



# LABORATORY Spotlight

The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

Reprinted from NHMFL Reports Summer 2001

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## Education Program Extends Outreach and Prepares for Busy Summer

The NHMFL's Center for Integrating Research & Learning continues its work with teachers and students through classroom and community outreach, teacher workshops, and new partnerships with schools and districts. The NHMFL is currently hosting 23 middle school students through a mentorship program that the Center has coordinated for the last several years. As an active partner with a local elementary magnet school for science and mathematics, the Center provides teacher in-service, serves on its planning committee, and supports teachers through the Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) program. The Center recently received another supplemental award to support the RET program in summer 2001. In an effort to comply with Florida's science benchmarks, the Center anticipates taking an active role in assisting schools and school districts as they provide support for teachers. It is currently building new partnerships with neighboring counties to assist in their quest to raise test scores and address mandated science testing for fifth, eighth, and tenth graders.

An RET workshop was held as part of the spring Materials Research Society (MRS) meeting in San Francisco, California. The symposium entitled, "Impacting Society Through Materials Science and Engineering Education," brought together program leaders from around the country. Former CIRL Director, Sam Spiegel, opened the program with a presentation entitled, "Using Science Education to Impact Important Societal Issues." Other representatives from the University of Wisconsin, Northwestern University, Harvard University, and Columbia University presented examples of their programs and a preliminary look at the assessment of the impact of the program. Round table discussions were held and panel recommendations were summarized at the end of the symposium. A report will be drafted by the MRS and made available in the near future.



*Science, Tobacco & You* Best Practices 2001 occurred in three locations across Florida on April 26, 2001. The seminar, a live satellite broadcast and awards ceremony, was an opportunity for 300 teachers and 30 students to showcase the curriculum resource *Science, Tobacco & You* and how they have adapted it to meet their needs. Connecticut and Illinois teachers have been participating in *Science, Tobacco & You* workshops, and the program continues to expand to other states as well.

Several students who participated in Summer 2000 Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) have had their research reports accepted for publication. Working with mentors Donovan Hall, Eric

Palm, and Stan Tozer in Tallahassee, students Eliza Miller-Ricci, Lydia Peabody, and Charis Quay are listed as co-authors for an article published in *Physical Review*. James Maloney, under the mentorship of Mark Meisel at the University of Florida, published his work under the title "Low Temperature Capacitance Measurements of a Novel Low-Dimensional System" in the *Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

Once again, the Center is in the throes of preparing for the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program through which the NHMFL will host 17 students, 13 at the Tallahassee site, three at UF, and one at LANL; and the Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) program, which will be working with 16 teachers. The Center is looking forward to a busy and rewarding spring and summer.

