

TELLER LECTURE



Our 10th Annual Edward Teller Lecture was held at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Augusta, Georgia on November 12, 2001. Our speaker, Senator Pete Domenici (R, New Mexico), gave a superb talk on his legislative priorities in support of nuclear power and other nuclear initiatives. He also voiced his support for several future needs at the Savannah River Site. Senator Domenici is the leading spokesman in the Senate for rational nuclear policies, and he has had major influence on the Bush Administration and the Congress.

The Senator spoke to a large (735) and enthusiastic gathering on “Securing America’s Energy Future.” Attendees included Georgia Congressman Charlie Norwood, South Carolina Congressman Lindsey Graham, South Carolina Attorney General Charlie Condon, several State Representatives and Senators from Georgia and South Carolina, Augusta Mayor Bob Young, North Augusta Mayor Lark Jones, the entire Board of Directors were present from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Burns and Roe, Entergy Corporation, and Duke Cogema Stone and Webster Corporation. Mario Fiori, Assistant Secretary of the Army, was also in attendance.

In the CNTA office we have the text of Senator Domenici’s presentation and a video tape of the event. Copies of the text are available without charge and copies of the video are available for a requested \$10 donation to cover reproduction, handling and mailing expenses.

At this event a video was shown in which Dr. Edward Teller congratulated CNTA for the ten years of outstanding presentations in this lecture series which is named in his honor. He also addressed future world energy needs and recommended that serious consideration be given to building underground reactors utilizing the thorium-uranium-233 breeder cycle.

Previous speakers in this series were Dr. Edward Teller, Dr. Margaret Maxey, Dr. Leonard Sagan, Bill Lee (Duke Power), Dr. Alvin Weinberg, Dr. James Schlesinger, Richard Rhodes, Senator Howard Baker, and Dr. Harold Agnew.

Senator Thurmond Distinguished Service Award

At the Teller Lecture, a Distinguished Service Award was presented to South Carolina’s Senior Senator, J. Strom Thurmond, by CNTA and the American Nuclear Society. The award was accepted for the Senator by Representative Lindsey Graham. It consisted of an engraved crystal bowl and a framed resolution signed by Governor Jim Hodges of South Carolina, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham, and Fred C. Davison, Chairman of CNTA. The text of the resolution is on page 2.

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Special points of interest:

- *Video tapes of Senator Domenici’s 2001 Teller Lecture are available through the CNTA office. We are asking for a \$10 donation to help offset reproduction and mailing costs.*
- *The CNTA phone is now forwarded to Tina’s cell phone when we are out of the office.*

CNTA

AWARE!

Senator Thurmond Resolution

A RESOLUTION

TO OFFER RECOGNITION AND SINCERE APPRECIATION TO SOUTH CAROLINA SENATOR J. STROM THURMOND FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SERVICE TO NATIONAL DEFENSE, THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE.

WHEREAS, Senator J. Strom Thurmond has served South Carolina with skill, integrity, and dedication as an educator, a city attorney, a county attorney, South Carolina Senator, South Carolina Legislator, Circuit Judge, and Governor; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thurmond served his country with honor and distinction in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve, retiring as a Major General; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thurmond is widely recognized for his steadfast support of national defense and the U.S. military, especially through his leadership in the Senate Armed Services Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thurmond has represented South Carolina as a U.S. Senator with great distinction for longer than any other Senator in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thurmond has always enjoyed unparalleled support from the citizens of South Carolina because of his competence and unwavering integrity; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thurmond has provided great leadership in his support of the national security missions for the Savannah River Site.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we, representing the State of South Carolina, the United States Department of Energy, and Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, do hereby offer highest commendation and thanks to the Honorable Senator J. Strom Thurmond for his distinguished service to South Carolina, the Department of Energy, and the United States of America.

Whit Gibbons Named CNTA Distinguished Scientist

By Bill Reinig, Vice Chairman

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness presented its Distinguished Scientist Award to Dr. J. Whitfield (Whit) Gibbons, Professor of Ecology at the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. The annual award was presented at CNTA's Teller Lecture on November 12th at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Augusta.



Bill Reinig, CNTA's vice chairman, summarized Dr. Gibbons' many scientific achievements and his numerous activities to explain the findings and fascination of science to the public.

Whit Gibbons obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biology from the University of Alabama and Ph.D. in Zoology from Michigan State University. He is the author of over 150 scientific papers and nine books on herpetology and ecology. His ecological studies of aquatic and semi-aquatic vertebrates have gained him honors and national recognition.

In hundreds of articles in newspapers, magazines and encyclopedias, in presentations to schools and civic groups, and as a frequent guest on nature programs on national TV and radio, Dr. Gibbons has popularized biological sciences and emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship. He wrote the Boy Scout merit badge booklet on reptiles and amphibians that is used by Scouts nation-wide.

Beyond recognizing Dr. Gibbons' scientific achievements, the 2001 award highlights the 50th anniversary of the University of Georgia's ecological studies at the Savannah River Site. Whit Gibbons' work exemplifies the high quality research that has deservedly gained SREL its reputation as one of the nation's premier centers for ecological studies.

Dr. Gibbons congratulated DOE and its preceding agencies, the DuPont Company and Westinghouse for their efforts to maintain the site in an environmentally responsible manner, which has produced enormous biological diversity on the site. Copies of Dr. Gibbons remarks are available upon request.

CNTA Speakers' Bureau

By Todd Crawford, Speakers' Bureau Committee Chairman



One of the main missions of CNTA is to educate the public on nuclear technology. To facilitate this mission, CNTA reestablished a Speakers Bureau Committee in 2001 chaired by Tom Parkinson. The current Chair is Todd Crawford. About 20 topics were identified along with individuals responsible for preparing the talks. Some talks are complete and have been given to public groups and others are in preparation. We have a list of about 20 to 25 people who can give one or more of these talks.

A brochure was prepared and widely distributed in early 2001; we updated the brochure this year. In 2001, 16 presentations were made to a total of about 800 to 900 people on topics such as Global Warming, The Need for Nuclear Power, SRS: Past, Present and Future, Environmental Restoration at SRS, CNTA Overview, and Economic Impact of SRS. So far in 2002 we have given 5 talks to over 200 people, and several more talks are scheduled.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this educational effort please contact the CNTA office. We would greatly appreciate it if you could help us find audiences for our speakers, perhaps at your children's schools, church groups, civic clubs, etc.

Miss Aiken County Supports Nuclear

Congratulations to Miss Aiken County, Sydney Jones, daughter of Angie Jones in SRS's High Level Waste division. Sydney is a Senior at USC-Aiken majoring in Biology and scheduled to graduate this May on her 22nd birthday (with a 3.5!). Because of a suggestion by Kim Hauer for her platform, Sydney had chosen to take on a controversial subject but one she feels is important and reflects the interests of Aiken County—The Benefits of Nuclear Energy and its contribution to a clean environment. Through Steve Piccolo, CNTA was working with Sydney on developing her platform and preparing her for the presentations she will be making to various schools in Aiken County. Unfortunately, when Sydney turned in her idea for the platform to the pageant board, she was told the subject was too controversial. Sydney is looking at her options for another platform but she still wishes to stay involved with CNTA. We wish Sydney well and will continue to do all we can to support her.



We already have lined up several outstanding speakers for 2002, and are working on several others.

John Conway, Chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board spoke to a "sold out" audience on March 5th. He related the history and purpose of DNFSB, then he addressed four current issues the Board is working on with SRS.

Our next breakfast, May 7th, will feature Dr. Bill Hoehn (pronounced Hayne). Dr. Hoehn will address current anti-terrorism (homeland defense) activities in the United States. He has a distinguished background in nuclear power, arms control, and as a senior staff person on Sam Nunn's Senate Armed Services Committee. He is now Visiting Professor at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech, and Director of the Russian American Nuclear Security Advisory Council.



New Membership Category

Based on the recommendation of a committee of our Board of Directors, we now have three membership categories—Sustaining (\$25), Patron (\$50) and Benefactor (\$100). Sustaining members will receive our quarterly newsletters as well as all notices for our Up and Atom breakfasts; Patron members will receive the newsletters and breakfast notices, as well as a CNTA lapel pin, and an invitation to the private reception for the Teller Lecturer; Benefactor members will receive (in addition to the Patron benefits) a ticket with reserved seating at the Teller Lecture, a CNTA pen, and reserved seating at Up and Atom breakfasts.

Golf Tournament

Several weeks ago we sent out an email inquiring about interest in a golf tournament to benefit CNTA. Thank you for your overwhelming response! Now, we need to tell you where we stand on this issue. The Board of Directors has given the go ahead for this event to take place but we are in need of man/womanpower. Our first issue is to establish a committee to put this together. We began to form this committee but need additional people. Note that you can be on the committee and also play in the tournament—you will also have more of a say in how the tournament is run!



The initial thought was to hold this at Woodside Plantation Country Club but another option is at North Augusta Country Club. There are advantages and disadvantages to both, which the committee will have to weigh, but the ultimate goal is to make this an annual event. Our dream is that the golf tournament will not only be a good fundraiser for us, but will get us some publicity and help cultivate new membership.

If you would be willing to serve on the committee, please contact the CNTA office. Once we have this in place, we can begin to make plans and, hopefully, make this a successful event!

Research Reactor

CNTA has been in the forefront of an effort to obtain a new reactor for SRS that will be managed by a consortium of southeastern universities exclusively for research and teaching. To achieve this we have been meeting with our Georgia and South Carolina Congressional delegations, about 13 southeastern universities, DOE officials and the Economic Development Partnership. Congressional action is expected in the near future that will fund this project and direct DOE to proceed with it. While the reactor itself will be located within SRS, all the support facilities will be located offsite at the Savannah River Research Campus. This will include classrooms, dormitory rooms, apartments for visiting researchers, an auditorium, and a visitors' center.

What Do You Do?

By Tina L. Frazier, Administrative Assistant

This is a question we get asked quite frequently both by CNTA members and people unfamiliar with our organization. So, being that it is that time of year when we ask for your money, it seemed like a good time to let you know what exactly goes on in our office. First, let me give you my idea of what a classified ad would look like for my position: *Up and coming organization seeks highly motivated do-it-all person for the most fun job you will ever have. Opportunities abound to meet and interface with great people on a daily basis. Must be proficient in everything and willing to tackle it all. Responsibilities include IT Specialist, Membership Director, Event Coordinator, Media Designer, Publisher, Bookkeeper, Public Relations, Receptionist/Secretary, and Bulk Mailing Guru. Salary must not be a criteria since we are a non-profit, but your boss and working environment more than make up for it!*

This is a question we get asked quite frequently both by CNTA



Garrison Frazier, hard at work.

Now, here's how things go in our office. Mal and I are in the office 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday, when we are not off trying to win friends and influence enemies. We have now put "call forwarding" on our phone so the CNTA phone rings to my cell phone when we are not there, hence the CNTA phone is answered 24/7, but please do not test this at 3:00 a.m. Mal handles all the technical aspects, media contacts, political relations, letter writing, corporate interfacing, etc. It is my job to make things run, i.e., trying to keep up with our membership renewals, coordinating Up and Atom breakfasts and the annual Teller Lecture, redesigning brochures, fixing computer and email problems, handling the bookkeeping and the employment taxes, scheduling meetings, taking minutes at meetings, scheduling speaking engagements for our Speakers' Bureau, publishing our newsletter, putting together information for the IRS on our 501(c)(3) status, researching and writing grants, and developing a Policies and Procedures manual and a 10-year plan. Ideally, we need another person and a larger office.

We have big plans for the coming years: we want to be regional in our membership but national in our influence. We want to counter the misinformation spread by anti-nuclear groups, wherever it appears by providing factual information. We want our Speakers' Bureau to grow to give more presentations over a larger geographical area. We want to hold certified teacher workshops for area science teachers. Most of all we want to educate the general public on nuclear sciences so that when people hear the word "nuclear" the first thing in their mind is positive, not negative. And finally, we want to help get new missions for SRS.

All this takes money and we deeply appreciate all that our membership does to help us. We have come a long way in the past 10 years and have a long way to go! But we want you to have a better understanding of where your money is going and why it is needed.

Thank you again for your continued support!

(Couldn't resist the "proud mommy" photo!)

Health Hazards Associated with Interviewing Antinuclear Activists

Editor's Note: Published in Health Physics Society Newsletter Jan. 2000.

The hazards of interviewing antinuclear activists have not, to this point, been well publicized. There are a number of hazards to be considered, all of which may result in very significant risks to the reporter during direct interviews.



Direct Hazards

It is not well appreciated, but during personal interviews with antinuclear activists, reporters will be sitting close to a person with perhaps 7 million mBq of radioactivity in his/her body, much of which is potassium-40 (K^{40}). Atoms of K^{40} emit gamma rays of approximately 1.5 million electron volts of energy in every direction, which will go ripping through the air, the body of the interviewer, and the nearby building materials and will often escape into the outside environment, where small children may be present. Further, the source of this deadly radiation inside of the antinuclear activists has an incredibly long half-life of 1,300,000,000 years, which means that these activists will remain hazardous for generations and generations to come.

The bodies of these activists also contain perhaps 2,000 mBq of radium-226 (Ra^{226}), a deadly radionuclide in itself, emitting high energy gamma rays in every direction and also having a very long half-life (over 1,600 years). What is more important, however, is that when this nuclide decays, it produces radon-222 (Rn^{222}) gas in the body, which passes through the bloodstream and is exhaled. Therefore, the interviewer, in addition to being exposed to the ferocious gamma rays of K^{40} , is being bathed in clouds of Rn^{222} from activists' exhaled breath. The health hazards of radon are widely known. The Environment Protection Agency estimates put the number of annual deaths nationwide due to radon exposures at between 7,000 and 30,000. The question is-- how many of these deaths are due to the constant exhalation of these activists? Of course when one is being interviewed, metabolic rates are somewhat heightened, and with all of the talking, exhalation rates will be markedly enhanced over the average. So the exhalation of antinuclear activists could conceivably account for half or more of all the radon-related deaths in the United States, with media reporters being particularly at risk.

While exhaling, antinuclear activists are also pouring out clouds of other radioactive materials. Their bodies contain perhaps 4 million mBq of highly radioactive carbon-14 (C^{14}), which has an incredible half-life of over 5,700 years and is converted to CO_2 in the body and exhaled, like radon. Similarly, the bodies of antinuclear activists contain perhaps 600,000 mBq of tritium (H^3), a radionuclide produced in nuclear reactors. This highly toxic substance is also emitted as vapor in the breath and as well is constantly exuded from the body in sweat.

With these antinuclear activists breathing and sweating all over these poor reporters, the levels of deadly radiation that they are exposed to are mind-boggling. They, their families, their children, and everyone they contact are at extreme risk from these activists-- it is apparent that protective measures must be taken.

Potential Hazards

Most antinuclear activists don't publicize this, but they are all secretly carrying around in their bodies on average about 180,000,000 atoms of plutonium! There is always a finite, if however small, chance that one of these activists could explode at any moment. If this were to happen, all of this plutonium could conceivably be spread across the entire United States. As it is well known that just a single decay of a radioactive atom can instantly induce cancer, considerably more than half of the United States population would be immediately at risk. Should two activists explode, our country could be wiped out instantly.

The Appropriate Response

As Dr. Gofman has taught us, "cancer and leukemia induction by radiation is proportional to dose right down to the lowest conceivable doses" and "it is a violation of the most fundamental human rights to impose risks (deaths) upon individuals without their consent" (John Gofman, *Radiation and Human Health*, Pantheon Books, New York, 1983).

The risks detailed above are entirely unacceptable. Antinuclear activists should be isolated immediately for their own safety, the safety of the news media, and the safety (not to mention peace of mind) of the rest of the country. A national campaign should be mounted to warn media reporters about the possible risks of coming close to these activists. Fact sheets including the information above should be widely circulated, and the identities of known antinuclear activists should be publicized. This public menace must be stopped.

Where Are They Now?

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the February 17, 2002 edition of the Augusta Chronicle.



NAME: Mario Fiori

THEN: Dr. Fiori served as the U.S. Department of Energy's manager at Savannah River Site from 1993 to 1997. He later founded a consulting firm, Compass Associates Inc., and served as president of a software company in Seattle.

NOW: The graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and Navy veteran for nearly 30 years is Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment. He has served in the role since August 2001, after being nominated by President Bush.

Thank You, Howell Printing

To help us manage our rising costs, especially in the printing and publication department, Howell Printing has graciously agreed to reduce our printing cost of our newsletter. Although they asked that we not do anything in return, we thought it appropriate to include a note of appreciation and let our membership know about their support.

Please Support Our Business Members

In addition to our Corporate Sponsors, we have several small businesses in the area that support CNTA. We appreciate your patronage to these businesses and please let them know you value their support of our organization.

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