Table of Contents

Message From the Chair ........................................................................................................... 2
New YMG Slogan! ........................................................................................................................ 2
Awards ...................................................................................................................................... 3
  Nomination Deadline July 1 ................................................................................................. 3
  YMG Excellence Award ....................................................................................................... 3
  YMG Advancement Award .................................................................................................. 4
  ANS Landis Award ............................................................................................................... 5
How YMG Can Help You Organize a Session or Panel at a National Meeting ...... 6
Graduate Students Now Automatic Members of YMG ....................................................... 7
2015 Waste Management Symposium ................................................................................... 8
ANS Winter Meeting in Anaheim ............................................................................................. 8
References ............................................................................................................................... 9
Message From the Chair

Dear YMG members,

It is a pleasure and an honor to serve as your current chair. I started my term in June, in the midst of major exciting changes within ANS and within the Young Members Group. At the June meeting we voted to establish a new scholarship in honor of the late Hans Loewen, son of former ANS president Eric Loewen, and a change in bylaws to allow graduate students to become automatically members of YMG (see article by Ben Holtzman for more information).

This latest change in particular provides exciting opportunities and challenges. With this influx of new members and energy, our future cannot look brighter. But, how do we integrate more fully graduate students into the life of our group? This will be a major focus of my term.

The integration of graduate students is really part of a broader issue: how do we ultimately become more relevant to our members? In recent years, at every YMG EC meeting, we have been asking this question in particular: how can we produce value to members that do not attend ANS meetings? This is the second major topic I would like to focus in my term, with a particular attention to students in the process of graduating.

If you have any ideas on changes or new activities that might help YMG progress in these two directions, feel free to contact me. We will soon start a formal process to collect ideas to invest our funds effectively.

I would like to conclude this message with a brief thought. Most of us have experienced in our career a few instances where we felt at a disadvantage and not taken seriously because of our age. That cannot be further from the current attitude at ANS. Since I have been chair and during my tenure as vice-chair I must say that the leadership of ANS and the staff, have gone the extra length to support, promote and help the young member’s cause. That is not to say that things cannot be improved: they can. But the ball, as they used to say, is in our court.

Elia Merzari
Principal Nuclear Engineer, ANL

New YMG Slogan!

On that note, you may recall our slogan contest featured on the ANS Café Blog [3]. Well, the results are in! The Young Members Group has officially arrived at a new Slogan!

New Generation, New Ideas, New Nuclear

Thanks to everyone who voted!
Awards

Nomination Deadline July 1

One excellent way to honor an exceptional colleague is to nominate them for one of the two ANS YMG awards. YMG is lucky to have exceptionally accomplished members and supporters. We hope that many of our deserving colleagues will be nominated before the award nomination deadline of July 1. We hope that you will consider honoring one or more of your colleagues with a nomination.

Nominating a deserving colleague requires some dedication. The nominating colleague is expected to write a narrative summary of their nomination, to collect letters of endorsement from other supporters of the nomination, and to supply a resume for the candidate.

While nominating a candidate for an ANS award requires a modest time investment, the meaning of such a gesture to both the nominator and the candidate cannot be overstated. Read on for more information about ANS YMG awards and winners this year.

YMG Excellence Award

The Young Member Excellence Award [1] recognizes “a young member who has demonstrated overall excellence in a variety of areas.” It is granted to an actively involved ANS YMG member who “advances the goals of the ANS YMG, displays outstanding non-technical skills as well as technical or managerial ability, is recognized by others in their field, demonstrates high quality and safety standards, and positively represents nuclear science and technology to the general population.”

This year, YMG is delighted to announce that Professor Rachel Slaybaugh is the recipient of the 2014 Young Member Excellence Award. Prof. Slaybaugh obtained a BS degree in nuclear engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 2006. She then received MS and PhD degrees in nuclear engineering from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2008 and 2011, respectively. During her career, she has advanced the state of computational neutronics methods and has been a distinguished young leader in the American Nuclear Society, having held over a dozen elected and appointed positions within ANS.

Just two years after receiving her PhD, she became an Assistant Professor of Nuclear Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. Her swift ascension to this distinguished position directly reflects the quality of her research contributions and the extent of her dedication to the field. Rachel Slaybaugh holds herself, her colleagues, and her students to a rigorous standard of excellence that is essential to the advancement of nuclear science and technology.
In her new position as an Assistant Professor of Nuclear Engineering, it is clear that she will continue to be a dedicated champion of nuclear science and technology in her professional service. In particular, she prioritizes positive outreach to the public (demonstrated most recently in a Reddit AMA!).

Professor Slaybaugh is an exceptional young leader in ANS and an outstanding, accomplished nuclear engineer dedicated to a high caliber of research and service in nuclear science and engineering.

**YMG Advancement Award**

*Contributed by: Harsh Desai*

The **Young Members Advancement Award** [2] “recognizes an individual or group that has made a significant contribution towards integrating young members into ANS as a whole.”

This year, YMG is proud to announce that one of the original founding members of YMG, **Dr. David Pointer** is the recipient of the 2014 Young Members Advancement Award.

Dr. David Pointer will be awarded the Young Members Group Advancement Award at the 2014 ANS Winter Meeting for his significant contribution towards advocating for young members in the Society. Dave has consistently been a strong advocate of young member participation in ANS, fostering leadership opportunities whether it be through Society governance or through outreach activities, and providing mentoring and guidance to the next generation of scientists, engineers, and leaders.

Dave began his professional career at the Argonne National Laboratory in 2001, where he worked for 12 years in wide variety of roles. As a nuclear engineer, he was responsible for developing computational fluid dynamic tools for fast-spectrum nuclear reactors, high-power accelerator targets, and heavy vehicle transportation systems. Within a short span, Dave was promoted to lead the high-fidelity reactor simulation initiatives, to integrate neutronics, thermal fluids, and structural mechanics to simulate realistic plant behavior. Dave relocated to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 2012 to lead the reactor performance and safety analysis team. In his current position, Dave is responsible for developing simulation tools in cohort with six national laboratories and nine universities, under the Nuclear Energy Advance Modeling and Simulations (NEAMS) program mission.

Dave has been instrumental addition to the American Nuclear Society. He has served many significant roles such as founding the Young Members Group, leading the Communications Committee, and participating on key committees, such as the Membership and Student Sections Committees. Additionally, he was elected as Chair of the Chicago Local Section for two years. Through his long-term dedication and service to the Society, Dave
never lost his focus from advocating and promoting young members.

From his consistent leadership with the Society through his involvement with the North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NA-YGN), Dave has prompted students and young professionals across the country to lead and encourage participation in national nuclear discussions. Dave has spoken multiple times regarding the importance of young generation involvement for ANS as we advocate for nuclear energy and power. Dave has strongly supported the young members in all levels of the Society’s governance, and he was a big proponent of involving the students to have their voice heard in the annual Society elections.

It is very encouraging to see many young professional members follow in Dave’s footsteps in voicing their opinions and conducting a vote to further support the Society’s mission. Dave has shown a strong track record of promoting the young members in American Nuclear Society. Dave’s dedication and service to the young members is no short of aspiring. Dave truly embodies the YMG Advancement Award!

**ANS Landis Award**
*Young Member Engineering Achievement Award*

The Landis award recognizes outstanding achievement for effectively applying engineering knowledge to yield a new principle, concept, design, safety improvement, method of analysis, or product used in the nuclear energy enterprise.

This year, YMG is proud to announce that our very own Chair, Elia Merzari, has earned the 2014 Landis award. The award was presented at the ANS Annual Meeting in Reno,

> “In recognition of Dr. Merzari’s pacesetting contributions to simulation of complex turbulent flows and multi-scale/multi-physics simulations of nuclear reactor designs.”

Elia is a principal engineer at Argonne National Laboratory and has a joint appointment between the Nuclear Engineering and Mathematics and Computation Divisions there. His efforts focus on advanced modeling and simulation.

Recognition for the technical achievements of Young Members is paramount within the driving mission of YMG and we couldn’t be more proud. Congratulations Elia!
How YMG Can Help You Organize a Session or Panel at a National Meeting

Contributed by: Brett Rampal

Young Members are some of the most dedicated ANS members and the YMG is committed to supporting all Young Members in their endeavors. One of the most frequently utilized avenues by Young Members is to organize a session/panel at an ANS conference, but many Young Members are unfamiliar with the process.

In the hopes of encouraging more Young Members to organize session/panels, your new YMG Program Chair (me, Brett Rampal), is standing by to support our Young Members. The YMG Program Chair can and will act as your interface between ANS National and any National Divisions and will do everything possible to ensure that your session/panel occurs as you desire.

Because conference programs fill quickly, Young Members need to be extremely proactive in the planning of their proposed session/panel. Sessions/panels approved by the YMG Program Chair, and subsequently, by the YMG Executive committee, will need to be submitted to ANS National at the end of the corresponding meeting 1 year prior to when the panel or session will take place (i.e. for a presentation at the 2015 Winter Meeting, the proposed session/panel will have to be submitted to ANS before the end of the 2014 Winter Meeting).

Therefore, to ensure appropriate time for review, comment, and approval by the YMG Program Chair and Executive Committee, the proposed session/panel needs to be submitted to the YMG Program Chair even earlier than submittal to ANS National (i.e. for a presentation at the 2015 Winter Meeting, the proposed session/panel will have to be submitted to the YMG Program Chair before the start of the 2014 Winter Meeting). It is important to keep these time frames and deadlines in mind, otherwise, your session/panel may not make it onto the program for the conference you desire.

Additionally, almost all YMG sessions/panels are co-sponsored by a National Division, and that division needs to be involved in the process from the beginning. The session/panel organizer can reach out to the head of the appropriate division on their own or request the YMG Program Chair do so, but this must be done well in advance of final submittal to the YMG Program Chair and final approval by the YMG Executive Committee.

Once approved by the YMG Program Chair and Executive Committee and submitted to ANS National, the remaining year between the actual session/panel and submittal will be utilized to finalize the details of the session/panel (speakers, day, etc). The session/panel organizer should remain in contact with the YMG Program chair and keep
them aware of any and all actions they are taking in support of the session/panel.

**The two most important factors of the process to remember are time and communication.**
Without allowing enough time for approval and submittal, the proposed session/panel will never occur as the organizer envisioned. Additionally, once submitted to the YMG Program Chair, it is important to remain in contact and ensure that your session has been approved following the YMG Executive Committee review.

Please submit all proposed sessions/panels to the YMG Program Chair (Brett.Rampal@gmail.com) by the above stated deadlines. And feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments!

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**Graduate Students Now Automatic Members of YMG**

*Contributed by: Ben Holtzman*

For too long, graduate students have been inadvertently marginalized due to a lack of status recognition in the American Nuclear Society, but those days are now past. The ANS Board of Directors has unanimously approved the joint Student Sections Committee (SSC)/Young Members Group (YMG) proposal to offer free YMG membership to graduate students. This is a great day for all Young Members, regardless of whether they’re still in graduate school or not.

We in the YMG have discussed on many occasions our belief that including graduate students as Young Members would be an appropriate classification and would better assist in integrating graduate students into the fabric of ANS during a crucial juncture of their careers. Well, we now have our chance. Of course, YMG will benefit from this change not only because it will bring graduate students into our organization to be among their friends and peers, but YMG will also benefit through the influx of energy and ideas of our newly incorporated peers. But how did we get here?

This change would have been impossible without the support, initiative, and drive of many individuals. The process began when a YMG/SSC special subcommittee on retaining students and the YMG Executive Committee identified a need to automatically give graduate students YMG membership as a way to address student attrition. A proposed plan of action was taken to the YMG Executive Committee, the SSC Executive Committee, and the ANS Membership Committee to explain the proposed change and attain each respective group’s endorsement. In parallel, it became apparent that the YMG rules would need to be updated to allow for such a classification of graduate students as Young Members. This wording change was developed with assistance from the ANS Bylaws and Rules Committee (BRC) and sent to YMG for approval. After YMG approved the change, the BRC subsequently approved it as well.
This rule change, in conjunction with the endorsed proposal by YMG and SSC Executive Committees and the ANS Membership Committee, allowed for a formal proposal to the ANS Board of Directors to be drafted by motivated volunteers. It was this formal proposal that has been approved granting graduate students automatic and free membership in the YMG.

Therefore, on behalf of all Young Members, let me be the first to officially welcome all graduate students into the YMG. We look forward to working with you as we continue to make our Society truly the Society of choice for all nuclear professionals.

2015 Waste Management Symposium
March 15 - 19, 2015

The annual Waste Management Symposium, a conference focused on the back end of the fuel cycle, has a poster competition, travel assistance in the form of “Student Assistant Positions”, and a competitive scholarship, the Roy G. Post scholarship. For more information about those opportunities, please see the website http://wmsym.org [4].

ANS Winter Meeting in Anaheim

The ANS 2014 Winter Meeting will be held in Anaheim, CA from November 09 - November 13. If you are planning to attend, we hope that you will make time for the many YMG-sponsored and supported activities in the program.

ANS Meeting in Anaheim : Events of Interest to YMG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Who</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>various times</td>
<td>Division meetings</td>
<td>Disney Hotel</td>
<td>All young members</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
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<td>YMG Exec Meeting</td>
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<td>Congressional Fellows Discussion</td>
<td>Disney Hotel</td>
<td>All young members</td>
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<td>13:00-16:00</td>
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<td>Disney Hotel</td>
<td>Young Professionals</td>
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</table>
References


Newsletter Prepared by
Katy Huff
YMG Secretary