

Penn State prepares for ANS Student Conference

The ANS Student Section at Pennsylvania State University is getting ready to host the 2014 ANS Student Conference, to be held April 3–6 on the Penn State campus in University Park, Pa. The theme of this year’s conference is “iNuc: Innovations in Nuclear Technology.”

“The last few months of planning have been an absolute whirlwind, and the conference program is really coming together,” said Catherine Perego, a senior in nuclear engineering who is cochairing the conference with Karen Bobkowski, a senior in mechanical and nuclear engineering, and Matthew Wargon, a nuclear engineering graduate student who has just received bachelor’s degrees in mechanical and nuclear engineering. More than 50 Penn State students are actively helping to organize the conference, with even more planning to help as the conference date approaches.

The conference organizers conceived the iNuc theme to “embrace the exciting places the nuclear industry is going in the future.” The conference program will include student technical presentations, workshops, and tours of nearby facilities. “Our student section has always been really active in ANS and at the student conferences,” Bobkowski said. “We look forward to welcoming the other student sections as well as industry professionals



Bobkowski, Perego, and Wargon are cochairing the 2014 ANS Student Conference.

to Penn State and putting on what promises to be a great conference.” Over 600 attendees are expected.

“We are excited about all of the opportunities we are making available to our conference attendees,” said Perego, who is in her second year as student section president. “Between tours of nearby reactors, panels on topics ranging from SMR technologies to advancements in fusion energy, and fun networking and social events, this conference is sure to be rewarding for

everyone who attends.”

The conference will begin with an opening dinner on April 3, followed by a private ANS social in a local club. Planned tour sites include the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, Shaver’s Creek (a nature center at Penn State), Penn State’s on-campus Breazeale reactor, and Beaver Stadium. Workshops, open to student registrants only, will be held on the topics of symbolic nuclear analysis package, radiochemistry, the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, and technical presentation skills.

Students were invited to submit papers in 23 different technical tracks. Papers will be selected for podium or poster presentation, and only papers submitted by February 1 were to be considered for the best paper award.

“We’re very excited about the technical portion of the conference,” Wargon said. “This year we’ve made a push to broaden the scope of the technical program so that all areas of nuclear engineering are covered. We’re also working to get more industry professionals involved in the conference and to facilitate discussion between the students and professionals.”

More information about the conference is available on the conference website, at <http://meetings.ans.org/student2014/>, or by e-mail to tech.psu.ans@gmail.com.



Penn State’s Hintz Alumni Center will be one of the main conference venues.