

nih record

In Accident's Wake

Parking Garage Due to Open in September

By Rich McManus

Multi-level parking garage 9, a six-story structure with room for 936 vehicles, is due to open in September after a construction delay prompted by the collapse of a section of parking deck, which killed a worker at the facility last Nov. 29. A review of the incident, conducted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, is due soon, but the evidence indicates that there were no design or construction flaws in the project; human error was almost certainly the cause of the fatality.

"We got a quality project (from lead contractor Coakley Williams Construction Inc.)," said Leonard Taylor, director of the Office of Research Facilities, "but we just had an awful disaster."

Allyn Kilsheimer, an expert structural engineer called to the scene by Coakley Williams just hours after a 30-ton section of pre-cast concrete fell on construction worker Ronal Alvarado Gochez, rated the MLP-9 project a "10—most that I see are 1's...We have proven to ourselves that there was not a design flaw. In fact, this project was designed better than what codes require. There are more things right with it than any garage I've seen built."

SEE PARKING GARAGE, PAGE 4

NLM's 'Turning the Pages' Goes Online

Have you ever come across a beautiful old book locked away in a glass case in a library and wanted to leaf through it? Now, you can—virtually—from anywhere in the world, using a computer and web browser.

Using the new, free, online version of "Turning the Pages" (<http://nlm.nih.gov/turningthepages>), viewers can flip through three treasured books from the 16th century with a click of their computer mouse.

Actually, the National Library of Medicine is taking a page—pun intended—from its successful program that allows viewers to turn the pages of rare books virtually, via a touch-screen monitor, at kiosks at its Bldg. 38 headquarters.

The high-tech and historical worlds intersect in the "Turning the Pages" technology, which was pioneered by the British Library in 1998, came to NLM in 2001 and was subsequently re-engineered. In addition to looking at the high-quality digital images, the reader can use the zoom feature to magnify any portion of the page for more detail. An audioclip provides

SEE TURNING THE PAGE, PAGE 6

NIGMS Program Director Creates Fused Glass Art

By Jilliene Mitchell

Dr. Laurie Tompkins used to marvel at works of art, wondering how the artist made each piece. Now, friends and colleagues of Tompkins, a program director in the

NIGMS Division of Genetics and Developmental Biology, have the same thoughts when they see her own sparkling artistic creations.

For the last 4 years, Tompkins has been honing her skills at creating fused glass artwork. Self-effacing about her natural talent, she admits she didn't always know she had a knack for art.

"I failed art class in seventh grade, and I can't draw, so until a few years ago, I thought that I had no artistic talent whatsoever," she said.

SEE GLASS ART, PAGE 10



ABOVE • NIH celebrates Asian/Pacific Islander culture. See more photos, pages 8-9.

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NIGMS's Dr. Laurie Tompkins crafts art in glass.



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briefs

Women's Health Postdoctoral Fellowship

A 3-year research fellowship in women's health is being funded by Battelle. The new Women's Health Postdoctoral Fellowship will focus on training scientists to address key issues in women's health research and encouraging multi-disciplinary collaborations to overcome disparities in health care between women and men. NIH has structured the fellowship with emphasis on collaborations, through co-mentored projects, between NIH intramural research laboratories conducting research on women's health.

The Foundation for NIH is coordinating the fellowship program in partnership with the Office of Research on Women's Health and the NIH intramural program on research in women's health. Battelle is providing funding for the program through a \$226,000 grant to FNIH.

Opportunities include a combination of basic research, translational research, epidemiological research, biomedical history and biomedical bioinformatics research. Qualified postdoctoral scientists are invited to apply for fellowships online at <http://www.training.nih.gov/transfer/WomensHealthAds> by July 9. Eligible co-mentors and research projects are listed at <http://orwh.od.nih.gov/pdfellowships>.

FAES Announces Concert Schedule

The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences has announced the performers and dates in the 2005-2006 season of its Chamber Music Series. This is the series' 38th year. The concerts are held at the Landon School's Mondzac Performing Arts Center and all performances will be Sundays at 4 p.m.

Oct. 2	Ignat Solzhenitysyn, piano
Oct. 16	Takacs Quartet
Nov. 13	Belcea Quartet
Dec. 11	Steven Osborne, piano
Jan. 8, 2006	Randall Scarlata, baritone, and Jeremy Denk, piano
Jan. 22	Kuss Quartet
Feb. 12	Arnaldo Cohen, piano
Mar. 19	Jan Volger, cello, and Louis Lortie, piano
Apr. 9	Winner, Borciani Int'l. String Quartet competition

Tickets for individual concerts may be purchased 2 weeks before the performance, or on the day of the concert. Cost is \$22 for adults; \$10 for students, fellows and postdocs. A 9-performance subscription costs \$200 (\$80 for students,

fellows, postdocs). For more information call (301) 496-7976 or visit www.faes.org.

IntraMall Summer Showcase, June 24

All are invited to help celebrate the 7th anniversary NIH IntraMall Summer Showcase, held at the Natcher Bldg. on Friday, June 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will display the electronic purchasing system designed exclusively for NIH to simplify purchasing and speed monthly credit card reconciliation. Since opening in June 1998, the IntraMall has become a leading NIH web site for using government purchase cards to locate, buy and track purchases from 200 of its most frequently used vendors; some 5 million laboratory, office and computer items are offered.

Among the presentations, Visa will provide a 30-minute talk about trends and tools for protecting yourself from identity theft. There will also be demonstrations and training on IntraMall shopping, ordering and reconciliation features. This year, the IntraMall has begun transferring credit card financial obligations directly to the NIH cost accounting system at the time the order is placed or logged, providing real-time budget information.

Register for the event and free lunch at the web site <http://intramall.nih.gov/showcase>. You can view a list of all IntraMall vendors at <http://intramall.nih.gov/livevendors.html>.

If you require reasonable accommodation to participate, contact Jeff Weiner at (301) 496-7058 at least 7 days before the event.

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Francis V. Chisari on June 22, speaking on "To Kill or To Cure: Options in Host Defense Against Viral Infection." He is professor of virology and head, division of experimental pathology, department of molecular and experimental medicine, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif.

On June 29, Dr. Stephen O'Rahilly will lecture on "Human Obesity and Insulin Resistance: Lessons from Experiments of Nature." He is professor of clinical biochemistry and medicine, department of clinical biochemistry, Addenbrooke's Hospital, University of Cambridge, UK.

The series then takes a summer break, and resumes on Sept. 14.

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine, (301) 594-5595.

Federally Employed Women Meet, June 24

Federally Employed Women will hold a member appreciation and awards evening on Friday, June 24, starting at 6 p.m. at Famous Dave's restaurant in Gaithersburg. The cost is \$18. For information and to RSVP, contact Michelle Shorter, (301) 594-8842.

nih record

Observations on a Spring Walk

What better day to take a leisurely noontime lap around the NIH campus than Wednesday, June 1, which was not only the first day of a month renowned for the new possibilities inherent in commencement and marriage, but also the launch date of the We Can! initiative, targeting childhood obesity?

When it comes to fitness, many NIH'ers practice what they preach. The pathway that circumscribes the campus, just outside the perimeter fence, features a host of lunch-hour regulars. All have discovered the subtle joys of this loop, including its length—one circuit is a nearly ideal way to spend the better part of 60 minutes. From the sunniness of its exposed public stretches (along the lawn in front of NLM, for example, or on the straightaways parallel to Rockville Pike and Old Georgetown Rd.) to the seclusion of its leafy, backyard portions, the path is home to strollers and joggers, daydreamers and drudgery-escapees (Desperate Workhusbands?), retirees and dog-walkers. Many who take advantage of the walk seem to be Asian.

A counterclockwise journey undertaken in sunny warmth from the Children's Inn, over toward the new Safra Lodge, to the south boundary, then back up through NLM shows a number of hopeful signs. Over at Multi-level Parking Garage-9, workers settled into place the last of the "double-tee" sections of pre-cast concrete flooring; the prosaic structure will be remembered by some as the site of a construction fatality last November, but that scar, too, will heal.

More enduring are the roses blooming in mad profusion along the plain brick faces of Bldgs. 22 and 14G; this year, the blossom density is astounding. One hopes the flowers in some way reflect the vitality of campus science.

Back at parking lot 41, on a shady oasis of grass, some men have begun an impromptu game of soccer, using orange parking cones as goal markers. Would any of them recall that there used to be tennis courts in that vicinity, or that their game occupies what used to be a Farmer's Market, back before 9/11? Or that, further back in time, they would have been standing in the fairway of the Town and Country Golf Club?

There is a new green jacket encompassing the southeast flank of the Porter Neuroscience Bldg.—most likely a noise-abatement measure taken in response to complaints from the neighbors. Either that or the Porter Bldg. recently won the Masters.

The east side of campus is where you find most pedestrians, mainly along Center Dr. You notice the camaraderie of the security staff, the folks in white shirts and black pants, calling to one another as shifts change. You hear them laugh and talk as they gather at the Patient Gateway and realize that, absent customers or an emergency, there is no human thing to do but to socialize, and to enjoy one another.

The same goes for the red-shirted housekeeping staff, moving in knots along the sidewalk, speaking in a variety of island dialects. You realize that being an outsider in their company would be as much a liability as it would be within the confines of the Medical Board Room in Bldg. 10. Different worlds, different memberships.

June 1 might have more significance if it didn't appear so close upon the heels of Memorial Day weekend, the return from which seems a terrible injustice. Next time you feel put-upon by the needs of the moment, think of the campus loop, of freelance soccer, of restoration, of blossom, of weight loss, of commencement.—**Rich McManus** 📍

Volunteers Plant Cypress Trees

On May 7, a dozen NIH and NIH Animal Center employees and students volunteered to plant more than 1,000 bald cypress seedlings in a pasture along a tributary stream of Broad Run that



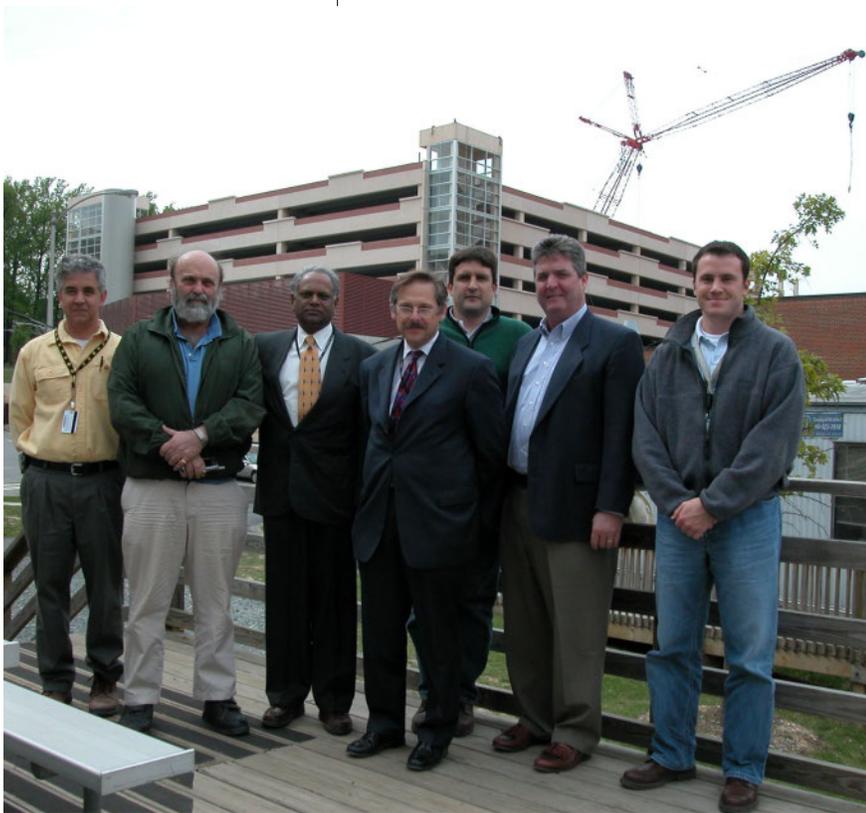
flows into the Potomac River. The trees will provide added stream bank erosion protection as well as increased wildlife habitat. "It was another demonstration of NIH's commitment to protecting and enhancing our natural resources," said Lynn Mueller (r), NIH landscape architect and volunteer. NIH has been a longstanding partner in the Chesapeake Bay Program "Businesses for the Bay" (<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/b4bay.htm>), a group of forward-looking businesses, industries, government facilities and other



organizations within the Chesapeake Bay watershed who share a commitment to preserving and improving the watershed. As a member of B4B, NIH was recognized in 2002 for its significant achievement in partnering to protect the bay. Also shown volunteering are (from l) Joe Bladen, NIHAC facility manager; Ed Pfister, NIH environmental compliance officer; Jackie Pfister; Jim Himel, forester; Karen Dreyfus and Amber Ropp, students; Mark Ropp, NIHAC Power Plant assistant supervisor; and Andy Mueller, student. Not shown is Brian Kim of the Division of Environmental Protection. Below (from l) Mueller of J. H. Blake H.S. and Dreyfus and Ropp of Governor Thomas Johnson H.S. will receive service-learning credit hours toward graduation for helping to plant the seedlings.

PARKING GARAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The team that has overseen construction and post-collapse investigation of MLP-9 includes (from l) Mike Gomez, project manager for Coakley Williams Construction Inc.; Allyn Kilsheimer, president of K.C.E. Structural Engineers; Rozario "Tony" Francis, MLP-9 project officer; Leonard Taylor, director, ORF; Frank Malits, project manager, Cagley & Associates; Patrick J. Caulfield, president, Coakley Williams; and Pete McGrath, construction quality manager for Jacobs Facilities, Inc.

The new garage, located just west of Bldg. 10, had been on schedule for completion by this spring when workmen returned from a 4-day Thanksgiving holiday weekend to resume work on the morning of Nov. 29. According to Kilsheimer, president of K.C.E. Structural Engineers, Gochez had been operating a bottle jack—not much different from the kind of jack used to change a spare tire—when the accident occurred.

"The man who died was jacking a tee (T-shaped section of flooring) to make it level for his partner to weld. It turns out he may have been jacking two floors instead of one. The tee rolled off its bearing and landed on him...We're 95-100 percent sure that the collapse was an unfortunate construction accident."

Kilsheimer said he has investigated 12 collapses in the past 4 years, and that "all but one has been an accident (versus a structural flaw). I've done 50 or more (collapse investigations) all told, and every one [that was not terrorist-related] has occurred during construction, except one." He emphasized that "the construction process [for pre-cast garages] is substantially more dangerous than the finished structure. The riskiest period is during construction. You have to be very careful before reaching the finish line—it's unstable until all the parts are put together."

There was a second collapse on Nov. 29, later in the evening, due to instability brought on by the first collapse, but no one was injured. Project Officer Rozario "Tony" Francis of ORF said construction of MLP-9 resumed on Feb. 3, after the accident site was fully examined and debris was removed. He said the garage will be built to the original specifications, with no change in size or scope due to the accident. "All elements went back to the original design because there was nothing wrong with the original design."

NIH hired an independent structural engineer, Norm Scott of Consulting Engineers Group, to provide overall quality assurance on the investigation, Francis said. "Cagley & Associates, the design engineer, provided unique and valuable oversight," noted Kilsheimer. "Although the circumstances were terrible, it was a pleasure to have [Scott] working with us. He did a great job under really bad circumstances."

MLP-9, which was designed after 9/11, has a number of features that make it unusual, Francis explained. The first floor is designed to handle a progressive collapse of floors above, which might occur if a small bomb were detonated in the facility. That feature was inadvertently tested by the Nov. 29 accident, and passed the test. Second, the garage has a huge basement vault that may eventually house mechanical systems for Bldg. 10, should they be needed. The vault and a utility tunnel comprise some 40,500 square feet for housing emergency generators for electricity, transformers, chilled water, heat exchangers, vacuum pumps, fuel tank storage and other building support systems.

The concrete slab forming the roof of the vault, and the first floor of parking, is 15 inches thick, said Frank Malits, vice president of Cagley & Associates, a structural engineering firm. Seven or 8 inches is the normal thickness. Even the parking decks themselves exceed the specifications for supporting load, said Francis.

He enumerated other MLP-9 virtues: the lighting system was designed for low impact on

neighbors, the four elevator towers (two at the northwest corner, two at the southwest) are see-through and glass-enclosed for safety, and there is first-floor space reserved both for people with disabilities and for visitors to the Clinical Center's blood bank. Even the garage's red-brick facade was a requirement, since the structure is located within NIH's "historic" architectural district.

"We are confident that Coakley Williams exceeded our RFP (request for proposals) requirements," said Francis. "As the design progressed, there was peer review on both NIH's side and externally. Even before construction, there were pre-fabrication meetings, site visits, we oversaw the castings (of concrete and steel). We went through the whole 9 yards."

Concluded ORF's Taylor, "This job was carefully and properly designed by the Coakley team. We've had good quality assurance throughout the project and the erection procedures have been properly scrutinized." In the wake of the accident, he continued, NIH has done the proper forensic engineering and all specifications have been re-validated. "We have as much confidence as you can have about the quality of this building."

Addressing some NIH'ers' concerns about vibrations and rainwater leaks in MLP-10, another pre-cast concrete garage located just east of Bldg. 31, Taylor assured that the structure is secure, stable and doing what it was designed to do.

Vibrations in the floor are a normal feature of long-span structures such as parking garages and bridges, Taylor said. "In every instance where you have long spans and heavy, rolling loads, you get vibrations. That's not unusual."

Kilsheimer, who spent virtually 4 entire days onsite after the accident, and another 2 weeks in the field, said he's satisfied that the post-accident analysis has been carefully and comprehensively done. He predicted that OSHA, which currently has no regulations in place governing how pre-cast structures are built, will likely revisit the topic in the future. ①

Students, Teachers Abroad Get Dose of Alcohol Science

By Gregory Roa

In all his years teaching science, Jason Lazarow had never had an assignment quite like it: presenting alcohol research to a classroom of teenagers—in Poland. The students knew a little English, but Lazarow does not speak any Polish. Yet despite the language gap, Lazarow was not overly concerned about getting his message across. He used the universally appealing medium of science: eye-catching images, intriguing videos and fun experiments. And as he piqued the teens' interest in alcohol studies, Lazarow allowed the science to deliver an important health message about the consequences of underage drinking.

Lazarow is NIAAA's science education coordinator. He previously taught in Montgomery County, Md., and Philadelphia, his hometown. He now develops education and outreach programs to teach students K-12 about alcohol science.

It was during a recent trip to showcase NIAAA resources at an international education conference in Warsaw that Lazarow volunteered to speak at three local schools. He met with youngsters 14 to 16 years old. And just as with audiences at home, the multimedia presentations about alcohol's impact on health soon elicited many questions. "I find students often have a real interest in science facts, especially if you can show them what we're finding through cutting-edge research," he said.

NIAAA's science education program covers a broad range of alcohol research, from investigations into fetal alcohol spectrum disorders to animal studies shedding light on alcohol's effects during adolescence and development. For some teens, understanding basic alcohol facts can be an eye-opening lesson in terms of their own health. Lazarow said, "The students hear what scientists know about alcohol's effects. There's an implicit prevention message presented through scientific discovery."

Lazarow's Poland visit was sponsored by the non-profit DANA Foundation, a New York-based group that promotes the benefits of brain research. Lazarow presented a workshop at the annual conference of the European League for Middle Level Education. He presented to teachers from London, Paris, Rome and Stockholm. Some came from as far away as Egypt and Qatar, including teachers from schools run by the Department of Defense for the families of military personnel stationed overseas.

Lazarow told the educators about two free supplemental curriculum kits for middle school science classes. The kits include CDs, slides, videos, games, quizzes and laboratory experiments. One curriculum is titled "Better Safe than Sorry." It was developed by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill supported by NIAAA. The other kit, called "Understanding Alcohol: Investigations into Biology and Behavior," is a product of the NIH Office of Science Education with whom Lazarow and other NIAAA staff collaborated. The curriculum recently received an NIH Plain Language Award.

Additional positive feedback continues to come in from teachers and students alike, and the DANA Foundation sponsored Lazarow on a second trip to Europe for a teacher workshop in Rome. As he continues to develop effective science education materials, Lazarow is considering going back to school himself—to brush up on his foreign languages. ②



Some of the Polish teens who heard Jason Lazarow (top, l) speak about NIAAA's alcohol research; they are waving mini-replicas of the human brain that bear health messages and web links.

TURNING THE PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

information about each page and that narrative, by NLM historians, can also be viewed as text.

The three works are:

- Konrad Gesner's (1516-1565) *Historiae Animalium* (Studies on Animals) This is a compendium of colorful zoological hand-colored woodcuts. Although it includes descriptions of such creatures as satyrs and unicorns, this

masterpiece was the first attempt to describe many of the world's animals accurately.

- Ambroise Paré (1510-1590), the author of the second book, *Oeuvres* (Collected Works), was a French surgeon from humble beginnings who revolutionized how surgeons treat wounds. His book features surgical instruments and prosthetic devices from the 16th century.

- Andreas Vesalius's (1514-1564), *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* (On the Fabric of the Human Body) features detailed engravings by artists from the workshop of Titian. Vesalius created the modern science of anatomy and produced one of the most influential works in the history of medicine.

"We plan to continue adding to the online bookshelf of 'Turning the Pages,'" said TTP project director Dr. George Thoma. "For historians, students and just about anyone, this program is a hit. It makes learning fun and it gives us a chance to show NLM volumes to people who might never have a chance to visit us." Thoma is chief of the Communications Engineering Branch of NLM's Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications. 📖

'Hollywood and Women Doctors' at NLM

NLM will present a special program, "Hollywood and Women Doctors," with Dr. Peter Dans on Thursday, June 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Open to the public, the free session has been developed in conjunction with the library's current exhibition, "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians." It will take place in the Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The challenge to negative attitudes and assumptions presented by women in medicine was played out on film in the 20th century, as Hollywood struggled to represent women physicians in the movies. Dans will present a kaleidoscopic tour of Hollywood's portrayals of women doctors, using film clips beginning with 1933's *Mary Stevens, M.D.* and ending with 2002's *Blood Work*. There will be time after the talk for questions.

Dans is an internist with interests in infectious diseases, geriatrics, quality assurance and ethics. He is an independent consultant on issues related to geriatric polypharmacy and drug safety in the elderly. He is the author or coauthor of more than 100 scientific articles, book chapters and other contributions to the medical literature. Since 1990, he has written movie reviews such as "The Physician at the Movies" for *Pharos*, the quarterly publication of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor medical society. In 2000, his book, *Doctors in the Movies: Boil the Water and Just Say Aah!*, about how doctors have been portrayed in movies from the 1930's through the 1990's, was published.

For more information, contact Jiwon Kim at (301) 496-5963. 📞



These two prosthetic hands from the Paré text are so complex and precise that one wonders whether they were ever made or used. The lower one is equipped with a special quill holder, for writing.



NIH Holds Health Communications Forum

NIH convened a Health Communications Forum May 9 at the Natcher Bldg. that drew communications professionals from the institutes and centers. Keynote speaker Dr. Vicki Freimuth (above), now a professor of speech communication at the University of Georgia but formerly communications chief at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, discussed the future of health communication planning and evaluation.



Larry Hugick, chairman of Princeton Survey Research Associates, discusses trends in minority demographics, and how to reach minority audiences. Other major topics at the forum included "The Art of Communicating Science to the Public," featuring successful science writers, and "Social Marketing in Practice," which focused on

the HIV vaccine communications campaign, the National Eye Health Education Program, and a stroke education effort by NINDS. The White House's anti-drug media campaign was also showcased.



Explaining NHLBI's efforts to communicate heart health messages across cultures are (from l) Lenee Simon, community health specialist; public health advisors Rachael Tracy and Violet Woo; and Matilde Alvarado, coordinator of minority health education and outreach.



Reporting on NEI's VISION Public Information Network were Judy Stein (l), communications director for the institute, and colleague Jean Horrigan.

Annual Prayer Day Gathering Draws Crowd to Paul Rogers Plaza



More than 150 employees attended NIH's 10th anniversary observance of the National Day of Prayer on May 5. The event took place around the flagpole in front of Bldg. 1. Participants danced, sang and prayed for the country and its leaders.



Top:
The Chinese Dancers perform
"Summer Blossoms—Girls in
Flowers Dance," which exhibits
flexible waist movements.

Right:
Members of the Pushpanjali School
of Dance perform the traditional
Indian piece, "Bharat-Natyam
Classical Dance."

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON



NIH Hosts 33rd Annual Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Program



Above:
Balance and control are essential elements of Indonesian
dance movement.

Left:
Members of the Washington Jin Ling Chinese Dancing
Academy open the 33rd annual Asian/Pacific Islander
American Heritage Program on May 27 in Masur Auditor-
ium with a performance of the "Spring Dance."





Top: The "Soljang-goo Dance" is performed while carrying the janggu, an hourglass-shaped drum that is the most widely used percussion instrument in traditional Korean music. The dancer/drummer is from the Washington Korean Dance Company.

Above: The traditional Indonesian "Peacock Dance" is performed by a member of the Seni Budaya Theater Dance Association.

Top: The "Yi Minority Dance" reflects the style of the Chinese province of Yunnan.

Above: Guests and performers alike enjoyed traditional Asian/Pacific Islander pastries, noodles and desserts following the program.

At a brief opening ceremony to the program, themed "Progress with Diversity," several speakers elaborated on the nation's need to live up to its ideal of equality for all. Among them were (from l) Del. Susan C. Lee (D-Montgomery County) of the Maryland House of Delegates; Dr. Hameed Khan of NICHHD, who emceed the program; Dr. Richard Nakamura, NIMH deputy director; and Prahlad Mathur, president of the NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Organization.



GLASS ART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

kiln a few times to get the look she wants. The entire procedure takes hours to days due to the repeated heating and cooling cycles.

According to Tompkins, the process of making jewelry is about the same, but on a smaller scale. Jewelry pieces require an additional step: deciding where to attach the necessary metal fixtures to the glass. To fasten hooks and chains to earrings and bracelets, Tompkins uses a strong glue used by people who repair boats. For pendants, she makes a hole for the chain to slide through by placing a piece of fiber paper between the layers of glass.

Tompkins' enthusiasm for glass art even motivated her husband, Dr. Larry Yager, to take up the hobby. A program director at NCR, Yager started out taking a glassblowing class, but decided to try his hand at fused glass art because he needed a partner's assistance to make large blown glass pieces. Like Tompkins, he became hooked on glass art after taking his first class. Over the past few years, the two have amassed a large home collection of fused glass artwork.

"Since we have an abundance of glass pieces, and I have jewelry in nearly every color imaginable, we've started exhibiting and selling our work," said Tompkins. She also gives some of her pieces away as gifts.

"I'm amazed at the number of people who are interested in my artwork," she said. "If you had told me 5 years ago that I'd be making something besides brownies that would make other people happy, I wouldn't have believed you." 🍪

Tompkins had always admired the beauty of fused glass jewelry but didn't think she had the skills to make it herself. She decided to find out and signed up for a beginner's fused glass jewelry class at Glen Echo Park.

"I enjoyed the class so much that I signed up to take it again, and then I took it a third time," she said. "Eventually, I bought some glass, tools, and a small kiln and grinder, which I use to make fused glass jewelry at home."

Jewelry isn't Tompkins' only specialty. She also crafts plates, bowls and sculptures. To make these larger pieces, she first takes a piece of clear glass and uses a glass cutter to etch an indentation in the desired shape. Using a special set of pliers, she then breaks the glass along the indentation mark. Next, she covers the base glass with several layers of colored glass.

She likes experimenting with a variety of colors and effects. Often, Tompkins adds layers of irid glass, which has a satiny sheen, and dichroic glass, which has a shiny metallic appearance.

After Tompkins assembles the layers of a piece, she fills in the remaining spaces with frit, a granulated glass substance that has a sand-like texture. She then heats the piece in a kiln, where the temperature reaches 1,200-1,500 degrees Fahrenheit. She says she's always surprised at how a piece changes shape and color in the kiln.

When the piece has cooled, Tompkins smooths the edges out with a grinder. Occasionally, she mounts extra pieces of glass or puts the glass into or on top of a mold and reheats it in the

*Top:
Tompkins started out making fused glass jewelry before moving on to larger pieces.*

*Bottom:
The NIGMS artist likes using bright colors for larger pieces. She keeps this sculpture in her china cabinet at home.*



Speaker Discusses Life Sciences Research in India

India is rapidly expanding its research capability and was recently listed as one of the 24 countries that are scientifically proficient, using eight criteria established by the Rand Corp. Prof. D. Balasubramanian, currently director of research at the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India, visited NIH recently to talk about life sciences research in India. The seminar was jointly sponsored by the Fogarty International Center and the National Eye Institute.

Balasubramanian began with bit of history, expanding on the tradition of biological research and training in India, emphasizing the contribution of Indian science to the global scientific community. "The achievements of Indian science can be measured by the quality and quantity of its publications in a wide range of journals, including *Nature*, *Science* and *Cell*. For the period 1994 to 2004, India was ranked 13 out of 146 countries for the number of publications. For that same period, India ranked 21 for the number of papers cited. However, the number of citations per paper was approximately 3, giving India a ranking of only 117 out of 146 countries. This suggests that there is room for more improvement in the quality of Indian science."

Balasubramanian said that while India has been increasing its expenditure for research and development, less than 20 percent of the budget has been set aside for extramural research. "This presents a dilemma for Indian scientists who are currently training abroad, who depend on research grants to establish their foothold in Indian science. The traditional sources for research grants are typically government sources, with little funding from private sources, such as industry and from international sources such as the Wellcome Trust, Rockefeller Center and NIH," he said.

Balasubramanian said India is taking a step in the right direction by creating a new foundation known as the National Science and Engineering Foundation, and two new research institutes to create more employment and funding opportunities. Furthermore, a new initiative is set to increase scientific collaboration in vision research between India and the United States. Dr. Sheldon Miller, scientific director at NEI,

has proposed the creation of an NIH Overseas Scholars Program for postdoctoral research training. A fundamental component of the program is the combined stimulation of career opportunities in India and the availability of NIH research support opportunities for returning scholars (via the Fogarty Global Research Initiatives Program, for example). The goal of the program is to identify talented Indian scientists, provide them with training at NIH, and once training is completed, help facilitate their return to academic and scientific jobs in India. The GRIP program and other FIC-sponsored award programs are intended to support the return of these NIH-trained investigators to help them build research infrastructure in their home countries. —**Hwei Ling Ong** 

Lecture Discusses Traditional Chinese Medicine

NCI's Office of Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine held its fourth Invited Speakers Series program on May 5, featuring Dr. Lorenzo Cohen, who presented "Traditional Chinese Medicine for Cancer: The Road to China."

Cohen is principle investigator and codirector of the International Center of Traditional Chinese Medicine for Cancer, a collaborative project between the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and Fudan University Cancer Hospital in China. The collaboration is partially funded by NCI.

Cohen described the use of western medical tools, such as medical imaging studies, that are guiding traditional Chinese medicine treatments at Fudan Cancer Hospital. He gave insight into some studies, including examination of huachansu (a bufotoxin excreted from parotid glands of *Bufo* toads) in preclinical studies at M.D. Anderson and in a phase I clinical study in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma, non-small cell lung cancer and pancreatic cancer at Fudan Cancer Hospital.

Huachansu is an important component of cancer treatment in China. Cohen discussed efforts to understand bufotoxin mechanisms of action, as well as quality control for this natural product. He also discussed some of the acupuncture and bio-behavioral projects administered through the international center and highlighted some unique opportunities that have come about as a result of this partnership. Opportunities include research training, long-term exchange between the two institutions and traditional Chinese medicine training.

Cohen is director of the integrative medicine program in the division of cancer medicine at M.D. Anderson. A video of his presentation is available at <http://cancer.gov/cam>. 



Prof. D. Balasubramanian



Dr. Lorenzo Cohen (l) greets attendees at his recent lecture on traditional Chinese medicine for cancer.

milestones

NCI's Stephenson Ends Long Career

Patricia Stephenson recently retired after 33 years of government service, 31 at NIH and the past 18 years with the National Cancer Institute.

She started her federal career at the Department of State in 1966. During her first year as a clerk, she was selected to travel to foreign embassies to help with administrative tasks while President Lyndon Johnson met with the top leadership. She visited the U.S. Embassy in London, worked at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra, Australia, and for the undersecretary of state at the Palace in Bangkok, Thailand. The trip took her around the world.

In 1968, she left to marry and start a family.

From 1974 to 1986, she worked in various institutes, OD, NIAAA and NINDS as a secretary, technician and administrative officer. She joined NCI in 1987 and in 1996 became the deputy for the Bldg. 41 Administrative Resource Center, Office of Management, NCI. Stephenson was responsible for the day-to-day administrative activities for intramural research laboratories.

"I will truly miss and always value my NIH work experience, especially my time with the cancer institute," she said. "These past years have brought my appreciation for NCI even closer to home, being a cancer survivor. Not only have I had the pleasure to serve people, but I have also had the opportunity to receive the best care from the incredibly talented doctors at this remarkable research institution. I'm going to miss everyone, especially the people I have worked with in my current office for the past 18 years. It's like leaving family."

Stephenson's plans for retirement include taking long trips in the family's motor home, playing even more senior softball and spending more time with the loves of her life—her husband, children and five grandchildren. 📍



NCI's Manuel Torres Retires

Manuel J. Torres-Anjel, a program director at the Cancer Imaging Program, has retired.

In 1988, he arrived at NIH to manage the epidemiology subcommittee of the AIDS research review committee in charge of the evaluation of the AIDS clinical trial units and group, the Community Clinical Research Centers, the Woman/Infant Transmission Study and their respective statistical/data centers.

Torres then moved to NCI, where he became manager of the cancer clinical investigations review committee, which reviewed the large cancer clinical trial groups. He became a program director at the Biomedical Imaging Branch, the forerunner of the present Cancer Imaging Program. Torres organized the first imaging inter-institute meetings that nowadays are well established. He always emphasized the cordial and productive relations between review and program staffs.

He was active since their inception in the Small Business Innovative Research and STTR programs, attending national conferences and giving "one-on-one" sessions all over the country.

Torres was also an active member of the EEO community at NIH; he was known for the motto, "Women and minorities, and particularly the women of the minorities."

Torres is a graduate of the National University of Colombia, with professional and graduate studies at Tulane, Michigan State and the University of California, Davis. He has written more than 200 publications, many in peer-reviewed journals. Torres is also a published poet and fiction writer.

Torres has also done hospice work through Hospice Caring of Montgomery County, with emphasis on Hispanic patients at the Clinical Center. 📍



Burke Says Goodbye After 41 Years

By Shannon E. Garnett

“The intramural program has been a place in which scientists are encouraged to explore new avenues of research, to do things that are hard or even impossible to do in other venues,” said Dr. Robert E. Burke, senior investigator in the Laboratory of Neural Control, NINDS. “This is a privilege few scientists experience and I will treasure it always.”

Burke, who recently retired after 41 years of service—all with NINDS—received his undergraduate degree from St. Bonaventure University in New York in 1956, and his medical degree with honors from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1961.

He was led to pursue a career in neurology research during his first year of medical school via the influence of his neuroanatomy professor, Dr. Wilbur Smith. Burke describes Smith as “a charismatic individual who inspired even the majority of students who had no special interest in neurology.” In fact, Burke was so inspired that he spent the following summer as a student fellow in Smith’s lab, studying autonomic reflexes. He enjoyed the experience so much that he took a year off to work in Smith’s lab again on a project involving supraspinal control of monosynaptic reflexes in cat spinal cord.

During that time, another professor, Dr. Lucy Frank Squire, became aware of Burke’s spinal cord research and suggested he contact her brother, Dr. Karl “Kay” Frank, a world renowned neurophysiologist at NIH. Frank, who was one of only two scientists doing intracellular recording in the spinal cord, invited Burke to visit NIH, which turned out to be a “life-changing event” for the young scientist. Frank gave Burke an open invitation to join his lab and 6 years later, after completing his residency in medicine and neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Burke joined the spinal cord section of NINDS (now NINDS) as a Public Health Service research associate.

“NIH is now very different from what it was in the 1960’s,” said Burke. “Back then, NIH was

expanding, many senior scientists had arrived relatively recently, and there was tremendous intellectual ferment, not least because of the influx of large numbers of young physicians like myself. The atmosphere was one of intellectual freedom where one was encouraged to try new things. Many of my friends went on to distinguished careers in academic medicine and biomedical research elsewhere but relatively few of us stayed on here. I did so because the intramural program in NINDS was an ideal venue for the kind of exploratory, hands-on science that I wanted to do. It remained so for most of my time here, for which I am most grateful.”

Burke moved to the Laboratory of Neurophysiology in 1968, and later became a medical officer in the Laboratory of Neural Control in 1969. He served as chief of that laboratory from 1975 until December 2004, and became senior investigator there in January 2005—the position he held at retirement.

“At age 70, with 41 years on the job, many people would say that retirement is overdue,” said Burke. “I will miss most my friends of many years and our discussions of shared memories and present gripes. I will also miss the daily interactions with my colleagues in the lab, and especially our weekly free-for-all lab meetings.”

In retirement, Burke and his wife plan to move to Taos, N.M., which he describes as an interesting community surrounded by magnificent scenery. There his wife will continue her writing career and Burke will pursue a life-long interest in astronomy. “I would hope that someday you will see some of my astro-photographs in *Sky and Telescope* magazine,” he said. 📷

OD’s Jo Prather Is Mourned

Josephine Prather, an NIH staff member for almost 43 years, died Mar. 11. She had retired from NIH in February 2002.

Prather began her federal service—all spent at NIH—in 1959 at the Clinical Center, as a clerk-typist. More than 23 years later, in November 1983, she accepted a file clerk position in the Office of the Director. She moved into higher positions in OD and in 1994 was selected as one of the first technical information specialists to work in the Executive Secretariat, NIH director’s files, where she served until her retirement.



Throughout her career, Prather sought knowledge about the broad activities of NIH programs. This helped ensure that information would be readily accessible to future generations of scholars and government staff members through searches of official records. But an equally important contribution to NIH was her skill at mentoring new employees. She leaves a long and deep NIH legacy, as she contributed to both program and human resources.

While Prather’s dedication to her work was unquestionable, she was even more dedicated to her family, especially her two granddaughters, Ashley and Sydni. In addition to them, she is survived by her mother, Lucille McDonald; two children, Stephanie Davidson and Brent Prather; her sister, Burnetta Washington; and her brother, Russell Palmer. Prather saw the opportunity to devote more time to her family as one of the biggest benefits of retirement. She was also involved in the life of her church—Seneca Community Church in Germantown, Md., where she served for many years as president of the senior usher board. In the last 2 years, she also had found great enjoyment in the African American Book Club in Gaithersburg.

CIT Computer Classes

All courses are given without charge. For more information call (301) 594-6248 or consult the training program's home page at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

Fundamentals of FileMaker Pro 7	6/22
Introduction to mAdb	6/28
Data Warehouse: Human Resources	6/28
NCBI's Entrez Gene Quick Start	6/29
Introduction to ECARES	6/29
Data Warehouse: Budget and Finance	6/30

NIH Training Center Classes

The Training Center supports the development of NIH human resources through consultation and provides training, career development programs and other services designed to enhance organizational performance. For more information call (301) 496-6211 or visit <http://LearningSource.od.nih.gov>.

Basic Time and Attendance Using ITAS	6/28-29, 9/28-29
Review, Update on EEO Policies & Processing Laws	6/28, 6/29, 6/30, 7/13
NIH Foreign Travel (NBS Travel System)	7/6-7, 9/26-27
NIH Travel System for Organizational Administrator	7/12-13, 9/27-28
NIH Domestic Travel (NBS Travel System)	8/1-3, 9/12-14
Simplified Acquisition Refresher	8/8
Travel for Administrative Officers	8/8, 9/15
Professional Service Orders	8/11
Purchase Card Processing System	8/11
Purchase Card Training	8/15
Delegated Acquisition Training Program	8/16-19
Basic Time and Attendance Using ITAS	8/22-23
Intercultural Communications at the NIH	9/7
Fellowship Payment System	9/19

Former College Player Gives Kids Tips

NICHD Committee Management Specialist Melvin Carter (l) recently hosted Dr. Louis Quatrano (r) at his 4th annual basketball clinic for middle schoolers at St. Anthony's Catholic School in Washington, D.C. Carter is the basketball clinic's director and often invites guests to speak to the kids about the importance of education. Quatrano is program director for research in behavioral science and rehabilitation engineering at NICHD's Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research. While in college, he played guard for the State University of New York at Geneseo. Quatrano spoke to the kids about sports and education. He emphasized the benefits of sports—the physical training and the socializing that comes with being part of a team. He stressed, however, that education is also important. If students fail to keep their grades up, for example, school rules will keep them from participating. More important, however, is that education will prepare them for future opportunities in case their basketball plans don't work out. When he was a junior, Quatrano broke his ankle, ending his basketball career. He also told the kids that if the day came when they could no longer play competitively, they might still get involved in the game as either a coach or a referee.



Hackett Takes DAIT Post



Dr. Chuck Hackett was recently appointed deputy director of NIAID's Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Transplantation. Since joining DAIT in 1996, he has served as head of the molecular and structural

immunology section in the Basic Immunology Branch and later as chief of the Asthma, Allergy, and Inflammation Branch. Before coming to NIH, he served on the faculties of the Wistar Institute and the University of Pennsylvania, and as director of cellular immunology at ImmuLogic Pharmaceutical Corp., in Palo Alto, Calif.

Yoga Meditation Held Monthly

Sahaja yoga meditation class is held every Thursday at 7 p.m. on the third floor of the CRC, Rm. 3-1608. Sahaja yoga seeks to awaken inner energy called kundalini, and is offered for free and without obligation. The class is sponsored by the recreation therapy section of the rehabilitation medicine department. For more information contact Jasmin Salloum, (301) 402-5630.



volunteers

Cancer Survivors, Controls Needed

A study needs volunteers who have been diagnosed and treated for brain or breast cancer, are between the ages of 20 and 70, and were working full time for at least one year prior to diagnosis. We also need healthy volunteers who have never been diagnosed with cancer and have no chronic life-threatening illness, are between the ages of 20 and 70 and who have been working full time for at least the past year. You will be asked to complete a 1-hour questionnaire online with questions related to work and health. Participants will be compensated and receive a free Livestrong yellow wrist band. If interested, go to <http://cimo1.usuhs.mil/mps/jhansen/Inclusion.tp4> and enter any username and password you wish. Research is conducted by the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and American University.

Have Type 1 Diabetes?

Are you 18-60 with type 1 diabetes? NIH is testing a new approach to type 1 diabetes management for individuals taking insulin. Call 1-800-411-1222, TTY 1-866-411-1010 and refer to study # 03-DK-0245.

Heart Failure and Diabetes Study

If you or someone you know has heart failure/diabetes, call today for study information: 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). Refer to study # 03-H-0217.

Muscular Leg Pain?

If it is caused by blocked arteries and it occurs with activity but improves with rest call NIH at 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010) for more information on a new study #04-H-0143.

Jet Lag Study Recruits

NICHHD invites you to participate in a clinical study on jet lag and the effects of replacing hormones disrupted by jet travel. Men and women who are going east 6-8 time zones are asked to call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY 1-866-411-1010 for information. All study-related tests or treatment are provided at no cost. Participants will be compensated. Refer to jet lag study # 05-CH-0037 when you call.

Studies Need Smokers

Are you a smoker? The Neuroimaging Research Branch at NIDA in Baltimore is conducting various studies examining the effects of nicotine on brain activity and cognitive performance. Individuals between the ages of 18 and 50 who smoke are currently being recruited. Volunteers will be compensated and reimbursed for travel expenses. Call 1-888-OUR-BRAIN or email OurBrain@intra.nida.nih.gov.

Nicotine Study Recruits Participants

Are you a smoker? The Neuroimaging Research Branch at NIDA in Baltimore is conducting a study examining differences in the brains of light and heavy smokers. Individuals between the ages of 18 and 50 who currently smoke are being recruited. Volunteers will be compensated and reimbursed for travel expenses. Call 1-888-OUR-BRAIN or email OurBrain@intra.nida.nih.gov.



CSR's Dhindsa Inducted into College of Fellows

Dr. Dharam S. Dhindsa (c) of the Center for Scientific Review was inducted recently into the College of Fellows at the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE). He was honored for "significant contributions to public service." He is congratulated by Dr. Don Giddens (l), president of AIMBE, and Dr. Kenneth Diller, chair of AIMBE's College of Fellows. Dhindsa joined the NIH Division of Research Grants (now CSR) about 30 years ago to coordinate the reviews of grant applications for the reproductive biology study section. From 1984 to 2004, he also served as a referral officer. In 2004, he became deputy chief of the surgical sciences, biomedical imaging and bioengineering integrated review group. He has also coordinated the reviews of the bioengineering technology and surgical sciences study section since 2003.



Condon Receives Federal Executive Honor

Dr. Timothy Condon, deputy director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, has received the President's Meritorious Rank Award, an honor bestowed each year on a small group of career senior executives for their long-term accomplishments. In addition to his duties as deputy director, he serves as director of the institute's Office of Science Policy and Communications.



Chin Named NIDCD Branch Chief

Dr. Ling Chin has been named chief of NIDCD's new Translational Research Branch, Division of Scientific Programs. She will develop a program that links the institute's research developments with tangible, real-world applications. Translational research is "bench-to-bedside" research that transfers knowledge from basic studies to practical advances in health care, as well as "bedside-to-practice" research to bring research results to implementation in a timely manner.



Jaydah Wilson (r), the new director of Childkind Inc., welcomes visitors to her table at the NIH Parenting Festival.

Parenting Festival Draws Crowd

NIH recently hosted the third annual Parenting Festival, a means of educating new and seasoned parents on the benefits and services NIH offers regarding family matters. The 3-day festival was presented on Executive Blvd. in Rockville, the Rockledge cluster and the main campus.

Resources on display ran the gamut from nursing and bed-wetting, to the teen brain and financial planning.

Many attendees got a one-on-one consultation with a parenting specialist. In the Natcher auditorium, parents learned to deal with daily frustrations in a relaxation session offered by recreation therapist Stephanie Kreider of the Clinical Center. A new addition to the festival this year, Omega World Travel, made travel planning easy by helping to plan family-friendly vacations and donated airline ticket door prizes.

Dr. Jay Giedd of NIMH gave a scientific yet practical lecture on the construction phase of the teen brain, clearly illustrating the difference between a child and adult brain. Parents learned that “the rental car companies have it right”—the part of the brain that regulates judgment and decision-making is not fully developed until age 25. Attendees were pleased with the wealth of useful information provided in a fun, friendly atmosphere.

The NIH child care board, Division of Employee Services and the NIH Work/Life Center sponsored the festival. For more information on parenting resources, visit <http://does.ors.od.nih.gov> or call (301) 402-8180. ☎

Committee Management Spring Fling Benefits Foster Children

More than 30 committee management officers, analysts and specialists contributed to a prom preparation service project as part of their annual Spring Fling. LaVerne Stringfield, director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy (OFACP), acknowledged them for their generosity in reaching out to young women and men in the Montgomery County foster care program. The prom project was coordinated by a Spring Fling committee that included Virginia Wills of NIAAA and Anna Snouffer and Linda Payne of OFACP. “It was a pleasure bringing the donated dresses, money, shoes, jewelry, cameras, photo books and other items to adolescents in foster care who were planning to attend proms,” said a coordinator. One specialist, a Maryland-licensed make-up artist, volunteered to do make-up and teach make-up applications to groups of girls.

The staff at the Maryland Department of Human Resources were excited when they saw the beautiful dresses and generous donations, reported a committee member. “These are dresses girls will want to wear,” said Ilene Heiney, information and referral specialist at Child Protective Services. Also donated were purses, watches and other accessories.

NIH committee management officers, analysts and specialists show some of the recent formal wear donated to Montgomery County’s foster care program.



Bethesda Little Theater, NIH Community Orchestra Donate to NIH Charities



The NIH charities recently collected a total of \$6,500 in checks from two R&W performing groups—the Bethesda Little Theater and the NIH Community Orchestra. On hand for the presentation were (from l) Alice “Frankie” Smyth, department of clinical research information, CC; Randy Schools, president of R&W; Elaine Hughes, retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Harold Seifried, NCI; Leslie McIntire, NIAMS; Steve Soroka, CIT; Dr. Dale Kiesewetter, NIBIB; and NIMH’s Dr. Frederick Chin, who is president of the orchestra.