



# USTUR NEWSLETTER

UNITED STATES TRANSURANIUM AND URANIUM REGISTRIES  
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

ISSUE 7

DECEMBER 2000

## Message from the Director

In past USTUR Newsletters, we have given you some information regarding the operation of the Registries and the progress that was made throughout the year. This year, I thought that we should make this Newsletter more of a Holiday Greeting and introduce you to the USTUR staff. They are all very hard-working individuals with quite a wide variety of backgrounds in terms of education and experiences and we would like you to meet them. If you have occasion to call upon us, this will give you an idea with whom you are communicating and we do encourage you to contact us. As a matter of policy, USTUR donors and their families are entitled to whatever information we might have collected about the donor. Postal addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses are included in this Newsletter as well as in our web pages,

[www.ustur.wsu.edu](http://www.ustur.wsu.edu).

Dr. Ronald E. Filipy, Director



## Dr. Ronald E. Filipy, Director

[rfilipy@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:rfilipy@tricity.wsu.edu)

509-372-7316



Dr. Filipy became the Director of the Registries in July, 1999 after serving as a staff member for nine years. In former lives, he was a high-school teacher, college instructor and a research scientist for Battelle, Pacific Northwest Laboratories where he specialized in the toxicology of inhaled radionuclides, including plutonium. Ron was a farm kid in Northern Minnesota and he received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Moorhead State College in Moorhead, Minnesota (now

Minnesota State University, Moorhead). Going west, he eventually received a Ph.D. degree in radiation biology from Oregon State University. Ron and his wife (nurse) have lived in Richland, WA for nearly 30 years and they have two grown children, one of whom is a pharmacist and the other, a high school teacher. Ron and his wife spend much of their spare time on the golf course.

## John J. Russell, Associate Director

[russell@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:russell@tricity.wsu.edu)

509-372-7315



Mr. Russell became the associate director of the Registries in 1998 after serving as a faculty member for 6 years. Before that, John worked at Argonne National Laboratory for nearly 30 years as a radiation biologist. John grew up in Indiana and attended undergraduate and graduate school at Indiana State University. His wife, a Fulbright Fellow, is a local high school teacher. They have three children; their daughter is an international trader/broker living in London where she is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of London; their oldest son, former football player at the University of Nebraska, is a stock broker and lives in New York; and their youngest son is a freshman at a local college. John is an avid archer and would rather spend his time hunting for deer, turkey, squirrel and rabbits.

## Susan Ehrhart, Program Admin Manager

[syoung@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:syoung@tricity.wsu.edu)

509-372-7317



Mrs. Ehrhart has worked for the Registries for over seven years. Susan was born in Richland, Washington and moved around to many states when she was younger and then returned to her roots here in Richland, WA eight years ago. Susan is working on her A.A. in Business at Columbia Basin College. Prior to working at USTUR, Susan has worked as a recreation counselor for disabled children, sales manager and a tutor at Wharton County Junior College in Texas. She is married and has two young girls. Susan spends most of her spare time with her family, friends and loves to shop!



### **Minh V. Pham, Info. Systems Coordinator**

*mpham@tricity.wsu.edu*

509-372-7374



Mr. Pham has worked for the Registries since 1993. From Vietnam originally, he came to the U.S. in 1982 as a refugee by himself. He is a Washington State University graduate with a B.S. in computer engineering. Mr. Pham specializes in networking, database programming, and hardware/software consulting. He is married and has three very active sons. Minh enjoys spending his spare time with his family.

### **Tanya Wood, Scientific Assistant**

*twood@tricity.wsu.edu*

509-372-7304



Mrs. Wood recently was promoted to Scientific Assistant within the Registries in October of this year, after starting out with us as a work-study student in 1997 and then a Research Assistant in 1999. She has lived in the Tri City, Washington area pretty much all of her life except for the two years she lived in Pullman, Washington (where she was born) while her parents were finishing school and then when she, herself, returned to Pullman twenty-three years later to finish her education at Washington State University. Tanya graduated with an A.A. in biology and chemistry from Columbia Basin College before graduating from Washington State University with a B.S. in chemistry and minor in biology and microbiology. Tanya and her family have lived in Kennewick for the past three years. Tanya's husband specializes in asbestos and lead removal and they have a daughter who just turned one at the end of October. Tanya spends much of her spare time painting, chasing her daughter, and enjoying motherhood.

### **Rosa M. Padilla, Clerical Assistant**

*rpadilla@tricity.wsu.edu*

509-372-7370



Mrs. Padilla has been with the Registries since November of last year working as a clerical work-study student. Rosa obtained her A.A. and A.S. degree in Computer Science from Columbia Basin College and currently attends Washington State University working toward a B.S. degree in Education. Once her degree is obtained, Rosa would like to be a bilingual teacher. Rosa was born in Mexico and has been in the U.S. for four years. She is married and has three

children and spends most of her spare time with her family, friends and playing volleyball.

### **James T. Elliston, Director/Radiochem**

*elliston@mail.wsu.edu*

509-335-8316



Mr. Elliston became the director of radiochemistry for the Registries in May of 2000. Jim had been associated with the USTUR for six years as a graduate student at Washington State University, Department of Chemistry. He is a former U.S. Marine. Prior to graduate school he was a telephone electronic technician, a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff (Sergeant), and a parts manager for a laundry equipment service company. Jim was a farm kid in Northern Illinois. He received his B.S. in chemistry and biology from Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington and his M.S. in chemistry from Washington State University. Jim will be completing his Ph.D. in chemistry (radioanalytical emphasis) early in 2001. Jim is married and he and his wife have four married daughters, three live in the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho area and the fourth lives in Sandy, Utah. Jim is an avid fly fisherman and upland bird hunter when not working in the laboratory.

### **Dorothy B. Stuit, Radiochemist**

*stuit@mail.wsu.edu*

509-335-5032



Ms. Stuit joined the Registries in 1994 on the Pullman campus, helping re-start the radiochemistry laboratory after it was moved from Los Alamos, NM. Previously, she has worked as a technician at Ortec making alpha detectors, as a chemist in the nutrition group of the FDA, a radiochemist at New Brunswick Laboratory (Argonne National Laboratory), a radiochemist at Rocky Flats, and as a radiochemist for a small environmental lab in Colorado. She was raised in a suburb of Chicago and got her B.S. degree from Le Tourneau University in Longview, TX. Dorothy has family scattered across the Midwest, Southwest, and Western U.S., so she travels regularly. She spends much of her free time re-landscaping her backyard.

### **Gail E. Deckert, Radiochemist**

[deckert@mail.wsu.edu](mailto:deckert@mail.wsu.edu)

509-335-1779



Ms. Deckert became a radiochemist with the Registries in October of 1999. She has worked as a Laboratory technician, accounting assistant, and research associate in Biochemistry and Genetics and Cell Biology at Washington State University. Gail grew up here in Washington State with a few forays out into the wide world. She attended High School in London, England. She received her B.S. in Biochemistry and M.S. in Chemistry at Washington State University. Gail has lived in Pullman, WA for nearly 30 years. She has two children in High School. Lately, her spare time has been spent working on her house, which was built in the late 1800's. She can be found fishing, camping, skiing, gardening, cooking, or whatever takes her fancy.

### **Melvin R. Sikov, Adjunct Professor**

[msikov@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:msikov@tricity.wsu.edu)

509-372-7475



Dr. Sikov received an appointment as Adjunct Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences in August 1998 to participate in the activities of the Registries. Mel earned a B.S. degree from Wayne University in Detroit, Michigan (with an interlude in the Army) and a Ph.D. in Radiation Biology from the University of Rochester. He then returned to a faculty appointment in the Radiology Department of Wayne University for 10 years. He joined Battelle, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, where he remained for the next 30 years until retirement. His research has centered on the dosimetry and effects of physical agents (especially radionuclides) administered during prenatal and neonatal life. Mel and his wife have three married children and six grandchildren. He is exploring several crafts, attempting creative writing, and continuing scientific activities, which now constitute his primary hobby.

### **Baruch S. Jacobson, Adjunct Scientist**

[bjacobso@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:bjacobso@tricity.wsu.edu)

509-372-7472



Dr. Jacobson joined the Registries in 1995, after five years at Battelle, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Currently, Barry is collecting data on cataracts in retired USTUR registrants. A native of New York City, he received a B.A. degree from Columbia University after two interruptions, one for service in World War II and one for a poultry-raising venture. After spending a year editing and processing climatological data for the US Weather Bureau in San Francisco, he earned a Ph.D. degree from U.C. Berkeley in Biophysics. His thesis involved a pioneering study of radiation damage repair in algae. From 1958 until 1990, he was a faculty member at the University of Texas, the University of Minnesota and Central Michigan University from which he retired. During sabbaticals, he studied health effects of air quality at U.C. Davis and radiation biology at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Barry is a widower, has four children and four

grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys photography, participates in environmental activities and travels about the country visiting his scattered family.

### **Dr. Gerald E. Dagle, Adjunct Professor**

[gdagel@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:gdagel@tricity.wsu.edu)

509-372-7472



Dr. Dagle became an adjunct faculty member with the Registries in 1995. Gerald grew up in Western Washington and attended Washington State University where he obtained his D.V.M. degree. He then decided to pursue research interests and obtained a Ph.D. from Colorado State University in Pathology. Gerald worked for Battelle, Pacific Northwest Laboratory in radiation pathology. His wife (librarian) and three children (engineers) all graduated from Washington State University and work for Battelle in Richland, Washington.

### **Dr. Walt E. Wilson, Adjunct Professor**

[wwilson@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:wwilson@tricity.wsu.edu)

509-372-7371



Dr. Wilson has been an adjunct faculty member with the Registries since he retired from Battelle, Pacific Northwest Laboratories in 1995, after 30 years of basic research in radiation dosimetry, specializing in Monte Carlo methods for simulating charged particle transport in tissue-like matter. He enjoys computers and teaching radiological and computer sciences as an adjunct professor at Washington State University, Tri-Cities and its predecessor institutions. Walt was a farm kid in Western Oregon and received a B.A. degree from Willamette University in Salem. He then moved on to Madison, WI where he earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physics. After a post-grad sojourn (vacation?) in Switzerland, and other post-doc experiences, he settled in Richland, WA in 1965; married, four grown children and five grandchildren. He spends most of his spare time playing with computers and digital photographs of his grandchildren.

*Season's Greetings from all of us at the  
United States Transuranium and Uranium  
Registries*

*2710 University Drive • Richland, WA 99325  
800-375-9317*



United States Transuranium and  
Uranium Registries  
Washington State University  
2710 University Drive  
Richland, WA 99352

