Russian City Mimics NIH
By Sharon Ricks

About 4,971 miles (as the crow flies) northeast of Bethesda, at the bend of the Oka River, Puschino is a Russian academic research town a lot like NIH. Recently, 11 students from the Number Three school in Puschino came to experience how first-class American laboratories work, as part of the Sidwell Friends School exchange program. They were surprised to find that NIH is a far away twin.

"Puschino was created as an academic research town in the early 1960’s," explains Richard Lesczynski, a teacher at Sidwell.

Space Shuttle Astronauts To Debrief NIH, July 16

On Thursday, July 16, NIH will have a special opportunity to hear presentations by Space Shuttle Columbia astronauts visiting from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The event will take place in Natcher auditorium from 10:30 a.m. to noon and is open to all NIH employees.

Attendees will hear Commander Richard A. Searfoss present an overview of scientific experiments conducted on the recent "Neurolab" mission, which was devoted to nervous system research. He will be joined by five of his fellow crew members, Pilot Scott D. Altman, Mission Specialists Kathryn P. Hire, Richard M.

Introducing the VRC

New Building Poised to Join AIDS Fight, Groundbreaking Due Soon
By Rich McManus

Even with all the construction now under way, including a new hospital, lab building, utility pipe system going in (to be completed in August), and even a new power plant at the heart of campus, chances are that few NIH’ers will begrudge yet another major construction project soon to begin on the lawn just east of Bldg. 37. That’s because Bldg. 40, the new 3-story Vaccine Research Center (VRC), will become a launch pad in the quest to create an AIDS vaccine.

Shovels will be broken out late this summer on a project that has been on a blindingly fast track since President Clinton pledged, during a graduation address at Baltimore’s Morgan State University in May 1997, to launch a federal effort to make an AIDS vaccine within 10 years.

"This is the fastest-moving project I’ve ever been involved with," said Nancy Boyd, VRC project officer for the Office of Research Services and member of the Division of Engineering Services, Design Construction.

Gaithersburg Tragedy Highlights Fire Safety
By José Alvarado

Two minutes is all it takes for a house fire to get out of control and kill.

That’s what NIH fire prevention authorities want to emphasize to NIH’ers who may think of a fire in their house as a remote possibility. Simple but vital measures can prevent tragedies like the one that claimed the lives of two boys in a Gaithersburg home last month, say fire prevention section (FPS) officials.

In the Gaithersburg fire, a smoke detector that did not go off was a factor that led to the boys’ deaths and left three others severely burned. The blaze engulfed the basement of the house where the youngsters had been enjoying an impromptu sleepover. Earlier in the evening, a thunderstorm had knocked out power to the home, so the boys lit a candle and spent the night playing card...
ASTRONAUTS VISIT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Linnehan, and Dafydd Rhys Williams, and Payload Specialists Jay C. Buckey, Jr., and James A. Pawelczyk.

Neurolab was a collaborative effort between NASA and various domestic and international agencies, with substantial support provided by NIH. The Space Shuttle mission carrying the Neurolab program had its origins in 1991 and was designed to be NASA’s contribution to the “Decade of the Brain,” a congressional declaration signed into law on Jan. 1, 1990, by former President George Bush.

Although it was the third Space Shuttle mission dedicated to life science research, the Neurolab flight was the first mission that specifically focused on how the neurological system responds to the challenges of space flight. Over the 16-day mission, which began on Apr. 16, seven crew members worked in a reusable laboratory module called Spacelab, which was carried in the shuttle payload bay and was designed to allow scientists to perform experiments under microgravity conditions while orbiting Earth.

In addition to crew members conducting in-flight experiments with animals in Spacelab, separate teams of scientists temporarily based at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center conducted controlled experiments on the ground. Human investigations were coordinated at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Experiments were conducted on aquatics, the autonomic nervous system, mammalian development, sleep, the vestibular system, neurobiology and sensory motor and performance.

For details, see the NIH Web site under “News and Events.”

Office of Administration Wins IOSS Honor

The NIH Office of Administration recently received the “Silver Award” for its development and implementation of the largest government contract vehicle program, known as the NIH Information Technology Acquisition and Assessment Center, or NITAAC. The Federation of Government Information Processing Councils bestowed the honor at its eighth Intergovernmental Open Systems Solutions (IOSS) awards.

The NITAAC program, established under the leadership of Dr. Leamon Lee, NIH associate director for administration, has created a faster and improved method for procuring goods not only for NIH, but also for all federal agencies. NITAAC is best known for its intergovernmental approach to problem-solving and attacking new and improved ways for procuring goods faster and cheaper. During the ceremony, it was noted that NITAAC is the most innovative multiple award contract provider of quality information technology products and services. NITAAC produced over $527 million in gross sales in FY 1997. Since it began in FY 1996, it has resulted in $8.3 million in cost savings.

For more information on the program, visit its Web site at NITAAC.nih.gov.

Volunteers Needed for Cognitive Studies

The Laboratory of Brain and Cognition, NIMH, is seeking healthy volunteers ages 18-45 to participate in research on learning and memory. Procedures require approximately 3 hours over the course of 2 days. Participants will be paid. Call 496-5625 ext. 211.

A recent performance by the Bethesda Little Theatre raised $4,500 for the Clinical Center’s Patient Emergency Fund and $1,500 for Camp Funshine, an effort sponsored by Special Love, Inc., which assists people with AIDS and their families. Shown at the check presentation are (from l) Dr. Lauren Wood (NCI), representing Camp Funshine; Brian Campbell (SAMHSA) and Alice “Frankie” Smyth, both of the Bethesda Little Theatre; Randy Schools, president of the Recreation and Welfare Association at NIH; Adrienne Farrar, director of the CC’s social work department; and Lynne Pusaniek of the Bethesda Little Theatre.
**Grateful Lancasters Bid Farewell to NIH**

By Rich McManus

As if nothing like a debilitation case of cystic fibrosis—followed by a double-lung transplant and a rugged postoperative course—had occurred to him, NIDR oral medicine fellow Dr. Henry Lancaster wrapped up his 3-year training stint here July 2 and is preparing for a new job as assistant professor of oral medicine at Indiana University School of Dental Medicine in Indianapolis.

“This is exactly what I have been training for,” said Lancaster, who returned to hearty greetings from colleagues at NIH June 5 after having spent the previous 6½ months in New Orleans, at first anxiously awaiting a donor who would match his requirements for a transplant, then getting the new lungs on Feb. 9 at Ochsner Foundation Hospital, then emerging from a harrowing 100-day postoperative course that saw him descend, due to medication, into a nadir of depression. Several other complications, including five operations to repair scarring inside his lungs, conspired to delay his return to NIH from April until June. That was time enough for Lancaster and his wife Joanne, an NICHD immunologist, to decide that, fun though it may be, New Orleans is too hot and muggy for their tastes; she got a job at Eli Lilly & Co. in Indianapolis and the couple will relocate there this month.

“We wanted to get back to the Midwest to be closer to my family,” said Henry, who grew up in Peoria, Ill. (see Sept. 23, 1997, NIH Record).

Though the NIH chapter of their lives closes with what seems a fairy-tale ending—recall that they were sent off last fall with a rousing Irish dancing fundraiser in a packed Masur Auditorium, and that the money raised that evening proved invaluable in allowing the young couple to afford daunting financial burdens—Henry’s restoration was hard won. While he was up walking and biking the levee on the Mississippi River very shortly after the operation, outpacing both Joanne and his own body (“He had to build up muscles to get his body in shape with his new lungs,” she said), Henry soon fell into major depression brought on by high doses of steroids.

“The physical part [of recovery] came almost right away,” he recalls. “I was on a 45-minute workout regimen every day. I could walk around easily, whereas before the operation, just walking down the hall in Building 10 was wearing me out. But then the drugs began to have very bad side effects. My mood swings grew into a case of clinical depression. "They start you out on very high doses of these drugs," he recalled. “The steroids prompted a month’s worth of really severe depression. I was aware that it was something due to the drugs, but we were afraid it would be permanent. There was just a lot of fear and anxiety, and I could not get out of it.

“I would be totally afraid to get out of bed and leave the apartment,” he remembered. “I’d just sit there in depression like a zombie.”

“It was so unlike Henry,” said Joanne. “The doctors knew he was having problems, but it was too early to remove the medications. It went away when the drug levels were reduced.”

“When they lowered the prednisone, it’s amazing how fast [the depression] went away,” Henry said.

“We knew people who were having similar bad effects, and even worse,” Joanne recalls. “It’s just a nasty drug.”

Henry still must take about 21 different drugs each day, for a total of 50 pills, and will remain on medication for the rest of his life. And side effects remain, but these are relatively minor. The couple’s biggest concern is chronic rejection of the transplanted organ: “That’s a long-term worry,” he said. “There’s nothing I can do to assure it won’t happen.”

Despite the trials of recovery, Henry is pleased with the outcome.

Yeah, I feel as good as I anticipated [before the operation],” he said. “I had some serious doubts during the worst of the side effects, but you get used to the (pill-taking) routine.”

“It’s not a completely normal lifestyle,” observes Joanne, “but it’s nowhere near as complicated as it was before the transplant.”

Nowadays, Henry’s sadness is likely to be prompted by a rainout of his beloved volleyball rather than a medical problem. “I can do lots of stuff now,” he says, “taking deep breaths to demonstrate his new capacity. “I’m biking, walking a lot, starting to jog, and use the Stairmaster—those things are enjoyable. I can do it now and not be exhausted.”

He says he had to unlearn the hunched posture he had unconsciously adopted to aid his labored breathing, and reports he is mercifully free of a chronic cough that could keep both of them awake at night.

Other than having to visit his physicians every 6 weeks or so for checkups, Henry can now lead a fairly normal life. “I’m just hoping that everything keeps going up and up,” he said.

The new career in Indianapolis seems a particularly just reward considering that Henry, rather than taking his ease while awaiting the transplant, continued to work at Louisiana State University’s department of oral medicine before the operation.

The Lancasters depart with warm regard for the NIH community, which responded generously to their financial straits. “It’s amazing what [financial needs] you don’t anticipate,” said Joanne. “The drugs that Henry has to take are extremely, extremely expensive. We really couldn’t have done it financially at all without help. We are very grateful.”
and director of the Russian exchange. "It was built to be environmentally perfect and looks like a big park. The main street is a boulevard, and everything is within walking distance, with only a few cars and buses." NIH and Puschino have a lot in common, says Lesczynski.

"Puschino is as large as NIH, the populations are similar, and scientists from both places study biology, physics, biochemistry and genetics." Lesczynski worked with Sidwell science teacher Santha Bundy-Farah, a long-time participant in NIDDK-sponsored EEO classes, to schedule the 2-day NIH visit, as part of their 3-week United States tour. Bundy-Farah says Jacqueline Dobson, the NIDDK EEO specialist, was a big help. "We want to expose the students to biomedical research in a way that will influence and shape their future careers," says Dobson, who collaborates with Bundy-Farah to host the annual program.

The Russian teenagers visited the Clinical Center, the National Library of Medicine and NIDDK's Discovery Center at Catholic University. They dissected a pig's heart, a cow's eye and a sheep's brain at the Clinical Center; they extracted DNA from E. coli bacterial cells and separated DNA using agarose gel electrophoresis at the Discovery Center.

"They had a ball," says Sharon Greenwell, coordinator of the Research Awareness Program at the NIH Visitor information Center, who helped with the tour. "They were good students, and we wanted to get them interested in science through hands-on learning experiences.

Lesczynski says NIH was a highlight of their stay in the U.S. "The sophistication and elegance in which things are done is wonderful," he explained.

In June, students from Sidwell visited the families of the Puschino students. Lesczynski says the program is more than a school-to-school exchange, it's a total immersion and the students become like brothers and sisters.

Most of the Russian students are children of scientists who live and work in Puschino. They live in apartments, and most families have a dacha, a one-room house with a garden outside where they grew vegetables for winter. The No. 3 school goes from kindergarten to grade 11.

In Puschino, the American students learned about horticultural and genetic research, of which Russian scientists are especially proud. They learned how Russian researchers bred a chrysanthemum that is able to withstand harsh Russian winters and planted vegetables in the dacha gardens. They ate shchi (cabbage soup) and ukha (freshwater fish soup), but most of all, they cultivated lifelong friendships with the families that sponsored them.

**NIAID Docs Bolster Community Care**

Since 1994, a group of NIAID physicians has been working in underserved Washington area neighborhoods with community physicians caring for growing populations of HIV and TB-infected clients. Dr. H. Clifford Lane spearheaded the outreach effort, known as the Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Study Support Project, with the goal of expanding the public's access to clinical trials.

Forming partnerships with the five urban clinics and local health departments has been rewarding for the insitute in many ways. A number of patients seen by NIAID physicians in the community clinics have enrolled in NIH-sponsored trials. A project participant, Dr. Henry Masur, explains, "Our institutes want to help a broad spectrum of people overcome potential barriers that might prevent their participation in research." Helpful aid provided by the program includes teaching materials appropriate for non-English speakers and people of low literacy levels, funds for Metro travel and meals, assistance with child care arrangements, and escorts for patients making their first visit to the Clinical Center.

Perhaps the biggest reward for NIAID participants is the opportunity to learn from their community physician colleagues about the needs of patient populations very different from those traditionally seen at NIH. Dr. Judith Falloon reports, "At this point, Dr. Hogan (of the Upper Cardozo Clinic) teaches us more than we teach him."

The NIAID outreach efforts are currently supported by Masur, Falloon and Drs. Michael Polis, Kirk Miller, and Laura O'Bryan, as well as onsite social work and nursing personnel. Agencies hosting institute employees include the Upper Cardozo Clinic, the Shelter at 3rd and C Streets, La Clinica de Pueblo, and the health departments of Prince George's, Montgomery and Arlington counties.—Tia Frazier
Six Films Set

Science in the Cinema Series Resumes, July 23

Panic in the streets will take place at NIH on Thursday evening, July 23. Don’t be too alarmed. We’re talking about Panic in the Streets, the 1950 Elia Kazan film about a Public Health Service doctor who tries to track down a killer who may be carrying the plague. The film will launch the fifth annual Science in the Cinema at Natcher auditorium.

The series features 6 films related to medical science, one night a week for 6 weeks. After the screening of each film, a guest speaker with expertise in the film’s subject area comments on the science depicted in the movie and takes questions from the audience.

The film festival begins with a look at the past, into the history of the PHS, which celebrates its 200th anniversary this month. Dr. John Parascandola, PHS historian, will comment after the screening of Panic in the Streets.

Drugstore Cowboy is the featured film on July 30. Dr. Alan Leshner, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, will be the guest speaker. The 1989 film stars Matt Dillon as a junkie who robs a string of pharmacies to feed his drug addiction and that of his companions.

The first of three movies in a row featuring an Oscar-winning best actress performance is on Aug. 6. The film is Children of a Lesser God, starring the 1986 winner, Marlee Matlin, as a deaf woman who does not want to learn to read lips or speak phonetically. Dr. James F. Battey, director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, will discuss the film.

The most recent best actress winner, Helen Hunt, stars with Jack Nicholson in As Good As It Gets on Aug. 13. Nicholson plays an obsessive-compulsive novelist who has difficulty establishing relationships with people. Dr. Judith L. Rapoport, chief of the Child Psychiatry Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health, will comment on the film.

The 1957 best actress winner, Joanne Woodward, played a complex role in The Three Faces of Eve, to be shown Aug. 20. The film shows her harboring three distinct “personalities.” Dr. Paul R. McHugh, director of the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, will be the guest speaker.

Science in the Cinema ends with a look to the future. Gattaca, a film about the genetic engineering of “perfect” people, will wrap up the film festival on Aug. 27. Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, will discuss the film.

Sponsored by the Office of Science Education, the series begins each night at 7. It is free to the public, with seating on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call Ellen Dobbins, 402-2828, or check out OSE’s Web site at http://science-education.nih.gov.

New Service for Those Needing, Sharing Leave

A Web site has been constructed that allows an NIH employee facing an economic hardship because of insufficient leave (to cover a personal or family medical emergency) and who does not wish to request donated leave via the HHS-wide Voluntary Leave Transfer Web site, to have his/her name and request for donations placed on an NIH-only Web site. The employee must be an approved leave recipient under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTTP).

The service, provided by the Division of IC Consulting, Office of Human Resource Management as part of NIH’s ongoing initiative to improve quality of work life, is strictly voluntary for both leave recipients and leave donors. You can access the site via the Internet, through the OHRM home page at http://www1.od.nih.gov/ohrm/ or directly at http://www3.od.nih.gov/ohrm/vlttp/.

If you have questions, need more information regarding VLTTP, or want to announce your request for leave, contact the VLTTP representative in your institute or center. The list of NIH representatives can be found at the Web site.
and Alteration Branch’s Team 4 Research West. “People say they’ve never seen anything in the government move so fast.”

Though the effort has been spearheaded by the Office of AIDS Research and two institutes—NCI and NIAID—many interests are involved. OAR’s former head Dr. William Paul (now back at NIAID) was particularly forceful in leading the initial effort, said Boyd, as were the NIH immunology and virology communities, whose research needs, Boyd learned, are disparate.

Three different working groups are also involved, enlisting the expertise of the campus’ foremost movers and shakers in both the construction and scientific arenas.

Their labors will beget an 84,600-square-foot facility about the same height as Bldg. 37 (which itself is undergoing an 8-year modernization, both inside and out). With its glass “curtain wall/precast concrete” exterior, the VRC will resemble its neighbors Bldgs. 35, 36 and 37. The first floor will have an education/conference center—deemed essential for international communication with other scientific groups, said OAR, which is paying for this portion of the VRC with French American AIDS Fund money—featuring state-of-the-art audiovisual teleconference facilities, including a 100-seat conference room and a library. The rest of the facility, funded from appropriated dollars, includes a vivarium on the first floor. Above this floor will be a four-floor research tower of flexible “open lab” space accommodating some 150 researchers, along with their offices and meeting spaces. The top lab floors will have specialty labs including a biosafety level-3 containment facility and a process area that could be converted to a small GMP (good manufacturing practices) facility, which is a mini-vaccine production plant where a potential vaccine could be assembled, as in a pharmaceutical company; FDA advice has been helpful in planning this space, said Boyd.

Flexibility is a key element of the design, said Boyd, an 11-year NIH veteran whose recent projects have included the Bldg. 30 tower addition and several additions at the Poolesville animal center. “The interesting part of the job is that we don’t yet know who is going to go into the building,” she said. A search is now on for the VRC director, whose office will be on the first floor. “We’re designing the VRC so that changes can be easily made to suit whomever directs the center.”

The VRC will share with Bldg. 37 contact with a new electrical vault to be built between them, but otherwise won’t touch any of its neighbors; there will be no passage from 40 to 37, Boyd said.

When the President made his announcement in Baltimore just over a year ago, the thinking was that a “center without walls” would be adequate. It was later decided that an actual, physical center would be needed to concentrate the effort. “It was also clear that the facility wouldn’t be limited just to work on an AIDS vaccine—it is to be used for crafting vaccines against other illnesses as well,” Boyd noted.

ORS was asked how quickly it could come up with a VRC. “We said about 2½ years after the program
was defined," Boyd recalls. NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus then appointed a working group of 12 NIAID and NCI scientists representing the program needs of such a facility and set them to work with DES construction planners.

"We met many times in the first 60 days—we interviewed the scientists intensely during this period," said Boyd. The firm of Spaulding and Slye was named development manager on Oct. 30, 1997, bringing with them a team including Clark Construction Group as general contractor and Hansen Lind Meyer—the same firm that designed Bldg. 50— as architect/engineer. "We came up with a program report in December 1997, then proceeded to schematic drawings and design development," Boyd explained. A completed design is expected at the end of July, with construction set to begin in mid to late August, she said. Construction will wrap up in May 2000, with occupancy scheduled for late summer 2000.

As the fast-track project moves along, Boyd reports to the VRC executive committee any significant milestones attained, as well as any conflicts that need resolution. "So far, it's gone pretty smoothly," she said. Because the project will affect many neighboring buildings, particularly Bldg. 37, Boyd has presented construction plans to their occupants, alerting them to anticipated disruptions. As is done on other large projects, Boyd will create a listserv email network for broadcasting the latest pertinent information on construction to those with a need to know.

"It's a real exciting job," she says, "and it's been really nice for me because everyone knows the importance of maintaining the schedule and meeting all deadlines, so they are really putting in the effort to make decisions expeditiously. The cooperation has been outstanding." This is one building virtually everyone hopes will succeed, no matter how much dust it kicks up.

Dr. Keith L. Black

Black To Deliver 4th Diggs Lecture

Dr. Keith L. Black, director of the Neurosurgical Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, and professor and chairman of the department of neurological surgery at the University of California, Irvine, will present the 4th annual John Diggs Lecture on Friday, July 24, at 11:45 a.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. The title of his talk is "New Strategies for the Treatment of Brain Tumors."

A world renowned brain tumor specialist, Black is best known for his pioneering research on the blood-brain barrier. He discovered that bradykinin, a natural body compound, is effective in opening the blood-brain barrier, allowing chemotherapeutic drugs to be delivered directly into brain tumors, thus increasing the effectiveness of the drugs. Another of his noteworthy research projects has focused on developing a vaccine to enhance the body's immune response to brain tumors. His research was recently featured in *Time* magazine's special issue, "Heroes of Medicine."

As a leading researcher in the field of brain tumors, Black—who also serves as director of the Comprehensive Brain Tumor Program at Cedars-Sinai—has published more than 100 scientific papers and presented his research findings at many national and international meetings. He serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology, Neurological Research, Perspectives in Neurological Surgery, Critical Reviews in Neurosurgery,* and the *Journal of Radiosurgery.* He is also on the NIH board of scientific counselors for neurological disorders and stroke.

Black earned a bachelor of science degree in 1978 and a medical degree in 1981, both from the University of Michigan. After completing his residency and an internship at the medical center there, he joined the faculty of the University of California Los Angeles Medical Center. Before coming to Cedars-Sinai, Black served as head of neurosurgical oncology and head of the Comprehensive Brain Tumor Program at UCLA, where he performed more than 200 brain tumor operations annually.

The lecture—cosponsored by the speakers bureau of the NIH Black Scientists Association, the Office of Alternative Medicine, NIAID, NIEHS and NINDS—is presented in honor of the late Dr. John W. Diggs, who served as NIH deputy director for extramural research from July 1989 to June 1993.
Games. But as they fell asleep, the candle apparently fell from its glass holder and ignited a nearby bookshelf. The smoke detector was disabled because it needed the house's electrical system to operate. By the time the parents and sisters of three of the boys who lived in the house awoke and managed to get out, the basement had turned into a fiery death trap—a "mass casualty" in the words of firefighters.

That tragedy was on the minds of many NIHers who visited the FPS's booth at the NIH Health Fair last month. Most questions centered on the use and maintenance of smoke detectors.

FPS officials, in turn, are concerned about the public's indifference to fire safety and misconceptions about fire, as revealed by a recent National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) survey. Besides believing that fire is not a major risk in their lives, 58 percent of respondents said they believed they had more than 2 minutes to escape a home fire, including 24 percent who indicated they assumed they have 10 minutes or more before life-threatening conditions develop. In fact, according to the NFPA, a typical living room fire can become deadly in 2 minutes or less after the smoke detector alarm sounds, and has the potential to kill household members in as little as 4½ minutes after it begins.

That's why smoke detectors are a first line of defense when escaping from a fire. Time becomes a precious resource as soon as the first flames get started. "In less than 2 minutes, most house fires get to a point where they are extremely hazardous," said J. P. McCabe, chief of FPS and a fire protection engineer. "If you have smoke detectors that are working properly, they normally go off prior to that 2-minute interval. It's an early warning device." Every 74 seconds a home burns in the United States and thousands of people die each year in homes in which no smoke detectors are present. Although in the nation 93 percent of all homes have at least one smoke detector, almost 50 percent of all home fires and 60 percent of home fire deaths occur in the 7 percent with no smoke detectors, according to statistics provided by NIH's Division of Public Safety, Office of Research Services. Moreover, the NFPA says that the majority of fatal home fires happen at night when people are asleep. And contrary to popular belief, the smell of smoke may not wake a sleeping person, since the poisonous gases and smoke produced by a fire can numb the senses and put you into a deeper sleep. The NFPA says that the chances of a loss of life are cut in half in homes where a smoke detector is installed.

Joan Landoicho, an NIH fire inspector, pointed out that smoke detectors for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing are also available. "They have a strobe light with high candle power that would grab your attention. When deaf people are sleeping, it's enough to wake them up," she said.

But a disabled smoke detector can be as bad as having none at all. NIH Fire Inspector Dan Walther says the surest way to go is getting a smoke detector that is both powered by house current and run on batteries. "What we are talking about is a hard-wired smoke detector with a battery backup. If they had these in Gaithersburg, the victims would probably still be alive today. You can get the detectors with this combination at any hardware store for as little as $20," he said. Landoicho remarked, "You can't even put a price on life."

Like with all household appliances, smoke detectors have a given lifetime and need occasional inspection and maintenance. FPS officials recommend that smoke detectors have battery backups and that the detectors be replaced every 10 years. McCabe strongly advises that the batteries on a smoke detector be replaced at least twice a year. "When you change your clocks forward and back, in the spring and the fall, that's the time to also change the batteries in your smoke detectors," he said. FPS officials also underlined the importance of frequently pressing the test button of a smoke detector to ensure that it works. At a minimum, they should be tested each month. McCabe was particularly disturbed by the NFPA survey's finding that 81 percent of respondents who had smoke detectors activate in their homes assumed it was a nuisance alarm. He was further alarmed by the fact that 22 percent disable their detector. "In 9 times out of 10 it's an avoidable issue when it comes to serious injury or loss of life," he said. "It's as simple as having a properly functioning smoke detector installed where it should be. The NFPA recommends that you install one in every level of your home, preferably outside of sleeping areas."

McCabe also advised homeowners to consider installing an automatic sprinkler system for their home and to buy fire extinguishers. Walther said that many local fire departments do fire safety inspections in the homes, and some even provide smoke detectors.

FPS officials are available for conferences and training sessions at their office in Bldg. 15G-2, located at 5202 West Cedar Lane, or at any IC location. For information, call 496-0487. 1
Asian Heritage Evening Program a Success

The 26th annual Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage evening program on May 22 was a success. People were turned away from the standing-room-only event in Masur Auditorium. Guest speaker Dr. Edison Liu, director, Division of Clinical Sciences, NCI, reflected on the collective history of Asians and Pacific Islanders, their ability to survive and prosper even under the most turbulent circumstances, and the prominent role they play in scientific programs and management of NIH. Drs. Victor Fung and Rashmi Gopal of NCI shared emcee duties and welcomed the audience to a varied program of music and dance from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia and Korea. Many veteran attendees acclaimed the program as the best in the last 10 years.

In keeping with tradition, the NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Organization presented the annual outstanding achievement awards to Dr. Barnett S. Kramer, NCI, and Dr. John McGowan, NIAID, for their leadership role in achieving EEO goals, and to Drs. Y. Peng Loh and Anil B. Mukherjee, both of NICHD, for scientific excellence. APAO also presented its first scholarship award to David T. Okano, a high school senior who is the son of Dr. Paul Okano, NCI; he will attend the University of Virginia this fall.

A wide variety of musical and dance presentations were performed, including (above) the Balinese dance “Panji Semirang” and (below) the Cambodian classical dance, “Apsara.”

The Korean Dance, Wedding Night

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON
Frye Is First NHGRI Retiree

After 36 years at NIH, Patsy Frye, deputy administrative officer with the Division of Intramural Research at the National Human Genome Research Institute, has retired.

"Patsy exemplified commitment and competence," said Dr. Jeffrey Trent, NHGRI scientific director. "As the genome institute's first retiree, Patsy has indeed set a standard for others to emulate."

Frye's supervisor Linda Adams, NHGRI administrative officer, also praised her. "Patsy and I worked as a team at genome for several years and, even before that, at NIDDK," she said. "As I look back it is easy to see that our overall challenges and successes just would not have been possible without a person of her caliber, her professionalism and her constant diligence. I will greatly miss her both professionally and personally."

Reflecting on her many years at NIH, Frye says she enjoyed her interactions with the staff. "I took pleasure in helping build up the genome institute," she says. "It's a young institute, full of dynamic, energetic and wonderful people."

Frye began her career in June 1962 as a secretary at the Environmental Services Branch, Division of Research Services (now Office of Research Services). She moved to NIDDK in 1968 and in the ensuing years held progressively more responsible positions. One of her most rewarding and challenging experiences was the move of the laboratories in Bldg. 2 to Bldg. 5. Her effort was rewarded with the NIH Director's Award.

"I specifically recruited Patsy Frye to work on my staff," recalls Dr. Ed Steers, former NIDDK deputy scientific director (now retired), who notes that her qualities of competence and reliability made her a major asset in his office at a point when congressional budget cuts made for difficult times and high stress levels.

Steers is not the only NIDDK scientist to speak highly of Frye. Dr. Ira Levin, who is currently deputy director of intramural research, calls Frye, "incredibly outstanding" and says she was instrumental in the Laboratory of Chemical Physics' success, the laboratory he headed in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

Frye joined NHGRI in 1995 as deputy administrative officer for the division of intramural research, where she had a major role in recruiting personnel.

Frye says she looks forward to not having to get up at 4 every morning in order to make her 100-mile roundtrip commute between NIH and her home in Lovettsville, Va. Despite this great distance, she was at her desk by 6:30 each morning.

During retirement, Frye plans to take it easy spending time with her family (particularly her two grandsons, Mark and Matt), gardening, reading, and traveling. She recently was honored with a standing-room-only luncheon at NHGRI that featured gifts, an award and camaraderie with many people with whom she had worked over the last three decades.—Judy Folkenberg
DWD Training Tips

The Division of Workforce Development, OHRM, offers the courses below. Personal computer training is also available through User Resource Center hands-on, self-study courses, at no cost to NIHers. For details call 496-6211 or visit DWD online at http://www-urc.od.nih.gov/dwd/dwdhome.html.

Courses and Programs

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CIT Courses and Seminars

All courses are on the NIH campus and are given without charge. For more information call 394-3278 or consult the training program's home page at http://livewire.nih.gov.

- Good Web Page Practices
- Creating Composite Images with Photoshop
- Getting Started with C
- Porpoise - An Automated Literature Search Service
- Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 97
- Advanced Presentations with PowerPoint 97
- Using SQL to Retrieve DB2 and Oracle Data
- C Language Fundamentals
- Parachute Startup for Windows 95
- LAN Services and Email from Parachute
- NIH Data Warehouse Property Management
- BRMUG Macintosh Users Group
- NIH Data Warehouse Budget and Finance

DWD Offers TransFERs Briefings

The open season to allow Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS)-covered employees the opportunity to elect coverage under FERS is underway through Dec. 31, 1998.

To help employees make informed decisions regarding coverage, the Office of Human Resource Management's Division of Workforce Development is offering CSRS/FERS transfer briefings. A professional consultant, experienced in all aspects of federal employee benefits and specializing in preretirement planning, will deliver presentations and field questions from the audience. Attendees will receive a workbook designed to help them compare benefits under CSRS and FERS.

Employees can plan to attend a morning session (8:30 to noon) or afternoon session (1 to 4:30) on these dates: July 16-Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall; Sept. 14-Clinical Center, Masur Auditorium; Oct. 16-Natcher main auditorium.

Preregistration is not available. Attendees must provide their names and ICs before entering the session. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

NIH Police Officer Brown Is Mourned

Sylvester R. Brown, who retired last month as a lieutenant in NIH's Police Department, died June 20. He was 53.

A native Washingtonian, he attended District of Columbia public schools. At age 18, he joined the Army, serving in a German hospital during the Vietnam War. In 1967, Brown began a career with the Federal Protective Services. He joined NIH's Division of Public Safety as a private in 1987.

Survivors include his father, Sylvester R. Brown Jr., sons Carlos and Nigel, sisters Sylvia Monroe, Paula Elsberry and Brenda Toland, caretaker Alice Hardy, and a host of relatives and friends.

Injured on the Job?

Do you have a work-related upper extremity problem or injury, i.e., carpal tunnel syndrome, tendinitis, or repetitive strain injury of the fingers, wrist, elbow or shoulder? USUHS is conducting a study that includes a $40 payment. Volunteers must be ages 20-60, seen by a physician in the past month and currently working. Call (301) 295-9659.

Brasilia Smith, a stay-in-schooler in the NIH Office of Equal Opportunity, recently graduated at the top of her class at Coolidge High School in Washington, D.C. She delivered the valedictory address at the school's commencement exercises, and will attend Howard University in the fall.
Dave Smith, executive director of Special Love, Inc., which runs Camp Fantastic, kibitzes with radio personality Barbara Britt (c) of MIX 107.3 FM, who emceed the picnic, and R&W's Karen Ciaschi.

The Baltimore Orioles Bird spent the day frolicking with new friends such as George Brodski (l) and Chico Bucolo.

At left, Linda Doty, past chairman of the R&W board, helps serve lunch with Clyde Jones, R&W representative from CIT. At right, Rouena Ahern (l) and Agnes Richardson (c), who have volunteered with R&W for many years, serve meals along with Lisa Strauss, current R&W chairman. NICHD’s George Gaines won the top raffle prize—two free fares on United Airlines.

Bob Bingaman (l) and Larry Chloupek (r) meet Louie, the mascot of the Bowie Baysox.

Dr. Lee Rosner of NIDDK runs a-fowl of Louie.

16th Camp Fantastic BBQ Raises Fun(d)s

About 500 NIH’ers showed up on the patio of Bldg. 31A June 9 for the 16th annual Camp Fantastic Barbecue, an R&W event that this year owed virtually its entire success to the generosity of GSI cafeterias, which both sponsored the picnic and donated all of the food. Some $3,000 was raised for the annual summer camp for children with cancer and HIV held each August near Front Royal, Va.

PHOTOS: SHARON ANTONELLI AND RICH MCMANUS