

Awareness: The Voice of Nuclear

Four area high schoolers win 2017 essay contest

Four area high school seniors each earned a \$1,000 cash prize in the 2017 Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) High School Essay Contest.

The winners of the 11th annual writing contest included:

- Maxwell DiPrete, Greenbrier High School, for "Nuclear Power Plant Closures: A Crisis in America"

- Steven Poore, Silver Bluff High School, for "U.S. Depends on Foreign Supply of Life-Saving Medicine"

- Jared DeMass, Aiken High School, for "Dealing with the Risks of Radioactive Waste: Should It Stay or Should It Go?"

- Justin McCorkle, Greenbrier High School, for "Storage of Radiological Waste and the Inherent Risks"

In addition to the \$1,000 prize, the winners' schools each received \$500 for classroom supplies and equipment.

Jim Marra, CNTA Executive Director, said the quality of this year's nuclear-themed essays was promising.

"The submissions to this year's contest demonstrated that the students are knowledgeable, passionate, and astute about nuclear technology," said Marra. "It's a growing industry, not only in our area, but worldwide. I'm hopeful that this will provide a spark to the students to pursue a career in the nuclear field."

Each student picked one of three topics for this year's contest: the importance of nuclear isotopes in medicine and the U.S. dependence on foreign supply; the effect of nuclear plant closures on the stability of the electric grid, the surrounding economy, and greenhouse gas emissions; and the risks of on-site radioactive waste storage at generator facilities vs. the risks associated with transporting radioactive material to long-term storage facilities or repositories.

The contest was open to high school juniors and seniors in Aiken, Allendale and Barnwell counties in South Carolina and Burke, Columbia and Richmond counties in Georgia; homeschool students; and students of CNTA member families.

The winners, their families, and a teacher of the winner's choice will be honored at the upcoming Teller Lecture and Banquet to be held on Oct. 19, 2017, during Nuclear Science Week.

The winning essays are available on the CNTA website at www.c-n-t-a.com. For further information, call CNTA at 803-649-3456 or email at cnta@bellsouth.net.

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Jim Marra, CNTA executive director



DeMass



DiPrete



McCorkle



Poore

CNTA engages young professionals

In 2017, the CNTA Board of Directors approved formation of a Young Professionals Committee. A recent focus of the organization is to encourage and ensure the engagement of CNTA members.

There is a push to get new membership onto the existing committees and to better publicize opportunities for CNTA members to get them engaged. There is also recognition that without younger professionals' involvement in the organization, over time the membership would decrease, and the organization's influence and ability to meet its vision would be diminished.

As a precursor to formation of the Young Professionals Committee, a group of energetic CNTA members set the wheels in motion for a costume ball fundraiser.

Trey Black, a member of the new Young Professionals Committee, said, "The costume ball committee gave me the opportunity to be part of something that could have lasting impacts and open the door for other young professionals to get involved in CNTA."

The fundraising effort was a resounding success, with the identification of numerous sponsors and supporters resulting in a festive event. The positive outcome provided the impetus and networking to establish the Young Professionals Committee.

The focus of the committee is to promote engagement opportunities for young professionals. The chair of this committee holds a seat on the CNTA board. Through the committee, young professionals will be encouraged to become members of other committees to add diversity and help generate new ideas. The Young Professionals committee will also work on special projects, such as new outreach initiatives, to further the CNTA mission.

"I find it very rewarding to be involved in an organization that educates the public and advocates on behalf of the nuclear industry," said committee member Matt McCoy. "It is important that the nuclear industry stays involved with the community."

CNTA's future is bright thanks to the efforts of these young professionals!

Edward Teller Lecture

As part of its public outreach, CNTA sponsors the annual Edward Teller Lecture, named for the famed nuclear pioneer who played a key role in advancement of nuclear science during World War II. The 26th annual Edward Teller Lecture will be held Oct. 19, at the USC Aiken Convocation Center, 375 Robert Bell Parkway. The event will begin at 7 p.m., with a cash bar reception from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased by contacting the CNTA office at cnta@bellsouth.net or 803-649-3456.

The guest speaker will be Dr. James Conca. Conca is a Science Contributor to Forbes on energy and nuclear issues, and has authored over a hundred journal articles, books, and

chapters on a wide range of nuclear, waste, remediation and energy issues. Conca is the Senior Scientist at UFA Ventures, Inc. in the Tri-Cities, Washington, and a Trustee of the Herbert M. Parker Foundation. Prior to this, he was the Director of the Center for Laboratory Sciences at Columbia Basin College and Director of the WSCF labs at the Hanford Site.

Dr. Edward Teller, a native of Hungary, came to the United States, as many Jewish scientists did to escape the advancing armies of Nazi Germany. From the very earliest days of the Manhattan Project, he was a central figure in the design and production

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