

The Leaf

VOLUME XII ISSUE I

PROUD MEMORIES

Winter 2010

- **Events** *
 - *NOL Lunch 2nd Mon @Golden Bull in Adelphi
 - *WOLAA Night @ Strathmore. American Balslaika Symphony, Sat, 16 Jan 2010 at 1800
 - *WOLAA FL Reunion at Dade City, Fri. 12 March 2010 @1130
 - *WOLAA Tour of IH Lab, Spring, 2010
 - *WOLAA Dedication of Pruid Memory Garden & Reception, Late Spring 2010

11 September 2001.....GOD BLESS AMERICA!

WOLAA Web Site: www.wolaa.org

News from WOLAA.

***American Balslaika Symphony.** WOLAA Night at Strathmore will be on Saturday, 16 January 2009. It will feature the American Balslaika Symphony—Dr. Ed Whitman is a member of the Symphony. The plan is to meet at the Strathmore Restaurant at 1800 for dinner. The tickets are only \$20. So far, we have a group of about a dozen going. Please let me know as soon as you receive this LEAF if you want to be part of the WOLAA group and tickets will be arranged for you.

***WOLAA Annual Florida Reunion.** The annual WOLAA Florida Reunion will be held in Dade City, FL on 12 March 2010 beginning at 1130. The Caudles will again host our reunion. A flyer is provided in Supplement 1. A mailing to all WOL alumni in Florida will be sent by mid-January 2010. Reservations will be sent to Ken Caudle. These reunions have been great fellowship for the folks retired in Florida and on occasion for a few snowbirds, also. If you plan to be visiting Florida in March, put this event on your travel plans. Dade City is about 40 miles North of Tampa and is easy to reach by interstate from any direction in Florida.

***Holiday Luncheon.** Another great luncheon. Attendance was down from last year of about 135 to 106 this year. Food and fellowship of great memories were super as usual. Santa Dee brought everyone a neat NOL pen which even came with a lanyard so we Seniors could keep it handy. A special treat was entertainment by a mini-Bills Bunch in the person of George Hamlin. George lugged his organ and sound equipment up the steps of the Golden Bull. He played several songs performed by Bills Bunch and an original he wrote for the luncheon. During coffee and dessert, George played Christmas music for our enjoyment. Our special thank you to George.

We need your help re the next luncheon. We may be able to go back to the Argyle Country Club for the same price we are paying at the Golden Bull. The key advantage is it is on first floor and we would avoid the stairs/lift at the GB. Clearly, each place is more convenient than the other for some attendees. Please give us feedback and list any pro/con that you have. You can email or write WOLAA. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

- The LEAF is published quarterly by the WOLAA, Inc. for its members.

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This Issue:
News from WOLAA p1
Book Reviews p3
Ramblings p4
Features p4
Alumni Updates p4
Deceased Alumni p7
Supplements pSI

News from WOLAA (Continued)

***2010 Membership Drive.** Our Membership Campaign for 2010 has been ongoing since Thanksgiving and we are very pleased. By mid-December 2009, our membership from lifetime members, renewals and a few new members stood at 397 (This grows to about 450 when you count another 50 alumni spouses for family membership. At the time of this Leaf going to press, we are at about 460 members. This is great news and helps us complete our Historical Preservation this year. We are so pleased that you are a member. For those who haven't renewed from 2009 or rejoined, we hope you will very soon.

***Historical Preservation News.** We are really getting excited as our historical preservation efforts appear to be at completion in late Spring 2010. The best news is that a contractor is on board now to do the plaques for the Proud Memory Garden. The same contractors will prepare a touch panel video display to depict the Legacy of the White Oak Laboratory. We hope it will show the technical legacy like the WOL Legacy book did and also show the community that existed among the people who worked at the WOL. This display will be adjacent to the NOL fireplace in the Lobby of the new FDA Conference Center. The plaque and text honoring Dr. Bennett the first TD of NOL will also be on this wall. The garden itself is almost done. A winding gravel path lined by NOL bricks cleaned by WOL alumni goes between the Conference Center and the front steps of Bldg 1. The area is grassed and some landscaping is in. The last time I toured the area they were working on the patio area just outside the Conference Center. This area will have benches made from "stone" preserved from the NOL buildings and will serve as an area for people to go on breaks from meetings and conferences. The FDA/GSA art and architecture group is considering sculpture for the garden which will denote the S&E efforts conducted at the WOL.

Your Board of Directors met on 30 November at the GSA trailer to begin discussion/planning for the dedication. Several decisions were made:

*We will work with Marc Bloom of FDA for the logistics and security for the dedication. The plan is to be directed to a new parking lot near where the tennis courts were. A bus will be provided to bring those who cannot walk the distance back to the garden area. Handicap parking near the garden will be arranged. Those attending must RSVP ahead of the meeting so FDA security can approve attendee and make arrangement for security passes. These and all other logistics will be communicated by a mailing, The LEAF, and the WOLAA web site.

*Reception. The new FDA 1200 seat cafeteria will be completed and furniture will be installed. It is not likely to be open at the time of our dedication. But the company that will run it is already on the campus and Mr. Bloom assures us they would be anxious to work with us. The decision has been made for WOLAA to host and pay for a reception after the dedication—not just cookies and punch; but a great spread. You know—meatball, shrimp, cold cuts, fruit, and desserts, including a Proud Memory Garden Dedication cake.

*Day of the Week. Both Friday and Saturday have their pros and cons. After discussion with Mr. Bloom, it is felt that Friday is the best day of the week for the dedication.

*Program. This is still under consideration. BUT, no speeches by politicians. We hope to have an active navy speaker, preferably a Navy Admiral. We also plan to have a TD who worked at the WOL speak; an WOL OIC speak; and a representative from the Bennett family speak. The Bennett family will be contacted by George Hamlin re the event, including cutting the ribbon to the garden and unveiling the Bennett plaque. The current plan is to meet in the Conference Center Main Room for the speech part of the dedication; go to garden for ribbon cutting; tour garden (Also NOL lobby for those who didn't see in November 2008) and then to cafeteria for reception, including cutting of the cake

*Invitation List. All on WOLAA data base, all OIC's/CO's; all who became TD's and worked at WOL and all NOL/NSWC TD's; LABQUEST family; select members of GSA and FDA.

*Gift/Program Booklet. Plan is to give each attendee a coffee cup with a picture of garden. Also a Dedication booklet with picture/text of garden plaques; list of WOL achievement, etc.

Book Review Johnny Grams

Mjt



This review takes all over the spectrum of books. From a children's book to book on Diabetis. One is a book; but my review is from the movie.

The Blind Side by Michael Lewis (2007). I didn't read the book, but we saw the movie. I was so touched (very soggy handkerchief after the movie) that I had to review it. This is a story of Michael Oher, now number 74 and starting right offensive tackle for the Ravens. Michael comes from a very poor, dysfunctional family in Tennessee. His Mother basically ignores him and he ends up living with another family. He enters a Christian school because he is huge and can play sports. Eventually, a young and wealthy family bring him to their house. The Mother of his new family is a former cheerleader at the U. of Mississippi. She is smart, determined, and gets what she wants. The scenes where she takes over for the coach to teach Michael to be aggressive and protect his quarterback and tailback are priceless. The Mother is played by Sandra Bullock, who plays the role wonderfully and is so much like the real Mother. In real life, Michael brings his family to Baltimore to see him play. In the process, she sees Joe Flacco, QB for the Ravens, in the hotel. She said to him, "I know you, you're Flacco; you got to get rid of the ball quicker." This is more than a true sports book/movie. It shows that love and faith are the most important factors in life. Enjoy the book and/or movie.

The Family Book by Todd Parr (2003). If you have a child, grandchild, and/or great-grandchild from the ages of 2-4, Pat, Shelby, and I strongly recommend Parr's series of books. The first one Shelby has is the Grandpa book. She now has the Family, Mommy, Daddy, OK to be Different, and Feel Good Books. The text goes like, "Some Families Are Big." The animation is sort of two dimension stick characters. The books are fun, will teach the child to read, and more importantly begins teachings the lessons of life, like love, family, diversity, and happiness. Barnes and Noble carry some of them; but I got Shelby copies from Amazon.

The Best Life, Guide to Managing Diabetes and Pre-Diabetes by Greene, Dr. Merendino, and Jibrin (2009) Dr. Merendino is our family Doctor but is really an endocrinologist. Janis Jibrin is a nutritionist and writer. Recently, I was in a social setting with five of my high school classmates. I was the only one in the room who didn't have diabetes and/or a serious weight problem. This is clearly a serious issue in the USA now and getting worse. However, it is a disease that they are learning a lot more about and can be treated first with diet and exercise (hopefully, resulting in significant weight loss), an assortment of meds, and if you have Type 1 insulin. Recently, testing meters have had significant improvements and it is much easier to test. This book in a very clear language explains what diabetes is, the super serious complications if not managed, how Doctors manage diabetes, and finally how to eat healthy and control your sugar. Pat and I strongly recommend this book. We have taken a course at hospital on diabetes and Dr. Merendino teaches it at Holy Cross; but the book gives the critical information a short course can't offer. The book is at Barnes and Noble, etc; but again, I got my copy on Amazon.

The Christmas Sweater by Glen Beck (2008). This is a novel but is based on Beck's own life. The book is based in the 70's and a lot in it maps to the growing up years of our son, Joe. When I was a boy, I believed we had everything we needed. But in truth, my Father had many different jobs; my Mother worked all her life; and we had to live with my grandparents. So I understand what Beck's book tells us. It is a story about wanting with all your might something for Christmas (A huffy bike with banana seat). You drop a million hints, pray, do your very best, and snoop around to find the gift. On Christmas day, the bike is not there (His Dad had died and his Mother who is working 4 jobs just can't afford it). Instead, a home made sweater made with love by his tired and poor but loving Mother. He flips out. He runs to his room, rolls the warm sweater in a ball, and throws it on the floor. His Mother comes in the room and finds it-----she is terribly hurt and sad. The next day she dies in an automobile accident. He must live with his grandparents on a farm. They are clearly old, poor, and have "old ways." So, you have a choice in life. Go in a funk/snit and feel sorry for yourself or have faith in life and accept the love being offered. It takes many years for the boy to take the right path. Great Christmas story to be enjoyed any time. It might also

years for the boy to take the right path. Great Christmas story to be enjoyed any time. It might also teach us to quickly go down the right path. For me, we lived in the country and my best friend had a pony. I clearly should have one, also. When our neighbor built a small barn for his son's horse and room for a pony, I thought my wish would come. It didn't. I was lucky not to stay on path named "snit." In all the book stores and good old amazon.

Ramblings of A Senior

Mjt

***Reminisce.** Probably once a week, someone sends me an email that has as its theme, reminisce. May have a series of pictures or text to remind you of the 40's/50's. Such as the 5 cent coke in a 6 ounce green glass bottle. Pat's friend did one better; she has given us a subscription to the magazine, "Reminisce," It is published once every two months. It is a series of oral memories, pictures (toys, cars, etc), recipes, and old advertisements. The December issue was filled with stories about WW II sacrifices and sadness and Christmas day, both sad and happy. I wanted to ramble about two aspects. First, World War II was a great victory for freedom; but the stories in the magazine reminded me of the sacrifices made by spouses, parents and even children during the war. For example, the story of a soldier sending his daughters a birthday card and saying he would be home for Christmas; he was killed. The mother who put a small, artificial Christmas tree in her front window and left it there waiting for her son to return. He did return but his Mother died before he did. I began to realize that many who write in are my age and were children in the 40's/50's. Their parents had just survived the depression. Many were really poor by our standards. Christmas presents could well be an apple or hand knitted scarves or sweaters. Yet, there seemed to be a real family environment and appreciation for what they had. Our children have been so fortunate to have wonderful gifts at Christmas, great experiences on vacation and at "quality" restaurants, as well as great educations. Much occurred because our parents sacrificed, worked hard, and gave us the best they could. It is good to reminisce as it keeps one grounded.

***Santa.** Lets go back to December 2008. Shelby was our two year old Granddaughter, and I played Santa for the children at her day care while Shelby's Dad took pictures of each child on Santa's lap. We had Shelby go last. Would she ID Santa. Well, it was interesting. She came on my lap with her beautiful smile and joy of seeing Santa. She leaned back and took a hard look into Santa's eyes. Did she know? Apparently, she didn't. So, lets go to December 2009, and Shelby is almost 4 years old. The teacher told us that Shelby had noted when it was announced that Santa is coming to the school that I was Santa. Whoa! She had never said a word about this all year. What gives? So, last again; Shelby comes through the door with the same joy and delightful gleam in her eyes as she walked to Santa and handed him the letter she had written to Santa. Up on my lap with a shyness but eagerness to tell Santa what she wanted. She did and had her picture taken. She waved good-by in a loving way, and left the room. Does she know? We just don't know! I do know that Santa ran out and got her exactly what she asked for in the letter.

Features.

*Alumni Updates.

-Alumni Communicates.

Joe Crilley. Thank you for maintaining the WOLAA "Leaf." It is a great source of information and pride to me having worked at the laboratory in the late 1970s. I am writing an open letter (below) in the hope that you will publish it to our members. It is a "thank you" letter to all those who helped me as a young co-op student.

Dear WOLAA Alumni,

This is just a short letter to say thanks to all of you. My name is Joe Crilley and I worked as a young co-op student at the laboratory between 1977 and 1980. When I first applied for the student-hire position, I only had two years of basic electronics from a community college and was transferring to the Uni-

versity of Maryland. I had no engineering experience or related technical job knowledge. In fact, at that time, I was changing tires at a local tire shop. I was lucky enough to get an interview with the Design Team in the drafting section. I believe my interviewer, Hal Averick, took pity on me and was willing to take me on-board as a personal challenge to his office's training abilities. Since I had no drafting experience, this was an even greater challenge to his team. It was over the next three years that people like Owen McGlyn, Charlie Baley, Oscar Payne, and Kwok Lee took me under their wing and taught all they could about technical drafting and the engineering process. However, there were many others at the lab that were always willing to explain to me what they were developing and how it fit into the overall R&D process. They also taught me some more important lessons. These lessons included teamwork, responsibility, communication, and a sense of pride in our work. Most of all I remember the friendships I formed with the people who were often twenty years my senior. They were always willing to help the "long haired kid" no matter what I needed. It was a great work experience that helped me succeed in my future career in the Air Force and now at the Office of Management and Budget. I owe a great deal to everyone at the lab and I just want to say thanks in this letter. This letter is long overdue. Thank you all very much. Joe Crilley Burke, Virginia

John Allender. PBS aired a great new video last week on the latest and final Hubble rescue mission. About 6.5 minutes from the end, there are shots of NASA Goddard engineers brainstorming on how to solve a problem with one of the repairs and there are two shots of Russ Werneth, an old buddy from WOL. I ran into Russ a few years ago at a Giant in Upper Marlboro on my daily trek home from Dahlgren. He was loving work at Goddard (and his commute wasn't bad either compared to those of us who did not move down closer to Dahlgren).

Here's a link to the video on the PBS website: <http://video.pbs.org/video/1294298696/>

Gene Elzufon. I just finished the latest Oak Leaf and have a couple of comments. First the "cornerstone Admiral.".. After graduation from , then CCNY, I reported to White Oak for my first job at NOL in June of 1950. At the time the NOL, Technical director was Dr. Bennett and the Commander was RADM Schindler. Could he have been the admiral the cornerstone laying?

Second "Twink" Starr. I left NOL in 1957 and spent eleven years in private industry both in Virginia and California. In 1968 after concluding that it was not so private nor very industrious I returned to the lab and was assigned to Al Dietterman's Chem Eng Divisions. My first assignment was to make a qualification batch of "Starrflak" and run the evaluation of this material, which Twink had developed, for Qualification. I shared a double office with him, Carol Misener and Bernie White. Over the years I got to know him quite well. But what I want to say is that to merely describe him as a "proud member" of the U of MD's cannon team is a gross understatement. He WAS the team. He directed the operations, owned the cannons, had the license to buy, transport, and store the black powder used and rigidly enforced the safety rules to be sure that no one got hurt. One night in the seventies MD had lost that day with a score of 25 to 3. The sportscaster on the 11:00 pm news said that the "student who fired the cannon didn't have much to do today." I turned to my wife and said, "That student is a 50 year old man named Twink Starr." I also remember that one time the band wanted to play the 18182 Overture during half time and asked Twink if he could perform the cannonade which Tchaikovsky had written into the final movement. He owned maybe three cannons and scrounged up one or two more and then drilled the team into firing and reloading in merely seconds so that they could fire on cue for the full series of shots. When he got older and began to slow down he got Lou Montesi to handle his role and Lou gladly took over. Yours sincerely, Gene Elzufon

PS. I enjoy the Leaf immensely even though I am really out of the loop here in Sacramento. The only part I dislike is the section on Deceased Alumni. Too many of my friends.

Albert G. Gluckman. I thought you would like to see my publication in the 2008 Physics Essay Publication. It was accepted on 1 November 2008. The title is , "The missing lines of calculations in Einstein's derivation of the Lorentz transformation."

Al is a part of the Institute for Physical Science and Technology at the University of Maryland. The abstract for his paper follows:

“The answer to the question of exactly how the young Einstein derived his coordinate transformations is the subject of this study. Surprisingly, much had been omitted in the publication of his first work on special relativity in which he first develops a partial differential equation whose solution is the time coordinate transformation, where $x' = (x', t)$, and $x' = x - vt$. He used this function to find the coordinate transformation where $c = c$.”

Cathy Walters. Note: This is an email from Cathy to Pat and me. “It was so good to hear from you. I am glad you enjoyed the book. I knew about your book review in the newsletter because Mary (Jackson) sent me a copy. Thank you for your kind word and the plug for Amazon. Also, Nancy Hayden who lives in Clearwater, FL called me to read the article you wrote but I had already seen it. She said Margaret Walton was going to get the book. Do you remember her?”

I truly loved doing the book. I believe it helped me. I cried so much while doing it. I loved Johnny so much. He was a good man and I was very proud of him. If I'm not mistaken, the way Johnny got to G Dept was because E Dept went away. He started out in the shops and was branch Head and then Division Head which turned into G60. From there he was selected Deputy Dept Head and when Danny Brunson retired, Tom Pendergraft asked him to be Acting G Dept Head. When we first got married, I started out in STILO office. Then Tomahawk was getting a scif and asked if I would be the Facility SSO. In 1999, we lost funding for Mission Planning and I was looking around and was eventually asked to work in SLBM and have been there ever since. My code is K46. My title is Quality Assurance Specialist and I do targeting analysis. It is very interesting. I only have two years before I can retire. Perhaps, I will find work then for a contractor doing security tasks.

I remember very well Johnny working with you. When I was writing the book, I had trouble remembering details and exact dates. Hopefully, I did not mess things up too much. I figured it did not matter as far as the point I was trying to make concerning Johnny's genuine concern for people. God Bless, Cathy”

Note: Cathy wrote the book, “The Hand of God, A Message of Faith and Love.” It is about the life of her husband Johnny. See book review in Fall 2009 LEAF—check web site, www.wolaa.org.

*Alumni News

***Mike Swisdak.** Mike retired from Indian Head in December 2009.

John Kelley provided a brief career synopsis. “He worked in R15—Explosion Dynamics Branch at WOL and then moved to IH when the WOL closed in 1997. He provided scientific guidance to many of the large-scale explosive experiment at White Sands, NM. Among many related areas at IH his expertise on the quantity-distance hazards of explosive storage continued to be sought.” A WOLAA BZ to Mike for his significant achievements and service to our Nation and Navy.



***Janie Sutton.** Janie was honored on 8 October 2009 for her 40 continuous years of civil service employment for the Navy. She moved from the WOL when it closed to Carderock. She is now the administrative officer for the CD command staff and the command customer advocate program analysis for S&T funding. As admin officer for command, she performs their financial, human resources, and general admin services. As program analysis, she accepts all S&T funding for the Center. Janie began working at NOL on 22 July 1969. She worked at the WOL as stenographer, procurement clerk in Supply and as admin officer. Janie noted the highlights of her career was her beginning as a GS-3 clerk and achieving her current position for Command. She noted that in 1969, some secretaries still used a manual typewriter and now the reliance on computers for all aspects of secretarial and admin work. The best part over 40 years, however, is the friends and co-workers she has met and knowing her work helps supports our Navy.

1941. Her Mother worked for the Captain then in the same hallway in Bldg 2 that Janie now works. Captain Harold E Sanders was overseeing construction at CD and became the first CO at CD; he gave her Mother away at the Brown's wedding. Charlie Brown spent his entire career at CD. Janie is looking forward to several more years of working and then retiring to her new home in Millsboro, DE.

*Deceased Alumni

Please inform Houston Cole of any information you have about deceased alumni: phone is (410) 489-2977. Or, please write, phone or email WOLAA

-Wally Taylor. WOLAA received notice that Wally died on 16 August 2007. He was the manager of the Ft. Lauderdale test facility for many years. This was a complex job as he had to keep the facility ready to run tests, sometimes several at a time. The boats and crews had to work well out to sea and do complex navigation and difficult operations to launch and recover test vehicles. Wally was very accommodating to the test project leader and test party. He moved to the state of Washington upon retiring in the early 80's.

-Gerard Smith. WOLAA was notified that Gerard died on 2 October 2007. He worked in U Department in the Mechanism Branch (FM/512).

-Peter Altman. WOLAA was notified that Peter died in 2007; he lived in Warsaw, VA.

-Jacob Shuster. Jacob died in 2009. He is survived by his wife Susan, who wrote the following note to WOLAA: "Your letter brought me a great measure of comfort. Jack knew that I was technologically inept and never talked about his work or showed me anything. Jack was a superb draftsman, and we have charming little paintings from him. The only thing he mentioned about his work was that the inventors liked him because he could understand what they wanted to indicate and could draw their ideas clearly. This he would say with a little self depreciating smile. He was a humble and modest man."

-Jean Craig. Betty Beebe notified WOLAA that Jean had died. Jean was a PMA team leader in the Personnel Department

-Norman Rice. WOLAA was notified that Norman died on 26 January 2009. He was retired and living in Greenville, NC.

-Vi Mason. Audrey Morrison, via Mary Jackson, notified WOLAA that Vi had died on 9 July 2009. Vi was a Department Secretary at Dahlgren for many years.

-Bob Ryland. Becky Stevens, via Mary Jackson, notified WOLAA that Bob Ryland had died recently. Bob was the Department Head of K, H, and E Departments before retiring in the early 90's. He was very well liked and respected by all. K Department continued to grow under Bob's leadership and he was tasked to form H Department when it was created by many Branches and Divisions at both White Oak and Dahlgren.

-Dorothy Jean Gleason Evans. Dorothy's niece, Kim Thompson, notified WOLAA that Dorothy died on 13 September 2009 at age 91. She was buried at Arlington Cemetery on 21 December 2009. Jean was the head of the Employees Relations Division in the Personnel Department and the only woman Division Head under Director Kranda. I remember her group being located in the arcade near the bank. Her group handled labor relations, retirement, etc for employees. She was from a large family in Kansas and began civil service working for the Post Office in her home town in Kansas. During WW II, she joined the Coast Guard as a seaman and a year later was commissioned an Ensign. During the war, she was based at several locations in the USA, including DC. After being released from active duty, she continued in the reserves, retiring as a Captain in 1978. She returned to civilian assignment in 1946 by serving on the staff of the chief counsel for the war crimes in Germany until 1949. She began employment at NOL in 1949 and retired in 1973. She married her husband, Captain Frederick J. Evans of the Coast Guard in 1973. They traveled extensively, visiting 78 countries. They also enjoyed many boat trips to the Keys and Great Lakes. Her husband died in 1978. She is survived by two stepdaughters, grandchildren, nieces, and nephew.

-Harvey L. Waterman. Harvey died at age 94 on 26 October 2009. He lived in Odenton,

-Harvey L. Waterman. Harvey died at age 94 on 26 October 2009. He lived in Odenton, MD. He is survived by his wife, Myrtle; three sons: Rick, Doug, and Jim; 4 grandchildren; and a great grandson. He worked in the technical shops at NOL.

-Elizabeth Welsh. John Renzi notified WOLAA that Elizabeth died in October 2009. She was the wife of Jim Welsh, who is deceased. Jim was a senior ordnance specialist in U11.

-Teresa R. Sommerkamp. Teresa passed away on 12 November 2009. She was the wife of Charles H. Sommerkamp, Sr., who survives. Charles worked at WOL as a technical writer in E Department. Teresa has three children: Charles, Jr; Mary Ann Boyle; and John. She is survived by nine grandchildren.

-Donald Keys. John Kelley notified WOLAA that Donald died on 21 November 2009. He was a senior technician in R10 (Indian Head Detachment) working for Dr. Hermann Haiss. Donald guided the day to day operations of the Explosives and Propellants Mechanical Behavior Laboratory..