

that would be for the position of science in Germany after the victory.”

All this is very different from Heisenberg's repeated assertions, after the war, that he had come to Copenhagen in 1941 to ask Bohr to mediate a voluntary abstention from nuclear-weapons work by physicists on both sides, and that he never had any intention of giving Hitler an atomic bomb. In his unsent letters, Bohr does offer Heisenberg something of a face-saving excuse: “During the course of the war, such a wise person as yourself must gradually have lost faith in German victory. . . . I can therefore understand that perhaps at the end you may no longer have recalled what you thought and said during the first years of the war. But I cannot imagine that . . . you should have forgotten what arrangements [you had made] with the German government authorities.”

BERTRAM SCHWARZSCHILD

NEWS NOTES

Abraham approves Yucca Mountain.

The ongoing battle over the creation of a nuclear waste repository in Nevada's Yucca Mountain moved into a new phase in January when Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham notified Nevada officials that he was recommending development of the site to President Bush. In both a phone call and a letter to Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn, Abraham cited national security and energy security as reasons for his decision. The Republican governor, a long-time opponent of the project, said tersely, “This decision stinks.”

The federal government has spent 14 years and \$4.5 billion studying the feasibility of burying some 77 000 tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste from power plants and the nuclear weapons program in the mountain. But determining if the waste might contaminate the environment, particularly groundwater, over a period stretching out 10 000 years or more has proven very difficult.

If President Bush approves the project, Guinn has the legal right to veto it, which he is expected to do. The issue would then go to Congress, where the Nevada congressional delegation, including Democratic Senator Harry Reid, the deputy majority leader, has worked hard to stop the project.

If the House and Senate override Guinn's veto, the first waste could be delivered to the mountain in about 2010.

—JLD

AGU journals online. In January, the American Geophysical Union began publishing online all of the peer-reviewed research articles that had previously appeared only in bimonthly, monthly, or quarterly printed journals. The print version remains available, but the online articles are the official record for citation purposes. Articles are uploaded on a daily basis, allowing for fast access to new geophysical research. The online version also includes content not available in print, such as videos, databases, and animations. “A big difference between AGU and other societies is that a lot of our members are interested in articles that can be found in one or more of the 27 topic areas from AGU journals,” says Judy Holoviak, AGU deputy executive director. “Not only can they [members] access any AGU journal,” she adds, “but now they have the option to customize what articles they receive, which would have been economically impossible in print.” More information concerning costs and availability can be found online at http://www.agu.org/pubs/agu_jour.html.

—ACT

Medical physics fellowships. Undergraduates who want to find out more about medical physics can do so through summer fellowships offered by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Six undergraduates

will each be awarded a stipend of \$4000 and be matched with a medical physicist at a university, hospital, or radiological company to participate in a research project or assist in clinical service for 10 weeks this summer. To be eligible, students must have completed at least two years of college and



RAY LUSE

UNDERGRADUATE SHANNON TREIS (left) with mentor Ray Luse at the Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington, where Treis worked last summer, the first year of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine's new undergraduate fellowship program.

be pursuing a degree in physics or a related field in science or engineering. The application deadline for both students and mentors is 15 March 2002. For more information, see http://www.aapm.org/announcements/summer_undergrad_fellow.

—TF ■



Web Watch

<http://world-nuclear.org>
<http://www.nei.org>

Two nuclear industry organizations provide a wealth of information about nuclear energy on their Web sites. The UK-based **World Nuclear Association**, a group



composed mostly of nuclear power companies, offers detailed and comprehensive information about nuclear power generation and all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle. The US-based

Nuclear Energy Institute, another industry group, also provides information about nuclear power, as well as information on the medical and food-safety uses of nuclear energy.

<http://www.astro.wisc.edu/csma>

Through its revamped Web site, the American Astronomical Society's **Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy** seeks to enhance the participation of underrepresented minorities in astronomy. CSMA's semiannual newsletter *Spectrum* is available on the site, as are other resources for minority astronomers.

<http://tycho.usno.navy.mil>

One of the responsibilities of the US Naval Observatory is the precise determination of time. How the USNO discharges this responsibility is the subject of the **Time Service Department of the US Naval Observatory Web site**, which also includes notes on the global positioning system and on the history of timekeeping at the USNO.



To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please e-mail us at ptwww@aip.org.

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