Introduction

Welcome to the Nuclear Engineering Program at Penn State. We hope your experience with us will be a very valuable and rewarding one, and will contribute to your personal and professional development. Nuclear Engineering is a challenging and rewarding major, and in your graduate research and course work you will likely have to combine knowledge from many different disciplines to achieve your goals. The faculty members are well prepared to assist you, and you will have the advantage of the experimental and computational facilities in the program, especially the Radiation Science and Engineering Center and the Breazeale Nuclear Reactor. Finally, as a high-quality research university, Penn State has many resources outside the program and the department that can serve to your benefit. We encourage you to seek out these opportunities to take full advantage of your time at Penn State.

Most of you will be faced with new situations involving changes in housing, lifestyle, community, faculty, student body and academic policies. In some cases, it will represent a complete change in culture and language. We will try to help you to get through this time of transition. The staff has experience in helping with many academic issues such as registration, locating a desk, computer policies and financial aid. Also, the continuing graduate students are a very useful source of information about the community and the University. We have prepared this handbook to help deal with some of these issues. It includes detailed information about policies, and about the Radiation Science and Engineering Center. It also contains a brief discussion of our faculty and their interests. We urge you to review this document carefully and keep it available for reference.

Nuclear Engineering may be taken as a major field of study for the Master of Science (thesis or paper), the Master of Engineering, or the Doctor of Philosophy degree. New students should go to the Nuclear Engineering Graduate Staff Assistant, LaTrisha Hough in 127 Reber Building, for the assignment of an academic advisor. Your advisor will assist you in the development of your program of study. Each student's program of study will be tailored with regard to their particular interest. Initially, your academic advisor may or may not be your research advisor depending on your research area of interest. Generally your research advisor takes over as the academic advisor when your research activity is determined. It is now a requirement that you complete a plan of study with your academic advisor during your first month of enrollment, covering your whole course of study. This program of study will be kept on file and can be changed with the approval of your advisor. To assure that you can meet with your advisor and discuss your academic program, please make an appointment prior to the desired meeting time.

The course registration process is relatively simple. You register on-line at www.elion.psu.edu. However, if you experience difficulties, contact the Graduate Staff Assistant, LaTrisha Hough. Any questions concerning registration procedures, dates and schedules should also be directed to LaTrisha. Your registration should always be in consultation with your advisor. For issues dealing with office keys, contact the Business Office in 132 Reber Building. An office area and desk can be assigned for your use if you wish and if one is available. See Jenny Houser in 127 Reber Building during the third week of the semester for their location.

Completion of a graduate degree program inevitably involves far more work near the end of the program than is anticipated. As a consequence, many students are unduly rushed just prior to their graduation to complete their scholarly paper, thesis, or M. Eng. paper. A student may have to delay graduation if there is not sufficient time for review and defense of the thesis, paper, or M. Eng. paper. Your advisor and the Program Chair must receive a copy of your paper or thesis at least one week (two weeks is better) before it is due in the Graduate School (Kern Building).

We would like to call your attention to the bulletin boards that are maintained in Reber Building and in the main hallway at the Reactor. Please scan the bulletin boards occasionally for announcements of
importance to you, such as seminars, course offerings, and social events. You are assigned a mailbox located in 242 Reber which will serve as your contact point for mail, notices and other information periodically distributed. This is one of our main communication routes to you; check it when you pass through. Our other main way to contact you is via e-mail. You are assigned an e-mail address when you join Penn State. Please check it often at one of the computer labs. You can also access it at home if you have a computer by using software furnished by the Center for Academic Computing (CAC), located in 2 Willard Building.

All graduate students in the Nuclear Engineering Program are required to participate in the seminar program, NucE 590 Colloquium, which includes seminars by graduate students, faculty and outside speakers. These seminars form an important part of your program and will provide you with instruction not only by your fellow students and our faculty, but also by prominent people in the nuclear engineering field.

A word about our local chapter of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) is appropriate here. Our student chapter is a focal point of professional and social activity for students and faculty in Nuclear Engineering. The ANS organizes seminars, conducts field trips under Nuclear Engineering Program auspices, conducts public information programs, and provides services to the Program and undergraduate and graduate students. I strongly recommend that you consider joining the chapter and actively support it. For applications, see the chapter advisor, Dr. Seungjin Kim. Likewise, I draw your attention to the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and recommend your consideration and participation in its activities.

If you have any questions or problems, please see your academic advisor. In addition, the MNE Graduate Program Office will be glad to assist you on any matter. Please make an appointment with my assistant, Ms. Juls Kralik. I would also be glad to meet with you to discuss any issues. Again, welcome to Penn State.

Dr. Arthur Motta

Professor and Chair of Nuclear Engineering