

THE NEUTRON

BECAUSE NUCLEAR MATTERS

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first issue of *The Neutron*! *The Neutron* is a quarterly newsletter that focuses on all things nuclear. Enjoy!

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#5 PRINCIPLE FOR A STRONG NUCLEAR CULTURE

Nuclear technology is recognized as special and unique. *The special characteristics of nuclear technology are taken into account in all decisions and actions.*

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN: PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

DEAN JO ANNE ROBINSON
INFORMATION AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

The mission of Augusta Technical College is to educate students in order for them to obtain gainful employment in today's workforce. One way to prepare students includes sharing the benefits of active membership in professional organizations for both current students and graduates. There are two professional organizations available to students and graduates of nuclear-related programs: Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) and the American Nuclear Society (ANS) Savannah River Chapter.

As the Dean of Information and Engineering Technology, I hold membership in both CNTA and ANS. The benefits of membership are the opportunities for professional development and the chance to meet other professionals in the CSRA. The CNTA Teller Lecture on October 4, 2011 was one event that afforded me the privilege of meeting Mr. Steve Kuczynski, President and CEO of Southern Nuclear Operating Company.

Within the next few months, Augusta Technical College will be starting a student chapter of ANS. I look forward to working with students to begin building our ANS chapter. It is my hope that you will find time to be an active member in the ANS student chapter and consider membership in CNTA.

Best regards,



From left to right: Terry Elam, President, Augusta Technical College; Jo Anne Robinson, Dean of Information and Engineering Technology; and Steve Kuczynski, President and CEO, Southern Company.

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SPOTLIGHT ON...

ELIZABETH MCANDREW-BENAVIDES

MELISSA FOSTER



**"THIS PATH IS NOT
JUST A JOB, IT'S A
CAREER."**

—ELIZABETH
MCANDREW-BENAVIDES

In late September 2011, I interviewed Elizabeth McAndrew-Benavides to inquire about her experiences in the nuclear industry. Elizabeth is the Manager of Industry Infrastructure at the Nuclear

How have you balanced the demands of work and home?

One thing I've realized is you cannot have everything at the same time. You can pursue your professional goals and have a family but make sure to set your priorities and practice good time management.

Energy Institute (NEI). In this role, she focuses on workforce development for the nuclear industry. During our interview, it quickly became evident to me that she is passionate about the nuclear field.

Elizabeth has a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering from Purdue University and M.A. in Teaching Leadership from the College of Notre Dame. Prior to NEI, Elizabeth worked at Constellation Energy in which she completed several rotations in departments including the Vice President's Office, Operations, Quality and Performance Assurance, and Nuclear Engineering. She has also served in leadership positions through the North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NA-YGN) organization, including her current role as past president. She lives in D.C. with her husband and young daughter.

What brought you to nuclear?

When I was seven, I decided to be an astronaut. My parents told me that if I wanted to be an astronaut, I should go to Purdue University and major in nuclear engineering. Upon reaching college, I realized nuclear engineering would prepare me for nuclear space propulsion research, not help me to become an astronaut. However, I liked the coursework and camaraderie with my classmates so I continued on this track and eventually graduated with a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering.

Have you faced challenges as a woman in the nuclear industry?

I think it's a myth that women face more challenges than men in the nuclear industry. Regardless of gender, nuclear requires everyone to work hard, function as a team, and be transparent.

What's the best part of working in nuclear?

This path is not just a job, it's a career. The nuclear field is both a small and large industry. It's small because it's specialized and easy to network with others. It's large because it touches many areas of our society including education, health and human services, politics, security, energy, technology, and medicine.

Why should young women today consider a career in nuclear?

Young women today should consider a career in nuclear because they can help save the world. Nuclear power can improve the quality of life for people by creating jobs, developing communities, stimulating the economy, and cultivating new technology. Nuclear makes the United States a global player in so many different sectors.

Just for fun, what's your favorite office supply?

I feel like I'm always looking for my stapler. No matter where I go, it seems to "run away" from my desk. I guess this would be my favorite office supply because I'm always looking for it.

What's next for you?

I'm finishing up my thesis for a PhD in Education from NOVA Southeastern University and I'm set to graduate in 2012. I will also be traveling across the Atlantic in December to participate in efforts to develop nuclear energy in Jordan.

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NET CLASS OF 2013



This fall, 54 new students joined the Nuclear Engineering Technology (NET) program. This is the most number of students to enroll in the program thus far. During the program orientation on July 20, 2011, staff from Augusta Technical College, Southern Company, and INPO welcomed students to the program. Dean Robinson reminded students to take full advantage of this educational opportunity. Orientation gave students an opportunity to ask questions, connect with industry partners, gain access to academic resources, and prepare for the rigorous coursework ahead. Good luck, NET Class of 2013!

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DID YOU KNOW?

WWW.CASENERGY.ORG



- 1) You would have to live near a nuclear power plant for over 2,000 years to get the same amount of radiation exposure that you get from a single diagnostic medical x-ray.
- 2) Nuclear energy supplies electricity each year to serve 60 million homes.
- 3) One uranium fuel pellet – the size of the tip of your little finger – is equivalent to 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas, 1,780 pounds of coal, or 149 gallons of oil.
- 4) There are 104 commercial nuclear power plants in the United States.
- 5) A wind farm would need 235 square miles to produce the same amount of electricity as a 1,000-megawatt nuclear power plant.

FEATURED RECIPE: DOWNEAST PUMPKIN BREAD

COURTESY OF ALLRECIPES.COM

INGREDIENTS

1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
4 eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
2/3 cup water
3 cups white sugar
3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour three 7x3 inch loaf pans.
2. In a large bowl, mix together pumpkin puree, eggs, oil, water and sugar until well blended. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger. Stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just blended. Pour into the prepared pans.
3. Bake for about 50 minutes in the preheated oven. Loaves are done when toothpick in center comes out clean.



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RCNET KICKOFF

NORA SWANSON, SOUTHERN COMPANY

In September, staff members from Augusta Technical College and Southern Company attended a Kickoff Meeting for the Region Center of Excellence at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, FL. Headed by Indian River State College, RCNET is comprised of a consortium of colleges, universities, industry, and government partners throughout the Southeastern United States. The group had the opportunity to tour the center's facility in its construction phase, future plans are to include a digital flow loop, rigging and lifting equipment, control room and operations simulator. The center is an NSF Funded Grant Advanced Technological Education (ATE) pro-gram. RCNET focuses on the education of nuclear technicians for the high-technology nuclear fields that drive our nation's economy. The program involves partnerships between academic institutions and employers to promote improvement in the education of nuclear technicians at the undergraduate and secondary school levels. The RCNET supports curriculum development; professional development of college faculty and secondary school teachers; career pathways to two-year colleges from secondary schools and from two-year colleges to four-year institutions; and other relevant to the Nuclear Industry.



GOT NUCLEAR?

2011-2012 NET INTEREST SESSIONS

DATE	TIME	CAMPUS	LOCATION
October 13, 2011	6pm	Augusta	ITC Library Auditorium
October 25, 2011	6pm	Waynesboro	Classroom 163
November 8, 2011	5pm	Grovetown	Main Building
November 10, 2011	6pm	Augusta	ITC Library Auditorium
December 6, 2011	6pm	Thomson	Campus Auditorium
January 10, 2012	6pm	Augusta	ITC Library Auditorium
January 26, 2012	6pm	Augusta	ITC Library Auditorium



**BE FEATURED IN
 THE NEXT NEUTRON!**

TO SUBMIT A FEATURE
 (ARTICLE, COMIC, GAME, RECI-
 PE, ETC.) TO THE NEUTRON,
 CONTACT MELISSA FOSTER:
 MFOSTER@AUGUSTATECH.EDU.