



First things first! The search committee charged with finding a replacement for former director Dr. Tom Barton brought five finalists to campus in late August and early September. The candidates were put through a two-day interview process that included an open forum for Ames Laboratory employees and the campus community. Based upon my own conversations with the candidates, I'm sure that Ames Laboratory will continue its 60-year tradition of excellence in science and engineering research.

You'll find stories on a few of those research efforts within the pages of this issue. Physicist Ruslan Prozorov's discovery that the shape of the entire sample determines the pattern topology and overall magnetic behavior of the system is a significant finding that represents a major contribution to the field of superconductivity. Physicist Adam Kaminski uses a technique called angle-resolved photoelectron spectroscopy, ARPES, to learn more about the interactions of electrons because the manner in which they relate to one another determines most properties of solid materials. And as rising oil prices

Welcome to the fall 2007 issue of Inquiry magazine.

have boosted interest in ethanol as a home-grown alternative fuel, analytical chemist Emily Smith is using a technique known as Raman imaging to help select more sustainable crops that can produce more cellulosic ethanol.

Smith's work marks the first joint research effort between Ames Laboratory and Iowa State University's Plant Sciences Institute. When Smith's project was selected for a two-year grant by the Institute earlier this year, Ames Laboratory provided matching funds from patent royalties generated by other Ames Lab successes, such as Iver Anderson's lead-free solder and Ed Yeung's work in capillary electrophoresis. While we are by far the smallest of the 10 national laboratories operated for the Office of Science in terms of the number of employees and overall budget, we ranked first among those laboratories in 2006 in the amount of licensing income. It's yet another way that the excellent research being done at Ames Laboratory is paying dividends.

With the Laboratory director search coming to a close, I would like to say that it's been my pleasure to serve this Laboratory as interim director for the past eight months. In that brief time, I've come to a greater appreciation of its dedicated staff and the wide range of talent working on projects in a variety of areas. I am also looking forward to handing things off to the new director so that the Laboratory can continue to move forward as it enters its seventh decade of service to science.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan Goldman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Goldman, Interim Director