

President Robert C. Dynes
LBNL 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner
November 14, 2006
(Prepared Remarks)

- I am really delighted to be here. This is one of those occasions that makes you feel proud to be a Californian and associated with the University of California.
- If I had to sum up the 75-year history of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, I would say that the people who made it a success – from Ernest Lawrence at the start to Chuck Shank and Steve Chu in modern times – shared an idiosyncrasy that is uniquely Californian:
- None of them understood the meaning of the word “impossible.”
- It seemed impossible to build a new lab for a new kind of science during the Great Depression. But Ernest Lawrence didn’t understand that.
- So he found the resources. He recruited a brilliant team. He revolutionized physics. And he helped establish the University of California as an intellectual powerhouse.
- His successors have carried on that tradition of extraordinary achievement... as Chuck did in the launch of the Advanced Light Source... and as Steve is doing today in the pursuit of the Helios Project.
- I have felt truly privileged to work as part of their team, beginning in 1992 when I joined the UC President’s Council, and now today, both as President of UC and as a member of the Berkeley Physics Faculty with work space in the Berkeley Lab.

- I am proud that we were able to recruit Steve as Lab Director. He is a tremendous asset to the lab and to our university. I am eager to see Steve and his team work on the development of safe and efficient energy technologies that are so important to California and the nation in maintaining our competitive edge.
- I want to pay tribute to my friend, Ray Orbach. Ray took the California “nothing is impossible” mindset with him when he left UC for the nation’s capital. He has put it to very good use as undersecretary for science at the Department of Energy.
- And finally, to our keynote speaker, Secretary Bodman:
- Given your strong belief in the power of innovation, we view you as a Californian in outlook and in spirit, and we are honored to have you with us tonight. Your leadership in keeping the national labs such a vital centerpiece of our country’s scientific enterprise is greatly respected, and we are honored to work with you.
- On behalf of the faculty, students, and staff of the University of California, I congratulate our colleagues at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory on 75 years of exemplary achievement, and I wish you all the best as you move toward an even brighter future.

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