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INSIDER

Newsletter for the Employees of Ames Laboratory ■ Volume 15, Number 11 ■ December 2004

Holiday Auction Hits New High

\$1,720 raised for Arc of Story County



Don't Do It!

Sheila Tellinghuisen gives Mark Murphy a cautionary stare as she ups her bid for the Corvette clock on the silent auction, and he prepares to go even higher.

Ames Lab employees once again showed their true holiday spirit by joyfully bidding on a variety of interesting, though by no means necessary, items at the third annual Holiday Benefit Auction. The combined total for the silent and live auctions and cash donations, was \$1,720 – a new record – with the money going to the Arc of Story County.

A total of 45 silent auction items brought in \$563. Top sellers included the Corvette clock, donated by Tom Barton, a set of samurai swords from Saren Johnston, and a “log” Santa, one of several items donated by John Hjortshoj. Fifteen items were sold for \$1,003 on the live auction, with Dale Meyer once again calling the action. Top seller was the wine-tasting party donated by Johnston, Deb Covey, and Ila Haugen and purchased for \$300 by Tom Barton. Steve



Serious Shoppers

Ila Haugen (left) and Rhonda Deshong are all business as they scramble to get silent auction bids in before the deadline.

Karsjen bought an Ames Lab logo suncatcher for \$100, and the team of Barb and Tom Lograsso receives special recognition for their several successful bids that brought them a handmade scarf, a Swedish massage, a gift basket and tickets to “Peter Pan” at the Des Moines Civic Center. *more photos on page 4.*

Bodman New DOE Secretary Nominee

Former Treasury Deputy picked to replace Abraham

President Bush has nominated Sam Bodman for Secretary of Energy. Bodman has served as deputy secretary of Commerce and deputy secretary of Treasury. If confirmed, Bodman would replace outgoing Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, who announced his resignation on November 15.

"If confirmed by the Senate, my colleagues and I at the Department of Energy stand ready to carry forward your vision of sound energy policy to ensure a steady supply of affordable energy for America's homes and businesses, and to work toward the day when America achieves energy independence," Bodman told the President.

Outgoing Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said Bodman's experience in the private sector and in government will serve him well in his new post. Abraham is mulling a wide range of private-sector job op-



Sam Bodman

portunities, including heading the auto industry's main lobbying group, sources said.

Born in 1938 in Chicago, Bodman became a professor of chemical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and left teaching in 1970 to join a venture capital firm. After that, Bodman went to work for a then-tiny Boston investment firm known as Fidelity Investments, where he remained for 17 years and eventually became president.

In July 2003, as deputy secretary of the Commerce Department, Bodman traveled with current Deputy Energy Secretary Kyle McSlarrow to Murmansk, Russia, to discuss exports of Russian fuels to the U.S. market.

"In academics, in business and in government, Sam Bodman has shown himself to be a problem solver who knows how to set goals and knows how to reach them," Bush told reporters. "He will bring to the Department of Energy a great talent for management and the precise thinking of an engineer." ■

Lab Gets New Contracting Officer



Thomas Harrison

Thomas Harrison has been appointed Contracting Officer for the Ames Site Office. He replaces Roberta Ahlberg, who had been assisting in that position on a temporary basis. The granting of Contracting Officer authority to Harrison provides the Ames Site Office with a permanent contracting officer dedicated to the contract between the Department of Energy and Iowa State University for the operation of Ames Laboratory.

Harrison began his contracting

career as a Department of the Army intern at Fort Richardson Army Base, Alaska. Upon completion of his internship at Fort Richardson, he accepted a position as a Cost/Price Analyst at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown, Iowa. Harrison and his family enjoyed living in Mount Pleasant for nearly two and a half years before accepting a position with the Environmental Protection Agency's Chicago office as a Contract Specialist.

At EPA Harrison awarded and

administered EPA's long-term remedial action contracts located in Region 5 that served Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and 35 Tribes. He took a position at the Department of Energy-Chicago Operations, Acquisition and Financial Assistance Office, and shortly after joining the DOE Acquisition section, he became a member of the Management and Operating team for the Ames Site Office. ■

Ames Lab Contract Extended for Two Years

On Jan. 1, 2005, the Lab will begin operating under a two-year extended contract, which will be in effect until Dec. 31, 2006. Iowa State University will continue to be the contractor under this arrangement, as it has been for the past 57 years.

The contract extension will include several changes, including a greater emphasis on contracting with small businesses and purchase of items that are made of recycled materials. There will also

be requirements for issuing open-source software and an increased emphasis on safety.

Mark Murphy, division director for Technical and Administrative Services, says allowable-cost clauses have changed so there may be differences from prior years. In addition, he says there will be more required reports.

The two-year contract extension is designed to allow the maximum opportunity for bidder participation on all Lab contracts.

In the spring of 2003, it was announced the DOE would open for competition those laboratory contracts that hadn't been placed for competitive bids for more than 50 years. Ames Lab is one of five DOE labs that fall into this category. The others are Argonne, Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore and the Los Alamos national laboratories. Currently, Berkeley's contract request for proposal has been issued for comments, and the contract for

Argonne West was combined with the contract for Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and has been awarded to Battelle Energy Alliance.

As reported in an earlier issue of *Insider*, Tom Barton, director, said that ISU President Greg Geoffroy has made it clear to DOE that the university will bid on the Ames Lab contract. "I'm confident the university's intent will remain the same no matter what the time frame," said Barton. ■



SC 2004

Attendees visit the Ames Laboratory Scalable Computing Lab's exhibit at SC 2004 in Pittsburgh, Penn., Nov. 6-12. The annual supercomputing conference is the chief event for professionals in the field of parallel high-performance computing. Brett Bode, associate scientist and coordinator of the Scalable Computing Lab's exhibit, says 19 people from the SCL attended SC 2004 and that the event was a valuable learning experience for student participants. "SC was a great place to discuss projects with colleagues and get updates on high-performance computing within the DOE and the anticipated future directions," he says.

Fellows of the Institute of Physics

John R. Clem, contract associate, and Douglas Finnemore, associate, have been named Fellows of the Institute of Physics, London, in recognition of their individual status within the physics community. This senior class of membership indicates a very high level of achievement in physics and an outstanding contribution to the profession. As Fellows, Clem and Finnemore are entitled to use the designatory letters FInstP following their names. ■



John R. Clem



Doug Finnemore

In Memorium

Daniel Joseph Zaffarano, former Ames Laboratory physics division chief from 1961 to 1971 and Iowa State University vice president of research and dean of the graduate college from 1971 until his retirement in 1987, died Friday, Dec. 3, at Israel Hospice House. Among his many professional undertakings, Zaffarano served as the division chief of the Iowa Coal Research Project in the ISU Energy and Mineral Resources Research Institute and was chairman of the First International Conference on Iceberg Utilization held in Ames in 1977. He was a gifted teacher and mentor whose office and home doors were always open. ■



Holiday Auction Donation

Ames Lab/IPRT Director Tom Barton presents a symbolic check for \$1,720 to Laurie Ertz, director of the Arc of Story County. Ames Lab employees also donated 165 food items and 90 hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to Mid-Iowa Community Action.

More Holiday Parties



TASF Potluck

Ames Lab retirees Tom Johnston and Don Heim check out the fabulous fare at the TASF holiday get-together on Dec. 15.



'Tis the Season for Chili

What would the holidays be without a big chili feed? Thankfully, we'll never know as long as Facilities continues its tradition of making vats of the mouth-watering dish for their annual holiday get-together, attended by both current and former employees.

Holiday Auction Hits New High *continued from page 1*



(above) Anne Coffman (left) and Susan Elsner check out some silent auction items.

(right) Steve Karsjen suffers sticker shock from his winning bid for a Lab logo suncatcher.



IPRT Assistant Director Joe Gilbert pours coffee for guests passing through the food line.



Saren Johnston and Tom Barton share a joke and some holiday refreshments during the party as they wait for the live auction to begin.



Samurai timekeeper Karen Huiatt wields a samurai sword with encouragement from Diane Drake. Huiatt had the winning bid for the two-sword set at \$40.



Decked out for the season, Jean Boot, Jan Weedman, and Carol Cowan show off their festive holiday sweaters.



(above) Steve Karsjen grins after upping the bid on a silent auction item, much to Ila Haugen's dismay.



Trevor Riedemann places a bid with auctioneer Dale Meyer for the afternoon's most popular item, a wine-tasting party offered by Saren Johnston, Deb Covey and Ila Haugen. Tom Barton outbid Riedemann and Rebecca Shivvers to take the party at an even \$300.



(above) "Going once ..." Auctioneer Dale Meyer calls for bids for Carol Mack's homemade cheese-cake, a perennial favorite, which fetched \$24 .

(left) Marian Lebo writes down a bid for a the Corvete clock donated by Tom Barton. The clock drew a total of 20 bids from eight different people, with Sheila Tellinghuisen placing the winning bid of \$35.



Arc of Story County director Laurie Ertz (left) chats with Kathleen Trahanovsky during the party.

Holiday Happy

A look around the Lab reveals many signs of the season

Forget the various seasonal open houses and commercial light displays. If you want to see some holiday glitz, all you need do is take a walk around the Lab. Here you go – see what some employees have been doing to make the season jolly!



Have they been good little Budget employees this year, or will Santa fill their stockings with lumps of coal?

(below) Audrey Hohanshelt, nursing supervisor, has, perhaps, the most unusual holiday item of all in her singing and dancing Pinocchio puppet. And what does the little guy want for Christmas – why, to be a live boy, of course!



(right) Need a shelf to display your holiday figurines? Take a tip from Occupational Medicine and use a paper towel dispenser.

(below right) An arrangement of quasi-crystal models makes an unusual but colorful substitute for holiday decorations in the office of scientist Cynthia Jenks.



Various versions of the Jolly Old Elf and his helpers watch over the office of Lora Larrance, budget analyst. The collectibles from the 1970s originally belonged to Larrance's mother-in-law.



Showing off her holiday sweater, Jean Boot, chief accountant, says of her stark office, "My sweater's the only decoration in here!"



The holidays and science are equally represented in this Spedding Hall research area. (Come on, folks, you could have drawn some twinkling stars on the chalkboard!)



Cynthia Feller, secretary, displays some holiday handiwork that had its start last season. She bought the decorative pail a year ago and added the greenery, berries and lights this year.



(above) These dancing, singing, delightfully charming toys grace the top of a file cabinet in the Directors' offices. They all have names and are dedicated to the task of amusing the 311 TASF family, but that's another story!



(left) It's hard to resist touching this Christmas tree when you leave Purchasing and Property Services. The "squishy" tree is made from Gel Gems that clerk Connie Willie-Kennicker purchased at Popsie's in Galena, Ill.



This little ceramic tree has been lighting up the holidays for Cheryl Sansgaard, IPRT administrative specialist, for the past 20 years. Did she make it? "Oh, no," she assures us, "I bought it in Arizona."



(below) Feliz Navidad from the Taco Bell Chihuahua.

Celebrating with the Custodians



Custodians Vickie Seliger (left), Rickie Wheeler and Deb Evans "ham it up" for the camera during the custodial staff's holiday luncheon.



Storekeeper Steve Constance helps himself to some goodies at the holiday luncheon given by the Lab's custodians as a thank-you to the Facilities staff for their support throughout the year.

Aerospace Engineering Students Tour Lab

Visit highlights quasicrystals and metal powders

A November visit to Ames Laboratory gave student members of the Iowa State University chapter of the Sigma Gamma Tau Aerospace Engineering Honor Society a firsthand look at some materials research that holds promise for the aerospace as well as other industries.

Visiting with senior metallurgist Iver Anderson, the students learned about the Lab's enhancements to the process of high-pressure gas atomization, or HPGA, for the production of powder metals with controlled size and surface chemistry. The HPGA improvements allow advanced powder processing that improves the fabrication of structural components, such as gears, brakes, and magnets.

During their visit with scientist Cynthia Jenks, the students were introduced to events that take place on the surfaces of materials and the importance of that chemistry to a material's potential future applications. Jenks also discussed the Lab's quasicrystal research with the students. Unlike conventional crystals, quasicrystals can exhibit five-fold symmetry. They are hard materials, poor



(above) Iver Anderson shows visiting aerospace engineering students an HPGA nozzle designed to allow gas jets moving at supersonic speed (Mach 2-3) to blast molten metal into fine, spherical, high-purity metal powders.

conductors of heat and electricity and fairly resistant to chemical attack. Their unique combination of properties and novel structure make them promising candidates for applications such as coatings, thermal barriers and hydrogen storage materials. ■

~ Saren Johnston

New Projectors

Both the 301B Spedding Auditorium and 205 TASF now have permanent ceiling-mounted LCD projectors to be used with laptop computers. After reserving one of these rooms through the on-line room reservation system, the remote control to operate each projector can be checked out in the Directors' Offices when picking up the room key. Contact Sandi Bishop at 294-2618 or bishop@ameslab.gov with any questions.



An aerospace engineering student examines some titanium sublimation pump filaments while Cynthia Jenks explains that freshly sublimed titanium makes an excellent pump in the high vacuum region.

INSIDER

Volume 15 / Number 11 / December 2004

Ames Lab Insider is published 11 times a year for the employees of the Ames Laboratory by the Office of Public Affairs and Information. Ames Laboratory is operated by Iowa State University (ISU) for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Contract W-7405-Eng-82 and is part of the Institute for Physical Research and Technology (IPRT) consortium of fundamental and applied research centers.

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Address correction requested
P-208-9

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