

Interfacial and Processing Sciences
News Notes

December, 1999 Issue 1

**Environmental and Molecular Sciences Laboratory
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory**

News Notes, established to help keep our Users and others who have had a connection with us up-to-date on activities, events, capabilities, and interesting results, including short summaries of the work of users.

If you receive this message directly, you are on our external address list. If you want to receive the Notes, you need to do nothing. If you would like to be removed from the list, please respond by email to terry.law@pnl.gov. If this message has been forwarded to you, please contact Terry if you want to be added to the email list.

**Holiday greetings from all of us in the Interfacial and Processing Sciences Group.
We hope that you have a great celebration and a rewarding year in 2000!**

This issue includes:

- **Year End Laboratory Status**
- **I&PS and EMSL Annual Reports**
- **Northwest Regional Conference on Faculty and Undergraduate Student Research and Education**
- **EMSL WebPages Changes and Additions**
- **I&PS Staff Member Featured in the Fall Issue of *Initiatives***

Year End Laboratory Status

All DOE laboratories have been instructed to have contingency plans in case of power outages or other problems at year-end. The laboratory will be officially closed during a transition period that runs from the evening of December 30 to early morning January 3 to minimize any impacts if difficulties or problems occur. During this period, no experimental work will be performed. In addition, during a critical period from 8:00 p.m. on December 31 to 4:00 a.m. on January 1, access to the building is prohibited.

Because of the need to fire up facilities after what we hope was a non-eventful shutdown, users should plan to arrive at the laboratory after January 3. For those of you who were planning to work through the month of December, you will need to make plans to observe this shutdown for the long weekend.

Annual Reports

Both I&PS and EMSL Annual Reports are in production and should be available sometime in late winter. These reports will summarize both staff research and User activities in the EMSL.

In an effort to minimize extra work during a very busy time, this year's report was compiled, to the extent possible, from materials already prepared for other purposes. For future reports, we will be encouraging Users to prepare short summaries of their EMSL work that we can include.

Faculty and Undergraduate Student Research

A U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Northwest Regional Conference on Faculty and Undergraduate Student Research and Education was held on December 3 and 4 in Kennewick, Washington. The meeting focused on laboratory possibilities with DOE at PNNL and NREL. Several I&PS staff were invited to serve as host scientists, and two I&PS summer students summarized their experiences in the laboratory. Rachel Sager presented "Life in the Clean Room: A Summer Photolithography Project," (PNNL mentor Glen Dunham), and Chrysoula Tzemos presented "Microtechnology: The Wave of the Future" (PNNL mentor Dave VanderWiel).

EMSL WebPages and User Proposal Updates

EMSL is constantly updating the information available on the web. These pages are intended to be as useful as possible for those who wish to visit EMSL. We are currently in the process of redesigning a home web page that will serve as a reference point for new users to help them get acclimated to the lab. If you have been to the lab and would like to see specific information on this home page-things that would have helped you in your first few days here, please email your comments and suggestions to Terry Law at terry.law@pnl.gov.

This past summer, EMSL research on oxides was highlighted with the creation of a separate web site. This can be found under Research Focus areas on www.emsl.pnl.gov.

The EMSL User Proposal form has also been updated and will be released soon. As always, your comments and suggestions are appreciated.

I&PS Staff Member Featured in the Fall Issue of *Initiatives*

M. Lou Balmer was featured in an article appearing in the Fall issue of *Initiatives in Environmental*

Technology Investment, a newsletter affiliated with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The newsletter, funded by DOE's Office of Science and Technology (OST), serves to promote information exchange about innovative environmental technologies and cleanup approaches that OST is helping to develop. The article featured the EMSP project that Dr. Balmer is conducting in collaboration with Sandia National Laboratory and the University of California at Davis. The project explores new disposal strategies and waste forms specific to crystalline silicotitanate (CST), in particular, *in situ* heat treatment.

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