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New SSRL Director Steps Forward

By Heather Rock Woods

Innovative x-ray scientist and Stanford Professor Joachim Stöhr became the new director of the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory (SSRL) on October 1.

“I’m looking forward to continuing to attract the best scientists to our outstanding facilities to produce basic and applied research with tremendous benefits for society,” said Stöhr.

See whole story...

Terror of the Tudor Seas Suffers from Sulfur

By Heather Rock Woods

Henry III’s warship, the Mary Rose, wreaked havoc on the French navy for 34 years until she was wrecked in 1545. Salvaged from the sea in 1982, she now rests in the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth, England. Pieces of her helm, however, recently traveled to Menlo Park, California and Grenoble, France where intense x-rays pierced the wood analyzing the sulfur and iron within.

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New SSRL Director Steps Forward

By Heather Rock Woods

Joachim Stöhr, new director of SSRL.
(Photo by Diana Rogers)

Innovative x-ray scientist and Stanford Professor Joachim Stöhr became the new director of the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory (SSRL) on October 1.

"I'm looking forward to continuing to attract the best scientists to our outstanding facilities to produce basic and applied research with tremendous benefits for society," said Stöhr.

Stöhr has been deputy director of SSRL since 2000, and will be the pioneering laboratory's fourth director in its 32-year history.

"We're fortunate to have such an outstanding scientist with excellent leadership experience become the new leader for SSRL," said outgoing SSRL Director Keith Hodgson. "Jo has a world of experience in studying and understanding the behavior of magnetic materials, particularly with applications to the electronics industry."

In May, Hodgson became a Deputy Director of SLAC as well as director of the new Photon Science Directorate. Photon science will have a dramatically expanding role at SLAC.

"Keith Hodgson is an outstanding scientist and one of the driving forces in world synchrotron radiation research." said Raymond Orbach, Director of the DOE Office of Science. "On behalf of the Department of Energy, I would like to thank Keith for the outstanding job he did as director of SSRL for the past seven years and to wish him every success in his new position as Deputy Director of SLAC and director of the Photon Science Directorate."

Stöhr is well known for his leading studies in magnetic materials. His recent work has set a 'speed limit' on the speed at which magnetized bits can change direction, which has a direct impact on information storage in computers.

"SSRL is a tremendous asset to our nation; it advances science in materials, chemistry, the environment, geology and structural biology. I am delighted that Jo Stöhr will be the new director. He is exceptionally qualified to lead SSRL at a very exciting time in science," said Patricia Dehmer, DOE's Associate Director of Science for Basic Energy Sciences.

Stöhr attained his MS degree at Washington State University, where he was a Fulbright Scholar from 1969-71. He completed his Ph. D. thesis in his native country, at the Technical University in Munich, Germany in 1974. During his post-doctorate study at LBNL, he participated in the early days of synchrotron radiation experiments at SSRL.

"This exciting time marked the beginning of my long love of synchrotron radiation research," Stöhr said.

Stöhr's career at SSRL began in 1977. He has continuously developed new techniques to do previously inaccessible science throughout his career. , He later moved to

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EXXON, then the IBM Almaden Research Center, and came back to SSRL as deputy director and professor. His work has focused on exploring the use of soft x-ray synchrotron radiation which has become particularly important in areas such as surface science and magnetism. The early work at SSRL also helped stimulate planning for the Advance Light Source synchrotron laboratory in Berkeley. Techniques developed by Stöhr helped determine the geometric arrangement and bonding of atoms, molecules and thin organic films on surfaces and, among other things, solved a 90-year-old puzzle—the origin of liquid crystal alignment on rubbed polymer films, used in flat panel displays. More recently he has developed soft x-ray imaging techniques of magnetic nanostructures.

Stöhr has also been acting head of the new Stanford Ultrafast Center, a joint SLAC and Stanford project to develop groundbreaking experiments for the LCLS free electron laser. He is also still leading the X-Ray Laboratory for Advanced Materials with close ties to the Geballe Laboratory for Advanced Materials on Stanford campus.

For more information see: http://www-ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/stohr/index.htm

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

Last update Friday October 07, 2005 by Chip Dalby

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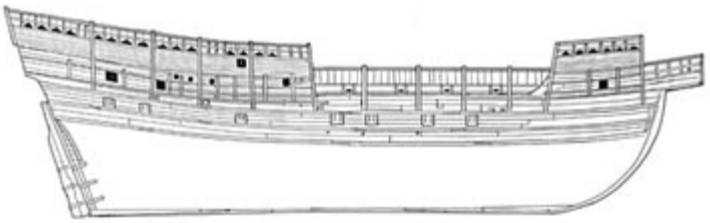
Terror of the Tudor Seas Suffers from Sulfur

By Heather Rock Woods

A conservationist works on Henry VIII's warship, the Mary Rose.
(Image courtesy of Mary Rose Trust)



Side view of the Mary Rose.
(Image courtesy of Mary Rose Trust)

Henry VIII's warship, the Mary Rose, wreaked havoc on the French navy for 34 years until she was wrecked in 1545. Salvaged from the sea in 1982, she now rests in the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth, England. Pieces of her helm, however, recently traveled to Menlo Park, California and Grenoble, France where intense x-rays pierced the wood analyzing the sulfur and iron within.

A research team, led by University of Stockholm Professor Magnus Sandström, and including Mary Rose chief scientist Mark Jones, used synchrotron x-rays from SSRL and the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF). The prevalence of sulfur and iron in the oak timbers poses long-term preservation challenges, but the new information can also help to overcome the threats. The results, published September 26 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, indicate the surviving wood contains two tons of sulfur in different forms, uniformly distributed within the 280-ton hull. Over time, sulfur can convert to sulfuric acid, which could slowly degrade the wood until its stability is lost. Sandström's earlier work, also done at SSRL, on the Swedish warship Vasa (under water for 333 years) showed that the accumulation of sulfur within shipwrecks in seawater is common.

Complementary experiments at SSRL and ESRF revealed the quantities, locations and chemical state of sulfur and iron in the Mary Rose's wood, zooming in on their structures on an atomic scale. Researchers found the highest concentrations of sulfur are in areas between the wood cells that are primarily made of lignin, which acts like glue to hold cells together. The lignin reacted with hydrogen sulphide produced by marine bacteria, accumulating sulfur in surprising amounts. Other marine bacteria chewed up the cellulose cell walls, leaving a hollow 'house of cards' once the ship was pulled from the water. The sulfur may have helped preserve the ship while it was still submerged.

"The amount of accumulated sulfur in the wood was indeed unexpected, and especially the formation of organosulfur compounds. We are trying to find out more precisely what the reactions are," Sandström said. "These compounds are also of interest for

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understanding how sulfur accumulates in marine sediments, and eventually ends up in fossil fuels such as oil."

Once exposed to air, the ship faces dry perils. The Mary Rose contains a great deal of iron from corroded iron bolts, nails and other ship objects. Exposed to the oxygen in air, the iron oxidizes sulfur into sulfuric acid. Studies also show that atmospheres with high, varying humidity accelerate this process.

The ship is in no immediate danger because the acid gets washed away during conservation. A spray treatment that replaces the water in degraded wood with waxy polyethylene glycol so the wood does not shrink or crack as it dries out also washes out acid. However, in the Vasa, two tons of acid has gradually built up in the 26 years after its spray treatment ended.

The authors suggest that using chemical treatments to remove or stabilize the remaining iron and sulfur compounds, and reducing humidity and oxygen access, are necessary for long-term preservation.

At the Mary Rose Trust, conservation scientists are already investigating new treatments to prevent new acid formation in this British treasure. They are currently using the synchrotron facilities of the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CCLRC) in the U.K. to test the efficacy of new methods. To slow down the oxidation reaction and prevent new acid formation, wood samples from the Mary Rose are being treated with antioxidants in combination with low- and high-grade polyethylene glycol. Another conservation approach is to maintain the archaeological wood in a stable climate, with a constant temperature and a constant low humidity of 55 percent. To maintain a stable microclimate within the wood structure, a surface coating offers a possible solution, although the effectiveness of this approach has yet to be tested.

"The method used in these studies—synchrotron radiation-based x-ray absorption spectroscopy—is a particularly powerful tool to study samples taken directly from these ships," said SSRL Professor and Assistant Director Britt Hedman. "It can be used directly on the samples without any pretreatment that could change them."

Researchers also employed an additional approach not used on the Vasa—imaging the wood samples with a very small x-ray beam to map where the chemical species were located.

"This leads to a better level of understanding," Hedman said. "We see this as an increasingly important tool for many areas of archaeometry."

Conservationist Jones agrees. "This ongoing research is an important step forward in devising improvements to the current Mary Rose hull treatment programme," he said.

Along with the hull, some 19,000 artifacts were recovered after being underwater for 437 years. Certain remaining sections of the bow and anchor of the once-mighty Tudor warship will be raised to the surface on October 11.

For more information, see: www.maryrose.org/

or see: www.fos.su.se/~magnuss/

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DRAS Raises over $25,000 for Katrina Relief

By Nina Adelman Stolar

Over 500 people joined together on The Green at SLAC for a fundraiser lunch. The SLAC Community raised over $25,000 for Katrina disaster aid—more than double the $10K goal.

"This was not a management effort," said Lab Director Jonathan Dorfan. "This was a grassroots effort by people in the Lab Community. I am not surprised, but I am pleased by the results."

An oversized check for $22,000 was presented to Susan Hoerger, President of the Palo Alto Chapter of Red Cross by Teresa Troxel (SSRL). "One hundred percent of your contributions will go directly to assist those in need," Hoerger said.

The event featured a full-blown southern style meal complete with iced tea and lemonade. All food and labor were donated by local caterer Jeff Machado. "I was looking at a way to make a contribution," said Machado, "and this worked out very well."

Many people stepped forward to support this effort. In addition to the financial contributions, some helped with ticket sales, promoting the effort personally in their areas, others set up tables and chairs, or cleaned up following the event.

For more information, see: www.draslac.org/katrina.html

"Stanford is committed to help. We continue to offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for those who are suffering in New Orleans and on the Gulf Coast. We will continue to assess our role in supporting relief efforts"... —Stanford President John L. Hennessy

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GPS Collaboration Adds SLAC to Plate Boundary Observatory

By Brian Fuss

SLAC has joined the solid earth research community. After months of discussions and organization between Frederick Blume of the University NAVSTAR Consortium (UNAVCO), Catherine LeCocq (AEG), and Operations director John Cornuelle (COO), SLAC's Global Positioning System (GPS) base-station was added as a significant contributor to the Plate Boundary Observatory (PBO) on September 26th.

This geodetic program is part of the EarthScope project funded by the National Science Foundation studying the three-dimensional strain field resulting from deformation across active plate boundaries in the Western United States. The Pacific and North American plates are observed using an array of GPS receivers and strainmeters deducing the strain field with varying timescales ranging from days to decades.

LeCocq looks at this cooperation as another example of SLAC's expanding interest in new areas of scientific study. "We will have a fully maintained GPS base-station with limited cost to SLAC plus the satisfaction of contributing to UNAVCO's high-precision geodetic network of GPS stations." This station has been used for the past three years to map features of the SLAC campus for CEF and for various projects such as LCLS. The real-time data generated by the base-station can be seen at http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/met/Align/GPS/GPS_Intro.html

The real-time data generated by the base-station can be seen at http://slac-bard-cn2002.pbo-data.net and further information on UNAVCO can be found at http://www.unavco.org.

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The Cows at Alpine Gate

Munch Oreos at night when no one's looking.
Grass-eaters for public image while we
enter work at daybreak, they open boxes
when the last SLAC car leaves at dusk,
pull two dark rounds apart to lick
white icing, absorbing their surroundings.

It's not widely known their lives began
as plain black cows. Over time,
they became what they ate. Now
their pale centers make us smile,
reminding those who pass
of after-school snacks,
tall glasses of cold milk.

– Janice Dabney

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Winter Closure Memo to the SLAC Community

By Lee Lyon

SLAC will again shut down over the winter holiday period. For most areas of the Lab, we will shut down at the end of business on December 21 and will return to work at the beginning of business day on January 3, 2006. December 23, December 26 and January 2 are University holidays. In addition, we will receive one paid day off during this period. This will require staff to use four days of vacation, PTO or leave without salary to cover the total shutdown time. We will again allow staff with insufficient leave to borrow their three Personal Time Off days, their Floating Holiday and, if necessary, their January vacation accrual from calendar year 2006 in order to maintain pay during this shutdown. These same provisions will apply to members of the bargaining unit, pending final approval by USW leadership.

Some areas of SLAC that are critical to our science, safety and security will be working during some of the closure period. We will run both SPEAR3 and PEP II/BaBar in order to maximize the science. This means that some employees closely associated with the running of the two machines will be required to work during the shutdown. In addition, GLAST will also require significant staffing during this period. Management in those areas will inform staff of their schedules. Staff who are required to work during the shutdown will have eight hours added to their vacation balance.

Contact: Lee Lyon, Human Resources, Ext. 2283, lyon@slac.stanford.edu

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Pedestrian and Vehicle Safety During Construction

The North Gallery Road is closed at Sector 20 for LCLS construction for the next six months. The North Access Road that begins at Sector 20 is now the main roadway to access any part of the accelerator west of Sector 20 along the north side of the Gallery. Everyone that uses this road needs to be aware that this route will be more heavily used during LCLS construction and the October downtime. Recreational users should especially take care to not obstruct the roadway during this time.

When walking or cycling, please be prepared to yield so that vehicles can pass safely.

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Stanford Health Improvement Program Expands to Include More Fitness Classes

The Health Improvement Program (HIP) seeks to enhance the health and quality of life of the Stanford community through health classes, programs and services. The fall session of HIP classes in the SLAC Wellness Program started on September 21.

Multiple classes are now STAP-funded (participants attended a related HIP lecture last month. in order to use STAP funds):

- New—Walking for Wellness
- Healthy Back Cross Training
- Pilates
- Yoga

To check out other wellness activities (including a new one for cross-training), see the HIP schedule delivered to your mailbox, or see the SLAC Medical Department website at: http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/medical/classes/WellnessClasses.html.

For the complete Health Improvement Program see: http://hip.stanford.edu

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FY06 Travel Rate Changes

Beginning October 1, the lodging per diem rate for travel to SLAC was decreased to $101/night. However, the meal and incidental expense per diem has been increased to $59/day.

For those hosting visitors and guests, this will affect your events and programs. Please modify your invitation letters, conference announcements and other documentation accordingly.

Contact: Alison Twombly, Ext. 4346, atwombly@slac.stanford.edu

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View Safety and Security Briefing Online

Video and presentation slides from the September 20 'Safety and Security Briefing' are available here:

https://www-internal.slac.stanford.edu/bsd/ISSM/briefing05/

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Plan for your news in the headlines now!

The Interaction Point issue dates and story deadlines through January 2006:

- October 21 - articles due Oct. 11
- November 4 - articles due Oct. 25
- November 18 - articles due Nov. 8
- December 2 - articles due Nov. 18*
- December 16 - articles due Dec. 6
- January 20 - articles due Jan. 10

Stories due 10 days before publication date, with one exception (see*) for Deadline/Issue date change to accommodate Holiday Schedule.

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The SLAC Emergency Hotline Number:

1-877-447-SLAC (7522)

Please make a note of the SLAC Emergency Hotline number. In the event of an emergency, the most current information about SLAC will be a single phone call away.

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Trapsi, John (SCS), 10/2
Madejski, Grzegorz (ASG), 10/1
Nilsson, Anders (ESRD), 10/1

10 Years
Schwiening, Jochen (EB), 10/1

20 Years
Hodgson, John (REG), 10/1

30 Years
Jaros, John (EA), 10/6

40 Years
Combs, Steven L. (MFD), 9/20

Retired
Stewart, Glena (AD), 8/31
Washington, Carleton (RPG), 8/19

Deceased
Joost, Cecily (formerly HR), age 81, passed away on August 9, 2005.
Reardon, Patrick (ESD), age 45, passed away on July 21, 2005.

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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Look for the launch of the new and improved SLAC TODAY on Monday, October 10. New Look, new ease of use more information at your finger tips. Links to everything at SLAC and elsewhere: late-breaking science news, SLAC events, people and so much more!

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Sixth Annual SMB Summer School

The sixth annual structural molecular biology (SMB) summer school was held at SSRL from September 12-15. This year's school was co-chaired by SSRL staff scientists Serena DeBeer George and Clyde Smith, and focused on the application of x-ray absorption spectroscopy and protein crystallography to biological problems. The summer school opened with a day and a half of lectures, which provided a general introduction to both techniques, as well as covering basic theory, experimental considerations, and applications. These lectures were followed by two days of rotating practical sessions, giving the students hands-on experience in data collection and analysis. The summer school closed with a final series of lectures on advanced applications of x-ray absorption spectroscopy and protein crystallography. This year's summer school was attended by 20 students and was lead by a team of 14 tutors. The lectures and practical sessions were enthusiastically received by the participants.

(Photo courtesy of SSRL)

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