Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

Quick News...

January 29, 1999
P.A. Moore, Director's Office

Highlights from the AAAS Annual Meeting in Anaheim, January 23-25

Information Technology (IT) Initiative Launched

Vice President Al Gore announced the Administration's $366 million program to advance cross cutting computer technologies for the next century. The plan calls for 100 to 1000 times more powerful computing power than currently exists. The proposal is supported by a variety of federal agencies including the DOE, NASA, NSF and DARPA.

DOE's Ernie Moniz Outlines Lab Role in IT

In a press briefing with NSF's Rita Colwell and the President's Science Advisor Neal Lane, Ernie Moniz said that national labs would compete for the $70 million part of the proposal planned for the DOE. He praised the interagency cooperation on this proposal and sees it as benefiting all science communities. In explaining the scale of this project, Moniz says that IT is "a challenge comparable to putting a person on the moon" and that it will "cross a qualitative threshold" for science.

What Does IT bring to Physics?

The world of high-energy and nuclear physics can contribute to and benefit from increased computer power. The data management of big experiments coming on line, such as the B Factory and the LHC, demand new computing power which IT can provide. See http://www.slac.stanford.edu/grp/rd/comp/.

Meanwhile, A Word from Hollywood

Aside from the Vice President and Ernie Moniz, AAAS participants heard a presentation from doctor turned scriptwriter Michael Crichton, author of Jurassic Park. Crichton admonished scientists to stop worrying about their negative image in the media. A look at movies shows that "all lawyers are unscrupulous, all politicians are crooks, and all scientists are mad," he said, "so Hollywood treats ALL professions negatively, not just scientists.' The bottom line, he suggests, is just get over it.

And News from the Lab

SLACSpeak spoken here

A third edition of the ever-popular SLAC publication, SLACSpeak, is in preparation, based on the SPIRES database of the same name. SLACSpeak is a list of general SLAC-related terms and acronyms; environmental, health and safety terminology; and computer and database terms. Its target audience is new SLAC students, employees, and contractor personnel. Suggestions for
additions to the SLACSpeak on-line database (http://www.slac.stanford.edu/find/slacspeak) are always welcome, and and may be submitted via an online form available at http://www.slac.stanford.edu/history/speak/slaconly/slacspeakf.html. They may also be sent directly to: jmdeken@slac.stanford.edu. (New terms and acronyms received before 2/28/99 will be eligible for inclusion in the upcoming revised publication.)

**Clinac Shielding Highlight in DOE's Pulse**

Pulse is a bi-monthly on-line publication that showcases DOE Lab success stories. There are short research highlights, multi-lab collaboration stories and features that profile interesting work by leading scientists. The most recent issue has a highlight about work done by Ken Kase (ES&H) on radiation shielding. http://www.ornl.gov/news/pulse/

**Progress on Lights and Paths**

If you've seen the stack of timber and day-glow orange markings on the ground and shrubbery around the Central Lab Annex and the Orange Room parking lot, it signifies good news. That area is slated to have a new path and improved lighting as part of SLAC's overall upgrade of external areas. Lights and paths were repeatedly mentioned by employees during annual safety discussions and work is being done in response to staff concerns.

**The Circuit Breaker Did It**

If you got 800 e-mail messages from last year, and the Web kept going down, it wasn't a rat this time, but a circuit breaker. Repeated tripping caused wide-spread computer malfunctions on Wednesday.

**FleaMarket**

You can post your classified ad using the SLAC FleaMarket Submission form. Current ads can be seen on the FleaMarket web page. These pages can be viewed from computers within the SLAC domain.

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