

# CNTA announces Maher Scholarship recipient and essay contest winners

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is committed to supporting the rising generation within the nuclear industry through the Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship and the CNTA High School Essay Contest.



**Bianca D'Angela Cruz**

The recipient of the 2015 Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship is **Bianca D'Angela Cruz**, a student at South Carolina State University (SCSU). The scholarship is worth \$5,000.

"Cruz's academic achievements and practical experience in the nuclear field set her apart from the truly gifted group of student who applied," said CNTA Chairman Chuck Munns. "She's an outstanding example of the kind of young, energetic professionals we need to sustain the nuclear industry into the future."

A senior at SCSU majoring in Nuclear Engineering, Cruz maintained a 3.88/4.00 grade point average. She's the winner of the Department of Energy and SC State Achievers Scholarships and is a member of the Golden Key and Alpha Nu Sigma (Nuclear Science and Engineering) Honor Societies.

In addition, Cruz interned with the U.S. Navy Space and Naval Warfare System Command in North Charleston and performed research at the Department of Energy's Consortium for Advanced Simulation of Light Water Reactors project at North Carolina State University.

"I label Ms. Bianca Cruz as one of the most intelligent, scholarly, and impressive students around," said Dr. Musa Danjaji, Professor of Nuclear Engineering at SCSU. "Bianca's academic achievements and initiative, as well as her drive and ambition, always place her among the few undergraduate students that are selected to participate in engineering related projects."

Cruz envisions a bright future.

"Upon graduating, I hope to obtain two master's degrees in nuclear en-

gineering and business administration," she said. "After that, I hope to either join the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Propulsion Program and become an officer or work in the nuclear industry."

This scholarship is a joint project of CNTA and Savannah River Remediation. The namesake of the scholarship, the late Robert Maher, was the Vice President and General Manager for Strategic Mission Development at the Savannah River Site (SRS). He was a true visionary with a broad view of SRS's potential and was affectionately but accurately known as the "father of new missions at SRS" prior to his death in 2002.

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.

## CNTA 2015 High School Essay Contest

The winners of the CNTA 2015 High School Essay Contest were announced earlier this year. They included:

- **Daniel Davidson** from North Augusta High School for "An Illuminating Hope, Even in the Darkest Threat."
- **Caleb DiPrete** from Greenbrier High School for "The Answer to the World's Energy Problem is 'Nu-Clear.'"
- **Kiana Franklin** from North Augusta High School for "Medical Miracles: Isotopes in Nuclear Medicine."

The three winners were each awarded a \$1,000 prize, and their high schools each received \$500 for classroom supplies and equipment. The winners,



**Daniel Davidson**



**Caleb DiPrete**



**Kiana Franklin**

their parents, and a teacher of their choice will be guests of honor at CNTA's upcoming Teller Lecture and Banquet scheduled for October 19.

"The number of excellent essays we received for consideration this

year is gratifying," said former CNTA Executive Director Clint Wolfe. "We at CNTA are encouraged by the rising tide of interest among students towards the nuclear field. The winning essayists and their teachers are to be congratulated."

Noting that the winning essays focused on medical isotopes and electrical power generation, Wolfe commented that, "The civilian applications of nuclear science are growing around the world. Both nuclear medicine and non-carbon emitting electrical production are answering critical needs on a global basis. The nuclear industry is making our planet a safer, healthier place to live."

Besides the Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship and High School Essay Contest, CNTA sponsors other educational initiatives including the annual Teller Lecture and Banquet, monthly Up & Atom breakfasts, an interactive nucleus exhibit at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, a speakers bureau, and teacher workshops to assist middle and high school teachers in presenting nuclear science topics in the classroom.

