PROUD OF OUR PAST,
POISED FOR THE FUTURE
MARCH 10-14, 2024
2024
ROY G. POST FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIPS

WM Symposia (WM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to education and opportunity in waste management. It was founded to provide a forum for discussing and seeking cost-effective and environmentally responsible solutions to the safe management and disposition of radioactive waste and radioactive materials.

WM annually recognizes leaders in the radioactive waste management profession that have made a significant contribution, as well as upcoming students through financial support of the Post Foundation, that will be making a difference in the future. These scholarships are awarded in the memory of Dr. Roy G. Post. The scholarships and the Foundation carry on Dr. Post’s vision of education in this field and honor the Founder of the annual WM Conference. The Roy G. Post Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-deductible Foundation dedicated to education in the safe management of nuclear material.

Full-time students; enrolled in secondary educational programs in technical or policy fields with the objective of contributing to the safe management of nuclear materials are eligible for these scholarships. The Foundation shows thanks to its ongoing benefactors and recognizes special scholarship donations made. We also recognize the sponsors of the Roy G. Post Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament, proceeds of which will be used for additional scholarships.

Visit our website www.roygpost.org for more information on the Foundation and scholarship opportunities.
Scholarships, Honors, and Awards

Roy G. Post Foundation Scholarship - Graduate Recipients

**MD Robiul Alam**
Jackson State University

MD Robiul Alam, 33, has been a Ph.D. candidate in chemistry at Jackson State University since August 2021. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemistry from Jahangirnagar University in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2012 and 2014. Additionally, he worked as a Production Officer at Asian Paints Bangladesh Ltd. Alam is currently researching material chemistry, emphasizing environmental health and renewable energy. He aims to produce materials with the qualities needed for environmental cleansing and renewable energy applications. His research intends to remove radioactive ions from defense legacy tank wastewater and develop remedies for wastewater containing chemically hazardous metal cations and oxo-anions.

**Abdulmalik Alshammari**
King Saud University

Abdulmalik Alshammari is a dedicated student at King Saud University pursuing a Master’s degree in Nuclear Engineering. With a passion for research and a focus on environmental issues, Abdulmalik recently published a groundbreaking paper on uranium removal from ground water as part of his thesis. His exceptional academic performance is evident through his remarkable GPA of 4.90 out of 5.00. Abdulmalik’s dedication to academic excellence and his commitment to making a positive impact in the field of nuclear engineering position him as a promising professional. With his expertise and passion, Abdulmalik Alshammari is poised to become a key contributor in addressing crucial environmental challenges and advancing the field of nuclear engineering.

**Jesse Bruner – Lance Mezga Scholarship Winner**
Georgia Institute of Technology

Jesse Bruner is a graduate student in the NRE/MP program in the RED2 Laboratory at Georgia Tech. His current research focuses on nuclear material accountancy during disposal and reprocessing of salt-wetted components in molten salt reactors using nondestructive assay techniques. Jesse graduated from the University of Florida in 2020 with a B.S. in nuclear engineering, where he worked on various undergraduate research projects involving gamma spectroscopy, shielding, and radiation protection. Before returning to school, he spent two years working on nuclear forensics and security related research at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory as an intern and a post-bachelor’s research associate.

**Steven Crouse**
Georgia Institute of Technology

Steven is a 4th year Chemical Engineering PhD student at Georgia Tech who is advised by Dr. Martha Grover and Dr. Ronald Rousseau. His graduate research focuses on real-time spectroscopic measurements of chemical constituents in low-activity and high-level nuclear waste. In particular, Steven uses techniques from process systems engineering to best utilize process measurements. Most recently, he has been applying extensions of the Kalman filter for accurate process measurements in the face of measurement and process uncertainty. The primary application of his work is in the vitrification of waste at the Hanford and Savannah River Sites.
Zachary Czajkowski
Idaho State University
Zachary Czajkowski is a graduate student who is passionate about furthering his and others’ understanding of the field of hazardous materials applications. Zach has multiple years of experience in said field, four of which he received while enlisted in the Army. Prior to his enlistment, he attended the Colorado School of Mines, graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in Engineering Physics in 2017. Following an honorable discharge in 2022, he attended Idaho State University, and will receive a Master’s degree in Nuclear Engineering in 2025. When he is not actively engaged in academia, he enjoys spending time with his fellow veterans.

Alejandro De La Noval – MSIPP Scholarship Winner
Florida International University
Alejandro De La Noval is a Hispanic first-generation graduate with research interest in AI-supported technologies and algorithms. He graduated with his bachelor’s degree from Florida International University where he currently works under the DOE Fellows program while pursuing his master’s degree in computer science with an expected graduation of Spring 2024. Alejandro has worked with natural language processing applied to the nuclear domain during his internship at Savannah River National Laboratory and Hanford groundwater contaminant forecast modeling and analysis throughout his fellowship.

Furkan Erdogan
Virginia Commonwealth University
Furkan Erdogan, a nuclear engineer, and material science enthusiast, grew up in a small town as the first in his family, alongside his sister, to attend college. His passion for science ignited during high school, leading him to explore the connections between materials and nuclear engineering. He has extensive experience in occupational health and safety for radiation workers, radiation shielding, and handling radioactive materials. Furkan holds bachelor’s degrees in Nuclear Engineering and Logistic Management, along with Master’s degrees in Occupational Health & Safety, and Mechanical & Nuclear Engineering. Currently pursuing a PhD in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering at VCU, he’s dedicated to advancing his field while prioritizing safety.

Konstantinos Gkouliaras
Purdue University
Konstantinos Gkouliaras was born in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1997. He received the Diploma degree in Electrical & Computer Engineering in 2020 from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece. In August 2021, he started his graduate studies in the School of Nuclear Engineering of Purdue University as a PhD student, where he was offered the Ross Fellowship. In August 2023, he received a Master’s degree in Nuclear Engineering from Purdue University. Since November 2023, he is a fellow of the Greek Atomic Energy Commission. His current research is focused on cybersecurity issues and secure communications of advanced nuclear reactors.

Nia Hunter
University of Glasgow
Nia Hunter is a second year PhD student at the University of Glasgow undertaking the project “A Compact Multimode Detector for the Decommissioning of Irradiated Graphite” for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. She works alongside Jacobs Ltd, the National Nuclear Laboratory, and Nuclear Waste Services. She has been awarded the Roy G Post Fellowship Scholarship and the IOP Open Physics Poster Prize in recognition of her postdoctoral research into novel detectors with decommissioning applications.
Leslie Kirkes – Lance Meza Scholarship Winner
New Mexico Technical Institute

Leslie Kirkes is attending New Mexico Tech to achieve a PhD in Earth and Environmental Science with a focus in hydrogeochemistry. She is married and has two kids. Leslie is a Geoscience Engineer working at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). Her research for SNL supports the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). As a scientist for SNL, she has conducted solubility and solution chemistry experiments; studied temperature effects on pH and solubility; conducted mineral and crystal morphology analysis of geologically relevant minerals and is currently the hydrology field team lead for the WIPP Hydrology Monitoring Network.

Andrea Kozlowski – IAEA Scholarship Winner
University of Strathclyde

Andrea Kozlowski graduated in Production and Energy Management (B.Sc.) and a European Master in Nuclear Applications (M.Sc., both Germany). After that she started working on her PhD at Strathclyde University in Glasgow (Scotland) with an estimated graduation in 2024. During her studies, she worked on simulating for radiation safety purposes (activation in medical LINACs, air activation during LHC Run 2, shielding effects of lead and cast-iron shields) and went into practical approaches with her PhD, focusing on the chemical, mechanical, and physical properties of sustainable substitutes for PFA in cement for encapsulation of low-level waste.

Aubrey Litzinger
Florida International University

Aubrey Litzinger is a part of the Department of Energy (DOE) - Florida International University (FIU) Fellowship program in which she is a graduate student pursuing a M.S. in Environmental Engineering. Her work focuses on using high-performance computing to develop hydrological models for watersheds near the WIPP and SRS that evaluate groundwater recharge and long-term changes in climate on the hydrological response and the stability of historical nuclear waste. She has participated in summer internships at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and Los Alamos National Lab while also holding titles such as President of Engineers without Borders (EWB) at FIU.

Peggy Milota
Virginia Commonwealth University

After 9 years in the nuclear Navy, finding Mixed Waste processing was when I knew exactly what I wanted to do with my life. It took almost 10 years of industry work before I gave myself permission to chase my passion, however. Finding VCU and working on a PhD focused on pyroprocessing electrochemistry is the most excited and fulfilled I’ve felt in my adult working life. I want to be part of the safe and effective processing and reuse of spent nuclear fuel and I won’t rest in learning and bettering myself until I make that dream come true.
Jillian Newmyer
Oregon State University
Jillian Newmyer is a PhD candidate at Oregon State University in Radiation Health Physics. Her current research deals with understanding the uptake mechanisms of radionuclides and responses in medicinal plants native to the Southwestern United States. She holds a BS in Nuclear Engineering with a minor in physics from the University of Tennessee. She is heavily involved in professional societies, including being the chair of the Student Support Committee for the Health Physics Society and a member of the Student Support Committee for the American Nuclear Society. Additionally, she enjoys doing nuclear science outreach and is a Science Communication Fellow at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. Outside of school, she enjoys taking dance classes, playing the newest video game, and exploring the Oregon coast.

Jordan Noey
University of Michigan
Jordan D. Noey is a Ph.D. candidate in nuclear engineering at the University of Michigan, specializing in low-level waste, radiation transport, instrumentation, and applied health physics topics. His awards include the Roy G. Post Scholarship, Innovations in Nuclear Technology R&D Award, the Health Physics Society Richard J. Burk Fellowship, and numerous teaching awards for his role as graduate student instructor. Jordan oversees a radiation maker’s space to facilitate collaboration and guides undergraduates in research, publishing dozens of papers and presentations. Beyond academia, he works as a barista, enjoys fictional stories, and loves spending time with his wife and newborn daughter.

Julio de Oliveira Junior
Nuclear and Energy Research Institute
Julio de Oliveira Junior is a Brazilian PhD student in Nuclear Technology, with a Bachelor’s Degree in Physics and a Master’s Degree in Nuclear Engineering. His current work is to evaluate the feasibility of the use of mill tailings waste as power sources for nuclear batteries. This would both solve the mill tailings waste problem and provide the country with nuclear batteries that can be used in outer space and other remote places for exploration and industrial applications.

Heloiisa Reis
Nuclear & Energy Research Institute, IPEN-CNEN/SP
Heloiisa Reis is a graduate student in Nuclear Technology at the Nuclear and Energy Research Institute (IPEN - USP - Brazil), production engineer, writer, chaplain, and volunteer humanitarian diplomat. Her journey not only demonstrates her academic dedication but also her ability to integrate science with humanitarian efforts. Heloiisa is deeply committed to the pursuit of knowledge, scientific research, innovation in nuclear technology and humanitarian service.

Matthew Riss
Clemson University
Matthew Riss is a 3rd year PhD student at Clemson University studying under Dr. Brian Powell. He is interested in the chemistry and transport processes related to the deposition of spent nuclear in deep geologic repositories. Matthew became interested in radioactive waste management as an undergraduate student at the University of Notre Dame, where he worked in Amy Hixon’s actinide chemistry lab. He continues to pursue his interests today with investigations into the solubility of TcO2 at variable temperatures and the diffusion behavior of various radionuclides through Na-montmorillonite.
Abdulrasheed Sado
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Abdulrasheed Sado, a dedicated nuclear engineering research assistant at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, combines expertise in physics with a passion for leadership and mentorship. He is currently working on a novel microfluidic alpha spectrometer for MC&A in liquid-fueled MSRs. With Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Physics from the University of Benin and Mechanical Engineering diplomas from Auchi Polytechnic, Nigeria, Abdulrasheed has also led as the Student Union Government President in 2014. Aspiring to be a professor in semiconductor radiation detection, he balances his ambitious career with a fulfilling family life, being a devoted husband and father to two children.

Ashley Sibanda
University of Leeds

Ashley is a PhD student in the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering at the University of Leeds. Her research project “Bubble growth and gaseous release dynamics within viscoelastic waste sludges” is focused on hydrogen generation and hold-up in legacy nuclear waste. She is a member of the Growing skills for Reliable Economic Energy from Nuclear Centre for Doctoral Training (GREEN CDT) with industrial supervision from Sellafield Ltd. Ashley is a class of 2021 University of Rochester Handler Scholar alum. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering with a cluster in Korean Language.

Yu Tan
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Yu Tan is an EREF Fellow and PhD Candidate in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Tan’s research in geoenvironmental engineering is focused on radioactive waste disposal and the effectiveness of composite liners in containing PFAS. He also obtained a PhD degree from Lanzhou University (LZU) in 2022, focusing on the drying and shrinkage of clay buffers used in high-level radioactive waste repositories.

Bryanna Wattier
Clemson University

Bryanna Wattier is a doctoral candidate in the Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences department at Clemson University. In 2020 she graduated summa cum laude from the University of Northern Colorado with her bachelor’s in applied mathematics and completed her master’s in environmental health physics from Clemson University in 2022. Bryanna plans to graduate in Fall of 2024 and will be looking for a postdoc position; ultimately, she hopes to continue conducting research after her educational journey comes to a close and her career begins. Currently she is investigating life cycle assessment as it relates to the nuclear fuel cycle.

Harmony Werth
University of Nevada, Reno

Harmony Werth received her Bachelor of Science in materials science and engineering in Spring 2023 from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and is currently pursuing a Master’s in materials science and engineering at UNR. She is studying processing conditions and waste form compositions for immobilization of HLW that results from electrorefining.
Kay Whiteaker  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Kay is a graduate student in the Nuclear Science and Engineering department at MIT. They are currently using water quality data from nuclear fuel cycle sites to discuss big ideas in waste disposal, like dilution vs isolation of waste products and long-term monitoring in the face of a changing climate and energy sector. This supports their group’s long-term goal of building large, consistent, and shared environmental monitoring datasets from sites around the world.

Roy G. Post Foundation Scholarship - Undergraduate Recipients

Ingrid Caraballo-Lopez  
University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

Ingrid is a First-Gen Undergraduate, Senior Chemical Engineer who pioneered nuclear energy awareness in Puerto Rico, by founding the first Caribbean student chapter of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez (UPRM). Notably the section was awarded the Samuel Glasstone Award twice and has made a chapter legacy towards educating the public on Nuclear Energy. She is aiming to attend Graduate Studies in Nuclear Engineering at NC State, in order to continue her passion towards optimizing the industry’s back-end challenges especially with emerging New-Gen technologies.

Addie Chambers  
Roane State Community College

Addie Chambers is 21 years old and a biology major. She has always wanted to go into the marine biology field. Addie wants to help restore the reefs around the world. She took a class learning all about the Caribbean reefs and the environment around it and is so excited to learn more about how to help and clean the environment.

Ashton Clements  
Aiken Technical College

Ashton Clements has already received an associate degree in science from Aiken Technical College and will soon be earning another associate degree in Radiation Protection from the same college. He is currently working as an apprentice for Savannah River Site for the past year and a half. Ashton plans on getting a bachelor’s degree after he graduates and is potentially going for a master’s if the opportunity aligns itself. He is intrigued with the field of work he is in now and hopes to make a long-lasting career in radiation protection.

Micaiah CraigSmith  
Idaho State University

Micaiah CraigSmith is a first-year student at Idaho State University’s College of Science and Engineering where she is pursuing a degree (BS) in nuclear and mechanical engineering. Her pursuit in the field of engineering stems from a love of science and math as well as a desire to solve problems. She is interested in finding ways to solve and improve nuclear energy systems including the disposal of waste. She intends to continue her education with a master’s degree and work towards earning a PE license.
Jehanzeb Khan  
San Jose State University  
Driven by a lifelong passion for environmental conservation, San Jose State University student Jehanzeb Khan, aims to revolutionize long term environmental monitoring by leveraging AI. As a research assistant in Professor Shrikant’s lab, Jehanzeb spearheads the development of an AI framework supported by MSIPP and in partnership with SRNL. This innovative research aims to automate the transformation of unstructured data into actionable insights, to help optimize environmental monitoring strategies. Jehanzeb strives to make a positive impact with each line of code. He sees AI as a bridge to a sustainable future and is eager to share his research and collaborate.

Lauren Kohler  
North Carolina State University  
Lauren Kohler, a fourth-year undergrad at North Carolina State University (NCSU), is planning to continue her studies in graduate school at NCSU. She’s part of the ARTISANS research group, led by Dr. Xu Wu, focusing on artificial intelligence for nuclear systems simulation. Additionally, Lauren works as a Research Aide at Argonne National Laboratories in the Nuclear Science Division, under Dr. Alexander Heifetz. Her work involves modeling sensing methods for advanced reactors, utilizing machine learning and uncertainty quantification techniques.

Kylie Manning  
Augusta University  
Kylie Manning is a senior Chemistry major with a concentration in Nuclear Science at Augusta University located in Augusta, Georgia. Kylie is an active member of the Society of Nuclear Scholars at Augusta and has been a recurring recipient of the Augusta University Nuclear Science Scholarship. Kylie also completed a summer internship at Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) working to sequester heavy metal contaminants using engineered cellular magmatics. Kylie plans to continue working in the field of nuclear waste management after graduation.

Gabrielle March  
Washington State University  
During high school, I cheered, aiming to perfect backflips and trust my teammates. However, my focus shifted when I faced the challenge of passing chemistry. Initially disheartened, I lacked confidence in academics. Everything changed with an inspiring chemistry teacher who believed in me. He stressed the subject’s difficulty but encouraged seeking guidance and effort to succeed. I fell in love with chemistry, eventually taking AP Chemistry under his mentorship, shaping my work ethic and self-belief. Graduating amidst COVID, I earned an athletic and academic scholarship in Miami where I pursued a Chemistry degree. COVID restrictions led to intensive studying, where I realized my passion for problem-solving. Transitioning to Washington State University for Chemical Engineering, my internships at Washington River Protection Solutions revealed my fascination with waste management’s pivotal role in the industry. Grateful for this journey, I eagerly anticipate furthering my education and expanding my knowledge.
Jacob Martin
North Carolina State University

Jacob Martin is a second-year nuclear engineering student at North Carolina State University, where he actively engages through his involvement as a Caldwell Fellow, Shelton Scholar, and treasurer of SciBridge - a club that collaborates with African Universities to create low-cost STEM education materials. On campus, Jacob works as an undergraduate researcher under the guidance of Dr. Elizabeth Kautz of the Department of Nuclear Engineering, and works full-time as a Resident Advisor. To gain experience with industry, last summer he interned with Energy Solutions at their Three Mile Island decommissioning site in Harrisburg, PA.

Gabriel Martins
University of São Paulo

Gabriel F Martins is an undergraduate student from the University of Sao Paulo pursuing a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. As a Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission fellow, he has over 3 years of research experience, having developed projects in the area of toxic and radioactive waste treatment, using alternative and environmentally friendly biosorbents, at the Nuclear & Energy Research Institute (IPEN), a national laboratory in Brazil. He plans to continue his career in the nuclear industry, specializing in environmental remediation and waste management, to establish a more sustainable environment.

Aurelia Vargas
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Aurelia Vargas attends the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Mineral Engineering with a minor in Geology. Aurelia is originally from the East Mountains area of New Mexico. Since arriving at Tech, she has joined the women’s rugby team and has served as president of the club for one semester. Aurelia is also a member of the school’s caving club and has fallen in love with exploring the caves of New Mexico. She plans to continue her role in both of these groups alongside her education.

Bianca Wanamaker
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Originally from southern California, Bianca is now pursuing her Master’s in Science in Biology at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. She works as a research assistant in the DeVeaux lab, studying bacteriophages that infect Pseudomonas aeruginosa. She is also planning a thesis on the effects of phleomycin, which mimics the DNA damage caused by radiation, on Pseudomonas aeruginosa biofilms. After her MS degree, Bianca plans to pursue a PhD in nuclear physics to continue to foster her interest in radiation.

Kip Wheeler
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

My name is Kip and I am an undergraduate, Nuclear Engineering Major at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. I am originally from Edinburgh, Indiana. While Nuclear Waste Management was one of the first things to draw me to the nuclear industry, the focus of my undergraduate research has revolved around ceramics. I have worked in a ceramics synthesis lab on campus as well as studied ceramic metal composite fuels at ORNL during an internship. My recent research has been centered at the Tennessee Ion Beam Materials Laboratory and hopefully will continue there into the Master’s degree I plan to pursue.
Jolyne Worthy  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
My name is Jolyne Worthy and I am a first generation college student at the University of Tennessee Knoxville studying nuclear engineering. I am interested in studying topics related to decommissioning, radiochemistry, and nuclear safety. I am currently interested in perusing my Master’s and continuing my education at the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

Andrew Zimmerman  
Augusta University  
I am a Senior Nuclear Physics Major attending Augusta University. I work as an intern at the Savannah River National Lab, where I research the inclusion of machine learning in additive manufacturing in-situ analysis. I work with my professor in undergraduate research in theoretical physics on cold particles trapped in optical lattices. I am also a teaching assistant in my college’s physics labs. Additionally, I am the treasurer of an electronics makers club known as the cybertronics makers club at Augusta University.

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2024 Danny Nichols & Dennis Huddleston Memorial Scholarships

BWXT, N3B Los Alamos, Longenecker & Associates and Tetra Tech have teamed again this year with the Roy G. Post Foundation to continue student scholarships in New Mexico. The scholarship was originated to memorialize the waste management career of Danny Nichols, who last served with N3B at Los Alamos, and to memorialize long term waste industry leader, Dennis Huddleston, who served the last several years of his career at New Mexico’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Deserving students with hopes to enter our industry will be awarded the scholarships. The scholarships include a financial contribution to tuition and registration to the Waste Management conference.

Amber Ferree
University of New Mexico-Los Alamos
Amber was born in England and moved with her family to Los Alamos, New Mexico, at a young age. After graduating from high school, she relocated to Texas where she worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Amber returned to Los Alamos recently and now, as a full-time student and single mother, she is in the first year of the Pre-Professional Health program at the University of New Mexico-Los Alamos. Amber looks forward to applying her nursing skills to workplace health and safety through occupational health support.

Jade Madrid
Northern New Mexico College
The oldest of nine siblings, Jade was born and raised in Española, New Mexico, and graduated from McCurdy Charter School. She will be a junior at Northern New Mexico College in 2024, pursuing her bachelor’s degree in biology while supporting herself financially through a work-study program at one of the biology labs on campus. Jade is eager to apply her education to challenges related to cleaning up legacy waste from the Los Alamos National Laboratory to restore the natural environment and protect the health of the workers and other community members.

Felicia Rodriguez
Northern New Mexico College
Felicia is pursuing an associate degree in applied radiology/radiation protection at Northern New Mexico College due to her interest in the legacy impacts of historical operations at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. She was born and raised in Española, New Mexico, and graduated from high school there. As a mother of five children, Felicia recently resumed her higher education after serving as a full-time caregiver for one of her parents. She is a board member and former board president of Breath of My Heart Birthplace, a community midwifery nonprofit organization in Española.
2024 George W. Jackson Memorial Scholarship

The George W. Jackson Memorial Scholarship was established by Fluor Corporation in cooperation with the Roy G. Post Foundation. This scholarship is to honor George's leadership of vital Hanford missions, continue his steadfast support of the Tri-Cities community, and carry his legacy forward to future generations of students. Six Scholarships have been awarded to students in the Tri-Cities community.

Kayonnie Ganuelas Badonie
Heritage University
My name is Kayonnie Ganuelas Badonie, a mother of 2 beautiful boys, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation in Washington State, and also a member of the Navajo Nation of Tachee, Arizona. I am a full-time student attending my last semester at Heritage University in Toppenish, Washington that resides within the reservation boundary of the Yakama Nation. Here is where I will be graduating in Spring 2024 with my Bachelor’s of Science in Environmental Science. I currently work full-time with Yakama Power, a Yakama Nation Utility Enterprise as their IT/Fiber Optics.

Maryam Ammar
Washington State University
Aileen Arredondo
Columbia Basin
Alonso Hernandez Guzman
Heritage University

Andrew Muniz
Columbia Basin
Esther Ulyanchuk
Washington State University

James A. Glasgow Scholarships

These WM Symposia scholarships are given in recognition of the contributions of James Glasgow, Esq. for his support of WM and is designed to assist a second or third-year law student who demonstrates a meaningful interest in environmental law while studying at the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law.

Bailey Martin
University of Arizona
Bailey Martin is a third year JD Candidate at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. Bailey holds a BS in Marine Biology from the Florida Southern College and seeks to use her degrees to use policy as a tool to combat climate change especially with respect to natural resources. Bailey served as the secretary for the Environmental Law Society and currently serves as the Senior Managing Editor of Arizona's Journal of Environmental Law and Policy as well as the Vice President of the Arizona's chapter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Taylor Macy
University of Arizona
Taylor Macy is a 3L at the University of Arizona College of Law. She currently serves as the Senior Articles Editor for the Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy and has worked in many of the UA Law clinics, including the Civil Rights Restoration Clinic and the Natural Resources Clinic. She spent her first summer during law school at a legal aid organization and spent last summer in New York City working for Earthjustice. Prior to law school, she worked for the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., and for the Peace Corps in Senegal.
WM/Wendell D. Weart Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by Sandia National Laboratories

Named in honor of Wendell D. Weart, the WM Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes the long-term commitment of the recipient to solving major nuclear waste challenges, which may include education, research, public policy, or implementation of solutions for managing nuclear wastes, and whose actions have contributed to the resolution of significant nuclear waste management issues.

Hiroyuki Umeki
Nuclear Waste Management Organization of Japan (NUMO)

Dr. Hiroyuki Umeki is an executive director of Nuclear Waste Management Organization of Japan (NUMO) and responsible for overview of all technical activities on geological disposal of HLW and long-lived intermediate-level waste, including knowledge management.

During his over 35 years work in radioactive waste management, he was strongly involved in the projects for developing a safety case on HLW geological disposal in Japan.

Dr Umeki has been intensively involved in international groups, particularly associated with the IAEA and OECD/NEA.

2024 WM Program Advisory Committee (PAC) Award

WM has established the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) Award to annually recognize an individual whose outstanding contributions have helped make and keep the annual Waste Management Conference the world’s premier technical conference on the management and disposal of nuclear waste.

Robert Berry
Foxfire Scientific Inc

Robert O. Berry is a Senior Health Physics Consultant with Foxfire Scientific Inc, during his time there he has worked as a temporary RSO at two Universities and as a dose reconstruct or on the Department of Labor’s Dose Reconstruction Project, he also has performed field work at several sites. Robert served in the United States Navy for nine years. He trained in the Naval Nuclear pipeline and served on two nuclear submarines as Leading Engineering Technician. He is the currently the President of the Roy G. Post Foundation and the Co-Chair for The WM Symposia Student Poster Competitions and Young Professional Sessions. He has been a PAC Member for over 15 years and a Co-chair for Track 8 and 10.
2024 WM/ASME Sarge Ozker Award

Named in honor of M. Sacid (Sarge) Ozker and established in 1980, this award is bestowed for distinguished service and eminent achievement in the commercialization of nuclear power/energy with particular emphasis in the field of radioactive waste management. It is presented by the Nuclear Engineering Division - Radwaste Systems Operating Committee of ASME.

Dave Malkmus

Mr. Malkmus has over 44 years of management and technical engineering experience in the nuclear industry including water and wastewater treatment, especially in the areas of low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) treatment and groundwater remediation support. He received the EPRI Low Level Waste Recognition Award for his design input and review of the radwaste systems for the AP-1000 as well as two Westinghouse Signature Awards of Excellence in the development of advanced process and waste minimization technologies.

Mr. Malkmus was a pioneer in the field of using membrane technology for silica removal in borated water streams. Mr. Malkmus developed innovative systems and demonstrated state-of-the-art technology to validate the compatibility and effectiveness of technologies in the treatment of power plant waste and primary water streams. The systems employed unique implementations of membrane technology, UV light, and vacuum drying in addition to the application of specialized ion exchange processes.

The innovations brought to the nuclear industry by Mr. Malkmus have led to significant improvements in operational efficiency for liquid waste treatment and safe restoration of contaminated land to beneficial use, in addition to savings of millions of dollars to the industry.

2024 WM Fellow Award Recipients

WM established the honor of WM Fellow in 2011 to recognize volunteers for distinguished contributions to the advancement of radioactive waste and radioactive material management. Elevation to the status of WM Fellow is attained through peer recognition and confirmation by the WM Board of Directors.

Scott Dam
Spectrum, Inc.

Senior and executive leadership, and company and project management of commercial and government nuclear and management services businesses. Over 50 years of experience in nuclear power, SNF/HLRW transportation and storage systems, special monitoring systems, nuclear and chemical process facilities with significant experience in planning, design, construction, operations, systems engineering, cost estimating, independent reviews, licensing, risk management, testing and decommissioning. Currently providing consulting services. Active in community organization leadership including church, homeowners, and non-profit educational and historical preservation organizations. Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, Master of Engineering (Mech. Engr.), MBA, PE.

Rick Dearholt
American DND

Kurt Gerdes
Consultant
Kurt started working for the DOE’s Office of Environmental Management in 1982. Holding various positions of increasing technical and management responsibility over a 31-year career, Kurt’s final position was the Director for the Office of Technology Development. Kurt officially retired in April 2023 after completing 41 years of service with the federal government. After retirement, Kurt is currently working as a consultant supporting WM with planning for WM2024. Kurt is the Technical Program Advisor and 50th Anniversary/World Pavilion Special Events Coordinator.

Leonel E. Lagos, Ph.D., PMP®
Florida International University
Dr. Lagos holds a Ph.D. degree in Environmental Engineering and a master’s degree in mechanical engineering. Currently Dr. Lagos holds the position of Associate Professor at FIU’s Moss Department of Construction Management and Director of Research at Florida International University’s Applied Research Center (FIU-ARC). Dr. Lagos is the Principal Investigator (PI) on the DOE-FIU Cooperative Agreement and provides technical direction in the applied research projects conducted under this agreement. He is also Program Director for DOE-FIU Science & Technology Workforce Development Initiative (DOE Fellows Program), a unique STEM student training program established by the DOE-EM and Florida International University. Dr. Lagos international work and affiliations include the International Atomic Energy Agency (Austria), the Nuclear Energy Agency (France), Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (South Korea), and the Institute of Energy Technology (Norway). Dr. Lagos also holds a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification.

Susan Stiger
Bechtel
Ms. Stiger has more than 40 years’ experience in the energy and environmental sectors, much of that in leadership positions across the DOE complex. Her broad-based experience includes major projects and operations in waste processing and disposition, spent nuclear fuel processing, nuclear materials management, environmental remediation, and D&D. She led the waste processing and disposition programs and environmental remediation at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Idaho National Laboratory, and the Rocky Flats Site – improving operations, safety, and project schedule/cost performance. She is a licensed professional engineer with Bechtel and a member of the Waste Management Symposia Board of Directors.

WM Young Professional Award
At WM2017, WM Symposia presented a new award to recognize “Young Professionals” in our field. The objective is to annually recognize one young professional for their distinguished contributions to the advancement of radioactive waste and radioactive material management. Elevation to the status of “Young Professional” is attained through peer recognition and confirmation by the WM Board of Directors (BOD).

William Jolin
Savannah River National Laboratory
Dr. Jolin is a materials engineer in the Glass, Cement, and Ceramic sciences group at SRNL. He researches waste forms and materials for the contaminant immobilization. He serves as the Grout and Saltstone team lead. He also works with collaborators in the UK identify and resolve mutual knowledge gaps. Prior to SRNL, Dr. Jolin served as the contaminant fate and transport subject matter expert at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS). He received a PhD from the University of Connecticut in environmental engineering before performing a postdoc at Argonne National Laboratory, where he researched wide area decontamination technologies.
WM Hodes Award

THE RICHARD S. HODES, M.D. HONOR LECTURE AWARD honors the memory of its late chairman, Dr. Richard S. Hodes, a strong proponent for innovation in the field of low-level radioactive waste management. The award was created by the Commission to encourage environmental professionals and political leaders to develop innovative approaches to waste management in the United States and, in doing so, to further the mission and objectives of the Southeast Compact Commission.

Sydney Gordon
Savannah River National Laboratory

Sydney Gordon currently supports Navarro Research and Engineering as a part-time consulting resource for their Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program technical services to the DOE/EM Program at the Nevada National Security Sites (NNSS). He retired from the NNSS M&O Contractor after serving as the Waste Generator Coordinator and was a principal point-of-contact for 25 DOE sites that were approved to certify, and ship wastes to the NNSS. He is also a member of the EFCOG Waste Management Working Group and has supported packaging and transportation initiatives. Mr. Gordon has a B.S and M.S in physics, an M.B.A, and has prior certification in government contract administration. During his career, he has held Civil Service positions with the Army and EPA and previously provided technical support services under contract to National Laboratories, EPA, Air Force, NASA, Army Corps of Engineers, BLM, National Park Service and municipal customers.

Best Oral Presentations from WM2023

At each conference, WMS recognizes the two best oral presentations/papers from the previous year’s conference. To honor high quality presentations, the American Nuclear Society (ANS) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) presents an award for the Best Presentations/Papers.

THE WM2023 WINNERS WERE:

ANS Award – Best Oral Paper/Presentation
Paper #23408, Track 9 - Special Topics and Multi-Track Cross Cutting Technology Topics (ST)
“Leveraging Machine Learning and Imaging Technologies for Autonomous Container Inspection”
Authors: Steven Lukow, Ross Lee, David Grow, Joseph Hafen, Jonathan Gigax, Los Alamos National Laboratory

ASME Award – Best Oral Paper/Presentation
Paper # 23048, Track 3 - Low-Level Waste (LLW), Intermediate Level Waste (ILW), Very Low-Level Waste (VLLW), Mixed Waste (MW), By Product Material, TENORM, NORM Residues, Enriched and Depleted Uranium (DU)
“Developing a Single-Shell Tank Performance Assessment Model for Hanford Tank Farms”
Authors: Kearn Lee, David Watson, Marcel Bergeron, Washington River Protection Solutions; Trevor Budge, Mart Oostrom, INTERA, Inc.

Best Poster Presentations from WM2023

Judges select the best poster/paper based on technical quality and preparation of the work as described in the guidelines. Each track selects the best poster/presentation which are then displayed and re-judged for the best of conference poster/paper.

THE WM2023 WINNERS WERE:

ANS Award – Best Poster Presentation/Paper
Paper #23135, Track 6 – Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D)
“Dismantling of a CGR-MeV Cyclotron: Radiological Characterization and Diamond Wire Cutting of the 200 Tons Steel Yoke”
Authors: Marine Maggio, Maxime Wadin, Serge Vanderperre, Candice De Jonghe, Tractebel
ASME Award – Best Poster/Paper Presentation
Paper # 23442, Track 7 – Environmental Remediation (ER)
“Interaction of Hydroxyapatite and Uranium in Groundwater at the Old Rifle Site to Facilitate Site Remediation”
Authors: Olivia Bustillo, Ravi Gudavalli, Applied Research Center – FIU; Hansell Gonzalez Raymat, Savannah River National Laboratory

This award is based solely on the paper submitted, not its poster or oral presentation. The Paper Reviewers determine eligibility and then the relevant Track Co-Chairs, and subject matter experts, select their Track’s “Paper of Note” There were 28 Papers selected from WM2023.


Paper# 23311 - Track 2 - “Safety Approach Developed for the Control of the Fire Hazard at the Cigéo Deep Geological Disposal Facility in France” Authors: Jean-Michel Hoorelbeke, David Claudel, Francois Laumann, Maxime Foucard, Andra

Paper# 23402 - Track 2 - “Development of a Tank Dome Core Cutting System” Authors: Shannon Callahan, Peter Rhoades, Ben Hemphill, James Fisher Technologies LLC; Joan Connolly, Tyler Goodnight, Washington River Protection Solutions

Paper# 23302 - Track 2 - “Borosilicate Glass HLW Stability During Long-term Interim Storage”, Authors: Vincent Janin, Céline Roussel, Victor Piovesan, Orano; Sylvain Peugeot, CEA Marcoule


Paper# 23473 - Track 2 - “Next-Generation Solvent for Caustic-Side Solvent Extraction of Cesium from Supernatant Tank Waste”, Authors: Bruce Moyer, Nathan Bessen, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Paper# 23559 - Track 2 - “High-Level Waste Glass Processing over Broad Range of Alternative Feed Compositions”, Authors: John Vienna, Xiaoran Lu, Pavel Ferkl, Jose Marcial, Matthew S. Fountain, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; Michaela Trinidad, Robert Hanson, Bechtel National; Michael Britton, Laura Cree, Washington River Protection Solutions; Wahed Abdul, US DOE

Paper# 23370 - Track 2 - “Thermal Analysis of Aged Nitric Acid-soaked Kitty Litter in TRU Waste Drums”, Authors: Michael Hobbs, Michael Kaneshige, David Rosenberg, Sandia National Laboratories; Phillip Britt, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; David Hobbs, Consultant, Michael Minette, Jon Schwantes, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; Jessica Mintz, Audrey Williams, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Frank Pennebaker, Robert Pierce, Savannah River National Laboratory

Paper# 23048 - Track 3 - “Developing a Single-Shell Tank Performance Assessment Model for Hanford Tank Farms” Authors: Kearn Lee, David Watson, Marcel Bergeron, Washington River Protection Solutions; Mart Oostrom, Trevor Budge, INTERA, Inc.

Paper# 23137 - Track 3 - “Magnesium Potassium Phosphate Cement: A Promising Binder for the Conditioning of Aluminum-Magnesium Alloys Waste” Authors: Gabriel Poras, Hugo Danis, Celine Cau dit Cournes, Pascal Antonucci, Stephane Perrin, CEA; Celine Cannes, Sylvie Delpech, Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS/IN2P3, IJCLab


Paper# 23493 - Track 3 - “Reclassification of Intermediate Level Waste Employing the ANTECH UDASS” Authors: John Mason, Marc Looman, Antony Towner, Henry Turner, Matt Piotrowski, ANTECH Corporation: Nick Troughton, Alan Lewis, A.N. Technology Ltd.


Paper# 23539 - Track 4 - “Versatile, Innovative Modular Water Treatment Systems” Authors: Ben Garrett, Paul Sylvester, Nicephore Bonnet, Jean-christophe Piroux, Veolia Nuclear Solutions

Paper# 23322 - Track 5 - “Gas Generation by Radiolysis in Nuclear Waste Packages: an Overview of the French Approach to the Safety Assessment” Authors: Elisa Leoni, Stephane Esnouf, Muriel Ferry, Frederic Chupin, Pierre Vigneron, CEA; Coralie Chapuget, Victor Piovesan, Adrien Rooses, Orano
Scholarships, Honors, and Awards - Continued

**Paper# 23008** - **Track 6** - “A Feasibility Study on the use of Chrysoidine G for the in situ Detection of Common Fission Products in the Nuclear Industry” Authors: Thomas Johnson, Clint Sharrad, Simon Watson, University of Manchester; Thomas Carey, National Nuclear Laboratory

**Paper# 23068** - **Track 6** - “Penetration of Cs and Sr into Cracked Dry Carbonated Mortar Considering the Contamination History of Fukushima Daiichi NPP” Authors: Kazuo Yamada, National Institute for Environmental Studies; Yasumasa Tojo, Hokkaido University; Haruka Aihara, Yoshikazu Koma, Japan Atomic Energy Agency; Sayuri Tomita, Hideyuki Hokora, Kazutoshi Shibuya, Taiheiyo Consultant Co.; Go Igarashi, Nagoya University; Yoshifumi Hosokowa, Taiheiyo Cement Corp; Ippei Maruyama, University of Tokyo

**Paper# 23131** - **Track 6** - “UP1 Reprocessing Plant: Overview of the UP1 Spent Fuel Reprocessing Facility Dismantling Project in Marcoule” Authors: Jean-Francois Weiss, Pierre Marty, Hugues Chifflet, Erik Navarro, CEA


**Paper# 23100** - **Track 7** - “Help is on the Way! Emerging Solutions for PFAS-Impacted Liquids” Authors: Jeff McDonough, Jason Hnatko, Jesse Guillet, Scott Lang, Jennifer Byrd, ERM

**Paper# 23328** - **Track 7** - “Monitoring of Abandoned Mines and Structures Using a Handheld Laser Scanning System and Body Mounted Radiation Detectors” Authors: Matthew Ryan Tucker, Thomas Scott, University of Bristol

**Paper# 23183** - **Track 8** - “Attract, Develop and Above all Retain Talent while Ensuring Generational Renewal” Author: Fabrice Puyade, Andra

**Paper# 23123** - **Track 9** - “FDLPhysics-Informed Surrogate Modeling for Supporting Climate Resilience at Groundwater Contamination Sites” Authors: Aurelien Meray, FIU; Lijing Wang, Stanford University; Takuya Kurihana, University of Chicago; Ilijana Mastilovic, University of Wisconsin; Satyarth Praveen, Zexuan Xu, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Alexander Lavin, Pasteur Labs; Milad Memarzadeh, NASA Ames Research Center; Haruko Wainwright, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Paper# 23266** - **Track 9** - “Heat-generating Radionuclide Waste Transport Modeling for Potential Borehole Disposal in the Negev Desert, Israel” Authors: Katherine Swager, Dolan Lucero, Hakim Boukhalifa, Michelle Bourret, Giles Boussod, Philip Stauffer, Los Alamos National Laboratory; Noa Salaban, Ofra Klein-BenDavid, NRCN; Martin Dangelmayr, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Rani Calvo, Itay Reznik, Ravid Rosenzweig, Geological Survey of Israel

**Paper# 23408** - **Track 9** - “Leveraging Machine Learning and Imaging Technologies for Autonomous Container Inspection” Authors: Steven Lukow, Ross Lee, David Grow, Joseph Hafen, Jonathan Gigax, Los Alamos National Laboratory

**Paper# 23166** - **Track 11** - “SMR LEU+ Very Long-Lived Once-through Fuel Cycle Spent Fuel Inventory Reduction Verification” Authors: John Bess, Gray Chang, Mie Hiruta, Julie Foster, JFoster and Associates, LLC

**Paper# 23362** - **Track 11** - “Advances on LWRs Plutonium Multirecycling Solutions” Authors: Cecile Evans, Orano; Pierre-Henri Louf, Yolanda Rugaruma, Framatome; Guillaume Vaast, Herve Billat, EDF; Francois Sudreau, Christine Chabert, CEA

**Paper# 23432** - **Track 11** - “Examining the Criticality and Dose Rate Aspects of Spent PBR Fuels in Storage and Transportation” Authors: John Wing, Ivan Maldonado, University of Tennessee; Gordon Peterson, Robert Joseph, Idaho National Laboratory
Each year, WM and its supporters recognize and present awards to several individuals based on their contributions in radioactive waste and radioactive material management. We are excited to announce that we are accepting nominations for WM2025 for the following awards:

**WM FELLOW AWARD**

The WM Symposia (WM) established the honor of Fellow in 2011. The objective is to recognize volunteers for distinguished contributions to the advancement of radioactive waste and radioactive material management. Elevation to the status of WM Fellow is attained through peer recognition and confirmation by the WM Board of Directors (BOD). Newly elected WM Fellows are formally inducted into WM Fellowship by the President of WM.
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WM YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Started in 2017, WM Symposia presented a new award to recognize “Young Professionals” in our field. The objective is to annually recognize one young professional for their distinguished contributions to the advancement of radioactive waste and radioactive material management. Elevation to the status of “Young Professional” is attained through peer recognition and confirmation by the WM Board of Directors (BOD).

WENDELL D. WEART
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Wendell D. Weart Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes the long-term commitment of the recipient to solving major nuclear waste challenges, which may include education, research, public policy, or implementation of solutions for managing nuclear wastes and whose actions have contributed to the resolution of significant nuclear waste management issues. This award is sponsored by Sandia National Laboratories.

PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) AWARD

WM Symposia has established the WM Program Advisory Committee Award to annually recognize an individual whose outstanding contributions have helped make and keep the annual Waste Management Conference the world’s premier conference on the management and disposal of nuclear waste.

WM/ASME SARGE OZKER AWARD

Named in honor of M. Sacid (Sarge) Ozker and established in 1980, this award is bestowed for distinguished service and eminent achievement in the commercialization of nuclear power/energy with particular emphasis in the field of radioactive waste management. It is presented by the Nuclear Engineering Division - Radwaste Systems Operating Committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

BEST ORAL PRESENTATIONS

WM recognizes the two best oral presentation/papers from the previous year’s conference. The American Nuclear Society (ANS) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) presents an award for the best presentation/papers.

BEST POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Judges select the best poster/paper based on technical quality and preparation of the work. Each track selects the best poster/paper for the best of conference.

Nominations for 2025 can be submitted online at www.wmsym.org.

2025
Funds generated from your support to the Roy G. Post Foundation will provide educational scholarships for students throughout the world pursuing an education in nuclear radwaste management and provides assistance for students to participate in the annual WM Conference.

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