

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

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2023 Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship Awarded to Bratescu

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) and Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) have announced Kennesaw State University (KSU) student Simon Bratescu as the winner of the 2023 Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship is sponsored by SRMC, the liquid waste contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

Bratescu, a junior from Gainesville, Georgia, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in nuclear engineering at KSU. CNTA Executive Director Allison Hamilton Molnar said CNTA is proud to award this \$5,000 scholarship to such a talented and deserving student.

“Simon’s passion to pursue nuclear research was immediately evident in his scholarship application,” Hamilton Molnar said. “CNTA is pleased to present him with financial support to continue his education. No doubt he will be an exemplary addition to the nuclear industry.”

In Spring 2023, Bratescu joined KSU’s Office of Undergraduate Research Summer Program, conducting research on the study of thermal transport properties of nanomaterials. He is also the president of Kennesaw Nuclear Society, the American Nuclear Society’s student organization. His aspirations are to create better ways for future, safe transportation of nuclear waste, as well as commercialized nuclear-powered transportation.

“I knew a major in mechanical engineering and a minor in nuclear engineering would allow me to pursue my childhood passion for nuclear reactors,” Bratescu said. “I have always thought about how reactor development would grow to the point where transporting nuclear waste materials would become a highly critical part of our infrastructure, which is why I would love to develop a way to safely transport nuclear waste as if it were a crate of apples.”

“Reliable, safe, and cost effective are all key elements in successful transport of anything. By receiving this scholarship, it enables me to further my studies through Kennesaw State to allow me to develop the best way to transport this nuclear waste in the future,” Bratescu said.

The Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship is a joint project of CNTA and SRMC. Maher, Vice President and General Manager for Strategic Mission Development at SRS, passed away in 2002 after a 48-year career at the Site. A visionary with a broad view of the Site’s potential, Maher helped shape SRS.

The annual scholarship was established in Maher's memory to support students pursuing science and engineering degrees in preparation for careers in the nuclear field. Details on the scholarship can be found at: <https://cntaware.org/maher-memorial-scholarship/>.

CNTA is an Aiken-based charitable educational organization dedicated to providing factual information about nuclear topics and educating the public on nuclear issues. For further information, call CNTA at 803-649-3456 or email at cnta@bellsouth.net.

