

Area high schoolers win essay contest

In CNTA's annual essay contest three area high school seniors each earned a \$1,000 cash prize, and \$500 for their respective schools.

The winners are:

- Alexander Bates, Lakeside High School, for "Reliability of Nuclear Energy"
- Caleb Kerr, South Aiken High School, for "The Best of World Energy"
- Ankita Shah, Evans High School, for "The World Food Supply of Tomorrow"

The essay contest winners will be recognized at the annual Edward Teller Lecture/Banquet on October 18, 2018, at the USC-Aiken Convocation Center.



Bates

Jim Marra, CNTA Director, said the quality of the nuclear-themed essays this year is impressive and promising.

"It's reassuring to know that the upcoming generation of professionals is so knowledgeable, passionate, and astute about nuclear technology advancement," Marra said. "It's a growing industry, not only in our area, but worldwide. These students have a bright future if they continue on the track they are on now."

Area high school juniors and seniors were



Kerr

invited to submit a 1,000-to-1,500-word essay on one of the following topics:

- In light of the recent hurricane events, compare the reliability of the electricity supply generated by nuclear power to other sources of electricity that support the grid
- Discuss how maintaining a strong nuclear science and technology infrastructure is important for the national security of the USA. This discussion should encompass both civilian and defense aspects



Shah

• Discuss the value of nuclear technologies and radioisotopes to the world's food supply

The winning essays are available on the CNTA website at www.c-n-t-a.com. For further information please contact CNTA at cnta@bellsouth.net or (803)649-3456.

Next year's essay contest will be announced soon, with entries due in early 2019. The contest will again be open to area high school juniors and seniors, so keep an eye out for the chance to be next year's winner!

Why I Am CNTA



Patricia Calvin-Thomas

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I support CNTA because CNTA is doing an amazing job teaching educators, leaders, students, and stakeholders the facts about nuclear energy.

The organization is exposing the public to careers in nuclear science, the myths related to nuclear science, the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear energy, and the lessons that have been learned around the world about nuclear energy. In addition, CNTA is actively involved in learning about how to make the world more energy effective and efficient. Moreover, CNTA cares about finding diverse methods of meeting and exceeding our energy needs and preserving human life and the planet. That's why I support CNTA.

Aaron Rieske

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My name is Aaron Rieske. I joined CNTA to be involved in the world around me and promote an industry that is often misunderstood. Nuclear technology has a lot to offer in many fields and could offer more if more people were willing to give it a chance.

Major C. Thompson, Ph.D.

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I came to work at what is now the Savannah River National Laboratory in the fall of 1963 with a PhD in chemistry. I made contributions to treat waste as well as purify weapons plutonium and plutonium-238 for space power sources. I observed that as the area grew in population and the antinuclear voices grew that a voice for truth about nuclear operations and power was required and joined CNTA because it was started to do just that in an open and honest manner with facts, not fiction.



Ebel

Paul Ebel

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My entire career, from college days to the present, has been either directly in, or supporting, the nuclear industry. I firmly believe that nuclear power is clean, vitally important to the world, and above all, now, the safest of all power sources. I spend a good share of my life's minutes explaining and supporting the above three beliefs. CNTA has the same beliefs and I have found that through working with CNTA I can, more efficiently, promote these beliefs. Through the Summer Teacher Education Program, the Nuclear Science Week classes at local schools, teaching classes at USCA, and other conferences throughout the year, my voice can be heard much more effectively than just standing on the street corner talking to one individual.

Paul Ebel is a nuclear engineer with degrees from Rice University in Houston Texas and Tulane University in New Orleans. After serving in the nuclear submarine service, he came to Aiken with the Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant being built in Barnwell. Since that time he has been an owner of a nuclear consulting firm and now he is retired.

He said he is a member of CNTA because it is a way to give back to an industry that has been important in his life. South Carolina is nearly 60% dependent on nuclear energy and the nuclear navy is still an important part of our support of the military. Clearly the Savannah River Plant is vital to this area, and it should be appreciated and not feared.

He feels that the activities of CNTA are an effective way of educating the teachers, students, and the public about this very important energy source, and he tries to support these activities as much as he can.



SCREENSHOT FROM VIDEO

Middle school team wins 2nd annual video contest

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) sponsors a video contest for students in area middle and high schools. Individual students or teams were invited to submit a two- to five-minute video debunking a nuclear myth.

The video contest winners for 2018 are a duo from Stallings Island Middle School: Charles Timmons and Vivin Sudharsan. The video will be shown at the Edward Teller Lecture/Banquet on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018. The winners received CNTA shirts and a GoPro Camera for their school.

Marissa Reigel, CNTA Education Committee Chair, explained that the video contest is an innovative way to involve young people.

"The purpose of the CNTA Video Contest is to promote a better understanding of nuclear technology among high school and middle school students," she said. It also provides an incentive for the development of creative, research, written, and communication skills that

are vital to continued success in education and in the workforce."

CNTA is an Aiken-based charitable educational organization dedicated to providing factual information about nuclear topics and educating the public on nuclear issues. The essay contest is one of many educational projects sponsored by CNTA. Others include the annual Teller Lecture and Banquet, Up & Atom breakfasts, an interactive nucleus exhibit at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, a speaker's bureau, and periodic teacher's workshops that assist middle and high school teachers in bringing nuclear science topics into the classroom.

The winning video, titled "The Wrong Perspective: Nuclear Energy" is available through the CNTA website.

Details of the 2019 Video Contest will be announced soon, with a deadline of Jan. 31, 2019. More information can be found at the CNTA website www.c-n-t-a.com, or contact CNTA at CNTA@bellsouth.net (803)649-3456.