

# White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association, Inc.



# The Leaf



VOLUME XIII ISSUE IV

PROUD MEMORIES

Fall 2011

- **Events** \*  
 \*NOL Lunch 2nd Mon  
 @Golden Bull in Adelphi

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

WOLAA Web Site: [www.wolaa.org](http://www.wolaa.org)

- \*WOLAA Dedication of Proud Memory Garden, Friday 30 Sept 2011
- \*WOLAA FL Reunion, Fri. 9 March 2012, Dade City, FL.

***Proud Memory Garden Dedication on Friday, 30 September 2011 at White Oak Laboratory Site.***

***\*\*\*\*\*Ceremony begins at 1100 !!!!\*\*\*\*\****

- \*NOTE: NO Holiday Luncheon in 2011

***\*\*\*Arrive by 1015 for Parking and Security\*\*\****

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

## *Your Proud Memory Garden*

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**There are nine plaques which tell the White Oak Laboratory Legacy. The entrance to the garden is at right bottom of picture and the path loops around to the top right of pictures. The benches shown at the right of the picture are made from stone preserved from WOL buildings.**

## News from WOLAA: The Dedication.

### 1. Dedication Schedule

1015-1100. Arrival and Transportation to Bldg 1

1100-1200. Dedication Ceremony

1200-1245. Reception and tour of Garden & Kiosk

1245-1400. Tours of NOL Lobby, Base, and Tunnel 9

~1400. Depart

### 2. Parking, Transportation, and Security



\*Plan to arrive by 1015 to facilitate parking and security.

city.

\*See Supplement page S1 for parking map. As you enter gates from NH Avenue, look for signs and people directing you to parking. Drop off passengers in your car at main entrance to Bldg 1 and proceed to SE parking lot. Busses will return you to Bldg 1.

\*Handicap Access. Drop off anyone needing assistance at entrance to Bldg 1. WOLAA will have people there to assist them through security and to move from Bldg 1 to FDA's Bldg 31 for dedication.

\*Security. No badges will be used. But, bring a picture ID with you if you have one—driver license for example. You will go through X-ray security and then proceed to Bldg 31. Signs and/or people will assist. Security is basically at the basement arcade of NOL's Bldg 1. You will then walk South along hall that took you to photographics. As you leave Bldg 1, you will be in a court yard which leads to the entrance to FDA's Bldg 31.

\*Camera's. You may bring your camera to the dedication.

### 3. Dedication Ceremony.

\* Supplement page S2 provides layout of FDA' Bldg 31 Conference Center Complex for dedication and reception.

\*Before Ceremony. 1015-1100.

-Feel free to visit Proud Memory Garden

-Feel free to visit Legacy Wall and use interactive display at kiosk which tells the WOL Legacy. Make sure you view the 4 videos contained in the display.

-Legacy story will be projected on a large screen in the Great Room in a continuous loop.

-Program. Pick-up the Dedication Program and read write-ups on the Proud Memory Garden, Legacy Wall, NOL benches, Dr. Ralph Bennett, Sr. plaque, and Nate Stinson, Sr. plaque.

\*Ceremony (Draft at time of LEAF publication. 1100-1200

-Arrival of Official Party. Dr. Ira Blatstein, MC

-Colors. Navy Color Guard

-National Anthem. Sung by Sweet Adelines Quartet—Cheryl Cross

-Invocation. Navy Chaplain or Deacon Ed Baker

-Introduction/Welcome to Dedication. Dr. Blatstein

-FDA Host Remarks. FDA Commissioner Dr. Hamburg

-Community/LABQUEST Remarks. Labquest Chair, Betsy Bretz

-Keynote Address. PDASN Mr. Thompson.

### **\*Ceremony (Continued)**

- Dr. Ralph Bennett, Sr. NOL first TD.  
Remarks by Ralph Bennett, Jr.
- Nate Stinson Sr. NAVMAT EEO.  
Remarks by Nate Stinson, Jr.
- Proud Memories of NOL.  
Remarks by Dr. Blatstein
- Flags (Video); Music by Raymond Zook
- Benediction.



**NOTE:** At the time of LEAF publication, we were still discussing/planning a wreath ceremony at the Garden in memory of all WOL deceased employees. Also, we were contacting the FDA Public Health Service to request participation by their band.

### **\*Reception. 1200-1245**

- Food being catered by the FDA food services.
- See Supplement page S2 for food service stations and tables.
- Feel free to tour Garden and visit kiosk.

### **\*Tours. 1245-1400.**

- Almost all attendees desire to take the tours of the NOL lobby, Base, and Wind Tunnel. Bus service is limited so as you enter the FDA Bldg 31 at 1015, you will be assigned a time for your tours. First tour begins at 1245.
- Meet your tour guide at your designated time in lobby of conference center to begin to proceed to NOL lobby. It has been wonderfully restored and we know you will enjoy it.
- After lobby tour, you will be guided to the security check in of Bldg 1 and will leave to board a bus for base and wind tunnel tours.

**NOTE: As you leave Bldg 1 for the Bus, please pick up your dedication “Goodie Bag.” It contains the Garden Dedication Mug.**

- Bus will tour Base and will stop at Tunnel 9 after the Base tour.

Those not desiring to tour the wind tunnel, please stay on the bus and it will take you to the SE parking lot so you can depart for the day

Those taking the tour, depart the bus and take the tour which is being arranged by Dan Marren, who is director of the Air Force’s tunnel facility. When finished with the tour, board the next available bus for transportation to the SE parking lot.

### **\*Post 30 September 2011 Dedication.**

-WOL Legacy Kiosk Story. We are in the process of arranging CD’s of the interactive display Legacy Story for our alumni. Please let us know if you desire a copy. Cost will be under \$10 including S&H. Call (301) 439-3140 or email [mrspat218@aol.com](mailto:mrspat218@aol.com) for exact cost and mailing information.

-Make up Visits to the Proud Memory Garden. We are in process of setting up make up visits for those who could not attend on 30 September. We plan to have them for at least the next three months, probably on a Friday at 1100. Park at Miller Hall and a WOLAA/LABQUEST rep will guide you to the Garden. Security same as for the dedication. Call (301) 439-3140 or email [mrspat218@aol.com](mailto:mrspat218@aol.com) for more details and to set a date for your visit.

## Book Review Johnny Gram

Mjt



**-Iron Coffins by Herbert A. Werner (1969).** This is an old but “goodie” book. John Martin gave me this book at the May luncheon and thought I would enjoy it. I really did! Werner was a U Boat officer and commander during WW II. This is his wartime story. He was so lucky, so skilled and such a survivor. He served on at least four U Boats and only his last one had a snorkel. Several of his patrols had the submarine go to the bottom and only skill and luck got the submarine to the surface. As the Allies ASW improved, the Germans took huge losses and by the end of the war had lost almost 800 U Boats. One of the huge issues for the U Boats was the ASW aircraft from land and sea (Allies developed ASW focused aircraft carriers). By 1943, few submarines lasted more than one patrol. The amazing cause is the Allies were picking up the signal from the device the Germans was using to detect surface/air radars. They were leading the attackers right to them. Many torpedo attacks on the merchant ships were from the surface. Their fire control solutions were very good and they eventually got good torpedoes. Early in the war, Werner’s patrol resulted in using all their weapons and sinking many tons of shipping. Until the Germans got better radar and the snorkel, the Allies had a huge tactical advantage. We were fortunate that the radar and snorkel came late in the war and production was low due to our bombing of the German industrial complex. I checked on Amazon and you can still find copies of the book which was very hard to put down.

## Ramblings of a Senior

Mjt



**\*4<sup>th</sup> of July.** This is the day we celebrate our independence and pride in being an American. You never know where this love of country and pride will come from. We were at OC this year on the 4<sup>th</sup> and were enjoying our favorite area at Assateague Island. Our Grand- daughters Shelby and Madison were in the water when a canoe approached. “Hey, we can’t steer, look out.” They quickly moved and after a brief exchange with the two girls, the father in the canoe said in a rich Boston accent, “You must be Irish!” Our five year old grand-daughter looked back at him and said in a very indignant tone, “I am not Irish; I am an **AMERICAN!**” Well said Shelby; and on such a significant day in our history. God Bless America!

**\*The Cupcake Adventure.** Our Granddaughter, Emily, has the nickname “Cupcake.” On a visit to our house this Summer, we, of course, had to go on a cupcake adventure. Off we went to Georgetown to visit Georgetown Cupcake. This unique business makes only cupcakes. It was started by two sisters, I believe; and they also have a show on cable TV. Traveling down Wisconsin Avenue is the first adventure and then finding a place to park on the street was the next challenge. All worked out and we park right at Georgetown Cupcake. Of course, it was during the heat spell, and they are so popular that there is a line waiting to get in. They have every kind of cupcake you can dream up; and have many which features holidays and birthdays. We got lemon, chocolate and vanilla, hazelnut, and my favorite----chocolate peanut butter. Even gluten free for our son. Oh, the cost----\$2.75 per cupcake. I know, I know that is outrageous and they are small in size cupcakes. But, it was an adventure! How many did we buy? I am not saying. But boy did I enjoy them. The super Yummmmm of the year.



## Features.

### \*Alumni Updates

#### -News

**Dr. Dorothy Cichra.** Dorothy retired from NSWC/IH in June. She began her career at the WOL as a chemist in the Energetics Materials Division. WOLAA wishes her well in her retirement.

### \*Alumni Correspondence

**-John Kelley forwarded:** “Following is a note received from Dr. Wayne L. Elban [Professor of Engineering at Loyola University, and a WOL'er (Code R10) himself]. From the description below, the materials offered by Mr. Lehnert might be of interest to WOLAA.”

“Morning Mr. Wayne Elban, I recently visited my grandfather's home in Silver Spring, MD. (Dr. Richard Lehnert). Was helping my uncle clean up some of our Opa's files and ran across numerous historical documents & brochures that relate to the Navel Ordnance Lab (Wind tunnel research division) in White Oak. Would you happen to know of a good place where we can donate these materials? Believe they should be on display in a museum. Our Opa was a very meticulous organizer of files.  
Kind Regards, Eric Lehnert, Monosem Inc., Edwardsville, KS 66111”

“Eric, Thank you very much for this message and for your thoughtfulness in wanting to preserve a part of the NOL legacy of engineering and scientific accomplishments. Yesterday, I forwarded your message to my good friend John Kelley who is now working at NSWC, Indian Head, but used to work at NOL. He left a voice message to say he would be forwarding your e-mail to the head of the NOL Alumni Association who I would think should be contacting you in the near future. Please let me know how this works out for you and your family. Best regards, Wayne Elban”

“Wayne, This is great. I'll send over some photos tomorrow of a few of the items we have boxed up in the Kansas City area. The rest of the items are still in Silver Spring boxed and very neatly organized. On our next visit to Silver Spring we can arrange a time to look through any of the items pertaining to NOL.

We even found Opa's original job application to the NOL, and some other interesting information from the Lockheed missile group in California (Believe this was info on job searches after arriving in the US) A few years back we donated one of the few V-2 wind tunnel rocket models to the Berlin Technical Museum:

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/1/1a/Wind\\_channel\\_model\\_of\\_an\\_A4.JPG](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/1/1a/Wind_channel_model_of_an_A4.JPG)

Uncle Ken Lehnert now resides in my grandfathers home in Silver Spring MD-  
Regards, Eric Lehnert”

#### **-Peggy Langston (wife of Waverly “Preacher” Langston who passed away in May.**

“Dear Houston and WOLAA Board of Directors, Thank you so much for your letter expressing your sympathy for the loss of Waverly. Your love for him, and telling us of his role in the work of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory. It seems wonderful to us that you can recite these things as if it happened yesterday. Your words touched our hearts and we sincerely thank you. Peggy Langston and family.”

**-Dr. Dan A. Thomas.** Dan's son, Roger wrote WOLAA, “Dad worked at NOL from 1950 to 1953 as a research Physicist in acoustics. His 1950 PhD was from Vanderbuilt and he had used the GI bill earned from being a WWII submarine officer. He left NOL to become head of the physics department at Rollins College. Concurrently he was a consultant to Orlando Underwater Sound Lab. Where he worked on higher frequency U/W sound. After 13 years at Rollins he signed on at Jacksonville University as Dean of the Faculty and was promoted to Academic VP retiring in 1986 as Trustee Professor of Physics Emeritus. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, children LCDR Roger N. Thomas USN Ret. and Becky and two grand

**\*Alumni Correspondence****-Dr. Dan Thomas (Continued)**

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, children LCDR Roger N. Thomas USN Ret. and Becky and two grand children all currently living in Jacksonville FL.

**NOTE: Roger Thomas and his family is asking our help to provide them any information on what Dr Thomas worked on at NOL. My sense is he worked in the Physics Research Department in one of the Acoustic Divisions. Since it was 1950-1953, I thought it might be PUFFS or one of the basic acoustic experiments being conducted at sea. Please provide any information to the LEAF by calling (301) 439-3140 or emailing at mrspat218@aol.com.**

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**-Deceased Alumni.**

Please inform Houston Cole of any information about deceased alumni. Phone (410)489-2977. Or, please write or email WOLAA. The LEAF is pleased to print a tribute to our deceased alumni. Prepare and mail/email to WOLAA.

**Editor Note: I would like to acknowledge and thank Houston Cole for taking the responsibility to locate the family of our deceased and then prepare and send a letter from WOLAA to extend our sympathy for their loss and provide information that will help them communicate with Federal Officials re pension, insurance, and health care. A huge WOLAA BZ!**

**-Van L. Kenyon, III.** Van died at age 74 on 2 March 2011 at the Manchester Health Care in Tennessee. Van was born in Greensboro, NC. After the WOL closed, he worked for AEDC, which is the Air Force's organization which is in charge of their Nuclear Simulators. He worked at the WOL in H Department, and was a technical expert in Nuclear Simulators and Simulation. He was very creative. It was decided to install the extra EMP pulsor in Building 132. The space was limited, and a shield was needed for the pulsor. He found a circular metal corn crib used by farmers that was just the right size and provided excellent shielding. I can imagine what the person in the Supply Department thought when they received that procurement request. In the 90's, he lead the NSWC/WO effort to design and compete for a super new Nuclear Simulator to be built at the WOL. We were told that we had the best technical proposal; but the work went to the Air Force. I was told that the Air Force eventually used a lot of Van's design when their design had issues. Van is survived by his son, Douglas Kenyon; daughter, Emily Everaers; and five grandchildren. **Editor Note:** Van and I came to NOL on the same day in 1958 and were processed into NOL by Betty Beebe. Thus, Van was the first person I met at NOL.

**-William Hawkins.** William died on 21 May 2011. He had moved to Florida for health reasons; he is survived by his wife, daughter, two sons, and his mother, Alberta Hawkins. Alberta worked at WOL in the Records Section of E Department.

**-George C. Keller.** George, died May 4 at Gilchrist Center in Towson after a stroke. He was 85. He was a NASA engineer for three decades who worked on missions including the first weather satellite and the space shuttle program. George, a Columbia resident, retired from NASA in 1992. Previously, he had worked at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, where he helped develop aircraft-arresting gear for carrier landings, and for the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in White Oak, where he designed missile-guidance systems. At NOL, George worked in the Structures Division of Air and Surface. In retirement, he was a consultant on a NASA-manufactured Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite. He also volunteered with a Goddard Space Flight Center retirees organization.

**-Clark W. Dovell.** Clark died at age 87 on 14 May 2011. He lived in Potomac, MD. Clark worked as a mechanical engineer at NOL in the Mechanical Engineering Division. He worked on many mine programs. He served as a corporal in the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1945. His units were the Army Specialized Training Program, 106<sup>th</sup> and 422<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. He participated in the Battles of the Ardennes and Rhineland. Clark was held as POW in the Stalag IVB. He is survived by his wife, Thelma. Their

**-Clark W. Dovell (Continued).** Ardennes and Rhineland. Clark was held as POW in the Stalag IVB. He is survived by his wife, Thelma. Their daughter, Donna April Graybill is deceased. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

**-Richard L. "Dick" Knodle.** Richard L. "Dick" died 17 June 2011 at age 89 at a nursing home in Verona, N.J. He had brain cancer. From 1947 until he retired in 1977, Dick worked on explosives at NOL; he was a nuclear electrical engineer. In 1953, he received the Navy Department's Superior Performance Award. He was a native of Elgin, Ill. and served in the Army Air Forces during World War II. He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois in 1947 before moving to the Washington region. He lived in Hyattsville before moving to New Jersey in 2005. Dick was a member of the IEEE and a volunteer with the American Red Cross. He had no immediate survivors.

**-Matt Brown.** Dr. Matt Brown died on 19 June 2011 at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, MD after heart surgery at age 72. Matt was a research physicist at the WOL working in R41; he did research in composition and structures of materials using particle accelerator based technology. After the WOL closed, Matt moved to the NSWC/Carderock and managed a radiation testing division there. He received his BS, MS, and PhD in physics from U of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1972. He was born in Chattanooga, TN. Matt is survived by his wife of 43 years, Linda Lambert "Lin" Brown; children, Julia Flaherty of Braintree, MA and Louis Brown of El Paso, TX; his Mother, Christine Steele; and two Grandchildren. He was very active in the community of Bethesda, "...served on the board of neighborhood associations. He did volunteer work at Ayr lawn Park in Bethesda removing invasive plants and helping restore areas of the woods. He also volunteered with Project Reboot, an organization that restored used computers and gives them to low-income families and needy organizations."

**-James Ronald Chatham,** Jim, 76, of Laurel, died Sunday, July 17, 2011, at Carroll Lutheran Village in Westminster, from complications of vascular dementia and other medical conditions. Born Feb. 9, 1935, in St. Louis, Mo., he was the son of the late Ira T. and Marie Chatham. He was the husband of the late H. Sue Chatham, his wife of 45 years. He was a 48-year resident of Howard County. He graduated, with an electrical engineering degree, from the University of Missouri in 1957. Jim worked at NOL for 34 years in the Air and Surface Department. Jim was a key engineer on the team who developed the guidance system for SUBROC. He spent his retirement years performing handyman work of all varieties and volunteering at Howard County General Hospital. He was a founding member of St. John United Methodist Church in Columbia, participating in numerous service projects and serving on many committees. He was a member of several choirs including the St. John Choir, the Alleluias, the Howard County Interfaith Choir, the Village Voices and the Columbia Choral Society. He served many years as a Howard County Board of Elections poll judge, was a Boy Scout in his youth and an official Girl Scout as an adult, supporting his wife who was a troop leader. He enjoyed time with his family and cats, numerous camping trips and other travel experiences and helping others. His hobbies were music, home improvement, gardening, duplicate bridge and other pastimes. Surviving are daughters Becky S. Chatham, of Knoxville, Tenn., and Deborah A. Chatham, of Westminster.

**-Karl Wayne Reed** Wayne, age 69, of Waldorf, Maryland, passed away at Southern Maryland Hospital in Clinton, Maryland, on July 31, 2011 of pancreatic cancer. He was born in Ohio on August 11, 1941, to the late Velma and Robert Reed. He graduated in 1966 from Toledo State University with a degree in Engineering Physics. He went to work for the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in White Oak, Maryland the same year. He subsequently completed all course work for a Master's Degree in Physics at the University of Maryland, College Park. When the Navy Lab at White Oak closed in the late 1990's, he was reassigned to the Indian Head Division. As a physicist for the Naval Surface Warfare Center, he provided forty-four exemplary years of service before retiring last year as Senior Scientist. He will be remembered as a mentor, an innovator, and as someone who delighted in exploring endless possibilities. Wayne is survived by his wife Sue Reed and daughter Lora Palmer (Stephen). Wayne worked in the Explosive Division of the Research Department. He worked on the warhead/explosives for torpedoes.

# WOLAA Garden Dedication Ceremony

September 30, 2011

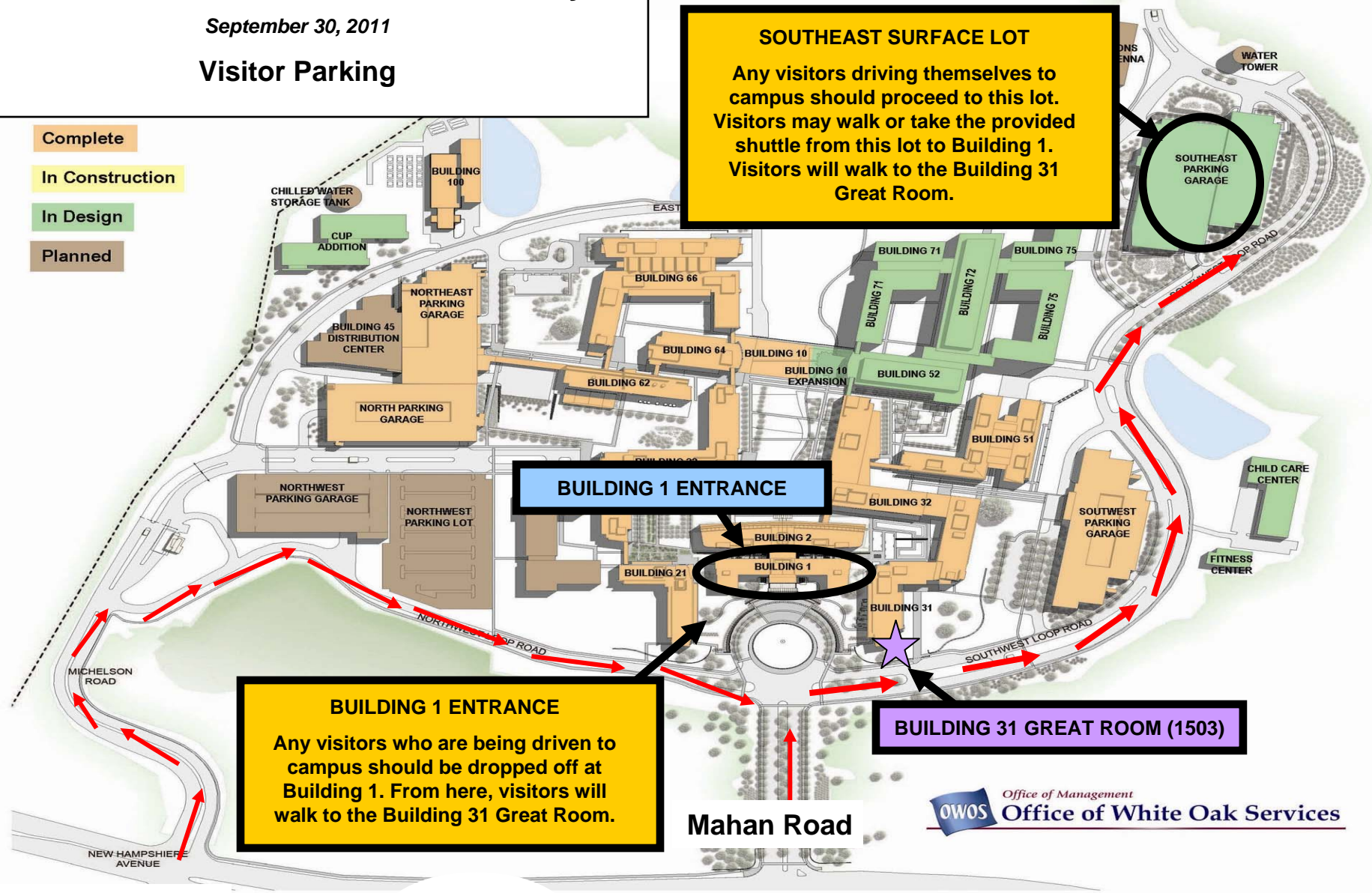
## Visitor Parking

Complete

In Construction

In Design

Planned



### SOUTHEAST SURFACE LOT

Any visitors driving themselves to campus should proceed to this lot. Visitors may walk or take the provided shuttle from this lot to Building 1. Visitors will walk to the Building 31 Great Room.

### BUILDING 1 ENTRANCE

**BUILDING 1 ENTRANCE**  
Any visitors who are being driven to campus should be dropped off at Building 1. From here, visitors will walk to the Building 31 Great Room.

### BUILDING 31 GREAT ROOM (1503)

Mahan Road

Michelson Road