

## Staff in Focus - Virginia Bizzell

### Laura Brown

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Virginia Bizzell

Virginia Bizzell started her appointment as the Administrative Manager of CHESS in June of 1986.

During her tenure, many changes have taken place.

In 1981, CHESS East was constructed, adding four new experimental stations to the original five. With the three additional G-line stations constructed in 1999, the total was brought to twelve. The number of users of the facility has more than tripled and our staff total has gone from ten to forty.

The use of computers for gathering information statistics, financial reporting, human resources, and a variety of other items is one of the major changes. Virginia remembers when she had to manually type to fill in various forms with needed information. It was a time consuming and tedious task.

She states, "It has been exciting to be part of the growth which has taken place and the service we, as a national center, can provide".

Also during her tenure there has been a change of Directors. Although their styles are very different she feels that both have been interesting and great to work with.

Virginia feels CHESS is a wonderful place to work. She often comments that the staff we have is topnotch and how they are great people to know. She has found CHESS users to be a joy to meet. She enjoys hearing and reading about some of the very exciting science they have accomplished. It makes her proud to be a part of the facility.

Virginia grew up in Seattle where she later met her husband, moved to Ithaca, married and raised three children. She lives in a rural area only seven minutes from campus, which makes for an exciting commute during the Ithaca winter snowfalls.

Over the years Virginia has been heavily involved with many organizations and continues to serve on boards of the Credit Union and the Ithaca Memorial Society. Politics are a keen interest and one she follows closely.



Photo by: Barry DeLiberio/University Photography

Virginia with her family during the George Peter Award Ceremony.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 Virginia received the George Peter Award for her dedicated service to Cornell and the local community. Her colleagues and family members gathered at the surprise event to celebrate with her. Surprising Virginia is no small feat! She knows everything that goes on at Wilson Lab...but we managed to keep this one from her. She is not only dedicated to her job and her community but also to her family and friends. It is an honor to know Virginia and a privilege to work with her.

She is a valuable asset to our team!