

BREA NEWS

www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/

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July/August 2021

BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. All BREA members are invited to participate. ***As long as the BNL site continues to be closed to retirees, BREA may arrange an alternate mode of communication. Watch for email notices.***

Meeting Schedule

July 13, 2021 ***via video link, BNL site closed to retirees***

August 2021 ***no meeting***

September 14, 2021

BREA Officers

President

Arnold Moodenbaugh
moodenba@optonline.net

Vice President

Lillian Kouchinsky
lkouchin@yahoo.com

Secretary

Laura Miller
lj96miller@outlook.com

Treasurer

Leslie G. Fishbone
lgfishbonenn@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Mona S. Rowe
msrowe.hi@gmail.com



Brookhaven[™]
National Laboratory

Brookhaven Lab has a new logo. Read about it in Arnie Moodenbaugh's message below.

From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

To fellow BREA Members,

Brookhaven Lab has a new logo! Here's a brief explanation: The cube alludes to the building blocks of science. The lowercase "b" inside the cube (in white) is an abstraction of a beamline at the National Synchrotron Light Source II, while the cube's outer perimeter suggests the planned Electron-Ion Collider.

Summer is under way. Like many of you, I'm looking forward to getting out to see friends and family. Our next BREA ZOOM meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, at 1 p.m. EDT. We take a vacation in August and will resume meetings in September, on the 14th. We should start considering our fall duties. BREA will elect officers (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer) late in the year to serve for 2022 and 2023. Our unelected positions are newsletter editor and membership secretary. I suggest that some elected positions be filled by members not living on Long Island. Very effective remote service to BREA is possible, given the example of our Honolulu-based BREA News editor, Mona Rowe. If you might be willing to serve, please contact me.

Fall will bring Medicare open enrollment. The Medicare website provides useful information on Part A (standard), Part B (supplemental), Part C (advantage), and Part D (drug coverage). DO NOT use the direct links provided to sign up for B supplemental or Part C. In order to maintain BSA retiree benefits, you must sign up through SelectQuoteSenior (SQS). Several BNL retirees have lost lifetime medical benefits from BSA/BNL because they inadvertently enrolled or changed plans through another route. Contact SQS at <https://medicareplans.selectquote.com/Plan/ViewPlans?keyword=bsa> or 1-866-479-8317 (press Option 1). If you encounter problems with SQS, you should contact BNL HR. One contact there is Jennifer Froehlich at jfroehlich@bnl.gov or 631 344 3724.

We wish you good health and hope to see you at the next BREA meeting.

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

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While We've Been Gone . . . New on the Upton Campus

Last year, amid concerns worldwide about the coronavirus outbreak, Brookhaven Lab suspended site access for non-BNL users, visitors and guests. Days later, on March 23, 2020, the Lab extended site closure to all except for those employees “essential to operations.”

Today, BNL is in the second phase of its plan to resume operations and expects to remain in this phase for the immediate future. Less than half of the staff is back on site full time, with many doing a hybrid “in and out” work schedule and others teleworking full time.

Only retirees who have an Upton PO Box have been on site for the past year and a half. The rest of us – most of us – have been wondering what the campus looks like since we’ve been gone. You’ve seen Brookhaven Lab’s new logo on page 1 and learned a bit about it from BREA President Arnie Moodenbaugh. Now take a look at the physical changes that took place on the Upton campus, starting with BNL’s new entrance. All photos are by Roger Stoutenburgh except for the one Joseph Rubino took of apartments being removed.

– Mona S. Rowe, msrowe.hi@gmail.com

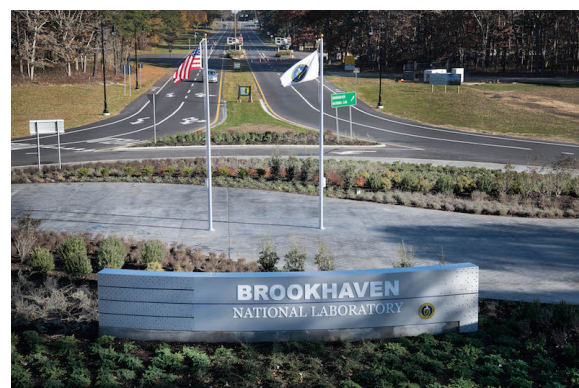


New sign – BNL has a new front entrance sign. Here it is at dusk. The Lab flies the American flag and the U.S. Department of Energy flag.



Demolition time – A set of apartments was removed to begin the clearing for Discovery Park, a concept for privately owned and operated facilities in the area of the campus that retirees know as the “apartment area.” On-site housing is still available for the Lab’s visitors and guests.

New traffic circle – Construction started in 2019 on a new traffic circle for Discovery Park and continued into 2020 with the addition of the new entrance sign. Linda Feierabend, who retired the last day of 2020 and right away became active with BREA, reported that you drive into the Lab from William Floyd Parkway as usual and immediately enter the roundabout. As you drive around, the first turn off is in the direction of the Discovery Park area and the road continues to the Main Gate guard booth ahead. Exiting the Lab, you drive partially through the circle, heading toward the parkway as usual. Kathy Walker, who did a safety sheet for police officers before retiring in October 2020, advised folks to reduce speed when approaching the circle, yield to drivers already in the roundabout, avoid driving next to oversized vehicles and stay in your lane until you exit. She also reminds us that access from the traffic circle to the new Discovery Park area is not completed and is blocked off by concrete barriers.



New digs for Copy Service – BREA gets good support from the Creative Resources team at the Lab, which consists of copy service, graphic design, photography and videography services. This new space, in a wing of Bldg. 555, which houses the Chemistry Department, is where BREA’s newsletter is now printed by Neal Jackson and Jerry Gaeta. They followed their professional-quality, high-throughput copy machines to the new space. Creative Resources Supervisor Rick Backofen has an office in the same wing.





New flagpole at Bldg. 400 – For Black History Month in February 2021, Brookhaven Lab Police Chief Erton Rudder raised the African American Advancement Group (AAAG) flag on behalf of the Lab community and BERA's AAAG. The AAAG hosted a virtual speaker series, with Darnisha Harrison, president and founder of pharmaceutical company Ennaid Therapeutics; and Errol D. Toulon, Jr., the first African American Sheriff in Suffolk County history. Throughout February, the Lab featured Black/African American members of its community on social media.



Brookhaven Square – This new outdoor space is tucked between Brookhaven Avenue and Lewis Road. The large building in the background is 400. Above the tree line is the water tower from Camp Upton days.



At new LBMS, first finding on how Covid damages human lungs – In December 2020, James Gaughran (center), New York State Senator for the 5th district, which covers the North Shore of Long Island, visited BNL's new Laboratory for BioMolecular Structure (LBMS), adjacent to the National Synchrotron Light Source II. He was accompanied by DOE Site Manager Bob Gordon (right) and Sean McSweeney, LBMS Director. LBMS opened for business in the summer of 2020, ahead of schedule, and the first paper published in June 2021. It describes the first detailed atomic-level model of the SARS-CoV-2 "envelope" protein bound to a human protein essential for maintaining the lining of the lungs. The model helps explain how the virus could cause extensive lung damage and escape the lungs to infect other organs in especially vulnerable Covid patients. The findings may speed the search for drugs to block the most severe effects of the disease.

Photos from the Cloud

The BNL photos on pages 2 and 3 came from "the cloud" – computer software, known as a digital asset management system, provided to the Lab by an outside company and accessed over the internet.

"We began using a cloud-based photo management system in June 2020," explained Rick Backofen, Creative Resources Supervisor. It's an upgrade from the same company used when the photographers went digital in the 1990s. The group created department-specific "portals" for several organizations that allow them to see the images taken for them over the years and then request them from the Photography staff.

"I've always felt that the value in our library is in the 'collection' rather than the individual images," said Backofen.

He added, "When we're looking for old negatives that aren't in our digital archive, we go to the original negative books that Helga Pirozzi kept." Pirozzi, retired and a long-time BREA member, gave each photo a unique number and logged in the photographer's name, the date the photo was taken, and a word or phrase describing the shot. "Those books are a valuable resource. We scanned them using optical-character-recognition technology so that they're somewhat searchable," said Backofen. "And when we find a negative that we want, we scan it and add it to the new system, along with the 'metadata' that Helga entered into the books."

BREA now has a general user account, allowing us to search and request images. It proved useful getting before-and-after photos of the HFBR stack for the May/June issue of BREA News.

– MSR



Membership Renewal

Is your BREA membership expiring?
Find out by going to BREA's website:
<https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/>

To renew, fill out the form below.

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: _____

First name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership type:

☐ annual (\$10)

☐ 5 years (\$40)

☐ Life (\$95)

Date: _____ Check amount: _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO BREA

☐ I want to receive BREA News by mail
via the U.S. Post Office.

☐ I want to receive BREA News by email only.
Do not mail it to me via the U.S. Post Office.

Mail form and check (made out to BREA) to:

Beth Lin, BREA Membership Chair
81 Westchester Drive
Rocky Point, NY 11778

– Beth Lin, Membership Chair
hellobylin@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following BNL retirees.

Ruthie Merker-Christie, 74, March 29, 2021

Gene Premuzic, 92, June 3, 2021

Elaine D. Taylor, 76, June 11, 2021

More information can be found at BREA's website:
www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea. To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, email information to msrowe.hi@gmail.com or mail it to BREA in care of BERA at the address in the panel below.

Letter to the Editor

Hi Mona,

You have put together a very exciting [May/June] issue of the newsletter, especially showing how they take down the HFBR. I remember that Mow, Samantha and I took our first picture at the Lab in 1974 with that tall stack (we call it chimney). Now we have to say good bye.

When I worked in the Biology Department in the STEM [scanning transmission electron microscope] group, Bill Studier was up on the first floor. I heard a lot about T7, and once he even gave STEM some T7 virus to check its mass. STEM is a very high-resolution EM. My job was to make all the samples for users. I still have a picture of the T7 virus. It's been almost 30 years. Who would think it would be used to make such efficient vaccines now.

Thank you, good job!
Beth Lin
April 28, 2021

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

BREA c/o BERA
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Bldg. 400 Brookhaven Avenue
Upton, NY 11973

Phone: (631) 344-5090

Email: BREA@bnl.gov

Web: <https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/>

