Merrill Albertus, AD’s go-to guy, retires May 31

Merrill Albertus

For more than 30 years, Merrill Albertus’ job has remained the same: keep the accelerator running. He has worked with more than one accelerator in that time, but now those accelerator need to run under someone else’s watch.

Albertus, hired as a technician in the Accelerator Division mechanical support group in September 1979, will retire May 31.

“Merrill has always had the ability to make everything look easy,” said Dave Augustine, Albertus’ supervisor. “I remember Merrill on his first day. He had a great smile, a winning attitude and red hair. The red hair is gone, but the great smile and the winning attitude are still there.”

During his career at Fermilab, Albertus led the iron worker crew that installed Tevatron devices, coordinated the decommissioning of the Main Ring and supervised magnets and beam lines. Most recently, he has led the main injector mechanical group. He has handled every challenge, from failed magnets to surprise leaks, with patience and calm.

Albertus has valued most the opportunity to mentor his group, whom he sees as his second family. He maintains an open-door policy in his office and co-workers recognize him as the ultimate go-to guy, eminently approachable and supportive.

“Merrill is by far the most down-to-earth, understanding, unselfish person I have worked with and worked for here at the laboratory,” said Scott McCormick, who works under Albertus’ supervision. “He’s not the type to supervise from upstairs. Instead, he’d go down in the tunnel and work alongside you.”

During his retirement, Albertus plans to motorcycle across country, visit his grandkids. Albertus has valued most the opportunity to mentor his group, whom he sees as his second family. He maintains an open-door policy in his office and co-workers recognize him as the ultimate go-to guy, eminently approachable and supportive.

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Thursday, May 27
Dinner
Closed

Wednesday, June 2
Lunch
- Bourbon baby back ribs
- Coleslaw
- Baked beans
- Lemon meringue pie

Chez Leon Menu
Call x3524 to make your reservation.

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Fermilab Today
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In the News
Matter, Antimatter, And Existence
From the NPR, May 25, 2010

Last week, the headlines were buzzing with news from Fermilab, the huge particle accelerator some 40 miles west of Chicago: "A New Clue To Explain Existence," read the article by Dennis Overbye, from The New York Times.

Very catchy title. (Too bad he didn’t mention my new book, which is all about the importance of this and other asymmetries. The timing couldn’t have been any better.) However, some of the readers complained of the need to mix up science and religion even when reporting on a particle physics experiment. Case in point, Overbye quotes a (very good) theoretical physicist from Fermilab, Joe Lykken: "So I would not say that this announcement is the equivalent of seeing the face of God, but it might turn out to be the toe of God." Lykken was referring to the comment Nobel Prize winner George Smoot made when reporting on his team’s findings of the temperature properties of the microwave background radiation, the leftover "light" from the period when the first atoms were made, just some 400,000 years after the Big Bang. "It was like looking at the face of God." Does the existence of matter and antimatter really have anything to do with God? If so, what? And if not, why is there a need to invoke God when publicizing results in cosmology?

Read more

In the News
Physicists hold first international particle accelerator conference
From symmetrybreaking, May 24, 2010

For decades, scientists from laboratories and universities around the world have worked together to build and operate particle detectors.

Until recently, accelerator physicists have done just the opposite, working predominantly with fellow scientists at the same institution to build their machines.

This week hundreds of accelerator physicists have gathered in Kyoto, Japan, to take part in the first International Particle Accelerator Conference, taking a step toward the practices of their detector-building colleagues. "Any new accelerator will surely need to be built in an international collaboration," said Katsunobu Oide, chair of the IPAC 2010 organizing committee, in his introductory remarks.

Detector builders expect to work with collaborators from outside their institutions. If a particle physicist wants to take part in an experiment, he or she must take some responsibility for the detector by helping with construction or taking shifts running it.

Read more

Diversity Office volunteer opportunity - May 25-June 8
Toastmaster meeting - June 3
Project Scheduling and Earned Value Management Systems - May 26-27
ES&H web server down today
Argentine Tango each Wednesday, May 5 to May 26
10,000 Steps Per Day walking program
Sand Volleyball held on Tuesdays starting May 25
May Benefits Bulletin
43rd Fermilab Users’ Meeting registration - June 2 - 3
SciTech summer camps start - June 14
Employee discount at Batavia Rosati’s
Fermilab Arts Series presents Corky Siegel and Chamber Blues - June 26
Sign up for summer Science Adventures classes
Introduction to LabVIEW course - July 13
Embedded Design with LabVIEW FPGA and CompactRIO seminar - July 13
Interaction Management Coaching Forum - July 27

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