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Can a coffee pot be plugged into a power strip?

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First GLAST Tracker Arrives at SLAC

By Matthew Early Wright

The Gamma Ray Large Area Telescope (GLAST) satellite project is celebrating a milestone. The first tracker module, built in Italy at the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN), arrived at SLAC on Friday, January 14, and is doing very well indeed.

The tracker is one of 16 such modules that constitute the main array of the satellite, and it will eventually help address many of the major unanswered questions in astrophysics, particle physics and cosmology.

See whole story...

LCLS Collaboration Revs Up

By Heather Rock Woods

The Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS) collaboration met in January to focus on beginning to build the world's first X-ray free electron laser.

More than 50 people from SLAC and collaborating institutions (Argonne, LLNL and UCLA) reviewed the design of the machine's major systems.

"It's our last pass over the design before we start spending money," said LCLS Director John Galayda.

The project recently received a major funding boost to $54 million for fiscal year 2005 from a Congressional budget appropriation.

See whole story...

Linear Café Comes to SLAC

By Linda DuShane White

The Linear Café recently replaced the SLAC Cafeteria and is a work in progress. Along with a new name and management comes a new look and hours. Returning customers see the ambiance evolve with new carpeting and décor, changes to the serving areas and seemingly more space in the dining hall.

"Everyone's been really kind and helpful," said Epicurean Group Proprietor Mary Carter Bartlett. "We're learning every day. We listen to clients and then customize what we do. It's exciting," Bartlett says.

See whole story...

SPEAR Accelerator Restarts Operations

By Eduardo Guerra and Jeff Corbett

SSRL's SPEAR3 facility has restarted operations after completing its restart validation process and receiving approval to resume operations by the SLAC Director in consultation with the DOE.

"The safe and smooth restart of SPEAR was possible due to the extraordinary effort by SSRL staff and the tremendous support SSRL received from the other SLAC divisions throughout this process and the efforts by all the staff to implement and follow safety protocols," said SSRL Associate Director Keith Hodgson.

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First GLAST Tracker Arrives at SLAC

By Matthew Early Wright

The Gamma Ray Large Area Telescope (GLAST) satellite project celebrated a milestone last month with the arrival of the first tracker module at SLAC.

Built in Italy at the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN), the tracker weathered the journey easily, and is performing well in tests. It is one of 16 such modules that constitute the main array of the satellite. GLAST will eventually help address many of the major unanswered questions in astrophysics, particle physics and cosmology.

"This is an extraordinarily complex instrument to design and build," said Persis Drell (RD), deputy project manager with responsibility for the tracker. "It has to withstand the rigors of launch and the environment of space, and we've met and exceeded those challenges."

Drell applauded the efforts of Ronaldo Bellazzini (INFN) and his team for contributing much of the mechanical design and assembly, Robert Johnson (UC Santa Cruz), who designed and built the electronic components, and the engineering team here at SLAC led by Dave Rich and Martin Nordby (both REG). Drell added that the arrival of the tracker is a huge achievement for the team, and a significant advancement for the entire project.

Pictured left to right: Luca Baldini (INFN, Pisa) and Robert Johnson (UCSC). (Photo by Diana Rogers)

The GLAST satellite will be capable of gathering data that, until now, has all but eluded astrophysicists and cosmologists. By collecting and imaging gamma radiation, it will help researchers visualize all sorts of mysterious phenomena, from black hole accretions to gamma ray bursts, in remarkable detail.

"It is very much a telescope, and in space it will behave like a telescope, even though it looks like a particle physics detector," Johnson said. The similarity is more than just superficial, as it may also help to address one of the biggest questions in modern particle physics. Collisions of supersymmetric particles—the type believed to constitute dark matter—are thought to release large amounts of gamma radiation, which GLAST should be able to capture.

"We know there's a lot of dark matter out there, but nobody knows what it is," Johnson said. But Scientists are very close to learning a whole lot more about this strange, invisible stuff. At around the same time GLAST is scheduled to launch in 2007, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) should begin operation at CERN. In what could prove to be a one-two punch, the LHC will attempt to create supersymmetric particles here on earth, while GLAST will look for evidence of supersymmetric collisions in space.

The first tracker is currently performing at 98.7 percent efficiency in tests. "We plugged it in, and it just worked. It was extremely gratifying," according to Drell. The engineering team is scheduled to mate the tracker to its companion calorimeter module next month, after which it will be installed onto the grid array.

The second tracker module is currently being tested in a thermal vacuum chamber by INFN in Rome. On track to be shipped to SLAC in just two weeks, it is already giving the team reason for optimism. "It's actually doing better than the first, testing at over 99 percent efficiency," Johnson said.

For more information, see: http://www-glast.stanford.edu

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"The safe and smooth restart of SPEAR was possible due to the extraordinary effort by SSRL staff and the tremendous support SSRL received from the other SLAC divisions throughout this process and the efforts by all the staff to implement and follow safety protocols," said SSRL Associate Director Keith Hodgson.

SSRL department heads developed a Facility Restart Plan over the winter break to present to Director Jonathan Dorfan of SLAC for formal approval to operate SPEAR3. A review team appointed by the SLAC Director carried out a validation process of the restart plan between January 3 and January 13. The validation team's report was positive, and on January 14, Ray Orbach, Director of the DOE Office of Science, concurred with Dorfan's recommendation that SSRL begin operations.

Following written authorization from Dorfan, the SSRL Accelerator Systems Department received permission from Hodgson to turn on SPEAR3 on January 18. The accelerator startup process proceeded smoothly. After commissioning the 100 MeV LINAC, transport line and 3 GeV booster synchrotron, 10mA was stored in SPEAR3 on January 23 at 6 pm.

Interlock and electronic calibration checks ensued and the circulating current was increased to the nominal operating value of 100mA. Measurements of electron beam position and storage ring optics indicated the beam conditions were precisely the same as for the previous phase of operation. At present, the photon beam line check-out procedures are underway and the vacuum chamber is processing at a record pace.

After completing the pre-start requirements identified during the validation review, Dorfan gave written approval on January 27 to start the process of bringing the beam lines back on line for the users. This began with the execution of the beam line authorization process in which Radiation Physics and SSRL staff ensure the proper placement of radiation shielding components. The first beam line was then certified and by Friday, four beam lines were opened for alignment and initial radiation surveys.

During the coming week to 10 days, the remainder of the beam lines will be opened and the detailed radiation surveys will be performed. It is expected that beam will become available to users on some beam lines or before February 7. Normal full beam line operations are expected within two weeks thereafter.

SPEAR3 and the B Factory have been shut down since October, when a serious electrical accident led Dorfan to order the immediate suspension of operations.

Since the accident, SLAC has been rigorously scrutinizing safety procedures and safeguards to ensure that the accelerator facilities will be operated at the highest levels of safety. Dorfan was determined that each major facility complete a specific safety validation review to satisfy him and the DOE that there was a safe path forward.

"The restart of SPEAR3 operations should not in any way divert our ongoing attention from the strongest commitment to safety," Dorfan said. "Our long-held commitment is that operational expediency can never override safety."

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By Heather Rock Woods

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More than 50 people from SLAC and collaborating institutions (Argonne, LLNL and UCLA) reviewed the design of the machine's major systems.

"It's our last pass over the design before we start spending money," said LCLS Director John Galayda.

The project recently received a major funding boost to $54 million for fiscal year 2005 from a Congressional budget appropriation.

"The Department of Energy's Office of Science—which funds synchrotron programs—has given the project very high priority and got our full request through Congress," Galayda said. "I was euphoric."

LCLS collaboration members at January meeting. (Photo by Diana Rogers)

LCLS will provide a powerful combination of laser properties delivered at X-ray wavelengths. The machine's X-ray pulses will be 1,000 times shorter and 10 billion times brighter than pulses available at existing synchrotron sources like SPEAR3. This will enable breakthrough science such as the creation and study of exotic states of matter, imaging the structures and dynamics of biological and chemical molecules on the atomic scale, and probing the fundamental aspects of atomic structure.

Congress began funding project engineering and design work for LCLS in fiscal year 2003 with $6 million. Last year, LCLS received $7.5 million for engineering and design, and $2 million for research and development. The big step up to $54 million marks the first phase of construction. Actual groundbreaking and construction of new buildings will begin in 2006. Construction will include half a mile of tunnel and 100,000 square feet of work space, including underground experimental halls and a central laboratory office support building.

"The funding this fiscal year, will go to accelerate engineering design and buy the first components. [Progress] requires a big step upward in activity this year," Galayda said.

Thirty million dollars goes to long-lead procurement—buying components that are needed early on to meet the overall schedule. SLAC will transfer funds to Argonne to buy raw materials and supervise construction of specialized undulator magnets to induce the electron beam from SLAC's linear accelerator (linac) to emit X-rays. SLAC will build a magnet measurement facility to test, adjust and align the complex magnet structures.

Another task in the early phase will be to build an injector to produce an intense electron beam ready to travel at nearly the speed of light down the last third of SLAC's two-mile linac. The LCLS will not interfere with operation of the B Factory, the Lab's primary high energy physics experiment.

Project engineering and design will continue this year with $20 million of the funds, with $4 million remaining for research and development, primarily into X-ray optics and diagnostics. The project total is approximately $315 million.

"In parallel with the construction effort, we're also planning the experimental program," said SSRL Director Keith Hodgson.

An international scientific advisory committee evaluated and ranked proposals for the initial suite of instruments. Working in close cooperation with researchers who will use LCLS, the project is beginning R&D and design on the instruments using $1.5 million of additional funding provided by DOE

Stanford, in close cooperation with SLAC, is preparing to take advantage of the unique research capabilities of LCLS with a new center for ultrafast science that will share the LCLS facility. The DOE awarded $4.7 million for three years, and the W. M. Keck Foundation in early January awarded Stanford $1 million for developing research programs in the center.

"The LCLS offers a new opportunity for Stanford to build research programs that will strengthen the ties between SLAC and the main campus in very substantial ways," said Arthur Bienenstock, former SSRL director and vice provost and dean of research and graduate policy at Stanford.

"LCLS will represent a major investment in scientific infrastructure at the Laboratory, making yet another innovative use of the SLAC linac to deliver a scientific tool of unprecedented capabilities," said SLAC Director Jonathan Dorfan. "Together with our SPEAR3 facility, SLAC will be among the premier laboratories in the world for synchrotron science in the coming decades."

Scientists expect LCLS to deliver 'first light' to experimenters in 2009.
For more information, see: http://www-ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/lcls

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Continuity of Knowledge Web Site Up and Running

By Matthew Early Wright

As SLAC moves into its fifth decade of operation, people who have been here since the beginning are nearing retirement age. When they leave, they will take a career's worth of accumulated knowledge with them. (See New Committee, TIP, March 7, 2003.)

The Human Resources Department and the Communications Office have developed a strategy to help Laboratory staff preserve this information for posterity. Initially a focal point topic for the SLAC Suggestion System (Fall 2002), this effort is based on recommendations of a working group including Linda Ahlf (HR), Dick Blankenbecler (TP), Neil Calder (COM), Janice Dabney (TD), Jean Deken (TIS), Lee Lyon (HR), Kim Sutton (TIS) and Herman Winick (SSRL).

Retaining Lab's Legacy

The new Continuity of Knowledge Web site provides tools for evaluating your Lab's documentation needs or implementing a strategy for cross-training when bringing new hires into your group.

"An original system may be well documented, but changes to it might not be," said Lyon, Human Resources Director. "We want to help record knowledge that enhances efficiency, productivity and legacy for the Lab in the future."

Unlike scientific discoveries, which are well documented in journals, ground-level technical details are not always so carefully recorded. The Web site presents suggestions to get ideas down on paper, or on other media (e.g., producing video recorded technical documentaries as training materials). Outside resources include knowledge management journal articles to help managers blueprint a continuity plan for their areas.

Lyon stressed that participation in the initiative is not mandatory. The program is designed to make evaluating your needs and preserving information as easy and productive as possible.

For more information, see: http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/com/knowledge/

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Appropriate Use of Government Vehicles

All staff who operate government vehicles are reminded that misuse of these vehicles can result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Use of government vehicles for anything other than official business is considered misuse. This includes using these vehicles to run personal errands such as visiting a bank, going to lunch when not on official government travel or driving to the SLAC Café for a meal or snack.
Prior written approval is needed in order to take a government vehicle home for any reason. To request this approval use the on-line Request Form for Use of Govt. Vehicle Between SLAC and Residence, at: https://www-internal.slac.stanford.edu/sem/transportation/forms

Additionally, anyone using government vehicles is expected to protect and treat them with the same care they would give their own vehicles. This includes operating them in a responsible manner, not leaving the keys in unattended vehicles and locking them when not in use.

You are also reminded that seatbelt use is required for drivers and passengers at all times when the vehicle is in motion. This applies to official and personal vehicles.

Contact: Jerry Jobe, Ext. 4245, jlj@slac.stanford.edu

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Staff-Guided Tour Policy

In the interest of protecting the safety of visitors at SLAC and keeping SLAC Safeguards and Security informed of on-site visits, the following interim policy will be implemented as of February 4:

Staff members do not need to receive prior approval to take a visitor, or a group of fewer than six visitors, on a tour of SLAC.

The SLAC Dosimeter/ID Request Form will be updated to capture the following additional information from staff obtaining individual badges for visitors:
• Commitment from staff member to take full responsibility for each visitor's safety
• Commitment from visitor(s) to obey signage and follow direction of staff escort
• List of building numbers or areas where visitors will be taken while behind the RCA fence
• Verification that staff member has sufficient training to take visitors into tour areas listed on form

Tours with six or more visitors need to be arranged through the Tours Office by filling out a Private Tour Request form on-line at:http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/com/tour/tour/default.asp

Contact: Emily Ball, Ext. 2620, emily.ball@slac.stanford.edu

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PureMessage—New SPAM Quarantine Software

We have been running software on our mail gateways which modifies the Subject of incoming SPAM e-mail since early 2003. We will roll out the SPAM Quarantine site wide on Monday, February 14.

Recently, the software was modified so that we could 'hold' SPAM in quarantine and let you decide if you want it released or not. Over 60 users have been testing the modified software since early December. To date, the results from our test group have been very positive.

Test Group Comments

"After just two days of the new SPAM tool I have to say that I think it's extremely useful." – Jochen Schwiening (EB)

"I know most of my group would love to use this function." – Sharon West (TIS)

"I really appreciate being able to check the SPAM, know that I haven't missed anything important and then delete it in a single click." –Shirley Gruber (SCS)

How Will it Work?

Each day you will receive an e-mail listing messages held for the past 24 hours with one line for each e-mail held. If you do not want the SPAM, take no action and it will be purged from the server automatically after 30 days.

Retrieving a message from quarantine is quick and very simple. Please see details on the Quarantine Web site (http://www2.slac.stanford.edu/comp/messaging/Reference/spam-quarantine-explained.htm). Your requested message(s) will be released and sent to you within approximately 10 minutes.

We are providing this service to:
- Reduce the disk space the SPAM is taking on our mail servers
- Reduce the level of frustration people feel when they receive so much SPAM
- Keep SPAM from getting into our mailing lists
- Prevent our vacation and Out of Office messages from going back to spammers
- Give you control of your SPAM e-mail
- Let you decide what you want to see when you are ready to check the list

If you would rather opt-out of the SPAM quarantine feature, please send a message to mail-admin@slac.stanford.edu to let us know.

Contacts: Mary Crume (SCS), Ext. 3683, mjcrume@slac.stanford.edu
Teresa Downey (SCS), Ext. 2903, teresa.downey@slac.stanford.edu

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Lessons Learned: SLAC Resources

By Joe Kenny

Learning from our own mistakes and those of others is not just smart but crucial in getting through the day safely. "Don't let this happen to you" stories are obviously useful, but only if they reach us in time to make a difference.

To make sure important lessons reach all who might benefit, SLAC engages in a lessons-learned program in which we circulate educational accounts of accidents, injuries and near misses at SLAC and from across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex and private industry.

Messages take the form of brief e-mails circulated to a wide SLAC audience, which are then archived at: http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/safety/lessonslearned.htm

In addition, the DOE maintains a lessons-learned Web site searchable by function, hazard, level, date and integrated safety management (ISM) function at: http://www.eh.doe.gov/ll/lldb/llsearch.cfm

When planning work, browse through either of these valuable stores of information. And if you have a lesson you think useful for others, contact the SLAC Lesson Learned Manager (ext. 3517).

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The 2005 Science Bowl Needs You!

Your participation will assure the success of this first-time event at the Laboratory! Volunteers are needed to help with registration and to escort the students. Formal support for Moderator, Timekeeper and Scorekeeper includes a training session.

Volunteer Training Session

Thursday, February 10

9:30 a.m. Panofsky Auditorium

Find out more at: http://www.slac.stanford.edu/grp/pao/sciencebowl05.html

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Electrical Safety Tip #1: Use Power Strips Safely

Can a coffee pot be plugged into a power strip?

Power strips (also called relocatable power taps or RPTs) are not to be used to power appliances such as coffee pots, microwave ovens, toasters or refrigerators. Power strips also cannot be used with extension cords (constitutes a daisy chain extension cord).

If you have any questions, please contact SLAC's Electrical Safety Officer (Ext. 2039).

For additional Electrical Safety Information, see: http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/safety/electrical.htm

Photo courtesy of ESO

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SLAC Receives Marine Corps League Award

By Vern Smith

SLAC staff and the Safeguards and Security officers in particular have been recognized for their commitment to flying the flag of the United States in a manner that befits it. To fly the United States flag properly, one needs to observe the Etiquette as specified in the National Flag Code. Interpreting the code can be confusing at best. For instance, Section 175, 'Position and Manner of Display,' spells out 15 specific rules to follow for displaying the flag.

Other details that should be followed include: If the flag is intended to be flown 24 hours daily, it must be illuminated after dark. It must also be an all weather flag made of Nylon, Dacron or Polyester. Following Presidential proclamations and local government requests, determinations must be made as to when it is proper to lower the flag to half staff if the occasion warrants it.

Safeguards and Security Manager Rick Yeager accepts the Marine Corps League's Flag Certificate from Vern Smith (ESD). Security officers present were (left to right): Maria Alvarado, Erick Eisenman, Riffi Khaliq, Scott Vinz, Simon Ovrahim and Harry McIntyre. (Photo by Diana Rogers)

Lighting for the three flag poles at the Main Gate has been out since construction began for the Kavli parking lot. Following the rules under the Code, the Safeguards and Security staff currently takes the flag down every evening and then puts it back up each morning.

The Marine Corps League recognizes the responsibility and dedication required in making a commitment to fly the flag on an ongoing basis. It presents a Certificate of Acknowledgement to those deserving homeowners and businesses that fly the flag 'Proudly, Publicly and Properly' for an extended period of time.

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Linear Café Comes to SLAC

By Linda DuShane White

The Linear Café recently replaced the SLAC Cafeteria and is a work in progress. Along with a new name and management comes a new look and hours. Returning customers see the ambiance evolve with new carpeting and décor, changes to the serving areas and seemingly more space in the dining hall.

"Everyone's been really kind and helpful," said Epicurean Group Proprietor Mary Clark Bartlett. "We're learning every day. We listen to clients and then customize what we do. It's exciting," Bartlett says.

Shown left to right: Francisco Maldonado, Geovanny Garcia, George Lee, Jaime Barillas, Alberto Huerta, Silvia Ramirez and Dora Ramirez. (Photo by Diana Rogers)

Extended Hours & Weekly Specials

The Linear Café is open on Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Early Bird Specials are offered from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and change weekly. Salad lovers will always find fresh field greens and organic produce is purchased when available. Check for daily menus and specials conveniently posted on the SLAC Today Web site (see Handy Links bar under SLAC Links).

Proprietor Mary Clark Bartlett began her food service career in 1981, inspired by love for good food, beautifully prepared and presented. Epicurean Group partners Marvin Rodriguez and Reynaldo Hernandez share Bartlett's commitment to high-quality food and personalized service.

General manager George Lee is open to suggestions, emphasizing that he wants to hear what works as well as what doesn't work for you. Summing up his philosophy he said, "We're here to serve the community and whatever it takes to get the community to come, that's what we'll try. To offer a service that employees want. It's that simple."

Bartlett encourages input from the SLAC community. "We have comment cards and pencils out front. We want them to feel welcome to comment either in person or on the cards. They shouldn't feel shy. We know we're not perfect."

Watch for More to Come

According to recent customer feedback, meat and potatoes is the SLAC group's favorite meal. In response, the café is trying out a Hofbrau-style lunch with fresh meats carved to order, paired with side dishes. By mid-February, a coffee bar will feature Starbucks coffee and Tazo tea, along with baked goods. In the warmer weather we can look forward to barbequed lunches on the patio.

If you are not a café regular, stop by to check it out. Be sure to let manager Lee know what you think. He promises to listen.

For more information, see: http://www2.slac.stanford.edu/cafe/

The Stanford Linear Accelerator Center is managed by Stanford University for the US Department of Energy

Last update Thursday February 03, 2005 by Emily Ball

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MILESTONES

Service Awards

5 Years
Campanilla, Estelita (ACC), 2/1
Zhou, Xingjiang (ESRD), 2/1
Maske, Jeff (ESRD), 2/14

10 Years
Montagne, Timothy (LCLS), 2/6
Murphy, Frederick (TTR), 2/13

15 Years
Adolphsen, Chris (ILC), 2/1
Caryotakis, George (KLY), 2/12
Jimenez, Miguel (CEF), 2/16

30 Years
Tam, Carol (ACC), 2/1
Ratcliff, Blair (EB), 2/4

35 Years
Martell, Kenneth (SCS), 2/9

Retirements
Clark, Spencer (ESD), 01/07
Hubbard, E. Jean (PUR), 01/07
Richter, Burton (DO), 01/01

To submit a Milestone, see: http://www.slac.stanford.edu/pubs/tip/milestoneindex.html

See Awards and Honors at: http://www.slac.stanford.edu/slac/award/

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Art Exhibit in the ROB Features the Beauty of Bark

By Katherine Bellevin

Looking at the phemonena of nature through abstraction is the realm of art as well as science.

Photographer Roger Gilbert focusses his lens on trees and discovers vast landscapes in the smallest surface areas. For Gilbert, this is an exercise in stillness where he feels the sacred space of something as seemingly innocuous as tree bark.

"To me the abstract nature photograph represents the mysterious, the infinite, a beauty beyond words, a presence beyond the realm of conscious thought," he writes.

Gilbert's photographs will be on display in the ROB (Bldg. 48) from February 10 through March 10. Please join us for an opening reception on February 10 where you can meet the artist and enjoy his work.

The Photography of Roger Gilbert

On display in the ROB (Bldg. 48)
2nd Floor

February 10 to March 10

Opening Reception: February 10
5 to 7 p.m.
ROB, 2nd Floor

For more information on Gilbert's work, see: http://www.rogergilbertphotography.com

Roger Gilbert photographing a tree. (Photo courtesy of Roger Gilbert)

The Stanford Linear Accelerator Center is managed by Stanford University for the US Department of Energy

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Chinese New Year Luncheon

Friday, February 11
11:30 a.m.
Fu Lam Mum Restaurant
246 Castro Street
Mountain View

$12.50 per person

Please pay Charlotte Hee (chee@slac.stanford.edu, x3353) or Mika Stratton (mika@slac.stanford.edu, x3499) by February 4.
(No refund after Feb. 4 but you can send a substitute.)

Hope you all can join us to celebrate. Kung Hee Fat Chow and Happy New Year.

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Good Natured Community Relations

By Joni White

Working in community relations, you never know what projects may come your way. So when Helen Quinn (TP), president of the American Physical Society and head of SLAC's education outreach program, asked me to plant trees with a class of fourth graders, I said, "Sure, it's not rocket science."

Dig this: Kirk Stoddard (ESH) supervises students shoveling. (Photo by Joni White)

Our goal was to plant the trees before January 1 to allow for enough rainfall during the rainy season for the trees to survive. We also had to consider protecting the young plants from the deer. Though I had never actually planted a tree before, it sounded like a nice chance to connect with kids from a local school and add some new oaks to SLAC's already magnificent collection.

The class gathered acorns from their neighborhoods and sprouted them into saplings. A dozen small trees growing in milk cartons were carried by hand to the Lab. Walking over from their nearby school, many children brought trowels and gloves. Our volunteer team at SLAC was waiting in the meadow adjacent to the Main Gate, ready to assist with the planting.

The team included good-natured helpers Kirk Stoddard (ESH), Carlos Pereira (SEM), Jeff Corbett (ASD) from the SLAC Garden Club and Vicente Gomez from Honda Landscaping. In addition, Nina Stolar (COM) and I were there. The teacher, Mrs. Thelen, and a few parents accompanied the class. As a bonus, one parent is actually a SLAC physicist, with the BABAR experiment.

After assembling for a group photo, the class paired off and walked out into the meadow. We showed them where to plant the saplings, and they began digging, with shovels provided by Gomez. The kids were excited to learn they could jump on the shovel and really move some ground! Seeing that, and the satisfaction of their having planted a new meadow full of oak trees, we enjoyed the fresh air and time away from our desks then agreed that this sort of outreach is especially worthwhile.

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