

Young Professionals Committee Robin Liss, Past Chair

The Ohio Section YPs continue to be very active at the State Conference in Cleveland. For the seventh year, we have sponsored a Student Paper Competition, for which we received 7 submissions from Ohio Northern University, the University of Cincinnati and the University of Toledo. This year three top winners were chosen based on abstracts submitted, were invited to present their papers at the conference, and were given a \$300 award. Another four students were invited to compete in our Student Poster Competition that awarded \$200 to the top winner.

Paper Competition Winners

Ms. Maria G. Antoniou: "Degradation of the cyanobacterial toxin microcystin-LR with thin nano-TiO₂ photocatalytic films: Reaction Intermediates." Maria Antoniou was our Fresh Ideas Winner. Fresh Ideas is program that the National Young Professionals Committee and the National MAC Committee started. Each section has the option to select a student paper winner to send to the Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE) for a student paper poster. To help fund the student's travel the Ohio MAC Committee and Young Professionals Committee will help donate. Larry Gaddis of Black & Veatch, the MAC Chair for Ohio graciously donated \$300 to the Fresh Ideas Winner. The Young Professionals Committee will donate \$623, of which \$123 was raised at the young professionals annual fundraiser, "Rubber Ducky You're The One," at the Ohio AWWA Conference & Exposition. Maria recently received her B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Cyprus. She currently resides in Cincinnati, OH and is working on her Ph.D. in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at University of Cincinnati. Maria is a member of ACS and AEESP, and upcoming member of AWWA.

Ms. Deborah Metz: "Predicting Lead Dissolution in Drinking Water Distribution Systems: Effect of Fluoride Additives on Lead Solubility and Corrosion." Debbie Metz is the Assistant Treatment Superintendent of Water Quality and Treatment for Greater Cincinnati Water Works and is currently working on her Ph.D. in environmental science at the University of Cincinnati. In addition, she has received a B.S. in Natural Science from Xavier University, a M.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Cincinnati and a Masters of Business Administration from Xavier University. Currently she is an AWWA Trustee of the Water Science and Research Division and Chair of Ohio's Strategic Planning Committee. Debbie generously donated her \$300 award to Water for People.

Mr. Rama Chennamsetty: "Ion Beam Action on Commercial Water Treatment Polymeric Membrane Surfaces: A Chemical and Morphological Characterization." Rama Chennamsetty received his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Andhra University in India, in the summer of 2003. Rama joined the University of Toledo, Ohio, as a graduate student in fall 2003. Currently, he is working with Dr. Isabel Escobar and is pursuing his Ph.D. in Chemical and Environmental Engineering. Rama is a member of AIChE and NAMS.

Poster Competition Winner:

Ms. Kathryn Johnson: "Keep the Promise, UN Millennium Goals Country Study: Haiti Slow Sand Filters." Kathryn Johnson is an undergraduate student at Ohio Northern University working on her bachelor's degrees in civil engineering and French. She co-oped with MWH in Cleveland, Ohio in 2005 and 2006. Currently she is a member of a wide variety of organizations including ASCE and SWE.

Congratulations to our paper and poster competitions winners!



Ms. Maria G. Antoniou:



Ms. Deborah Metz:



Mr. Rama Chennamsetty:



Ms. Kathryn Johnson