

President

Ron Thurlow  
21 Myrtle Avenue  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
603-773-7438 (W)  
ronald\_thurlow@fpl.com

President-Elect

Michael Whalen  
10 MacLarnon Road  
Salem, NH 03079  
617-427-2944 (W)  
mpwhalen@aol.com

Immediate Past President

Chris Martel  
306 Hayden Rowe  
Hopkinton, MA 01748  
617-638-7419 (W)  
cbmartel@bu.edu

Secretary

John Sumares  
617-427-2944 (W)  
john.sumares@state.ma.us

Treasurer

Anthony Honnellio  
617-427-2944 (W)  
honnellio.anthony@epa.gov

RETURN ADDRESS:

Publicity/Public Relations

Doug LaMay  
MIT (NW12-114)  
138 Albany Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617-253-4203  
dlamay@mit.edu

# Newsletter



## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

**Volume XXXXII No. 2**  
December 2005

*Visit our web site at [www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org).*

Program Committee

Michael Whalen  
617-427-2944 (W)

Admissions Committee

Tara Medich  
617-724-4578 (W)

Affiliate Relations Committee

TBA

Awards Committees

TBA

Cont Ed / Long Range Planning

Victor Evdokimoff  
978-456-8524 (H)

Finance Committee

Anthony Honnellio  
617-427-2944 (W)

History Committee

TBA

Student Affairs

TBA

## Volunteers needed for the 2006 HPS Meeting in Providence!

We're looking for volunteers to join the following committees: Publicity, Receptions, Social Tours, Technical Tours, and the Hospitality Suite. If you're interested in helping to make the 2006 HPS Annual Meeting a success, please contact:

Ninni Jacob at [ninni\\_jacob@brown.edu](mailto:ninni_jacob@brown.edu) or (401) 863-1738, OR

Bob Scott at [bscott@4scotts.net](mailto:bscott@4scotts.net) or (401) 322-0576.

Visit the NECHPS website ([www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org)) for more details about the annual meeting.

## The Radioactive Dating Game By Mala L. Radhakrishnan

*[This wonderful piece appeared in the March 30, 2005 issue of MIT Tech Talk, where it was noticed and brought to my attention by Hans Richter of the MIT Campus Radiation Protection Group.]*

I used to sleep 'til my electrons would drool  
At P-32 element-ary school.  
The things we were taught were just totally boring.  
A mole of us atoms would always be snoring.

But one thing I learned there I've kept to this day:  
"Soon, my students you'll beta decay  
To become more mature and to capture the label  
Of "S-32", and then you'll be stable.

And when that time comes you will celebrate  
'Cause you will be ready to graduate.  
So look around now, and count every peer.  
Today there's a mole, but you'll soon disappear."

So I watched as my friends around me decayed.  
I felt left behind, slow and dismayed.  
Abandoned by those who were thought to be deft.  
In two weeks there was but half us of left.

Meanwhile I'd hoped to impress my young lass  
But was now in the bottom half of the class.

I spent all my class time planning to court her,  
But remained, two weeks more, in the leftover  
quarter.

By two weeks more yet, and I still hadn't parted.  
Now six weeks had passed since this challenge first  
started.

What was my problem? I kept losing faith.  
The fraction of atoms left was one-eighth.

Another two weeks and my hope for love waned.  
One sixteenth of a mole of us atoms remained.  
My lass had now probably found a new mate.  
By the time I escaped here, it would be too late.

So I studied the past eight weeks with great courage.  
And suddenly a pattern started to emerge.  
I realized, from evidence existential  
That the decay of the class size was exponential.

See, every time two weeks came and then went,  
The class size went down by fifty percent.  
'Twas one mole times  $e$  to the minus  $kt$ ,  
Where  $k$  was  $\ln 2$  over 2 weeks, you see.

And "t" was the time in units of weeks  
Since the teacher that lesson one fine day did speak.  
This equation did serve as a useful tool;  
I could predict, at time  $t$ , the number in school.

But then it happened - I had my decay!  
I was S-32, and I liked it that way.  
Success carried with it the sweetest aroma,  
My electrons excited as I got my diploma,

Which oddly contained a most curious addition.  
It read: "You've earned honors and recognition  
For insightfully doing the mental athletics  
Of uncovering the inherent first-order kinetics."

When my love saw this honor she screamed out loud,  
"Oh, my brilliant darling, of you I'm so proud!  
Your wit has won over my heart in a snap.  
Let's let our orbitals overlap!"

So the one thing I learned from that school, 'twas the  
worst,  
Is 'tis not about who's quick or who finishes first.  
Everyone matures at different rates.  
But those who learn chemistry will always get dates!

## ADDRESSES NEEDED

Our addresses and contact information are outdated for the people whose names are listed below. If you know any of them, please pass along the word that we need current listings.

Members can visit the New England Chapter website ([www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org)) at any time to update their info.

Joseph Bakanauskas                      Jeonsoom Kim  
Brian Krejca                                  Gregory Wood

### **‘Radioactive Road Trip’ Draws Fire** Contributed by Bryan Lemieux

*[On 10/13, ABC aired a news report on its program “Primetime Live” about the research reactors located at university campuses in the U.S. This Associated Press article was published the next day.]*

AP – ABC News is taking heat for using college interns in an investigative report that alleges lax security at nuclear reactors on 25 U.S. college campuses, including Penn State.

The "Primetime Live" report examines how close those interns were able to get to the reactors, theorizing the facilities could be vulnerable to terrorists who could set off bombs that release radiation into the atmosphere.

ABC said its interns found unlocked doors, saw unmanned security booths and, in some cases, were given guided tours that gave them access to control rooms and reactor pools.

Officials at Kansas State and Ohio State universities expressed anger about the report before its scheduled airing Thursday.

"We are concerned that interns, college students, were placed in a position where they were dishonest about their roles and intentions," Terry King, dean of Kansas State's engineering school, said in a letter.

ABC said its interns were instructed not to lie.

Two students each from Columbia, Northwestern,

Harvard, Southern California and California-Berkeley universities were working at ABC News as part of an internship program financed by the Carnegie Corp. and the Knight Foundation. They were assigned to the project and supervised by reporter Brian Ross and his investigative team – and were picked, in part, because they looked the part.

"The day has long since passed that I could pass as a college student," said Ross, 56.

They were told to go to the reactor facilities, say they were graduate students interested in nuclear power, and ask if they could look around. They carried regular cameras, not TV cameras, and did not say they were from ABC News. They weren't being untruthful, Ross said.

Ohio State and Kansas State officials say they give tours because, as educational facilities, it's their job to spread the word about how nuclear energy is being used.

Saying the interns were able to get close to the facility is "like coming to my driveway and saying, 'Guess what? I just got into McDonald's!'" said Earle Holland, Ohio State senior director for research communications.

At Ohio State, security procedures were correctly followed, and the interns had their bags searched and held during the tour. The tour was ended because one of the interns attempted to take a placard that listed security precautions in case of a bomb scare, he said.

At Kansas State, officials anticipated the visit; word had gotten around the small nuclear research community that reporters saying they were students had approached facilities. The students were given a tour anyway, even though this was later cited by ABC as an example of a potential security risk.

The interns flirted with security officers to try to get in, said Ken Shultis, Kansas State's nuclear energy program director. The guards flirted back, since they were trying to get the interns to pose for a picture they wanted to provide to the FBI.

Both university officials said the interns should have identified themselves as being from ABC News.

"I think the ethics is somewhat questionable," Shultis said. "It's a fine point when they were trying to misdirect or mislead."

But ABC said it's likely they would have been treated differently as reporters. The point was to show how a terrorist could pose as a student and easily be a threat, Ross said.

"We were students," said Dana Hughes, a Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism student who worked on the project. "We were interested in the programs. We did not hide our cameras. We were hiding in plain sight. It wasn't as sneaky as they were making it out to be."

If all it took to get into facilities was talking like a student or flirting, "some people could find that a questionable line of defense," she said.

Alex Jones, director of the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard, which provided two of the interns, said he didn't want to prejudice ABC's report.

"I don't think there's anything wrong with finding out whether minimal security was being observed at nuclear facilities, providing you didn't misrepresent yourself," he said. "And from what I understand, none of these students did."

Ross said it wasn't a case of the interns being taught "gotcha" journalism instead of investigative journalism. The students did a great deal of research into the nuclear programs before going to the universities, he said.

The students didn't embark on the project with a specific result in mind. "A lot of them were hoping that they didn't find these stories," he said.

Two of the students have subsequently gotten jobs at ABC News and Ross said he hoped the network would hire more.

[If you'd like to contribute a piece, or even an idea for an article, contact the editor at [dlamay@mit.edu](mailto:dlamay@mit.edu) or (617) 253-4203. Submissions can be accepted electronically or as hardcopy.]

## ***American Society of Safety Engineers New England Area***

### **Professional Development Conference and Exposition**

**Date:** November 29<sup>th</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA.

**For more information visit:**

<http://region8.asse.org/newenglandarea/>

## **New Members**

If you know anyone who wants to join NECHPS, tell him/her to visit the website ([www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org)) or contact Tara Medich at 617-724-4578. As a benefit, student membership is free!

## Membership Dues

Members are reminded that you should pay your dues *as soon as possible* to ensure that your membership status remains in good standing. Dues are \$10.00 per year, however, a payment of \$40.00 will earn you 5 years of Chapter membership.

## **New Address??**

To change your address or contact information, visit the NECHPS website at [www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org). Up-to-date information will ensure accurate entries for everyone in the NECHPS Membership Directory.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Visit the NECHPS website at [www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org) for information about other local professional society meetings that are scheduled for the coming months.

## ***Vendor Night and Holiday Social***

**Date:** Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005

**Location:** Albert's Restaurant, 217 Washington St (Rt 138), Stoughton, MA 02072

**Time:** 3:30 PM Vendor Setup  
4:30 PM Registration / Cash Bar / Vendor Displays  
6:00 PM Dinner Buffet

*Bring your business cards! Visit each vendor, leave a business card, and be eligible to win prizes. The vendor raffles will follow dinner.*

**Cost:** \$25.00 Members, \$30.00 Guests, and \$10.00 Students

**To Register:**

*Mail registration to:*

Mike Whalen, Jr.  
10 MacLarnon Road  
Salem, NH 03079

OR call (617) 427-2944 x2020

OR e-mail [michael.whalen@state.ma.us](mailto:michael.whalen@state.ma.us)

***Please note, you can make payment up to and including the night of the event (pay "at the door"); however, no matter when you make payment, you must register beforehand AND you are responsible for payment if you register but do not attend.***

---

**Directions:**

*From 128 N or S:*

Take exit 2A, 138 S, Stoughton. Remain on 138 S for about 4 miles. Albert's is on the right (the address is 217 Washington Street).

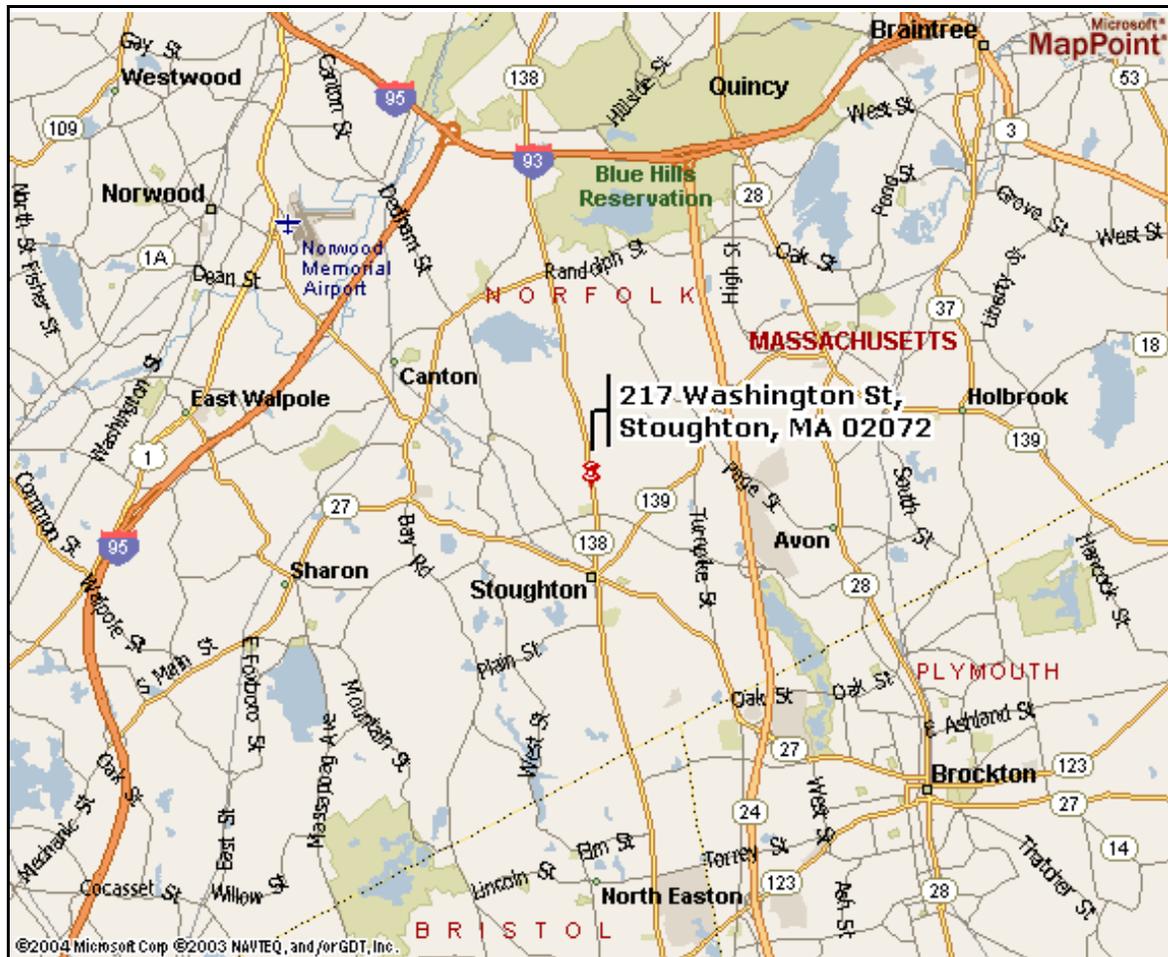
*From 24 N or S:*

Take exit 19 B, Central Street. Follow Central Street to the intersection of Central and Route 138 (Washington Street). At the intersection, take a right. Albert's is a short distance past the intersection on your left.

**For additional information please call Albert's at: (781) 344-1800.**

## DIRECTIONS TO ALBERT'S

Route-138 (217 Washington Street)  
Stoughton, MA 02072



### Directions:

#### From 128 N or S:

Take exit 2A, 138 S, Stoughton. Remain on 138 S for about 4 miles. Albert's is on the right (the address is 217 Washington Street).

#### From 24 N or S:

Take exit 19 B, Central Street. Follow Central Street to the intersection of Central and Route 138 (Washington Street). At the intersection, take a right. Albert's is a short distance past the intersection on your left.

For additional information please call Albert's at: (781) 344-1800.