, especially those mentioned by name earlier in this article, worked extremely hard and effectively in selecting this product among many alternatives. The end result of their efforts to date, and their efforts during the upcoming implementation phase, will result in the Laboratory obtaining a state-of-the-art business computing system that will allow our staff to be more productive at an extremely attractive price," said Winkler.

Added PPPL Computer Engineering Division Head Dori Barnes, "From the technical side of the house, we are also very excited about this product and the implementation. The Computer Division Business Computing staff will have the opportunity to learn and work with a new technology and will be able to better provide the Administrative staff with the services they need to perform their jobs effectively and efficiently." ●



Staff Encouraged to Get “Hooked on Safety”

Is there such a thing as an accident-free workplace?

Yes! So says Billy Robbins, a motivational speaker who gave a presentation, “Hooked on Safety,” to staff during PPPL’s “Achieving Excellence in Safety” program on October 18. The program, open to all staff and organized to reinvigorate PPPL’s focus on safety and health issues, also included exhibitors in the Lobby; a presentation entitled “Meeting Today’s Safety Challenges” by Dupont’s Paul Stevens; and an ice-cream party.

“Accident-free workplaces exist. The companies that have achieved this have discovered what it takes to make this a reality. And that is what I want to help you do — make it a reality where you work,” said Robbins.

Robbins, who had both hands amputated in 1980 when he was injured in an industrial accident, discussed workers’ attitudes toward safety, and the results of these attitudes on everyone with whom they come into contact.

From the top to the bottom of an organization, everyone must do everything they have been trained to do with regard to safety one hundred percent of the time, he said. Eliminating hazards eliminates accidents, Robbins added.

“We want everyone to go home at night the same way they came into work,” he said. “We want a zero-accident rate.”

Robbins said the way to achieve an accident-free workplace is to “change your attitude, change the way you think, and change the way you do things.”

To illustrate how an accident can affect an individual, as well as that person’s family and co-workers, Robbins



Billy Robbins presents “Hooked on Safety” to staff in the MBG Auditorium. Inset: Robbins (left) and PPPL’s Sylvester Vinson during the presentation.

asked PPPL’s Sylvester Vinson to be bound by tape in a wheelchair, with his hands further restricted by socks and more tape. These movement restrictions gave Vinson and the audience a glimpse into the world of a quadriplegic. “It’s hard to be successful when something like this happens to you,” Robbins told Vinson.

Repeatedly, the speaker told the audience, “Safety is right, it’s right for you, and it’s right for your co-workers.”

Robbins recounted how an accident in 1980 changed his life. He was a lineman for a local telephone company. He had on all his safety equipment and gear, and had performed every test he was supposed to perform prior to beginning his work. Although he was working on a pole that had no power, the wind slapped the lines from leaning power poles in the area together and 7200 volts arced to Robbins’ pole. The leaning power lines were

tagged to be fixed, but had not been. “Somebody took a shortcut and I paid the price,” said Robbins, who now wears hooks. His life, he said, was changed forever.

“Safety has to become a part of your lifestyle. He defined safety as an attitude, a habit, and a behavior, all of which can be shaped. To get to an accident-free workplace, staff must have good attitudes and make the right choices, “so you don’t have to come into my world,” he said. “A changed attitude produces safety and success.”

He implored staff to set a vision for an accident-free workplace. Employee involvement, the speaker stressed, is the key to safety. “When employees look out for each other, good things happen,” Robbins said. ●

Footnote: The Lab met the challenge of an accident-free workplace in October when, for the first time since December 1999, there were no occupational injuries or illnesses at PPPL.

Staff Asked to Follow New Security Procedures



Please cooperate with security staff by handing them your badge upon entry to PPPL.



Please refrain from placing your ID badges in your mouth.



Vehicles are subject to search.

P PPL management applauds employees for their continuing efforts in support of the heightened security measures at PPPL following the September 11 national tragedy, and asks for their cooperation with two aspects of the present security procedures. Please allow security officers to touch your badge upon entering the gate to PPPL and refrain from placing your badge in your mouth.

Applicable Department of Energy Orders mandate that security personnel physically touch the badge of each employee entering the facility. This insures that the officer can in fact look at the badge and identify the staff member.

Lately, security personnel have been wearing gloves while performing this task. This is necessary because some staff members unintentionally hold the badge in

their mouth while approaching the guard booth. In consideration of the security staff, employees are requested to stop this practice.

Staff are also reminded that any incoming packages and vehicles — those of personnel as well as of visitors — are subject to search. This is for the welfare of both employees and guests at the site.

In a recent memo to staff, PPPL Deputy Director Rich Hawryluk thanked PPPL'ers for following security procedures. "Once again, I am grateful for your cooperation and consideration during this difficult period for our nation," said Hawryluk. ●

Staff who have questions about any elements of the current security measures are asked to call ext. 2536.

Contributions Sought for Stix Memorial Fund

A Memorial Fund is being established in honor of Professor Thomas H. Stix, long-time director of graduate studies in Princeton University's Program in Plasma Physics. Stix, known for his encouragement of plasma physicists at early stages of their careers, died in April. The fund is being created to reflect Stix's personal concern for and encouragement of numerous graduate students, and his commitment to graduate student education through the plasma physics program he helped shape.

Those instrumental in creating the fund are seeking contributions, with a goal of raising enough money to endow in perpetuity an annual grant of at least \$2,000 to enhance graduate student education and life. More information can be found on the web at <http://www.princeton.edu/~hammett/stix/>. Those wishing to contribute may send checks, made payable to Princeton University with the annotation "Stix Memorial Fund" in the memo line, and mailed to: Prof. Thomas H. Stix Memorial Fund, c/o Recording Secretary, Gift Records Unit, P.O. Box 5357, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08543-5357. ●



Thomas Stix

PPPL's Recommit to Recycling



P PPL held its Fourth America Recycles Day (ARD) celebration on November 8. The event in the Auditorium included Margaret Kevin-King's skit, "Recycling at PPPL and How to Make Recycle Stew," featuring staff members Joanne Bianco, Ray Camp, John Luckie, and Antonio Morgado. ARD organizers Tom McGeachen and Kevin-King then gave a presentation about PPPL's recycling efforts. The day also included the presentation of the 2001 Green Machine Awards and exhibits by Home Depot and Executive Business Products in the Lobby.

At top left, Luckie, in the role of "Mr. Staff," throws recyclable materials into the trash. At top right, Kevin-King shows recyclable containers while discussing the Lab's progress in recycling. At right are the winners of the 2001 Green Machine Awards. From left are Rich McDonough, Laura Blascucci, Larry Rich, Barbara Sarfaty, Tom Czeizinger, Donna Campbell and Al Bara,



along with PPPL Deputy Director Rich Hawryluk, who presented the awards. At left is Morgado as "Mr. Custodian," expressing his dismay that Mr. Staff is so wasteful. ●

PPPL Celebrates Halloween



On October 31, at the urging of PPPL Director Rob Goldston, several employees came to work in costume. At right, from left are Andrea Moten, Sonja Patterson, Susan Murphy-LaMarche, Marianne Tyrrell, Regina Worthy, and Rose Fuchs. At top is John Bennevich.



Finley Featured in Newsweek

P PPL's Virginia Finley was among fifty 50-year-olds pictured in a special edition of Newsweek, "Health for Life," Fall/Winter 2001. The article focuses on living longer, and discusses how scientists are beginning to illuminate the process of aging. A caption accompanying a series of head-and-shoulders pictures of the fifty at 50, reads, "From smiles on ordinary faces to subtle lines on famous ones, these portraits give us a glimpse of the diverse look of Americans at 50. ... This gallery of 50 faces helps tell the story of aging in our nation." ●

Happy
Thanksgiving



**The Laboratory will be closed on:
Thursday, November 22 and
Friday, November 23
for the Thanksgiving holiday.**



**“STATE OF THE LABORATORY”
ADDRESS**

by Rob Goldston

**followed by Brief Remarks
President Shirley M. Tilghman**

and

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

**Kaul Foundation Prize for Excellence in Plasma
Physics Research and Technology Development**

PPPL Distinguished Engineering Fellow Award

PPPL Distinguished Research Fellow Award

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2001 AT 2:00 PM

M.B. GOTTLIEB AUDITORIUM

LYMAN SPITZER BUILDING

Pie A La Mode Party Will Follow

All Staff Are Invited!