

# STB News

November 2003

## Mondragon Coordinates Colloquium Speakers

Socorro Mondragon, whose office is tucked away in a quiet hallway near the Georgia O'Keefe Conference Room in Canyon School, plays an important role in the intellectual life of the entire Laboratory.

She is the coordinator for the Director's Colloquium series. When you see an announcement for a speaker such as Herbert Gleiter, director of the Institute for Nanotechnology at the Research Center in Karlsruhe, Germany, (who spoke at the Laboratory on Nov. 4), you can be sure that Mondragon played a part in his visit.

Mondragon began working at the Laboratory in February 1988. She was assigned in the Theoretical Division before moving to Science and Technology Base Programs (STB) in February 1999. Since moving to STB, she has done the coordination for more than 50 of the Director's Colloquia.

In a recent interview, Mondragon explained how the process works.

She supports the Colloquium Advisory Board, which has 11 members from different disciplines. The board is charged with soliciting, selecting, and recommending speakers. The Laboratory Director makes the final decision.

Mondragon receives nominations from people at the Laboratory and serves as a point of contact. (Persons interested in nominating someone as a speaker should go to [stb.lanl.gov/program/colloquium.shtml](http://stb.lanl.gov/program/colloquium.shtml), and click on the online-form listing on the right side of the web page.)

She researches nominees and prepares briefings for the regular monthly meetings of the advisory board. The board then considers the nominees, discusses their credentials and their standing, and, if necessary, asks for more research.

"They try to get the highest caliber people," Mondragon said.

Once a colloquium is scheduled, Mondragon coordinates the speaker's travel and agenda. In addition to preparing for the colloquium, she helps to arrange a working lunch and meetings for each speaker to foster interactions and provide good public relations. She tries to make the experience memorable and productive for both the speaker and the Laboratory audience.

She arranges for the auditorium, works with the host and the Newsbulletin (which usually does a story on the speaker), prepares and distributes flyers, and handles the details of transportation, airfare, lodging, and parking.

Recently, a separate committee was created to develop a Classified Colloquium Series. The new series will focus on classified weapons science and engineering topics. Mondragon will be handling coordination for this new series too.

She also supports the Frontiers in Science Public Lecture Series sponsored by the Laboratory Fellows. "Its intent is to inform the neighboring communities about the broad and diverse scientific and engineering research being conducted here at the Laboratory," she said. Those who participate in the series speak in Taos, Española, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque.

Mondragon loves her work. "It's fun meeting all these people," she said. "It's a blast. It really is."



*Witches' Brew!*

See page 3 for more Halloween pictures.

## People in the News

The editorial team of **Donna Berg, Helen Boorman, Lou Pray, and Kathy Varjabedian** at STB-Research Library is producing a neat little newsletter full of interesting information about the library, its staff, and its services.

The newsletter is accessible at <http://lib-www.lanl.gov/libinfo/news/news.htm> online. It was recently featured in the Laboratory Newsbulletin.

Its latest issue notes that **Research Library Director Rick Luce** and **Prototype Team Project Leader Herbert Van de Sompel** were key speakers at the recent “Conference on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.” The conference was attended by scientists from all over Europe and resulted in the signing of the “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.”

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**Virgil Sanders**, former head of STB-Planning, has moved to another directorate.

Effective Nov. 24, he was assigned in the Operations Directorate, working for James L. Holt, associate director for operations.

Sanders’ new office is in C305 on the third floor of the Administration Building in Technical Area 3. His telephone number and e-mail address remain the same.

Former members of the STB-Planning staff took Sanders out to lunch at the Central Avenue Grill to say goodbye.

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**Tina Maestas**, who had worked as a secretary in the STB Director’s Office, STB-University of California Coordination, and STB-Planning, recently moved to a new job in the Center for Homeland Security.

About 20 friends and former colleagues took her to DeColores for a goodbye luncheon. They gave her several gifts to remember them by including a plant, an angel (to add to her collection of angels), a scented candle, a toy-car M&M dispenser, and a crystal cross.

In a recent telephone interview, she said she is enjoying her new assignment. “They’ve made me feel very welcome,” she said.

Her new phone number is 5-8131; her e-mail address is [maestas@lanl.gov](mailto:maestas@lanl.gov), and she is assigned in Room D109, TA-66.

## STB Bake Sale Raises \$182 for United Way

Employees of Science and Technology Base Programs (STB) and their friends raised \$182 for the United Way by holding a festive bake sale Nov. 20.

Annette Archuleta said eight “cooks” provided baked goods—and one of them was Allen Hartford, head of STB, who made brownies.

The treats spread out on a table in Room 172 at the Canyon Complex included special \$2 cakes (baked by Archuleta, Angela Martinez, and Jeannette Gallegos) that could be purchased on the spot, plus a variety of auction items ranging from a lovely “sunflower” bundt cake to date bread and cherry pie. There was also a “surprise” auction item, prepared by Debbie Wilke, that was packaged in a Shaker-style box and topped with a big red bow.

When the auction ended, Archuleta, Martinez, and Gallegos were among those who checked the bids and then delivered the goodies.

A bottle of Welch’s Sparkling Red Grape Juice went to Cynthia Bustos. Her brownies drew the highest bid.

Jeane Strub’s cinnamon buns drew the most bids—nine.

And Charmian Schaller won the surprise box with a \$25 bid. People were so curious that she had to open the box immediately. It was stuffed full of large, wonderful brownies, each one topped with a half walnut. Schaller said she would save the box and put it out at Thanksgiving, when her sons were coming for the holiday.

**(Photos of the bake sale appear on the back page of this issue of STB News.)**

## December Issue Will Be Early

The December issue of the STB News will feature “Artists in Our Midst.”

If you have suggestions, please call the editor, Charmian Schaller, at 665-3895.

The issue will appear early—on the week of Dec. 15—because of the holidays.



*STB's Halloween Party*

*A Ghoulish Good Time*



*Cast of Characters*

**Upper Left:** (front to back) Mindy ("The Doctor Is In") Mendez, Carole Rutten, "Gypsy" Liz Ramirez, Rick ("Good Time") Alexander, and Scott Smith line up for food from the cauldrons.

**Center:** Lisa Carlson bears a true witch's dessert to the groaning board.

**Upper Right:** (left to right) Cynthia ("The Wicked Witch") Bustos and Annette ("The Tin Woodwoman") Archuleta arrive from Oz.

**Lower Left:** Becky ("the Bee") Duran buzzes around the desserts.

**Lower Right:** (left to right) Ramirez, Leah ("Lady of the House") Sandoval, Bustos, and Alexander form a gaggle of ghouls in front of a cobweb-draped skeleton.

**(Photos by Charmian Schaller)**



*Baking and Buying for  
United Way*



At left, STB auction items are displayed. Above, cooks and coordinators look them over. Below left, a customer buys a \$2 treat. At right, another customer places a bid. Below, the bake sale crew determines the winners. Lower right, winning the surprise box bowls over the photographer.



*Yum, yum...*



*Happy Thanksgiving*