American Nuclear Society Student Section at The Ohio State University

October Newsletter

This Month's ANS Events:

Ohio Nuclear Workforce Panel and Lab Tours Event

Join us during National Nuclear Week on **October 20th** from 2:30-3:30 PM for tours of the NMR Facility, the E2 Center, and the Materials at Extremes Lab, and then from 4-7PM in Scott Lab N050 to hear from a panel of Ohio nuclear leaders, connect with professionals, and enjoy dinner! If you are interested in attending this event please fill out this form!

National Laboratory Panel Event

Come hear from scientists, researchers, and engineers from national labs across the country! Join us on **October 21st** from 6-8 PM in Scott Lab E100 or virtually on Teams, and bring questions for the panel, and come enjoy some free food! Please fill out this interest form if you hope to attend the event!

For more information about our upcoming events take a look at our website!

Stay Connected with the "Nuclear World" at OSU!

Graduate Research Experimental Showcase

Are you interested in graduate research? Check out The Scarlet and Gray Graduate Research and Experimental Showcase hosted by the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. To learn more about the event details check out their website!

ANS Announcements:

ANS Scholarships

Are you a undergraduate or graduate student looking to apply to scholarships? If so, check out the ANS Scholarship program on their website. Appliactions open November 1st!

Graduate Student Highlight

This month, check out the next video in our video series called Graduate Student Highlights on our instagram and website. Where we interview a graduate student each month about their research related to the nuclear field, and we learn about an instrument in their lab that they use for research. This month learn more about **Grant Switzer**, a grad student in Dr. Zhang's lab, and his research!

ANS Speaker from the Industry Event

Are you interested in attending our Speaker from the Industry Event featuring Xander Bard from Oklo? If so, please fill out his interest form, and we will see you on **November 3rd** from 6-7PM in Scott Lab E100!

FESTIM Workshop Event with Dr. James Dark

ANS is hosting a workshop on Finite Element Simulation of Tritium in Materials (FESTIM), and open source software, on November 18th with Dr. James Dark, the Lead Developer of FESTIM! If you are interested in attending this event, please complete the interest form. Stay tuned for more details as we further plan this event! No prior FESTIM knowledge is required. Open to undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, and faculty! To get an idea of what FESTIM is check out this website.

ANS GroupMe

For more information about all things ANS and a platform to connect with ANS members, join our GroupMe platform!

New ANS Executive Board

After a recent executive board election, new members of the board have been appointed! Check out our website soon to learn more about the board!

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Mike Lisa

Dr. Lisa is a Distinguished University Professor of Physics in the Physics Department. His areas of expertise include nuclear experimental physics, intensity interferometry in subatomic physics and in astrophysics. He is an American Physical Society (APS) fellow and an American Association fot the Advancement of Science (AAAs) fellow. He has recieved many awards and honors including the Sambamurti Memorial Prize Lectureship (2004), the Fullbright Scholar (2020), and the Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award (2025). To learn more about Dr. Lisa and his research check out his page on the department website.

What are some projects that you are currently working on that you are most excited about, and what can you tell us about them?

Dr. Lisa explained that some of the projects he is currently working on or has been working on involve a technique that is similar fundamentally to the Hanbury-Brown-Twiss Effect. This effect being a foundational phenomenon in physics and quantum optics where photons emitted from a chaotic or thermal light source exhibit a correlation or bunching tendency, meaning they are statistically more likely to arrive at two close spaced detectors at the same time. His main focus is to look at high energy collisions using a technique called intensity interferometry. Intensity interferometry is an astronomy technique that measures the size and structure of distant stars by comparing changes in light intensity between two separate telescopes. He has been using intensity interferometry to connect his work back to astronomy and to measure collisions seen in space. He also shared that he is currently working on a paper showcasing the first measurement of a binary system in our galaxy.

What inspired you to pursue a career in nuclear physics?

Dr. Lisa shared that his desire to pursue nuclear physics started during his undergraduate degree. He shared that in undergrad he “very much liked” the subject of physics and he excelled in it. He developed a fascination with the nuclear side of things because nuclear physics seemed to contain a plethora of phenomena that had many underlying laws and theories to investigate.

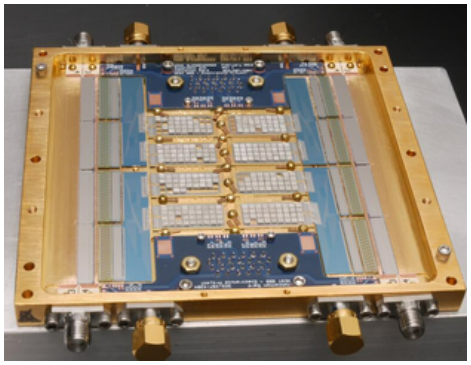
Dr. Lisa shared that though he previously was a member of the American Nuclear Society, currently, he is a member of the American Physical Society (APS). Being a member of APS has allowed him to get involved in advocacy projects to promote the field of physics. He explained that the biggest benefit to being a part of this organization is probably the ability to bring his students and trainees to conferences and meetings to present their research, and APS meetings offer opportunities for his students to network.

Do you have a favorite element or isotope?

Dr. Lisa said that his favorite isotope has to be Scandium-45. He explained that Scandium-45 is the only stable isotope of scandium. He grew to like the isotope after looking to do an experiment where he needed a monoisotopic target that didn't oxidize, didn't collide with argon and oxygen, and was relatively easy to use in a glovebox. This caused him to come to the conclusion to use his now favorite isotope, Scandium-45!

What's New with Nuclear?

NIST is Improving Nuclear Monitoring



To monitor the amount and type of nuclear materials at power plats and weapons faiclities, a unique pattern of gamma rays emitted from certain radioactive elements is investigated. However, some of these radioactive elements emit X-rays in the same energy range as gamma-ray emissions, making it harder to assess nuclear stockpiles. Now researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have measured X-ray emissions from plutonim, uranium, and neptunium with unprecedeneted accuracy. This allows researchers to filter out X-ray background noise from gamma-ray spectra.

Take a look at this article on the NIST website to learn more!

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