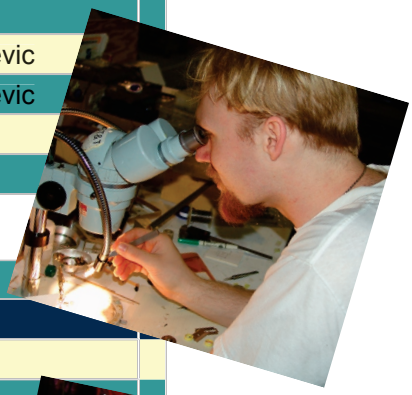
EDUCATION at the NHMFL
-Recruitment, Review, Mentor Matching & More-

Six months of preparation has culminated in the start of another exciting summer at the Center for Integrating Research and Learning. A record 170 applications were received online for the **Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)** program. The Magnet Lab Florida State University site will host 16 talented undergraduates, three will reside at the University of Florida, and three are hosted at Los Alamos. The 22 students represent 17 universities from around the country. Two students are presenting their research at the Sandia National Laboratory Student Symposium in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in August, meeting one objective of the program: to encourage students to present at national conferences. In addition to all of the features of the REU program, an online REU Network has been established to provide a means through which students can keep in touch with one another and through which the Center can track students who update their profiles (see *http://reu.magnet.fsu.edu*).

REU

Tallahassee Participants		
Intern	**University**	**Mentor**
Colin Ashe	Northeastern University	Peter Fajer
Charles Bosse	University of Oregon	Jim Brooks
Christopher Bradley	Florida State University	Arneil Reyes
Ran Chang	University of Maryland	William Brey
Kianna Ferguson	University of Florida	Peter Fajer
Julia Giblin	Florida State University	Vince Salters
Jesus Gonzalez	University of Colorado-Denver	Chris Hendrickson
Sahara Hernandez	Smith College	Stan Tozer/Eric Palm
David Lehr	The Pennsylvania State University	Jim Brooks
John Macaluso	The Richard Stockton College of NJ	Luis Balicas
Jason Mantei	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Justin Schwartz
Shaun Murphy	Florida State University	Peter Kalu
Jonathan Sobota	Cornell University	Vladimir Dobrosavljevic
Ben Thayer	Florida State University	Vladimir Dobrosavljevic
Mary Warren	University of Massachusetts, Amherst	Justin Schwartz
Stephanie Wolin	Florida State University	Mike Davidson



Gainesville Participants		
Intern	**University**	**Mentor**
Christine Amwake	Florida State University	Tom Mareci
Westin Kurlancheek	Harvey Mudd College	Alex Angerhofer
Lingyun Xiong	Duke University	Alex Angerhofer

Los Alamos Participants		
Intern	**University**	**Mentor**
Jennifer Kirchhoff	Carnegie Mellon University	Scott Crooker
Winston Okraku	Occidental College	Victor Correa
Brian Haines	New York University	Charles Mielke

The **Research Experiences for Teachers (RET)** program began on June 14, a week after the REU program. Seventy applications were received for 14 positions, and teachers came from as far away as Hawaii to take part in the 6-week internship experience. The NHMFL RET program is unique among other national laboratories in that elementary school teachers are accepted into the program. CIRL's infrastructure supports the features of the program that help teachers translate their experiences into the classroom. The Center is proactive in dealing with rapid local, state, and national policy changes in science education. The RET program provides professional development for science teacher leaders who return to their schools and districts and provide workshops, activities, information, and strategies for other teachers. RET 2004 hosts teachers from four states who will share their experiences with others at local, regional, and national conferences. The education Web site now includes an RET Network that encourages continued interaction among teachers after they leave the program (see *http://ret.magnet.fsu.edu*). This new feature also provides the Center with the means to keep in touch with educators to further research into how the experience influences teacher practice and how it changes students' attitudes toward science.

Tallahassee Participants		
Teacher	**School**	**Mentor**
Jeri Martin	Thomas L. Sims Middle School	Jim Brooks
Amber Matthews	Pre-Service	Jim Brooks
Farrell Rogers	Marshall Middle School	Jim Brooks
Lavonda Deale	Niceville High School	Mike Davidson
Josh Underwood	Deming Middle/High School	Mike Davidson
Nancy Reddick	Buck Lake Elementary	Philip Froelich
Marcy Steele	Ruediger Elementary	Philip Froelich
Rhonda Gordon	Pre-Service	Bob Goddard
Robert Krouch	Winston Park Elementary	Bob Goddard
Jodie Martin	Pre-Service	Bob Goddard
Soon Young Kim	Moanalua High School	Eric Palm
Amanda Underwood	Robertson County School	Eric Palm
Linda Ford	Seven Hills School	Justin Schwartz
Mark Johnson	Lake Weir High School	Justin Schwartz

In addition to REU and RET, 50 local teachers attended two 4-day summer institutes at the NHMFL during which they learned how to implement new strategies to introduce complex science concepts to elementary, middle, and high school students. Teachers constructed equipment for their classrooms and learned the content behind the technology. *The World Is Your Classroom II* and *Changing Perspectives II* deal with the processes of science, chemistry, physics, and life science.

Science Night at Borders Bookstore is a great success among children of all ages. On the first Wednesday night of each month, discovery-type activities are set up for children. The event has its own following and, at the children's request, CIRL will continue the activities through the summer months. Each activity has a reading that accompanies it and enhances the science concept covered.

In partnership with Florida A&M University's RIMS Project (Regional Institutes for Math and Science), CIRL is providing nine high school students brief research placements at the NHMFL. The two-week experience matches high school students interested in pursuing math and science majors in college with REU students and their mentors. This is a unique experience for high school students to work in a national laboratory and provides a mentor that is one step ahead of them in the career path.

Throughout the school year, Gina LaFrazza, Assistant Director; Carlos Villa, Outreach Coordinator; Dave Sheaffer, Webmaster; and Pat Dixon, Director of the Program interact with a large number of people. 6,000 schoolchildren took part in outreach activities during the 2003-2004 school year; more than 1,500 people toured the laboratory; and the annual Open House attracted over 2,500 visitors. We regularly receive letters, phone calls, and e-mails from students, parents, and other interested parties expressing their appreciation for the openness of the laboratory and the willingness of educators, scientists, researchers, administrators, and staff to share the excitement of real-world science. We are proud to facilitate these experiences and are planning new programs and activities to further engage students, teachers, and the general public.

For more information, contact Pat Dixon, who contributed this article. She can be reached at 644-4707 or pdixon@magnet.fsu.edu.