Health Physics at Georgia Tech: A Student/Faculty Perspective

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Objectives

• Provide a look into the early days of the health physics program – a student’s view

• Provide a look into the more recent past of the health physics program – a faculty member’s view

• Include a few anecdotes from both experiences
Fall of 1967

• **Initially** – a very small program

• **Small faculty** – Professors Chambers, Eichholz and Roberts

• **Support of other faculty** – Professors Fetner, Tsivoglou, and Wagner

• **Small group of students** – mostly on leave from the military, government agencies and national laboratories
Students

• Lt. John W. Duley – U.S. Navy
• Arthur L. Krohn – Clarkson University
• Patton H. McGinley - Academia
• George E. Pettigrew – U.S. EPA
• John W. Poston, Sr. - ORNL
• Chester L. Wakamo – Industry
• William E. Wilkie – ORNL
Fall of 1967

• Nuclear engineers and health physics students in many of the same classes
  – Small classes with great faculty
  – More esprit de corps
  – Opportunity to learn from the experiences of each other
  – Lasting friendships
Activities

• ANS Student Conference
  – Dealing with the FBI
• Edward Teller Colloquium
  – Brash students
• Secretaries Week
• 8 AM classes
• Faculty/student motorcycle gang
  – Camaraderie
1977 and beyond!

• Larger student enrollment – lots more women students
• Nearly 30 health physics graduates per year
• Outstanding health physics faculty –
  – Melvin W. Carter  Geoffrey G. Eichholz
  – Bernd Kahn  Karl Z. Morgan
  – Patton H. McGinley  John W. Poston, Sr.
• Outstanding Nuclear Engineering faculty
Activities

• Racquetball ladder
  – Secret of the year

• Co-ed softball team
  – Team name
  – We won a few games

• End of the year party
  – Presents for faculty members
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<td>Abdelmadjid Aissi</td>
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Achievement

In 1975-76, the School was renamed:

The School of Nuclear Engineering and Health Physics!!

Finally, some recognition for our program!
Our Fate

- Merged with the School of Mechanical Engineering
- Morgan retires
- Poston to Texas A&M University
- Carter retires
- McGinley full-time at Emory University
More to the Story:

Those who came after must finish the history.