

## Lab Director John Marburger: Next Presidential Science Adviser?

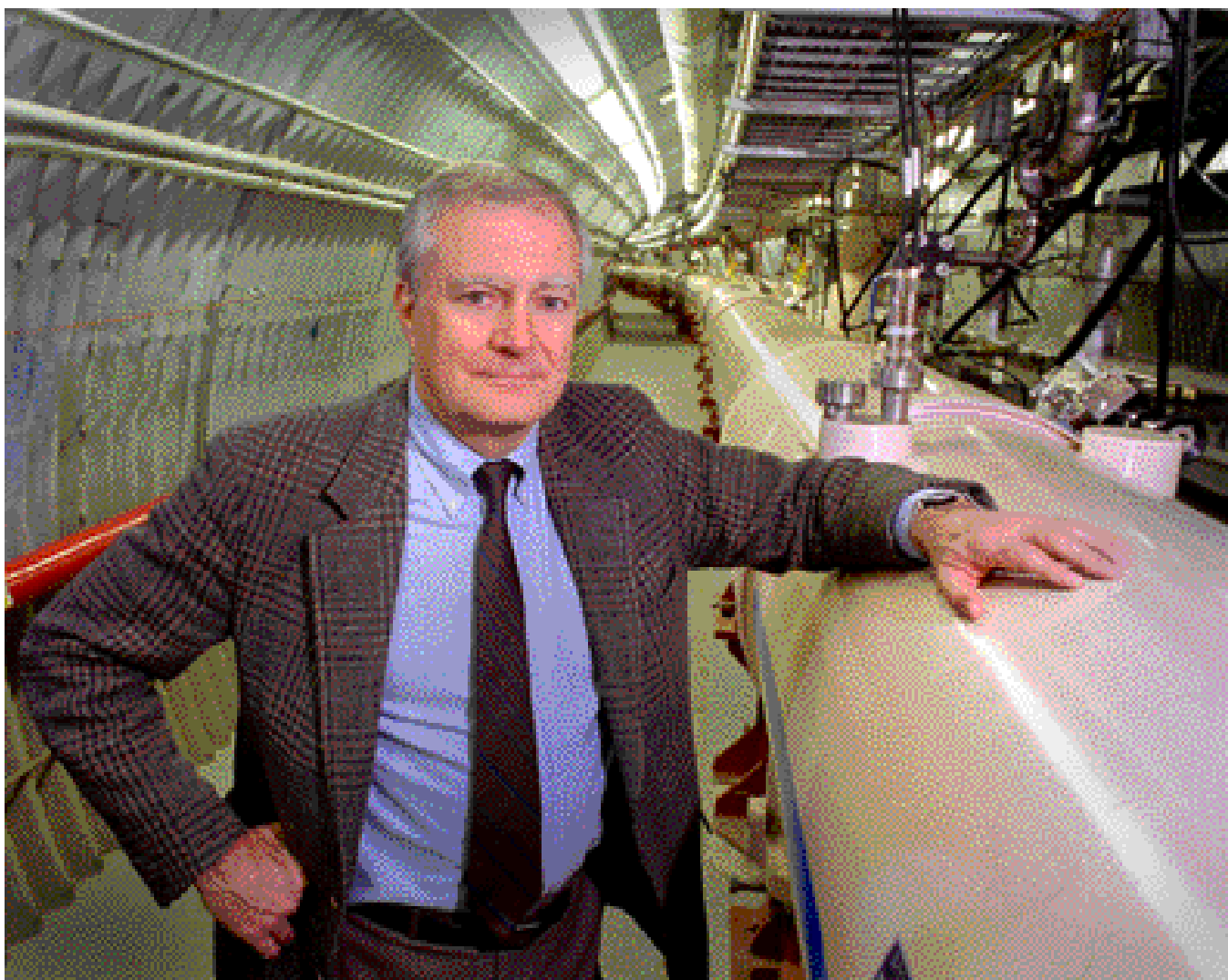
On Monday, June 25, President George W. Bush announced his intention to nominate BNL Director John Marburger to the position of Assistant to the President for Science and Technology Policy, a position that traditionally includes the Directorship of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Marburger would advise the President on all areas of science, including basic research, nuclear weapons, the human genome initiative, the space program, the Internet, and the training of scientists. He would also help the President fill many high-level scientific jobs in the federal government.

"Because of the importance of this position in the development of national science policy and in keeping the U.S. at the forefront of science and technology, if appointed and confirmed, I would be honored to accept the position," Marburger said.

"This nomination is a testament to Dr. Marburger's abilities as a scientist and manager of scientific programs," said Michael Holland, Manager of DOE's Brookhaven Area Office, which oversees operation of the Lab. "It also acknowledges the fine work Jack has done in revitalizing Brookhaven's science pro-

**BNL Director John Marburger stands beside a magnet in the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider tunnel.**



Roger Stoulenburgh CMI-4-00

grams and restoring public trust in the Laboratory."

Various clearance investigations must take place before the Senate begins the confirmation

process. And, because of the August recess, Senate confirmation hearings would most likely not begin until September, said Marburger in a statement issued on

Tuesday. "This leaves time for an orderly transition of leadership at the Laboratory," he said.

At Marburger's request, Peter Paul, BNL's Deputy Director for

Science & Technology, has agreed to remain as Deputy for as long as necessary to provide continuity during the transition, rather than return to Stony Brook University in the fall as he had planned.

"I am grateful to Peter for his willingness to accommodate this unexpected turn of events," Marburger said.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Jack and a great service to the science community," said Paul. "I'm happy to assist in any way I can through the period of transition so our excellent science programs at Brookhaven Lab can continue to flourish without interruption."

The Board of Directors of Brookhaven Science Associates will discuss the transition at its next meeting, which is scheduled for today, June 29.

Marburger added that, while he is eager to learn the opinions of his colleagues in science and discuss his ideas of what might be done as science adviser, he asks everyone to respect the integrity of the confirmation process. "This will require me to limit my contacts with media, with members of Congress, and others so as in no way to presume that confirmation is a foregone conclusion. I ask your patience as this process moves ahead," he said.

### Support and encouragement

Meanwhile, BNL is abuzz with discussions of what Marburger's appointment could mean for the Lab and for science.

"It would be comforting to know that the Presidential Science Adviser is in tune with Brookhaven science," said BNL biochemist John Shanklin, Chair of the Brookhaven Council, which advises the Director on (continued on page 2)

## Shanklin, Whittle Push Enzyme Evolution Into High Gear

*Work could lead to mass production of useful plant products*

BNL biologists John Shanklin and Ed Whittle have found a way to make a plant enzyme that is 100 times more efficient than similar enzymes found in nature.

The research, described in the June 15, 2001 issue of *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, offers insight into how enzymes evolve, and may one

day lead to methods to boost production of other useful plant products.

"Plants make many valuable compounds, but often in small quantities," Shanklin says. Though not the direct focus of the BNL work, examples could include medicinal compounds and oils that may be useful as raw materials for industrial processes.

The biologists suggest that the reason for such poor production in nature is that the enzymes responsible are newly evolved. "That may seem strange, because many people associate evolution with improvement. But when enzymes evolve new functions, they almost always lose efficiency," Shanklin says.

Enzymes are proteins that speed up chemical reactions by bringing the reacting molecules together like pieces of a puzzle. Like all proteins, they are made of chains of building blocks called amino acids, folded in a precise way to give the enzyme its three-dimensional shape.

In nature, new enzymes arise from random mutations in the genes that code for the amino-acid sequence. Most changes have no effect. A very few improve the enzyme or give it a new function. But more often, the changes deform the enzyme, making it ineffective or unstable.

Over hundreds or even millions of years, natural selection might improve the new enzyme. But Whittle and Shanklin thought there might be a more direct way. "Could we evolve a better enzyme in the laboratory?" they asked.

### The method

Shanklin and Whittle were interested in making a more efficient fat-modifying enzyme with properties similar to fat-modifying enzymes they had isolated from milkweed plants and cat's claw vines.

These slow-acting enzymes had evolved from a similar enzyme that was much more efficient, but modified a larger fat. To figure out how to turn the (continued on page 2)



**John Shanklin, Ed Whittle, Biology Department, seen with their super-efficient plant enzyme on the screen.**

Roger Stoulenburgh CMI-135-01







# Female High Schoolers Win Battelle-BWIS Awards

In a ceremony coordinated by BNL's Office of Educational Programs, five female high-school students who excel in science or mathematics were each given a \$1,000 award to encourage them to pursue careers in those fields. Battelle and Brookhaven Women in Science (BWIS) established the award in 1999.

Every year, five school districts surrounding BNL are each asked to select a female student for the award. The school also displays a plaque on which the names of the awardees are engraved each year.

In the photo at right, the 2001 awardees are: (from left, front) Nicole Masone, Shoreham-Wading River High School; Jessica Watanasarnvechakul, Longwood High School; and Kathleen Brennan, Riverhead High School. Behind them are the Information Technology Division's Pam Mansfield, BWIS Scholarship Chair; and Laboratory Counsel Gregory Fess, representative for Battelle's Community Relations/Charitable Distributions Program.

In the photo at far right is awardee Elizabeth Vitaliano, William Floyd High School. The fifth awardee, Lauren Tedesco, Eastport High School, was not available for a photo.



Roger Stoulenburgh CNE-138-01



## Holiday Note

The Lab will be closed for Independence Day on Wednesday, July 4. Therefore, there will be no Bulletin next Friday, July 6. The next Bulletin will be printed on Friday, July 13.

## Money Talks Seminar, July 12 'Financial Strategies for Single Parents'

American Express Financial Advisors will present a "Money Talks" seminar on Thursday, July 12, at noon in Berkner Hall. The seminar, 'Financial Strategies for Single Parents,' will provide practical information to help singles with their finances. Topics will include:

- Paying for your child's college education
- Achieving the financial flexibility needed to make life-style changes
- Saving and investing for retirement
- Protecting your family from unexpected events
- Taking the full advantage of your learning potential.

Check mailboxes for registration forms. For more information, contact Joyce Wund, Ext. 7516.

## Contacts for Benefits Office Service, 7/16-20

The Benefits Office personnel will be attending PeopleSoft training from Monday, July 16, to Friday, July 20.

So, during this period, for benefits matters that require attention, contact Nancy Concadoro at Ext. 2877 or concadoro@bnl.gov; or Joyce Wund, Ext. 7516 or jwund@bnl.gov.

## BERA Summer Bash

Join BERA's Summer Bash on Friday, August 10, at the Rock Hill Country Club, Manorville. The party will begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at the BERA Store at \$15/person and cover the hot buffet and DJ. There will be a cash bar.

## Investment Advice

A Fidelity Investment representative will be at the Lab on Tuesday, July 31 to hold individual sessions with employees interested in learning more about their retirement savings and investment options.

To schedule one of the 45-minute appointments, call (800) 642-7131.

## Classified Advertisements

### Placement Notices

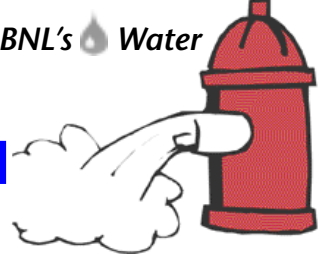
The Lab's placement policy is to select the best-qualified candidate for an available position. Candidates are considered in the following order: (1) present employees within the department/division and/or appropriate bargaining unit, with preference for those within the immediate work group; (2) present employees within the Laboratory; and (3) outside applicants. In keeping with the Affirmative Action Plan, selections are made without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or veteran status. Each week, the Human Resources Division lists new placement notices, first, so employees may request consideration for themselves, and, second, for open recruitment. Because of the priority policy stated above, each listing does not necessarily represent an opportunity for all people. Except when operational needs require otherwise, positions will be open for one week after publication. For more information, contact the Employment Manager, Ext. 2882; call the JOBLINE, Ext. 7744 (344-7744), for a list of all job openings; use a TDD system to access job information by calling (631) 344-6018; or access current job openings on the World Wide Web at [www.bnl.gov/JOBS/jobs.html](http://www.bnl.gov/JOBS/jobs.html).

**LABORATORY RECRUITMENT** - Opportunities for Laboratory employees.

**DD2090. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ASSISTANT-(A-2, term appointment)** - Requires an AAS in secretarial science or equivalent with excellent organization, communication, and computer skills. Demonstrated proficiency in Word, PowerPoint, and Excel also required. Must be able to work independently within established procedures, function effectively as a team member, and exercise initiative and good judgement within changing priorities. Will perform various tasks associated with the operation and administration of the Department including, but not limited to, processing personnel requisitions and travel requests, preparing correspondence, procedures, reports and presentations and administering the procedures associated with clinical research. Will provide other administrative support as required to support Department needs. Medical Department.

### Improving the Quality of BNL's Water


## Fire Hydrants To Be Flushed July 2-6



- **WHAT?** Fire hydrants will be flushed to clean the water-distribution piping.
- **WHY?** Flushing the hydrants will improve and maintain the quality of the Lab's water, eliminating "rusty" water.
- **WHEN AND WHERE?** Fire hydrants will be flushed Monday, July 2, through Friday, July 6:
  - **Monday, July 2:** Upton Road through the apartment area.
  - **Tuesday, July 3:** Cornell Avenue and its cross streets
  - **Wednesday, July 4:** no flushing because of the Lab holiday
  - **Thursday, July 5:** Brookhaven Avenue east to the Upton Forecast Office of the National Weather Service and west to Bldg. 51
  - **Friday, July 6:** Bell Avenue

**FAUCET & FOUNTAIN NOTE:** Before drinking or using water during and after hydrant flushing, run the water in the sink, shower or fountain until the water runs clear. In some places, you may have to run the water for 5 to 10 minutes.

**LAUNDRY NOTE:** To make sure that discolored water is not used for washing clothes, the laundry in the apartment area will close at 8 a.m. on Monday, July 2. The laundry will reopen on Tuesday, July 3, at 10 a.m., and the washing machines will be ready for use, with clean water.



- **WHO?** Fire hydrants will be flushed by the staff of the Water Treatment Facility in the Plant Engineering Division, with the help of the Fire/Rescue Group in the Emergency Services Division.
- **HOW?** Fire hydrants and valves will be opened and closed systematically. The water will pick up enough speed to carry out deposits within the supply piping. Hydrants will be flushed until the water runs clean.
- **MORE INFORMATION?** Call Marsha Belford, Ext. 5053, or Bill Chaloupka, voice pager 0552.

# Calendar

(continued)

Saturday, 7/14

## Bus Trip to Manhattan

\$10 adults, \$5 children under 12. Bus departs from Lollipop House 9 a.m., leaves NYC for BNL at 7 p.m. Call Nora Robles, 345-3204. Hospitality Committee event.

## —WEEK OF 7/16—

Wednesday, 7/18

## National 'Ride to Work' Day

If you own a motorcycle, then the BNL Cycletrons Motorcycle Club encourages you to ride to work on your two-wheeler. See [www.ridetowork.org](http://www.ridetowork.org).

## Cycletrons Lunchtime Reunion

Anyone interested in motorcycles is welcome, especially past and present members of the club. To R.S.V.P., contact Frank Dusek, Ext. 2022, by Monday, July 16.

## Divorced & Separated Support Group

noon-1 p.m., Berkner Hall, Room D. Mary Campbell, Ext. 4776, [maryc@bnl.gov](mailto:maryc@bnl.gov).

Thursday, 7/19

## Brookhaven Advocacy Council Meeting

Open Session, 12:30-1 p.m., Berkner Hall, Room D. Nancy Warren, Ext. 7548.

## BERA Bridge Club

7 p.m., Berkner Hall cafeteria Morris Strongson, Ext. 4192, [mms@bnl.gov](mailto:mms@bnl.gov).

## —WEEK OF 7/23—

Monday 7/23

## IBEW Meeting

6 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, Railroad Ave., Patchogue A meeting for shift workers will be held at 3 p.m. in the union office. The agenda includes regular business, committee reports, and the president's report.

Thursday 7/26

## Celebration of Maurice Goldhaber's 90th Year

1:30-6 p.m., Large Seminar Room, Bldg. 510. See [www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/mg90.htm](http://www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/mg90.htm).

## —WEEK OF 7/30—

Wednesday, 8/1

## Divorced & Separated Support Group

noon-1 p.m., Berkner Hall, Room D. Mary Campbell, Ext. 4776, [maryc@bnl.gov](mailto:maryc@bnl.gov).

Thursday, 8/2

## BERA Bridge Club

7 p.m., Berkner Hall cafeteria Morris Strongson, Ext. 4192, [mms@bnl.gov](mailto:mms@bnl.gov).

Note: This calendar is updated continuously and will appear in the Bulletin whenever space permits. Submissions must be received by the preceding Friday at noon to appear in the following week's Bulletin. Please enter the information for each event in the order listed above (date, event name, description, and cost) and send it to [bulletin@bnl.gov](mailto:bulletin@bnl.gov). Write "Bulletin Calendar" in the subject line.

# Summer Sunday Tours Begin 7/8

In looking at the photo at right, you may wonder how a large vinyl egg can float in the air, and what that has to do with Bernoulli's principle? It's easy to find out just come to BNL's upcoming Summer Sunday tours.

The vinyl egg and the Bernoulli principle are among the intriguing items on the program in the "Whiz Bang Science Show" — a lively, interactive demonstration of basic scientific principles.

The Whiz Bang Science Show, which is popular with both adults and children, will be given in Berkner Hall four times a day during the tour days: at 10:30 a.m., 12 noon, 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.

The tours will run on eight consecutive Sundays, from July 8 to August 26, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is free and no reservations are needed.

This summer, the tours will feature exciting new interactive exhibits, as well as an inside look at a different Lab facility each week. A brand new, hands-on exhibit will engage participants in the scientific method, and robots, including those built by local high school students, will be demonstrated. Also, guided bus tours will run continuously throughout the day so that visitors can learn about other facilities which they might visit on another Sunday.

In addition, visitors are welcome to see the Camp Upton Historical Collection. Camp Upton was a U.S. Army training camp during World War I and induction center during World War II, before Brookhaven Lab was established on the site in 1947.

The tour program is organized and run by the Community Involvement Office. Last year, about 6,500 visitors attended the Summer Sunday tours.

## Tour Schedule:

### July 8 — Chemistry Department

Explore chemical reactions that govern the body, brain, and environment. See how chemicals are part of everyday life.

### July 15 — Biology Department

Take a look into the fascinating world of biology and the important role it plays in gene sequencing and vaccine and drug development. Also, visit the greenhouses.

### July 22 — National Weather Service

Visit the National Weather Service Upton Forecast Office from which all the day-to-day observations, forecasts, and warnings are issued. See the Doppler radar and computer technology that makes it possible. Attend a launch of a weather balloon at 1:30 p.m.

### July 29 — Waste Management Facility

Tour this state-of-the-art facility, which was constructed with many unique environmental protection features. See what it's like to suit up in personal protective equipment.

### August 5 — BNL Fire Station

Visit the firehouse and see demonstrations of emergency response equipment.

### August 12 — National Synchrotron Light Source

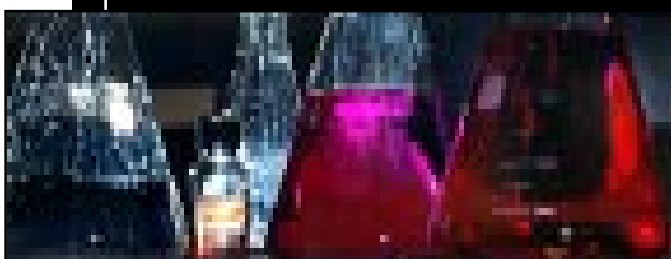
See the light! Discover how infrared, ultraviolet, and x-ray light produced at the NSLS is used for scientific research in physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, and many other fields.

### August 19 — Medical Department

Learn about BNL's clinical research on addiction, osteoporosis, obesity, and aging. Meet researchers who help NASA find out about the safety of extended space travel for humans.

### August 26 — Atmospheric Sciences

Check out the sophisticated instruments used to study atmospheric aerosols, which are major contributors to climate change and air pollution.



## Summer Sunday Tour of July 8<sup>th</sup> Features the Chemistry Department



Roger Stoutenburgh

How do you make slime? Or nylon? Come to the BNL Summer Sunday tour of the **Chemistry Department** on Sunday, July 8, and find out! These and other demonstrations will be shown as follows:

#### Main demos (15-20 minutes each)

- **Radioactivity:** Learn about radioactivity
- **Chemiluminescence:** Chemical reactions that give off light
- **Glass-Blowers:** Scientific glassblowers
- **Drybox:** Handling of chemicals that react with the air
- **LEAF Tour:** The Laser Electron Accelerator Facility (LEAF) is a particle accelerator that uses a laser to create ultrashort pulses of electrons (seven trillionths of a second) to study very fast chemical reactions.

#### Lobby demos

- **Making Nylon:** See how nylon is made
- **Making Slime:** Cross-linking polymerization to make slime
- **Oscillating Reactions:** What color is it now? (colors switch back and forth)
- **Iodine Clock Reaction:** How long will it take to react?
- **Carbon Dioxide:** Reactions of carbon dioxide.