

# THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## Getting A Bundle with Bonds

By Don Luckett

The bank teller's jaw dropped and she reached for her cash drawer as the Center for Scientific Review employee smiled



CSR's Dr. Brent Stanfield boosts bonds.

broadly. No, he hadn't cracked and turned to robbing banks. He was cashing an envelope full of U.S. Savings Bonds his grandmother bought him years ago on the payroll savings plan. "What a wonderful thing she did!" the teller exclaimed.

Indeed, the money will help him buy his first home.

SEE SAVINGS BONDS, PAGE 2

Section 508, Part I

## Law Calls for Agencies To Ensure Equal Access

By Cynthia Delgado

(Part one of two-part series)

Chances are, if you're a federal employee, you've heard about Section 508 and its implementation deadline. However, you may be confused about what it really is, and how it affects you. Section 508 refers to a set of standards, published last December, intended to ensure that disabled federal employees, potential employees, and the public are able to use electronic and information technology (EIT) to do their jobs, and have equal access to information from federal sources. Even if you are familiar with the law, some of the subtle components of accessibility may elude you. If you are an NIH employee,

SEE EQUAL ACCESS, PAGE 8

## HIGHLIGHTS

**1**  
Historic House Preserved

CSR Boosts Bond Drive 2001

**3**  
Symposium Honors R.J. Wyatt

**5**  
Seminar on Language, Child Development

**9**  
NCRR Invests in Science Education

**12**  
First Lady of Egypt Visits NIH



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health

May 29, 2001  
Vol. LIII, No. 11

Slice of 1930s Saved

## Last of 'Treetops,' Bldg. 15K Is Refurbished

By Carla Garnett

If only the walls of Bldg. 15K could talk. Then we'd know far more colorful details about the real estate on which much of NIH now sits. In its day, say some, the old homestead hosted a President, presidential hopefuls and not a few more prominent and influential guests. It was also reportedly the site of many a grand party. Sadly, not a lot of artifacts remain to tell the tales. This August, however, thanks to diligent preservation efforts arranged by the Office of Research Services, a component of the National Institute of Mental Health moves back into the



The last of "Treetops," Bldg. 15K is in the final stages of a major renovation project.

SEE TREETOPS, PAGE 6

A Genial Enthusiast of the Very Brief

## Nobel Laureate Zewail Probes Atomic Life

By Rich McManus

Tininess can be taken to several powers, advancing past petite to teensiness, then teensy-weensy, and on into the realm of nano, pico and femto. No, these are not the names of undocumented Marx Brothers, but rather measures of time and space. According to Le Système International d'Unités (SI), nano (billionth) is relatively obese compared to pico (trillionth), which is a thousand times smaller, but still larger than femto, which is one millionth of a billionth, or a quadrillionth.

These are comfortable dimensions for Dr. Ahmed Zewail, holder of the Linus Pauling chair and professor of chemistry and physics at Cal Tech, who also won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1999. Not small himself, and frankly large in enthusiasm, the Egyptian scientist presented the NIH Director's Lecture "Physical and Biological Sciences at New Limits" on May 4 in Masur Auditorium.

His audience swarmed, prompting one guest to comment before

SEE ZEWAIL, PAGE 4



**SAVINGS BONDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

The good news for all NIH employees is that they now have an opportunity to do something wonderful for themselves and their families. The annual NIH Savings Bond campaign was officially launched with a pizza-fest on May 11 in Wilson Hall. Savings Bond coordinators and canvassers from each NIH institute and center, as well as the Office of the Director, were encouraged to bring the good news to



Canvassers from CIT enjoy a pizza luncheon. They include (from l) Tanya Smith, Stephanie Greenleaf and Andrea Redmond.

their coworkers. The campaign extends through June and is headed this year by CSR.

CSR deputy director Dr. Brent Stanfield inspired the gathering with stories of employees who are realizing their dreams with Savings Bonds, paying college tuition, buying a new car, saving for a

rainy day and planning for a better retirement. He explained that, with the stock market going up and down, Savings Bonds are looking better than ever. They are safe, pay competitive rates and provide unique tax advantages. The new I bonds are particularly attractive as they are guaranteed to grow above inflation for up to 30 years. They currently earn 5.92 percent interest annually while EE Bonds earn 4.5 percent.

According to Stanfield, many people don't realize how much wealth can be built with the payroll savings plan. He cited a 1999 survey conducted by the Consumer Federation of America showing that a significant number of Americans believe that their best chance for building wealth for retirement is playing the lottery. The financial wizards at the Motley Fool have explained the fallacy of this belief by noting that—on average—a person who bought \$50 worth of lottery tickets each month for 40 years would spend a total of

\$24,000 and most likely have little to show for it. On the other hand, a person who bought \$50 a month in Savings Bonds for just 30 years would have a nice "jackpot" of approximately \$50,000, based on a 6 percent annual rate of return. All this for just \$1.64 a day—about the cost of a cup of coffee and a donut. This is the amazing thing about Savings Bonds and the payroll savings plan—anyone can get a bundle without having to rob a bank or

gamble, and with the inflation hedge of I bonds, the bundle is guaranteed to mean something.

When Savings Bond coordinators and canvassers make their rounds this year, they should be met with smiles. They won't be asking their coworkers to do something good for their office, their IC or the federal government. They will be bringing a real opportunity for NIH'ers to do something good for themselves and their families. ■

**Two FEW Events in June**

The Bethesda chapter of Federally Employed Women will host Mary Kay LeFevour of MK LeFevour and Associates at its meeting June 12 in the Natcher Bldg. Conf. Rm. G1/G2 from noon to 1 p.m. She will present a talk on "Team Building and Conflict Management." A certified family mediator, LeFevour has more than 20 years of experience with associations and nonprofits. Formerly executive director of the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution and the National Association for Women Judges, she brings abundant knowledge of how to make organizations effective through creative thinking and conflict resolution processes. Bring your lunch and participate in the seminar.

In observation of National Safety Month, David Baker and Officer Luis Hurtado of the Montgomery County Police Department will discuss "Women and Safety" at a FEW membership dinner on Monday, June 18 (location and cost to be announced). For more information, or to RSVP by June 14, contact Angela Magliozzi at 496-1642 or email [amagliozzi@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:amagliozzi@niaid.nih.gov). Both events are open to the public. For more information visit [www.FEWbethesda.com](http://www.FEWbethesda.com). ■



Terry Little (l) and Brenda DuPuy of CSR preside over a pizza at the bond kickoff.

**NIH RECORD**

Published biweekly at Bethesda, Md., by the Editorial Operations Branch, Division of Public Information, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures may be available on request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through Sept. 30, 2001.

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### NIMH's Wyatt Inspires Symposium, May 30

Prominent neuroscientists who crossed paths with Dr. Richard Jed Wyatt while at NIH are returning to campus as speakers at a scientific symposium planned in his honor. They will address topics that interested Wyatt, chief, Neuropsychiatry Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, during his 34-year research career at NIH. "Neuroscience and Psychiatry" will be held Wednesday, May 30, in Natcher Auditorium, and is open to the public.

Presentations planned for the 9 a.m. to noon session are: Dr. Solomon H. Snyder, Johns Hopkins Medical School, "Forty Years of Neurotransmitters," Dr. Patricia Goldman-Rakic, Yale University, "Microcircuitry of Cognition," Dr. Barry Hoffer, National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Neural Transplantation—Déjà-vu All Over Again," Dr. Floyd Bloom, Neurome, Inc., "Neuromics: How Genome Details Will Impact Neurosciences."

The afternoon session from 1:30 to 5 will feature shorter talks by scientists who served as fellows in Wyatt's



Dr. Richard Jed Wyatt

laboratory over the years. They include Drs. Daniel Weinberger, Joel Kleinman, Karen Berman, Lynn DeLisi, Steve Potkin, William Freed, Jack Grebb and Daniel Luchins.

"Richard Wyatt's lab has been a pioneer in translational research in psychiatry at the NIMH," noted Weinberger. "It provided a model for interactions between basic and clinical scientists focused around a common program goal: to understand the biology of schizophrenia. His lab has produced a generation of international leaders in schizophrenia research."

Wyatt has served in the NIMH Intramural Research Program since 1967, studying schizophrenia, mood disorders, drug abuse, Alzheimer's disease and the biology of sleep. Research teams under his direction have pioneered experimental models of brain grafts for Parkinson's disease, and shown that early intervention can alter the course of schizophrenia. This and other work have produced about 800 scientific publications and 6 books. Wyatt also co-produced (with his wife, Dr. Kay Jamison) a series of programs about manic depressive illness and creativity that aired on public television. In his cover story in the *Washington Post* Health section, Feb. 13, 2001, Wyatt related some of his experiences battling cancer for the third time. ■

### Fire Department Honored for Gas Leak Role

The NIH Fire Department was recently honored for its role in averting a potentially disastrous situation when a gasoline tanker truck carrying 2,600 gallons of fuel leaked much of its load onto the street at a busy downtown Silver Spring intersection.

Montgomery County Fire Chief Roger Strock presented Unit Citation Awards to the NIH Fire Department (Station 51) and Montgomery County Stations 7 and 20 for their handling of the incident, which occurred on Nov. 16, 2000. The leak occurred at a service station located at 8552 Second Ave. during the evening rush hour. The fire department units were honored for managing a potentially disastrous situation safely, efficiently and without incident. Chief Gary Hess accepted the award on behalf of the NIH Fire Department at a ceremony on May 3 at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that the NIH Fire Department has received a formal award from the Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Services," said Richard Shaff, chief of the Emergency Management Branch, Division of Public Safety, who congratulated the crew along with DPS acting director Dr. Robert McKinney. "I join Chief Strock in commending the NIH Fire Department for the handling of this particular incident, as well as for the 'routine' handling of the multitude of potentially serious emergency calls successfully managed by this outstanding department on a daily basis."

The NIH firefighters who responded to the call were Lt. Jonathan L. Mattingly, Master Firefighter Lori A. Padgett and Technicians Joseph A. D'Ambrosio and John M. Bede IV. Their citation read, in part, "The incident could have seriously jeopardized the public's safety and welfare and caused potentially significant property damage, if the gasoline had found an ignition source. The crews placed themselves at great risk to divert the leaking gasoline from the tank truck and to mitigate this incident." ■

### GM Holds Scientific Conference, June 5-6

Some of the world's foremost researchers will present their latest findings on the "Mechanisms of Metastasis" at this year's General Motors Cancer Research Foundation annual scientific conference, June 5-6, in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. In addition, the NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series on June 6 will host presentations by each of the winners of the 2001 General Motors Cancer Research Foundation Awards. NIH investigators and staff are invited to attend the conference, which starts at 8:15 a.m. June 5 in Masur. There is no registration. Program details are available at <http://www4.od.nih.gov/gmcrf/>. For more information, contact the GMCRF at (919) 668-8018 or email [mruemkker@face.org](mailto:mruemkker@face.org).



## Seminar Addresses Language, Developmental Disorders in Children

By Sharon Ricks

It starts slowly. You may hear sounds like "ba ba ba" or "da da da" repeated over and over. Eventually, the babbling becomes jargon, a sort of nonsense speech that mimics the tone and rhythm of human speech. Then one day it happens. A word is uttered. For most parents, it's a magical moment, but for parents of children with language and developmental disorders, the moment may be delayed or never come at all.

Recently, three researchers participated in "Developmental Disorders and Language," the latest symposium in the New Perspectives in Language Research Series hosted by five NIH institutes. The symposium focused on children who are deaf and children with autism, William's syndrome, and Specific Language Impairment.

Dr. Ursula Bellugi is a leader in American Sign Language (ASL) research and research on children with William's syndrome (WS). At the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, Calif., she is working to enhance understanding of the neurobiology of language. Results of her research show that brain organization for language in children who are deaf and communicate with their

deaf parents using ASL is the same as it is in hearing children. She also found that those children who are native signers develop ASL on a similar schedule as hearing children develop English, but that the children who are deaf are surprisingly better with image rotation tasks and parsing, remembering and analyzing movement, aspects of spatial cognition. These studies help us understand the principles of organization of the brain for language and other higher cognitive functions.

Bellugi also studies children with WS, a disorder that affects 1 in 20,000 newborns. WS is characterized by medical and developmental problems involving the heart, kidneys, facial features and unusual language development. In her research, Bellugi compared language skills of children with WS to those of children with Down syndrome (DS). She found that although children with WS and DS are equally delayed in first words, later, as syntax develops, children with WS show an advantage over those with DS across language tasks. Interestingly, in spatial cognition it is reversed, and many children with DS show an advantage over children with WS. This underscores the excitement of current attempts

to link genes, neural systems and cognitive functions in development.

Language acquisition is also a challenge for children with Specific Language Impairment (SLI). SLI is a language disability observed in the absence of significant cognitive disorders, hearing loss or brain damage. It affects as many as seven percent of all kindergarten-age children. Dr. Laurence B. Leonard of Purdue University is studying differences in SLI across languages of the world. In all languages studied to date, children with SLI have problems using some type of grammatical morpheme (the smallest unit of meaning). For languages such as English, the most striking problems are seen in morphemes such as past tense (-ed) and third person singular (s) inflections. However, in languages such as Italian, these verb-related morphemes are less problematic. An understanding of the sources of these problems with grammatical morphology and the role these problems play in other areas of language should lead to more appropriate treatments for these children.

Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg of the University of Massachusetts characterized the language deficits in children who have autism and discussed whether there is an overlap with other syndromes. In her research, she matched 60 children with autism to 60 children who were language-disabled to investigate the developmental changes in language and in theory



Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg

of mind in both groups. Early on, she found no differences in language of children with autism in syntax and grammar when they were compared with other groups of children with mental retardation or language delay. But in later studies she found pragmatic deficits that were specific to the autism population. For example, she found children with autism may have a limited range of speech activity, may not be sensitive to the listener's perspective, and may not talk about mental states, such as "think and believe." Understanding which communication deficits are specific to autism will help in the treatment of these children.

The New Perspectives in Language Seminar Series focuses on the neural and computational bases of language and is hosted by NIDCD, NINDS, NIMH, NICHD and NIA. For more information about the seminar series or to view a video of the seminar, visit NIDCD's web site at [www.nidcd.nih.gov](http://www.nidcd.nih.gov). ■

### Nonsmoking Volunteers Needed

Are you a female nonsmoker, 18 to 35 years old, in good health and not on birth control pills? You may be eligible to participate in a study of commonly prescribed medications. The study involves multiple visits to the Uniformed Services University (next to the Naval Medical Center, across the pike from NIH) over a 3-month period. Earn up to \$880 and get a free medical exam. Call (301) 319-8204 for more information and a preliminary telephone screening.



ZEWAIL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the lecture, "It's amazing that this many people would come to a talk on physics."

Maybe it was Nobel star power, or perhaps Dr. William Eaton, chief of NIDDK's Laboratory of Chemical Physics, who had invited Zewail, knows lots of closet physicists of all ages on campus. In any event, Zewail, who was making his first visit to NIH, was a popular draw.

"I am so impressed by what I've seen—and I've seen only a small fraction of [the campus]—" Zewail marveled, "that if I had to vote, I would triple the budget for NIH...and for NSF, too."

He joked that one published account of his Nobel prize listed him as being born in 1496, a factual

error doubly offensive given the precision demanded within his field. "When I went to Stockholm (to accept the Nobel), I pointed out that I had the benefit of 500 years to complete my work."

He spent much of his talk proving

that physics and biology "are like brothers and sisters." Peer deeply enough into the fundamentals of life and you find yourself in the world of atoms and the bonds linking them. Eminent physicist and fellow Nobel laureate Erwin Schrödinger wrote a book more than 50 years ago titled *What Is Life?* (1944), Zewail reminded the audience. "The nature of the chemical bond...is essential to biology. Three-fourths of biology, not one half, is based on it."

He pointed out that studies of atomism have been awarded four recent Nobel prizes: in 1986 for scanning tunneling microscopy, in 1989 for single electron trapping and spectroscopy, in 1997 for laser trapping and cooling, and in 1999, when Zewail earned the honor for work in laser femtochemistry.

"Change (in chemical reactions) is always hard to capture," he admitted. The current state of the art, in terms of speed, is 4 femtoseconds, he reported; his team is imaging billions of molecules at the moment, but with a fineness that is honing away at the edges of quantum uncertainty (the famed inability to say where a particular atom resides at a given moment—it can only be expressed in likelihoods; Zewail had quipped, by way of summarizing Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, that "you cannot be both rich and beautiful at the same time"). Zewail's lab "can localize position to within one-tenth of an Angstrom, in femtospeed," he said.

He described the experiment "that is closest to my

heart—because it worked" using sodium iodide, a simple two-molecule system that yields nicely to the investigations of classical physics. Foreseen, as two new machines for capturing atomic minutiae are built in his lab, is progression from simple molecules to crystals, and eventually to sizes in the range of biological molecules of interest.

Dr. Michael Gottesman, NIH deputy director for intramural research, asked how far we are from being able to image macromolecules including proteins. "The techniques are there," Zewail assured him. "It is only a question of more work."

Zewail, who has been at Cal Tech since 1976, thanked the many colleagues who have passed through or collaborated with his lab; they literally span the globe. Having come to NIH from Zurich, where he had participated in events honoring the 75th anniversary of Erwin Schrödinger's revolutionary papers on wave mechanics (an elaboration of quantum theory), Zewail obviously relishes world travel and wide friendships; he divulged to the audience that gourmandizing is a side benefit of his international career.

"Thank you for teaching us that small is beautiful, which we already knew at NIH, but also that fast is exciting," concluded Gottesman. **R**

#### Seminar on Managing Conflict, May 30

The Center for Cooperative Resolution invites NIH senior executives, managers and supervisors to attend its next Executive Seminar Series on Working with Conflict on Wednesday, May 30 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 38, Lister Hill Auditorium. Speaker John S. Barkat, ombudsman and director of the Program on Mediation at Pace University, will discuss "Communicating Across Cultures: Managing the Mosaic of a Global Workplace."

Based, in part, on research taken from studies of international managers, Barkat's talk will present an introduction to a framework of cultural dimensions, which can be useful for analyzing and better understanding differences in communication, worldview and performance expectations. Implications for both managers and employees will be discussed and explored as will an assessment of one's own cultural communication style.

Contact Barbara Washington at 594-7231 to register for the seminar and to request any reasonable accommodation. **R**

#### Study Recruits Overweight Children

Parents: Overweight children are at risk for developing serious medical problems when they become teens and adults. Consider enrolling your overweight child age 6-11 in a new NIH weight-loss study. There is no charge for participation. Call for more information: 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). **R**



Nobel laureate Dr. Ahmed Zewail (l) accepts plaque commemorating his lecture from Dr. Michael Gottesman (second from l), NIH deputy director for intramural research, Dr. William Eaton, chief of NIDDK's Laboratory of Chemical Physics, and Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, NIH acting director.



## TREETOPS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

newly refurbished 1930s house that offers visual flashbacks to those earlier times.

Sure, the *NIH Almanac* offers the basics: Over the course of 7 years beginning in 1935, Luke and Helen Woodward Wilson donated 92 acres of prime Bethesda land to the 48-year-old National Institute of Health (housed at that time in a relatively small facility at 25th and E Streets in Northwest Washington). Located along the main thoroughfare leading from Frederick to Georgetown, the donated acreage was part of the Wilsons's estate called "Treetops."

What may be less familiar, though, are some of the events of the era that led up to the series of incredibly generous gifts. Dr. Herbert Tabor, chief of the pharmacology section in NIDDK's Laboratory of Biochemical Pharmacology, recalls a conversation with Mrs. Wilson that reveals her adamant support for scientific research.

#### Philanthropy Amid Protests

It was around the time of the first donation, shortly after the Great Depression. The Wilson family's intention to give away more of its land to the National Institute of Health had been rumored in the close-knit community. Merchants and other local landowners thought it was a bad idea. It would change the atmosphere of the neighborhood, they argued. It could be unhealthy for residents, if the government was allowed to study infectious diseases and conduct research on animals so close to homes, others felt. The issue came to a head at a protest meeting held at the Bank of Bethesda.

Addressing a roomful of her friends and neighbors (most of whom lived on large estates in the area), Mrs. Wilson reputedly said, "There are only three reasons anyone would want to own an estate: You can raise chickens, raise children or raise hell. I think we're a little too close to the highway for any of these, and thus I decided to give the land to the government for NIH."

Tabor, who actually lived in part of Treetops after it was part of NIH for a few days in 1943 (just after he served on transatlantic convoy duty for PHS with

the Coast Guard), came to NIH shortly after earning his M.D. to pursue medical research. The NIH director at the time offered Tabor temporary lodging in Top Cottage—one of several estate guest houses—that sat just in back of Bldg. 1 then.

Mrs. Wilson was the last surviving member of the Woodward family, cofounders of the D.C.-



*It's easy to see how the property got its name, looking at this entrance to Treetops from Rockville Pike, circa 1930s.*

based Woodward & Lothrop retail stores. Her husband Luke was heir to the Wilson Brothers clothiers out of Chicago.

"Originally," Mrs. Wilson's son told Tabor, "Helen Wilson and her family wanted to give the land away for some kind of international relations research or diplomatic work. Soon though, they came to believe that only in science can you truly cross borders."

#### Presidential Visit, Plan

According to a 1997 report commissioned by NIH to research the property's background, the Wilsons "had strong philanthropic convictions...Helen, in particular, was strongly drawn to the mission of NIH. She had an academic interest in science and, as a result of her mother's battle with cancer, a personal interest in medical research."

The Wilsons began correspondence with federal officials about their intention to donate land, but initially did not receive a response. In 1935, despite objections by the Bethesda Chamber of Commerce and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Wilsons sent a letter directly to President Franklin Roosevelt, formally donating the first 45-acre parcel of Treetops to NIH. Days later, the Social Security Act was enacted, providing \$2 million annually for "investigation of disease and problems of sanitation." The *NIH Almanac* reports that then-Assistant Surgeon General Lewis Thompson is credited with actually securing the property for NIH.

According to the 1997 report, the Wilsons' donation, the passage of the Social Security Act and enthusiasm expressed by recently appointed Surgeon General Thomas Parran all contributed to the decision to begin a major construction project for an NIH campus. In early 1937, Luke Wilson died of cancer. The Wilson family's friendship with Roosevelt and their connection to the Washington political scene had been cemented, however.

According to one story, Roosevelt reportedly once visited the Wilsons at their home. While relaxing on the porch of Treetops, so the story goes, the Presi-

*Bldg. 15 was used as an NIH office building not long after the Wilsons donated their former residence in the early 1940s.*







*A substantial addition to Treetops's left side will allow the building to house about 50 NIMH employees.*

dent looked out over Rockville Pike, remarked on the bucolic and peaceful Bethesda environs and pointed out land he thought would be a perfect site for the future Naval Medical Hospital. Builders broke ground for the Navy facility on June 19, 1939.



*The original fireplaces will remain, but the outdated radiator heating system will not.*

In 1938, Helen deeded 25 additional acres to NIH for development of a building for the National Cancer Institute. By 1942, she and her family had moved out of Treetops' main house (Bldg. 15K) and into the nearby guest cottages. She gave the main house to NIH shortly after the move, but sources also recall the Wilsons allowing their federal friends—including

the USO, which often employed Treetops buildings and grounds for entertaining troops during World War II—liberal use of the estate for many years after the last donation.

According to former NIH Associate Director for Administration Cal Baldwin, the Wilson family's participation in politics continued, with support of Vice President Henry Wallace's unsuccessful campaign for the White House in 1948. At that time, Treetops was a beehive of rallies and parties, and NIH was rapidly flourishing and growing around the estate, he said.

"What is extremely interesting is that the Wilson property has been the site of many fascinating events in history," Baldwin noted. "And, all the while, thanks to the generosity of the family, NIH—this incredible research enterprise—was rising around it."

#### Preserving the Past

Bldg. 15K was the former 19th century Britton

family farmhouse, which the Wilsons employed architect Edward Clarence Dean to redesign, according to various historical sources. The design, the 1997 report said, was a mixture of "English and American country house tradition. The main house had a formality in its large rooms and sophisticated finishes appropriate for entertaining, while the smaller house had a more rustic flavor."

As much as possible, ORS's Division of Engineering Services has arranged to preserve the original wood finishes, floors and trims in the building, while bringing it up to code for today's structural, heating, plumbing and ventilation standards. The project began its design phase in February 2000, with construction starting last October.

The large rooms will soon be occupied by 50 staff members in NIMH's Mood and Anxiety Disorder Research Program, under the direction of Dr. Dennis Charney. It's probable that the homey new Treetops will house not only offices, but also a screening clinic for prospective child, adolescent and adult patients.

"We think it's going to be a very user-friendly atmosphere," Charney said of the converted farmhouse.

Six of the original fireplaces have been preserved as has the spiral staircase with polished hardwood rail, remarked Maimon Levy, DES project manager. None of the fireplaces will be active, however, in deference to safety regulations for federal facilities. All windows have been replaced, and a skylight has been added. "All in all, it's going to be a 'greener' building," he said, explaining the many energy conservation and natural resource preservation concepts employed in the refurbishment.

Eventually, the grounds will be re-landscaped as well, so that the outside of the house looks as fresh as the inside.

Treetops had a more minor facelift in 1995, Levy recalled, but the work was mainly a temporary fix until decisions could be made about the building's future. The last remaining original structure of the Britton/Wilson estate, Bldg. 15K is eligible for the historical register.

More than 65 years after the first gift of land was bestowed, Treetops—and the 300-acre NIH campus that grew out of it—is now in position to far surpass its benefactors' original vision. ■

MODERN PHOTOS:  
ERNIE BRANSON

*The grand spiral staircase and much of the original hardwood floors and wall paneling are also being preserved.*





## EQUAL ACCESS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

especially an events or program manager, then Section 508 is important to you. As NIH gears up for implementation, there is much to consider, and a lot of help available too.

Section 508 is part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, not the Americans With Disabilities Act as some have thought. Although the laws are similar, and parallel in many ways, the ADA applies not to the federal government, but to the private sector. The law binding upon NIH calls for development of accessibility standards for EIT, and assures access to technology procured, developed, used or maintained by the federal government. EIT is not limited to web-based information or applications; it also refers to telecommunications including video or multi-media products, software, hardware, printers, fax machines, copiers, telephones, databases, forms and information kiosks. The deadline for compliance is June 21.

Where does one get help interpreting Section 508? The law appoints the General Services Administration and the access board as providers of technical assistance. These agencies have developed training modules and other materials to meet the needs of various audiences.

NIH'ers can get help at the Office of Equal Opportunity. Marcella Haynes of OEO chairs an agency-wide steering committee charged with defining offices and their roles for overseeing all aspects of implementation. Also, Gary Morin, OEO program analyst, has a wealth of information on accessibility issues. Originally an American Sign Language-English interpreter for NIH, he now acts as a consultant, coordinator and information resource for all of NIH. His office has instructional videos, printed materials and more to assist employees. He suggests other resources like the EEO offices of each institute; Medical Arts for captioning; the Office of Research Services for interpreting services (ASL-English, oral, or other) and communication access real-time translation (CART); and the Federal Relay Service, which acts as an intermediary for telecommunications between hearing individuals and those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, or have speech disabilities.

ORS has progressed in making sign language interpretation services more accessible; its Worksite Enrichment Programs Branch has established a performance-based contract, currently with Sign

Language Associates, Inc., and created a web-based, user-friendly system of service request. One branch member recalls her favorite comment from a hearing-impaired individual: "It was nice to be able to laugh when everybody else laughed."

Though NIH leads in accessibility initiatives, there are still areas for improvement. Acting deputy director Dr. Yvonne Maddox recently established a task force on disability issues. Morin expects the task force will recommend establishing a centralized office for handling disability matters, which he feels would facilitate consistency and better quality of service for all NIH employees.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Government (DHHIG) is an organization that sponsors a federal emailing list for hard-of-hearing and late-deafened adults who do not necessarily benefit from sign language interpretation. Wendy Cheng, the list's moderator, believes there are two major obstacles to quality accessing of public events—attitudinal barriers and funding. She finds that "many agencies are apathetic toward providing additional communication services" beyond sign interpretation. "I wish they wouldn't select which services to provide on the basis of cost, and instead, focus on what functional equivalence means," said Cheng. Functional equivalence is when "the individual with hearing loss is receiving and understanding the exact same information as the person with normal hearing," she explains.

Debby Hill, a social worker with the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism who "has some peripheral vision," has an office equipped with such assistive technology as a computer with speech output and Braille display, a scanner and a Braille printer. Though well equipped, she believes a campus-wide Braille printing service would benefit both visually impaired employees and events managers. She also recommends having more handouts, more "descriptions of graphics" and "alternative formats of documents," such as CD-ROMs that she can download later. Because she must systematically scan new web sites, she prefers "well-organized, and uncluttered" pages without repetitive links throughout the site. Software that utilizes short-cut keystrokes is helpful, since she does not use a mouse. ■



Marcella Haynes and Gary Morin are OEO employees who are helping NIH comply with Section 508 requirements.



Wendy Cheng moderates resource for those deaf or hard-of-hearing.



## Investing in the Future—Science Education Partnership Awards

By Joyce McDonald

Encouraging people, especially children, to understand and appreciate life sciences requires talent and expertise. The two have come together in a grant program sponsored by the National Center for Research Resources. The Science Education Partnership Awards (SEPA) program brings together biomedical scientists and a variety of national and community-based organizations and academic institutions to create programs that give teachers, students and the public a better understanding of life sciences.

This grant program, in place since 1991, provides up to 5 years of support for some of the most innovative science-education partnerships in the country. With audiences ranging from preschool to adult, the SEPA programs use various approaches:

- Biomedical researchers teaming up with K-12 teachers to increase the teachers' science knowledge and teaching skills;
- A mobile biotechnology laboratory that travels regionally from school to school to instruct teachers and students;
- "Hands-on" activities at national science museums and centers that teach health subjects such as obesity and nutrition;
- A state-wide interactive video network that features science lessons for students;
- Internet and CD-ROM resources designed for children on health and science topics for national distribution; and
- Students learning about science through on-site lab work with researchers.

No set formula exists for bringing the life sciences to a wider audience under the SEPA program, only the concept of forming partnerships among scientists, educators and professional and community organizations to reach students and the public. NCCR currently funds 58 wide-ranging, health-related projects. Other NIH components—NIDCR, NIA, NINDS and NIEHS—cofund several SEPA projects.

The need for programs like SEPA was supported in recent surveys carried out by the National Science Foundation. The surveys have shown that only 17 percent of adults in the United States consider themselves well informed about science and technology, with only 29 percent in a survey stating that they could provide a definition of DNA.

To address the need for science literacy, SEPA offers specially tailored programs that make information meaningful to a variety of audiences, young and old. One such program involves a pre-college enrichment program with an on-campus summer institute at West Virginia University, called the Health Science and Technology Academy (HSTA).

In this program, WVU and 21 West Virginia counties have joined to assist minority and financially disadvantaged students in grades 8-12. The students and their teachers engage in learning activities with the faculty at the university where the students build self-esteem, improve science and mathematical skills in preparation for college, and learn about health-related careers. A recent assessment of the HSTA showed that the program had a strong impact on the academic success of the



participants and on their decisions to pursue post-secondary studies and/or health majors.

Another SEPA project involves instruction for minority teachers to increase their awareness of those medical conditions such as diabetes, stroke, and hypertension that disproportionately affect minority Americans so that they can instruct their students on these subjects. Called Project DiSH (diabetes, stroke, hypertension) and sponsored by Howard University College of Medicine, the program will train lead teachers in predominantly minority school systems during intensive summer sessions. Howard staff will develop support materials, including an interactive CD-ROM and a resource notebook of instructional materials that will enable participants to mentor other teachers.

In early 2002, residents in the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan areas will have the chance to view a SEPA project at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore. The center will offer a multi-media exhibit that allows visitors to discover and appreciate the wonders of cutting-edge basic and clinical medical research. Called BodyLink: A Health Sciences Update Center, it is a cooperative effort among the Maryland Science Center, the Johns Hopkins Medical Institution, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. The project also will include an interactive web site to increase accessibility to schools and the public as well as a mentored research component for minority students.

Other SEPA projects are listed on NCCR's web site at [www.nccr.nih.gov/resinfra/riseqa.htm](http://www.nccr.nih.gov/resinfra/riseqa.htm). More information on SEPA grants can be obtained from Dr. Sidney McNairy, Jr., or Dr. Krishan Arora. Both can be reached at 435-0788. ■

*On a field trip to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, high school students in Seattle participate in a SEPA-sponsored program called "Exploring DNA." The students learn to isolate their own DNA and perform experiments to compare chromosomes from cancer cells with normal human cells.*



### Healthy Hearing Has New 'Websource'

Twenty-eight million Americans are deaf or hard of hearing. For every 1,000 babies born in the United States, 2-3 of them will have a hearing loss that will affect language learning. There are 30 million Americans exposed to dangerous levels of noise each day and the data show that individuals are losing hearing from noise exposure at younger ages.

Public health planners recognized the need to place both hearing and vision on the national health agenda by giving these two important areas a new chapter in the decade-long effort to improve the

nation's health, "Healthy People 2010." NIDCD has the lead on the Healthy Hearing initiative and has called together a working group of agencies and public organizations to ensure dissemination of information and collection of data. Drs. Marin Allen and Judith Cooper cochair the working group.

NIDCD is launching a "Healthy Hearing

Websource" in order to have a central point for collecting progress, sharing resources and information, and disseminating science-based information to the public. The design for this new resource was shared with the working group of representatives from the Centers for Disease Control, the National Center for Health Statistics, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the Department of Education, the Indian Health Service, and other groups. The WebPages of this resource will include a dissemination "toolkit" as well as links to more agencies and resources. These designated web pages will include a reporting map of activities across the country and published, peer-reviewed data sets as well as pilot data available from a variety of sources.

The hearing health objectives that are being measured by HP2010 are: to increase newborn hearing screening, testing and intervention; to reduce otitis media in children; to increase access to hearing devices and services; to increase proportion of people who have a hearing exam on schedule; to increase referrals for hearing exams; to increase the use of hearing protection; and, to reduce noise-induced hearing loss in children, adolescents and adults.

The Healthy Hearing Websource makes the work of the partnering organizations available to all and gives the committee an opportunity for interactive exchange. Watch for it at [www.nidcd.nih.gov](http://www.nidcd.nih.gov). For more about HP2010 and Healthy Hearing, call 496-7243. ■



### NCI's Bruce Named to County Commission

NCI's Christina Bruce, director of the Office of Diversity and Employment Programs, was recently appointed to the Montgomery County human relations commission. The HRC is a group of 15 commissioners whose goals are to improve human relations among various groups and enforce civil rights in Montgomery County. Each commissioner is appointed by members of the HRC and serves a 3-year term. Bruce began her term in March.

The commission deals largely with discrimination cases in housing and employment. The group also does community outreach, and attempts to assess and raise cultural awareness around the county. Commissioners may work with legislative, educational or ad-hoc committees. Basically, each commissioner sets his or her own program based on the needs of the community.

Since her term began, Bruce has become involved in a project to hold town hall meetings around the county in order to discuss race/ethnic relations and perceived problems. She will also be presenting awards to outstanding high school students for their contributions to improving relations in their communities.

"I am honored to have been one of the new commissioners selected from several hundred applicants," Bruce said. "I realize the huge challenges this county faces with its increasingly diverse immigrant population, decreasing availability of affordable housing for lower-to-middle income residents, and significantly over-populated schools in some areas. These are issues that will affect quality of life in the next 20 years, depending on how we handle the problems now. I wanted to contribute in some small measure to that process."

Bruce would like to focus on informing minority communities that the HRC is available to help them deal with discrimination issues in housing, employment and the provision of public services. She is also interested in working with children from elementary age through high school to discuss discrimination issues with them and help promote sensitivity to diversity.

Bruce has been with NCI since January 1998. Her office is in charge of recruitment outreach for the institute, quality of work/life programs, the EEO program and the NCI internship programs.—Jaime Holbrook ■

### Healthy Males Needed for Studies

NIAAA is seeking healthy males, ages 40-59, to participate in cognitive/psychological studies. No medication is involved. Call 594-9950. Compensation is provided. ■





### HRDD Class Offerings

The Human Resource Development Division supports the development of NIH human resources through consultation and provides training, career development programs and other services designed to enhance organizational performance. For more information call 496-6211 or visit <http://LearningSource.od.nih.gov>.

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Price Reasonableness in Simplified Acquisitions | 5/31    |
| Introduction to NIH for New Support Staff       | 6/5-6   |
| Speed Reading (FCRDC)                           | 6/5-19  |
| Professional Service Orders                     | 6/6     |
| Introduction to Adobe Illustrator               | 6/7     |
| Scientific and Technical Briefing               | 6/7-8   |
| Fellowship Payment System                       | 6/20    |
| Plain Language in Government Writing            | 6/20-21 |
| Intermediate Filemaker Pro 4.0                  | 6/21    |
| Creating Results through Influence              | 6/26-28 |
| Introduction to Windows                         | 6/26    |
| Valuing Differences                             | 6/27    |
| Enhancing Your Management Style                 | 6/28-29 |
| Creating Distinctive Customer Service           | 7/10-11 |
| Scientific and Technical Editing                | 7/10-11 |
| NIH Retirement Seminar—CSRS (FCRDC)             | 7/10-12 |
| IMPACT for Administrative & Professional Staff  | 7/11    |
| Scientific and Technical Writing                | 7/11-13 |
| Emotionally Intelligent Leadership              | 7/12    |
| Fellowship Payment System                       | 7/12    |
| Introduction to Web Page Design - HTML          | 7/12    |
| NIH Retirement Seminar—CSRS                     | 7/16-18 |
| Adobe PageMaker Production 1 (Dual Platform)    | 7/18    |
| IMPAC II Peer Review Module                     | 7/18    |
| Adobe PageMaker Production 2 (Dual Platform)    | 7/19    |
| Winning Negotiations                            | 7/19-20 |

### CIT Computer Classes

All courses are on the NIH campus and are given without charge. For more information call 594-6248 or consult the training program's home page at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Creating Maps with SAS                 | 6/1   |
| Introduction to JavaScript Programming | 6/1   |
| Introduction to TCP/IP                 | 6/5   |
| Fundamentals of Unix                   | 6/6-8 |

### Chronic Back and Leg Pain?

If so, consider taking part in research studies to improve the treatment of chronic back and leg pain. The study takes place at the Clinical Center. If you are age 18 or older with back and leg or buttock pain resulting from a pinched lumbar nerve, call for more information. All study-related tests and medicines are provided free of charge. For more information, call toll-free: 1-800-411-1222 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010). ■

### HRDD Offers Two New Classes

Neuro-linguistics programming (NLP) is an applied science built on the disciplines of linguistics, psychology and neurophysiology. A system for understanding and utilizing communications, NLP helps individuals and teams achieve positive changes and personal growth. It is distinct from other models or theories of communication and psychology in that it provides the user with the "nuts and bolts" of communication and change.

The Human Resource Development Division offers two new courses in NLP:

Neuro-linguistics for the Modern Scientist, held at EPN on July 26-27 and Aug. 9-10, and Piecing Together the Relationship Puzzle, also at EPN, on Aug. 2-3, and Aug. 16-17.

The value of NLP is its ability to furnish you with conscious choices and flexibility of behavior in areas of motivation, performance, decision-making, learning, communication, creativity and emotional ease. ■

### NIH Orchestra Summer Concert, June 9

The NIH Community Orchestra will perform their Summer Concert on Saturday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The concert will feature music by Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Granados and Copland (including *Rodeo*). A suggested donation of \$5 for adults will benefit a variety of NIH charities. For more information about the concert or the orchestra, contact Gary Daum at (301) 897-8184, by email at [gldaum@gprep.org](mailto:gldaum@gprep.org), or visit the orchestra's web site at <http://www.gprep.org/~music/nih>.

### Parkinson's Disease Research Web Site

The NIH-wide Parkinson's disease research effort recently made another advance in public-private partnership with the launching of a new Parkinson's Disease Research web site (<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/parkinsonsweb>).

The site, sponsored and maintained by NINDS, is designed for a broad group of users including scientists and clinicians, voluntary agencies and patients. It provides information ranging from the full Parkinson's disease research agenda and descriptions of NIH's funding opportunities and announcements to resources for patients and caregivers such as advocacy contact information. As the site continues to develop during the next several months, NINDS hopes to include information from all NIH institutes, showcasing their parallel efforts on Parkinson's disease research. ■



*Lynn C. Hellinger has been named associate director for management and operations in NIAID. Formerly she served as director of NIAID's Office of Human Resources Management. Before coming to NIAID, she was in the Clinical Center, where she was deputy director of the Office of Human Resources Management and chief of the personnel operations section. In 1983, she joined NIH as a personnel staffing specialist in the OD Staffing Management Branch of the Division of Personnel Management. Before that, Hellinger was a personnel specialist in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Michigan.*



### Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—normally held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—occupies a special 1:30-3:30 p.m. slot on June 6 as the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation holds its 2001 Annual Scientific Conference in Masur. Dr. Samuel Wells Jr., president, GM Cancer Research Foundation, will introduce lectures by laureates of the Kettering, Sloan and Mott Prizes for Cancer Research.

On June 13, Dr. Etana Padan will give a talk entitled, "Structure, Function and Regulation of NhaA, a Key Na<sup>+</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> Antiporter for pH and Na<sup>+</sup> Homeostasis." Padan is professor, division of microbial and molecular ecology, Institute of Life Sciences, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine, 594-5595.

### Egyptian First Lady Visits NIH

"Train well, then come home!" This was the advice given by the first lady of Egypt, Suzanne Mubarak, to two Egyptian visiting fellows during her recent visit to NIH. "We need well-trained scientists like you back home," she continued. The fellows, Drs. Ramy Ibrahim and Lailah Dahmouh, both of whom are working in NCI laboratories, promised to follow through.

Mubarak was in the United States as part of a delegation that accompanied Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on an official visit that included meetings with President Bush and with the Mary-



Egypt's First Lady Suzanne Mubarak (l) is escorted by NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein during NIH visit.

land state department of business and economic development. Her visit to NIH was part of her effort to learn more about advances in women's and children's health issues, two topics she has championed in Egypt for the past two decades. The first lady met with NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein at the Lawton Chiles International House to exchange ideas on new initiatives in those fields, as well as in cancer, infectious disease and information technology. They were joined by Dr. Yvonne Maddox, NIH acting deputy director; Dr. Vivian Pinn, director of the Office of Research on Women's Health; and Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, deputy director of the Fogarty International Center, as well as representatives from NLM and NCI.

In the course of the afternoon's collegial discussions, the first lady, whose enthusiasm permeated the meeting, highlighted the development of a center for maternal and child health that will be inaugurated in Egypt in the near future. The NIH team discussed a range of issues related to women and children's health, including the inclusion of women in clinical trials, literacy and career paths for women scientists. Both sides agreed on the need for more research to understand the links between health status and economic development. Mubarak concluded the meeting with an invitation to continue the discussion "... next time in Egypt." ■

### Noguchi, Schwartz Win Mentoring Awards

The Association for Women in Science Bethesda chapter presented its annual Awards for Excellence in Mentoring to Dr. Constance Tom Noguchi and to Dr. Joan P. Schwartz as part of its April meeting in the Cloisters at NIH.

Noguchi is chief of the molecular cell biology section, Laboratory of Chemical Biology, NIDDK.



Drs. Constance Noguchi (l) and Joan Schwartz show off their AWIS mentoring awards.

As newly appointed dean of the FAES Graduate School at NIH, she encourages postdoctoral fellows to organize courses and develop their teaching skills. She has trained many postdoctoral fellows as well as high school, college and medical school students and teachers who spend summers or after-school hours in her laboratory. Her activities include speaking at area high schools, lecturing in the NIH Mini-Med School series, and judging local science fairs. Noguchi also coordinates the NIDDK summer student programs including the Minority Access to Research Careers Program.

Schwartz is chief of the neurotrophic factors section, NINDS. She has been an excellent mentor to many scientists in her laboratory and has served as the woman scientist advisor for NINDS. As assistant director of the Office of Intramural Research, she has had an important influence on improving mentoring of trainees at NIH and has served as an advocate for fellows in matters of postdoctoral stipends and health insurance. As chair of the ethics and conduct committee, she spearheaded renewal of the Guidelines for the Conduct of Research in the Intramural Program. She has also worked closely with the NIH fellows committee and with the woman scientist advisors committee. ■

### Reporter Garrett To Speak, May 31

NIH will host the Institute of Medicine's regional distinguished lecture on Thursday, May 31, at 4 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. Laurie Garrett, Pulitzer Prize-winning science reporter and author, will present "Beyond Betrayal of Trust: The Geopolitics of Getting from Lab to Global Clinic." A reception will follow in the lobby of the amphitheater. Sign language interpretation will be provided. For more information, contact Don Tiller at (202) 334-2174 or email [iomregdc@nas.edu](mailto:iomregdc@nas.edu). ■