



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

60 Years After Creation of the Atomic Bomb, Hard Answers are Easy to Find New Web Partnership Brings Nuclear Information to Citizens, Educators

July 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of the dawn of the Atomic Age. For six decades, nuclear weapons have figured prominently in the plans and fears of nations and individuals alike. Recent events have brought concern over nuclear issues back to a level not seen since the end of the Cold War.

For people looking to form an educated opinion and to gauge a better understanding of the complexity of nuclear issues and the actions of their government, information can be hard to come by and, when found, even harder to understand.

How is a nuclear weapon made? What are the international policies about nuclear arms currently in place? How does nuclear power factor into the discussion? What can be done with nuclear byproducts? How did all of this begin? Is nuclear terrorism a real threat? Why are North Korea and Iran pursuing nuclear programs? The answers to these questions, and literally thousands of others, are answered through the newly created online collaboration, Nuclear Pathways, <http://nuclearpathways.org>.

Launched as a nuclear information clearing house, Nuclear Pathways currently integrates four sites, each with its own specialization and mission. The content of each site complements that of the others, providing access to comprehensive, and comprehensible information covering issues from the scientific to the philosophical, from the political to the historical to the ethical, and myriad other topics in between.

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The project is a component of the National Science Digital Library (<http://nsdl.org>), funded by the Division of Undergraduate Education of the National Science Foundation, and includes the following affiliated websites:

Alsos.wlu.edu

The Alsos Digital Library for Nuclear Issues is an annotated, searchable bibliography for the study of nuclear issues. The collection includes annotations of over 1,600 books, articles, films, CD-ROMs, and websites, all of which have been reviewed by members of the library's prestigious National Advisory Board. It is the site's mission to make the history and current status of nuclear issues more accessible and comprehensible to the general public as well as to students and educators in the many fields influenced by the forces of the nuclear age. Based at Washington and Lee University, the site provides specific bibliographies for the other three Nuclear Pathways sites.

AtomicArchive.com

A companion to the award-winning CD-ROM, Atomic Archive: Enhanced Edition, this site explores the science, history and consequences of the atomic age. The site describes how nuclear weapons work, the science behind them and the effects of their use. The history section chronicles the important discoveries and decisions leading up to the development of the first atomic bomb, up through recent events in today's post Cold War era. The site allows users to enrich their understanding of the people and events of the nuclear age by perusing an archive of compelling materials including photos, film clips, and primary source documents—some recently declassified—and a comprehensive timeline that marks milestones in nuclear history. The website has been acknowledged by National Science Teachers Association and Scientific America as one of the top science and historical education websites.

ChemCases.com

ChemCases.com, based at Kennesaw State University and supported by the National Science Foundation, is a collection of 13 case studies linking decision making and policy with basic chemical sciences. The site's nuclear chemistry unit, prepared by Prof. Frank Settle of Washington and Lee University, provides the fundamental physical and chemical basis for applying, analyzing and evaluating today's issues of nuclear power, waste and weapons. ChemCases.com has been cited by AAAS (through SCIENCE) and by Scientific American as one of the top science education sites on the web. Visitors have opened more than 3 million ChemCases.com pages since 2001.

NuclearFiles.org

From nuclear proliferation to nuclear testing, Nuclear Files provides access to primary source documents, historical and background information and analysis, data and graphs on everything from Hiroshima to North Korea. The site also offers biographies of key individuals, as well as a media gallery with photos, video and audio clips. The site connects educators from various disciplines, offering a resource section with study guides

and sample syllabi for various courses. Nuclear Files also features a timeline of the history of the Nuclear Age, as well as the latest developments in nuclear issues. Nuclear Files.org is a project of Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan international organization with consultative status to the United Nations.

The Nuclear Pathways sites bring together every aspect of one of the most crucial issues of our time to the people who need the information the most – ordinary citizens, educators and students.

For more information visit <http://nuclearpathways.org> or contact Jane Stewart in the news office at Washington and Lee University: 540-458-8235; jcstewart@wlu.edu.

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