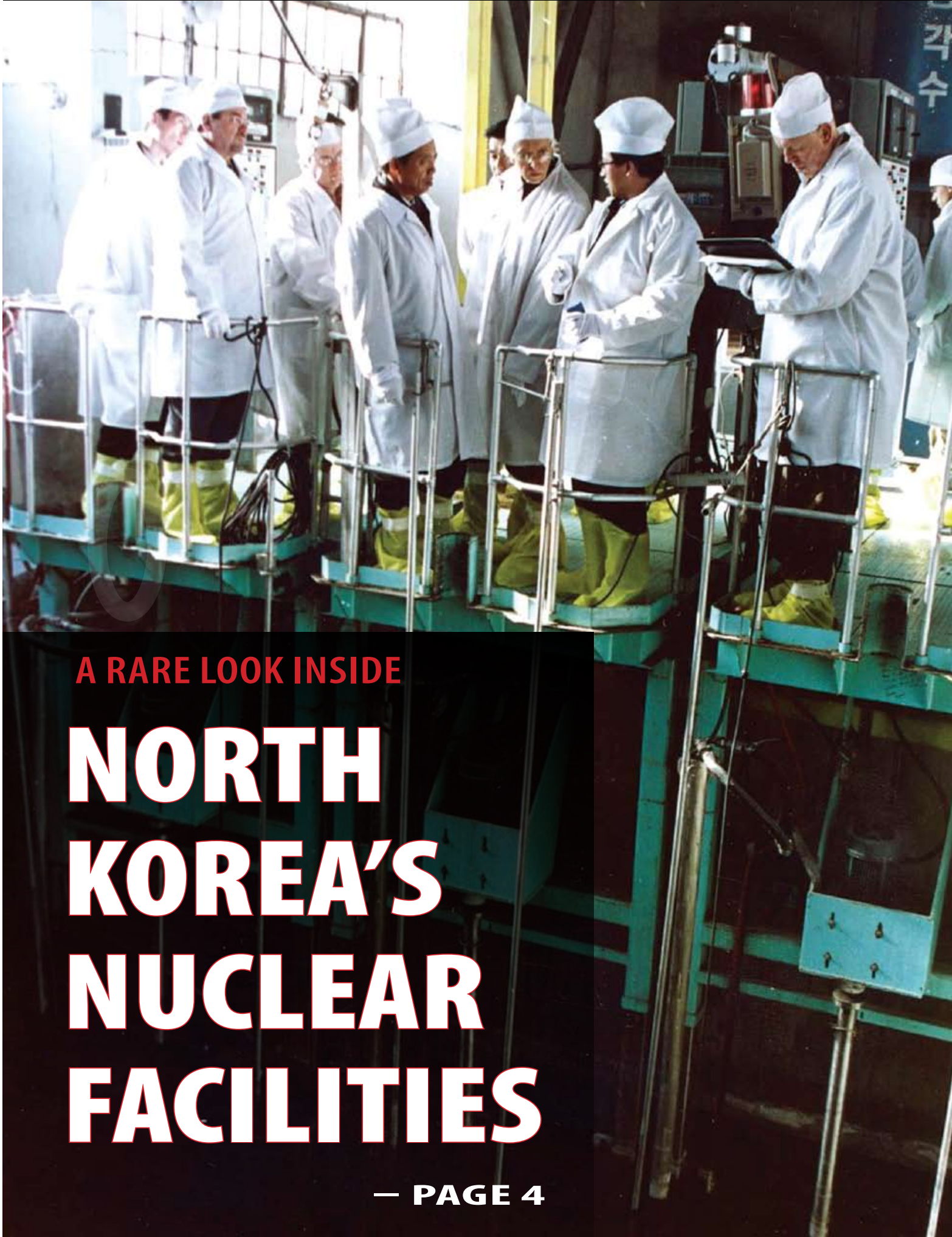


# NEWSLINE

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**A RARE LOOK INSIDE**

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# A conversation with... STEVE LIEDLE

*(Editor's note: The transition to management by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC has left the Lab with new faces among its senior leaders. This week Newsline kicks off "A Conversation with..." a series of profiles on the Laboratory's new leadership. This week, meet Steve Liedle.)*

Steve Liedle is deputy director of the Laboratory. As deputy director, Liedle manages Safeguards and Security, Environment, Safety and Health & Quality Assurance, Contractor Assurance, Contract Management, Planning & Special Studies, and External Relations/Communications, among other areas.

Prior to joining the Lab, Liedle served as deputy general manager at Y-12 facility in Oak Ridge, Tenn., where he managed all defense and work for others programs, and oversaw all campaign programs to implement new technologies in support of stockpile stewardship.

From 2000 to 2001, Liedle served as president and general manager of the Bechtel contract to manage the Nevada Test Site.

Liedle has a doctorate in environmental science and engineering from UCLA, and a master's in oceanography from the University of Wisconsin.

**What did you want to be when you were a kid:** A baseball player, but I wasn't that good, so it was so much for that dream. Then I wanted to be a firefighter, like my dad.

**First job:** I pumped gas and washed windshields. I'm dating myself because it's been a long time since people did that for a living. That was when I was 15. Then I started my own painting company and literally painted my way through college.

**Guiding principle:** Approach life with honesty, integrity, energy and vitality.

**Managerial philosophy:** Unleash the power, intelligence and ideas of the people around you. If you can do that, you will be surprised and shocked at how good the results are.

**Best decision made:** Marrying my wife, Judy, 26 years ago.

**Worst decision made:** Selling my '66 Mustang. It was burgundy red, with a 289 cubic inch engine. A year doesn't go by without me thinking about that car.

**Career highlight:** I was hired by Bechtel in 1982 to support the Three Mile Island Recovery effort. It was a technical challenge, requiring quick decisions, and the hours were long. But it was an incredible group of people, from diverse backgrounds and with diverse opinions.

**Career low:** I was stuck between assignments for about four months. I was about to go to a new project at Hanford when one of the bidders protested. So instead I was asked to rewrite and review corporate procedures. What an awful job.

**Word or phrase to describe you:** Steady. I operate in a narrow band. I don't get over excited or negative. I remember my boss had this plaque on the front of his desk. It said:

"Nothing is as good or bad as it first appears." I remember that plaque often.

**Interests/hobbies:** Everything outdoors, particularly hiking, backpacking, snow or water skiing, boating. I also enjoy outdoor photography.

**Favorite book or film:** "The Hobbit" and "Lord of the Rings" books, along with "The Right Stuff." I remember reading (in "The Right Stuff") the description of how pilots would describe bad situations using certain words and always speaking very calmly. Years later, I was on a flight and we hit some bad weather. The pilot used the same words, verbatim. I was half laughing, half petrified.

**Favorite cartoon character:** Charlie Brown and his whole circle of friends.

**Superpower you would like to have:** Flying would be pretty cool, or being able to transport, like they did in "Star Trek."

**Actor you'd want to play you in a movie:** Jimmy Stewart, but he's dead so that's not going to happen.

**Favorite food:** Any seafood, except sushi and scallops. I remember scuba diving with a friend off Southern California. He pried off a scallop and when we got back up he said these things were tasty and started to eat it. But when he bit into it he noticed what appeared to be the signs of a parasite, so he spit out. The act of him doing that and seeing that stuff – I'll never eat a scallop again.

**Pet peeves:** Being late and people who are late.

**Person you'd most like to meet:** Ansel Adams. His photography, his books, they just fascinate me.

**Best vacation ever:** It's actually a tie – a family vacation I took earlier this year to Italy and another family vacation kayaking in the San Juan Islands (in Washington). The sheer beauty of those places was incredible.

**Next career goal:** It sounds funny but I'm challenged and totally content right here.

**How you deal with stress:** Exercise – walking, running or working out.

**Best piece of advice you ever received:** Measure twice, cut once. That came from my dad, who also was a carpenter. It's always better to think from different perspectives, and I think that is an analogy for "measure twice."

**The next milestone you wish to achieve:** I want to travel – Iceland, Patagonia, the tropical rainforests of South America, or diving in the South Pacific.



PHOTOS BY  
BOB HIRSCHFELD/NEWSLINE





## Former Laboratory postdoc receives presidential early career award

Shawn Newsam, an assistant professor in the School of Engineering at the UC Merced and a former Laboratory postdoc, has been selected for a prestigious award from the White House.

The Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) is bestowed by the president's Office of Science and Technology Policy on young researchers who have accomplished innovative research and community service. It is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on young scientists and engineers, and Newsam is the first UC Merced faculty member to receive it.

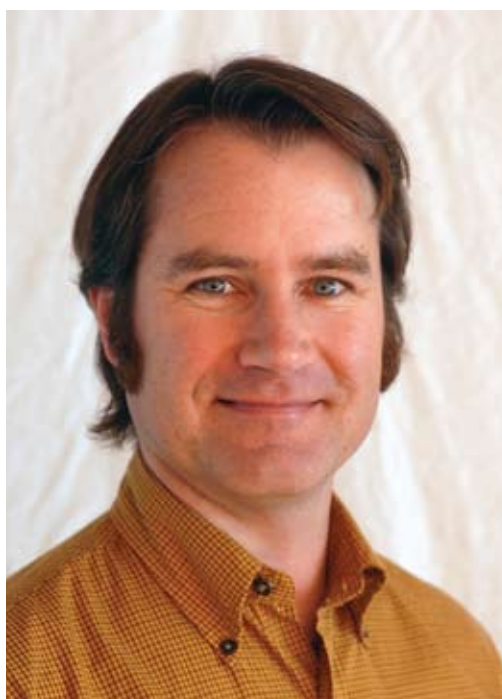
Newsam was nominated for the award by engineering colleague Moe Dehghani at Livermore, where he completed a postdoctoral appointment before joining the founding faculty at UC Merced in 2005. UC Merced Dean Jeff Wright consulted on the nomination. Newsam obtained his Ph.D. at UC Santa Barbara, his master's degree at UC Davis and his undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley.

"Shawn's work with us was groundbreaking," Dehghani said. "We're pleased to see him moving on to a professorship at an institution of growing prestige like UC Merced, and adding to that prestige by winning awards like PECASE."

The White House also recognized Newsam's "leading role in developing a new and innovative Computer Science and Engineering program at the first American research university built in the 21st century."

"We are delighted at this high-level national recognition of Shawn Newsam's innovative research and great accomplishments and excited for the stature the award adds to our university," UC Merced Chancellor Steve Kang said.

"Shawn's work in computer vision lies at the very forefront of research in this area, as recognized by this magnificent award," said Wright of the UC Merced



Shawn Newsam

School of Engineering.

Newsam traveled to Washington D.C. for Thursday's award ceremony at the White House, where he was recognized for his interdisciplinary research in knowledge discovery in complex data. While a graduate student at UC Santa Barbara, he collaborated with geographers to develop tools for analyzing satellite imagery and with biologists to analyze microscope images of retinal detachment. During a postdoctoral research appointment at Livermore, he worked with physicists to analyze large-scale computer simulations of physical phenomena and with national security analysts on surveillance applications. At UC Merced, Newsam is pursuing collaborative research with air pollution scientists on using computer vision to monitor air pollution in the Central Valley and with biologists on projects studying the health effects of nanoparticles and analyzing computer simulations of unstructured proteins.

"I'm honored to receive this award, because it not only recognizes my research, but also my role in establishing UC Merced," Newsam said.

"Not only is Shawn establishing a world-class research program at UC Merced, but working tirelessly to build a remarkable new educational experience for our students," Wright said. "His work with teams of students through our Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS)

program is helping students become fully engaged on their engineering career path."

Newsam is one of eight awardees nominated by the U.S. Department of Energy. The seven others come from research institutions across the country, including Cornell University, Columbia University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and several national laboratories. The award includes a commitment from the DOE to underwrite Newsam's work with \$50,000 annually for the next five years.

## REMINDER

### Monday last day to submit comments on workforce restructuring plan

Employees and the public have until Nov. 5 to submit comments on the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration draft general workforce restructuring plan for LLNL.

The plan, consistent with Section 3161 of the National Defense Authorization Act, is required whenever workforce restructuring may occur at a DOE defense nuclear facility. LLNL is the last of the NNSA laboratories and plants to have its plan posted. Once the public comment period has ended, the draft plan will be finalized. The plan does not address specifics to LLNL, but is designed to generically identify how such a plan might be implemented.

The plan identifies how the Laboratory would mitigate the impact of any potential workforce reductions among contractor (Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC) employees at the Laboratory as well as on the surrounding community. The plan serves as a guideline for DOE/NNSA to meet the changing missions and contractor (LLNS) structure at the Laboratory for Fiscal Year 2008 and beyond.

The draft plan is available on the Web. Public comment on the plan will be accepted through Nov. 5. Comments should be directed to Homer Williamson, contracting officer, NNSA Livermore Site Office, P.O. Box 808, L-293, Livermore, CA 94550; e-mail or by fax to (925) 423-7668.

## "Getting the Job Done" teleconference highlights FY2007 program successes



From left: Bruce Goodwin, Samuel Bodman and Phil Hill

On Wednesday morning, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, NNSA Administrator Tom D'Agostino, and Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Operations Marty Schoenbauer highlighted Defense Programs' successes in FY 2007 in a presentation entitled "Getting the Job Done."

The event, held at the Pantex Plant, was broadcast around the NNSA complex in videoconference format. The presentation was shown on Lab TV channel 4, as well as broadcast in the B-543 auditorium for those without ready access to television sets.

The Laboratory worked closely with Pantex and other sites to make the Pantex Throughput Improvement Program a resounding success. Pantex received a specific accolade from Schoenbauer for having increased dismantlement by 146 percent.

Closer to home, he mentioned the successful simulations on the Lab's ASC Purple, saying that the supercomputer provides "...the capacity to build on our success." And said that the National Ignition Facility "...will be the only facility in the world capable of creating the conditions inside a star or an exploding nuclear weapon."



## PEOPLE NEWS

## Hecker provides rare view inside North Korea

By David Schwoegler  
Newsline staff writer

Sig Hecker admits he has a love for plutonium. Because of that mystical metal that is the mainstay of nuclear munitions, since retiring from Los Alamos National Laboratory as its director, Hecker has made more than 50 international treks inspecting nuclear facilities, including four trips to the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, a.k.a. North Korea. In a talk delivered last Friday before Livermore employees, his thumbnail assessment of that nation's nuclear capabilities is, "They have the raw materials, facilities, and people to produce nuclear power and bombs."

Quantifying the nuclear capabilities in North Korea, Hecker said he has toured a functional 5 MWe gas-graphite reactor at Yongbyon capable of producing six kilograms of plutonium per year, as well as a reprocessing facility, plutonium laboratories, and fuel fabrication plant.

He explained that their program has been 50 years in the making, and holds the potential for 40–50 total kilograms of plutonium or about six to eight bombs. They have produced one limited-success nuclear test on Oct. 9, 2006, with a yield estimated between 0.3 to 1.0 kiloton. But it's unlikely they would be confident in mounting a nuclear warhead on a missile, according to Hecker.

Their path to becoming a proliferant nation was spawned during the Soviet Union's "Atoms for Peace" program during the 1950s and 60s. DPRK worked solo under civilian cover during the 1970–92 period. Their proliferation activities in 1993–94, could best be described as "breakout, retreat and freeze," with the possibility that they had developed an untested weapon during that era. The "Agreed Framework" then froze the facilities until 2003. The time between then and 2007 was "breakout, withdraw and arm" as they developed nuclear arms, nuclear fuel, and nuclear materials for six to eight devices.

After several interactions with their nuclear officials, Hecker characterized their message to the world as, "We have the bomb. You need to take us seriously." When questioned about the meager yield of their one weapon test, one of their generals stated, "It is harder to design a small bomb than a big bomb." And Hecker believes instead that "small" did not mean sophisticated. Instead it meant to keep the blast small enough so that it would not burst containment beneath the mountain and rile their densely populated northern neighbors in The People's Republic of China.

Speculating on the future, Hecker believes that the DPRK has made the decision to eliminate the Yongbyon nuclear facilities, but not necessarily to give up the bomb. The 5 MWe reactor at Yongbyon is currently shut down and sealed in a stand-by mode. Lack of industrial capacity has apparently terminated resumption of full-scale construction of a 50 MWe reactor, which would have increased plutonium production ten-fold. And that project appears dormant and unsalvageable. So the DPRK cannot ramp up or scale up their production beyond the one bomb per year potential.

They have pledged not to transfer nuclear weapons to other states or terrorists. But monitoring or enforcing this critical activity will be the hard part, Hecker said. In addition, if the suspected Syrian nuclear site bombed by the



Sig Hecker (above right) tours North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear facilities, which are capable of producing materials for one nuclear bomb per year. Right: Former Los Alamos director Sig Hecker spoke to Lab employees last Friday in the Bldg. 132 auditorium on North Korea's nuclear capabilities. His talk was part of W&CI's "Distinguished Speaker Series."

"They have the raw materials,  
facilities, and people  
to produce nuclear power  
and bombs."

— Sig Hecker

Israelis recently has a DPRK connection, then it will complicate the domestic deal significantly.

North Korea no longer receives assistance from Russia. There is strong enmity against Japan, and the DPRK does not fully trust China. So Hecker feels that in the long run the DPRK desires both a reunified Korea and normalized diplomatic relations with the United States.

It's nearly impossible to speculate when and how those two conditions might come about. But an important first step on the part of the United States is to follow through with the six-party agreement to disable the domestic program. That will mean no more bombs and no better bombs. "We must now assure that there is also no export. Then the parties will have a chance to resolve the longer-term issue of peace on the Korean Peninsula," Hecker noted.

Hecker spoke to employees in the Bldg. 132 auditorium as a part of the Weapons and Complex Integration "Distinguished Speaker Series."



BOB HIRSCHFELD/NEWSLINE

#### On the cover:

A contingent of international visitors overlooks a storage pool holding nuclear fuel rods in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.





# Run for HOME 2007



Beth Vitalis crosses the finish line, winning the open female runner category.



Trevor Willey wins the open male runner category.

*Photos by  
Jacqueline McBride  
Newsline*

## HOME Campaign 2007 — off to a running start

The Run for HOME officially launched the Lab's annual Helping Others More Effectively Campaign on Halloween Day when serious runners and costumed walkers converged on a crowded West Perimeter Drive. Director at large Bruce Warner and Principal Associate Director Cherry Murray kicked off the 2.7 km run, walk and roller blade at noon. Along with the activities in Livermore, a race took place at Site 300 on a 3,000-meter course. Participants in the Run received a HOME T-shirt.

Following the Run, the nonprofit-agency fair was held near the starting point of the race. Employees had a chance to learn firsthand about some of the nonprofit agencies featured in the HOME Campaign booklet and how each agency supports our local community.

The HOME Campaign Website is now available for electronic donations on the Web at <https://home.llnl.gov/>

This year's HOME Campaign is sponsored by the National Ignition Facility & Photon Science Principal Directorate. The Run for HOME was sponsored by the Science & Technology Principal Directorate.

## And the winners are...

### Winners of the Run for HOME include:

Trevor Willey (open male runner)  
Beth Vitalis (open female runner)  
Scott Burkhart (male masters runner)  
Stephanie Daveler and Mari Christensen (female masters runners)

### Winners of the race at Site 300 were:

Jon Ness (male runner)  
Anne Vu (female runner).

The winners received \$100 each to donate to a charity of their choice.

The dual winners in the female masters category received \$50 each to donate to a charity of their choice.

### Winners of the Run costume contest include:

Most humorous costume — John Gyllenhaal (Computation/LC) as Ghost Dog  
Most creative costume — Christine Hearn (Employee Services) as Madwoman of Chaillot  
Scariest costume — Paul Benevento (Engineering, matrixed to Physical Sciences) as Waiter with Scary Drinks  
Best Impersonation — Tim Voss (Z Division) as Oakland A's Player  
Most outrageous costume — Mary Dyer (Plant Engineering) as Transition Fairy  
Best group theme (minimum of 5 people) — Ghoulish Security from Global Security.  
Most creative centipede (minimum of 10 people, must be connected) — Herd of Turtles "Happy Together"



From left: Mary Dyer (Transition Fairy); Tim Voss (Oakland A's Player); Paul Benevento (Waiter with Scary Drinks) and John Gyllenhaal (Ghost Dog) celebrate their winning costumes.



i.want ads

Due to the high quantity of ads and space limitations, these want ads have been abbreviated. For the complete ad listings, refer to the internal Website: <http://www-r.llnl.gov/pao/news/wantads.html> or for the latest pdf download and retiree information, see the external Website: <http://www.llnl.gov/pao/employee/>. Please note that these ads appear on the Web.  
**Date of ads: Approx. Oct. 25 to Oct. 31. Ads appear on the Web for seven days.**

AUTOMOBILES

1986 Dodge B-150 8 Passenger Van \$10,000. 138K miles. 925-443-8253

1994 Honda Civic EX coupe \$3,800. 135K miles. 209-835-4827

1995 Chevy Impala SS \$9,900. 106K miles. 209-823-5573

1995 Isuzu Rodeo 4WD LS \$3,000 OBO. 97K miles. 925-371-0828

2003 BMW Z4 \$27,000 OBO. 19K mi. 209-629-4122

2004 Ford Taurus SES \$7,500 OBO. 44.5K miles. 925-294-9651

2005 Honda Pilot EX \$25,500 OBO. 925-447-3364

1972 Ford Pinto Squire Station Wagon \$600 OBO. 925-634-4974

BOATS

26' Clipper Marine Sailboat w/Trailer \$2,800. Also, 1998 Evinrude long shaft, 9.9 Yacht Twin motor, \$1,000. 209-824-3968.

Fishing boat \$1,500 OBO. 209-824-5727

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

65" Hitachi Widescreen HD-ready projection TV \$325. 925-373-9276

Canon XT Digital SLR Camera and Lenses. \$106. 925-846-3653

Futura 18" computer monitor, \$300 OBO. Panasonic plain paper fax/phone/copier. \$500 OBO 510-792-138

Logitech X-530 5.1 Powered surround/computer speakers \$25. 925-294-8302

Tower computers \$25. Two - use for parts. 925-735-6002

Tripod \$65. Camcorder fluid head tripod. 925 -735 -6002

GIVEAWAY

Desk, maple wood finish. 925-964-0534

Free moving boxes. Mostly medium and small sizes. 925-454-9224

Kamik snow boots girls size 2. 925-294-8302

Old Shubert Upright piano 925-447-5982

HOUSEHOLD

Antique dining room table w/ 6 chairs \$500. 925-321-1265.

Bedroom furniture. 3-drawer vanity with gold trim. \$25 OBO. 925-449-5481

CalKing Simmons box spring

\$85. 925-373-9276

Computer cart \$25. Made by Bush. 510-653-1017

Entertainment center / recliner \$1,500 OBO. 510-792-1538

Ethan Allen entry hall cabinet \$500. W/storage & mirror, cherry mahogany. 925-447-0351

Evenflo Exer-saucer \$30. 925-876-5188

File drawers \$35. 925-640-5469

Furnace filters. New 925-735-6002

Girls Wood Toybox \$30. 925-487-8506

Graco Baby Einstein exer-saucer \$50. 925-876-5188

Kenmore Washer & Dryer. \$100 each or \$200 for both. 925-964-0534

Keller 8' aluminium stepladder model 928, \$25. 510-653-1017

Ladder Shelves. 925-640-5469

Laura Ashley shams \$30. 925-876-5188

Oak entertainment center \$60. 925-455-4484

Pottery Barn drapes \$35 each. Take all four for \$120. 925-876-5188

Pottery Barn holdbacks \$15 each. Take all four for \$50. 925-876-5188

Pottery Barn Kids My First Car panels \$100 OBO. 96 inches long. 925-876-5188

Queen Bedspread \$25. Light blue and pink. 925-640-5469

Whirlpool refrigerator, \$100 firm. Antique dresser, \$50 firm. 925-447-1057

Shabby Chic glass lamp base \$20. 925-876-5188

Sofa and Loveseat \$250. 925-447-7088

Solid Wood Cabinet \$55. 925-640-5469

Trundle bed, oak. \$100. Bedding included. 209-858-438.

Twin beds, solid oak headboards, mattresses. \$200ea or \$350 for both. Cash only. 925-513-1786

White leather sofa bed \$150. 925-321-1265.

X-mas tree \$50 OBO. 9 Ft. Carolina Fir Tree. 925-308-7025.

MISCELLANEOUS

4 tickets to Winchester Mystery House and Monterey Bay Aquarium. 925-525-6800.

Baby Trend double jogger \$100. 925-876-5188

Bathroom Storage/Towel Rack \$20. 925-640-5469

Bridgeport Mill \$2,000. 925-447-8847

Cable-Type Snow Chains \$25. Purchased for 2005 Honda Pilot. 925-846-3653

Decorations for Christmas. Musical draping bells \$10, Mouse ornaments \$5, Tree stand \$20, Metal sleigh family \$30, Floyd and Flossie \$30, Musical snowman w/popup hat \$20, Tree ladder \$100. 925-640-5469

Fun with Dick and Jane DVD \$4. Jim Carrey and Tea Leoni. 925-876-5188

Garage cabinet \$20. Electric Chicago Sawsall \$10, 4" Grinder \$10, 6" Heavy Buffer \$10. 209-244-8241

Golden State Warriors home game tickets \$75/seat. 3 avail. Call for info. 707-746-1648

Halloween costume \$5. Size 10 or smaller. 925-640-5469

Hilason Treeless Saddle \$300 OBO. 209-824-6089

Holiday boutique, Saturday, Nov. 3 - 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Tracy Elks Lodge, 6400 W. 11th St., in Tracy. 209-830-9969

Redwood picnic table with bench seats, \$50 firm. Weedeater Lawnmower \$100 firm. 925-447-1057

Ralley Wheels \$120. 73-75 Chevy Truck Ralley wheels. Also encl. Spare tire rack. 209-832-0765.

Ruby & Diamond ring \$300. 925-876-5188

Ryobi Gas TrimmerPlus \$35. 925-449-5481

Sheraton 4 Points, Bakersfield hotel stay \$75. 925-648-0671

Spa \$950 OBO. Sundance 2003 Optima model. 925-606-4365.

MOTORCYCLES

2002 Raptor 660 \$3,500. 209-368-4286

2005 Honda CRF 50 dirt bike \$1,000. 209-830-9329

2003 KTM MXC 525. \$4,500. 209-895-4447 Cell 925-525-416

1978 250 Honda odyssey. \$1,000. 209-239-2812

YFZ 450 Quad 2006 \$5,000. 209-833-3785.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

1903 Chickering antique piano. \$2,200 OBO. 925-634-9973

Fender Squire Strat guitar & Fender amp \$85. 209-952-1247

PETS

AKC Adult Male Cocker Spaniel for adoption. Small fee. 209-543-0572

Toy Dachsund. 4 year old, loves kids. 925-373-2832

6 Cavalier King Charles Spaniel puppies. Adoption fees vary. 650-714-1612

Gelding \$1,800. 13 years old. About 14.2 hands. 925-447-9651

Gelding. 14 years old. Stands 16 hands. 925-447-9651

German Shepard mix. 2 year old dog needs cat-free home. 408-957-0303

Kitty free to good home. Black/ brown tortoise shell medium-long haired female, 5 months old. 925-846-9564

Pug puppies \$600/each. Available Nov. 10. 209-839-0167

Reining saddle \$500 OBO. Craig Johnson, 16" seat. 209-968-2278

RECREATION EQUIPMENT

Ab Mouse Exerciser \$10. 925-640-5469

Bike Helmet \$25. Fits really large heads 209-952-1247

Bike Jerseys \$45 OBO. 3 Bike Jerseys,(Brand New) 3XL, 4XL & 6XL. 209-952-1247

Oldie Treadmill \$25. Yes, it's electric, not manual. 925-640-5469

Treadmill \$100. 925-606-5374

Volkl Downhill Skis/Salomon Bindings \$30. 188cm; Salomon Bindings 577, 925-294-8302

RIDESHARING

Modesto to LLNL. Space available \$145/month. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. work schedule. 209-521-9047

Vanpool riders needed from San Mateo. Work hours 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Leave from under freeway Hwy 92 and 101 at 7 a.m. Call 3-9657 or 650-952-4646

SHARED HOUSING

2 rooms for rent \$675. Males preferred. 925-980-2003

2 rooms for rent - Available now \$675 each. 925-454-9224

Room for rent \$600. Female preferred. 925-443-3653

Room for rent \$600/month. For weekday commuter. 925-337-5754

Furnished room for rent in Livermore. \$600. 925-443-8448

TRAILERS

1993 Scamp 13-foot trailer \$4,500. 925-454-8827

2004 21SW Desert Fox Toy Hauler, \$18,000. 925-516-8339

TRUCKS

1998 Dodge Ram 1500 Quadcab 4X4 \$9,500 OBO. 925-876-5588

2001 Chevy Tahoe 4WD \$16,025. 67K miles. 925-462-7736

2003 Ford F150 Super Crew XLT 4x4 \$19,750. 22K miles. 209-575-9946

2004 Chevy Tahoe LT/Autoride \$20,000. 53k miles. 209-629-4122

VACATION RENTALS

Cabin in Long Barn \$150/week- Sleeps approximately 7 upstairs in the loft. 209-914-4979

Heavenly Tahoe Condo. \$1,500/week. 925-686-6747

Kona Hawaii Vacation Home. 5BR/3BA. sleeps 12. 415-377-5361

Maui-Kahana Reef ocean-front 1BR/1BA condominium. 925-449-0761

Mountain Cabin near Arnold. 4BR, 2BA. 925-245-1114

Santa Cruz Beach House. 2BR, 2BA, spa. 925-245-1114

So. Lake Tahoe Vacation Rental \$700/wk. 925-556-9511

South Lake Tahoe Chalet. 3BR/2BA. 209-599-4644

Tahoe Tahoma Rental \$125-175/ni. 3BR/2BA. Sleeps 6-8.

Monte Rio Wine Country Rental \$150/night. 925-513-4767

WANTED

2 CAL VS USC tickets (11/10). 925-449-0463

Old silver coins, currency and proof sets welcomed. Foreign and U.S. stamps. 925-449-1294

Fill dirt. Can contain concrete etc. 209-607-9141

Gym equipment needed. Will pick up the equipment. 209-814-9491

Licensed electrician. 209-607-9141

Tile cutting for slate floor. I have the tile but need to get it cut. 925-455-6785

Old/vintage mountain bike stuff. Also wanted: Mustache handlebars and Brooks saddle. 925-455-6785.

Refrigerator, washer and dryer. Affordable. 209-329-5877

## Retirees' Corner



**Frank Rainer** (ME and NIF, 2003) and his wife, **Sigrid**, traveled to Ethiopia, the Middle East, Mediterranean, and on independent excursions to Yemen and Kuwait, ending up in Tuscany and Umbria and Rome. In the U.S. they drove to New Hampshire for a wedding and spent the 4th of July with **Clyde Layne** (formerly of the Lab, now San-

dia) and his wife in Washington, D.C. From Boston, they flew to Reykjavik and Helsinki to board a Russian icebreaker in Murmansk, Russia for the North Pole.

**Richard** (ME 1998) and **Mary** (Lasers 2000) **Sites** took their second week-long cruise to Alaska. At Glacier Bay, they saw several pieces of ice cave into the bay. At Juneau, they took a guided nature walk through the rainforest. In Sitka (their favorite), they were dropped off onto a remote island to explore along with a naturalist and a few other travelers. Other stops were Ketchikan and Victoria, B.C. Richard's family came from Lithuania and he struck up a friendship with a young Lithuanian man.

For the complete unedited version of the above submissions go to the Web at [www.llnlretirees.org](http://www.llnlretirees.org)

**Dick Ryon** (Non-Destructive Evaluation and Nuclear Chemistry

2000) made an 11-day kayak expedition out the Columbia River and down the Oregon coast for 180 miles to Florence early in August. Traveling with a friend from the Bay Area Sea Kayakers club, the pair avoided towns, sought out caves and arches in the headlands, and found secluded spots to camp. Highlights included close encounters with gray whales and sea lions, beautiful natural scenery, highway bridges, and lighthouses. Planned future expeditions include the Pacific side of Baja, California and Southeast Alaska. (See the full story with photos on webpage.)

The November retiree luncheon will be at noon Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the Elks Lodge in Livermore. Speakers from Hewitt (benefits administrator for Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC) will discuss Open Enrollment (changes in premiums and programs) and the new procedure for paying for benefits after Jan. 1, 2008. This luncheon is a week earlier this month. Reservations must be made by Nov. 9. Price is \$17, payable at the door.

**Margy O'Dell** is looking for people to share their travel experiences with the Travel Group. Contact her at 925-449-7262 or via e-mail at: [mardon4308@comcast.net](mailto:mardon4308@comcast.net)

Send any input to **Gus and Jane Olson**. E-mail: [AugustO@aol.com](mailto:AugustO@aol.com) or [JaneRubert@aol.com](mailto:JaneRubert@aol.com). Snail mail address: 493 Joyce Street, Livermore, CA 94550.

## In memoriam

### Glenn Goderre

Glenn Goderre, a Tracy resident and Laboratory computer scientist, died Oct. 27 at Sutter Community Hospital in Tracy. He was 58.

Goderre was born in Gardner, Mass. on May 25, 1949. He graduated magna cum laude from Lowell University in 1975, and earned a doctorate degree in physics from Northeastern University in 1986.

His academic career brought him to the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and then to the Texas Accelerator Center in The Woodlands, Texas. Goderre's research was published in *Scientific American*.

He worked at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Ill. and most recently at LLNL.

Goderre enjoyed being with his family, reading and writing, playing golf, caring for his dogs and cheering for the New England Patriots.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Rosemary Goderre; his son Matthew of San Francisco; stepson Nick Gawlikowski and his wife Angela of London, England; and sister Janet McNeil and her husband George of Palm Coast, Fla.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 2:30 p.m. at the Poppy Ridge Golf Course, 4280 Greenville Road in Livermore.

A scholarship fund has been established in his name to assist less fortunate students who are interested in studying physics. Donations may be made to the Glenn Goderre Scholarship Fund, c/o P.O. Box 1245; Tracy CA 95378.

### Neiffee Joy Kane

Former LLNL foreign travel coordinator Neiffee Joy Kane died of cancer on Oct. 23 in her Stockton home. She was 56.

Kane began at the Laboratory in 1987 in Travel Accounting. In 2000, she transitioned to what was then the Foreign Travel, Visits and Assignments Office. When that function moved to Business Services, Kane remained to support the Foreign Visits and Assignments office, where she stayed until the end of 2006.

Kane is survived by daughters Ann and Sabrina Mayhue; brothers Amador, Paul and Michael Salinas; and by sisters Patty Ramsey, Chiquita Morrison, and Anita Townsend and grandchildren Joshua, Crystal, J.J., Kayla and Justin.

At the family's request, there will be a private ceremony in lieu of a public funeral. Margaret Roelling and Debbie Fields are accepting donations for flowers.

### Ray Steven Wells

Ray Steven Wells died Sept. 24 in Walnut Creek of cardiac arrest. He was 52.

A Livermore native, he was born Sept. 1, 1955 to Paul and Zelda "Sissy" Wells. He graduated from Livermore High School. He worked as a maintenance engineer at the Lab for 24 years.

He is survived by his sister, Paulette Isernhagen of Riverbank, sister-in-law, Debbie Wells of Oakdale, his uncle Cecil Wells of Livermore, a niece, seven nephews, one great nephew and two great nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Rick Wells.

At his request, no formal funeral services were held.

## NEWSLINE

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# Ravens: Pondering a dark and mysterious bird of lore



By Jessie Coty

**W**ith Halloween just behind us and winter's early darkness setting in, it seems timely to highlight a dark creature steeped in literature and folklore. The raven is as cloaked in myth and mystery as it is in deep ebony plumage. Consider Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven," in which the raven repeats the word "nevermore" or the Native American belief that the raven is a trickster or cheater, yet a god who created the earth, moon, sun and stars. Perhaps their dark silhouette along with their bold, gregarious nature makes them seem eerily associated with death and danger, and yet full of wisdom to many poets and authors. Their cultural significance is matched only by their ecological prevalence across the globe.

## Background

The common raven (*Corvus corax*) is the largest of all passerines (songbirds) with wingspans reaching up to 3.8 feet (1.2 m), a length of just over two feet (69 cm), and weighing up to 3.6 pounds (1,625 g). Imagine 22-30 sparrows sitting together on a scale and that would equal the weight of one raven. It is not only the largest songbird, but it is also the most widespread bird globally, occurring across North America and Eurasia and southward into Central America and northern Africa. The common raven is widely regarded to be a very intelligent bird, if not the smartest; this makes it highly adaptable.

## Conservation status

Although ravens may seem ubiquitous, by the early 1900's, this bird nearly disappeared from the northeastern U.S. Historically, ravens lived on the Great Plains in association with the American Bison (*Bison bison*) and wolves (*Canis lupus*). Shooting, poisons, baited traps and the disappearance of the bison all contributed to the ravens' near demise in the East. However, by the late 1990's, raven populations markedly increased in most areas, reclaiming many parts of their previous range. However, the raven remains eradicated in some states (e.g., Alabama, Indiana) and endangered (e.g., Tennessee) or threatened in others (e.g., Kentucky).

In the western U.S., the raven's remarkable capacity for adapting to diverse conditions allows it to use human-modified habitats; this has resulted in population increases of the ravens in the West. Across its wide



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**Note the raven's very heavy, chisel-like bill and the elongated throat feathers called hackles that differentiate a common raven from an American crow.**

and diverse range (globally), an estimated 16,000,000 individuals currently exist.

## Life history

As one of the largest birds in the Corvid family (jays, crows, and its allies), its size and glossy black plumage give the raven an eye-arresting and majestic appearance. It has relatively long, pointed wings, a wedge-shaped tail, elongated throat feathers called hackles and a large, heavy chisel-like bill. Males and females look alike except that females are slightly smaller.

The common raven inhabits every type of terrestrial habitat except rainforests; this includes forests, grasslands, deserts, and urban areas. Unique habitats are no exception. If tundra or arctic ice floes occurred in the California area, you'd see common ravens using them as they do elsewhere. In California, it may be found in most habitats.

Ravens tends to stay to themselves (solitary) or in a pair, but may gather in large groups for foraging or roosting; it's common to see groups of ravens soaring at Site 300. The raven is known as a scavenger (animal carcasses or garbage), but it's also a predator for a range of foods: arthropods (including scorpions), small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds (eggs, nestlings, adults), as well as seeds and grains. Interestingly, the common raven stores extra food. This typically monogamous bird breeds and lays eggs from February to April, with clutch sizes of 3-7 eggs and with both parents tending the young. Rather than migrate, the raven is typically a year-round resident.

Among its unique characteristics, the common raven makes a wide array of sounds that result in an almost limitless sound variation. Calls may range from low, deep baritone croaks to high, bell-like and twanging notes and much in-between.

Unfortunately, it's also a bird that is listed as a

reason for the decline of other threatened and endangered species, such as the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) and least tern (*Sterna antillarum*).

## Is it a crow or a raven?

Common ravens are often confused with American crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Both are found in the same areas. Although the two species appear very similar, a couple of clues may help to differentiate the two. If you watch a raven fly, it displays aerial acrobatics, often somersaulting or rolling in the air. It will often soar (an interesting fact is that the common raven has been observed flying upside down for just over half a mile or one kilometer). Crows never soar, but rather smoothly and continually flap their wings. Although the size of a crow is smaller than that of a common raven, it may be difficult to distinguish unless they are near each other. Rather, look for the wedge-shaped tail of the raven, its much heavier bill, and its "hackles" (shaggy throat feathers).

## At the Lab

The common raven prefers contoured landscapes or habitats with diverse elements, including the fence just outside my office window. Ravens may be found majestically soaring the thermals common to the Altamont's rugged hills, but they also adapt well to the Laboratory, scavenging around man-made structures for food and nest sites. Enjoy this mysterious bird that inhabits our world, both real and imagined.

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