

# EX-Ls

# EX-PRESS

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The EX-Ls Board of Directors and members gratefully acknowledge the  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Administration  
for their continuing support.

**President's Message**  
**Jose Alonso**

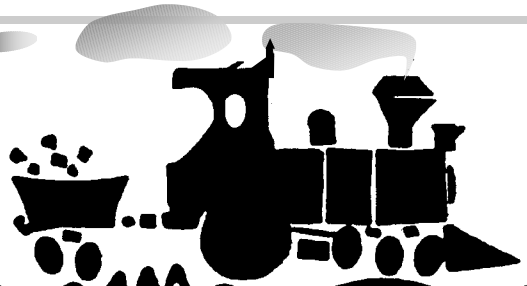
Greetings to all fellow retirees! Here we are in 2008! Seems like the years are just flying by. As I'm writing this from Lead, South Dakota, we're in the middle of a heat wave! 28 degrees! Well, it was 10 below a couple of days ago, and we've had more than 20 inches of snow in the past week, but now the days are warm and sunny and the rolling terrain of the Black Hills is all beautifully decked in snow-laden conifers. After talking to Carol back in Orinda, I think our weather this past week is better than what folks in the Bay Area have experienced, so... here's an invitation to y'all to come visit the lovely Black Hills, with their colorful towns of Deadwood (2 miles down the road), Spearfish (at the end of the most gorgeous canyon you're likely to see just about anywhere) and Sturgis (that sleepy town whose population swells for two weeks in August from about 5,000 to almost 500,000! Including about 300,000 Harleys).

But I digress....Ah the Board! A wonderful group of dedicated souls who do so much work and have so much love for our organization. In the three years I've been on the Board I've come to truly appreciate this dedication and enthusiasm. I certainly toyed with the thought that, with my new job (!! ) at the Homestake mine (well, I AM retired from LBL, but that doesn't really mean I'm truly retired... I guess...), I should pass the reins on to the next in line and abdicate the Presidency. But I just couldn't! I've thoroughly enjoyed working with Janis Dairiki, the outgoing President, and with John Kadyk, president year before, and with Don Grether, current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, as well as Vicky Jared who faithfully and effectively negotiates our wonderful luncheons; Eleanor and Per Dahl holding down the secretary's position (Per also a past president!), Suzanne Stroh as the Treasurer-Membership taking over just over a year ago from Bud Larsh who served in this role for many many years, Dave Stevens, erudite editor of our Newsletter, Dick Baker our webmaster, plus the ever faithful past presidents who come faithfully to meetings, many of whom serve in extremely valuable liaison roles (Bob Fulton and Tom Beales – CUCRA), Gene Binnall (UC Retirement Center – along with Suzanne). I should mention as well that Janis serves as our representative to AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) with its interesting global perspectives on issues of relevance to us.

A particularly important member of our Board has been Terry Powell, the LBNL Representative to our organization. Terry, at our last Board meeting, informed us that she herself will be retiring March 4<sup>th</sup>, and will be very much looking forward to continuing her relationship with us, but as a member! We will certainly miss her in her wonderfully effective role as our formal contact with our “mother institution” but are also glad that we will be able to lie in wait for the opportune time to drag her back onto the Board! (Continued on page 7.)

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# EX·LS Ex·press



## 2008 Winter Lunch

- Date:** Thursday, February 21, 2008
- Where:** Spenger's ←←←NOTE: WE'RE AT SPENGER'S THIS MONTH  
1919 Fourth Street  
Berkeley 94710
- Time:** No-host Bar: 11:30 AM  
Lunch Served: 12:15 Noon
- Speaker:** Rick Diamond, LBNL Environmental Energy Technologies Division
- Subject:** A Low-Energy House in Berkeley, Kabul, and Washington, D.C.
- Menu:** Grilled Salmon Filet w/ Northwest berry sauce (lunch salad)  
Shrimp Louis w/ 1000 Island dressing (clam chowder)  
Beef Stroganoff (lunch salad)
- Cost:** \$25 per person (PREPAID)
- Reservations:** Please make checks payable to EX-Ls. Send to  
Vicky Jared  
4849 John Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553

For regular mail, the reservation slip is on page 17. You may also reserve via e-mail to [jaredrv01@aol.com](mailto:jaredrv01@aol.com), or telephone at 925-228-2145.

It is absolutely imperative that Vicky receive your reservations by February 18, 2008.

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## From our November Lunch

*Reported by Jose Alonso.* The November 15th EX-Ls luncheon, held at the Berkeley Yacht Club, was a roaring success. A record 128 attendees heard Steve Chu, LBNL Lab Director, talk about the state of the Laboratory and his vision for its future.

Dr. Chu proudly itemized the status of the Lab today: 3800 employees, a \$520M budget, more than 43 Nobel Laureates who had been employees or students at the Lab (11 of whom performed the work for which they were recognized while at LBNL), and 79 current employees who are members of National Academies.

Steve highlighted successful new funding initiatives that will empower the Lab to develop new programs of critical importance to our national and world future. Most notable is the \$500M Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI) funded by British Petroleum, by far the largest non-government funding for a Lab program. Other initiatives include the JBEI – Joint Biosciences Energy Institute – (\$125M), and the Solar Energy Research Center (\$50M).

Steve listed numerous new faces in Upper Management, Division Directors with extremely high academic credentials, who have been charged to direct and invigorate their scientific programs. Steve particularly emphasizes the recognition of potential in young researchers, together with providing the time and resources to pursue their ideas. This requires scientific leadership capable of recognizing opportunities and willing to accept the risk of investing in untried but promising young scientists. He is certain that the leadership he has emplaced is well-suited to this task.

He also identified an aggressive program of growth and renovation of old physical plant, including the desire to eliminate trailer parks, complete upgrades of seismically unsafe buildings, and urban renewal for Old Town. New buildings actually funded are: the User Hostel (between ALS and the cafeteria), the Helios center (directly downstream from the new Nanosciences building), and the new Computational Research and Theory Center (on the hillside below Building 50).

The overarching themes for his hopes for the Lab are contained in the National Academies report titled *Rising above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future* (see [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=11463](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11463)), of which he is a co-author. This report identifies the danger of allowing our scientific and technical infrastructure to continue its downward spiral, and calls for, among other things: a large yearly increase (10%) in funding for basic R&D; investment of \$500M/yr in renovating scientific infrastructure; and an increase in discretionary funds for lab directors for new programs.

Steve's vision for the Lab focuses on new cross-divisional initiatives to address the most pressing national and world problems of the day, building on our strengths and employing one of E.O. Lawrence's primary legacies: building Team Science.

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## Energy supplies

For transportation fuels, it is unlikely that a better source than liquid hydrocarbons can be found in the foreseeable future. The current push for ethanol, while having a small positive impact on our petroleum consumption, is having severe consequences on agricultural markets. So much corn is being diverted to ethanol fabrication that prices of food and animal feed are increasing with potentially damaging market consequences. In addition, the economics of ethanol production are not efficient: the ratio of energy produced in ethanol to energy needed for its production is highly unfavorable. Much of the newly funded initiatives will be directed to basic research on cellulosic degradation (breakdown of cellulose into feedstock suitable for fermentation), identification of appropriate feedstocks for this process (such as switchgrass), and searches for economically-viable alternatives to ethanol. Bacteria in termite guts are viewed as a potentially valuable guidepost in this research effort.

Electricity generation research will focus on inexpensive solar cells with higher efficiency, so that roof-top installations catch on as a viable and effective means of distributed solar power generation. In addition, solar farms, and the harnessing of geothermal and wind energy play into the mix. For energy storage, lab researchers have developed a new lithium cell with demonstrated capability of at least an order of magnitude more charge-discharge cycles than are available with current technology.

## Advanced accelerator sciences

Designs are progressing for a new 4<sup>th</sup> Generation Light Source, based on the FEL – Free Electron Laser – concept. Plans are to build the electron linac in a tunnel under the hill below the ALS to the Bevatron complex, which will be reconfigured to house wigglers, beamlines, and experimental facilities. Though the work is still conceptual in nature, there is optimism that someday this plan may come to fruition.

In the meantime, Wim Leemans is achieving world-class success with his *laser-wakefield accelerator* concept, using high-power laser pulses to create extremely intense plasma channels in which electron beams up to 1 GeV have been produced in only a few cm of channel length. This concept may be employed in the next generation of high-energy accelerators.

## Key physics initiatives

Steve identified several areas of LBNL leadership in physics: we are a major partner in the ATLAS experiment being mounted at CERN's LHC aimed at searching for the Higgs boson and, of course, poised to make any new discovery that might come when this new facility – with its 7 TeV-per-beam collisions – comes on line later this year. SNAP, the Lab's telescopic supernova probe, a satellite comparable in size to Hubble (but substantially more sophisticated and less expensive!) is aimed at studying Dark Energy by a detailed investigation of far-away supernovae. This project is making its way through the review, downselect, and funding process, but is going well. The Lab is also playing a key role in DUSEL – the Deep Underground Science

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and Engineering Laboratory – to be sited in the historic Homestake gold mine in South Dakota. NSF is funding design studies for substantial enhancements in the underground infrastructure at this mine, to house many critical experiments requiring extremely low-background, quiet environments. These studies are being coordinated by LBNL, and are expected to lead to an investment of about \$500M starting in FY2012. In the meantime, the mine is being reopened and de-watered, and readied for a first set of experiments, utilizing existing caverns.

### Environmental initiatives

The growing research field of climate modeling and change is well-represented at LBNL. Bill Collins was among the more-than-18 participants in the IPCC (Intergovernment Panel on Climate Change) that recently shared the Nobel Peace Prize. (You will recall that Bill spoke at an EX-Ls luncheon earlier this year.) The importance of this work was emphasized by another study Steve related, which identified the amount of land necessary for sustainability of the earth's population, for production of food, energy, and industrial feedstocks (e.g. forests). The area of land is highly dependent on climate and suitability of land for each function. This study indicated that the amount of land needed to sustain our growing population *is already less* than what is available. The message here is that we must seriously look at our resource use, and develop the new technologies that will be needed for our continued survival on this planet.

#### *Luncheon Attendees:*

Jose Alonso	Tom Elioff	Blair & Kathy Jarrett
John Ainsworth	Warren & Abby Faust	Nylan Jeung
Dick Baker	Ed & Pauline Fleischer	John & Ann Kadyk
Sharon Barrett	Rose Marie Forment	Fred Kirsten
Tom & Marcia Beales	Trudy Forte	Hans Krapf
Edward Bennett	Jack & Darlene Franck	Rich & Janet LaPierre
Vlado Bevc	Robert Fulton	Bud Larsh
Gene & Myrna Binnall	Paul Gee	Willard Lawrence
Bob Birge	William Gilbert	John & Barbara Lax
Igor Blake	Norm Goldstein	Branko Leskovar
George Boyle	James & Susan Greer	Marcelo & Martha
Kay Bristol	Don & Becky Grether	Lippmann
William & Barb Brown	Connie & Edward	Ken Lou
Jerome Bucher	Grondona	Richard McDonald
Geores Buttner	Lilian Hawkins	Doug McWilliams
John & Ginnie Chin	Harry Heckman & guest	Bob Miller
Winifred Corniea	Ric Ambrose	Ken Mirk
Donald & Pat Cowles	Ingeborg Henle	Victor & Nancy Montoya
Per & Eleanor Dahl	Victor Henri	Marty Morimoto
Janis & Ned Dairiki & guest Marilee Bailey	Egon & Annette Hoyer	Mack & Ann Morgan
Sybil Donn	Winnie Heppler	Catherine Parrott-Hawkins
Andy DuBois	Joe Jaklevic	Fred Perry
Norm Edelstein	Vicky & Richard Jared & guest Phyllis Burritt	

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Conway Peterson & guests	Clay Sealy	Suzanne Stroh & guest
Terry Jackson & Rolf Muller	Andy Sessler	Kevin Yates
Andre Porter	Rich Sextro	Clyde Taylor
Art & Lucille Poskanzer	Janice & John Shafer	Bill Turner
Terry Powell	Brenda Shank	Grace & Ron Walpole
Patricia Powers-Risius	Robbie & Mary Ann Smits	Harold Wilson
Michael Press	Robert & Karen Springsteen	Gertrude Young & guests
Art & Mary Ann Robinson	Dave & Sally Stevens	Howard & Robin
Stephanie Roth	Robert Stokstad	Blake
Lee & Beverly Schroeder		Allan Zalkin
		Speaker Steve Chu

### **Editor's Note**

They say that change is good for keeping the mind alert...so as a service to our membership, Your Board has decided that luncheons in 2008 will be split between Spenger's (February and August) and the Berkeley Yacht Club (May and November). And we shall continue to put pad and pen on the tables, and we encourage you all to scribble us a note as to what you are doing; we would like to maintain – and expand – the “news of our members” – but we can't do that unless you tell us what you're doing. As always, articles or ideas for articles are welcome; the deadline for each issue is ten days after the preceding Board meeting (a full year's schedule is listed on the back cover; notice that the meetings now start at 3:00 on the dates listed). You can contact me at david\_stevens@comcast.net, at 1107 Amador Ave, Berkeley 94707, or 510-524-2904. // dfs

### **President's Message (continued)**

Let us not forget Andre Porter, the representative from the UC Retirement Center, who also faithfully attends our Board meetings with news of exciting activities from the Center.

FINALLY: A MOST warm welcome to our newest Board member, Richard Sextro, whom Don Grether successfully lured into the the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidency position. I know he will enjoy his association with our wonderful Board as much as I have.

### **The Great Luncheon Debate**

The vote taken after the November lunch (with 86 votes cast: quite a good response) was 11.6% for Spenger's all the time, 41.9% for BYC all the time, and 46.5% for Alternation between the two, so we are going back to Spenger's in February. But please let us know if simple alternation is what is wanted, or if some other arrangement (such as November/February at Spengers, May/August at BYC) is to be preferred. Specific comments received with the vote both commended and excoriated the food in November [there's no satisfying everyone], noted the problems with space and parking and handicap access at BYC, and lauded the BYC ambience and bar and free parking. Buffet-style is a problem for some. And we need to determine whether

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the big crowd in November (we actually had to turn some people away because of space limitations) was indicative of growth or the effect of the double incentive of Dr. Chu and our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### News of our members

**Art Poskanzer**, a Distinguished Senior Scientist Emeritus in Berkeley Lab's Nuclear Science Division (NSD) and 41-year Lab veteran, has won the American Physical Society's 2008 Tom W. Bonner Prize. The award honors "his pioneering role in the experimental studies of flow in relativistic heavy ion collisions." Awarded by APS' Division of Nuclear Physics to recognize and encourage outstanding experimental research in nuclear physics, the Bonner Prize includes a \$7,500 award and a certificate citing the recipient's contributions.

**Art Robinson**, a former communications specialist for the Advanced Light Source and 19-year Lab veteran, now serves as a National Park Service seabird docent on Alcatraz. Most visitors to the Rock are there to see the infamous prison, but Art says many do appreciate the birds as well. He volunteers his time on the island answering visitors' avian questions, inviting them to look through his scope, and, in the off-season, serving as a census taker for bird populations.

**Lois Valcalda writes:** I retired from LBL in 1976, but maybe some of the Ex-Ls remember me. As they may recall, last January I was very severely burned when I was trapped in my Rossmoor home as it burned down. I spent a total of five months in hospitals, the first three in the Burn Center in Sacramento. Since I left the hospital, I have been in a care home in Walnut Creek. I'm finally able to walk again nearly on my own, so I feel I'm making good progress. It has been a very bad year for me, but with excellent care, friends and family by my side, and prayers said by many for me, I truly believe I will overcome my problems. There is always hope and I am sure an angel sits on my shoulder to help me. Many thanks to all who sent me get-well cards and notes; I will be forever grateful.

**Geores Buttner's** drawings of Yosemite wildflowers are periodically displayed at the Brewed Awakening Coffee Shop on Euclid Avenue, most recently during November, 2007.

As reported at the November luncheon: **Robbie Smits** is working to establish an observatory on Mt. Diablo. Travellers included **John Kadyk** (Canada's Maritime Provinces), **Janis Dairiki** (Ecuador), and **Don Grether** (Nicaragua).

Notes with renewals: From **John Keller**: Probably the only one alive that worked with Dr. Lawrence. John E. Keller, 100 years old, April 2, 2008. From **Warren Harnden**: A January haiku: One more year has flown / From our warming aging Earth / Why am *I* so cold?



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## Keeping Up with the Lab

**More flops and a new boss for NERSC:** Shortly after our last edition went to press, the Lab announced (a) the appointment of Kathy Yelick as NERSC Director, and (b) the acceptance of NERSC's latest computing behemoth, a Cray XT4™, capable of more than 100 teraflops (i.e.,  $10^{14}$  floating-point (arithmetical) operations per second).

<http://www.lbl.gov/Science-Articles/Archive/NERSC-Yelick-Dir.html>

**Seaborg to retire:** One consequence of the installation of the XT4 will be the retirement of NERSC's *Seaborg* computer, which has been in service since January, 2001. The new machine has been named Franklin.

**New scope for NCEM:** Installation of the TEAM 0.5 transmission electron microscope, with a resolution of half an angstrom (or  $5 \times 10^{-11}$  meters), was completed in December.

<http://ncem.lbl.gov/TEAM-project/files/what.html>

**Try this at home:** "I ran an energy audit with the Home Energy Saver....It's a pretty neat tool. I plugged in my ZIP code and within seconds found out that the average house in my New York City suburb spends \$2,267 annually on energy...while an energy-efficient home there spends \$1,451." (Consumer Reports blog) [The Home Energy Saver website is <http://hes.lbl.gov> ... NOTE: NO www.]

<http://blogs.consumerreports.org/home/2008/01/home-energy-use.html>

**And you thought the deer were a problem:** They're breaking windows, defecating on public property and intimidating workers. Now scientists at Berkeley Lab are calling them a public safety problem. Who would have thought a bunch of wild turkeys could cause so much trouble? At least 60 of them that are reproducing like rabbits have officials in the Berkeley hills lab worried someone is going to get hurt.

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci\\_7981032](http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci_7981032)

**Do you harbor vampires?** There are insomniacs in our homes that run up the electricity bill. Microwave ovens, computers, and TVs suck down power even when in sleep or standby mode. This "vampire energy loss" accounts for one percent of the world's carbon emissions, according to Alan Meier, with Berkeley Lab's Environmental Energy Technologies Division.

[http://www.salon.com/mwt/good\\_life/2008/01/24/vampire\\_energy/](http://www.salon.com/mwt/good_life/2008/01/24/vampire_energy/)

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In addition to the above, regular Lab publications may be scanned at the following URLs; links to all three are available through the Ex-Ls home page on the web ([www.lbl.gov/ex-l-express](http://www.lbl.gov/ex-l-express)).

The Berkeley Lab VIEW Newsletter  
<http://www.lbl.gov/Publications/Currents>

LBL Today (Daily news from LBL)  
<http://www.lbl.gov/today>

**The Last Hike**  
**Geores Buttner**

Starting out on the trail I didn't know, or even think about its being a last hike. Within the first few minutes though, I was overwhelmed by a feeling that I would never be back again. So profound, so real, it stopped me – chilled – and it had to be taken seriously. At my age, the feeling was bitter/sweet, so-to-speak, as, why was it the last hike on Condor Gulch Trail? Was it heart attack time, tumble off a cliff time? Besides, I was alone, and in fact felt even more so; it was also early in the morning, and in mountain lion habitat - *what-a-way-to-go*. Sweet, however, overcame bitter big-time!

Had been there, on that gracious path, at least a dozen times in the last 15 years. To face up to not ever returning had an impact. It took 1.7 hours to hike up the next 1.7 miles. That's at least double the spring season pace, which includes a heck of a lot more wildflower photography and notation. There are practically zero to no wildflowers in full bloom on Condor Gulch Trail in October. In fact, at Pinnacles National Monument the rocks take over even for color at that time of year, along with their usual magnificent dominance of the landscape. Gussed it was a good time to pay more attention to those rocks. In fact it looked as though it was then or never. But just then a two-inch tall tarantula blocked the trail, took a look at me and turned face-to-face, rose up to three inches on hairy hind legs, and put up its dukes for a fight, glaring. Afraid to even kick-box because of the number-of-legs disadvantage, I cowardly scooted around and progressed up the trail uninjured.

The trail stretched straight out ahead, framing a broadside view of the jagged high peaks of the Pinnacles Formation. Zeroed in on them through the cross hairs of the 35mm SLR; with one torpedo I could have sunk the ship. Those magnificent projections rose into a sky still blue and translucent in late October 2007. This sight is of the kind that gets permanently installed in your memory bank no matter how old you are; which is fortunate because the skies are becoming less blue and translucent throughout the years as we speak. The slow pace toward those peaks was slowed even further by a problem. After stopping every so often with transfixed attention on the shadowy, rock to rock caresses as the earth turned and the lichen grew, the treads of the hiking boots seemed to get adhered to the trail and not want to budge an inch without a good deal of coaxing.

Three chattering young climbers passed by; went off trail, and clomb a rock. *I know, clomb, is archaic, but so is the narrator.* I went on upward bound, slowly leaving their giddy location behind. But the boot treads soon got stuck on the trail again and said climbers again passed by; without offering any help. Again on the move, I heard them up ahead in the act of another risky ascent, their supposed helpless three million year-old victim did not lose his grip on their fingers

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and toes and they made it triumphantly to the happy rock's apex. Just barely before I got to the spot on the trail where they resumed their adventurous trek, they were gone again; but I really did almost catch up with them.

Shortly after leaving Condor Gulch Trail I took a lunch break. It was at a secluded spot off High Peaks Trail remembered as being special; spiritual even. It provides a panoramic view of a vast space that has been spared all this time from the fallout of the Garden of Eden. Munching on the first of four sardines, I kind of welcomed the realization of the feeling that - never ever being here ever again - was gone; in fact that feeling vanished back there at the junction when I left Condor Gulch Trail and turned onto High Peaks Trail. As well, that feeling never happened again that day. Begging for it did no good. Life experiences in the fourth dimension just happen to people sometimes, like love. At least I came out of the experience somewhat in control of a new attitude. Any excuse to stop, stare, and dream is a good excuse - knew that already, but now have a reinforcement.

So life goes on for awhile longer I guess (even though becoming part of a magnificent mountain lion would be kinda neat – *especially after a fight for your life*).... Condor Gulch Trail will be sorely missed.

THE END

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**From the Berkeley Retirement Center  
Andre Porter**

The Retirement Center has moved: Our new Address is 1925 Walnut St. #1550, Berkeley, CA 94720. You may have noticed our CenterPiece newsletter and program announcements are behind schedule. While we are still organizing some programs for the spring, the delay is mainly a result of our move, which took place in late January. Please be patient with us as we expect some challenges with our location change. We expect our Learning in Retirement courses to start in late February. Computer Classes will take place in late March and early April. Watch for an announcement in the spring CenterPiece or another email message we will send out in early to mid-February.

Also, please note there are six steps leading up to the front door of the new location. There is a ramp, but it is expected to be under repair for a few weeks. If you have access problems with stairs and plan to visit us, please call ahead so we can be sure to accommodate your request.

Programs from Campus Partners

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory - Friends of Science

You are invited to attend *Science at the Theatre* - free lectures held at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. There are several dates throughout the semester. Check <http://www.lbl.gov/friendsofscience/> for a downloadable poster/schedule. The first talk of

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the spring is on February 11, 2008 when Jerry Tuskan will present *Genomic Advances to Improve Biomass for Biofuels*.

A PDF calendar/poster is available for downloading at  
[http://www.lbl.gov/friendsofscience/docs/2008/SciTheater\\_08\\_letter\\_final.pdf](http://www.lbl.gov/friendsofscience/docs/2008/SciTheater_08_letter_final.pdf)

OLLI@Berkeley

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkeley is started their spring courses January 31 with *Parallel Universes in Science, Myth and Art* by UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus Didier de Fontaine of Department of Materials Science and Engineering. In his words:

These lectures will show how humanity has viewed its place in the world by creating *ad hoc* cosmologies in the course of its history, from its earliest beginnings to the scientific age of today. Initially, people believed in a layered universe consisting of a natural middle earth, sitting on top of a subterranean animal spirit world and surmounted by a supernatural heavenly domain. One obtains glimpses of these ancient beliefs by examining artistic productions from prehistoric cave art to the art of our times. Now, our traditional parallel universes are increasingly being replaced by a unique physical universe plus the very different parallel universes which are being postulated by today's astrophysicists.

The plan for the 6 lectures is as follows:

- Lecture I: Introduction; the Scientific Approach
- Lecture II: Dawn of Mankind; Hominids and Homo Sapiens
- Lecture III: Cave Art, a Possible Explanation; Ancient Parallel Universes
- Lecture IV: Basic Physical Principles
- Lecture V: Cosmology; Modern Parallel Universes
- Lecture VI: Compatibility of Science and Religion

Lectures will be given on successive Thursdays starting on January 31, and ending on March 6, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM AT University Hall, room 150 (on the Berkeley Campus), 2199 Addison Street. You can register online at <http://olli.berkeley.edu> (click on Venues and Directions) or by phone at 510-642-9934. See information on other courses at the same website. The fee for one course of six lectures is \$125.

Remember to watch for the CenterPiece or check our website in a few weeks.

**CUCRA Report**  
**Bob Fulton**

The Council of University of California Retiree Associations (CUCRA) held a joint meeting with the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) at UCDavis on October 25, 2007. The Ex-Ls were well represented by Bob Fulton, Ex-Ls CUCRA

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Representative, Tom Beales, Ex-Ls Alternate CUCRA Representative, and Janice Dairiki, Ex-Ls President.

The CUCRA and CUCEA attendees were greeted by UC Davis Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef, who briefly talked about the preparations the campus is making for its centennial in 2008.

Several people from the UC Office of the President (UCOP) were on hand to bring us up to date on activities there that might affect retirees.

- UCRP investments total nearly \$48 billion, and exceeded their benchmarks in 2007; however the restarting of contributions to UCRP by active employees will still need to happen.
- The University Regents have hired consultants to review the UCOP operations. Some reservations were expressed at the meeting that the consultants may not fully understand the role UCOP plays in maintaining responsibility for retirees from all the campuses and laboratories, and that this could lead to recommendations for actions that might restrict UCOP's ability to adequately service retiree needs. The CUCRA Chair planned to prepare a letter to the Regents pointing out this potential problem.
- The health care plans were all put out to bid in 2007, resulting in the changes we saw in our Open Enrollment packages in November. These changes include the availability to retirees of the UC Vision plan starting in July. The plan will be optional and will carry a monthly fee.

In the weeks before the meeting several trial balloons had been sent up from Sacramento suggesting that the University might be "privatized." CUCRA and CUCEA participants did not seem to think that there was much possibility of this happening. With the recent news of the state's new budget woes, Your Representative hopes their confidence is not misplaced.

After lunch, CUCRA and CUCEA held separate business meetings. In our CUCRA meeting, minutes of the March 22, 2007 meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given. The possibility of reducing the associations' dues to CUCRA was discussed and tabled until the next meeting in April. (There is still hope: Increased use of email and help from the campuses hosting the meetings has reduced CUCRA expenses.)

Jeff Garberson, LLNL CUCRA Representative, talked about how little information on the reorganization of LLNL management was getting to retirees there. He also said their retirees association is discussing how to include retirees from the new LLNL (who will not be part of UC) in the existing retirees association.

Dick Jensen, outgoing Chair, announced that the CUCRA and CUCEA Chairs will now be ex-officio members of the UCRS Advisory Board. This may help bring retiree concerns to the attention of the Advisory Board earlier.

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New officers were elected for two-year terms and installed. Marian Gade of the UC Berkeley retiree association will be the new Chairperson.

**Gas Tips**  
**Forwarded by Vicky Jared**  
**(author unknown)**

I've been in petroleum pipeline business for about 31 years, currently working for the Kinder-Morgan Pipeline in San Jose, CA. We deliver about 4 million gallons in a 24-hour period from the pipeline; one day it's diesel, the next day it's jet fuel and gasoline. We have 34 storage tanks here with a total capacity of 16,800,000 gallons. Here are some tricks to help you get your money's worth.

1. Fill up your car or truck in the morning when the temperature is still cool. Remember that all service stations have their storage tanks buried below ground; and the colder the ground, the denser the gasoline. When it gets warmer gasoline expands, so if you're filling up in the afternoon or in the evening, what should be a gallon is not exactly a gallon. In the petroleum business, the specific gravity and temperature of the fuel (gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, ethanol and other petroleum products) are significant. Every truckload that we load is temperature-compensated so that the indicated gallonage is actually the amount pumped. A one-degree rise in temperature is a big deal for businesses, but service stations don't have temperature compensation at their pumps.
2. If a tanker truck is filling the station's tank at the time you want to buy gas, do not fill up; most likely dirt and sludge in the tank is being stirred up when gas is being delivered, and you might be transferring that dirt from the bottom of their tank into your car's tank.
3. Fill up when your gas tank is half-full (or half-empty), because the more gas you have in your tank the less air there is and gasoline evaporates rapidly, especially when it's warm. (Gasoline storage tanks have an internal floating 'roof' membrane to act as a barrier between the gas and the atmosphere, thereby minimizing evaporation.)
4. If you look at the trigger you'll see that it has three delivery settings: slow, medium and high. When you're filling, up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to the high setting. You should be pumping at the slow setting, thereby minimizing vapors created while you are pumping. Hoses at the pump are corrugated; the corrugations act as a return path for vapor recovery from gas that already has been metered. If you are pumping at the high setting, the agitated gasoline contains more vapor, which is being sucked back into the underground tank so you're getting less gas for your money.

Hope this will help ease your 'pain at the pump'.

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## The Year in Review: EX-Ls Activities in 2007

### Janis Dairiki

1. Distribution of EX-Ls brochure to Benefits Office: 100 copies (additional 80 copies in 2006).
2. Sent annual letter to the Lab Director acknowledging Lab's support of the EX-Ls and listing the 2007 officers and recent activities and plans.
3. Alternated luncheons between Spenger's and the Berkeley Yacht Club (BYC); the latter is a new location.
4. Luncheon speakers and titles:
  - a. February: Rick Morrow, CalTrans, New East Span of Bay Bridge
  - b. May: Dale Hansen, USS Potomac
  - c. August: Bill Collins, LBNL, Global Warming: A Scientific Assessment of our Changing World
  - d. November: Don Grether, narrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD; and Steve Chu, New Initiatives for LBNL
5. Increased attendance at quarterly luncheons:
  - a. 96 in Feb 2007 (Spenger's) -- 70 in Feb 2006 (Spenger's)
  - b. 76 in May 2007 (BYC) -- 59 in May 2006 (Spenger's)
  - c. 98 in August 2007 (Spenger's) -- 94 in August 2006 (Spenger's)
  - d. 128 in Nov 2007 (BYC) -- 81 in November 2006 (Spenger's)
6. Membership rose from ~225 to 300 (33% increase), due, in large part, to:
  - a. Insert in UCB Retirement Center (UCBRC) April newsletter
  - b. Article in TaBL (Today at Berkeley Lab)
  - c. Inclusion of EX-Ls brochure in packages for potential retirees by Benefits
  - d. Arm twisting and concerted PR effort
7. Suzanne Stroh replaced Bud Larsh (after 11+ years) as Treasurer/Membership Chair.
8. Our annual donation (for 2006) went to the UCB Retirement Center.
9. Suzanne Stroh became our second representative (with Gene Binall) to the UCBRC Policy Board.
10. Andre Porter joined the Board as a liaison from UCBRC.
11. Joined the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) and sent a delegate to the fall 2006 biennial conference.
12. First participation in the Lab's annual Wellness Fair (June 7); distributed brochures and John Kadyk's chocolate chip cookies!
13. Active representation at the Spring and Fall meetings of the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA).
14. Celebration of EX-Ls 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at November luncheon.
15. Added new column to newsletter – Keeping up with the Lab.
16. Interaction with LHS and project manager Ric Ambrose regarding renovation of the 37-inch cyclotron magnet; considering possible donation of 2007 funds.
17. Wrote letter of support to Director Chu for Helios and CRT (Computational Research and Theory) facilities
18. Review and updating of by-laws in progress.

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## Archivist/Historian Wanted

Now that we are 25 years old it seems reasonable that we start taking care of our history in a more organized way. Some of our illustrious past has been preserved in newsletters and Board reports of one kind and another, but they are scattered among several of the officers, and more may be available from individual members with a long history with the Ex-Ls. Are you a frustrated historian? Do you enjoy bringing order out of chaos? If so, please contact Janis Dairiki, Jose Alonso, or Suzanne Stroh.

There are also several other opportunities for volunteers within the Ex-Ls structure. Most of the “working” officers (as distinct from the purely political officers at the top of the list...☺) could use help from time to time, and we would all feel more comfortable if there were back-ups available who were familiar with the various operations. For example, the Treasurer has had to act as *de facto* Membership Chair for several years. None of the jobs are terribly onerous, but all have occasional deadlines, and knowing that help might be available would be useful. Appended below is a list of areas where help might be appreciated from time to time. Please contact the indicated person if you have an interest in any of these activities:

Secretary: Eleanor Dahl, 510-601-7276, pfdahl@aol.com

Membership Chair: Suzanne Stroh, 510-524-1953, scstroh@gmail.com

Treasurer: Suzanne Stroh, 510-524-1953, scstroh@gmail.com

Activities Chair/Luncheons: Vicky Jared, 925-228-2145, Jaredrv01@aol.com

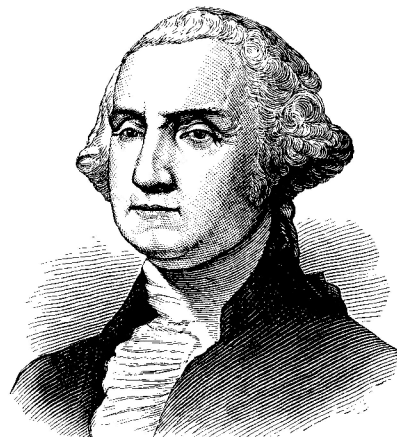
CUCRA Representative: Bob Fulton, 925-335-2393, r.fulton@sbcglobal.net  
or Tom Beales, 925-376-6212, tom.marcia@comcast.net

UCBRC Representative: Gene Binnall, 510-234-8135, epbinnall@lbl.gov

Webmaster/Listmaster: Dick Baker, 510-620-0448, xrobaker@comcast.net

Newsletter: Dave Stevens, 510-524-2904, david\_stevens@comcast.net

*or just in general to find out what we do: Any board member (see list on back page)*





**SEE YOU AT THE FEBRUARY 21 LUNCHEON**

**To: Vicky Jared**  
4849 John Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Be sure to make reservations by February 18

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I plan to attend the Ex-Ls luncheon >> \$25pp << PREPAID**

**I will bring guest(s). Name(s) of guest(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Menu: Buffet: Advance choice not required**

**Please make check payable to Ex-Ls Total Enclosed:**

**In Memoriam**

Augustine Aitkens	Eilen Doyle
David Goldberg	Roger G. Hughes
Muriel Johnston	Wendell Olson
Ed Rieoux	

**Welcome New Member**

**Ron Huesman**

**Reminder:** It is now (past) time for continuing members to pay their 2008 dues: still only \$12 a year. Please send your remittance to Suzanne Stroh, 560 Curtis St., Albany CA 94706, check payable to Ex-Ls. And if you are new to the Ex-Ls (i.e., not yet a member), all you need to do is send Suzanne your name, address, and telephone number; you may add your e-mail address and spouse's name, but they are not required. (However, unless you specify otherwise, they will appear in the roster when it comes out next fall.) **Continuing Members: If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership now.**



**LBNL EX-Ls**  
**530 Curtis Street**  
**Albany, CA 94706**

**Time Critical First Class**

**FIRST CLASS**

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**EX-Ls EXPRESS – Summer 2007**

Published Quarterly at the end of January, April, July, and October

Editor: Dave Stevens

*Deadline for newsletter submittals is 10 days after the preceding Board meeting*

**EX-Ls BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Officers**

President:	Janis Dairiki
Vice-Pres #1:	Jose Alonso
Vice-Pres #2:	Don Grether
Secretary:	Eleanor Dahl
Treasurer:	Suzanne Stroh
Activities:	Vicky Jared
LBNL Reps:	Reid Edwards Terry Powell
CUCRA Reps:	Bob Fulton Tom Beales
Berkeley Ret Ctr Reps	Gene Binnall Suzanne Stroh Andre Porter

**Past Presidents**

Al Amon	Paul Hernandez
Tom Beales	John Kadyk
Bill Bigelow	Ken Lou
Gene Binnall	Ken Mirk
Bob Birge	Conway Peterson
Igor Blake	Sig Rogers
Per Dahl	Clay Sealy
Bob Fulton	

**Calendar of Board Meetings & Luncheons**

	L: February 21, 2008
B: April 10, 2008	L: May 15, 2008
B: July 10, 2008	L: August 21, 2008
B: October 9, 2008	L: November 13, 2008
B: January 8, 2009	L: Februray 20, 2009

Board meetings take place in the LBNL cafeteria at **3:00** on the dates listed above; we welcome attendance by interested members.

**EX-Ls Life Members**

Shirley Ashley  
Esther Colwell  
Inge Henle  
Bud Larsh

**Official Address**

LBNL EX-Ls  
530 Curtis Street  
Albany, CA 94706

**Website:** [www.lbl.gov/ex-l-express/](http://www.lbl.gov/ex-l-express/)

**Webmaster:** Richard Baker [robaker@lbl.gov]