

**PROFILE**

## Tom Row — the ultimate volunteer

**Tom Row can truly be called the ultimate volunteer.** Employed at ORNL 40 years in various capacities, Tom became heavily involved with community volunteer work. Now, 11 years after retiring, Tom is as busy as ever with volunteering.

Some of the organizations where he has lent his services are United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Oak Ridge Sister Cities, Second Harvest and the Foundation for the American Museum of Science and Energy. He also led the reconstruction effort of First Christian Church of Oak Ridge after the church burned in 2004 as a result of arson.

### Second career as a volunteer

“I gained plenty of experiences and lessons that helped me to be a better volunteer,” Tom said recently while sitting in the back yard of his Oak Ridge home. “At the Lab, I worked with a lot of good people to solve a lot of problems. When you are a volunteer, you are also working with good people who are trying to solve problems.”

Tom treasures 40 years of ORNL experiences. “I’m proud of the Lab, what is accomplished and what it stands for,” Tom says. “While I may no longer work there, I still follow the activities closely and think there’s just a lot of new wonderful stuff going on there.”

Tom credits Bill Bibb, who came to Oak Ridge with the old Atomic Energy Commission and later worked at Y-12, with instilling a confidence within the ORNL work force that any challenge could be overcome.

“When I was working with Bill, he always encouraged the Lab to be the best it could be in whatever it was undertaking,” Tom recalls. “The opportunities the Lab has now are new examples of how it is still the best.”

### Early Lab experiences

Tom came to ORNL in 1959 after earning degrees from Roanoke College and

Virginia Tech. “My advisor at VPI encouraged me to go to Oak Ridge because there was exciting activity going on,” said Tom.

Tom’s early ORNL work focused on reactor containment issues that could arise after a nuclear-related accident.

Moving on to the nuclear waste management program, Tom helped lead the effort resulting in the DOE Oak Ridge Model. Tom recalls that, “We were able to increase the nuclear waste budget from \$15 million to \$65 million in five years.”

### Trivelpiece years

When Tom retired from the Lab in 1999, he was a senior assistant to then-Director Alvin Trivelpiece. He is especially proud of initiating a series of Community Days in the 1990s when the general public was invited in to tour ORNL.

“We attracted several thousand people each time,” Tom remembers. “I think the public gained a greater appreciation for what the Lab was doing.”

Tom credits Trivelpiece’s leadership with paving the way for new science opportunities.

“I saw the growth of supercomputing 20 years ago and urged that we get involved with it,” says Tom, noting the Lab now hosts the world’s fastest supercomputer.

Tom has always considered himself a people person, and he credits many ORNL people over the years who worked well together in common efforts.

“I feel fortunate in that I was able to work with good people with good ideas in so many areas and was able to follow Bill Bibb’s encouraging words to make the lab the best it could be,” Tom says.—*Fred Strohl*



*Tom Row (right) compares memories with (from left) Don Trauger, Alvin Weinberg, and Herman Postma at the ORNL History Time Line Appreciation Reception, November 2000.*

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“The work provided me early leadership opportunities and lit a fire that kept burning for 40 years.”

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## Scientists collaborate to prevent blindness



The presence of microaneurysms, indicated by small hemorrhages (red lesions) and exudates (white lesions) are telltale signs of diabetic retinopathy. TRIAD detects the presence and significance of these lesions and helps doctors determine an appropriate treatment path.

“In the next 15 years we will need to be able to screen more than 1 million patients every day worldwide in order to detect and manage vision loss and blindness due to diabetes.”

*Reporter* is published for retirees of ORNL, which is managed by UT-Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy.

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**Automated Medical Diagnostics (AMDx), a startup company based in Memphis,** predicts its product will help preserve the sight of millions of people at risk of vision loss from diabetic retinopathy.

Using a technology recently licensed from ORNL and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, doctors in primary care offices and remote sites can quickly screen patients for retinal diseases, permitting early detection and referral for diabetic retinopathy and diseases.

“If diabetic retinopathy is detected early, treatments can preserve vision and significantly reduce the incidence of debilitating blindness,” said Edward Chaum, an ophthalmologist and Plough Foundation professor of retinal diseases at the UT Health Science Center Hamilton Eye Institute in Memphis. Chaum and ORNL’s Ken Tobin, partners in AMDx, led the team that developed a method for teaching computers to aid in the diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy and other blinding eye diseases.

The Web-based technology called TRIAD (Telemedical Retinal Image Analysis and Diagnosis) uses a digital camera that takes pictures of the retina at a physician’s office or clinic. The patient’s medical data and retinal images are sent to a server and processed through a patented system that quickly sorts through large databases, comparing the patient’s retinal images with images showing states of diabetic eye disease. This allows diagnoses to be made in seconds so patients will know before they leave the doctor’s office if they have no eye disease or if they need to follow up with a retinal specialist. Conventional testing techniques keep patients waiting several days to receive results.

This allows far more people to undergo screening, especially the indigent and those in areas that are medically underserved.

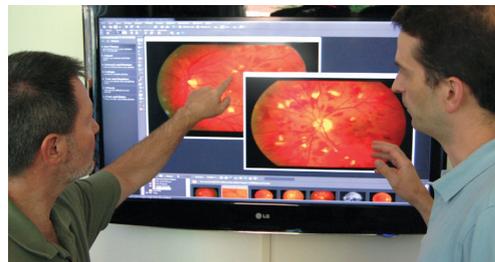
Patients will know before they leave the doctor’s office if they have no eye disease or need to follow up with a retinal specialist.

“Today, less than half of Americans known to be diabetic receive the recommended yearly examination because they either cannot afford eye exams, lack access to eye care providers or are unable to comply with physicians’ recommendations,” Chaum said. “In the next 15 years we will need to be able to screen more than 1 million patients every day worldwide in order to detect and manage vision loss and blindness due to diabetes.

“By using automated computer-assisted diagnostic methods like TRIAD and the connectivity of the Web throughout the world, this is an achievable goal.”

Tobin and Chaum see AMDx and TRIAD as a game changer, providing diabetic patients with easy access to screening cameras in primary care medical practices and a variety of other settings.

Other researchers involved in TRIAD are Tom Karnowski and Luca Giancado of ORNL’s Measurement Science and Systems Engineering Division, Yaqin Li of the UT Health Science Center, Seema Garg of the University of North Carolina and Karen Fox of the Delta Health Alliance. The project has been supported by a grant from the National Eye Institute with additional funding provided by The Plough Foundation in Memphis, Research to Prevent Blindness in New York and the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. Together, this funding has been used to establish a telemedical network spanning Tennessee, Mississippi and North Carolina to support clinical testing and validation.—Ron Walli 🌱



Oak Ridge National Laboratory researchers Ken Tobin (left) and Tom Karnowski see TRIAD as something that could be a life-changer for people at risk of diabetic retinopathy and other potentially blinding diseases. (Photo by Ron Walli/ORNL)

## Stepping up for a worthy cause

On Saturday, May 1, a group from Team UT-Battelle braved grave weather reports to support a well-known local charity. Walkers traveled four and a half miles in the Walk for Babies.

ORNL employee Teresa Williams has a passion for helping those unable to help themselves. Her efforts raised over \$1000 for March of Dimes research and support.

“Whether it be March of Dimes, cancer research, the Alzheimer’s Association, JDRF or others, I figure my time to walk and fundraise may not be that significant, but eventually it will make a difference for someone,” said Teresa.

Fellow volunteer and ORNL employee Marilyn Kerley walked with a purpose, too. “Since becoming involved with the

March of Dimes, I’ve had two friends and a daughter deliver prematurely, and it really brought home the importance of the research MOD supports,” said Marilyn.

The March of Dimes gives hope to more than 1 million babies born too soon each year. The money raised from the March for Babies supports programs that help mothers have healthy, full-term pregnancies. It also funds research into problems that threaten premature babies. For more than a decade, Team UT-Battelle has been a major supporter of East Tennessee March of Dimes events.

To become involved with future Team UT-Battelle events, visit [www.ornl.gov/info/news/cco/teamutb.shtml](http://www.ornl.gov/info/news/cco/teamutb.shtml).

—Stephanie Ritchie 🌿



ORNL volunteers teamed up for the annual March for Babies event in Oak Ridge. Seated in the train car: Zoe Harter (daughter of Andrew Harter). Front: Andrew Harter holding daughter, Ryan. Middle row (from left): Marilyn Kerley, Daniel Ciarlette, Lynne Harrison, Laura Wagner and Teresa Williams. Back row: Nancy Jett and Jimmy Lynn.

## Retirement plan annual funding notice available online

Each year in the mail, ORNL retirees receive an Annual Funding Notice about our pension plan, which provides information about the funded status of the plan. The notice also provides information about the retirement plan administration and its participants.

If you want to see the notice effective December 31, 2009, along with frequently asked questions, you’ll find both documents online in the notices section of the ORNL benefits website: <https://portal.ornl.gov/sites/hrd/benefits/notices/Pages/default.aspx>. If you have any questions regarding these documents, please contact the Benefits Service Center at 574-1500. 🌿

## Join the Friends of ORNL for June/July meetings

FORNL meets the third Wednesday of each month at the UT Resource Center, 1201 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, located between Taco Bell and Applebee’s at the intersection of the Turnpike and Rutgers Avenue.

Socializing starts at 11 a.m., lunch is served at 11:30 a.m., the presentation begins at noon, followed by a question and answer session and adjournment at 1p.m. Lunch is provided by the Soup Kitchen for a cost of \$7 per person. Speakers for June and July are

June 16: Syd Ball of ORNL’s Nuclear Science and Technology Division who will discuss gas-cooled reactors.

July 21: Jim Roberto, who will discuss ORNL’s contribution to the discovery of Element 117.

For more information contact Larry Shappert at 865-483-7575 ([shappertlb@comcast.net](mailto:shappertlb@comcast.net)).—Fred Strobl 🌿



## Club ORNL events

Get the details and latest news online via <https://info.ornl.gov/sites/clubornl>. Request an XCAMS account, which will allow you to participate in these events or contact Lara James at 576-3753 or [jamesla@ornl.gov](mailto:jamesla@ornl.gov).

**June 12** Smokies Baseball vs. West Tennessee

**June 14** Spring Golf Tournament

**July 17** White Water Rafting

**July 24** IJAMS Nature Center

**August 14-15** Fall Creek Falls Overnight



Berkelium-249, contained in the greenish fluid in the tip of the vial, was crucial to the experiment that discovered element 117. It was made at HFIR, ORNL's research reactor.



Jim Roberto, a principal author on the published paper, says, "By studying these super-heavy elements, we've learned new fundamental information about the center of atoms; and this increases our understanding of the universe."

## International team discovers element 117

**Oak Ridge National Laboratory is part of a team that has added a new chemical element to the Periodic Table.**

The news came after a paper on the discovery of element 117 was accepted for publication in *Physical Review Letters*.

The team includes two Russian partners, the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research (JINR) in Dubna and the Research Institute for Advanced Reactors in Dimitrovgrad. Other team members included Lawrence

Livermore National Laboratory, Vanderbilt University and the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

ORNL's role included production of the berkelium-249 isotope necessary for the target.

"Without the berkelium target, there could have been no experiment," says ORNL Director of Strategic Capabilities Jim Roberto, who is a principal author on the PRL paper and helped initiate the experiment.

The berkelium was produced at ORNL's High Flux Isotope Reactor and processed at the adjoining Radiochemical Engineering & Development Laboratory as part of the most recent campaign to produce californium-252, a radioisotope widely used in industry and medicine.

Roberto worked closely with Yuri Oganessian of Russia's JINR. Five months of beam time at the Dubna JINR U400 accelerator's calcium-48 beam—one of the world's most powerful—was dedicated to the project. Lawrence Livermore contributed data analysis, and the entire team was involved in the assessment of the results.

The massive effort identified a total of six atoms of element 117 and the criti-

cal reams of data that substantiate their existence.

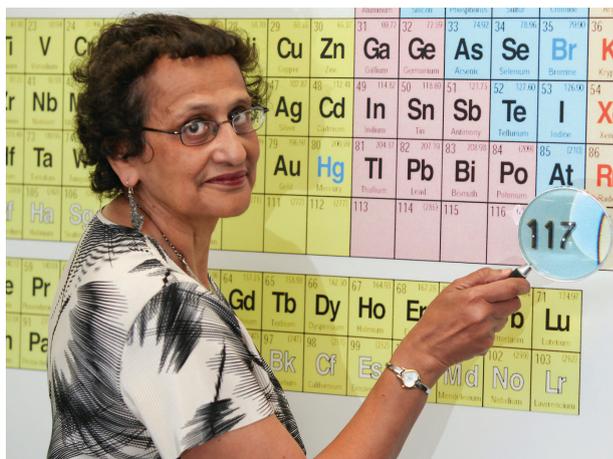
The two-year experimental campaign began with a 250-day irradiation in HFIR, producing 22 milligrams of berkelium-249, which has a 320-day half-life. The irradiation was followed by 90 days of processing at REDC to separate and purify the berkelium. The Bk-249 target was prepared at Dimitrovgrad and then bombarded for 150 days at the Dubna facility.

This is the second element that ORNL has had a role in discovering. Element 117 joins element 61, promethium, which was discovered at the Graphite Reactor during the Manhattan project and reported in 1946. ORNL, through the

production of radioisotopes for research, has contributed to the discovery of a total of seven new elements.

Members of the ORNL team include the Physics Division's Krzysztof Rykaczewski, Porter Bailey of the Nonreactor Nuclear Facilities Division, and Dennis Benker, Julie Ezold, Curtis Porter and Frank Riley of the Nuclear S&T Division.

Roberto says the success of the element-117 campaign underscores the value of international collaborations in science. "The 117 experiment paired one of the world's leading research reactors—capable of producing the berkelium target material—with the exceptional heavy ion accelerator and detection capabilities at Dubna. This use of ORNL isotopes and Russian accelerators is a tremendous example of the value of working together," he says.—*Bill Cabage* 🌱



Oak Ridge High School teacher Nita Ganguly points to element 117's square on the Periodic Table. For her future students, that square will no longer be blank.

## Are You Ready for a Recipe Makeover?

**You love Mom’s homemade pie – but does it love you back?** After factoring butter, sugar and salt, you need healthier versions of the foods you’ve cooked for years. Try a recipe makeover and serve your family favorites with less fat, calories and guilt.

**By making changes to the recipe, you save 110 calories, 9 grams of fat, 35 milligrams of cholesterol and 25 milligrams of sodium – per muffin.**

### Use half and cut calories

**Fat.** For baked goods, use half the butter, shortening or oil. Make up the difference using unsweetened applesauce, mashed banana or prune puree. Fruit-based fat replacers, found in the baking aisle of your grocery store, work well too.

**Sugar.** Reduce sugar by one-third to one-half. Add spices such as cinnamon, cloves, allspice and nutmeg or flavorings like vanilla or almond extract to enhance sweetness.

**Sodium.** Reduce salt by one-half in baked goods that don’t require yeast. For foods that require yeast, salt is necessary for leavening. Without it, foods can be dense and flat. For most main dishes, salads and soups, however, you can often eliminate salt completely.

### Make healthy substitutions

Healthy substitutions not only reduce fat, calories and sodium but also boost nutritional content. Prepare a dessert with fat-free milk (rather than whole) to save 63 calories and eight fat grams per cup.

### Delete an ingredient

Quite often, frosting, coconut or nuts are added out of habit or for appearance. They also add fat and calories. Without sacrificing much taste, you can delete many ingredients altogether, such as pickles, olives, butter, mayonnaise, syrup and jelly.

### Change the cooking technique

Healthy cooking techniques – such as braising, broiling, grilling or steaming – will capture flavor without adding extra fat. For instance, each tablespoon (about 14 g) of oil used when frying adds 14 grams of fat and over 100 calories. Instead of frying foods, try poaching or baking. If a recipe requires basting in oil or drippings, use wine, fruit juice or vegetable broth. Use nonstick pans or nonstick cooking sprays to further reduce fat and calories.

### Change the portion size

No matter how much you reduce, switch or substitute, some dishes remain high in sugar or fat. Rather than deny yourself an occasional treat, reduce the portion size. Choose a luncheon-size rather than a full-size dinner plate. You can have a wide variety of the foods you enjoy and still get energy, protein, vitamins, minerals, fat and fiber you need to stay healthy.

[Reference: The Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (MFMER)] 🌿

### Morning Glory Muffins

Prep Time: 15 minutes • Cook Time: 35 minutes • Makes 18 sm. muffins

1 c. all-purpose flour	½ c. vegetable oil
1 c. whole-wheat flour	½ c. unsweetened applesauce
¾ c. sugar	2 tsp. vanilla extract
2 tsp. baking soda	2 c. chopped apples (unpeeled)
2 tsp. ground cinnamon	½ c. raisins
¼ tsp. salt	½ c. grated carrots
¾ c. egg substitute	2 tbsp. chopped pecans



Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a muffin pan with paper or foil liners. In a bowl, combine the flours, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Whisk to blend evenly. In a separate bowl, add egg substitute, oil, applesauce and vanilla. Stir in apples, raisins and carrots. Add to the flour mixture and blend until moistened, but still slightly lumpy. Spoon batter into muffin cups, filling each cup about 2/3 full. Sprinkle with chopped pecans and bake until springy to the touch (about 35 minutes). Let cool for 5 minutes, then transfer muffins to a wire cooling rack. Cool completely, serve and enjoy!

### Recipe redo

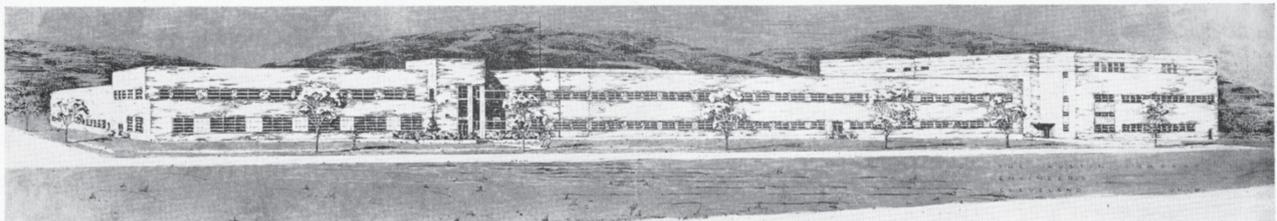
- Half the amount of original flour is now whole wheat
- Amount of sugar and pecans were cut in half
- Replaced half original oil with applesauce
- Omitted coconut and replaced with extra carrots for added fiber and Vitamin A
- To enhance the overall sweetness, doubled vanilla and cinnamon



# THE NEWS

## OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

A Publication by and for the ORNL Employees of Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Division, Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation  
 Vol. 2—No. 43 OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE Friday, May 5, 1950



Research Laboratory Building and Isotope Research & Semi Works Building . . . Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This sketch was prepared by The Austin Company, Cleveland, Ohio.

### Construction Bids for Research Laboratory Opened Yesterday

Good news came to research employees of Oak Ridge National Laboratory on April 24 in the form of an announcement by the Atomic Energy Commission that bids would be opened for the Research Laboratory Building on May 4 and that plans and specifications for the Isotope Research and Semi-Works Building would be issued on May 1 to contractors, for bids to be received June 15.

The time allowed for the completion of the two structures has been fixed at 540 days for the Research Laboratory Building and at 405 days for the other. If such schedules are maintained, final work on each of these two facilities should be accomplished at about the same time in December, 1951, engineers on the building project say.

The announcement represents the culmination of more than a year's planning on the part of the Austin Company, the architectural and engineering firm assigned to the building project; Dr. D. C. Bardwell, chairman of the Building Committee; and the New Facilities Design Section

### Science Meetings

**BIOLOGY SEMINAR** to be announced later.

**OAK RIDGE PHYSICS SEMINAR** at 4 p. m., Friday, May 12, in the East Lounge of Ridge Hall, X-RAC, and Electronic Analogue Computer Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania.

### Electrochemical Soc. Gives John C. Griess 'Young Author' Prize

John C. Griess, of the Separation Processes Section of the Chemistry Division, was notified April 20 that he had earned the singular distinction of being selected by the Electrochemical Society for the "Young Authors Award" for 1949. The award, which is made annually by the society to the author under 27 years of age who has the best paper presented at its meetings or published in the *Journal of the Electrochemical Society*.



The paper for which the award was given appeared in the March, 1949, issue of the *Journal of the Electrochemical Society* under the title "Electroreduction of Traces of Silver from Palladium." It was also delivered before a meeting of the society during May 5 to 7, 1949, in Philadelphia. Dr. L. B. Rogers, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Consultant to the Chemistry Division, is co-author of the paper. Dr. Rogers was formerly a member of the regular staff of the Chemistry Division.

The award-winning paper is concerned with a study of the effects of various complexing agents on the electroreduction of trace amounts of silver from much larger amounts of palladium. In the study, it was shown that silver could be separated from palladium in a sodium cyanide solution by use of a controlled cathode potential electrolysis.

By bombarding palladium in the pile, radioisotope silver-111 is produced and can be separated in high yields. The silver separated in this way has a very high specific activity and is both chemically and radiochemically free from palladium, the paper reveals.

Mr. Griess, whose original home is Mt. Vernon, Ind., joined the research staff of the Laboratory in April, 1947. He received a B. S. degree in Chemistry at the University of Indiana in 1943 and an M. A. degree in Chemistry at the same institution in 1947.

### R. Schroeder Joins Reactor Tech. Staff

Robert W. Schroeder, aeronautical engineer, joined the staff of the Reactor Technology Division, April 17. In his work here he will be associated with Dr. C. B. Ellis, ORNL Coordinator of the ANP project.

A native of New York City, Mr. Schroeder comes to the Laboratory from the Glenn L. Martin Co. of Baltimore, Md., where he was Chief of the Power Plant Design Section.

Mr. Schroeder received a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree at Polytechnic Institute in New York City in 1939. He did graduate work in 1939 and 1940 in aeronautics.



Mr. Schroeder is currently working on the development of a fuel cell for the Navy Department. He is also working on the development of a fuel cell for the Navy Department.

During the past year, he has worked on the development of a fuel cell for the Navy Department. He is also working on the development of a fuel cell for the Navy Department.

He is accompanied by his wife, the former Jane Brown, and their son, Billy.

### 'Chemistry in the Kitchen'

Mrs. Charles R. Griess, housewife, was the subject of "Chemistry in the Kitchen" on the radio, broadcast at 9:15 p. m. (May 7), over WATO. The subject will be the chemistry involved in the preparation of food.



Chancellor Harry Woodburn Chase congratulates Fred H. Haggerson, President of UCC, on receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Commercial Science.

### F. Haggerson, UCC President, Honored

Fifty of the nation's foremost "Builders of Enterprise" recently received honorary degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

## Sixty years ago this month

### Taken from The ORNL News for May 1950

- John Griess receives the Young Author Award from the Electrochemical Society for work he did in 706C (now building 3150)
- ORNL's tennis team, in its 7th season, beats Y-12
- Capability of recovering technetium and promethium, two rare elements from radioactive wastes used for medical applications, increases as enhanced precipitation techniques are developed
- Art Snell, physics director, organizes a symposium on "Nuclear Reactions of the Light Elements"
- ORNL's Operation Division ships the first isotopes for human use to ORINS's Medical Division (ORINS later became Oak Ridge Associated Universities)
- ORNL's apprentice training program receives national recognition in *Mill and Factory* magazine following a visit by the U.S. Department of Labor
- ORNL is featured on WATO's local radio program Headlines in Chemistry with a special broadcast on "Chemistry in the Kitchen"
- Softball league teams from health physics, physics, and engineering win games

—prepared by ORNL History Room volunteers

## From the Lab Director

In a recent Director's Forum with senior Lab managers, I reviewed some of the accomplishments of UT-Battelle's tenure as ORNL contractor as we look toward another five years with the recent contract extension. It is interesting how some of today's issues of managing a national laboratory and responding to changing missions have changed so little since ORNL's earliest days.

More than 50 years ago, the Laboratory Research Plan noted the challenge of conducting research across divisions. Staff meetings also included discussions of how to push the new technologies of the "Atomic Age" into the marketplace. I shared with staff how key decisions made decades ago have figured prominently into our recent successes.

One notable example is ORNL's role in the element 117 discovery, which can trace its roots to the decision in the 1960s to optimize the proposed High Flux Isotope Reactor for production of transuranic elements.

Now that the contract extension has provided a green light to proceed, we can focus on leveraging some of the improvements of the past decade—including a modernized campus and growing programs—to the task of determining our mission and strategy for the next decade. Part of this effort will involve deciding how we will align our Laboratory Agenda with new initiatives and opportunities in science and technology, operations, and community outreach.

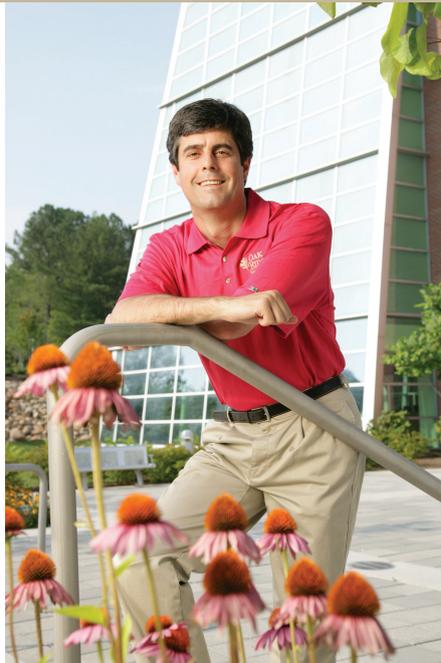
These decisions will come as forecasts call for a lean year for the FY 2011 budget that includes increases in utility costs and a substantial contribution to the pension plan for the first time since 1984. The good news is that we anticipated these events and have been taking steps to prepare for these challenges. As in the past, the decisions we make today will weigh heavily on the Laboratory fortunes in the years to come.

**We continue to welcome important visitors to ORNL.** Recent guests include Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander and Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, Yves Caristan of the French Atomic Energy Commission's Saclay Research Center, and Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics Molly Jahm.

I want to commend the Lab staff for raising more than \$17,000 for earthquake victims in Haiti. Billy Stair returned Friday from Boucan Carre, Haiti, where he visited a hospital that was damaged in the quake and where a large number of victims were transferred from Port au Prince and where patients are still sleeping outside. The hospital is managed by Partners in Health, a group based in Boston that focuses on rural health care in Haiti. We will give the funds from the ORNL campaign to Partners in Health to help pay for repairs at the Boucan Carre hospital. Once again, I am impressed with the outpouring of generosity by our employees.

*Thomas Mason*

Thom Mason




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“Decisions we make today will weigh heavily on the Laboratory fortunes in the years to come.”

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(From left) Senators Lamar Alexander (Tenn.) and Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) receive an explanation of the Radiochemical Engineering Development Laboratory from Nuclear Operations Director Kelly Beierschmitt.



A Haitian child at Boucan Carre.



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## Celebrating National Laboratory Day

ORNL celebrated Lab Day on May 5th this year with 120 middle-school students participating in the event aimed at spurring interest in science careers. Science teachers and students came from 6 (six) area middle schools: Vine, Jefferson, Harriman, Coalfield, Clinton, and Bearden. Half of the students boarded buses and rode two miles to the Spallation Neutron Source where they toured the target building and experienced a simulated trip through the accelerator tunnel.

The main campus group visited with researchers in superhydrophobics and forensic anthropology, viewed EVEREST (with commentary by Thom Mason), and saw a plug-in Prius and a GEM (electric) car. Students even performed a spontaneous experiment: How many middle-school students fit in a GEM car? After lunch, the groups switched locations.

Everyone, including 15 ORNL chaperones plus our host researchers, had a great time. 🌿



*Alayne Hoffman (left) and Kennisa Tory, students from area middle schools, enjoy a trip through the Spallation Neutron Source accelerator simulator during Lab Day on May 5.*