INSIDER

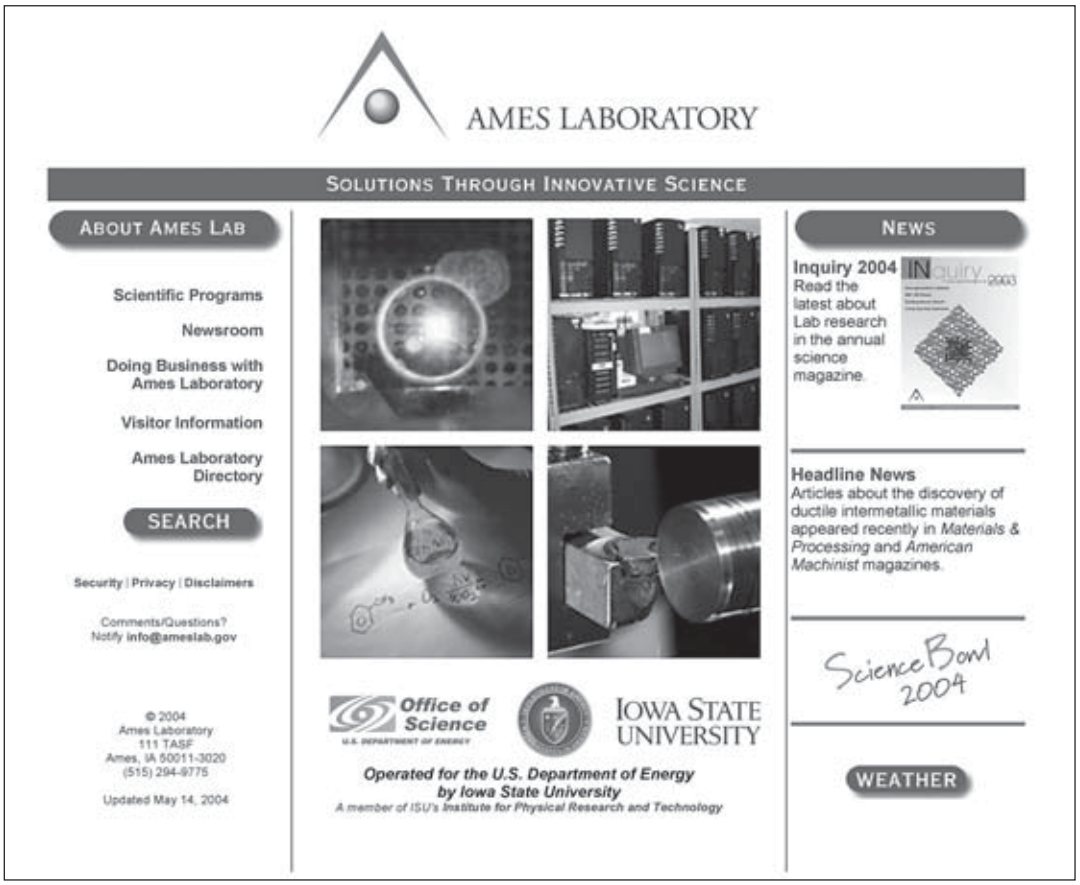
Newsletter for the Employees of Ames Laboratory ■ Volume 15, Number 6 ■ June 2004

New Ames Lab Web Site Ready

www.external.ameslab.gov/final/home.html

After months in development, a new Web site for the Ames Laboratory will go live in July. The new site, approved by the Executive Council in May, will replace the existing site that has served the Lab since its initial presence on the World Wide Web in 1998.

Work on the redesign began last fall with formation of an ad hoc committee that reviewed the existing site and made recommendations for changes and improvements in the functionality and appearance of the site. The committee — Deb Covey, Trevor Riedemann, Rebecca Shivvers, Chris Strasburg, Steve Karsjen and Kerry Gibson — initially developed an outline for reorganizing the content in a logical manner, adding information where necessary.



The redesigned Ames Laboratory home page features a clean look and plenty of helpful links.

"From there, we looked at a number of other sites, including those of other DOE labs, to get ideas and find what seemed to work well and would make sense for Ames Laboratory," says Gibson, who, as Webmaster for the main portion of the Web site, was responsible for implementing the changes.

One of the main goals was to divide information on the site into logical categories and subcategories, and provide links so that users can quickly access the information they are seeking. Another goal was to establish a clean, consistent look *continued on page 2*

New web site *continued from page 1*

to pages throughout the site that promotes a strong Laboratory identity.

The new home page and subsequent pages feature the Ames Laboratory logo predominantly at the top. Information about the Laboratory and the major informational categories are displayed down the left side in a menu format. Included also is a search function that uses Google as the search engine. It allows users to search the Ames Lab site or the entire Web for information.

The center section features images of various research projects at the Lab and will be changed periodically. Anyone with images or suggestions for images is urged to pass them along to Kerry Gibson, *kgibson@ameslab.gov*. The bottom of this section features logos — as clickable links — of the Department of Energy, the DOE Office of Science, and Iowa State University.

The right-hand section features a variety of information that will be continually updated. Among the things appearing here will be news and links on the latest media and journal articles featuring Ames Lab research. It will also be a place for major calendar items and announcements. Users can even check current weather conditions with a click of the "weather" button.

As users click on any of the homepage menu links, the subsequent page (see below) will feature a blue-bar page header telling them where they are. The categories originally displayed in the left-hand side of the homepage menu are also now displayed in a menu bar located just below the page header. This allows users to move elsewhere in the site without having to hit the "back" button on their browser. A new menu relevant to that particular category is now displayed along the left side of the page, providing links to the subcategories within that topic area

"The page header and menu bar will hopefully make it easier for users to navigate the site," Gibson says. "It's not quite 'one-click-and-you're-there', but you can move around fairly quickly."

While not apparent to viewers, the new site was created in a Web-authoring program called Dreamweaver, which simplifies construction of Web pages through the use of templates. By creating templates, common portions such as the general layout, the main headers, some menu items and "boilerplate" copy can easily be updated on the master page without having to revise each individual page.

The site also uses cascading style sheets that basically affect how text and other elements appear on the page. With the style sheets applied to all the pages, the text remains uniform from page to page. And like a template, you can universally change the pages by simply revising the style sheet.

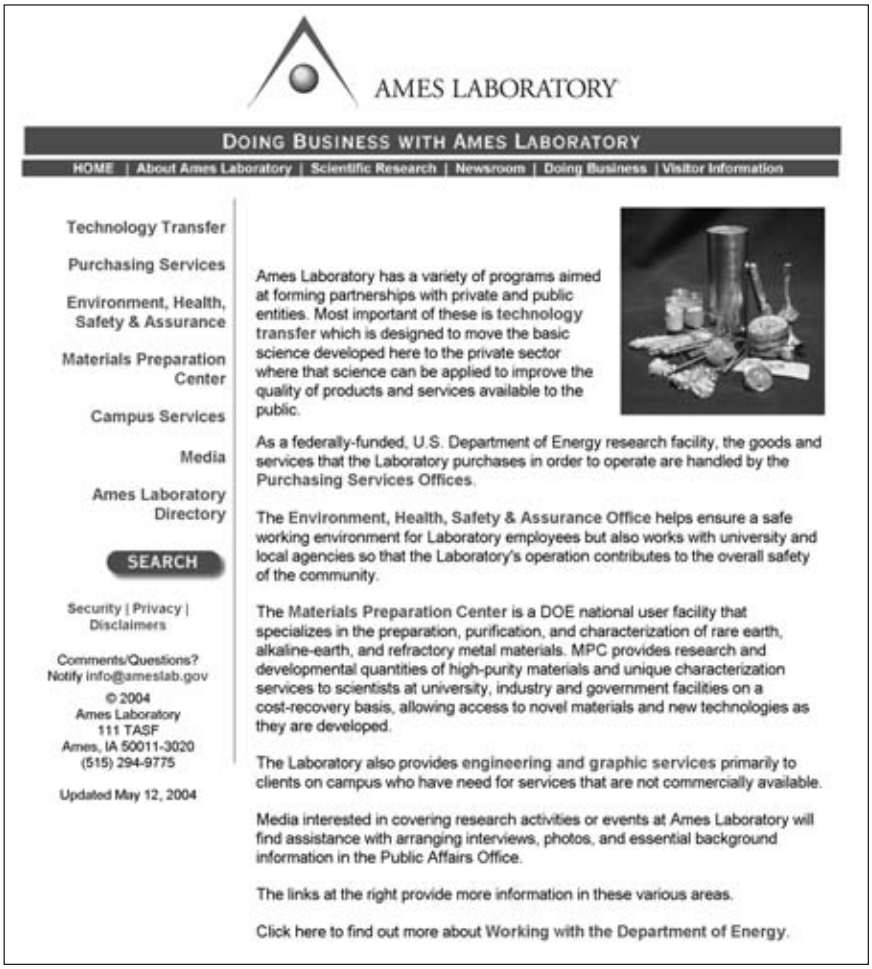
"Creation of templates and style sheets should be a boon to other Webmasters around the Lab," says Gibson. "For example, those in the various research programs would no longer have to worry about whether they have the right disclaimers or logos or contact information … that information will always be up-to-date. It will also be an opportunity to carry a consistent image across the entire Web site with a minimal amount of effort."

As with any changeover, there will be glitches to be fixed, such as broken links. The July switch is designed to coincide with an upgrade to the Lab's Web server. The current site will also be available for a period of time as a separate link so if information can't be accessed from the new site, users can still go to the old site and follow the original links.

"Our goal is to have everyone have this page set up as their default homepage," Public Affairs manager Steve Karsjen says. "We encourage people to look over the new site and give us feedback. Let us know what you like and don't like and what's missing that you'd like to see added."

The updated Web site can be accessed at *http://www.external.ameslab.gov/final/home.html*. Please send comments on the new site *to kgibson@ameslab.gov* or one of the other committee members. ■

~ Kerry Gibson



On-Site Review

Mufit Akinc, associate and chair of the ISU materials science and engineering department, has been elected vice chair/chair elect of the University Materials Council. The UMC is the official organization of department chairs, heads and directors of materials science and engineering programs in the United States and Canada. The UMC conducts surveys that benchmark enrollments, degrees awarded, faculty salaries, research funding and graduate student stipends. It also serves as a forum to share best practices in areas such as student recruitment, academic accreditation, emerging research and patent rights policies in the field of materials science. Akinc focuses his research on the synthesis, processing and characterization of novel materials for high-temperature structural applications. ■

Surya Mallapragada, associate and an ISU associate professor of chemical engineering, will assume the role of program director of Ames Laboratory's Materials Chemistry Program beginning July 1. Mallapragada's research focuses on bioinspired smart copolymers, patterned surfaces for nerve regeneration, combinatorial synthesis and characterization of polyanhydrides, and semicrystalline polymer drying. Mallapragada was named one of the top 100 young researchers worldwide in 2002 by *Technology Review*, a publication of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. ■

(From left) Tom Barton, ISU Provost Ben Allen, Director of the Office of Science Raymond Orbach, ISU President Gregory Geoffroy, and ISU Vice President for Business and Finance Warren Madden wrap up their meeting with a photograph. Orbach and other DOE representatives visited the Lab on June 14 where they met with the Ames Lab Executive Council and ISU leaders, and listened to presentations from numerous Lab and ISU scientists. Following the photo-taking session, Orbach characterized the meeting as "wonderful," he said. "We had frank discussions, and we were impressed with the quality of programs at Ames Lab and ISU."

From the White House ***Joel Parriott of the White House Office of Management and Budget visited Ames Lab on May 24. His visit consisted of meeting with the Executive Council, hearing presentations from program directors and others, and tours of the Lab's magnetic refrigeration and powder metallurgy areas. In this photo, Larry Jones, Materials Preparation Center director, shows Pariott the MPC's plasma furnace, which generates temperatures estimated to be well in excess of 10,000 degrees Celsius.***

On to the Dessert ***Ron Berrett, electrician, helps himself to some of his own rhubarb crisp at the ninth Facilities Services Sponsored Barbecue, June 4. Meanwhile, Bev Smith, custodian, fills her plate with main course items, taking the chance that some of Ron's famous crisp will still be left when she's ready for dessert — risky business in light of such a taste-tempter! The FSSBBQ takes place annually and is sponsored by the Facilities Services engineers to thank Facilities personnel for their hard work throughout the year.***

Eight is Enough

Retirements take center stage in June

Forget June weddings; this year retirements are all the rage for the first month of summer. And Ames Laboratory is right in style with eight!

With only a few weeks remaining in their Ames Lab careers, these friends and co-workers reflect on their experiences here and fill us in on what they'll be doing in retirement.

Kathie Hawbaker, secretary, Directors' Offices

After getting her children off to a good start, Kathie Hawbaker left her job as a stay-at-home mom in 1981 and came to work in Iowa State University's chemistry department. One of her bosses at the time was Tom Barton. The two of them hit it off, and the Hawbaker and Barton families became great friends during the ensuing 23 years.

Kathie Hawbaker

1986

"Coming back to work was probably the best thing that ever happened to me," says Kathie. "I've met so many people I admire for their intelligence and respect for their accomplishments." Standing out among those individuals is Barton, himself. Of him, she says, "Dr. Barton is the best teacher I've ever been around. Because of his persistence and great teaching ability, we (Directors' office staff) have all learned a lot."

About working at the Lab, Kathie says, "It's wonderful to have our own little entity. We're like one big family. We care about one another."

As the director's secretary, Kathie handles many of the preparations for his various presentations to "sell" Ames Lab and IPRT to others. She says the work has helped her better appreciate the significance of the Lab's basic science mission. "I've realized how basic science extrapolates into something that can be understood and used by a lay person — that it really is useful," she says. "I've enjoyed the prestige of working at a DOE laboratory with world-renowned scientists."

If Kathie's career path had taken another course, she said it would likely have been to a field, such as engineering, that involves mathematics. "I loved math; it was my best subject in high school," she says. "But in the 1950s, engineering scholarships and financial aid weren't as common as they are today. I was the only one out of the top 3 percent in my graduating class who didn't go on to college." Kathie has been able to take several accounting classes while working at the Lab, and notes, "Dr. Barton does encourage people to take classes."

When she retires, Kathie will not only be leaving the Lab, she'll be leaving Iowa. She and her husband, Rich, are moving to Tellico Village on Tellico Lake, located at the base of the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. "The lake and maybe a wild dream of navigating some of the Tennessee River is what drew us to this area," says Kathie.

If "taming the river wild" seems a little too daunting, Kathie can always play golf and tennis, something she intends to do more of, anyway. She'll also be training her new dog and spending more time with her four grandchildren.

Summing up her Ames Lab career, Kathie says, "Working here has broadened my horizons — my education has gone up tenfold. I've learned that you mature in a job. You can always do more and save your boss a little grief."

Her positive attitude has earned Kathie her boss's appreciation and admiration. "Kathie is not only the best secretary I've ever seen," says Barton, "she probably has the quickest mind I've ever been around. She is one smart person! While I am, of course, happy for Rich and Kathie getting to actually live a dream retirement, I am not at all happy to have her leave," he adds. "I'm going to be lost since I don't know where anything is or how to do anything!"

Jerry Jenison, manager, Human Resources

Jerry Jenison says he made a good career move when he came to Ames Laboratory from ISU's Personnel Office in 1981. "It was good for me because the Lab is a smaller entity. I got to know people better and work more closely with them," he says. The opportunity to interact frequently with members of the Lab's diverse community provided Jerry with what he feels has been a valuable life lesson: "always to have complete respect for other people's problems, regardless of how small they seem to you."

As manager of Human Resources, problems did come his way, but Jerry also recalls several humorous incidents that stand out in his career at Ames Laboratory. One of the most memorable for him had to do with the anticipated birth of his son, Scott. Jerry's office staff had decided to throw him a baby shower. Wanting to dress "appropriately" for the occasion, Jerry ran home just before noon on the day of the shower to change his clothes. To everyone's shock, he returned wearing a wig and dressed like a pregnant woman very close to her due date. "You should have seen the looks on their faces when I walked in," says Jerry, smiling at the long-ago picture in his mind.

Jerry Jenison

1981

Although Jerry has enjoyed his career in human resources, he might easily have pursued something totally different if the situation had been right. "I love the outdoors, and I would have loved to farm," he says. "You don't have anyone telling you what to do — you live or die with your own decisions. Of course, you have to deal with the weather, crop markets and other variables, but not so much the human factor."

Retirement will bring with it more of the outdoor time, Jerry

craves. "I'll be doing a tremendous amount of fishing, largely for walleye, at Clear Lake and in Minnesota," he says, with emphasis on the word "tremendous." He and his wife, Lynn, also hope to make a return trip to Scotland. And there's always the famous honey-do list that Jerry will have to tackle between fishing trips and any trips abroad.

Looking back over his time at Ames Lab and ISU, Jerry says, "The university and the Lab have been good to me. I have no regrets at all about my career here. The close tie between the Lab and the university is an unbeatable combination for generating a knowledge and expertise pool, something we can see exhibited regularly and most recently in the development and work of the Midwest Forensics Resource Center."

Connie Crook, custodian, Custodial Services

Unlike most of the early retirees, Connie Crook has been at the Lab a relatively short time, starting work here in April 2000. But she's no stranger to Iowa State, having been employed by the university since 1984.

Even though she's only been here a few years, Connie says she's found the Lab a good place to work and notes that she has particularly enjoyed having such nice co-workers. Having experienced some health problems during the past few years, she says she has very much appreciated the great understanding and support given by her co-workers and her supervisor, Mark Nelson.

During her years at the Lab, Connie says she's had the opportunity to work in all of the buildings. "I like the variety of rotating from building to building," she says, noting the custodians change buildings every six months. "The Lab's buildings all have their pluses and minuses, but I like Spedding Hall best."

Connie says she doesn't have any special plans for retirement, but with most of her family living

Connie Crook (Early ID photo not available.)

in Iowa, she imagines she'll be visiting a lot of relatives and friends around the state. And she has five grandchildren who may have their own special plans for their grandmother's retirement.

Connie enjoys doing yard work and looks forward to having more time to develop her flower gardens. She currently has iris, peonies, lilacs, hostas and several kinds of lilies adorning her yard. As she looks at expanding her gardens and adding new flowers, maybe she can get some help from those five grandchildren!

Denny Sailsbury, photographer, Graphics

"Working here is like working with a big family," says Denny Sailsbury. Well, yes, Denny, after 42 years you'd better think of us as your family. You've seen us at our best and our worst, and you have the pictures to prove it — drat!

Not many people can say they know as much about the members, past and present, of the Lab's diverse community as can Denny. It's as though he looks through that camera lens directly into our souls. On our good days, he finds our cheerful selves; on bad days the grumpy ones. He takes it all in stride, catering to our various moods as you would for good friends and family members.

Denny says he's a self-taught photographer. "It's taken a lot of studying and experimenting and a lot of mistakes," he says, but adds that in the process he's been able to photograph things that many people don't even know exist. "Here I'm exposed to a whole range of photographic challenges. I've enjoyed the technical photography most and using those skills to help our scientists solve different problems."

In 42 years, there's a lot of career highlights, but Denny says the building of the Ames Lab reactor is one that definitely stands out in his mind. "The reactor was just a hole in the ground when I first came here," he says. "I followed the whole project, from operation to teardown."

1962

A more recent highlight that Denny says has been a lot of fun is the high-speed filming he's been doing for metallurgist Iver Anderson. He's been filming the high-pressure gas atomization process in which molten metal is blasted into fine, uniform and high-purity powder particles. "It's always a challenge to film the HPGA process and work as a member of the team," says Denny.

As he prints his last posters and schedules his final photo shoots, Denny has had little time to think about retirement. When the news that he was retiring got around, clients began rushing to fill out job orders and get their projects done before the end of June. When he does take time to think about retirement, he says, "The grandkids are my first priority. My wife, Betty, and I will be taking them to Adventureland a lot this summer because she purchased season tickets for everyone." The kind of grandpa every kid would love to have, Denny doesn't sit on the sidelines. He'll be joining in the Adventureland fun. "I like the rides. The space shot is my favorite, but it doesn't last long enough," he says.

Of course, Denny will get to do other "fun" things, too, like painting his garage and helping his sister move. But he'll also be spending a considerable amount of time on his woodworking projects. He's become somewhat of an expert at making clocks and is working on a big oak and

Denny Sailsbury

walnut fretwork clock that he plans to have on display at a North Grand Mall craft show in October.

It's hard to picture the Lab without Denny, and he admits it's not easy for him to leave. "The people here have become like a family," he says. "I feel fortunate that things worked out so I could be here for so many years. It's a pretty special place to work."

continued on page 6

Karen Burk, supervisor of nursing services, Occupational Medicine

"I've never made plans in my whole entire life, so why should I start now?" asks Karen Burk, speaking about her retirement at the end of June. Immediately correcting herself, she adds, "Well, I do have one plan — on July 1, I'm not coming to work. Fifty years is enough!"

Karen says she started working when she was 12. "I had a regular babysitting job for three kids for two years. I worked two nights a week after school and every Saturday. When I was 14, I started cleaning house one night a week and every Saturday for the same family. At 16, I got a job as a nurse's aide. I also worked as a cook one summer. I started nurse's training in the fall of 1961, and everything else is history," she says.

Karen began her Ames Lab career in 1983. At that time, Occupational Medicine was located at the far west end of first-floor Spedding. "I didn't have an office," Karen recalls. "I had a desk next to the audiometric testing equipment."

Now, as she prepares to leave the Lab, Karen says what she'll miss most is the one-on-one contact with employees and making a difference in people's lives. She won't miss it for long, however, because she'll once again be doing her part to help others — this time with her dog, Kenai, through the Iowa Search and Rescue program, a volunteer canine search and rescue group.

Karen Burk

1983

With more free time, Karen also hopes to get in some baseball games. "I'd love to get to Wrigley Field," she says. "I love baseball. I don't get anything done when baseball is on T.V." And speaking of television, Karen has a huge priority involving it and her first few days of retirement. "I want to sit up all night and watch 'Magnum P.I.' reruns on the Hallmark channel," she admits.

Karen eventually wants to do more landscaping around her house during her retirement, but says she is not in any hurry. "I'm a very good putterer," she confesses. "I have no trouble sitting there and looking at stuff that needs to be done. I see no point whatsoever in rushing into anything!"

Sam Washington, storekeeper, Purchasing and Property Services

Sam Washington brought his family from Chicago to Ames in 1974. They liked the quieter community, and Sam especially liked the fact that he could get to his job at Ames Lab in only 10 minutes. He didn't miss the long train ride he'd had to take from Des Plaines, Ill., into Chicago to get to work before they moved.

Looking back on 30 years at Ames Laboratory, Sam says for him the biggest advantage of working here has been getting to know the people, past and present, who make up the Lab's community. "The good thing here at the Lab is regardless of when you walk in, you will hear a 'hi' or a 'good morning,' " he says. "It's just like one big family, from grad students to managers and professors."

For the past 19 years, Sam has been in charge of recording the Lab's equipment inventory, wherever that equipment might be on campus. "There's a lot of walking, bending and lifting involved, and it's getting to me," he says. "In the 19 years I've been doing the inventory, I've figured out that I've walked 6,000 miles around this campus."

It's difficult to imagine Sam working somewhere other than Ames Lab, but if he'd taken an alternate career path, he would have been a minister. "Growing up, I was a counselor at a Christian church camp during the summers," says Sam. "My parents paid a lot of money for me to go to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, but I didn't stay with it. I always felt bad about that."

Sam's plans for retirement include returning to Chicago to help his daughter raise his grandson, but before he settles into that responsibility he wants to do some traveling. "I'm making it my business to go around and see all of my family," Sam says, "and I have a big family — 14 brothers and sisters, 13 of whom are still living."

Sam is particularly interested in getting together with a cousin he hasn't seen since 1976 and one with whom he shares a somewhat eerie experience. "We're the same age, went through school together, and went into the service at the same time," Sam says. "A year and a half after we enlisted, I heard someone call my name. I turned around and looked and there was my cousin walking behind me down a street in Saigon."

Sam Washington

1974

In view of that experience, Sam is reluctant to say goodbye as he retires from Ames Lab. "I'll miss the people at the Lab," he emphasizes, "and I wish all of them well, but I won't say goodbye. I'll just say, 'Later on.' "

John Hayes, chemist, Chemical and Biological Sciences Program

When John Hayes left Boston in 1974 to take a postdoctoral position with Gerry Small at Ames Laboratory, he thought he and his wife would be in Ames for two years and then go back east. But two years passed, the couple adopted their first of four children, and they decided that Ames was a pretty good place to raise a family.

John says one of the things he's liked most about working at Ames Lab is that "it's small enough to get to know everyone and find out what they're doing — not just the scientists, but also the crafts people, the custodial staff and other people in the operations and administrative divisions."

Although John has worked on numerous research projects during his 30 years at Ames Lab,

one of the most fascinating for him was his work in the area of photosynthesis doing single complex spectroscopy of photosynthetic systems. He says his science career has taught him that to avoid roadblocks and be productive you need to "be persistent, keep at the project, and talk to others about it," not a bad lesson for almost any field.

Retiring from Ames Lab and Iowa State will actually mark the beginning of a new career for John. He leaves here June 30 and begins his new job as director of religious education at St. Cecilia Church in Ames on July 1. He'll be in charge of religious education for children in preschool through eighth grade, as well as the adult education. "I'll be recruiting and training catechists who will do the teaching," he explains. "I'll also be involved in an active program to bring new members into the church."

John Hayes

1974

To most of us at Ames Lab who know John as a chemist, his new career may seem rather unusual. But as John explains it, his choice makes perfect sense. "I've been doing this type of work as a volunteer at St. Cecilia for 30 years — about the same amount of time I've been at the Lab. So when the position opened up for the director of religious education last March, I decided it was time to try something else."

Even though he won't get a breather between his Ames Lab and St. Cecilia jobs, John and his wife are looking forward to a future trip to Ireland and Italy, home countries for his grandparents and her parents, respectively. John will also continue to referee high school soccer, something he's done since his son started playing in grade school, now several years ago. Although he's never played soccer himself, John loves the game. "I wish I had started refereeing earlier so I could have gained enough experience to referee national games," he says. Who knows — maybe that will be his next career!

Judy Lowe, custodian, Custodial Services

"The first thing people will notice is whether something is clean or dirty," says Judy Lowe. "So if there's something that needs to be done, you jump in and do it."

That positive work ethic has earned Judy respect and high regard from her co-workers and many others in the Ames Lab community during the 24 years she has been helping keep the Lab's buildings tidy, fresh, and yes, we can say sparkling!

Judy has a lot of praise for her supervisor, Mark Nelson, saying it was when Mark took over management of custodial services and reorganized it that the custodians were able to get more done than ever before. "He got us a lot of equipment we would not have had otherwise," she says, "and he promoted pride in our group, which made people want to make things look even better."

Judy's made numerous rotations through the Lab's buildings since she came to work here in 1980, and one thing she says she's learned is that "people are always going to be different." She's become skillful at noticing habits and moods and says, "You need to be aware of what people are leaning toward and go in that direction to provide the best help you can."

Judy's been having some health problems in recent months so hasn't had a lot of time or energy to make many retirement plans. She's torn the rotator cuff in her shoulder three times, the last time when she was still in physical therapy. It's been a slow and painful recovery process complicated by other health issues for which she has been hospitalized.

Wouldn't you just know that one of Judy's favorite pastimes is gardening, which the rotator cuff problems and some back trouble have made impossible, at least for the time being. "I love to garden, and it's driving me nuts that I can't get out and weed right now," she says. But on a more cheerful note, she adds, "The flowers are actually looking better this year than they ever have. Maybe I should just let them go wild!" ■

~ Saren Johnston

Judy Lowe

1980

Thanks to all of our retirees for their years of service to the Ames Laboratory. The best wishes of all your friends and co-workers go with each of you as you begin your retirement.

Middle School Science Bowl

Boone school takes part in national competition

A team of students from Boone Middle School competed in the 2004 National Middle School Science Bowl, June 18-19, at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo. The event is sponsored by the U. S. Department of Energy and General Motors. The Boone team advanced to the national competition through their participation in the Ames Laboratory/Iowa State University Regional Middle School Science Bowl in April. Both the regional and national events include a model hydrogen fuel-cell car competition and an academic competition. The middle school competition challenges students in sixth through eighth grades to learn more about math and science and consider pursuing studies and careers in these fields.

Better-Shot Golf Tournament

Mark Grootveld, top right, stretches out — to prevent back injury — before hitting the course enroute to his first-place score of 73 with partner Ed Hendrickson in the June 18 Better-Shot Golf Tournament. Second-place went to the team of Stan Bajic and Dan Kayser (74) and third to Kent Hertzke and Shawn Nelson (76). Lower left, tourney co-organizer Louie Kennecke (right) and golf partner Wes Alexander wait their turns to tee off. Spot-prize winners were: closest to pin from # 2 Tee — Ed Hendrickson; longest drive (in the fairway) on # 4 — Tom Ocken; closest to pin from # 5 Tee — Tom Ocken; closest to pin on # 8 for 2nd shot — Trevor Riedemann; longest putt on # 9 — Tom Wessels.

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Address comments to:
Editor, ***INSIDER***
111 TASF
Ames, IA 50011-3020
515/294-9557
FAX 515/294-3226

Address correction requested
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Editor Saren Johnston
Layout Cynthia Feller
Photographer Dennis Sailsbury

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