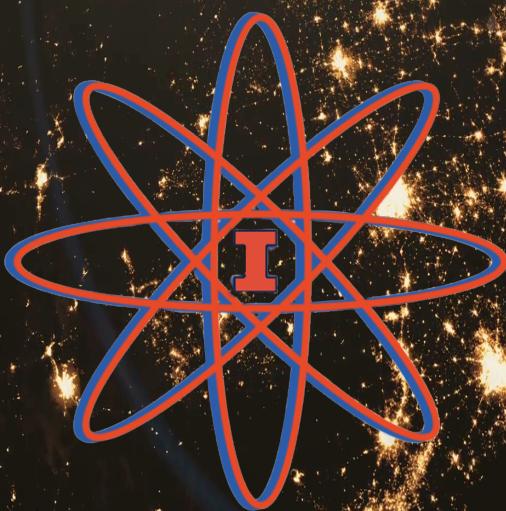


Saving the World One Atom at a Time

Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering



Presented by ANS at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



American Nuclear Society
University of Illinois



1 Letter from the Chairs



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2 Saving the World One Atom at a Time

The future is nuclear.

There are many challenges facing the world today and some have been designated existential threats to humanity. Young people today will witness the growing toll of anthropogenic climate change. As students, obstacles at the scale of the world climate crisis appear daunting and overwhelming. We believe that many solutions will come from the nuclear sciences. The ANS student conference is an opportunity for students and professionals to come together and share advances in critical technology and research, dedicated to solving these problems. Whether the problem is solving the world's energy needs, developing technology that will take us to the stars, or curing cancer, nuclear, plasma, and radiological engineering will be at the center of those endeavors. Our goal is to inspire and motivate students in nuclear, plasma, and radiological engineering fields to tackle big problems. Saving the world one atom at a time reflects the fact that nuclear science is a powerful force in dealing with grand challenge problems. This theme also honors the individual, atomic, contributions from students, researchers, and professionals, in the field of nuclear engineering, that are essential to progress. This conference is about science and it is about the people that make the science possible. Students will hear from visionary speakers and leaders of the nuclear science community and come away with optimism for the future; knowing that they are saving the world one atom at a time.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign chapter of ANS would be honored to host the 2021 student conference. We hope to create an atmosphere that will galvanize students and professionals for the exciting future of nuclear engineering.

Goals of the conference

1. Celebrate the people behind the science
2. Inspire young students to take on grand challenge problems
3. Help students and professionals develop a strong network of like-minded people.



3 Urbana-Champaign and UIUC

3.1 About Urbana-Champaign

Champaign-Urbana (CU) is a close-knit community filled with music, culture, and food. While Campustown, the neighborhood immediately surrounding campus, is an important part of the atmosphere, there is plenty to do off campus. Relax in one of the outdoor restaurants downtown or walking through the various gardens and parks around town. The culture in Champaign is very rich as a result of many annual festivals such as the CU Pride Parade, the Ellinora guitar festival, and the Pygmalion festival. The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is also a world-renowned theater that has hosted groups from all genres like the New York Philharmonic, the Russian National Ballet, and Sonny Rollins.

3.1.1 Accessibility

Myriad festivals and sporting events on campus draw many people to Champaign-Urbana at varying times of the year, which means hotels are not hard to find. A large number of these hotels are located around downtown Champaign and the Eastern side of campus, making transportation easy. There is also a small airport, Willard Airport, just 20 minutes from campus that regularly has flights to and from the Chicago O'Hare and Dallas Ft Worth airports. Finally, there are several reliable bus services that make frequent trips from Champaign-Urbana to O'Hare and the Chicagoland area.

3.1.2 Weather

With an average high temperature of 65° and an average low temperature of 40°, April in Champaign is a gorgeous month of dwindling winter weather as summer begins to round the corner. Holding a conference during this time would be the perfect way to showcase our beautiful city.

3.2 About the University of Illinois

Founded in 1867, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) has cultivated a long history of significant scientific discoveries and contributions. The theory of superconductivity, the invention of the transistor, the discovery of archaea, the fourth domain of life, and the first web browser are just some of the many breakthroughs from UIUC. Established in 1876, the famous Morrow Plots became the first research crop field at a university and is still used today. Attendees will also be familiar with Blue Waters, one of the world's fastest supercomputers. The UIUC Grainger College of Engineering has had sixteen Nobel Laureates in physics. Including John Bardeen, the only scientist to ever win the award twice. It also offers 15 different majors to more than 9,100 undergraduate and 3,400 graduate students. Of its twelve ranked majors, nine are ranked among the top 10 in the nation, and six of which remain ranked among the top 5 in their degree. Overall, the College of Engineering in Urbana-Champaign ranks sixth among the nation's best undergraduate engineering programs. With more than 250 degrees for undergraduates and graduates and a multitude of first-class research facilities and resource, UIUC gives its 45,000 students the ability to succeed.

Today, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign attracts visitors from throughout the state by offering a variety of valuable public attractions. UIUC maintains four public museums: the Spurlock Museum, containing 54,000 cultural artifacts from around the world; the Illinois Natural History Survey, has more than 9.5 million biologic specimens in its collection; the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music, provides shows and education to students and the public; and the Krannert Art Museum, offers fine arts and education. More than 470,000 square feet of recreational space is occupied by other facilities including an ice arena, climbing wall, swimming pools, parks, sports fields, parks, and outdoor adventure venues.

3.3 UIUC ANS Student Chapter (ANS-UIUC)

The ANS-UIUC maintains and develops a cohesive community of students in nuclear engineering. It also engages in education and outreach programs to teach members of the surrounding community about nuclear science. Membership is currently around 70-80 students and has been steadily growing. The chapter works to host events catering to nuclear, plasma, and radiological concentrations. It also makes professional development a large part of member involvement. ANS-UIUC has historically been one of the best represented institutions at the annual student conference and is a tradition this chapter is eager to uphold.





4 Conference Logistics

4.1 Date Selection

Primary date selection

Rationale for date selection

Graphical calendar of date selection and conflicts

4.2 Conference Facilities

Conference facilities

4.3 Conference Contingency Plan

4.4 Hotels and Accomodations

4.5 Travel and Transportation



5 Conference Program

5.1 Potential Speakers

5.1.1 Rachel Slaybaugh, UC Berkeley

Prof. Slaybaugh's research is based in numerical methods for neutron transport with an emphasis on supercomputing. She applies these methods to reactor design, shielding, and nuclear security and nonproliferation. Slaybaugh was a key founder of the nuclear innovation bootcamp, which seeks to train students and professionals in skills essential to innovation in nuclear energy while executing team projects. Finally, Slaybaugh has served as a Program Director at ARPA-E, developing and running their first fission energy programs. Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) invests in research for ways to generate, use, and store energy. These projects have the potential to radically improve economic prosperity in the U.S. and environmental wellbeing. Due to her endeavors in teaching and sharing nuclear innovation, we believe that Slaybaugh's goals are aligned with the goals of this conference and would make her an excellent addition to the program. Slaybaugh has much to offer the conference with her vision and leadership.

5.1.2 Suzanne Hobbs Baker

Talking about nuclear energy, specifically with the general public, is one of Suzanne Hobbs Baker's key goals. Baker has a strong track record as a nuclear science communicator. In 2008 she founded a nonprofit organization aimed at reaching women, minorities, and young people with critical information about climate change and nuclear energy. She currently works as the creative director for Fast Path to Zero Initiative at the University of Michigan and as a Nuclear security fellow with Third Way Energy. Baker's work in empowering minorities and students to solve the world climate crisis with nuclear energy, as well as her skill in creative science communication, ensures that Baker has a lot to offer the student conference. Celebrating the people behind the science is one of the key goals of this conference and an area in which Baker has a lot of experience.

5.1.3 Todd Allen, UW Madison

His first post-Ph.D. position was as a staff scientist at Argonne National Laboratory. While at Argonne, he joined the leadership team tasked with developing the Generation IV Roadmap, the document that framed the resurgence of the nuclear research programs early in the 21st Century. Following Argonne, he joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin. While there, he split his time between establishing a premier material science program at the university and supporting the Idaho National Laboratory. At INL, he led the transition of the Advanced Test Reactor into a national user facility. He also ran a six-institution Energy Frontier Research Center focused on answering fundamental questions about heat transfer in nuclear fuel. From 2013-2016, he helped lead the Idaho National Laboratory as the Deputy Laboratory Director for Science & Technology, including being an important contributor to the development of the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) initiative announced at the White House in November 2015. Since 2016 he has been a Visiting Senior Fellow with Clean Energy Program at Third Way, a Washington, DC based think tank. His role in formulating the roadmap for Generation IV reactors and his leadership indicate that he would make a great speaker at the conference.

5.1.4 Rita Baranwal, DOE Nuclear Energy

Dr. Rita Baranwal serves as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Dr. Baranwal leads the office's efforts to promote research and development (R&D) on existing and advanced nuclear technologies that sustain the existing U.S. fleet of nuclear reactors, enable the deployment of advanced nuclear energy systems, and enhance the U.S.A.'s global commercial nuclear energy competitiveness. Prior to her current role, Dr. Baranwal directed the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) initiative at Idaho National Laboratory. She was responsible for providing the nuclear industry and other stakeholders access to DOE's state-of-the-art R&D expertise, capabilities, and infrastructure to achieve faster and cost-effective development, demonstration, and ultimate deployment of innovative nuclear energy technologies. Under her leadership, GAIN positively impacted over 120 companies.



Baranwal is a clear choice of speaker to discuss the ways to improve nuclear legislation and how companies can rapidly develop new nuclear technology.

5.1.5 Jim Conca, Forbes

Jim Conca has been a scientist in the field of the earth and environmental sciences for 33 years, specializing in geologic disposal of nuclear waste, energy-related research, planetary surface processes, radiobiology and shielding for space colonies, subsurface transport and environmental clean-up of heavy metals. He is a Trustee of the Herbert M. Parker Foundation, Adjunct at WSU, an Affiliate Scientist at LANL and consult on strategic planning for the DOE, EPA/State environmental agencies, and industry including companies that own nuclear, hydro, wind farms, large solar arrays, coal and gas plants. He also writes for Forbes magazine about nuclear issues, energy, and the environment. Conca has a strong vision for the future and is not shy about coming up with ideas to solve grand challenge problems. In addition to his experience and ambition, he is an excellent science communicator to scientists and non-scientists alike. Together, these factors make him an ideal speaker at the conference.

5.1.6 Fatima Ebrahimi, Princeton

Fatima Ebrahimi is a Research Physicist at the PPPL Theory Department and an Affiliated Research Scholar at the Department of Astrophysical Sciences, Princeton University. She has many years of experience in theoretical and global computational extended magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) with wide applications to laboratory fusion and astrophysical plasmas. Her main research interests are MHD stability in fusion plasmas, momentum transport, dynamos, and magnetic reconnection in laboratory fusion and astrophysical plasmas. She has written many papers over a wide range of topics and peer-reviewed journals. She is an elected executive committee member of the APS Topical Group in Plasma Astrophysics (GPAP), 2018-2021, and program committee member for U.S. Magnetic Fusion Research (MFR) Strategic Directions, 2017-2018. Dr. Ebrahimi is a great choice to have as a speaker on the future of fusion energy.

5.1.7 Brian Jurczyk, CEO Starfire Industries

Brian holds a dual PhD/MBA degree with background in aerospace, nuclear, plasma and radiological engineering and technology commercialization. As CEO, Brian works to find creative win-win solutions with commercial and industrial partners for particularly challenging applications - at all stages of value creation from basic IP development through early-stage manufacturing. In 2012-13, Brian received the Innovation Celebration "Entrepreneurial Excellence in Management Award," was named to Central Illinois Business' "40-under-40" and has served as Chairperson of the Champaign-Urbana CEO Roundtable. As a professional leader in plasma and radiological engineering, Jurczyk would be a great speaker to have at the conference on topics related to the future of plasma engineering and professional development.

5.2 Saving the World Panel Series

Technical and non-technical panels encourage interaction between students and professionals at the conference. Each panel is designed to address one or more of the stated goals for the conference. They also serve as a way for students and professionals to learn more about relevant issues, find inspiration for their next project, and feel encouraged for the future of the nuclear field.

Technical Panels

5.2.1 Critical Conversations: Microreactors

5.2.2 Applications for Fusion and Plasma

5.2.3 Nuclear Policy and Legislation

Nuclear energy is one of the most heavily regulated fields in the United States. This panel aims to enlighten attendees about how legislation is written and how non-scientist government officials might better understand the potential of nuclear energy. This panel will allow attendees to learn who is working in this area and



develop a network of people devoted to issues of nuclear policy. Rita Baranwal would be an excellent speaker on this panel because of her work for the DOE.

Non-Technical Panels

5.2.4 Science is People: Conducting Inclusive Research

Research and technology that will help us solve the grand challenge problems of the world must also reflect the diverse needs of the people that live in it. Everyone comes to nuclear engineering from a variety of backgrounds, identities, abilities, and experiences. Saving the World One Atom at a Time means making atomic contributions. Finding ways to encourage and include even one more person in the endeavor of nuclear science is an important kind of atomic contribution. This panel works toward the goal of celebrating the people behind the science. It also serves to inspire students and

5.2.5 Talking To Non-Scientists

It has been shown that when members of the general public are given more scientific evidence they are less likely to shift their beliefs. While this finding is surprising to members of the scientific community, people who value data and evidence, it can be difficult to find ways to effectively communicate your research to the public. Attendees will learn how other scientists effectively communicate their results. No longer discouraged by potential resistance from the public, students will steel their resolve for working on ambitious projects that can save the world. Suzanne Hobbs Baker would be a great choice for this panel, as well as members of The Story Collider; a non-profit organization devoted to helping scientists tell stories

5.2.6 How to Host a Conference

5.3 Workshops

5.3.1 Scientific Storytelling

Science is people. The Story Collider is a non-profit organization whose mission is to honor the people and stories behind the science and teach scientists to use these stories to their advantage. From their website:

We know that storytelling is not typically taught during scientific training, and is sometimes explicitly discouraged. There are many reasons why. But like it or not, stories are how people understand the world, and they weave together fact and emotion. Compared to other forms of communication, these narratives can be more successful in:

- generating interest and engagement with a topic,
- improving comprehension, and
- influencing real-world beliefs, even among skeptical audiences.



6 Conference Management

Executive Board Candidates:

Program Coordinator:

1. Brady Moran

Media Coordinator

1. Nathan Ryan

Registration Coordinator

1. Jasmine (?)



7 Budget