

BREA NEWS

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

Volume 15, Issue 5

September/October 2015

BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. in one of the conference rooms in Bldg. 400 (except where noted).

All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

Meeting Schedule

September 8, 2015

October 13, 2015

November 10, 2015

BREA Officers

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Ken Mohring
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Vice President

Liz Seubert
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Secretary

Louise Hanson
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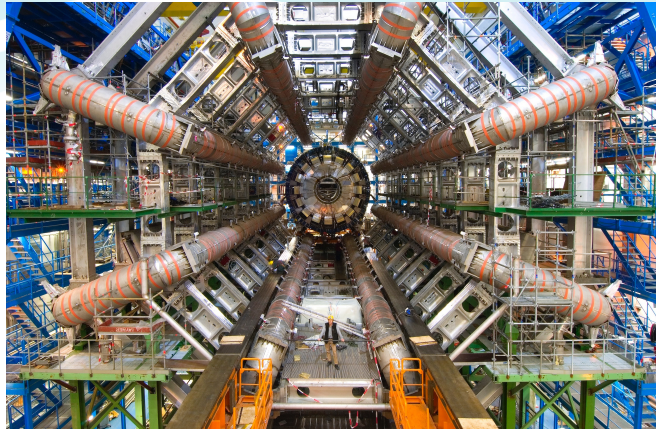
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ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider, a collaboration for which BNL is the host laboratory. Image credit: CERN

For more, see pages 2 & 3.

From the President

by Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com

I hope you all enjoyed your summer. A year ago, retirees faced uncertainties concerning future healthcare coverage, but as time went on we got through the process and signed up for a new Medicare supplemental medical and drug coverage plan or a Medicare advantage plan, and got settled with health reimbursement accounts. The change was easy for some and difficult for others. Now, with the first year behind us, I envision that previous experience will make future healthcare decisions easier.

As the Lab's Bob Lincoln and Denise DiMeglio presented last year, SelectQuote will be servicing Brookhaven retirees on an ongoing basis. This fall, from October 15 through December 7, 2015, the annual Medicare open-enrollment period will take place. Therefore, now is the perfect time to start a review of your current coverage to determine if it is meeting your healthcare and cost expectations. We do not yet have a schedule from the Laboratory or SelectQuote as to when actions on 2016 coverage will begin. BREA does have a meeting with the Laboratory in early September that includes this subject, and we expect they will provide a plan and dates for open enrollment requirements. *(cont'd on page 4)*

Let's "Catch Up" With a Year+ of BNL News

BREA News finally has some space to play "Catch Up," an abridged sampling of noteworthy events at Brookhaven Lab, culled from the online *Brookhaven This Week*. Go to: www.bnl.gov/newsroom/results.php?y=2015 (or 2014) to find full articles or read about stories we simply had no room to cover.

Scientific Accomplishments

2015: Despite a quarter-century of research since the discovery of the first high-temperature superconductors, scientists still don't have a clear picture of how they conduct electricity with no energy loss. Now, **a newly published study by researchers from BNL and Oak Ridge challenges the widely held focus on finding long-range electronic and magnetic order in the materials, demonstrating instead how two coexisting and competing disordered magnetic phases appear to precede – and may be linked to – its superconducting behavior.** ... With the June restart of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), now operating at nearly twice its former collision energy, comes an enormous increase in the volume of data physicists must sift through to search for new discoveries. **Evolving to meet the big-data challenge is a data-management tool known as PanDA (for Production and Distributed Analysis), developed by physicists at BNL and the University of Texas at Arlington.** ... Down at the nanoscale, where objects span just billionths of a meter, the size and shape of a material can have surprising and powerful electronic and optical effects, but building larger materials that retain subtle nanoscale features is an ongoing challenge. Now, **BNL scientists at the Center for Functional Nanomaterials have developed a technique to rapidly create multilayer nano-structured grids for functional materials with unprecedented versatility,** which could lead to, among other things, improved solar cells and touchscreen electronics. ... In its spring experimental run, **BNL's Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) shattered its own record for producing polarized proton collisions at 200-giga-electron-volt (GeV) collision energy,** delivering 1,200 billion of these subatomic smashups per week – more than double the number routinely achieved in the last such run, in 2012. ... **Just weeks after the National Synchrotron Light Source II (NSLS-II) achieved first light, scientists at the X-Ray Powder Diffraction beamline tested a setup that yielded data on thermoelectric materials that became the subject of the first scientific publication from data collected at NSLS-II,** the brightest synchrotron light source in the world. ... **2014:** Opening a new era of scientific discovery at BNL, **the new NSLS-II delivered its first x-ray beams.** ... **Results from experiments at RHIC revealed new insights about how quarks and gluons – the subatomic building blocks of protons – contribute to proton "spin,"** which will help solve a mystery that has puzzled physicists since the 1980s. ... **Using a new method to track electrochemical reactions that take place in a common electric vehicle battery material, BNL scientists working at the original NSLS gained new insight into why fast charging inhibits this material's performance.** ... **Scientists running the ATLAS experiment at the LHC, including a large contingent from BNL, reported first evidence of a process for testing the mechanism by which the recently discovered Higgs particle imparts mass to other fundamental particles – a process more rare than the production of the Higgs itself!** ... Accumulated calcium in cells can trigger programmed cell death. Understanding how this process goes awry could lead to new ways to control uncontrolled cell growth, a hallmark of cancer. **BNL scientists and collaborators from five institutions deciphered the structure of a key cellular protein that serves as a molecular safety valve for keeping calcium levels steady.** Designing drugs that inhibit this protein would cause calcium levels to rise and promote cell death – a potentially promising strategy for fighting some cancers.

2014/15 Awards & Honors



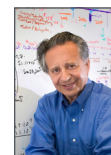
2014: Physicist **Ivan Bozovic** was elected to the European Academy of Humanities, Letters and Sciences for lifetime

achievements, including pioneering work developing tools to assemble thin-film samples of cuprate superconductors. ... **Terrence Buck** received the Diversity Champion Award from the Career Center at Stony Brook University for connecting traditionally under-represented Stony Brook University students with mentors who might lead them to job prospects at BNL. ...

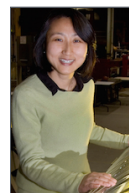


Upendra Rohatgi received the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Technical Communities Globalization Medal for helping steer scientists

formerly engaged in designing weapons of mass destruction toward more peaceful pursuits in science and technology. ... Upon retiring, former BNL Director **Nicholas Samios** was named BNL Senior Scientist Emeritus for his many contributions to the Lab's reputation as a world-class scientific institution.



... Three BNL scientists were named Fellows of the American Physical Society: accelerator physicist **Mei Bai**, for outstanding



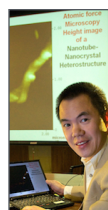
contributions to the dynamics of spin-polarized beams and the acceleration of polarized protons for the first high energy polarized proton

(continued on page 3)

collider; physicist **Mary Bishai**, for contributions to flavor physics and her leadership of the accelerator neutrino program; and scientist **Oleg Gang**, for developing the principles of programmable self-assembly of polymer-based nano-structures. ... physicist



Alexei M. Tselik won the Alexander von Humboldt Research Award for research into the theoretical underpinnings behind a wide range of exotic material properties. ... **2015**: One year later, theoretical physicist **Sally Dawson** won the Humboldt for her life's work, including research on the long-sought Higgs boson and precise calculations of the particle's properties. ... scientist **Jingguang Chen** won the American Chemical Society's George A. Olah Award in Hydrocarbon or Petroleum Chemistry, for research on understanding and developing metal carbides and bimetallic alloys as catalysts and electrocatalysts. ... The National Biodiesel Board honored energy researcher **Tom Butcher** with an "Eye on Biodiesel" award for his role in the designation of six to 20 percent biodiesel blends as fuels. ... The American Chemical Society's Inorganic Nanoscience Award was presented to chemist **Stanislaus Wong** in May, for sustained excellence in inorganic nanoscience research. ... Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz presented a 17-member team primarily based at BNL with the Secretary's Honor Award for Achievement, for successfully completing two superconducting magnets for the restart of the LHC. Moniz also named physicist **Mei Bai** (photo p.2) a recipient of the E.O. Lawrence Award, for advancing understanding of the dynamics of spin-polarized beams and for the acceleration of polarized protons at RHIC. ... Physicist **Howard Gordon**, who has played pivotal roles in the construction and operation of the ATLAS experiment at the LHC, received a U.S. ATLAS Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Atlas Collaboration.



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- Anita Cohen, afcohen@optonline

Administrative Actions

Brookhaven Science Associates announced several organizational changes related to its new contract to operate the Lab: Preparing for the new NSLS-II's transition from construction to science operations, the Photon Sciences (PS) and Basic Energy Sciences (BES) directorates merged to form a new directorate – Energy Sciences (ES) – with **Jim Misewich** as Associate Laboratory Director (ALD) and **John Hill** as Deputy ALD and NSLS-II Director; **Amy Nunziata** was named ALD of the Facilities & Operations Directorate; the Lab's former Community, Education, Government & Public Affairs Directorate became the Stakeholder and Community Relations staff office, headed by **David Manning**; **Lanny Bates** was tapped to head a new staff office called Campus Development, focusing on Lab infrastructure; **Diane Hatton** was selected to lead the new Planning, Performance and Quality Management staff office; **Lee Cheatham** became head of the Lab's new Strategic Partnerships Office. ... **John Carney** became Manager of the Laboratory Protection Division ... **Jason Remien** was named Manager of the Environmental Protection Division. ... To advance BNL's work using so-called *in operando* techniques to study emerging energy technologies in real time under real operating conditions, **Eric Stach** became Special Assistant for Operando Experimentation for ES. ... **Robert Harrison** became head of the new Center for Data-Driven Discovery at BNL.



Panning for gold in Juneau, Alaska, and actually finding gold

From Australia to Alaska and Places in Between



Shopping in Costa Rica

Over the past several years, I have been all over the globe. The most memorable trip was to Australia. My friend and I went as competitors on an Australian softball team in The World Masters Games held in Sydney. A once in a lifetime experience. It was a blast! We joined an Australian team because we did not want to embarrass America. Believe it or not, out of 45 women's softball teams, we (The Wildcats) came in fourth. No cigar - but fun.

- Renee Flack, yrfatima@gmail.com

President's Message (cont'd)

In June, I attended an employee meeting concerning benefit changes that will be necessary for the Laboratory to meet DOE contractual and Affordable Care Act requirements. The bottom line is that the employee benefits package — including holidays, vacation and sick leave — and healthcare benefits will change. Focus groups and committees were formed to consider the details of what changes should be made. One of the issues to solve is a possible fine of \$4 million dollars in fiscal year 2018 if changes are not made to the current “Cadillac” healthcare plan for employees. It should be noted that the elements included in the benefits package evaluations are both complex and difficult to meet partially because of the Lab’s location. I bring this up primarily to let you know that retirees are not alone in experiencing change.

BREA elections are every two years. As part of this process, I will be appointing a nominating committee at the September meeting. That committee will propose a slate of officers so that a ballot can be included in the November/December newsletter. The officers are: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you have names for the committee to consider, please mail them to the BREA address and they will be given to the committee chair. I will also email a list of the committee members after the October meeting so you may contact them directly.

- Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com

In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees and an employee:

Elinor Betty Adams, 72, June 23, 2015

Robert J. Lombardi, 54, August 2, 2015

Hans Ludewig, 74, October 29, 2013*

Jerome “Jerry” Russell, 88, May 3, 2015

Bonnie E. Sherwood, 68, June 29, 2015

*Active employee at that time

More information may be found at BREA’s “In Memoriam” website: www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea

To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, send name, date of death, any published obituary or a web link, and (optional) a photo to Anita Cohen:

Email: afcohen@optonline.net

Snail mail: Use BREA’s return address below

BERA Activities

The Brookhaven Employees' Recreation Association (BERA) oversees the clubs at Brookhaven Lab and assists in administering the overall program and the use of recreational facilities on site. The retiree association BREA is a BERA club.

For a list of upcoming trips and events, go here: www.bnl.gov/bera/recreation/trips.asp.

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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