



Message From the Chair By Kevin O’Kula

One of the key messages coming from the highly successful PSA 2008 conference in Knoxville this past September is the value of the senior part of our nuclear safety membership throughout the world. For PSA applications in particular, a peer review led by senior practitioners is a requisite part to ensuring that the product is sound. Indeed, the U.S. is extremely fortunate to have the collective wisdom of many professionals that were in the trenches since the first wave of nuclear operations, both reactor and nonreactor, and in both the commercial and government sectors. To borrow from Tom Brokaw, these individuals comprise the nuclear safety equivalent of “The Greatest Generation”. This is not the case of course in many developing or emerging industrial nations, where the senior statespersons are few or nonexistent.

NISD is a professional division that is particularly valuable to ANS and the nuclear industry because of its collective expertise and experience. And while the new engineers and scientists that join our ranks are critical to how safely facilities operate in the 2009 and beyond, much of what NISD offers is based on the lessons we have learned from the past, and using the insights gained to improve the safety of nuclear operations now and those installations that are planned for the future. Whether it is nuclear navy, previous licensee or contractor operations and engineering, or government regulator background, we cannot afford to forget the mistakes and failures, as well as the solutions and successes of the past, if current and future nuclear safety is to be maintained and improved. Arguably, this case can be made in any field, but at this time in the resurgence of the nuclear option, the stakes are higher than they’ve ever been in making sure we as an industry execute safely.

How does this connect to ANS and the Nuclear Installations Safety Division membership? One of the themes that I especially want to come through this year is making NISD a true home base to nuclear safety’s Greatest Generation, and retaining these individuals so that they continue to inform, educate, and advise. We are working now to develop a professional development workshop that supports this theme in the 2009 timeframe, and facilitated by one of the true giants in the accident analysis world. NISD also plans to engage our senior professionals in standard development and revision, as well as in the needed updates of safety-related policy statements. Our participation in the national meeting mentoring program is too low for a division such as ours, and this program can benefit mightily from our senior involvement. Other ideas to engage, benefit from, and retain senior members are articulated in the ANS membership plan and I encourage you to download a copy from the ANS website (<http://www.ans.org/members/ansdocs/>). If you have other suggestions or comments on how to implement this objective, please don’t hesitate to call or email. I would especially like to hear from those of you that have not participated recently in NISD (or its predecessor, Reactor Safety) – What have been the chief reasons to cause your disinterest?

The other part of my first message to our membership is to encourage an active role in supporting the ANS initiative, “Getting the Word Out” on the benefits of nuclear science and technology. Again, our more experienced members may have

the advantage of their career track record, insights, time and the “polish” to be effective, but all of NISD can play some role to ensure that the most objective, factual, and authoritative information is provided to both the public and policymakers. Ideas and resources are discussed in the July/August issue of the *ANS News*, and the ANS website under Public Information.

Finally, it is an honor and privilege to serve as the Chair in the 2008-2009 period, a time that finds a fellow NISD member, Dr. William E. Burchill, as ANS President, and the U.S. and the world actively pursuing the nuclear power option. I had the fortune to be vice chair during Allen Camp’s tenure, and so was mentored by surely one of the best, but your input is needed. Please feel free to let me know what NISD can do to be the best “home” professional division in ANS, regardless of your level of experience, age, and professional role.

Message From the Vice-Chair By John Kelly

The nuclear renaissance will bring with it a number of challenges for the safety community and these will provide ample opportunities for our membership to make important contributions to safety. A few thoughts on these opportunities and how these relate to NISD activities may be useful to consider.

First, we must stay vigilant to ensure the safety of our existing plants and facilities. One of the reasons nuclear power is being seriously considered for expansion is the excellent safety performance of the existing fleet. Future expansion of nuclear power is contingent on the continuance of this excellent safety record. NISD has been and will continue to provide the technical forums for safety professionals to share information and experiences that could improve the overall performance and safety of the existing reactors.

Second, as we begin to build the next generation of reactors and nuclear facilities we must continue to introduce innovation into facility designs and their associated safety processes and practices. Innovative solutions can lead not only to enhanced safety, but also to better performance and improved cost-effectiveness. NISD is committed to sponsoring timely topical and technical sessions at national meetings to bring the world’s experts together to discuss these innovations,

Finally, we must ensure that our safety-related knowledge base is preserved and passed on to the future generations of safety professionals. This is true not only for Light Water Reactor technology, but also for advanced reactors and nuclear facilities. For example, there is renewed interest in sodium fast reactors and reprocessing facilities, but it has been nearly 25 years since licensing was attempted for these types of facilities in the United States. NISD is currently formulating plans on how to promote the knowledge transfer, but it is virtually certain that the safety technology base for licensing these facilities must be reconstituted and augmented, and the regulatory framework must be established for licensing these types of facilities. Again topical meetings would play a key role here as would professional development seminars. We also anticipate that the ANS Codes and Standards Committee may soon be reopening work on codes and standards necessary for licensing advanced nuclear reactors. All of these activities provide our membership



with opportunities to share their knowledge and expertise in nuclear safety.

Please feel free to contact me, if you would like to ask questions or provide suggestions on how NISD can better serve the needs of our membership

Honors & Awards Committee By Jan Van Erp

The 2008 Theos J. (Tommy) Thompson Award for Nuclear Safety was presented to Professor Agustin Alonso of the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid in Spain during the ANS Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. Dr. Alonso has made major contributions to nuclear safety as a researcher, educator and advisor to the international nuclear safety community. Currently, Dr. Alonso serves as a member of the IAEA's International Safety Advisory Group (INSAG).

Nominations for the Tommy Thompson and George C. Laurence Pioneering Awards, are always welcome. To be considered for the 2009 NISD awards, the nominations must be received prior to December 1, 2008. Additional information and/or submittals may be obtained from/made to Jan Van Erp at Vanerp@aol.com.

Program Committee By Larry Zull

The NISD will sponsor four paper sessions at the Reno meeting, as follows:

- Current Issues in Reactor Safety (Wed. a.m.),
- Highlights of PSA '08 (Panel session, Wed from 12 Noon to 1:00 pm). See following Reno Panel Session article,
- Innovations on Probabilistic Risk Assessment (Wed. p.m.),
- Emerging Issues in Nuclear Reactor Safety (Thurs. a.m.),
- Nuclear Installations Safety (Thurs. p.m.).

Abstracts for only 20 papers were submitted for the Reno meeting. This is the minimum number of papers for the Division to get a share of the money from the meeting. This represents paper submittals by slightly more than 1% of the 1630 members in NISD. One goal of the Program Committee (PC) is to increase the number of paper abstracts submitted. All NISD members are invited to submit a paper for presentation at a meeting. A paper abstract of only 450-900 words is required. The presentations are only 20 minutes, with an additional 5 minutes for questions. Paper abstracts for the Atlanta meeting may be submitted on the ANS COS web site until January 9, 2009 (although papers may be accepted up to 30 days later). Your work on any safety related project would be of interest to the membership. It doesn't have to be a big project! Please give serious consideration to submitting a paper abstract for either the June 2009 Atlanta, or November 2009 Washington, DC meetings. The Call for Papers for the Atlanta meeting will be available September 1, 2008 on the ANS web site and in Nuclear News. Please contact me at larryz@dnfsb.gov if you have any questions, or need paper preparation or presentation help of any kind.

At the Program Committee meeting from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Sunday in Reno, we will be discussing ideas for panel and paper sessions (i.e., developing the Call for Papers) for the Washington, DC meeting in November 2009. We will also discuss arranging some panel sessions that can review severe accident topics discussed at previous meetings. For example,

information presented on severe accident research (at the ANS 2008 meeting in Anaheim) could be summarized during one or more panel discussions at a future meeting. These panel sessions need to be arranged by contacting individuals to speak on particular topics. We can schedule a panel session at the Atlanta meeting in June 2009 if speakers can be arranged. This, and other ideas for future meetings, will be discussed in Reno. All NISD members who come to Reno are invited to participate in the PC meeting. If you will not be coming to Reno, but have an idea, send it to larryz@dnfsb.gov. All ideas from NISD members are welcome.

Probabilistic Safety Assessment 2008 (PSA '08)

By all accounts PSA 2008 meeting was a success. There were 244 attendees (16 one day attendees, 72 from outside the US) and an additional 13 guests. There were 175 papers/presentations. In additions, 3 workshops took place during the meeting. The four plenary session speakers discussed the use of PSA in the design and licensing of both US and overseas nuclear plants. The banquet speaker was Mr. William McCollum, Jr. Chief Operating Office of TVA who discussed the role of nuclear power in the TVA system both current and in the future. A special plenary session sponsored by the Electric Power Research Institute was held Monday afternoon to honor the late Dr. Chauncey Starr who was a driving force for the use of risk assessment in decision making.

The technical program included a number of papers on the following subjects: 1) risk informed applications in configuration risk management, design, operations, aging, and licensing, 2) fire risk analysis, 3) external events including one paper on lessons learned from the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPP response to the July 16,2007 earthquake, 4) human reliability analysis, 5) common cause, 6) accident analysis, 7) computer codes, 9) training, 10) PSA technology, 11) new LWRs and advanced reactors, and 12) standards. In addition there were sessions on non reactor PSA, transportation, and safety culture/ risk perception.

The attendees list, presentations and pictorial highlights of the special activities will be available soon on the website www.PSA2008.org.

Highlights of Probabilistic Safety Assessment 2008 (PSA '08) – Panel Session in Reno

If you could not attend PSA 2008 in Knoxville, then the following panel session can inform you on what was missed. Mark Wednesday, November 12, (12:00 AM to 1:00 PM), on your Reno Winter Meeting schedule to take in "Highlights of the PSA 2008 International Topical Meeting on Probabilistic Safety Assessment and Analysis". Bob Budnitz of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (and PSA 2008 Honorary Chair), will be the panel moderator and also serve as a panel member, joined by David Johnson (ABS Consulting, and Technical Program Chair from PSA 2008), Ray Gallucci (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission), and Biff Bradley (Nuclear Energy Institute). A box lunch will be available to attendees.



Scheduled NISD Meetings

All NISD members are welcome to attend the following NISD committee meetings at the November 2008 Meeting in Reno, NV:

- Program Committee: Sunday, 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Sierra 1
- Executive Committee: Sunday, 7:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.
LOCATION: Sierra 1

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 November 11, 11:30am-1:00pm in the Crystal 1&2 Rooms. Tickets can be purchased in advance or on-site at the ANS Registration Desk for \$50.

Student Scholarships Sponsored By NISD

The Saul Levine and Raymond DiSalvo Memorial Scholarships have recently become fully funded. Descriptions of these scholarships can be accessed at the NISD Website (see below for address). Graduate students interested in applying for the Saul Levine scholarship can access the Eligibility Requirements and Application Form at <http://www.ans.org/honors/scholarships>. Undergraduate students can apply for the Raymond DiSalvo Scholarship at the same website address.

Young Members Group Programs By Robert Andre

The Young Members Group is looking to establish a program which allows their members to “shadow” more established ANS members. They are particularly interested in working with members of code committees and national committees. Current plans are for shadowing to occur both at National Meetings and throughout the rest of the year on conference calls/emails/etc. If you are interested in helping to establish this program, or have any ideas, please contact Robert Andre (rdandre@gmail.com).

August 2008 Letter From University of Illinois ANS Student Section

Dear NISD:

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Student Travel Reimbursement Program for the ANS Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. Your contribution allowed our student section members to attend the meeting.

This experience was beneficial to our members because we were exposed to technical presentations from leading researchers. This was also an excellent opportunity for students to meet other students from various universities as well as young professionals, allowing them to network and build intercollegiate relations. Moreover, students who attended the conference deepened their involvement with the ANS on a national level.

Thank you again for your continued support of our student members. We greatly appreciate your contributions and impact it has on our members.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Holtzman

NURETH-13

The 13th International Topical Meeting on Nuclear Reactor Thermal Hydraulics (NURETH-13) in Kanazawa, Japan, is scheduled for September 27 - October 2, 2009. The conference is soliciting abstracts of potential papers through October 31, 2008 (deadline extensions may be allowed). General information about the conference and abstract/paper submissions can be accessed at <http://www.nureth13.org/>.

Risk Management 2009: Technical Program Committee and Paper Solicitation

The June 2003 Embedded Topical Meeting on Risk Management in San Diego presented state-of-art ideas for addressing risk management in a spectrum of applications. The meeting provided an overview of the key elements of risk management for people new to the field, stimulated ideas for risk management innovations for experienced facility risk managers, and pointed to issues for standard development applicable to engineered facilities for risk managers faced with integrated decision-making across multiple facilities with different functions. Sessions included:

- *Facility Risk Management Applications*
- *Organization Culture Issues in Risk Management*
- *Special Session on Software Support for Risk Management*
- *Quantitative Methods for Managing Risk*
- *Science of Counterterrorism - Panel*
- *Standards that Support Risk Management*
- *Special Session on Computer Tools for Managing Risk.*

A major update for this topical area is planned for the ANS Meeting in Washington, D.C., in November 2009. The organizers need your help to achieve a successful forum in this area. If you are interested in helping organize the meeting and/or present a paper, contact: Ron Knief, (505)-284-6593, raknief@sandia.gov at your earliest convenience.

In Memorial

It is with sadness that we note Prof. Lawrence E. Hochreiter, Penn State University, State College, PA, died on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008. Dr. Hochreiter was a long time member of the ANS and made many valuable contributions to the society. Notably he served as General Chair for the Twelfth International Topical Meeting on Nuclear Reactor Thermal-Hydraulics (NURETH-12). Upon graduation he was employed by Westinghouse Nuclear Energy Systems in Pittsburgh, PA attaining the position of Consulting Engineer, the highest technical management position in the company. In 1997 he joined Penn State, University Park, as a full-time professor of Mechanical & Nuclear Engineering. Of the many achievement awards he received throughout his careers at Westinghouse and Penn State, he was most appreciative of the Outstanding Teacher award he received from Penn State in 2005. Dr. Hochreiter was appointed by the Governor of Vermont to serve on the Public Oversight Panel tasked with reviewing, on the public's behalf, the reliability assessment of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power facility which is pursuing an extension of their operating license.



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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