



# SELS Newsletter

Issue 7, December 2004

## Spring SELS Workshop

The Spring SELS Workshop was held in sunny southern California and was one of the best ever and, by all accounts, a huge success. The workshop was hosted at SAIC's headquarters in San Diego.



### San Diego Workshop – SAIC/Jacobs Hosts



*Lisa Proctor, Rolf Dietrich, Barb Kasecamp with Jacobs a team partner*

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## Lessons Learned Focus - State Farm visits Oak Ridge

On September 28, 2004 four representatives from State Farm Insurance Headquarters (Bloomington, Illinois) visited ORNL to benchmark our Lessons Learned Program. *continued on page 2*



## Fall SELS Workshop

The Fall SELS Workshop was held in Buffalo, New York. It too was a huge success. The workshop was hosted by New York University.

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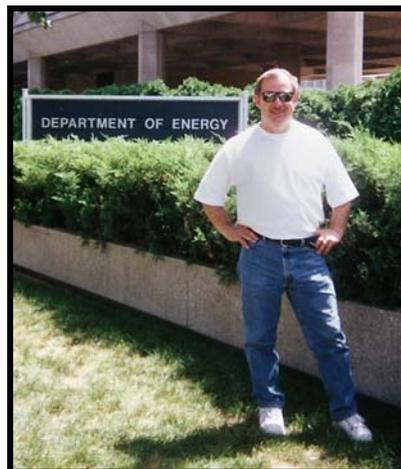


*Photographed by Jenny Roddy*

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## SELS Member Profile – Mike Smith

Mike Smith is the Lessons Learned Program Coordinator for the Oak Ridge Operations Office (ORO). *continued on page 2*



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**San Diego Spring Workshop** - Both the setting and hospitality, provided by Lisa Proctor of SAIC were exceptional. Lisa's contribution of time and hard work that went into hosting this event was very much appreciated by all who attended. The Workshop's content and the over 40 enthusiastic participants contributed to the interchange of lessons learned process information making for a lively, fun and informative meeting. I suppose you had to be there, but one of the best bits of input was from John Voit discussing how he never expected to be involved with lessons learned, "in his wildest dreams". The family atmosphere of the SELLS group continues - so thanks to everyone for three days of family, fun and fellowship. A heartfelt thanks, also, to all the speakers and moderators who contributed to the success of the workshop.



Photographed by Jenny Roddy

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**State Farm visit to Oak Ridge –**

The visit was hosted by DOE-ORO, ORNL and Wackenhut and included Lessons Learned Coordinators from Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Oak Ridge Associated University (ORAU) and Wackenhut (WSI-OR). The Oak Ridge LL Coordinators attended answered questions and discussed the strengths and weaknesses within the DOE LL program. The ORNL LL Coordinators demonstrated how information is entered and distributed using the ORNL LL database. Each State Farm representative was given the various site procedures and other supporting documentation for reference purposes. All participants expressed

the sentiment that the meeting was very useful and that the ORNL system is structured well and is user-friendly. The lines of communication between the participants were left open for further discussion/questions.



Season Tanner, Jackie Simms, James Suiter, Randy Cox

Photographed by Jenny Roddy

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**Buffalo Fall Workshop** - The theme for the Workshop was "Measuring Our Success" with line-up of interesting and worthwhile presentations. John Voit of Delphi, New York University and Joe Marek of West Valley sponsored the meeting in Buffalo, New York on October 19–21, 2004. Dr. Colin Drury from University of Buffalo was the guest speaker. The Workshop's presentations and the over 42 enthusiastic participants contributed to the interchange of lessons learned process information making for an informative meeting. Seeing Niagara Falls was an added treat to attending the workshop.

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**Mike Smith - Member Profile** - An Environmental Scientist by training, Mike came to Oak Ridge as a Senior Scientist for NUS Corporation and has been a federal employee since 1986. Before coming to NUS, Mike lived in Montgomery, Alabama where he was an Environmental Scientist with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management after finishing graduate studies.

## Late Breaking LL News

With input from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), the Department of Energy is in the process of transitioning from a standard based lessons learned program to an order driven program. Ray Blowitski of EH is in the process of converting the current standard into a Department of Energy order and guide. Details of transition were presented at the Fall SELLS Workshop.

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*Come join us for the 2005 Spring Workshop in Seattle, Washington.*

### Sponsored by - Fluor Hanford Inc.

The Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing (SELLS) Spring 2005 Workshop will be held in Seattle, Washington on April 26-28, 2005. All interested parties are welcome to attend. The theme for the workshop will be **"Getting the Right Information to the Right People."**

Anticipated discussions and working sessions should help you refine screening and distribution processes within your Lessons Learned Program.

Please register for the workshop by April 15, 2005, using the on-line form at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/ll/sells/sellsrgistr.cfm>.

### Points of Contacts:

Host of Spring Workshop - John Bickford at: [John\\_C\\_Bickford@rl.gov](mailto:John_C_Bickford@rl.gov)  
Co-chair - Mike Smith at: [smithmc@oro.gov](mailto:smithmc@oro.gov)  
Co-chair - Howard Gordon at: [hjgordon@mactec.com](mailto:hjgordon@mactec.com)

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**Mike Smith - Member Profile** - He has enjoyed a dual career with the Department of Energy and the Air National Guard from which he retired in 1998 with 24 years service.

With 25 years experience, Mike has worked in many areas of environment, safety and health from waste management to asbestos. In addition to his duties with the Quality Assurance Team at ORO, Mike is currently serving as Co-chair of the SELLS. Mike says that he is honored to be part of the dynamic and dedicated group of professionals that make up the lessons learned and SELLS community.

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### Lessons Learned Website

<http://www.eh.doe.gov/ll/index.html>

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### Quotable Lesson Learned

*"It takes as much stress to be a success as it does to be a failure."*

### Always Think SAFETY!

