



riate to recognize Nina for her significant accomplishments performed during such a short time at the Agency and so early in her career as a Nuclear Engineer.

Bill O'Connor (chair of the SSTS) was in Vienna for the award ceremony and presented the award. He read a citation that described Nina's Chernobyl activities, and the impressive perseverance, expertise, and organization skills that she displayed to get the Chernobyl equipment tested and installed at the site under especially trying circumstances, which included shortages of support staff, limited access to the site, and the first application of the combined surveillance and NDA equipment. The citation reads in part: "Ms. Wilson's leadership, professionalism, perseverance, and dedication to duty during this project reflect great credit upon herself, SGTIE, and the Division of Safeguards Technical Services. Her achievements are in keeping with the high standards established by the IAEA and the USSP." Hans-Juergen Schreiber (Section Head of Operations C2) and Bernie Wishard (Section Head for Installed Systems - SGTS), both spoke on Nina's behalf and from their perspectives made additional, complimentary, statements about Nina's work and accomplishments.

Virtually all of Nina's coworkers and Operations task officers and managers attended the award ceremony, including Cesare Liguori and Martin Moeslinger (SGTS Unit Heads), Giovanni Ingraio, Aleh Zatsepin, and Mike Farnitano (Operations C2), Lee ReFalo (CFE - SGTS), and Colin Carroll and Brian Boyer (USSP contractors). Nina's husband, Ben Wilson is a new inspector in Operations A, and he attended also. Al Queirolo and Barbara Hoffheins represented the International Safeguards Project Office.

After the brief awards ceremony, Bill O'Connor, Al Queirolo, Barbara Hoffheins, Brian Boyer, and Colin Carroll hosted a lunch for Nina. They were joined briefly by Kenji Murakami, Director of Safeguards Operation C, who offered words of congratulation and support for Nina.



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## **Reflections on Working at the IAEA as a CFE**

**Keith Tolk**

**(Sandia National Laboratories)**

My wife Shirley and I moved to Vienna in July 2001 for a two-year assignment in Vienna. We returned four and a half years later. I would have loved to stay longer, but it was time to move back. We had new grandchildren to spoil and our parents were getting older. I loved my time in Vienna. I loved my job, and Vienna is one of the best places in the world to live. On the other hand, Shirley had gotten homesick and was ready to move back home.

Everyone's experience with working at the IAEA is different. The jobs vary a lot in how challenging the work is, the amount of work expected from you, the political battles that are required, and how much traveling you have to do. To a large extent though, the experience is what you make it. Almost every job can be tailored to the abilities of the person who is doing it. Attitude plays a big part, too.

Safeguards Technology Services (SGTS) where I worked seems to always be understaffed, with a lot more work than can be accomplished. It was a very dynamic place to work, and many things had to be done in a hurry. It was important to learn to say: "NO, I've got too much work to do already." Unfortunately, I have never been very good at that, so I had a lot of tasks that had not been completed when I left.

Looking back, I should have taken on fewer tasks and done them more thoroughly. Other groups at the Agency have a more laid back atmosphere.

I had never had the experience of looking out my window and seeing the international news trucks parked outside. That is how we knew that a major meeting was going on. We would meet the delegations from Iraq, Iran, or some other world hotspot walking through the halls. I had never worked anywhere else where a Nobel Peace Prize was even a possibility, and now I have the certificate hanging on my wall!

I never figured out completely how to reconcile my pay check with the published pay rates. It is a complicated combination of base pay and post adjustment, along with some very generous benefits. It seemed like my pay check was always more than I expected, so I did not complain. The pay at the P5 level was very competitive with what I was making in the US. I was quite pleasantly surprised because I thought I would be taking a pay cut based on the published numbers that I had available.

Moving to a foreign country is scary. They speak a foreign language, we knew no one there, and we had no idea what life would be like. We had a wonderful host family who helped us get settled in and even gave us training on how to go to the grocery store. Shopping in Vienna really deserves an article all its own. We found that it was incredibly easy to make friends with the other Americans in Vienna. Most of them were on temporary assignments and had few established friendships, so they were looking for friends, too. We found that our social life was much more active there than it ever had been back in the US. We really miss our Vienna friends.

Shirley found that being a *Hausfrau* in Vienna was a lot more work than being a housewife in the US. Groceries needed to be bought almost every day due to the small refrigerator and the lack of preservatives in the food. Also, everything she bought had to be either carried back to the apartment or hauled in her two-wheeled shopping cart. The washing machine was half the size of a typical American washer and took twice as long to run a load. (It did a wonderful job, though, and was much more efficient.) Since we did not have a dryer, clothes were hung on racks in the living room and

almost everything needed to be ironed. The lack of air conditioning meant that the windows were open more, so vacuuming and dusting needed to be done much more often. However, she did find time to meet with her friends at Vienna's wonderful coffee shops and to visit the amazing museums. Also, finding an English-speaking maid in Vienna to help with the routine chores is neither difficult nor very expensive.

Vienna is a very safe city. We lived in the middle of the old section of the city and never worried about our safety, even when we were walking the side streets late at night. I would never consider taking a walk like that here in Albuquerque.

I have read that Vienna is an expensive place to live. I did not find that to be the case. The rent on our apartment in the middle of the city was about what we had been paying for our house payments in the US. Food was about the same cost, as were our utility bills. We found that we could eat out less expensively than in the US if we ordered an entrée and a drink. We did not eat the huge portions that we get in the US, but we don't really want nor need that much food, either. We could eat a very good sit-down meal for about what fast food cost us in the US. Public transportation is inexpensive and convenient, so a car is a luxury, rather than a necessity.

Living in Vienna is an experience that I will treasure forever. How often has your spouse asked "Would you rather go to Venice, Prague, or Budapest for the weekend?" How many world-class museums are within walking distance of your house or apartment? Our house in Vienna was built in 1684, and our neighbors were the Lipizzaner stallions of the Spanish Riding School.

We were surprised at the culture shock that we experienced when we moved back. We were, literally, moving to a foreign country. I had come to think of Vienna as my home, and I had gotten used to way things were done there. I nearly panicked and ran out of the building the first time I went into a supermarket here. How can anyone find anything in a store that big? Who eats all this stuff? Doesn't it all spoil? Why does this bread have an expiration date? Bread should be eaten within 6 hours of being baked. Otherwise, it is not "fresh".

We have found that we miss many things about Vienna. We would like to live there for at least part of the year when we retire. I would gladly go back to work for the IAEA, and I have recommended it to many of my friends. However, working there and living in Vienna is not for everyone, either.

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### **Staff Changes**

#### **Susan Pepper**

CFE Richard Watts left the IAEA on October 4, 2006. Mr. Watts worked with the ISIS Re-engineering Project, where he assisted with project management. He assisted the Section for Standardization with the implementation of Safeguards Quality Management Systems activities, including the QMS seminars that are delivered to staff and management.

Massimo Aparo left Vienna at the beginning of October to assume leadership of the Tokyo Regional Office in Japan. Mr. Aparo was previously the Section Head for Installed Systems in the Division of Technical Support. He joined the Division of Operations A about six months ago.

Jane Poths was selected by the IAEA to be the Unit Head for the Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry Unit at the Seibersdorf Analytical Laboratory. Dr. Poths is formerly of Los Alamos National Laboratory and will begin her IAEA assignment in late November 2006.

Karen Steinmaus was selected by the IAEA for a position in the Satellite Imagery Analysis Unit in the Section for Information Support Services. Ms. Steinmaus worked at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory before joining the IAEA in mid-November 2006.

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### **Staff Changes at ISPO**

#### **Sandi Sullivan**

Debra Pettit left ISPO on October 1, 2006, after four years. Debbie has joined the Environmental and Waste Management Division at BNL. We were sorry to see her go and wish her the best of luck.

Nedy Santiago will join ISPO as an administrative secretary on December 4, 2006. Nedy has thirty-three years of experience at BNL. She was recently with the National Nuclear Data Center (NNDC) and the Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention (IPP). We are happy to have her join us.

In the interim, we are being assisted by Fern Simes, a long time BNL employee. Fern can be reached by phone at 631-344-2221 or by e-mail at [simes@bnl.gov](mailto:simes@bnl.gov).