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SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

SRNS Today

NNSA Administrator Returns to SRS

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome
to the September 2014 edition of
SRNS Today

Carol A. Johnson

Carol Johnson
SRNS President and CEO

Sometimes, you can learn all you need to know from a report, a photograph or a phone call. But often, a first-hand view is best.

First-hand views are at the center of many of the stories you'll see this month in SRNS Today. From interns to high-ranking officials, they've seen first-hand and learned about the many activities at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and the Savannah River Site.

In September, we welcomed Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Lt. General Frank Klotz in his second visit to SRS this year. He toured the SRS Tritium Facilities, Savannah River National Laboratory and other SRS facilities, and met many of the employees who work to support National Nuclear Security Administration activities here at the Site.

Wyatt Clark has been named SRNS Senior Vice President of Environmental Management (EM) Operations, and will be responsible for the safe execution of all EM operations at SRS. Wyatt has spent much of his career at SRS, and his hands-on experience will be an asset to our company and our missions to make the world safer.

Safety and security underpin everything we do at SRS. Our annual Safety Expo gave employees a chance to participate in a wide variety of safety-related exhibits and demonstrations. As our SRS slogan says: Safety and security begin with me!

Positive first-hand experiences are crucial for our new employees and summer interns. Nearly 400 new hires are supporting our SRNS missions, and over 100 interns gained valuable, hands-on experience that will benefit their careers for years to come.

I hope you enjoy this edition of SRNS Today. As always, thank you for your interest in Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.

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About Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina, including the Savannah River National Laboratory. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken, S.C. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our stakeholders of the company's operational and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.9584 or visit our website.

www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com

DOE Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Frank G. Klotz addresses a meeting of federal and contractor employees during his visit to SRS.

NNSA administrator returns to SRS

SRNS employees whose work supports the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) had the opportunity to meet and hear directly from DOE Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Frank G. Klotz during his return visit to SRS this month. He had come to the site in July with Secretary of Energy Dr. Ernest Moniz. This return trip allowed him more time to spend observing the work of the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) and other NNSA-related projects, as well as time to interact with employees.

"We're very proud of the quality of work that our employees do here," said Wallis Spangler, SRNS Sr. Vice President for NNSA Operations & Programs, "so we were very happy for him to have the chance to see that work first-hand."

In addition to touring SRTE facilities, Lt. Gen. Klotz toured the Waste Solidification Building construction site and part of the Savannah River National Laboratory. He also held an all-hands meeting with SRNS, NNSA, DOE and MOX employees to talk about his vision for NNSA and respond to their questions.

He told the meeting attendees that his visit had provided him "a lot of very interesting scientific, technical, engineering and construction details that are just fascinating and awe-inspiring."

> "I just want to say, on behalf of all of us at Headquarters, thank you for what you do"
>
> Frank Klotz

"But the best part of this," he said, "is just to go around and talk to the people. You've got a lot of great ideas, a lot of talent, a lot of energy, and those of us at Headquarters feed on that talent and that enthusiasm."

Lt. Gen. Klotz took note of the significant contributions that SRS makes to the nation's security, including SRTE's work with tritium, which he said "plays a very key role in our critical mission to maintain a safe, secure, effective, reliable stockpile," and the site's role in nonproliferation. "It's just absolutely imperative that we keep radiological materials from falling into the hands of bad guys," he said, noting the expertise SRS lends to nuclear material removals and the development of detection technologies.

"Everyone from the president to our leaders in Congress to our Secretary of Energy, all the way down to your leaders here at Savannah River really do appreciate the work that you do and understand its importance. So I just want to say, on behalf of all of us at Headquarters, thank you for what you do."

Defense Programs Awards of Excellence

Three teams of SRNS employees received awards presented by DOE Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Frank G. Klotz in recognition of their work on behalf of NNSA's Defense Programs. The three teams were all winners of the DP Awards of Excellence, presented each year to honorees selected by NNSA. Lt. Gen. Klotz presented the awards during the all-hands meeting he conducted during his visit to SRS.

The Automated Reservoir Management System (ARMS) Modernization Team was recognized for excellence in planning, teamwork, engineering and project execution for their successful seven-year project to replace an antiquated reservoir management system with ARMS II, a state-of-the art system that has significantly improved the productivity, reliability and efficiency of the processing and handling of Tritium reservoirs for the NNSA's nuclear weapons program.

The Electrical Heat Standards team proposed replacing the plutonium source standards used to calibrate the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise's (SRTE's) calorimeters. This effort is an example of the close collaboration between Savannah River National Laboratory and Tritium Facilities personnel. The use of Electrical Heat Standards eliminates the need to manage accountable material, reduces safety concerns presented by the plutonium sources and reduces cost.

The Tritium Universal Measurement System (TUMS) Development Team – another successful collaboration between SRNL and Tritium facilities personnel – developed, built, tested and obtained Design Authority approval of an improved calorimeter design, called TUMS, to replace calorimeters used in the Tritium Facilities. TUMS significantly reduces sample reruns, which translates into savings of approximately $211,000 annually. TUMS is also more portable, which is better suited for future modernization efforts of the Tritium Facilities.

"Bringing Home the Gold" for Innovative Programs

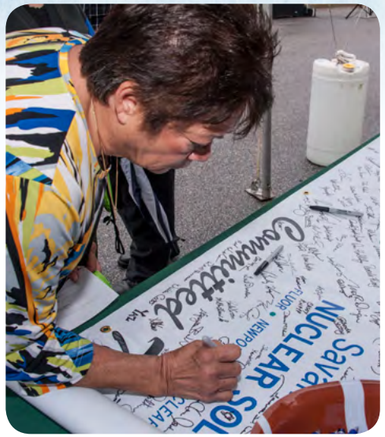
SRNS employees won three first place awards at the annual "IdeasAmerica Training Summit" in Denver, Colo. The awards recognized different facets of the SRNS employee suggestion program, Individuals Developing Effective Alternative Solutions (IDEAS).

The IDEAS and Continuous Improvement (CI) programs won gold in the "Communication Excellence" category. In 2013, the cost savings for CI and IDEAS was $54.2M. The strategies for reaching the SRNS workforce through a newsletter, user-friendly website, videos and themed IDEAS competitions merited the top award.

H Canyon Maintenance Manager David Hart won the Advocate of the Year award for being a "walking advertisement" for employee involvement. Fred Dohse, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, won gold in the Executive Leadership category for his support of the CI program and his leadership within SRNS integrated safety management.

SRNS facility operator Herb Newton received an honorable mention in the Team Idea of the Year award category for his team's plan to remove abandoned railroad tracks, steam lines and trailers, which saved the company $6.8 million.

SRNS employees Julius Nguyen (left), Raine Weimortz, Herbert Newton, Brenda Kelly, David Hart and Cynthia Boler-Melton receive awards at the IdeasAmerica Training Summit in Denver, Colo.



An SRNS employee signs the safety commitment poster.

Safety Expo 2014

SRS employees strengthen safety commitment at annual event

The 2014 SRS Safety Expo took place Sept. 25-26 at the Center for Applied Research. More than 40 interactive booths that focused on safety, security and health featured games, brochures and hands-on demonstrations to convey their messages. The Aiken County Sheriff's drug dogs and bloodhounds, WAGT 26 meteorologists, Aiken Health Source and University Heath Care Systems were some of the exhibitors from the community. The expo also featured a 30-vehicle classic car show and food vendors.

Fire safety was one of the popular exhibits at the Expo.

Gladys Moore and Michael Roper discuss the B Area Local Safety Improvement Team.

An SRS fire truck was on hand for demonstrations at the Expo.

Clark assumes leadership of SRNS EM Operations

Wyatt Clark has been named SRNS Senior Vice President of Environmental Management Operations. He is responsible for the safe execution of all environmental management operations at SRS.

Clark has 31 years of management experience in the areas of project management, operations, engineering and maintenance within complex, high-hazard nuclear chemical facilities.

Most recently, he served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Hanford Tank Farms for Washington River Protection Solutions, where his responsibilities included all aspects of operations, engineering, environmental and project execution.

Clark has spent the majority of his career at SRS, serving in positions of increasing responsibility. He was Interim Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Project Manager for Savannah River Remediation and Project Director of the Tank Farm/Effluent Treatment Plant Operations, where he was accountable for all aspects of project performance and execution for high-level waste management and processing.

He has managed shift operations at the Naval Fuels Facility and served as facility manager, chief engineer and design control and maintenance engineer since he began his career with E.I. DuPont & Nemours & Co. in 1983.

Clark is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Project Management Institute.

Wyatt Clark

Johnson addresses Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce as part of Economic Series

On Sept. 4, SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson was the keynote speaker as part of the Economic Series of the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce. Johnson discussed the ways that SRNS makes the world a safer place through nuclear materials management, and the importance of SRS to the nation, the region and the community.

SRNS safely completes dissolution of Sodium Reactor Experiment fuel

SRNS has successfully completed the dissolution of the Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE) used nuclear fuel campaign, dissolving 147 bundles of used nuclear fuel from L Area Disassembly Basin. DOE evaluated the fuel stored in L Area and determined the SRE fuel was not suitable for long-term wet storage and, as a result, authorized the processing of this fuel.

SRE was an experimental nuclear power reactor built by Atomics International (AI) at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory near Simi Valley, Calif. The reactor operated from 1957 to 1964. In 1957, SRE became the first nuclear reactor in the United States to produce electrical power for a commercial power grid. SRE was shut down in 1964. The SRE fuel slugs were prepared for disposition by AI in the late 1970s and then shipped to SRS for storage in L Basin.

"The fuel was made of a thorium-uranium alloy," said George Zachmann, Acting Environmental Management Business Manager for SRNS. "The high uranium-233 content made the uranium not suitable as feed material in the fabrication of fuel for nuclear energy power plants like the Tennessee Valley Authority, a disposition path taken with much of the down-blended high enriched uranium at the Site. DOE made the decision to dissolve the SRE fuel and directly disposition the resulting solution as waste."

The fuel was dissolved in H Canyon with other high aluminum fuel from L Area, and the resulting solution will be transferred directly to the Defense Waste Processing Facility at SRS for disposition through the vitrification process.

H Canyon plays an important role in the efforts to eliminate or minimize nuclear materials through safe stabilization, treatment and disposition of DOE's Environmental Management program's nuclear materials.

SRNS instructor Skip Johnson explains how a portable air monitoring unit functions to Dennis Huff, an Augusta Tech graduate and newly-hired operator.

387 new workers hired to support SRS missions

SRNS has hired 387 new workers over the last 12 months to support new nonproliferation and plutonium disposition missions at SRS.

"After the budget challenges of 2013, we are ready to ramp up our production and start new missions," said Paul Hunt, Senior Vice President, EM Operations. "We are staffing up a sustainable workforce for missions that go well into the 2030s."

Some of these missions include: the start-up of HB-Line Phase II that converts surplus plutonium into an oxide form necessary for known disposition paths; the receipt and subsequent down-blending of used nuclear fuel from Canada for use in commercial power reactors; K Area blend down of excess plutonium oxide for future disposition at a national respository; and start-up and operation of the K Area Final Storage Vault later this calendar year.

A significant percentage of the new employees are operators, workers who fulfill general duties and responsibilities in the area of nuclear operations. Others include a wide variety of professional and hourly positions such as engineers, lab technicians, scientists, mechanics, managers, administrative assistants and radiological control specialists. Many of these new hires are from area technical schools.

In 2013, SRNS made a $914.7 million impact on local communities, and employed 4,502 people. That number is currently 4,745. The majority of the SRNS work force lives in the CSRA, with approximately 2,500 residing in Aiken County.

"We're pleased to see that their current budget is permitting them to fill hundreds of positions to staff-up for new projects and fill other openings." said J. David Jameson, CEO/President, Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce. "It provides a much appreciated boost to our local economy as well."

It's a new era for SRNS, according to Carol Johnson, SRNS President and CEO. "We're building on our past success while looking forward to a future filled with opportunities for growth and achievement," Johnson said.

2013 monitoring report: SRS operations safe for environment, workers, public

Last year, SRS continued to safely complete goals related to its missions while maintaining its record of environmental excellence. The Site's radioactive and chemical discharges during 2013 were well below federal, state and DOE regulations and standards, set to protect the public, environment and Site workers.

According to the 2013 Savannah River Site Environmental Report, the total radiological dose from SRS releases was estimated at 0.19 mrem for 2013. This equates to less than one percent of the 100 mrem per year limit set by the federal government for radiation exposure to the public from all sources combined.

In comparison, the yearly dose to the average person living in the United States from naturally occurring radionuclides found in our bodies, the earth and received from the sun is 311 mrem. Typically, Americans receive an annual dose of 13 mrem just from using household products.

"The report confirms that operations at SRS are being conducted in a manner that protects Site workers and the environment," said Amy Meyer, Manager of SRNS Sample Data Management. "For decades, SRS has effectively and successfully worked with state and federal regulators to ensure SRS waterways and surrounding communities continue to be safe."

Employees of DOE primary contractor SRNS collect environmental samples from sources found both on and off Site. Samples are collected from neighboring cities, towns and counties located in Georgia and South Carolina. Each sample is checked for tritium and other radionuclides (radioactive atoms with an unstable nucleus), metals and other chemicals that could potentially be in the environment because of activities at SRS.

SRNS personnel collect more than 5,000 samples of air, water, soil, sediment, food products, freshwater fish, seafood, wildlife, plants and trees each year.

SRS also gathers samples at four water treatment facilities that use water from the Savannah River. Two of these facilities are located in Beaufort, S.C., one is in Savannah, Ga., and one is in North Augusta, S.C. No monitored drinking water results were over the maximum contaminate levels set by the states of South Carolina and Georgia or the EPA.

The Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 2013 is available online at: http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html.

Technicians Christy Harkins (left) and Tyler Watson repair a heating and air conditioning system at a large SRS facility. A new policy developed by SRNS supports small and minority-owned businesses and the hiring of local workers.

SRNS Mentor-Protégé Program expands, creating new jobs and long-term contracts

The SRS Mentor-Protégé Program was recently expanded by SRNS with the addition of long-term contracts. This change will greatly benefit participating small and minority-owned businesses, as well as SRNS, while boosting area economies.

The program was developed to increase the number of small businesses providing products and services at SRS, each serving as a subcontractor in support of the Site's much larger, prime contractors.

"Working with Mentor-Protégé subcontractors synergistically improves our ability to meet our contractual responsibilities to DOE," said Dawn Moore, Manager of SRNS Supply Chain Management Policy and Compliance. "At the same time, it creates numerous opportunities for our company to work closely with each of these small businesses to nurture and enhance their capabilities."

According to Moore, two more small businesses have qualified for long-term contracts at SRS.

This practical and cooperative method of doing business fosters long-term business relationships. In addition, it qualifies participating Mentor-Protégé businesses to obtain future contracts at other DOE sites and Federal agencies as they grow in experience and size.

In the past, Mentor-Protégé Program contracts have been limited in length. However, new ground has been broken with the signing of a multi-year contract with US&S of Greenville, S.C. Owned by a disabled military veteran, this small business has hired 14 local residents to perform general maintenance at SRS, supplementing the Site's existing maintenance personnel.

> "This arrangement frees up over a dozen of our SRNS mechanics to perform work requiring extensive training and certification within SRNS nuclear facilities."
>
> Doug Young

"This is a win for US&S," said Doug Young, Project Manager, SRNS Site Services. "It's also a win for 14 local people in need of a job. This arrangement frees up over a dozen of our SRNS mechanics to perform work requiring extensive training and certification within SRNS nuclear facilities."

US&S owner and general manager Richard Hagins has been pleased with the Site's Mentor-Protégé Program. "They are genuine in their desire to help small companies like ours," said Hagins.

"This program is another prime example demonstrating the Department of Energy's desire to support small, disadvantaged and minority-owned local businesses," said Dr. David Moody, Savannah River Operations Office Manager.

Some unsuspecting members of the SRS Retiree Association were surprised in September with a $5,000 SRNS corporate sponsorship for a new SRS Retiree Resource Center.

A partnership between the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG) and the SRS Retiree Association, the Center provides assistance with Medicare and health expense reimbursements problems related to SRS retiree benefits at no cost to SRS retirees.

The donation was presented by SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson to John Veldman, Chairman of the SRS Retiree Association (pictured).

"This contribution will help us provide top quality services to the retirees who spent many years of their professional lives serving our nation as they worked at the Savannah River Site," said Veldman. "We can use the money to make a difference for the retirees, but I think the fact that Carol Johnson came out here, taking time out of an incredibly busy job to meet with us, is an indication of her commitment to our new resource center."

The resource center is located at the LSCOG, a non-profit planning and development agency that provides seniors with information on aging and disability resources, offering a number of services such as assistance with obtaining Medicare benefits and transportation options for residents in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties.

SRS retirees do not have to be a member of the SRS Retiree Association to take advantage of these services. Even retirees who are under the age of 65 are eligible to meet with the center's volunteers for help with Medicare or SRS benefit options.

new resources for retirees

SRNS joins forces with SRS Retiree Association, LSCOG to provide help with retirement-related services

The SRS Retiree Resource Center is located in the Lower Savannah Council of Governments office at 2748 Wagener Road, Aiken, S.C. 29801. The center is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and appointments may be scheduled by calling the office at (803) 508-7033 or toll free at (866) 845-1550.

Robin Brigmon works with the tandem microwave setup, which can be used with metals. The set-up includes two connected commercial-grade microwaves and a laptop control system.

not for cooking dinner

SRNL, Hadron Technologies turn microwave ovens into forensic tools

Dangerous materials can be destroyed, bacteria spores can be disinfected, and information can be collected that reveals the country of origin of radiological isotopes. All this thanks to a commercial microwave modified by the Savannah River National Laboratory.

SRNL and Hadron Technologies have joined together to create a tandem microwave that is part of the next level in advanced law enforcement and health safety technology.

Robin Brigmon, SRNL Senior Fellow Engineer, said the tandem microwave, fabricated from two commercial microwave ovens, can be used for the destruction of materials ranging from harmful viruses to methamphetamine, while still allowing for the DNA or chemical analysis of the destroyed material. He said it can also be used for disinfecting wastes, sterilizing materials and modifying liquid waste to solid.

This new law enforcement tool consists of two modified microwave ovens connected together. The first microwave is the primary chamber and is used for controlled combustion of materials. The second microwave is used to further treat gases released from the primary chamber. A laptop computer with software developed at SRNL is used for precise temperature control and analysis. Unlike typical microwave ovens, this technology allows for the neutralization and evaluation of material on metals, such as handcuffs.

This technology began as the idea of retired SRNL scientist Dr. George Wicks. He saw a critical need for microwave technology that could be used with forensics, and began experimentation at SRNL. He worked extensively in ceramic engineering and microwaves and developed the invention in conjunction with researchers from the University of Florida.

The joint venture with Hadron Technologies allows this new tool to be more fully developed and used by a greater number of customers. “Private industries such as Hadron can move quickly and efficiently in the manufacturing area for commercialization,” said Brigmon. “Companies such as Hadron can take the great technology coming out of national laboratories and modify it for commercial purposes. For instance, one customer has requested a larger forensic microwave in order to treat five gallon size waste material. Hadron can do this more rapidly and efficiently in collaboration with SRNL while maintaining the high standards needed by the customer.”

“We have partnered with Hadron on proposals for potential new applications for this device. SRNL can leverage Hadron’s resources and personnel for future research and development projects, and Hadron can benefit from the technology created at the national lab,” Brigmon said.

SRNS interns complete a summer filled with real-world educational experience

A whirlwind of educational challenges and rewarding experiences filled the summer for more than 100 SRNS interns working in nuclear facilities across SRS.

Being paired with mentors holding titles such as manager, scientist, engineer and physicist made life at school seem far away and the prospect of quickly approaching post-graduate job responsibilities near.

SRNS intern Liz Johnson enjoyed the three months at SRS helping to develop a new method to analyze gasses used within the production process at the SRNS H Canyon facility.

The Georgia Regents University student, who is working on a degree in nuclear physics, explained that this effort was an important improvement initiative, upgrading equipment within the same facility that once produced nuclear material to support NASA’s deep space missions. “I got a really good view on how new processes and measuring instruments are developed,” she said. “It was exciting.”

SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson noted that Liz’s level of high quality experiences while working at SRS as an intern is not unusual. “We feel that SRNS has an obligation to help grow and train our future scientists, engineers and professionals. And our investment into these young minds brings a spark, a fresh set of ideas and additional enthusiasm to our company. In fact, we’d like our interns to return as employees sometime in the future,” she said.

The SRNS President also noted that an important goal of the SRNS internship program is to treat each intern like a full-time employee, providing a well-rounded experience.

Industrial mathematics major Ashley Elizondo, attending the University of South Carolina Aiken, stated that she obtained a new set of skills over the summer at SRS as well. “I had the opportunity to apply math and computer programming principles I learned in school to my summer internship at SRS,” said Elizondo. “I’ve learned so much.”

Nuclear engineering at the heart of local student’s internship with Savannah River National Laboratory

This summer, Augusta native Jessica Maddocks worked for SRNL’s Global Security department during her summer vacation from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Maddocks’ internship was part of the Next Generation Safeguards Initiative launched by the National Nuclear Security Administration, which was designed to develop the policies, concepts, technologies, expertise and infrastructure necessary to sustain the international safeguards system as its mission evolves over the next 25 years.

Although women are underrepresented in engineering, Maddocks is a senior majoring in nuclear and radiological engineering. She became interested in her area of study because it is “physics-heavy” and is an interdisciplinary science that encompasses mechanical and electrical engineering as well as chemistry.

Engineering interns at SRNL can become involved in diverse and challenging projects. Her work at SRNL on a typical day consisted of computing advanced mathematical calculations and programming. Maddocks recently wrote a program that would add additional lining to a bag that stored plutonium oxide.

Maddocks also worked on a scale to weigh gas centrifuges, which are used to separate uranium-238 and uranium-235 so the uranium-235 can be used to power commercial reactors. The scale is a safeguards method in the effort to curb nuclear weapons proliferation.

Maddocks describes her internship experience as highly rewarding and very helpful. “I really enjoyed my internship because I have learned a lot about nuclear engineering from interacting with my co-workers in my group. I am able to share what I have learned with my peers at school,” said Maddocks.

Jessica Maddocks interned with SRNL Global Security this summer.

Chris Verst, an engineer in the SRNL Materials Science and Technology Directorate, worked with Maddocks on several projects ranging from hands-on development and design work to computational analysis of nuclear facilities and systems.

“Her ambition and motivation, which comes from being a student at Georgia Tech, enabled her to get involved in several high-visibility tasks,” said Verst. “She assisted in the characterization of spent fuel assemblies undergoing long term wet storage in L Basin. This kind of work not only gives her a crash course in the intricate workings of the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle, but it also teaches her valuable skills which she can use to further her career upon graduating.”

SRS Welcome to the Information Pods
SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • AIKEN • SC

InfoPods in Beaufort

SRS held its third Information Pods on Sept. 22 in Beaufort, S.C., at Beaufort High School. Participants at the Information Pods attended presentations on topics including nuclear materials management, environmental monitoring and restoration, waste management and the Savannah River National Laboratory. Exhibits and poster displays were also included in the event. Pictured (from top left) are speakers Kim Cauthen of SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects; William Bates, Deputy Associate Laboratory Director for SRNL Nuclear Materials Programs; and Rudy Goetzman, Deputy Associate Laboratory Director for SRNL National Security Programs.

SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson with scholarship winner Miguel Legoas, a senior at Davidson Fine Arts School

Rockin' College Night

Photos above and below: Students and parents filled the James Brown Arena to meet with more than 140 college and university recruiters during the annual CSRA College Night.

Thousands of students and an army of volunteers make annual event a success

More than 6,000 high school students, parents and educators from the greater Aiken-Augusta area recently met with recruiters from more than 140 colleges and universities during this year's CSRA (Central Savannah River Area) College Night, held in Augusta's James Brown Arena.

"As usual, this year's attendance was impressive," said Gladys Moore, SRNS Program Coordinator. "Every year it seems like there are more parents and students. The arena was completely filled at times with students eager to obtain much needed information."

Scholarships, each worth $1,000, were awarded to 14 students during periodic drawings.

The event is now entering its third decade of service to area high school students. "Well over $250,000 in scholarship funding has been offered to the thousands of students who have attended past College Nights. The generosity of our scholarship sponsors is a major reason this event is so successful year after year," said Moore.

In addition to SRNS, major sponsors for the event were the U.S. Department of Energy-Savannah River, SRP Federal Credit Union and Clear Channel Media + Entertainment.

Most College Night volunteers are employed at SRS.

Moore also acknowledged the unheralded members of the CSRA College Night Committee, who worked together for months behind the scenes prior to the event. "They have a passion for this worthy cause that benefits so many students. Some of the members have been a part of this committee since the first few years," added Moore.

Other CSRA College Night sponsors include: Aiken County Public School Career Specialists and Counselors, WSI-Savannah River, Augusta Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Communigraphics, Augusta Marriott Hotel and Suites, South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers (Aiken Chapter) and American Association of Cost Engineers International (CSRA Section).

Aiken Rotarians updated on SRNS missions

SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson was the keynote speaker at the Aiken Midday Rotary Club on Sept. 15. Approximately 120 Rotarians heard Johnson discuss her return to the Savannah River Site. She also outlined the importance of SRS to the nation, the region and the community, and the ways that SRNS makes the world a safer place through nuclear materials management, innovation and environmental stewardship.

Johnson shares life and career experiences with members of SRNS professionals organizations

Over 100 young SRNS professionals gathered recently to hear their company's president and CEO discuss career planning and her vision for the future of SRNS.

Carol Johnson shared her background and experiences with the members of Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) and Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP). LEAP is a peer-led organization whose members are full-time employees at SRNS and have earned at least an associate's degree within the past seven years, and AMP serves SRNS full-time employees who have between five and 20 years of work experience.

"Hearing about her experiences from her early days at SRS to her time abroad in the United Kingdom at Sellafield was inspiring. It's one thing to read online or in the papers about her background in the nuclear industry and her perspective on the future of SRNS, but it's quite another to be able to ask the president of the company about career advice or her views on the future of the national lab," said SRNS employee Jessica Hall.

Johnson spoke about the importance of writing a personal 90-day plan, mapping out what you intend to learn, achieve and perform above and beyond. Upon arriving at SRS, she wrote a plan about what she wanted to accomplish during the first 90 days, including having roundtable discussions and connecting with employees.

> "It's one thing to read about her background in the nuclear industry and her perspective on the future of SRNS, but it's quite another to be able to ask the president of the company about career advice."
>
> Jessica Hall

Her plan also acknowledges the initiative for seasoned employees, which addresses knowledge transfer as well as professional development and networking opportunities for this segment of the workforce population.

During the early years of her career, Johnson grew to love operations while working for DuPont at SRS. She considers her experience with intense, high-pressure situations and solving complex problems at the nuclear facilities invaluable to her career.

"I never envisioned I would achieve this position at the Savannah River Site," said Johnson. "I know the area, the culture and the facilities, so there's not that huge learning curve. I want to make this a good place for all of you here now as well as the people who move to this area, so you can continue to work here successfully for many years to come."

SRNL demonstrates next generation solvent at first-ever 'National Lab Day on Capitol Hill'

Savannah River National Laboratory joined DOE's 16 other national labs in the first-ever "National Lab Day on Capitol Hill," an event highlighting research from across the national laboratory system. The event, held September 16, showcased demonstration projects from all 17 of DOE's national labs in five theme areas: energy innovation and environmental sustainability, manufacturing innovations, high performance computing, national security and discovery science.

SRNL's Sharon Marra was one of the participants, showing guests the impact of a next generation solvent, a chemical innovation that doubles the processing throughput for radioactive liquid waste. Successful deployment of this new chemistry is the result of a multi-year, multi-partner collaboration among national labs, contractors and university research. The innovation is removing cesium-137, a major component of the legacy radioactive waste stored in tanks across the DOE complex; it will save more than $1 billion in DOE's Environmental Management program.

"This was a really good opportunity to show not only the science and technology but also the collaboration that takes place throughout the national laboratory system," said Marra. "It's important for policymakers to understand the unique work that the 17 labs do, and I think our visitors were able to get a much better sense of the scope of our contributions."

"The national labs continue to advance science, clean energy and nuclear security in this country," said Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. "The labs also provide essential capabilities for university and industrial researchers – nearly 30,000 per year – and advance technology frontiers, such as high performance computing and advanced manufacturing."

SRNS employees gather for UW 'Raising the Steaks'

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions raised more than $3,000 for United Way of Aiken County at "Raising the Steaks" on Sept. 26. The event, catered by Outback, was held at Aiken Electric Cooperative for the first time, and more than 250 meals were served to SRS employees and special guests from the community. "I just want to thank everybody who is involved with this – all of the folks from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions who were able to sell tickets and wait tables. It could not be a successful event without everybody at the site coming together," said Sharon Rodgers, President, United Way of Aiken County. Raising the Steaks marked the end of this year's SRNS Employee United Way Campaign, which benefits nine United Way agencies in South Carolina and Georgia.

SRNS President Addresses SRS Leadership Association

Building trust is the foundation of leadership, SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson told members of the SRS Leadership Association. "Everything we do is based on trust."

Johnson addressed the association's monthly meeting as the inaugural speaker for the 2014-2015 program year. The SRSLA, which is the SRS chapter of the National Management Association, is open to all SRS federal and contractor employees with an interest in leadership development.

> "Everything we do is based on trust."
>
> Carol Johnson

Building on themes from *The Trustworthy Leader* (by writer/researcher Amy Lyman, co-founder of Great Place to Work®), Johnson explained how trust is developed through interaction and a belief in the dignity and value of all people.

People need a sense that the leaders care and respect them, she said. "If people trust and feel trusted, you have a more thriving organization and indeed a great place to work."

She also talked about her recent move into her post as SRNS president and CEO. With any new job, she said, you have to identify the issues, create a 90-day plan and then decide what you need to do to make a difference.

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