

# Tech Transfer Gets Inventive with New Programs

by **Mike Buckley**

Inventors take note: APL's Office of Technology Transfer enters the new year — and its second decade — with its own expanded portfolio of ideas.

"We want to continue to strengthen our connection with APL's inventors," says Technology Transfer Director **Kristin Gray**. "This includes offering information as we always have, but also engaging staff in meaningful conversations, hosting events, and providing full access to the expertise our staff has to help them develop their inventions to the benefit of the Lab and the public."

## What's in Your Lunchbox?

Plans are under way for the second in a new series of events called "Innovation<sup>xA</sup> [Exchange] Lunchbox." An outgrowth of the "Patents and Pizza" coordinated by OTT and the Office of Patent Counsel, the first Lunchbox on Oct. 12 included a patent poster session and speakers from Baltimore-based sportswear giant Under Armour, who discussed Under Armour's innovation process. The new name resulted from a Labwide competition; the four winners received Under Armour gift certificates.

"Besides offering a new menu, the Lunchbox goes beyond what we did with

Patents and Pizza by recognizing developers of innovative copyrighted technologies, many of which have dual-use applications and have been successfully transferred to the commercial sector," says OTT's **Teresa Colella**, who coordinates the event. "We'll use this forum to recognize and celebrate innovation at APL, learn how other organizations support innovation, and promote the exchange of information that inventors can use."

Lunchbox events are sponsored by APL departments and special groups; for example, the Milton Eisenhower Research Center and Young Professionals Network co-sponsored the October meeting. "This lets us tap into the interests of our researchers and provides our co-sponsors with an additional forum to promote their work," adds Colella.

The next event, scheduled for Feb. 3, will recognize APL staff who have developed copyrighted information technologies and feature a speaker from Google who will discuss the company's innovation processes and use of open-source software.

## Stay Focused

Information exchange comes through another initiative: focus groups. Last



Dozens of inventors and others attended OTT's first "Innovation<sup>xA</sup> Lunchbox" event, featuring speakers from Under Armour, Oct. 12 at the Kossiakoff Center.

fall more than 30 researchers attended a session on bio-chemical technologies. "Aside from offering four technical presentations to promote cross-departmental collaboration, we handed out lists of inventors who submitted disclosures of chem-bio technologies," Colella says.

The next inventor focus group, centered on information technologies, is scheduled for January. For more information on technology transfer initiatives, visit [www.jhuapl.edu/ott](http://www.jhuapl.edu/ott). ●