

NE News

November 9, 2011
An American Nuclear Society Publication

ANS @ UF Represents Chapter at National Conference

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The University of Florida was well represented at the 2011 American Nuclear Society Winter Meeting and Nuclear Technology Expo that took place in Washington, DC from October 30 through November 3, 2011. Two professors and a total of 22 students, including 16 student assistants and two presenters, attended. The winter meeting included numerous technical and non-technical presentations relating to “the status of global nuclear development.” Student assistants get the opportunity to aid section chairs in coordinating sessions and gave them a chance to work closely with industry experts and offer a first hand glimpse at research being done all around the world.

The Nuclear Technology Expo offered a chance for students to network and gain a better understanding of what professionals do in industry and lab settings. Participants included leading companies such as AREVA, GE Hitachi, and Westinghouse as well as top research institutions such as Sandia, Oak Ridge, and Argonne National Laboratory. Universities such as University of Maryland, Virginia Tech, and University of Pittsburgh had booths focusing on their nuclear education programs.

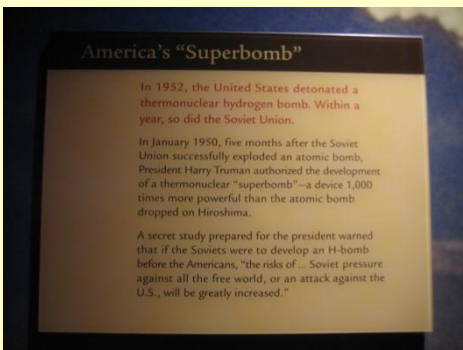
“It was a good trip - I interacted with industry leaders and was introduced to nuclear policy by meeting with people that help shape the way the nation perceives nuclear power,” recapped Andrew Cartas, president of UF’s ANS Student Section. Andrew represented UF at the Student Sections Committee Meeting to address student issues that the committee will bring before the ANS Board of Directors.

In between conference events, students were able to see some of the country’s most important landmarks including the White House, the Washington Monument, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Museums. A group of students even participated in a staff tour of the Capitol Building. ANS student member Madison Martin commented, “One of best interactions didn’t even take place at the conference. I ran into one of my session chairs at the airport. We spent an hour just chatting before our flight. He gave me some great advice!”

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Making Memories in Washington, DC



Meet Graduate Student Sasmit Gokhale



Sasmit Gokhale is a first year Phd candidate under the mentoring of Dr. Kelly Jordan. Gokhale received BS in Mechanical Engineering from University of Mumbai and later a masters in Nuclear Engineering from UF. He is currently researching the characterization of bismuth tri-iodide, a semiconductor crystal used in high resolution gamma-ray spectrometers. Gokhale hopes that the project will help lead to the creation of a portable high resolution gamma ray spectrometer. Outside of the academic setting, he occupies his time drinking beer, exercise, and the enjoyment of life and its beauties. Badminton is a particular passion. Gokhale is excited about the future, eagerly awaiting the completion of his research, the publication of his work, and a glorious season for our Gator football team.

Meet Graduate Student Madison Martin

Madison Martin is a first year student in the masters program having come to UF after receiving a BA in Physics and Mathematics from Florida Atlantic University. She is currently seeking a graduate advisor and with fortune will locate one by the end of the fall semester. Undecided on field of research, Martin is open (and excited!) about the entire field, but previous experience inclines her towards reactor physics. To escape from academia, Martin loves all forms of dance including ballet, modern, jazz, and salsa. Off the dance floor she spends time doing yoga, reading, and baking/cooking. Martin looks forward to learning more about nuclear science and the becoming part of the nuclear community. She has happily returned to the university setting after working for the previous year.



ANS Participates in Habitat for Humanity

ANS at UF volunteered with Habitat for Humanity on October 22, 2011 on Sante Fe Community College campus. Habitat for Humanity is a charitable organization that donates homes built by volunteers to the needy. It was great for ANS to get involved with a respectable and trustworthy organization for a good cause. With so much support and effort, we were able to build the entire frame of the house in one Saturday. "It was a very rewarding experience to come out and see the results of your effort. It's different than just shipping in a check." said ANS vice president internal Danny Permar. ANS had a great time working with Habitat for Humanity and looks forward to getting involved with more charitable organizations.



Important Dates and Announcements

ANS General Body Meeting	TBA
UF vs Furman tailgate	Nov. 19
UF vs. FSU tailgate	Nov. 26
ANS Canned Food Drive	Ongoing
Next Newsletter Out	Dec. 2

ANS will be participating in Thanksgiving canned food drive-please bring in any nonperishable items to the ANS student lounge on the ground floor of the Nuclear Sciences Building

About the American Nuclear Society @ UF

The American Nuclear Society Student Chapter at the University of Florida is an organization of Nuclear and Radiological engineering students dedicated to the promotion of nuclear science and technology for the benefit of humanity. The chapter is instrumental in informing the public of everyday radiological applications in an attempt to alleviate the common misconception of "fear" when it comes to radiation.

Nuclear science and technology is integrated into our everyday lives in many ways. Not only does over 20% of our nation's electricity come from nuclear power, but last year over 12 million lifesaving radiological medical procedures were performed in this country alone. Irradiation can make food safer to eat and mail safer to open. Also many of the products we use in everyday life rely on nuclear techniques for quality control measurement and production. Even the white poinsettias we see during the holiday season have been produced via the irradiation of seeds.

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Questions or if you would like to join ANS or help with the newsletter? Contact Courtney Silver, Secretary (Courtney.silver89@gmail.com)

