

Dear Wit,  
 Thanks for making us  
 proud to be members of PHOBOS!  
 Under your guidance we always met  
 the challenge to produce the  
 most physics/dollar invested.  
 (Bang for the Bucks)

Thank you for  
 your great leadership.  
 Marguerite Bek Tonjes

The Maryland Group!

Dear Wit,  
 Thank you for being our intrepid leader. Your  
 pep talks were always inspiring and carried us  
 through the challenges. I will never forget that  
 even after I left Phobos you showed up in the  
 Phenix counting house just to check in on things  
 despite the blizzard going on outside!  
 Your dedication truly shows.

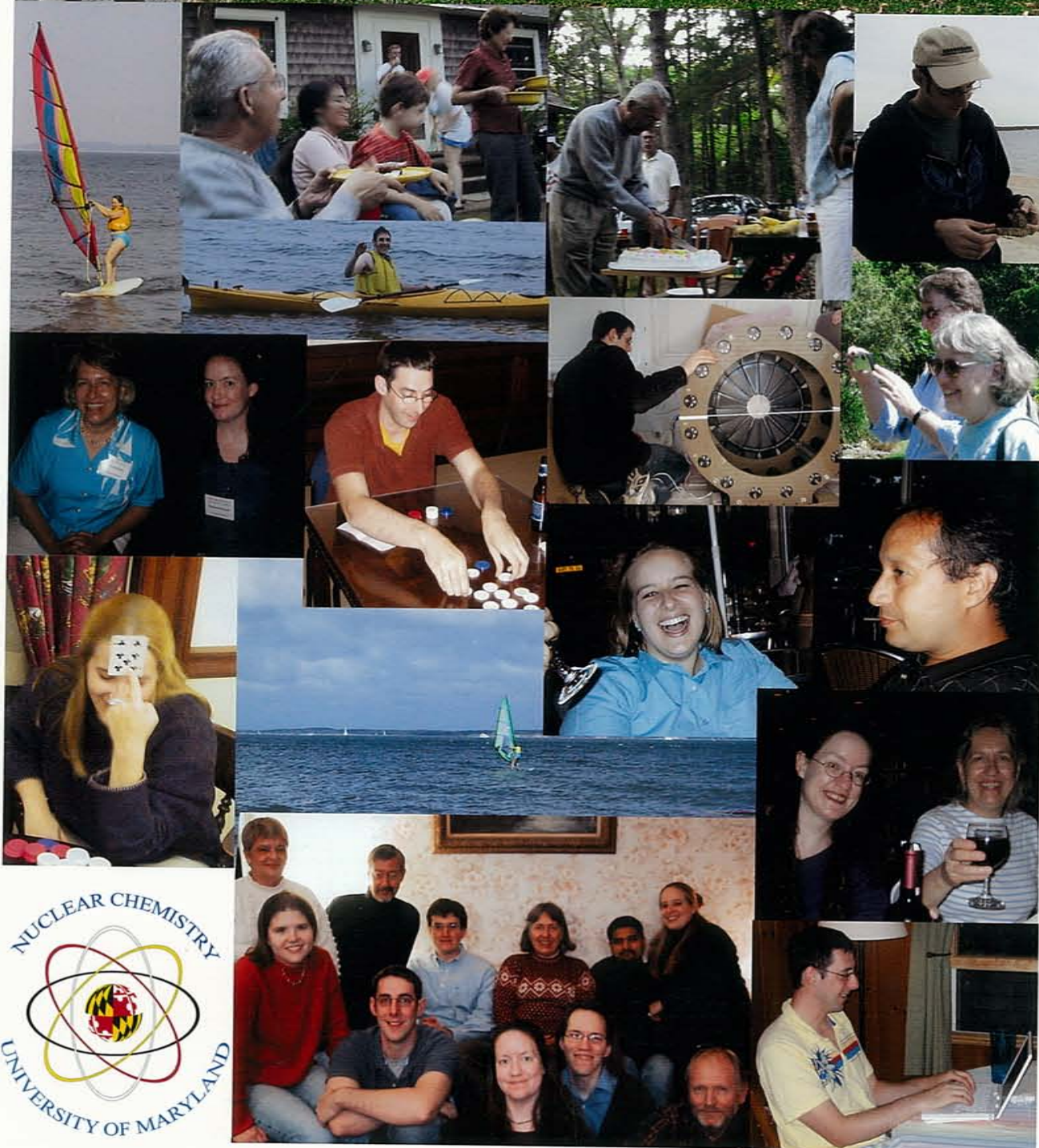
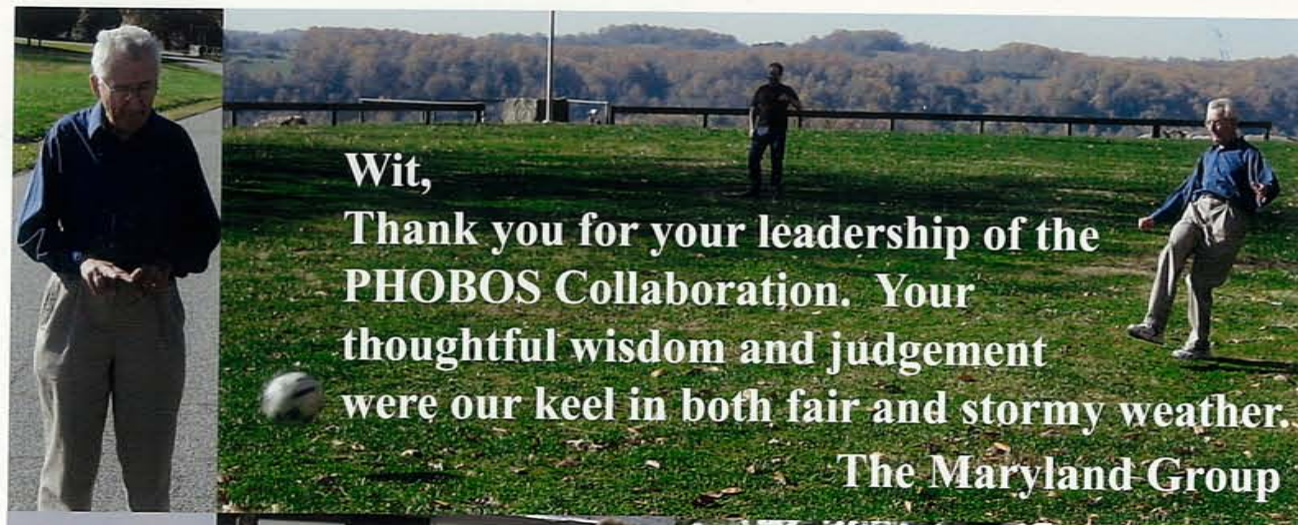
Best Wishes,  
 Abby  
 Abigail Bickley  
 Assistant Professor  
 National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory  
 Michigan State University  
 East Lansing, MI 48824-1321  
 517-333-6480 (office)

I've always found your enthusiasm  
 to be contagious! Thank you for  
 a Fantastic decade at PHOBOS

Richard Binzel



10 October 2008



Dear Wit,

As the PHOBOS collaboration assembles for it's final celebration meeting, I would like to express my thanks to you and to the entire collaboration. I won't be able to attend the meeting, as I am in the process of moving to CERN to start a new position as a CERN Fellow working on the LHC. But I will certainly be there in spirit, celebrating the accomplishments of a fine experiment!

I thoroughly enjoyed my PhD years on PHOBOS. It was a great experiment, staffed by great people. I loved that we as a collaboration did not let our small size intimidate us away from trying to make a big impact. And the fact that PHOBOS did make such a significant contribution to the field is a real testament to its people and its leaders.

I look forward to continuing to meet and interact with fellow PHOBOS alumni as we all continue our various research projects. I'm very proud to be part of such an illustrious group!

Best wishes to all,

Conor Henderson.



Dear Wit,

Over the many years that we've worked together, through the Single Arm Spectrometer at Fermilab, SLD at SLAC, and Phobos at RHIC, one thing has never changed: whenever you address a group of your colleagues, you begin with "Friends!"

Nowadays, that word usually means "I want something from you." A politician who says, "My friends and fellow Americans..." wants you to vote for him. An organization that says, "Dear friend of the Steam Train Museum..." wants money to repair the tracks. An *amicus curiae* wants to influence a court decision. But, cynic though I am, I believe you use that word to mean exactly what it says. We haven't always been in perfect alignment; but the occasional differences that have floated to the surface of our sea of agreement have always been discussed with civility and humor and settled with honor.

And so, my colleague, collaborator, and co-conspirator, I treasure our shared memories, and your achievements, crowned with the Phobos experiment, and salute you... my friend!

*Robin*  
Robin Verdier  
October 7, 2008

