

Thomas Intrator, a scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, died on June 3, 2014. He was born on February 5, 1952 in New York City and was educated at SUNY (B.S. Physics, 1977) and then later at the University of Colorado –Boulder (Ph.D., experimental plasma physics, 1982). He spent the next decade of his research career at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, working on a variety of problems before moving to Los Alamos in 1999. Throughout his career, Tom was interested in a wide range of problems in experimental plasma physics, and in finding connections between fundamental processes in laboratory and space plasmas. In particular, over the past decade he was keenly interested in the three-dimensional dynamics of magnetic flux ropes and the resulting reconnection that often occurs due to their interaction. Working with students and postdocs, Tom performed a series of laboratory experiments to examine different aspects of flux rope dynamics, and in 2012 was selected for Fellowship in the American Physical Society in recognition of these research achievements. Tom was always interested in applying his basic laboratory research results to applications in space plasmas. He gave many years of service to the APS Topical Group on Plasma Astrophysics to promote and encourage interactions between space and laboratory researchers. During his career, Tom nurtured more than 100 students and early career scientists through a variety of research activities, and was instrumental in running the Plasma Physics Summer School at Los Alamos. In recognition of his extraordinary service, Tom received the Los Alamos Postdoctoral Distinguished Mentor award in 2011. During the holidays, his home was filled with students and postdocs whom he counted among his best friends. He will be sorely missed.

