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INSIDER

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Science Bowl Another Success

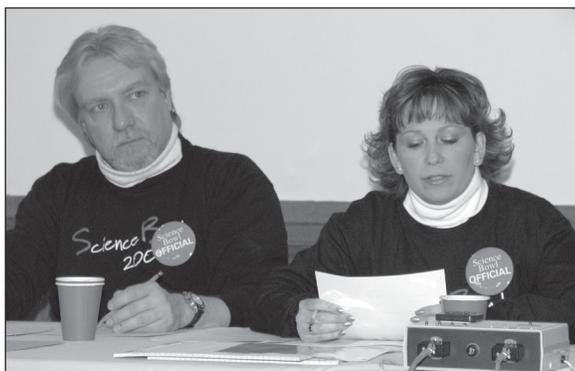
Urbandale wins regional math and science competition

Urbandale High School won each of its 10 matches to capture the championship of the 14th annual Ames Laboratory/ISU Regional High School Science Bowl on Saturday, Jan. 31. Urbandale narrowly defeated Iowa City Regina 72-64 in the finals to earn the right to represent the Iowa Region in the DOE's National Science Bowl®, April 29-May 3, in Washington, D.C.

Those same two teams met earlier in the semifinals of the afternoon's double-elimination competition with Urbandale winning that match 100-24. Regina then defeated Des Moines Lincoln 68-26 in the consolation bracket to make it back into the championship round. Third-place-winner Lincoln needed two over-time periods to oust Ames High School in the other *continued on page 4*



Director Tom Barton poses with the winning team from Urbandale High School.



Moderator Cheryl Kamman reads a question while judge Dave Utrata prepares to recognize the student who buzzes in.



Judge Jim Anderegg watches as a team captain signs the official score sheet following a match.

MFRC Hosts Iowa Commissioner of Public Safety

Techau says MFRC is a tremendous resource

Working to ease casework burdens and facilitate the numerous tasks facing crime laboratories throughout the Midwest, the Midwest Forensics Resource Center is always happy to introduce potential partners to its goals and the resource network that helps the MFRC meet those goals. Such was the case when David Baldwin and Todd Zdorkowski, MFRC director and associate director, respectively, met with Kevin Techau, Commissioner of the Iowa Department of Public Safety, in January.

Operating within the Iowa DPS, the Division of Criminal Investigation is directed by Eugene Meyer and provides investigators and investigative support to local, county and state law enforcement agencies. The Iowa Criminalistics Laboratory operates within the DCI, is administered by Darwin Chapman, and provides forensic science and casework support to local, county and state law enforcement agencies.

Sharing a similar desire to assist crime laboratories with their investigative work, the DCI and ICL have long been MFRC partners. Consequently, Baldwin and Zdorkowski were pleased by the opportunity to meet with Commissioner Techau, Meyer

and Chapman to visit about additional ways in which the MFRC might further assist the DPS in accomplishing its mission of promoting public safety for Iowans.

Baldwin explained to Techau that the MFRC was established within the Ames Laboratory as a means of helping crime laboratories in the upper Midwest address problems by providing access to the expertise and instrumentation that a national laboratory and a university have available.

"We [Ames Laboratory] spend a lot of federal tax dollars on instrumentation for specialized missions, but we'd also like to make that sort of thing available to crime laboratories to better deal with their missions," said Baldwin. "We realize that crime lab investigators know what types of expertise and equipment they need, and the best thing the MFRC can do is let them tell us what they need. So we're really a resource center," he added. "We make existing resources available and introduce new ones as they are developed at Ames Laboratory and Iowa State. We do all this as a partnership with the state crime laboratories currently in a 10-state region."

Baldwin highlighted the

MFRC's five mission areas for Techau: casework assistance; forensic training; university education in the forensic sciences; forensic science R&D; and the newest mission area, technical innovations in management and infrastructure.

Elaborating on the fifth mission area, Baldwin said, "A lot of the problems you see in any organization are management issues and infrastructure issues. State organizations don't always have the resources and time to explore how to make those organizations run better. So what the MFRC is trying to do is bring in engineering faculty and information management faculty from Iowa State to address those types of problems."

The MFRC is currently working on three projects within the innovations in management and infrastructure mission. One project is examining laboratory information management systems — the software used to control the flow of information within crime laboratories. Another is looking at paperless technology within the laboratory — cutting down on the use of paper and the need to store it, retrieve it and "mine" it for information later. The third project is investigating the use of radio frequency

identification tagging that would make it possible to track a piece of evidence and determine its location at a particular moment in time.

Baldwin explained the third project, saying, "By having knowledge of where the evidence is sitting at any given time, we hope to help improve the final laboratory flow of operations. Essentially, all commercial businesses with large inventories are exploring the technology, and it's about time we made this available to crime laboratories," he emphasized.

Following his introduction to the MFRC, its five-part mission and some of the 12 current research projects, Commissioner Techau said, "This is a tremendous resource. It seems like you have a model that could be extended to several departments within law enforcement. It makes sense to me."

Commissioner Techau's visit concluded with the opportunity to tour a few of the Iowa State University resource areas made available to crime laboratories through the MFRC. His stops included the Instructional Technology Center in the Communications Building and the Information Assurance Center in Coover Hall.

During the tours, Baldwin and Zdorkowski visited with the Commissioner about DPS issues that might benefit from the MFRC resource network, including training, homeland security and computer crime. ■

~ Saren Johnston



David Baldwin (right) explains the MFRC mission to Kevin Techau, Commissioner of the Iowa Department of Public Safety (center), and Gene Meyer, Director of the Division of Criminal Investigation.



Contract Extended

On January 30, the DOE announced the contract for the Ames Laboratory and four other DOE science laboratories would be extended for periods ranging from 12 to 42 months. Ames Lab's current contract is set to expire in December 2004. A 24-month extension will move the expiration date to December 2006. In announcing his decision, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said the contract extensions will "allow the maximum opportunity for bidder participation" on all of the affected labs' contracts.

Earlier it was announced the DOE would open for competition laboratory contracts that hadn't been competed for more than 50 years. Ames Laboratory is one of five DOE labs that fall into this category. The others are Argonne, Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos national laboratories.

As reported in the January issue of *Insider*, Lab director Tom Barton said that Iowa State University President Gregory 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. ■

Recognizing Years of ISU Service

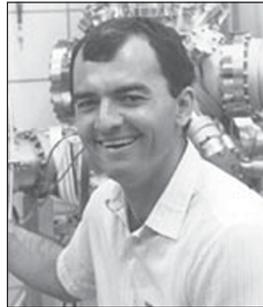
On Thursday, Feb. 19, Iowa State University held a special awards banquet to honor those employees who have served the university for 25 and 35 years. Three people from Ames Laboratory were among the 25-Year Honorees: James Evans, professor; Kai-Ming Ho, senior physicist; and Steve Gilliland, systems control technician. Lab employees honored for 35 years of service to ISU included Jerry Jenison, manager of Human Resources, and Sandi Bishop, secretary in the Directors' Office. ■



25 years, left to right: James Evans, Kai-Ming Ho and Steve Gilliland.



35 years: Jerry Jenison and Sandi Bishop.

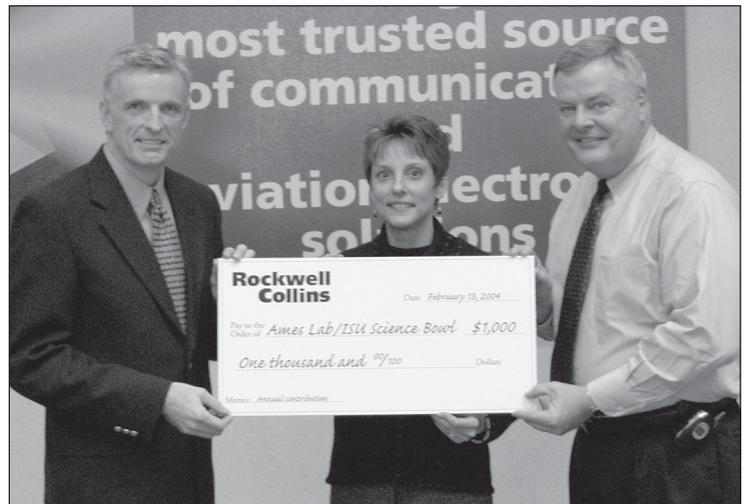


Michael C. Tringides, physicist, has been named a Fellow of the American Physical Society. APS Fellows are elected by their peers. The honor is granted to no more than one-half of one percent of the current membership of the Society. Tringides' citation is "for his pioneering contributions in the elucidation of equilibrium and non-equilibrium atom diffusion on single crystal surfaces and his discovery of quantum size effects in the growth of Pb islands on Si(111)." ■



John Hill, associate, has been named a Fellow of the American Physical Society. APS Fellows are elected by their peers. The honor is granted to no more than one-half of one percent of the current membership of the Society. Hill's citation is "for discovering several neutron-rich nuclei, measuring the large electromagnetic dissociation cross sections of relativistic heavy ions, and leadership in development of trigger systems for the AGS-E864 and PHENIX-RHIC experiments." ■

Science Bowl Support



Steve Karsjen (left), Science Bowl coordinator, receives a check for \$1,000 from **Rockwell Collins** for the 2004 Science Bowl. Presenting the check for Rockwell Collins are **Cindy Dietz**, Community Relations manager, and **Ron Kirchenbauer**, senior vice president for Human Resources. This is the fifth year Rockwell Collins has provided generous support for the Ames Laboratory/Iowa State University Science Bowl.

Science Bowl *continued from page 1*

semifinal match. The Lincoln team also featured a first in the history of the 14-year competition — two sets of twins — in sisters Molly and Emma White, and Ru-Huey and Ru-Shyan Yen. Also competing for Lincoln was Matt Klein.

The Urbandale team of Jonathan Berrie, David Nelms, Stephen Kallenbach, and Kausteya Roy is coached by Marc Hermon. Competing for Regina were Matt Larew, Peter Montag, Annie Porter and Phil Shiu under the direction of coach Barbara Reilly.

Besides those mentioned above, teams competing in the afternoon's "Sweet 16" included: Ankeny, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn, Cedar Rapids Jefferson, Central Academy (Des Moines), Waverly-Shell Rock, Cedar Rapids Washington, Sioux City East, Humboldt, Chariton, Le Mars, West Des Moines Valley "B," and

St. Ansgar. Central Academy and St. Ansgar were the other quarterfinalists that were eliminated by Urbandale and Regina, respectively.

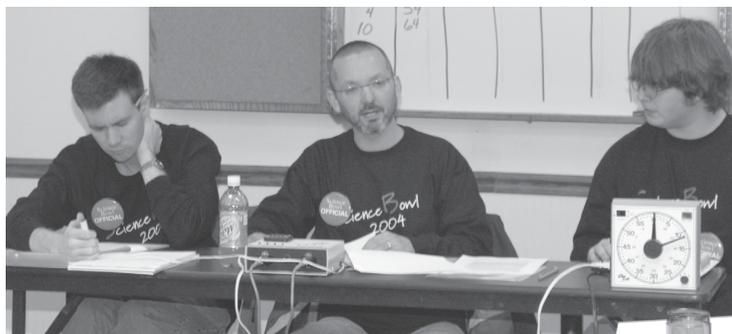
The field of 48 teams included four new schools — Boyer Valley (Dunlap), Durant, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn, and North Kossuth (Swea City) and three schools — Ames, Ankeny, and Cedar Rapids Kennedy — that have competed every year since the beginning.

A total of 78 Ames Lab, IPRT and Iowa State employees, employee spouses, and students participated in the event as moderators, judges, timekeepers, and scorekeepers. Rebecca Shivers, Condensed Matter Physics, was the lone volunteer this year to receive a pin from the Department of Energy honoring her for 10 years of service to Science Bowl. ■

~ Kerry Gibson



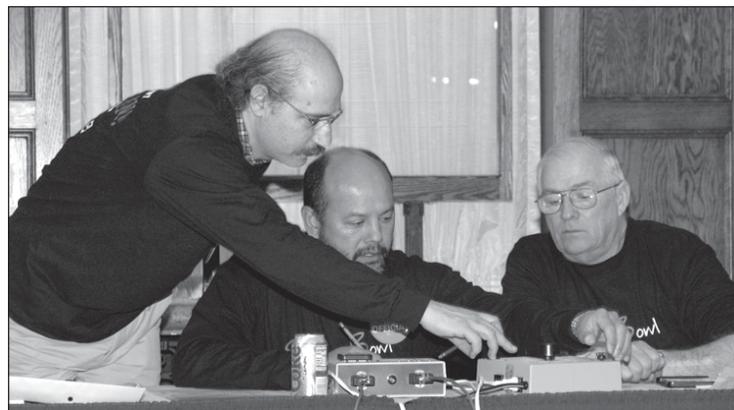
The Des Moines Lincoln team includes two sets of twins: Molly and Emma White (center) and Ru-Huey and Ru-Shyan Yen (left and right).



Jim Withers (center) recognizes a student who has buzzed in to answer a toss-up question. Other members of the volunteer team are Daniel Hummer (left) and Eric Snyder.



Jeff Bradshaw listens to the answer given by a student participant. Other volunteers are (left to right) Becky Musselman, Cynthia Jenks and Connie Hargrave.



Judge Tom Lograsso, moderator Ken Kerns and timekeeper John Wheelock readjust the time clock following a disputed answer.



I knew that! Valley of Elgin captain Chenoa Harris (in hat) consults with teammates Kate Howard, Katrina Lane and Chris Wilson, then reacts (below) when the correct answer is given.

A Bit of the Grape

Employees enjoy mid-January wine-tasting experience

You might recall that Director Tom Barton had the winning bid at the Ames Lab/IPRT Holiday Party for “Wine Tasting on a Winter’s Evening” donated by Ila Haugen, Saren Johnston and Deb Covey. What you might not know is that he very thoughtfully included the other employees who had bid on the party and their respective spouses on his guest list. The evening of wine tasting was Sunday, January 18.

The Barton’s guests for the evening included Bruce and Bonnie Harmon, Deb and Jerry Amenson, Fran and Cal Dunshee, and Tom and Glenice Wessels.

As part of the auction package, Haugen, Johnston and Covey brought six different wines, approximately 75 wine glasses (six for each guest to sample the individual wines), and some basic snacks to the Barton’s home for the party. But it was thanks to Betty Barton, the director’s wife, that the evening became a truly extravagant affair. She had every tasty tidbit on hand that you could imagine. Miniature quiches; brie; fresh fruit; salmon; and an assortment of nuts, crackers and cheeses were just some of the many goodies set out for the guests to enjoy as they sampled the different wines.

As the wine tasting progressed, so did the conversation and laughter. With the donation of two more bottles of wine from Barton and Harmon, the evening became quite merry, indeed! Only one glass was broken and one pan of meatballs burned.

The evening came to a close with coffee and generous slices of Carol Mack’s fabulous New York cheesecake with raspberry sauce, a holiday party auction item that was bid on, won and donated by Johnston. And, believe it or not, cheesecake — at least Mack’s — goes very well with wine, just ask any of the Bartons’ guests. ■

~ Saren Johnston



Tom Barton mugs it up with Ila Haugen (left) and Saren Johnston during an evening of wine tasting.



Enjoying the wine-tasting party are, clockwise from left: Glenice Wessels, Jerry and Deb Amenson, Bruce and Bonnie Harmon, Tom Wessels, Tom Barton, and Cal and Fran Dunshee. Betty Barton was, no doubt, getting another treat for the table!

Service with a Smile

Fine dining in ESH&A

Though it may have lacked some of the ambience of a chic restaurant, room G40 TASF was still the scene of a fine-dining experience as Ila Haugen’s holiday auction consortium collected a luncheon provided and served by the ESH&A staff. Haugen’s group had the winning bid of \$176, outlasting Mark Nelson and the custodial staff in a bidding war.

The table setting, which featured white lace, red dishes and fresh-cut flowers in honor of Valentine’s Day, was coordinated by Jan Henderson. Entertainment was provided by numerous visitors and spectators and included a short (very short) dance number by Mark Murphy.

With maitre d’ Tom Wessels orchestrating the courses, the group of Haugen, Sandi Bishop, Carol Cowan, Vicki Sieve, Nancy

Moore, Diane Drake, Fran Dunshee, Konnie Willie-Kennicker, Connie Heim and Norma Sandvick started off with a steaming bowl of G.P. Jones’ famous Wisconsin cheese soup.

For the main course, the group dined on chicken salad and roast beef on croissants, a variety of salads, Dan Kayser’s Mexican dip, and arroz con pollo (rice with chicken) prepared by chef Drew Fullerton. Accompanying the meal was a special punch, blended by Jay Beckel.

The crowning touch was dessert — homemade cheesecake from a secret Wessels’ family recipe. After the meal, Haugen and Sieve received chauffeured chair rides back to their offices, courtesy of Shawn Nelson and Kayser. ■

~ Kerry Gibson



Top left: Kate Sordelet serves punch to Diane Drake and Vicki Sieve during the ESH&A luncheon that was auctioned off during the Lab’s holiday party.

Above: G.P. Jones rolls up his sleeves to handle the dishwashing duties. Left: Ila Haugen, Nancy Moore and Konnie Willie-Kennicker visit the buffet table during the luncheon.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to the following people who volunteered their time and knowledge to make the 14th annual Science Bowl another great success. Hope to see you next year on Saturday, January 29, for Science Bowl XV.

Christine Aikens	John Hayes	Lynne Mumm
Adam Allington	Amy Helgerson	Mark Murphy
Jim Anderegg	David Hoffman	Becky Musselman
Iver Anderson	Yongqiang Huang	John Pleasants
Kyle Anderson	Daniel Hummer	Alex Power
Vladimir Antropov	Cynthia Jenks	Ellen Price
Tom Barton	Saren Johnston	Jan Quarnstrom
Diane Bassham	Cheryl Kamman	Jessica Riedl
Kathryn Bergman	Paul Kapke	Heather Sanders
Han (Jerry)	Steve Karsjen	John Saxton
Berntson	Ricky Kendall	Amber
Kim Bode	Ken Kerns	Schneeweis
Jeff Bradshaw	James Koll	Mary Schuster
Jim Brazelton	Kay Lampe	Rebecca Shivvers
Sergey Budko	Hannasch	Eric Snyder
Amy Chumbley	Heather LeFleur	Larry Stoltenberg
Scott Chumbley	Barb Lograsso	Bruce Thompson
Deb Covey	Tom Lograsso	Fred Troeh
Luke England	Leigh Ann Long	Ben Truong
Cynthia Feller	Mark Maffett	Allison Tyler
Doug Fuller	Rebekah Marsh	Dave Utrata
Krystal Garringer	Paul Matlage	Jason Wallbaum
Kerry Gibson	Luke McNamara	Sarah Warren
David Grant	Kathy Megivern	John Wheelock
Connie Hargrave	Bob Mills	Jim Withers
Bruce Harmon	Jessica Moraniec	Betsy Jean Yakes
Mike Harper	Emelia Morosan	Michael Yakes

Note of Thanks

A warm thank-you to all employees who donated their vacation or converted sick leave time to me during my illness and period of recovery. Your thoughtfulness and generosity eased a very difficult time for me.

*Sincerely,
Beverly Smith,
custodian*

Note: Employees can donate accrued vacation and converted sick leave time to co-workers who have exhausted their leave time due to catastrophic illness or injury. Such an illness or injury is defined as one which results in a medical condition which a physician has certified is likely to result in a loss of 30 or more work days. Contact Human Resources or refer to the Iowa State University Office Procedure Guide for more information regarding the Catastrophic Leave policy.

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