BNL’s Career Open House Draws 500 to Check Out New Jobs

At 10 a.m. on March 29, months of preparation by BNL staff came to life as the Berkeley Hall doors opened and a stream of potential employees poured into a Career Open House to learn about opportunities for work at the Lab. With the help of personnel from the soon-to-be-built National Synchrotron Light Source-II (NSLS-II), the Collider-Accelerator Department, and the Procurement & Property Management Division, Human Resources & Occupational Medicine Division (HROM) staff showcased career positions mostly aimed at mechanical and electrical engineers, project-planning professionals, procurement, information technology experts, and other technical staff.

HROM’s Susan Foster commented, “The Human Resources staff did an outstanding job putting this event together and making it a success. This is an exciting time for the NSLS-II Project and for Brookhaven. We are fortunate that the Laboratory is in a position that warrants an event like this one. We were happy to be able to share information about the project with prospective employees. We are now bringing individuals back for second interviews and hope to make a significant number of new hires for the Project as a result of the BNL Career Open House.”

McMasters ignores several studies that offer scientific evidence counter to her primary claim — that cancer clusters caused by BNL opera-

Setting the Record Straight

Discussion of errors contained in new book, Welcome to Shirley: A Memoir from an Atomic Town

Last week, author and former Shirley resident Kelly McMasters published her first book, Welcome to Shirley: A Memoir from an Atomic Town (Public Affairs Books, $24.95). It is based on memories and anecdotes from her childhood, interwoven with her family history, and several local and at least one national publication (“O,” the Oprah magazine) have reviewed the book.

McMasters is promoting her book through book signings and national radio ads, and several local and at least one national publication (“O,” the Oprah magazine) have reviewed the book.

McMasters writes in an author’s note that the book is factual and based on extensive research — claims that are contradicted by multiple factual errors, especially in the sections relating to BNL. She also ignores several epidemiological studies that offer scientific evidence counter to her primary claim — that cancer clusters caused by BNL operations surround the Lab.

Other prominent errors in-clude statements that the Lab is funded primarily by the U.S. Department of Defense, and in-sinuations that Shirley residents were exposed to chemicals from BNL in groundwater (see below for accurate information on these topics). In addition, many lesser errors of fact, geography, and history, along with inaccurate inferences and insinuations, can be found throughout the book.

The BNL Research Library has ordered two copies, and they should be available now for anyone who is interested in reading the book.

In 2006, the Bulletin published a lengthy rebuttal to a McMasters’ Op-Ed article called “The Nuclear Neighborhood” that appeared in The New York Times. Welcome to Shirley is similar to that Op Ed in that it also presents an often-inaccurate view of the Lab, the environmental cleanup at BNL, and health issues on Long Island. Below is an updated version of that original rebuttal, which responds to some of Welcome to Shirley’s claims.

**Claim:** Cancer clusters surrounding Brookhaven Lab. For many of these cancers, including breast cancer, the only proven cause is exposure to low-level radiation.

**The Facts:** McMasters uses anecdotes, innuendo, and selective information to implicate the Laboratory is responsible for an increase in cancer rates.

Regarding breast cancer, the study found that, compared to the rest of Long Island, rates were rising significantly, and more quickly, on the Island’s East End, on both the North and South Forks. As Newsday reported: “Concerning breast cancer, Grimson said, the study does not implicate Brookhaven National Laboratory or any other particular facility or cause and noted that the breast cancer rate in the area immediately surrounding the lab is lower than on the North and South Forks.”

An assessment of cancer in BNL workers conducted by the New York State Department of Health in 2001 (www.hc.energy.gov/healthsafety/WSHF/epi/surv/bnl_report.pdf) concluded that the overall distribution of cancers in past and present Laboratory employees for whom data were available was similar to the patterns of cancers found in three comparison populations: residents of upstate New York, those living in Nassau, and those residing in Suffolk.

**Of particular note,** commented the author of the assessment report, Maria Schymura, Director of the New York State Department of Health Cancer Registry, is the fact that solid cancers that could be the result of radiation exposure “were not proportionally elevated” in the BNL population.

**Claim:** An epidemic of a rare childhood cancer, rhabdomyosarcoma, has been identified within a 15-mile radius of Brookhaven National Lab. The only known cause of this cancer is exposure to low-level radiation.

**The Facts:** When this concern was brought to the attention of county and state agencies, they conducted several investigations to look into rhabdomyosarcoma rates in the area. No clusters or links to BNL were found. A November 14, 2002, article in Newsday reported that “an analysis of rhabdomyosarcoma rates by the state health department has found that the rate in central Suffolk, where the laboratory is located, does not differ significantly from rates in eastern and western Suffolk, and that Suffolk’s overall rate does not differ significantly from the rest of the state.”

(continued on page 2)
On April 8, BNL marked a major milestone in its ongoing ef-
fectiveness in reducing radiological waste. The Central Re-
derground storage tank was painted on the property and sent to off site for recycling. The 3,000-gallon tank used to store diesel fuel was put to good use in challenges and meet today’s stringent codes for underground fuel-oil storage in Suffolk County.

The Lab has been upgrading its tanks over the past two decades. To date, the tank has removed approximately 50 underground storage tanks and spent well over $100 million to bring other storage tanks to conformance with New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 12 standard. BNL currently maintains 55 tanks storing petroleum products that are subject to Article 12 and New York State requirements, which call for secondary containment, leak detection and other safety systems to protect the environment.

“Compulsion, Selfless Service: Pathway to Peace” Talk by Dayamitra Chaitanya, 5/8

Dayamitra Chattanya, a disciple of Mata Amritanandamayi, or Amma, will give a talk on “Compulsion and Selfless Service: Path-
way to Peace.” In May 8, from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. at the Lab. Sponsored by BERA’s Indi American Association, the talk is free and open to the public. Visitors to the Lab age 16 and older are welcome.

Amma is widely regarded as one of the world’s foremost hu-
mankind leaders, dedicated to alleviating suffering through personal service. She has helped to establish a network of char-

In 1996, a study released by the Suffolk County En-
vironmental Task Force, a group that responds to local and federal oratory’s most ardent critics, found “there is no statistical evidence that the normal rates of other New York State counties — including Nassau, Brooklyn and Queens.” According to the New York State Health Department, for each million people under age 19, rhabdomyosarcoma oc-
curred annually at a rate of 4.1 cases in Suffolk, 5.3 statewide, 5.6 in Nassau, 6.4 in Queens and 7.0 in Brooklyn.

McMasters’ book also states that the “only” cause of rhab-
domyosarcoma is exposure to low-level radiation. In reality, published risk factors cited on the National Cancer Institute’s website (http://www.
cancer.gov/docroot/CR/ CR_2_3.asp) do not include low-level radiation exposure. ACS also states that there are “no environmental factors that exert an exposure among the mother’s pregnancy or in early childhood” that are known to increase the chance of getting rhabdomyosarcoma.

Claim: Residents south of the Lab in Shirley have been ex-
posed to high levels of radiation and that is why DOE pub-
lished no public water quality reports on contaminated water, and that is why DOE is offering courses here at the Lab we provide a convenient way for employees to reach their personal education goals.”

The Facts: Neighbors active in the local New BNL-SCCC participant, spends much of her free time working towards an Associate Degree in Business in the Tuition Assistance Program.

The Lab regrets the negative environment that is subject to Article 12 and New York State requirements, which call for secondary containment, leak detection and other safety systems to protect the environment. The Lab’s efforts to fuel-oil storage in Suffolk County.

The Facts: Because of BNL’s efforts to fuel-oil storage in Suffolk County.

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Welcome-To-Summer Dance Party, 5/2

The Kane Daily Band, featured in the BNL concert on March 28, will return to perform at the North Ballroom of the Robbins Center on Fri-

day, May 2, 9 p.m.—midnight, at a dance social celebrating the sum-
mer season. Earlier, at 7:45 p.m., a one-hour beginner West Coast Swing dance lesson will be given. Sponsored by the BNL Social and Cultural (SciC) Club, the event is open to the public. Visitors of age 16 and over will need to bring a photo ID. Tickets cost $20 at the BERA Store before April 30, or $25 at the door. Only 200 tickets will be made available. The cost covers a cold hero dinner buffet, cookies, and refreshments, 7-7:45 p.m.; the dance lesson starting at 7:45 p.m.; the band, 8-midnight; and DJ music between sets. Contact Ruffy Alforque, Ext. 4733 or ruffybel@bnl.gov for more information, or visit the SciC Club website at http://www2.bnl.gov/sciC/social/.

BNL Motorcycle Club Membership Drive, 4/29

The Cyclotrons will have an information table set up at Berkner Hall on Tuesday, April 29, from 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. Stop by to join the club — only $10/year. You can also pick up DMV permit booklets and forms, view a rider instruc-
tional DVD, safety information and club rides and events. Members of the club will display their own motorcycles in front of Berkner Hall, weather permitting.

Beka Sells Ducks Tickets

U Ducks tickets will be on sale at $11 each, at the BERA Store in Berkner Hall, starting today, Friday, 4/18. For the month of April, each ticket will be limited to $5. Scholarship fund raisers will run from May 1, employees may purchase as many as they want.

Arrivals / Departures

Konstantine Kaznatcheev...NLSIL Liz — Departures — Fiscal

Joeine Foster:...FiscAII

Diversity Education Talk, 5/6

To celebrate May as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the Diversity Office and the BERA Asian Pacific American As-
sociation will present a diversity education event titled “Universal Intolerance,” in Berkner Hall on May 6, from 10 a.m. to noon. The presenter will be Steve Robbins, Ph.D., Chief “What If” officer at S.L. Robbins & Associates. All are welcome, with supervisory approval.

As Robbins will explain, research and expe-
rience tell us that we all have biases that we are often unaware of, or think little about. Yet, these biases guide our decision-
Diversity Education Talk, 5/6

Welcome-To-Summer Dance Party, 5/2

One-on-One Retirement Counseling

A TIAA-CREF consultant will visit BNL on Wednesday, April 30, to answer employees’ questions about financial matters. The consultant will help you understand the importance of protecting your assets against inflation; find the right allocation mix for you, learn about TIAA-CREF retirement income flexibility; and compare lifetime in-

register for BERA Swim Program, 6/30-8/22

BERA will offer a swim program with a limited number of places outside the BERA summer camp for children or grandchildren of all Laboratory employees, retirees, spouses, and family users. Each child must be able to stand flat-footed in the shallow end of the pool with mouth above the water, i.e., approximately 42 inches tall. Multisport: bathing suits and good taste, and that girl wears one-piece bathing suits or a T-shirt top.

Each child will be scheduled for one swimming lesson every week for a total of eight lessons. American Red Cross certificates will be awarded to those children who qualify. Classes will be held Monday through Friday, 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. Children should arrive at the BNL pool at 2 p.m. for preparation. The registration fee per child is $80, with no make-up classes for missed swim lessons. Register with the Recreation Office, Building 400, with an $80 check made payable to BERA, and the child is due on or before June 6. For more infor-

CALENDAR

This Week — 5/31

— ThIS WEEkEND —

viBE Meeting

6 p.m., Centerknights clubhouse, 41 Horseblock Rd., Centereach. A meeting for shift workers will be held at 7 p.m. in the union office. The agenda includes BERA reports, business, committee reports, and the president’s report.

Northeast CAD Software Demo

11 a.m.—2 p.m. Berkner Hall. Sarno’s New York City and North America’s largest CAD software. Stop by for a free eval-

———-Arrivals:———-—-Departures:———-—-Fiscal

Diversity Education Talk, 5/6

Welcome-To-Summer Dance Party, 5/2

One-on-One Retirement Counseling

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Classified Advertisements

To apply for a position, go to wwww.bnl.gov/jobs/ or tel 516-345-6573 (extension 363) or email bulletin@bnl.gov

Employment Opportunities.

OPEN RECRUITMENT - Candidates are invited to apply for the position of Director, Postdoctoral Research Associate - Science and Technology. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of methods for achieving the design objective of high brightness, highly tunable x-ray sources capable of making measurements at the atomistic level. The research program consists of the development of high performance x-ray optics and magnets. The candidate will have a Ph.D. in Physics, Chemistry, or Physics and Engineering and a strong background in science and technology development. Applications are due by 11/4/14. Call 516-345-6573.

For vacancies and opening in the field of plant genetics/biochemistry, the Lab requires: Scientific Position Assistant / ASSOCIATE LEVEL - Requires a Ph.D. in plant genetics, develops solutions, and takes corrective actions for protecting and securing nuclear facility operations. Pay range is from $43,000 to $60,000. Applications due by 11/4/14. Call 516-345-6573.

Published weekly by the Media & Communications Office for the employees, faculty users, and retirees of Brookhaven National Laboratory. MATLAB TEAM - Requires a Ph.D. in computer science or applied mathematics and 3 years experience. Must have good performance in programming, problem solving, technical writing and discussion, and an interest in control systems. Must have strong programming skills in MATLAB, as well as experience in using the development environment, documentation, testing, and deployment. Responsibilities include development of control systems for the Fusion Test Facility, as well as task management and coordination of projects. Must have good oral and written communication skills. Experience with C/C++, python, FORTRAN, or perl is desirable. Pay range is from $45,000 to $60,000. Applications due by 11/4/14. Call 516-345-6573.

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