Account of the accident

“On Wednesday, March 28, 1979, 36 seconds after the hour of 4:00 a.m., several water pumps stopped working in the Unit 2 nuclear power plant on Three Mile Island, 10 miles southeast of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Thus began the accident at Three Mile Island. In the minutes, hours, and days that followed, a series of events – compounded by equipment failures, inappropriate procedures, and human errors and ignorance – escalated into the worst crisis yet experienced by the nation’s nuclear power industry.

The accident focused national and international attention on the nuclear facility at Three Mile Island and raised it to a place of prominence in the minds of hundreds of millions. For the people living in such communities as Royalton, Goldsboro, Middletown, Hummelstown, Hershey, and Harrisburg, the rumors, conflicting official statements, a lack of knowledge about radiation releases, the continuing possibility of mass evacuation, and the fear that a hydrogen bubble trapped inside a nuclear reactor might explode were real and immediate.”

In this conference, several Penn State units join forces with external experts to address the historic TMI accident and the complexity of catastrophic events, in the nuclear sector and beyond, which lessons were learned, and what the perspectives are in the era of Homeland Security. On the 35th anniversary of the crisis, this conference is centered on challenges for civil security and the ways complex catastrophic events have been and continue to be attended to by industry experts, scholars, activists, and the public at large. The conference includes global and cross-disciplinary perspectives. It addresses important questions about how TMI set a precedent for nuclear security and safety, how it informed research, and how the event provided a catalyst for social change. Conference participants will engage in analyses of the event and its ramifications from the point of view of different fields of expertise, their personal stories of how they experienced the TMI crisis of 1979, and the ways that policy has been shaped since the crisis to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from complex catastrophic events.

Agenda

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014

2:30 - 3:15 p.m.  Registration and coffee service starting
Permanent coffee break offered throughout the day
(courtesy of the Program Office of the inter-college Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security)

3:15 - 3:25 p.m.  Welcome remarks
Mukund S. Kulkarni, Chancellor, Penn State Harrisburg
Steven A. Peterson, Director, School of Public Affairs, Penn State Harrisburg
Catherine A. Surra, Director, School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Penn State Harrisburg

3:25 - 3:30 p.m.  TMI@35 in comprehensive perspective: Conference rationale, program overview and expected outcomes
Alexander Siedschlag, School of Public Affairs, Penn State Harrisburg; Chair, inter-college Master of Professional Studies Program in Homeland Security, Penn State World Campus; Chair of the TMI@35 Organizing Committee

3:30 - 4:00 p.m.  Opening keynote speech:  Three Mile Island revisited
Dick Thornburgh, former Governor of Pennsylvania (1979-1987); former Attorney General of the United States

4:00 - 4:15 p.m.  Questions and Answers

4:20 - 5:00 p.m.  Keynote addresses
The TMI accident 1979, the TMI intrusion incident 1993, and enhancements to the Commonwealth’s emergency preparedness and response capabilities post-TMI
Mark S. Singel, The Winter Group; former Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania

Constant change demands resilience
James M. Loy, Chairman of the Penn State Homeland Security Advisory Council; former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security; former TSA Administrator; former Coast Guard Commandant
5:00 - 5:15 p.m. Questions & Answers

5:20 - 6:40 p.m. Oral history panel: Personal recollections of the TMI accident and its implications
Convenor: Betsy Hancock, Penn State Harrisburg, School of Public Affairs

• Introductory presentation: “We’re in for real”
  Kevin J. Molloy, (ret.) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Integration Center, Incident Management System Integration Division; Dauphin County Civil Defense Director at the time of the TMI accident

• J. Samuel Walker, former historian of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

• Catherine A. McCormick, School of Humanities, Penn State Harrisburg

• Paula Kinney, CM&W: Concerned Mothers and Women

• Todd Bacastow and Dennis Bellaﬁore, Dutton e-Education Institute, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, Penn State, University Park

• Heidi N. Abbey, Archivist and Humanities Librarian and Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections, Penn State Harrisburg Library

6:40 - 6:55 p.m. Questions & Answers

7:00 - 7:40 p.m. Keynote address: Thirty-five years and five meltdowns later – The real lessons of Three Mile Island
Arnie Gundersen, Fairewinds Energy Education

7:40 - 7:50 p.m. Questions & Answers

8:00 - 8:30 p.m. Reception hosted by Penn State Harrisburg

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2014
(Anniversary date of the 1979 accident)

3:30 a.m. Information on external event:
Candlelight vigil to commemorate the partial-core meltdown at TMI

This yearly event may be of interest to TMI@35 conference participants. It takes place at the North Gate, Three Mile Island (Route 441/Canal St./River Road, Middletown, PA). There will be a moment of silence at approximately 3:53 a.m. (the time of the accident). Attendees are asked to bring a candle and park quietly on nearby side streets so not to disturb the residents of the area. The vigil is followed by a breakfast at Capitol Diner, 88 Eisenhower Blvd.

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration and coffee service starting
Permanent coffee break offered throughout the day
(courtesy of the Program Office of the inter-college Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security)

9:00 a.m. Opening

9:00 - 9:20 a.m. Keynote speech: Crisis Communication
Harold Denton, President Carter’s personal adviser for the Three Mile Island accident; former Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

9:20 - 9:35 a.m. Questions & Answers

9:40 - 10:00 a.m. Keynote speech: An historical retrospective on the Three Mile Island accident
Robert Walker, former Member of Congress, Pennsylvania 16th Congressional District

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Questions & Answers

10:20 - 11:45 a.m. Roundtable: TMI 1979 in perspective – Changes and challenges in nuclear security and safety
Host: Andrea Jerković, CEUSS | Center for European Security Studies, Sigmund Freud University Vienna/Austria
Kevin J. Molloy, (ret.) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Integration Center, Incident Management System Integration Division; Dauphin County Civil Defense Director at the time of the TMI accident

Thomas F. Minton, III, Director, Governor’s Office of Homeland Security, Harrisburg, PA

Scott Portzline, Three Mile Island Alert

Robert Jacobs, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University/ Japan (via Skype): The Global Hibakusha Project on the social and cultural legacies of radiation exposures in families and communities

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Questions & Answers

12:00 p.m. Opening of the “Nuclear Expressions” exhibition in the Penn State Harrisburg Library Archive
The exhibition displays 35 carefully selected ephemera and documents from the 1979 TMI accident, as well as from its consequences in emergency management and local public culture.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch hosted by the Penn State Harrisburg Homeland Security Advisory Council

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Panel: TMI and the comprehensive approach to crisis management – Cross-disciplinary perspectives
Chair: Hannah Spector, Penn State Harrisburg, School of Behavioral Sciences and Education
• Ken Miller, Hershey Medical Center
• Stephen Couch, Penn State Schuylkill
• Alexander Siedschlag, School of Public Affairs, Penn State Harrisburg
• Richard Young, School of Business, Penn State Harrisburg
• Sandra Prince-Embury, The Resiliency Institute of Allenhurst, LLC.

2:30 - 2:45 p.m. Questions & Answers

2:50 - 3:30 p.m. Presentation: TMI and anti-nuclear activism
Holly Angelique, School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Penn State Harrisburg; Marci Culley, Department of Social Sciences, College of Coastal Georgia

3:35 - 4:35 p.m. Student panel: Policy of nuclear energy supply – History and developments since TMI
Convenor: Michael Passiment, School of Public Affairs, Penn State Harrisburg; President, Penn State Harrisburg Current Events Club
• Michael Passiment, Graduate Research Assistant, School of Public Affairs, Penn State Harrisburg; President, Penn State Harrisburg Current Events Club
• Xun (Ella) Fang, Graduate student in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, Penn State Harrisburg
• Andy Dessel, Senior undergraduate student in the Bachelor of Science program in Public Policy, Schreyer Honors student, Penn State Harrisburg

Discussants: Holly Angelique, School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Penn State Harrisburg; Marci Culley, Department of Social Sciences, College of Coastal Georgia; Katie Taylor, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

4:35 - 4:50 p.m. Questions & Answers

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Presentation: The great unescape: Three Mile Island, Fukushima, and beyond
Hannah Spector, School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Penn State Harrisburg

5:30 - 5:40 p.m. Questions & Answers

5:40 - 6:00 p.m. Keynote speech: TMI - Lessons learned for emergency response
David Allard, Director, Bureau of Radiation Protection, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

6:00 - 6:10 p.m. Questions & Answers

6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Concluding roundtable: Challenges ahead — What we did (not) learn from TMI for the era of Homeland Security
Chair & discussant: Göktuğ Morçöl, School of Public Affairs, Penn State Harrisburg
• Marci Culley, College of Coastal Georgia, Department of Social Sciences
Bios

Heidi N. Abbey, M.A., M.L.S., is the Archivist and Humanities Reference Librarian and Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections at the Penn State Harrisburg Library in Middletown, PA. She holds a B.A. in art history and biology (Juniata College), an M.A. in art history (University of Maryland), and an M.L.S. in archives and records management (University at Albany, S.U.N.Y.) Prior to joining the faculty at Penn State in 2006, Ms. Abbey worked at the University of Connecticut in the Art and Design Library and as U Conn’s first Digital Collections Librarian in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. Her research interests are in the areas of American popular culture, especially motherhood and weddings, archival advocacy and outreach, as well as museum studies. She has published in the peer-reviewed journals Art Libraries Journal and Archival Issues, and is currently working on a publication about the history of Penn State Harrisburg that will be completed by 2016, just in time for the college’s 50th anniversary.

David Allard is the Director of PA DEP’s Bureau of Radiation Protection; responsible for the accelerator, x ray, environmental surveillance, nuclear safety, radiological emergency response, radioactive materials, decommissioning / site clean-up, low-level waste and radon programs within the Commonwealth. He is the Governor’s official liaison to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and a Commissioner for the Appalachian States Low-level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission. Mr. Allard received a bachelor of science degree in Environmental Sciences from SUNY Albany and a master of science degree in Radiological Sciences & Protection from the U Mass - Lowell. He is certified by the American Board of Health Physics, a Fellow of the Health Physics Society, and, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors’ official liaison to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement. Prior to joining DEP in February 1999, he was a consultant to the U.S. Department of Energy on environmental and occupational radiation protection for eight years. Mr. Allard has been involved in the various aspects of governmental, industrial,
reactor, medical and academic radiation protection for 36 years. He serves as a member or advisor on several national radiation protection committees, has authored numerous professional papers and reports, and lectures frequently on a wide variety of radiation protection topics and concerns.

Holly Angelique, Ph.D., is a Professor of Community Psychology at Penn State Harrisburg. She has been a faculty member since 1996 and has been coordinating the M.A. program in Community Psychology and Social Change since 2005. She teaches in the areas of community psychology, women’s studies and environmental issues. Her research examines the ways in which social power manifests along the lines of privilege and oppression. Toward that end, she has developed two substantive research niches: (1) public participation around environmental problems, and (2) feminism and the intersection of marginalized identities. Her research has been published in academic outlets including American Journal of Community Psychology, Journal of Community Psychology, Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology and Gender and Society. Much of her research has focused on community mobilization and activism at Three Mile Island.

Todd S. Bacastow, Ph.D., is a Professor of Practice for Geospatial Intelligence in Penn State’s College of Earth and Mineral Sciences and the director of Penn State’s Geospatial Intelligence program. Before joining Penn State in 1994, Dr. Bacastow served in a variety of US Army infantry, engineer, and geospatial intelligence positions. He was previously an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Computer Science and an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at the US Military Academy. He holds a B.S. in Engineering from the US Military Academy, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Geography from Penn State. Todd was born and raised in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Dennis J. Bellafiore, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer for Penn State’s Geospatial Intelligence Program. He worked for thirteen years at Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC), including as the global account manager of its largest corporate end-user customer, as manager of sales & marketing for total quality management, and as international strategic marketing director of office document systems for the company. Over the past twenty years, he has served as an organizational change consultant, as president and chief operating officer of a technology-leading digital-print book manufacturer, and as a strategic marketing consultant with a recognized geospatial information company in Lancaster, PA. He is a member of the Academy of Management and Sigma Xi.

Stephen R. Couch, Ph.D., (Professor of Sociology and Professor of Science, Technology and Society) is Director of Academic Affairs at the Schuylkill Campus of the Pennsylvania State University. After receiving an undergraduate degree in music from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, he remained at Oberlin College for an M.A. in sociology. His doctorate in sociology is from Binghamton University. An award-winning teacher and researcher, Dr. Couch is co-author or co-editor of four books and has written over thirty published research articles, most of them dealing with environmental sociology and technological hazards. He has presented the results of his research at conferences throughout the United States, as well as in Europe, Mexico and Japan.
Marci R. Culley, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Psychology in the college of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the College of Coastal Georgia (CCGA). Dr. Culley’s research is focused on individual, community, organizational, and institutional responses to environmental hazards. She is interested in citizen participation in environmental decision-making, environmental justice, and the links between individual transformation and larger community and social change processes. In particular, she investigates psychosocial responses to environmental disputes and how citizen participation processes are shaped by power dynamics. She is also interested in how psychologists can inform change efforts aimed at the human-caused environmental crises related to global climate change. Her research interests in this area are rooted in the rich experiences that she has had working in communities that have dealt first hand with a range of environmental hazards, including benzene and other toxic chemicals, radiation, and naturally occurring asbestos.

Harold R. Denton was Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for almost a decade. He was appointed by President Carter as his personal representative at the TMI accident site and worked closely with Gov. Thornburgh. He has visited most U.S. power reactors and many nuclear facilities worldwide. He earned a B.S. degree in nuclear engineering from NC State College, did graduate work at the Univ. of MD and received many recognitions including one at the Univ. of PA Middletown graduation in April 1979. Before joining the Atomic Energy Commission, he was employed as a reactor physicist by the DuPont Company at the Savannah River Plant in SC. Since retiring, he has consulted for national and international clients, including the US Dept. of Energy National Labs, the National Science Foundation and private power companies. In 1980 President Carter presented him with the Presidential Distinguished Executive Award for extraordinary accomplishment and leadership. He was awarded the James M. Landis Medal by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 2006 for outstanding personal performance related to the operation of major electric stations using nuclear fuel. In June of 2009 he received the Walter H Zinn Award from the American Nuclear Society for outstanding contributions to the advancement of nuclear power.

Andy Dessel is currently a senior at Penn State Harrisburg. He is majoring in Public Policy with a minor in Communications. He recently was awarded the Kenneth Masters Award for excellence in Public Policy. Andy serves the student body through several campus leadership positions. He serves as President of the Lion Ambassadors organization. He also currently serves as the Harrisburg student representative to the university Faculty Senate. He was elected as the Student Government Association Senate Leader and as a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. During the 2013-2014 school year, Andy served as the New Student Orientation Coordinator. Andy was selected as the recipient of the Penn State University/USA Today Student Leadership Award. He also is a member of the university wide Schreyer Honors College, Andy is completing his undergraduate thesis where he is exploring the impact of social media on political campaigns and elections.

Dane Egli, Ph.D., is a National Security and Homeland Security senior advisor at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland, and author of a new book, “Beyond the Storms: Strengthening Homeland Security & Disaster Management to Achieve Resilience.” He is a career Coast Guard officer who served on the White House National Security Council staff (2004-2006) as Director for Counterterrorism, and President George W. Bush’s advisor on hostage rescue and global counternarcotics. He also served as Senior...
Xun (Ella) Fang, B.A., obtained her undergraduate degree in History from Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China. She currently is a graduate student in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Penn State Harrisburg. Her interest is in nonprofit organization management.

Arnie Gundersen, M.A., is Chief Engineer, of Fairwinds Energy Education. He has more than 40 years of nuclear power engineering experience. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) where he earned his Bachelor Degree cum laude while also becoming the recipient of a prestigious Atomic Energy Commission Fellowship for his Master Degree in nuclear engineering. Mr. Gundersen holds a nuclear safety patent, was a licensed reactor operator, and is a former nuclear industry senior vice president. During his nuclear power industry career, Arnie also managed and coordinated projects at 70 nuclear power plants in the U.S.

Betsy Hancock, B.A., brings more than 25 years of experience in senior level administrative, communication and governmental affairs positions managing complex issues and organizations. She currently serves as a Lecturer in the undergraduate Homeland Security minor, and Internship Coordinator/Curriculum Liaison for the Intercollege Masters in Professonal Studies – Homeland Security (iMPS) at Penn State Harrisburg. Additionally, she is a Principal with Deep Water Point, an information technology consulting company based in McLean, Virginia. Betsy previously held the position of Deputy Director of the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She also served as a Senior Director of Business Development for General Dynamics Information Technology in Fairfax, Virginia. She worked at the Department of Homeland Security/Transportation Security Administration as the Director of Special Projects in the Office of Transportation Vetting and Credentialing. As part of the Administration of Governor Tom Ridge, Betsy was appointed as Deputy Secretary of Enforcement in the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Earlier in her career, Betsy served in the U.S. Department of Transportation as the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and at the Peace Corps where she was the White House Liaison. Betsy began her career in Washington, D.C. on Capitol Hill, serving as Legislative Director for Congressman Bob Walker. A native of Hershey, Pennsylvania, Betsy is a graduate of Shippensburg University.

Robert Jacobs, Ph.D., is a research associate professor at the Hiroshima Peace Institute at Hiroshima City University in Japan. He is a historian of the cultural and social aspects of nuclear technology. He is the author of The Dragon’s Tail: Americans Face the Atomic Age (2010), which has also been translated into Japanese (2013). He is the editor of Filling the Hole in the Nuclear Future: Art and Popular Culture Respond to the Bomb (2010), and co-editor of Images of Rupture in Civilization Between East and West: The Iconography of Auschwitz and Hiroshima in Eastern European Arts and
Andrea Jerković, Ph.D., is the director of the CEUSS | Center for European Security Studies at Sigmund Freud University Vienna, where she is working as principal investigator for the EU projects VITRUV (“Vulnerability Identification Tools for Resilience Enhancements of Urban Environments”) and AEROCEPTOR (“UAV based innovative means for land and sea non-cooperative vehicles stop”). She also was senior researcher in the EU project FOCUS (“Foresight Security Scenarios: Mapping Research to a Comprehensive Approach to Exogenous EU Roles”). After graduating in British and American Studies as well as German Studies from Leopold Franzens University (Innsbruck, Tyrol), she earned a Master of Public Administration from the Hans Sachs School of Advanced Studies, WWEDU World Wide Education (Wels, Upper Austria). She received her doctoral degree from Sigmund Freud University. Andrea Jerković is also member of the advisory board, Cologne Forum for International Relations and Security Policy. She was subcontractor for an end-user survey in the Austrian national security research programme KIRAS at the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) in Vienna. Moreover, she was the head of organization for the European Security Conference Initiative (ESCI). Her research has focused on culture as an analytical concept (changing the public perception of European Security) as well as on concepts of the International Community and the European Union in state-building missions (conceptual problems of military and civil co-operation related to the comprehensive approach).

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D., became the Chancellor of Penn State Harrisburg in 2010. He joined Penn State Harrisburg in 1985 as a faculty member in the School of Business Administration. He received his education in India and the United States and has earned M.A., M.B.A., and Ph.D. degrees. Dr. Kulkarni has held several administrative positions at Penn State Harrisburg. Prior to becoming chancellor, he was senior associate dean for academic affairs from 2006-2010. He had served as director of the School of Business Administration from 1996-2006. During Dr. Kulkarni’s tenure, Penn State Harrisburg has experienced substantial growth in student population. In support of enrollment growth, he has overseen the successful introduction of new degree programs, expanded teaching and learning support to faculty, and developed and executed plans to upgrade instructional technology and improvements to classroom facilities. Also under his leadership, campus-wide outcomes assessment efforts have expanded throughout all academic units as well as across co-curricular programs. In addition to his administrative appointment, Dr. Kulkarni holds the rank of professor of finance. He is published widely in various academic journals and other publications and has presented his research at scholarly conferences. He has delivered lectures and provided consultations to other business schools, government agencies, and non-profit organizations, and he has valuable corporate experience in the commercial banking industry.

Catherine A. McCormick, M.A., has been a full-time Instructor of Communications and Humanities with Penn State Harrisburg’s School of Humanities since 2008. Prior to starting her career in college teaching, McCormick served as Director of Communications for JPL Creative in Harrisburg and in Pittsburgh as an Education Coordinator for Carnegie Science Center. In March of 1979, McCormick (then Musser) and her family were official evacuees from the five-mile radius surrounding Three Mile Island. After three weeks of staying with family outside the area, she reluctantly agreed to return home, and became an enthusiastic anti-nuclear power activist with Three Mile Island Alert. McCormick served on TMIA’s steering committee, and because of her work with TMIA, appeared in the film We are the Guinea Pigs: Three Mile Island and the Catastrophe of Nuclear Power, and is quoted in Robert Leppzer’s book and audio documentary Voices from Three Mile Island: The People Speak Out.

Kenneth L. Miller, M.S., CHP, CMHP, is Emeritus Professor of Radiology and former Director, Division of Health Physics at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center of Penn State University. He has authored over 600 presentations, scientific exhibits and publications (including 18 books). He is a Distinguished Emeritus Member of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements and has been a delegate to the International Radiation Protection Association. He served on the Board of Directors and as Parliamentarian of the Health Physics Society; a member of the American Board of Health Physics; the American Board of Medical Physics; the Panel of Examiners for the American Board of Medical Physics. He was Editor-in-Chief of Health Physics and Editor-in-Chief of Operational Radiation Safety. The University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health named him a Distinguished Alumni and the Delaware Valley Society for Radiation Safety of the Health Physics Society presented him with their Meritorious Achievement Award. Upon his retirement from the Penn State Hershey Medical Center the Chair of Radiology was endowed in his name. He currently lives in Hershey, Pennsylvania with his wife Carole and their three dogs, Breeze, Breena and Angel.

Thomas F. Minton, III, M.A., M.A., heads the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security. Previously he served for 22 years in the FBI, where he investigated major terrorist attacks including the bombings of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City and the American Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. He also led one of the FBI’s first regional Cyber investigative components. In 2001 he was selected to lead a significant portion of the investigation into the September 11, 2001 Attacks on America. More recently Minton investigated the criminal cases against those held at Guantanamo Bay and later represented the Department of Justice in the writing and implementation of Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD8), a major evolution of the homeland security mission. Minton is a native Pennsylvanian and a graduate of Lycoming College in Williamsport. He has earned Master’s Degrees from Saint Joseph’s University and from Princeton.
Kevin J. Molloy, Retired from DHS-FEMA National integration Center as Senior Project Officer. Molloy has over 40 years’ experience in the Emergency Management field at the local, state and federal levels. He served as Dauphin County coordinator during the Three Mile Island Nuclear Accident in 1979. Molloy a guest lecturer at the US Army War College, has provided the military assistance in training and exercise activities to the US Central Command and US Army South in the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean Areas of Operations. Molloy was the first accredited FEMA Master Exercise Practitioner. He completed the National Defense University Reserve Component National Security Course, Air Force University (ECI) Air Command and Staff College and numerous emergency management related courses.


Michael Passiment is currently pursuing his Masters degree in Public Administration. He is an honors graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Public Policy. Michael’s interests include policy analysis and government organization. He also serves as a graduate research assistant in the Penn State Harrisburg School of Public Affairs. In addition to his academic schedule, Michael maintains an active extracurricular schedule. He is currently serving as President of the Penn State Harrisburg Current Events Club, as well as Chief Justice of the Penn State Harrisburg Student Court. He is the 2013 recipient of the Kenneth W. Masters Award in Public Policy and the Ralph Dorn Hetzel Memorial Award for excellence in scholarship, citizenship, and leadership.

Steven A. Peterson, Ph.D., received his doctorate in political science from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1974. He began his academic career at Alfred University, where he worked until 1997. In July, 1997, he was named Director of the School of Public Affairs at Penn State Harrisburg. In addition, he was named Professor of Politics and Public Affairs. In the past he has served as President of the New York State Political Science Association as well as the Northeastern Political Science Association. Dr. Peterson has published extensively, with over one hundred publications and numerous books or monographs. His areas of research are varied—from the study of American public opinion to American politics to state and local politics to the politics of the courts to public policy issues, especially AIDS policy and education policy, and to the exploration of the linkage between biology and politics. Among his other professional interests are American elections. His books reflect his varied academic interests, from textbooks on state and local politics and American politics to research reports on the political behavior of the elderly, how our everyday lives and experiences affect our political views and behaviors, the relevance of biological concepts and findings for our understanding of politics, the politics of policy analysis, and the threats to the widespread emergence and maintenance of democracy throughout the world.
Scott Portzline has researched the issue of sabotage and terrorism of nuclear power plants for thirty years. The New York Times reported that his 1993 testimony to a U.S. Senate Committee explained how publicly available documents become a “how to book” in the hands of a saboteur. On several occasions, Portzline has served his country by successfully seeking the removal of sensitive documents which he found on governmental websites and portals. One report described the most damaging manner in which an aircraft could strike a nuclear plant. Other documents showed the exact locations of dangerous radioactive materials used by industries and universities. Portzline’s research has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security and the various military branches. He has been a frequent guest on national radio programs and featured on NBC’s “Dateline.” He also maintained a database on lost and stolen nuclear materials in the United States which the “US News and World Report” utilized for an article on “dirty bombs.” Portzline has researched more than 40,000 pages of documents on the Three Mile Island core melt from the National Archives and other public document rooms.

Sandra Prince-Embry, Ph.D., is a licensed Clinical Psychologist serving children, adolescents and adults for thirty plus years. Currently Director of the Resiliency Institute of Allenhurst, she is engaged in research, writing and consultation regarding personal resiliency and related topics. Dr. Prince-Embry is the author of numerous articles and chapters, the developer of the Resiliency Scales for Children and Adolescents (RSCA; Prince-Embry, 2007), co-editor of two recent volumes on resilience and served as Senior Research Director for Pearson Assessments for many years. In addition, Dr. Prince-Embry served as Assistant Professor of Psychology at Penn State Capital Campus from 1980-1987 where she worked with community members to organize and present the Three Mile Island Health and Environmental Information Series and engaged in research on community response to technical disaster.

Alexander Siedschlag, Ph.D., is Professor of Homeland Security and Public Health Preparedness at Penn State Harrisburg, in a joint appointment with the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Penn State Hershey College of Medicine. He is also Chair of Penn State’s inter-college Master of Professional Studies Program in Homeland Security (iMPS-HLS). Further, he is a senior guest lecturer at NATO School Oberammergau/Bavaria (Germany). Educated as a political scientist, Alexander Siedschlag received his doctoral degree from University of Munich (Germany) and his post-doctoral (”habilitation”) degree from Humboldt University Berlin (Germany). He was most recently Professor for Security Research and Director of the CEUSS | Center for European Security Studies at Sigmund Freud University, Vienna (Austria). Alexander Siedschlag contributed to the creation of the Security Research theme in the European Union’s 7th Framework Program as a reviewer and Rapporteur, as well as working group member of the European Security Research and Innovation Forum (ESRIF). He further was founding member of the jury of the Austrian Security Research Program KIRAS. Later on, he served as the coordinator and principle investigator of the European Union co-funded security research project FOCUS (2011-2013) on foresight security scenarios to plan for research in support of “European Union 2035” security roles, and their technological, social, and other requirements. This project brought together thirteen partners from eight countries, including big industry, SME, academia, and think tanks. It also included transatlantic workshops with DHS and FEMA. For the FOCUS project, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency honored Alexander Siedschlag as an “Austrian Champion in European Research”. In his recent scholarly work, he has concentrated on strategic cultures and security cultures; scenario foresight; methods of civil security research; disaster management, including the use of new social media; as well as on civil-military relations in crisis management. He has so far authored six monographs, over 100 articles, and edited twelve anthologies.
Mark S. Singel, President & CEO of The Winter Group, LLC, served as Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania from 1987 through 1995 and, for a period of time, Acting Governor of the Commonwealth. The only person in Pennsylvania history to serve as Acting Governor, Singel received high marks for his stewardship. He led the state by enacting the first modern workers’ compensation reform package, refinanced the state’s park system through the “Key 93” program, and helped launch the high-tech era with landmark telecommunications legislation. He was also instrumental in reducing state and local taxes, the implementation of a statewide 911 emergency phone system, and the creation of thousands of new jobs in recycling and environmental technologies. He was the original author of the state’s mortgage assistance bill that has saved 35,000 Pennsylvania homes. Prior to his terms as Lieutenant Governor, Singel served six years in the Pennsylvania State Senate and was chief of staff to two members of the U.S. Congress. Singel ran for U.S. Senate in 1992 and for Governor in 1994. He served as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party from 1995-1998 and was the President of Pennsylvania’s Electoral College in January, 1997. He was an elected delegate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention. Singel founded The Winter Group in February, 2005 and has developed it into one of the most effective and prestigious government relations firms in the state. He continues to provide consulting services to clients in retail, hospitality and gaming, manufacturing, technology, energy, nonprofits, and health care fields. Singel served as chairman of Governor Ed Rendell’s Transition Executive Committee and maintains strong personal and political ties with leaders at all levels today. A magna cum laude graduate of Penn State, Singel continues to serve as an adjunct professor at the Harrisburg campus. He has served on the Boards of Penn State and St. Francis Universities and holds several honorary doctorate degrees. Singel is consistently listed as a key operative at the state level and is a regular commentator on local and statewide political broadcast programs. He is a sought-after speaker at both political and academic events and is active in numerous community and philanthropic activities. Singel has been married to Jacqueline for over 34 years and has three children: Allyson, Jonathan, and Christopher. He has two grandchildren: Thomas and Felicity.

Hannah Spector, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of education at Penn State Harrisburg. She earned her doctoral degree from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, in Curriculum Studies. Her dissertation was a conceptual analysis of cosmopolitanism and education, which centered largely on the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster as a world risk turned global catastrophe. Drawing largely from the writings of political theorist Hannah Arendt, Dr. Spector’s research interests center on the interplay between politics, ethics, and education.

Katie Taylor is a 2009 graduate of the Community Psychology and Social Change Program where she concentrated her research in environmental justice and long-term Three Mile Island antinuclear activism. She has presented her thesis, Redefining Activism: Resilient Connectedness Explored Amongst Long-Term Antinuclear Activists, at the Society for Community Research and Action’s Biennial Conference in 2009 and has published her theory of resilient connectedness in The Community Psychologist in 2007. Taylor taught ecofeminism and activist organizing in the Women and Gender’s Studies Program at Elizabethtown College for three years as well as organized ecofeminist antiviolence research at the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape since 2008. Over the past ten years, she has been an active member of the Society for Community Research and Action’s Environmental Justice Committee, the Three Mile Island candlelight vigil protests as well as local food justice organizations. Taylor is the 2014 recipient of the Community Psychology and Social Change Behavioral and Education Department’s Distinguished Services Award for her contribution to Community Psychology.
Dick Thornburgh, J.D., is currently counsel to the international law firm of K&L Gates LLP, resident in its Washington, D.C. office. He previously served as Governor of Pennsylvania, Attorney General of the United States under Presidents Reagan and George H. W. Bush and Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, during a public career which spanned over 25 years. Following the unprecedented Three Mile Island nuclear accident in 1979, Governor Thornburgh was described by observers as “one of the few authentic heroes of that episode as a calm voice against panic.” As Attorney General of the United States (1988-1991), Thornburgh established strong ties with law enforcement agencies around the world to help combat drug trafficking, money laundering, terrorism and international white-collar crime. An honorary Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he chaired a panel of the National Academy of Public Administration examining the FBI’s post-9/11 transformation process and served as a member of the FBI Director’s Advisory Board. During his service as Under-Secretary-General at the United Nations (1992-1993), Thornburgh was in charge of personnel, budget and finance matters. His report to the Secretary-General on reform, restructuring and streamlining efforts designed to make the United Nations peacekeeping, humanitarian and development programs more efficient and cost-effective was widely praised. A native of Pittsburgh, Thornburgh was educated at Yale University, where he obtained an engineering degree, and at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he served as an editor of the Law Review. Thornburgh served as Director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government (1987-1988) and has lectured on over 125 other campuses. Dick Thornburgh’s autobiography, Where the Evidence Leads, has been published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in both hardback (2003) and paperback (2010) editions. Thornburgh, is married to Ginny Judson Thornburgh, a former schoolteacher from New York, who holds degrees from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The Thornburghs have four sons, six grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

Robert S. Walker, U.S. Congressman, 1977-1997; Former Chief Deputy Republican Whip & Chairman of House Science Committee; NASA Distinguished Service Medal Recipient. A dynamic, visionary and inspirational speaker, Bob Walker was known for his oratorical skill when he served ten terms in the United States Congress. Along with close ally Newt Gingrich, he is credited with helping lead Republicans to control of the Congress in 1994. Walker served as Chief Deputy Republican Whip, Chairman of the House Science Committee, Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee and Chairman of the Republican Leadership. Walker was instrumental in creating the nation’s commercial space and hydrogen programs. He co-authored the first legislation on climate change to become law. He was the first sitting Congressman to be awarded NASA’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal. Upon retiring from Congress, Walker became President of The Wexler Group (now Wexler and Walker), arguably Washington’s most respected advocacy firm, and today serves as its Executive Chairman. For more than forty years, Walker has been a Washington insider and it is that experience and expertise that he is able to convey in an entertaining and informative way. His ability to translate for audiences the intersection between technology and the future makes Bob Walker a fascinating addition to any gathering.

Richard R. Young, Ph.D., holds a B.S. in Operations Management from Rider University, M.B.A. from the State University of New York at Albany and a doctoral degree from The Pennsylvania State University. Prior to academia, Dr. Young was Corporate Purchasing Manager at the Sprague Electric Company, and held supply chain management positions at American Hoechst Corporation/Hoechst Celanese. Dr. Young has addressed audiences worldwide including Belgium, Canada, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Switzerland. He consults for clients in chemicals and plastics, steel and coke, industrial and automotive components, international airlines, railroads, consumer goods, state government, and U.S. military. He has served on a panel for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, been a Fulbright scholar, accepted to practice before the Federal Maritime Commission, awarded the National Defense Transportation Association’s Distinguished Educator Award, and named a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport. At Penn State’s Center for Supply Chain Research, he has been principal investigator for industry consortia benchmarking global trade processes, private railcar fleets, and transportation. He recently led a team developing a maritime industry process map for the U.S. Defense Department.
Selected books


“Technological Accidents,” “Three Mile Island” (152-156).


Selected articles


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**Selected government reports**


Selected videos

*Meltdown and Three Mile Island* (1999)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIWfQTkR6y8

*Three Mile Island Nuclear Accident Documentary Film* (with interviews)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeAX5TuXoY

*Modern Marvels: Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Station Meltdown* (History Channel) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Vua6uuJO_c

Selected websites


Three Mile Island Emergency (Dickinson College) – virtual museum and resource center http://www.threemileisland.org

Three Mile Island Alert (activist website) http://www.tmia.com

Miscellaneous


In the introduction, “What a New Governor Should Know” (p. 10), the link between homeland security and emergency management, and the Three Mile Island accident, is explained in the context of homeland security governance and delivering to citizens’ expectations, with Governor Thornburgh’s comprehensive responsibility during the TMI accident used as the example.

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Nuclear Expressions: The Three Mile Island Nuclear Crisis of 1979 Mirrored in Popular Culture

28 March – 30 May 2014

Selected Three Mile Island (TMI) Materials from Private Collections and from Archives and Special Collections at the Penn State Harrisburg Library. This exhibit features an eclectic mix of books, newspapers, rare and unusual ephemera, and everyday popular culture items that illustrate local and contemporary reactions to the TMI crisis of 1979 and its aftermaths. The objects displayed, several of which were produced around Middletown
or within Pennsylvania, include a board game and pin-back buttons, t-shirts and postcards. Many of the items reflect the response to the accident by public authorities. Several items capture the psychological anxiety and anguish that the accident created locally and worldwide, while other objects, such as the “Original Canned Radiation” and the “React-or’” board game, provide a glimpse into the various ways that people tried to cope with and make sense of the worst nuclear power accident in U.S. history. In commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the TMI crisis, this archival exhibit is comprised of thirty-five objects on loan from private collectors, and includes materials donated by People Against Nuclear Energy (PANE) to the Penn State Harrisburg Library’s Archives and Special Collections.

The exhibit is on display in Penn State Harrisburg Library’s Archives and Special Collections reading room. I was set up on the occasion of the TMI@35 conference.

List of items in the exhibit

2. “Aerial View of 3-Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station, units #1 and #2…” Color postcard printed by Jo-L’ic Enterprises, Harrisburg, PA, ca. 1979. On loan from a private collector. This postcard is considered rare and unique as it depicts all four of the cooling towers in operation.
8. “3 Mile Island, Middletown, Pa.” Yellow plastic coffee mug, ca. 1980s. On loan from a private collector. This item was offered for sale at the original Three Mile Island Visitor’s Center, which is now closed.

19. *TMI-2: Challenge the Myths*. GPU Nuclear Corporation Communications Department, 1994. Film. From the Three Mile Island Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Penn State Harrisburg Library.


27. Collection of two pin-back buttons, including one designed by artist Jules Feiffer, “They Lie,” ca. 1980s. From the People Against Nuclear Energy (PANE) Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Penn State Harrisburg Library.

29. Correspondence, 1980. Penn State Harrisburg Provost Theodore L. Gross to faculty regarding students’ concerns over conditions at Three Mile Island. From the Three Mile Island Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Penn State Harrisburg.


32. “TMI 30” Poster, 2009. From the Three Mile Island Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Penn State Harrisburg Library.


Further reading


