INSIDER

Newsletter for the Employees of Ames Laboratory ■ Volume 18, Number 9 ■ October 2007

AMES LABORATORY 60 1947 • 2007

New Ames Laboratory Director Named

Alexander King to lead Laboratory

Alexander King has been named the new director of the Ames Laboratory. The appointment is effective Jan. 1, 2008.

King is currently professor and head of the School of Materials Engineering at Purdue University, a position he's held since 1999. Prior to that, he was an assistant professor, associate professor and then professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at State University of New York at Stony Brook from 1981 to 1999. King also served as associate, acting and then vice provost at Stony Brook from 1987 to 1992. He was a research associate in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1979 to 1981. He was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Metallurgy and Science of Materials at the University of Oxford, England, in 1979.

Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffroy praised King's selection. "Dr. King will be an outstanding addition to the Ames Laboratory, providing leadership that will help advance the Laboratory's reputation as a worldwide leader in materials and related research," Geoffroy said.

"We are delighted to have Dr. King serve as the new director of Ames Laboratory," said U.S. Department of Energy Under Secretary for Science Raymond L. Orbach. "His distinguished scientific achievements and proven organizational leadership will serve him well in this new role. This is a great choice for the Laboratory, the scientific community, and the nation."

King received a bachelor's degree (1975) in Physical Metallurgy from the University of Sheffield, England, and a doctorate in Metallurgy and the Science of Materials from the University of Oxford in 1979.

In 2007, King was a distinguished lecturer in materials science and engineering at ISU. He is a past chair of the Gordon Conference on Physical Metallurgy, past president of the Materials Research Society and a fellow of the American Society of Materials and the Institute of Materials of the United Kingdom.

King is an editor of four books and has published 108 journal articles and 145 refereed conference proceedings, book chapters, extended abstracts, book reviews and other short contributions.

Alexander King, Ames Laboratory director-designate (second from right), meets with Associate Director for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Basic Energy Sciences Patricia Dehmer, Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffroy, DOE Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman, and DOE Under Secretary for Science Raymond Orbach.

He has given more than 100 presentations at conferences, symposia and colloquia around the world. King's professional service includes membership on numerous committees for national and international symposia and committees.

He also is a member of the International Organizing Committee for the 2007 Joint International Conference of the 3rd International Conference on Surface and Interface Science and Engineering and the Symposium on Surface Engineering for Industrial Applications to be held in Singapore in December 2007.

King was one of five candidates for the Ames Laboratory director position. He was selected by a 14-member search committee following private and public interviews on the ISU campus in August and September. ■

~ Steve Karsjen

Congressional Tribute for Gschneidner

Rep. Tom Latham makes Congressional Record tribute

Rep. Tom Latham visited Ames Laboratory Oct. 12 to congratulate senior metallurgist Karl Gschneidner on being named the 2008 recipient of the Acta Materialia Gold Medal, the top international award in the field of materials science.

Gschneidner, who is also an Iowa State University Anson Marston Distinguished Professor in Materials Science and Engineering, will receive the Gold Medal award in March of next year at the annual meeting of The Materials Society in New Orleans.

Calling Ames Laboratory an "excellent research facility," Latham congratulated Gschneidner and thanked him for his "many years of dedicated service to the Lab and the country." Latham then presented the official *Congressional Record* copy of the tribute to Gschneidner that he read on the floor of the House chamber on Oct. 9:

"Madame Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished professor of materials science and engineering, a senior metallurgist at Ames Lab, Karl Gschneidner.

"It was just recently announced that Karl will be awarded the prestigious Acta Materialia Gold Medal in March of 2008 based on his demonstrated ability and leadership in materials research.

Ames Lab senior metallurgist Karl Gschneider (left) looks at the Congressional Record tribute read by Rep. Tom Latham.

"Karl has been working with rare-earth metals, including research into their magnetic and electrical properties for over 50 years. Karl's most notable work has been in magnetic refrigeration. Magnetic refrigeration is a cooling method that uses considerably less energy than the majority of common cooling methods used today. The new knowledge Karl is developing will advance existing materials and will lead to new and better materials, which will ensure the success of magnetic refrigeration as a viable energy-saving and environmentally safe technology in the next century.

"Karl's research is vital in this period of our country. Our nation's dependence on foreign oil and demands for energy has potential for great strain on our economy, security and supply of natural resources. I commend Karl Gschneidner for his dedication to science and to materials engineering research. And, I know that all of my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating him on his gold medal recognition." ■

~ Kerry Gibson

Gschneidner Inducted into National Academy of Engineering

Ames Lab senior metallurgist Karl Gschneidner Jr. (center) holds his National Academy of Engineering membership certificate and is flanked by Craig Barrett, left, NAE Chairman of the Board, and Charles M. Vest, NAE President. Gschneidner was formally inducted into the Academy on Sept. 30.

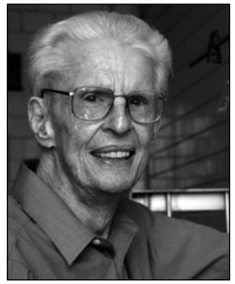
Houk Accepts Society for Applied Spectroscopy Fellow Award

Sam Houk, senior chemist (right), accepts the Society for Applied Spectroscopy Fellow award from Jim de Haseth, University of Georgia, president of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. Houk accepted the award at the Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies meeting in Memphis, Tenn., earlier this month.

Yet Another "Spectacular" for John Corbett

American Chemical Society selects Corbett for F. Albert Cotton Award

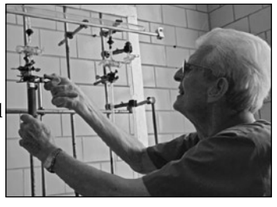
Senior chemist John Corbett has discovered thousands of novel inorganic compounds throughout his long career. Among them, he says, are "spectaculars – really novel things." Apparently, the American Chemical Society feels the same way because it has just awarded him the 2008 F. Albert Cotton Award in Synthetic Inorganic Chemistry. That makes three ACS inorganic chemistry awards – all they offer in the field – that Corbett has earned over the years. The first award, the ACS Inorganic Chemistry Award, came in 1986. Then, in 2000, he received the ACS Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Inorganic Chemistry.



Established in 2002, the $5,000 F. Albert Cotton Award in Synthetic Inorganic Chemistry recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves by demonstrating creativity, imagination and outstanding accomplishments in the field of synthetic inorganic chemistry. The Cotton Award is funded by the F. Albert Cotton Endowment Fund, supported by the late F. Albert Cotton, one of the world's foremost inorganic chemists. Corbett is the fifth recipient of the award.

Corbett, who is also an ISU Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a professor of chemistry, is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. His research interests lie within the more specialized field of synthetic inorganic solid-state chemistry, which he says has historically been the "forgotten child" of inorganic chemistry. Noting that, Corbett recalled getting a letter from Al Cotton congratulating him on winning the 1986 ACS Inorganic Chemistry Award (the first of his three ACS awards). "Al praised me for sticking to my guns in staying with the solid state," he says.

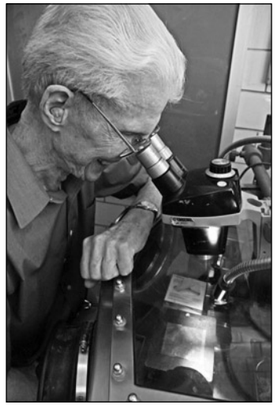
Corbett will receive the Cotton Award at the 2008 ACS spring meeting in April in New Orleans, where he will present an award address on his research in inorganic solid-state chemistry, including his investigations into strong metal-metal bonding. A symposium in Corbett's honor will follow the award address and will include many of his former students and postdoctoral associates.



"John has very few peers who are as innovative and productive at discovering and characterizing novel inorganic compounds," says Gordon Miller, Corbett's friend and colleague, who is an Ames Laboratory associate and an ISU chemistry professor. "There are even fewer who share his breadth of creativity. During his career, John has made seminal contributions and discoveries in molten salts, metal-rich halides, intermetallics, quasicrystals and Zintl phases, and he has developed techniques that are widely used in the synthetic solid-state chemistry community today."

Miller, who nominated Corbett for the Cotton Award, adds, "John and his group not only prepare new materials, but characterize them, which demands high yields and purities of these products. His impact on the discipline of solid-state chemistry is tremendous and continues – the library of compounds coming from his laboratories can keep condensed matter scientists, both theorists and experimentalists, active for years."

Numerous honors, awards and achievements mark Corbett's 55-year career at Ames Lab. He has served as a division chief and program director in the Ames Laboratory and as the chair of the ISU Chemistry Department. He is a recipient of the Spedding Award given in recognition of excellence and achievement in research centered on the science and technology of the rare earths. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has received a Senior Scientist Award from the Humboldt Foundation and two Department of Energy Awards for Outstanding Scientific Accomplishments and Sustained Research in Materials Chemistry.



A prolific writer, Corbett has published 438 professional papers and had just submitted his 439th at the time of the interview for this story. He has mentored 41 Ph.D. students and 67 postdoctoral fellows.

Commenting on his research, Corbett says, "We're lucky. We keep finding amazing things and we're knowledgeable enough to recognize the 'spectaculars' – really novel things."

In a life filled with accomplishments, Corbett views his successes in an endearing, somewhat humble and matter-of-fact way. "One secret of being a success," he says, "is to live a long life and stay healthy."

With such a busy and productive professional life, does Corbett have time for interests outside the world of science? You may guess no, but you would be wrong. He likes to fish and did so while floating down the Snake River this summer. He watches "60 Minutes" weekly and enjoys Jay Leno's Monday night "Headlines" segment. Corbett even listens to some country western music and admits to having a "bunch of old-timer disks." He's active in both the Town & Gown and Stephens Concert Series, and he studies classical music at home. "I always have the radio tuned to FM, that is, until jazz comes on," he says, with just a hint of disdain.

Corbett lives in a large house on an acre and a half. He has a vegetable garden and a flower garden in which he plants 75-100 bulbs every fall. "I like to work in the outdoors – it's very relaxing to be doing something that has nothing to do with science. I can go all Sunday afternoon without science," he maintains.

A whole afternoon? Aha, we thought so! ■

~ Saren Johnston

Photos courtesy of Holly Jo Anderson

Laboratory Employees Pledge to Change a Light and Change the World

Pledge part of nationwide campaign to save energy

Ames Laboratory employees have joined the nationwide effort to save energy by pledging to replace at least one light bulb in their homes with an ENERGY STAR® qualified bulb.

The pledge is part of the Change a Light, Change the World campaign, a partnership between the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. By making a pledge, Ames Lab employees are helping to preserve our country's energy resources and joining Americans nationwide in the fight against global warning.

Ames Laboratory Interim Director Alan Goldman and Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffroy kick off the Ames Lab Change a Light, Change the World campaign by installing a compact fluorescent bulb in a desk lamp. The desk lamp once belonged to Frank Spedding, Ames Laboratory's first director.

Installing an ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent bulb is a small action that can have a significant impact on the nation's energy resources and the environment. If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR® bulb, we would save more than $600 million in energy costs each year, enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

In addition, ENERGY STAR® bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. They save about $30 or more in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime and produce about 75 percent less heat, so they're safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling. The bulbs can be used in any room of the house and are available in a variety of sizes to fit nearly every light fixture.

The Ames Laboratory is also doing its part for the campaign by continuing to change out any incandescent light bulbs in its buildings with suitable compact fluorescent light bulbs in concert with DOE's Secretarial Transformational Energy Action Management, or TEAM, initiative. Many of the Lab's incandescent bulbs have already been replaced with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

"Our goal now is to move beyond the Ames Laboratory and increase the local contribution by changing out light bulbs in our homes," says Alan Goldman, Ames Laboratory interim director.

Goldman and Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffroy kicked off the Ames Laboratory Change a Light, Change the World campaign by installing a compact fluorescent bulb in a desk lamp that once belonged to Frank Spedding, Ames Laboratory's first director.

Ames Lab employees also volunteered during the Change a Light bus tour stop in Des Moines, Iowa, on Oct. 10, helping to sell compact fluorescent bulbs and staff interactive educational displays. The Change a Light bus tour traveled across the nation from California to New York, stopping in 10 cities to gather pledges and educate citizens about ENERGY STAR® light bulbs. Nearly 1 million Americans pledged to change more than 2.6 million lights during the bus tour.

Visit *www.energystar.gov/changealight* to take the ENERGY STAR® Change a Light pledge.

Some Iowa electric utilities are participating in the Change a Light campaign and for a limited time are offering instant cash-back rebates on ENERGY STAR® bulbs. Visit *www.iowachangealight.com* for more information. ■

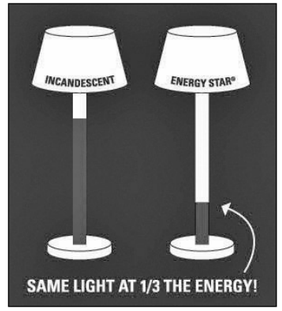
~ Steve Karsjen

Steve Karsjen, manager of Ames Lab Public Affairs, helps sell ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent bulbs at the Change a Light bus tour stop in Des Moines.

70 Pledges to Date

At the time *Insider* went to press, 70 Ames Laboratory employees had pledged to install 567 compact fluorescent light bulbs in their homes for a total of 159,894 kWh in energy savings, $14,870 in cost savings and 231,903 lbs in greenhouse gas emissions prevented.

The Change a Light bus tour makes a stop at the Western Gateway Park in downtown Des Moines, Iowa, on Oct. 10.



More than Just a Bright Idea: Ames Lab employees take action to fulfill their pledge

- Grant Luhmann, graphic designer, installed four compact fluorescent light bulbs, or CFLs, in his garage.
- Saren Johnston, communications specialist, put three CFLs in a ceiling light fixture.
- Marek Pruski, senior physicist, changed 20 bulbs at his home.
- Lora Larrance, budget analyst, had already changed all the bulbs in her house to CFLs before the Change a Light campaign even began!

Recycle Spent CFLs

Compact fluorescent light bulbs contain a small amount of mercury, so they should be recycled to ensure safe disposal.

Story County residents can take spent CFLs to the City of Ames Resource Recovery Plant during regular business hours, and Polk County residents can drop off bulbs at the Regional Collection Center in Bondurant during designated drop-off hours. No fee is charged for recycling. For other recycling locations, visit *www.iowadnr.com/waste/hhm/*.

Alternative Energy Technologies Topics of Noontime Talks

In honor of Energy Awareness Month, Ames Laboratory sponsored two brown-bag lunch talks on alternative energy technologies in October. Employees of Ames Lab and Iowa State University gathered to learn more about the basics of wind energy and geothermal heat systems.

"Nuts and Bolts" of Wind Energy

Attendees at the Lab's Oct. 22 talk on wind energy learned that Iowa is the third largest producer of wind energy in the United States, just behind California and Texas. And it's the 10th windiest state in the nation.

William Haman, Industrial Programs manager at the Iowa Energy Center, where he also manages the Alternate Energy Revolving Loan Program, gave the noon presentation. Haman said that the combination of Iowa's favorable terrain and electric transmission lines make the state a good environment for wind energy production and utilization.

Haman stressed that location was a key element in determining the feasibility of putting up wind turbines. He said that wind turbines should be constructed in a good wind regime and in close proximity to a power grid. Favorable terrain features are also essential – no high buildings or trees to block the path of the wind. Other items to consider are restrictions on tower height, and noise and liability restrictions.

For more information about wind energy or to use the Iowa Energy Center's Wind Assessment Study and Turbine Calculator, go to: *http://www.energy.iastate.edu/renewable/wind/*.

"Groundwork" of Geothermal Heat

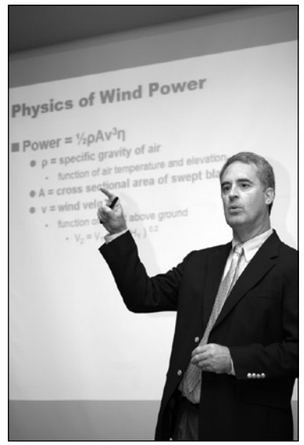
On Oct. 24, Curtis Klaassen, manager of the Iowa Energy Center's Energy Resource Station, gave a presentation titled, "Geothermal Heat Pumps: The Iowa Experience," in which he explained the basics of geothermal heat pump system types, their advantages and disadvantages, energy and installation costs, and system economics.

Klaassen cited Old Faithful, a well-known cone geyser in Yellowstone National Park, as an example of a natural phenomenon driven by geothermal energy. However, he said we're not lucky enough to have such geysers in Iowa, so we have to depend on the low-temperature geothermal energy contained near the surface of the earth. Geothermal heat pump systems are ideal for that purpose.

Klaassen explained that geothermal heat pump systems consist of a heating/cooling delivery system, heat pump, and ground heat exchanger, and are capable of heating, cooling and producing hot water. He added that geothermal heat pump systems are the most energy-efficient heating and cooling system available, reducing energy costs by 20 percent to 35 percent and having a typical payback of five to 10 years.

For more information on geothermal heat pump systems, visit the Iowa Energy Center Web site at *http://www.energy.iastate.edu/efficiency/residential/gt-index.html.* ■

~ Saren Johnston



William Haman, Industrial Programs manager at the Iowa Energy Center, explains the physics underlying wind power.

BULLETIN BOARD

Add to the Auction

Need some help with your golf game? You're in luck. A golf lesson with Nicole Kentner, PGA professional and temporary secretary in the Budget office, could be yours at the 2007 Holiday Auction.

Want to be a member of the Tasty Treat of the Month club? Here's your chance. John Hjortshoj's office treats for a year are again up for bid.

The 2007 Holiday Auction is shaping up to be another exciting and successful event as donations roll into Public Affairs, but we need your help to add to the auction. Check your closets for any items that someone else may enjoy and bring donations into 111 TASF or donate a special talent or service. All contributions will help a worthy cause: the Shop with a Cop program, a charity event held by the Ames Police Benevolent Association that helps disadvantaged youth buy holiday gifts for their families.

The Holiday Auction will be held on Dec. 6 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. in the Spedding auditorium. Take a look below for a small sample of the items that will be up for bid:

Xochi placemat, napkin and tea towel set

Bridgestone golf bag

Flu Shots Available in Nov.

Flu shots will be available 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. weekdays Nov. 6 – Nov. 20 in 205 TASF. This year, employees will be required to have their ISU ID# when obtaining a shot. For more information, call 4-0874.

R&D 100 Awards

Now is the time to start thinking about entering the 2008 R&D 100 Awards competition. The application form is available at the following Web site: *http://www.rdmag.com/awards.aspx.*

Public Affairs will assist with various aspects of the application process. If you think you'd like to apply for the 2008 R&D 100 Awards competition, please contact Breehan Gerleman Lucchesi in Public Affairs at 4-9750 or breehan@ameslab.gov.

Science Bowl Set for Jan. 26

The Ames Laboratory/ISU High School Science Bowl will be Saturday, Jan. 26. To volunteer for this exciting science and math competition, contact Breehan Gerleman Lucchesi in Public Affairs at 4-9750 or breehan@ameslab.gov.

Community of Science Services

Iowa State University subscribes to the services of Community of Science, the leading global resource for researchers. This service helps find funding, identify collaborators and competitions, and promote research. Log onto *www.cos.com* for your free username and password.

For more information, contact Diane Meyer at 4-4567 or meyerd@iastate.edu, or Suzanne Schuknecht at 4-4642 or suzannes@iastate.edu.

3-M Foundation Donates $5,000 to Science Bowl

Contribution is largest to program to date

Ames Laboratory Science Bowl coordinator Steve Karsjen (center) accepts a check for $5,000 from Larry Conley, 3M human resources manager, and Cheri Pearson, 3M human resources coordinator.

The Ames Laboratory/Iowa State University Regional Science Bowl program received a $5,000 grant from the 3M Foundation on Oct. 10, 2007.

Although 3M has been a key corporate sponsor of the Science Bowl for the past seven years, the $5,000 donation is the largest contribution ever given by the company, according to Steve Karsjen, Science Bowl coordinator for the Ames Laboratory.

"The willingness of 3M to make a contribution of this size demonstrates the company's commitment to helping educate the next generation of scientists and engineers," says Karsjen.

In making the award, 3M recognized the long-term success of the Ames Laboratory/ISU Science Bowl.

"3M proudly supports local and regional community activities that have a positive impact on our community and the people in the community," says Dennis McKernan, plant manager for 3M in Ames, Iowa.

The 2008 High School Science Bowl competition will be held Jan. 26, and the Middle School Science Bowl will be held April 11-12. ■

Lab Makes the Grade in Two ESH&A Audits

Representatives from the DOE Ames Site Office gave the Laboratory good marks in two ESH&A program reviews in September.

A review of the industrial hygiene program on Sept. 10-13 focused on chemical hygiene issues like Material Safety Data Sheets and chemical safety training. Auditors interviewed Ames Lab employees and reviewed documentation and concluded that staff have a good awareness of chemical hygiene principles.

A contractor assurance program review on Sept. 24-28 evaluated oversight and assurance processes for safety, security, cyber security and emergency management. Program reviewers noted that the Lab's event-reporting system is excellent and that Ames Lab's Corrective Action Tracking System is effective and well utilized.

"We are proud of how well the researchers and support staff demonstrated and communicated safety principles to the auditors," says Jim Withers, industrial hygiene manager. "The results of these audits are a positive reflection on the Laboratory's safety culture." ■

Remembering Orine "Duke" Sevde

Orine "Duke" Sevde, a longtime member of the Ames Laboratory community, passed away Oct. 14 at The Village in Indianola, Iowa. He was 85.

Duke was a senior research technician in the Condensed Matter Physics program at the Lab, where he worked from 1956 to 1986, when he retired.

"He was a likeable fellow and had the gift of gab," recalls Paul Ness, a senior research technician in CMP. "He was known for his one-line jokes and often would pull out his famous $3 bill."

Ness notes that Duke was a diehard Cyclone fan and remembers that Cy actually attended his Ames Lab retirement party."He was quite a talker and loved to kid around," says Ness fondly. "He made people laugh."

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Johnny Orr Memory Center or Healthy Aging Institute. ■

Ames Lab senior metallurgist Iver Anderson (second from right) and Mary Kleis, Iowa State University Office of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer, recently attend the IPC – Association Connecting Electronics Industries – Midwest Conference in Schaumburg, Ill. The two were at the conference promoting Anderson's patented lead-free solder. Pictured with Anderson and Kleis are Tetsuro Nishimura (left) and Keith Howell, both of Nihon Superior, a licensee of the solder.

Feedback from a Reader

"I had many times thought of complaining about the poor quality of the photos in the *Insider*. This morning I was so pleased to realize that the quality of the photos was vastly improved. Thank you so much!"
—Harlan Baker, Ames Lab metallographer 1962-1989

Thank you, Mr. Baker, for noticing the improved photo quality! We were fortunate to recently receive an allocation for a new black and white printer, and we, too, are very excited about the crisp, clear photos we now have in Insider.

Thiel Has Ties to 2007 Nobel Winner in Chemistry

Pat Thiel, senior chemist, worked alongside the 2007 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, Gerhard Ertl, in the beginning days of one of the lines of research that won Ertl the Nobel Prize. In 1981, Thiel was a postdoctoral researcher with Ertl at the University of Munich, and they studied oxidation of carbon monoxide on platinum, research that is specifically cited in his award of the Nobel.

Ertl went on to study similar surface reactions for the next 25 years, along with other aspects of high-vacuum solid-surface chemistry. In the announcement of Ertl's award, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences stated that his surface chemistry work is used in many important applications, such as studies of the ozone layer and the production of semiconductors and artificial fertilizers.

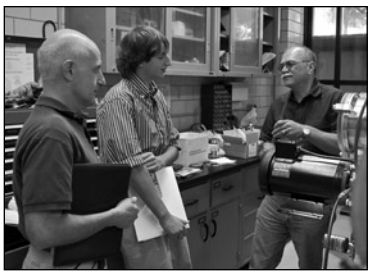
Ertl's research success comes as no surprise to Thiel. "I remember Gerhard as one of the most brilliant people I have ever worked with," she says. "He is one of those rare people who remembers everything he has ever learned, and he can recall, synthesize and apply all that information at the drop of a hat."

In 1995, Thiel nominated Ertl for the Medard W. Welch Award, the highest honor given by the American Vacuum Society, and Ertl received the award. Thiel was also pleased to see Ertl win the Nobel Prize. "I'm happy the Nobel Prize recognized the field of solid surface chemistry and that the prize went to Ertl," Thiel says. "He deserved it." ■

Visitors Travel 1,800 Miles to Visit Ames Lab

A curious physics student from Washington state visited Ames Lab on Sept. 28 to learn more about physics research and possible career paths in physics.

Aaron Patz, a senior studying physics at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash., met with Ruslan Prozorov, physicist; David Vaknin, senior physicist; John Lajoie, Iowa State University associate professor of physics and astronomy; Bruce Harmon, deputy director and program director for Condensed Matter Physics; and Bill McCallum, senior materials scientist.



Bill McCallum, senior materials scientist, (right) explains how a melt spinner works to Aaron Patz (center) and Harry Patz.

Patz toured labs and talked with scientists about life as a graduate student and as a researcher.

"I learned a lot about what goes on in physics laboratories and graduate school. Now I feel ready to make some decisions about my future in physics," said Patz.

Patz's journey to Ames Lab started like most trips start for young people today – with a Web search. Patz's father, Harry Patz, offered to take his son to a couple national laboratories to help Aaron learn more about careers for physicists.

"I took a look at a lot of different research labs online," said Patz. "The scientists at Ames Laboratory were doing such interesting things and the tour program was flexible, so I decided I wanted to come to Ames Lab."

The visit reinforced Patz's plans to pursue a master's degree in physics, and because of Ames Lab, he's keeping Iowa State University on his list of possible graduate schools. "I could see myself living in Iowa," said Patz. ■

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