

Bell Labs Names Murray to Head Physical Research Lab

On 16 June, Cherry Murray became director of the Physical Research Laboratory at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey. Murray



CHERRY MURRAY

is the first woman to head the lab in its 72-year history. She succeeds Horst Stormer, whose five-year tenure as director included the difficult period leading up to and following Bell Labs' being split off from AT&T last year. The split resulted in Bell's becoming the R&D arm of Lucent Technologies, a new communications and computing systems design and manufacturing company.

As director, Murray is in charge of about 100 scientists. "The most important thing for me is to provide strong support for long-term research," says Murray. "And the main challenge will be to look at technologies 10 to 20 years in the future, and to tie them in with work at Lucent today." Murray plans to follow a course similar to Stormer's, and the transition promises to be smooth. "Horst was excellent, and Cherry brings the same strengths," said one long-time Bell researcher. "No one sees this [change] as something major."

Murray joined Bell Labs 19 years ago as a freshly minted PhD from MIT. She started out working in low-temperature physics, has since worked in several different areas, including light scattering, surface physics and flux lattices in superconductors, and for over a decade has used colloids to model condensed matter systems. Since 1987, Murray has, in successive stints, headed three of the nine research departments now in her charge.

Stormer, who has been at Bell Labs for 20 years, is perhaps best known to physicists as the codiscoverer of the fractional quantum Hall effect. One reason

he is stepping down, he says, is to "crank up my research, which had certainly suffered. I just wasn't around enough." For now, Stormer will remain at Bell Labs, but many of his colleagues are betting he'll take a university faculty position somewhere. "I don't really know what I want to do," he admits. "I'm thinking very broadly—I'm doing soul searching. You can call it a midlife crisis," he laughs.

TONI FEDER

Goldston Is Named Director of PPPL

Robert J. Goldston, a professor of Rastrophysical sciences at Princeton University, became the director of the Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) at the beginning of July. A longtime PPPL affiliate, he succeeds Ronald Davidson, who stepped down on 1 January (see PHYSICS TODAY, January, page 54).

Goldston arrived at Princeton in 1972 as a graduate student, and after earning his PhD in 1977, he joined the lab's research staff, pursuing experimental and theoretical research on high-temperature plasmas. He has participated in a range of PPPL experi-

Sagan on Mars

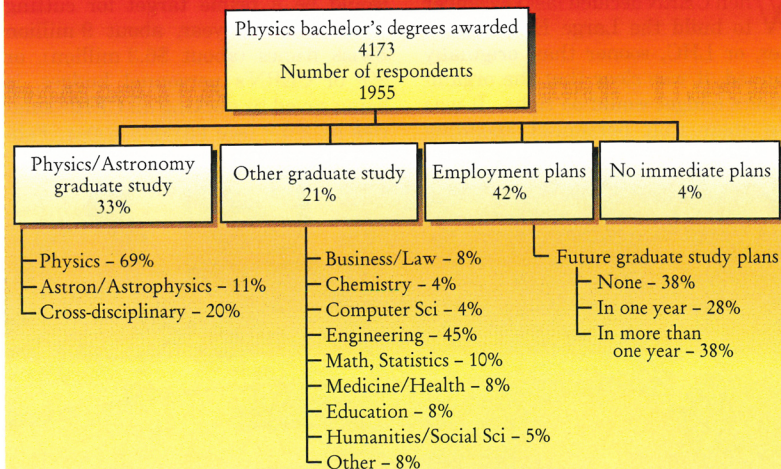
Shortly after the successful 4 July landing of NASA's Mars Pathfinder, the lander module was named the Sagan Memorial Station, in honor of the late Carl Sagan. Sagan was on research teams of numerous planetary missions, including the 1971 Mariner 9 orbiter and the 1976 Viking mission to Mars. In the spirit of Sagan's success as a science popularizer, the flood of information and images currently pouring out of Ares Vallis is being accessed on the World Wide Web by millions and millions of people. A list of mirror sites maintained around the world is provided at <http://mpfwww.jpl.nasa.gov/>.

ments, including heading up the physics program division for the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor, the 15-year-long experiment that was shut down for good in April. More recently, he has worked on the National Spherical Torus Experiment, now under construction at PPPL. That machine, designed to explore more compact approaches to fusion power generation, "exemplifies a renewed emphasis on innovative plasma confinement concepts, both at PPPL and in the overall US fusion program," Goldston says.



HORST STORMER

Postgraduation Plans of the Class of 1996



What does one do with a bachelor's degree in physics? According to an American Institute of Physics survey, most of the members of the class of 1996 have opted for graduate school, not necessarily in physics, but in a wide range of fields, including engineering, business and education; cross-disciplinary areas, such as medical and health physics, are gaining popularity. Among those who entered the job market after graduation, industry was the top employer, followed by the military, government and high schools; the median starting salary for those who found full-time work was \$31 000. These and other data on physics and astronomy graduates can be found in the 1996 *Bachelor's Degree Recipients Report*, available from AIP, Education and Employment Statistics Division, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740; e-mail stats@aip.org.