



### Message From the Chair By Allen Camp

As I write this column, the price of oil has just surpassed \$125 per barrel and our nation is engaged in debates about energy security, climate change, and the state of our economy. Never has the need for safe nuclear energy seemed clearer than it does today. There is much positive news about potential new plants, and indeed, a worldwide nuclear renaissance seems to be taking place. But much remains to be done, and there is much that we can do to help ensure success. In particular, we can help to make sure that key national decisions are properly informed through appropriate education and public debate. As one of 1650 ANS members comprising the NISD, you have opportunities to engage in many forums that influence our future course. These include political arenas, educational settings, and other venues where you have the opportunity to speak up. Don't underestimate the importance of small community and classroom interactions. When 1650 people each touch a few others, pretty soon you have reached many thousands. There is an urgent need for leadership across a broad spectrum of issues, and no one is more qualified than you to speak to the role of safe nuclear energy.

This discussion may seem a little out of place in NISD, where we focus on safety and maintaining professional standards, and many of us are not trained or comfortable in public interactions. As you may recall, in my last newsletter I spoke of trust and the responsibility that we have as engineering professionals in carrying out the mission of keeping our nuclear facilities safe and secure. It is because of this professional responsibility that we must bring objectivity and credibility to the debates about nuclear energy. While we may sometimes appear as advocates for the benefits of nuclear energy, NISD members have a special responsibility to clearly and accurately address the importance of safety in all that we do. Certainly, we must engage in the debate about the pros and cons of alternative energy sources. But we must always keep in mind that we must "walk the talk" about safety if we wish to be credible leaders in the public's eye. With that said, I urge all of you to reach out whenever possible to help move us forward to achieve energy security.

Returning to business of NISD, the Division continues to be a vibrant organization with active members. A past NISD Chair, Bill Burchill, is about to become the President of ANS. Numerous NISD members are participating in the development of nuclear safety standards. Bob Henry has developed a professional development course to teach young engineers about the physical behavior of severe reactor accidents. This fall we will hold PSA '08 in Knoxville, and an outstanding program has been put together. I urge you to attend. ANS and NISD offer many opportunities for you to interact with your colleagues to exchange ideas and further develop safety technology. If you would like to help shape our future technical meetings, please contact us regarding participation on the NISD Program Committee. The NISD is also seeking future candidates for our Executive Committee, including increased participation by younger members. Other opportunities to engage with us can be found on our website, <http://nisd.ans.org>.

As I end my tenure as Chair, I want to thank all of you for your support and the privilege of serving NISD. Your incoming

Chair, Kevin O'Kula, has a long history of dedicated support for NISD and ANS, and you are in good hands.

### Message From the Vice-Chair By Kevin O'Kula

The upcoming June 2008 Annual Meeting in Anaheim finds NISD heavily involved in sustaining and building in safety for the growing nuclear renaissance from a variety of perspectives. We as a Society in general, and a Division in particular, appear to be playing major roles in implementing the safety lessons learned from the past in existing nuclear facilities as well as ensuring the new designs and new missions build-in safety principles from project conception. Indeed, there are timely opportunities for all nuclear science and technology professionals to learn, share information, and engage in needed technical exchange in the very near term. Let's look at several upcoming dates and meetings in the near future that should be particularly interesting to NISD membership, and worth consideration on your professional calendar:

- **2008 Annual Meeting** (June 8-12, 2008): Eight sessions are planned including five on VERCORS, MASCA, ARTIST and PHEBUS experimental/analytical programs, and a session on common-cause failure in digital I&C systems.
- **PSA 2008**, Knoxville, TN (September 7-11, 2008): General Chair George Flanagan along with Technical Program Committee Co-Chairs David H. Johnson, Tadakuni Hakata, and Pekka Pyy have led development of an outstanding technical program in what is now NISD's flagship triennial topical meeting. For program, registration and hotel information, visit the topical's website at <http://meetingsandconferences.com/psa2008/>.
- **Risk Management**, will be an Embedded Topical Meeting during the Winter Meeting and Nuclear Technology Expo in Washington, D.C., (November 15-19, 2009). Ron Knief and Mark Prelas are the architects of this meeting that was last held in June 2003. Lead topics include facility applications, quantitative measures & methods, organization culture issues, software support & computer tools. Ron and Mark are soliciting your support and contributions on risk management and related topics.
- Not yet placed on the calendar, but highly likely are two meetings in 2010 – one an embedded and one tentatively planned as a Class I stand alone meeting. The first is Safety and Technology of Nuclear Hydrogen Production (ST-NH2-2) San Diego, (June 13-17, 2010). A second edition of the Nuclear Hydrogen topical is tentatively planned with the Environmental Sciences as sponsoring division and NISD as the co-sponsoring division. A second 2010 meeting will be discussed in Anaheim as a Severe Accident topical with the goal of examining the international safety community's insights gained from experimental and analytical work to prevent/mitigate severe accidents. After years where activity was limited, there are many signs that a near-term window should be seized to sponsor a multiple-session topical.

Obviously, I have omitted the paper and panel sessions during the Annual and Winter meetings that are the baseline for



the Division's technical offerings. The point here is that NISD is providing many opportunities over the next 2½ years to engage in the technical dialogue that is important to maintaining the nuclear sector's safety performance and extending it in the future.

Finally, as the June Annual Meeting is the point where the Division Chair baton is passed along, I am very appreciative of the leadership provided by Allen Camp during his tenure. The signs of health for our division are looking positive in nearly all areas for which ANS tracks metrics and Allen has been instrumental in several improvements. As the chain of NISD chairs continues, the one area that I will ask you to personally engage in during 2008-2009 is recruiting younger members. Invite one colleague in your workplace to consider ANS, and NISD as their division home. Let's make this a true renaissance, globally, nationally, and locally.

### Honors & Awards Committee By Jan Van Erp

The 2008 Theos J. (Tommy) Thompson Award for Nuclear Safety is to be presented to Professor Agustin Alonso of the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid in Spain during the ANS Winter Meeting in Anaheim, CA. The George C. Laurence Pioneering Award for Nuclear Safety will not be presented during 2008.

Dr. Alonso has made major contributions to nuclear safety as a researcher, educator and advisor to the international nuclear safety community. He served as a member of the Nuclear Safety Regulatory Council of Spain. Currently he serves as a member of the IAEA International Safety Advisory Group as well as advisor to various national and international organizations.

Members of ANS and in particular members of NISD are urged to attend the award presentation in honor of a truly meritorious colleague from Spain who has dedicated his lifetime career to the enhancement of nuclear safety. The ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday June 10 during the ANS Awards Luncheon.

### Program Committee By Ray Gallucci

The NISD will sponsor eight sessions at the meeting in Anaheim, CA as follows:

- The VERCORS and MASCA Severe Accident Experiment Programs,
- The ARTIST Experiment and Analysis Program—I,
- The ARTIST Experiment and Analysis Program—II,
- The PHEBUS Experiment and Analysis Program—I,
- The PHEBUS Experiment and Analysis Program—II,
- Modeling, Analysis, and Licensing Issues Related to Common-Cause Failure in Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems for Digital Upgrades from Analog Systems,
- Human Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessments,
- Current Issues in Nuclear Facility Safety

At its regular meeting on Sunday the Program Committee will be planning sessions for the next Annual Meeting and welcomes suggestions from all concerning sessions that would be of interest and use to the membership. The NISD Executive and Program Committees are always seeking new members who are interested in actively participating in the work of the

division. This is your chance to influence the future direction of the division and the content of technical sessions at future ANS meetings. It is also an excellent way to increase your visibility among nuclear safety professionals. Any NISD member who is interested in joining either committee please contact Ray Gallucci (rhg@nrc.gov), or attend the next meeting in Anaheim, CA

### Probabilistic Safety Assessment 2008 (PSA '08)

The Nuclear Installation Safety Division will continue its series of topical meetings on probabilistic safety assessment with PSA'08 to be held in Knoxville, TN, September 7-11, 2008 at the Knoxville Hilton Hotel. Dr. Robert Budnitz will be the Honorary Chairman. George Flanagan is the general chairman for the topical meeting. David Johnson is the US Technical Program Committee (TPC) Chairman and is calling upon many of the members of the Division to help organize sessions. Overseas co-chairs for the TPC include Tadakuni Hakata and Pekka Pyy. The web site for PSA'08 can be accessed at <http://meetingsandconferences.com/psa2008/>. The Call for Papers can be directly accessed at <http://meetingsandconferences.com/psa2008/call.html>.

### Scheduled NISD Meetings

All NISD members are welcome to attend the following NISD committee meetings at the June 2008 Meeting in Anaheim, CA:

- Executive Committee: Sunday, 7:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.  
LOCATION: Disney Exhibit Hall Room C
- Program Committee: Sunday, 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
LOCATION: Disney Exhibit Hall Room C

The Executive and Program Committees invite NISD members to express their interest in serving on those committees, particularly by participation in one or both of the indicated meetings.

Members may also wish to attend the Honors & Award Luncheon on Tuesday June 10, 11:30am-1:00pm in the Sleeping Beauty Pavilion. Tickets can be purchased in advance or on-site at the ANS Registration Desk for \$52.

### NISD Website

The NISD Website may be accessed directly at <http://nisd.ans.org> or indirectly at <http://www.ans.org>.



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