

ANS NCSD Newsletter Spring 2023

Member Highlight- Tracy Stover

Tracy Stover is the recently appointed Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Criticality Safety Program Manager. The 20-year path to that position has been a long and winding road, hallmark to the rural West Virginia mountains he left in 2003 to pursue higher education.

Tracy earned a B.S. in engineering physics from Murray State University. Set on nuclear engineering after a summer internship at NIST's reactor, he went to North Carolina State University for graduate school. In 2009 he joined WEC. He completed his PhD in advanced reactor design in 2011. Tracy remained with Westinghouse until 2014 primarily supporting reactor reload analysis, eventually working on over 40 domestic and foreign PWRs. During that time, he also earned his P.E. license.

In 2015 he shifted from keeping things critical to subcritical as he joined SRNS. SRNS and criticality safety re-launched his career. Some enjoy their work, Tracy indulged in it, learning nuclear chemistry like the dark arts traditional nuclear engineering programs have abandoned. Tracy has supported criticality safety in H-Canyon and HB-Line, K-Area Complex, Surplus Plutonium Disposition, Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility, SRNL (including a 6-month rotation in actinide chemistry), and various Criticality Safety Program initiatives. Tracy is intensely involved with ANS, serving on several national committees and six years as secretary of the Savannah River Local Section. Most notably, he's the incoming NCSD Chair. Tracy also had the honor of teaching at Aiken Technical College in their Radiological Protection Program for five semester – night classes just for fun and experience and to fund the vacation preference of Caribbean cruises.

Tracy and his wife Maria are the proud parents of three, the oldest being four. Tracy is an avid Star Trek fan and enjoys studying history. Cumulative Tracy has 15 years of industry experience spanning national laboratories, commercial nuclear power, and DOE facilities including 10 years in criticality safety.



Highlight-2023 ANS Student Conference NCSD Papers

The recent ANS student conference in Knoxville, had a well-attended NCS track by both students and professionals. It had eight amazing papers. Look out for these new members to the criticality safety community in the future! The following eight papers were in the NCSD track:

Verifying MCNP Models of the TEX High 240 Plutonium Benchmark, Daniel Hunter (LANL), Rene G. Sanchez (LANL), Joetta M. Goda (LANL)

Nuclear Criticality Safety Review of HEU Dissolution, Anthony F. Tom (Univ. Tennessee, Knoxville), Michael Cartwright (Y-12 National Security Complex)

Building an ICSBEP Benchmark : A Student's Perspective, Rowdy Davis (University of New Mexico), Christopher M. Perfetti (The University of New Mexico)

Subcritical Experiments with Uranium-233 and Composite Shielding, Alicia Pang (Univ. California, Berkeley), Isabel Hernandez (Univ. California, Berkeley), Chia Y. Fang (Univ. California, Berkeley)

Design of a Subcritical Test Assembly at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Edward G. Fejedelem (Univ. Tennessee, Knoxville), Carson Sain (Univ. Tennessee, Knoxville), Chilson Whittum (Univ. Tennessee, Knoxville), Katy Worrell (Univ. Tennessee, Knoxville), Alexander Lang (ORNL), Mathieu Dupont (ORNL), Douglas G. Bowen (ORNL)

Consistency-Based Benchmark Rejection Used for Nuclear Criticality Safety Analysis Applications, Jeongwon Seo (Purdue), Hany S. Abdel-Khalik (Purdue)

Heavy Water Experiment with Inherently Safe Subcritical Assembly (ISSA), Alessandra H. Totaro Villar (Univ. California, Berkeley), Speero M. Tannous (Univ. California, Berkeley), Émile Gateau (Univ. California, Berkeley)

Burnable Poison Loading Optimization, Vitaliy Mykhnyak (Penn State), Devin J. Ortiz (Penn State), Andrew Broesder (Penn State)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trainings/Classes:

- One-week Managers/CSOs Course at NCERC (June 5-9, 2023) <https://ncsp.llnl.gov/training-education>
- Introduction to MCNP6 Online (June 5-9, 2023) <https://mcpn.lanl.gov/classes.html>
- Criticality Calculations with MCNP6 at LANL (June 19-23, 2023)
- One-week Managers/CSOs Course at SNL (April 17-21, 2023)
- Two-week CSE course at NFO/NATM and NCERC/SNL (August 7-18, 2023)
- Intermediate MCNP at LANL (October 2-6, 2023)
- Introduction to MCNP Online (October 23-27, 2023)
- Two-week CSE course at NFO/NATM and NCERC/SNL (January 22- February 2, 2024)

Meeting Reminders:

- 2023 ANS Annual Meeting (June 11-14, 2023, Indianapolis, IN)
- EFCOG Annual Meeting in Washington, DC (June 21-22, 2023)
- U.S. WIN Annual Conference (July 23-26, 2023, Scottsdale, AZ)
- 2023 ICNC Meeting (October 1-6, 2023, Sendai, JP)
- ANS Winter Meeting and Technology Expo (Nov 12-15, 2023, Washington, DC)