

● MAY 2021

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



# SRNS Today

## Lights, camera, action!

Spent nuclear fuel bundles get their video debut during a mock-up of an underwater inspection



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## This month

H Canyon mission • Mini Grants Program celebration • Record-breaking Heart Walk



**Stuart MacVean**  
SRNS President and CEO

**On the cover**

SRNL's Lisa Ward observes as SRNL's Kevin Counts holds a small section of test bundle against the inspection camera rig in the mock-up.

# Welcome

to the May 2021 edition of

# SRNS Today

They say, "All good things must come to an end." So too, does SRNS' corporate responsibility for the management and operations of the Savannah River National Laboratory. Next month, we complete transitioning the national laboratory to Battelle Savannah River Alliance, something for which we have been preparing for some time. However, this will not change the relationship SRNS has with SRNL. We will still be partners in our shared mission to make the world safer.

L Area employees finished underwater video inspections of non-aluminum clad spent nuclear fuel (SNF) for the first time to monitor its integrity. L Area employees also safely completed sediment removal from the settler tank for the first time in two decades, ensuring the L Disassembly Basin can remain a viable interim storage location for SNF for as long as it is needed.

H Canyon is working to make room for a new dissolver in the facility, which is needed for an upcoming mission. The upcoming dissolving campaign will add a third electrolytic dissolver, which will provide the capability to dissolve stainless steel fuel.

SRNS employees again showed their compassion and giving spirit. Site Services employee Jermaine Patterson recently partnered with SRNS to restore his childhood sports park in New Ellenton, South Carolina. SRNS also raised over \$30,000 during Celebrity Waiter Night, a fundraiser for the Children's Place, Inc.; awarded grants to 78 local educators as part of the Innovative Teaching Mini Grants Program; and donated \$40,000 to the Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County.

As we mark a new era at SRS, I sincerely appreciate the leadership of Dr. Vahid Majidi and Sharon Marra over the past few years and the professionalism and hard work of the SRNS and SRNL employees who have worked collaboratively to ensure a successful transition. I look forward to continuing to work with SRNL as we deliver on our important shared missions for the Department of Energy.

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 employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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**COMMON ACRONYMS**

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE) • Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL)



A train engine pushes a burial box full of failed equipment from H Canyon to the Solid Waste Management Facility for disposal. The equipment is being removed to make way for a new H Canyon spent nuclear fuel dissolving campaign.

## H Canyon makes room for new dissolver and new mission

SRNS employees are preparing for an upcoming campaign to dissolve stainless-steel clad spent nuclear fuel by disposing of old equipment to make room for the installation of a new dissolver and an additional double-sized tank for dissolved material storage.

"The upcoming dissolving campaign will add a third electrolytic dissolver to the complement of equipment already in use in the canyon and will provide the capability to dissolve stainless steel fuel," said SRNS Senior Vice President of Environmental Management (EM) Operations Wyatt Clark. "The current chemical dissolvers are designed to dissolve aluminum-clad fuel, so they are not adequate to support the upcoming mission."

A significant deactivation and removal campaign is underway to prepare for the mission. Timely and safe disposition of legacy equipment is essential to keep the project on schedule. H Canyon recently completed removing the first of three shipments of legacy equipment to make room for this new campaign.

"When jumpers or other H Canyon equipment fails and needs to be replaced, the failed equipment is placed in a large engineered container called a burial box, using the canyon remote cranes," SRNS Project Manager for EM Operations Richard Brown said. "Once that box is full, we secure the package, verify it is free of any radioactive contamination and transfer it to the SRS Solid Waste Management Facility for disposal."

In an effort to minimize the number of burial boxes required to remove the failed equipment, SRNS purchased a size reduction tool (i.e., cutter) and grapple system. SRNL Research and Development

Engineering provided support to this effort by designing and retrofitting the cutter and grapple controls to allow for operators to utilize the H Canyon Hot Crane to remotely operate these tools. These tools will be used to remotely reduce the size of jumpers and other large failed equipment to maximize the amount of equipment loaded into a burial box.

"We will be better protecting our workers through the use of this equipment, since the material will be cut remotely instead of in person by employees," said Brown. "While this equipment was specifically purchased for the upcoming dissolving campaign, we will be able to utilize it for future missions as well."

Preparations for the new campaign also include preparing and calibrating the double-sized tank and new dissolver with the use of a bladder tank and pump system. The use of the bladder tank and pump system speeds up the calibration process by pumping water versus using a domestic water hose to fill the 50- and 150-gallon prover tanks, which are vessels used to add a specific volume of water to the tanks being calibrated. Once a calibration run is complete, the water is pumped from the vessel back to the bladder tank, using recycled water instead of fresh water for each of the four minimum calibration runs per vessel.

The stainless-steel clad fuel is currently stored in SRS' K Area and will be shipped to the canyon for processing. Once the fuel is dissolved in the electrolytic dissolver, the resulting solution will be transferred to the liquid waste tank farms. The material will then be transferred to the Defense Waste Processing Facility where it will be made into glass and placed in an SRS storage facility for interim storage.



Workers prepare for sediment removal activities for the L Basin settler tank, an activity that hasn't been completed in almost two decades.

## Sediment removal extends life of disassembly basin

SRNS employees safely removed sediment from a tank for a basin used to store spent nuclear fuel from former SRS production reactors, and from foreign and domestic research reactor programs.

The underwater storage facility, known as the L Disassembly Basin, holds approximately 3.4 million gallons of water, with pool depths of 17 to 50 feet. The basin water provides shielding to protect workers from radiation. The settler tank is part of a filtration system used to ensure water clarity.

"It's important that the water remains clear, so operators can see what they are doing when they handle fuel under water," L Basin Deputy Facility Manager Neil McIntosh said. "Over time, the settler tank becomes full, and we have to remove and dispose of the contaminated sediment."

The last time sediment needed to be pumped from the tank, nearly 20 years ago, personnel used equipment known as a sludge processing unit (SPU), which would require expensive modernization work to use again.

L Area waste management personnel, along with SRNL and engineering support, found commercially available products to perform the sediment removal, a less expensive alternative to updating the SPU.

"After a pump removed water and sediment from the tank, a cloth-like membrane retained the sediment," McIntosh said. "This material was placed into a waste container to be shipped to the SRS Solid Waste Management Facility, and the water was returned to L Basin."

A mock-up of the removal process was created to ensure the safety and proper training of employees, as well as the viability of the removal equipment. Employees who performed hands-on work participated in several dry runs to aid procedure development and ensure correct implementation. Several lessons learned came out of the dry run activities and were applied in final planning for the removal.

"The work to remove the sediment from the settler tank will ensure L Basin's life is extended for as long as needed," said DOE Program Manager Michele O'Shaughnessy. "SRNS' collaboration, teamwork and careful planning helped ensure safe and cost-effective sediment removal."

## HPI tools reduce human error

To aid personnel in reducing the chance and/or severity of an error while performing their activities, SRS has recently taken steps to strengthen the use of Human Performance Improvement (HPI) error reduction tools.

Human performance is generally recognized as a series of behaviors used to accomplish specific tasks. HPI principles provide a systematic approach to improving individual and organizational performance.

"SRS began using HPI tools approximately 15 years ago, and while they are still used, the emphasis on their importance in everyday activities became stale over time," SRNS Conduct of Operations (CONOPS) Program Manager Daryl Smoldt said. "HPI tools provide workers with methods to help anticipate, prevent or catch errors, and we want to make sure they are accessible for all employees. To do this, we took a fresh look at how we taught and reinforced these tools and ways to make them better."

Some of the recent efforts include creating videos for employees; integrating HPI more closely with CONOPS principles; developing an HPI Sustainability plan; and establishing an HPI Lab, that is home to two HuPerT<sup>®</sup> Trainers, electronic devices that react in real time to participants who are following directions in a procedure.

"The HPI Lab is accessible to all Site employees and uses Dynamic Learning Activities to help participants understand HPI tools by using them in a fun and hands-on way," said Smoldt. "For example, one of our activities has one participant describing a specific structure built from Legos<sup>®</sup>, while another participant tries to assemble the structure without being able to see each other. This activity shows participants the hazards of imprecise communication habits, interpretation requirements, and assumptions and emphasizes the error-reduction tools of a questioning attitude, three-way communications and pre-job briefing to name a few."

HPI error reduction tools include self-checking, peer-checking, timeouts, use of the phonetic alphabet, procedure use and adherence, flagging, task preview/job site review, pre-job briefings, a questioning attitude, use of three-way communications and place-keeping. HPI tools are most commonly used by those in operations but can also be used by employees in administrative and support roles.

Click below to watch the SRS YouTube channel Lego<sup>®</sup> Dynamic Learning Activity video.



## SRNS honored for NNSA mission support



Newly-named NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager (SRFO) Jason Armstrong, left, presented the awards on behalf of NNSA.

Fifty-four SRNS personnel have been honored for outstanding accomplishments in support of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) office responsible for ensuring Nuclear Security Enterprise facilities are safely operated, effectively managed and sufficiently maintained to meet mission needs.

Each year, the NNSA Office of Safety, Infrastructure and Operations (NA-50) presents Awards of Excellence to a select group of teams and individuals who achieve significant accomplishments involving innovation, effectiveness, teamwork, overcoming adversity and enabling future success. Jim McConnell, NNSA Associate Administrator, Office of Infrastructure, Safety, and Operations, honored the SRS awardees, joining the local recognition event remotely to share his appreciation for their contributions to NNSA and its missions.

A recurring theme for the Calendar Year 2020 NA-50 Awards of Excellence was overcoming the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic to continue the vital national security work carried out on behalf of NNSA.

Honorees included:

- Savannah River Tritium Enterprise Pandemic Response Team, which rapidly developed and expeditiously deployed measures to protect the workforce while simultaneously ensuring the success of the mission to provide support for the nation's nuclear deterrent.
- 2020 SRS Deep Dive Team, which – despite the constraints of holding a complex technical meeting virtually – effectively communicated key information to enable infrastructure investment decisions.
- Restoration of Mass Spectrometers Following Water Leak Team, who enabled the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise to meet its commitments for supporting the nation's nuclear deterrent by restoring sensitive, technically complex instruments to full operation following a significant water leak.
- Savannah River Tritium Enterprise - Oxygen Monitor Completions in the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Team, which overcame several obstacles, including the COVID-19 pandemic, to replace monitors necessary for operating the Tritium Facilities in a safe and effective manner.

In addition, two individuals from SRNS were recognized for their participation in complex-wide teams. Dale Sivils of SRNL was honored for his participation in the national Planning and Business Continuity in the Face of COVID-19 Team. Richard Sullivan of SRNS was honored for his participation in a national team that analyzed HVAC systems to provide NNSA sites with strategies to further protect their workforce and help limit on-site transmission of COVID-19.

NNSA activities at SRS primarily serve two NNSA missions: managing the nuclear stockpile – including preparing the nation's tritium supply and making preparations for a proposed mission to produce plutonium pits – and nonproliferation, including the mission to permanently dispose of weapons-grade plutonium declared excess to national security.

### SRTE Pandemic Response Team

Team Lead:

**Mark Davis**

Team Members:

- Michael Collins
- Chris Garnett
- Michael Autry
- Tina Johnson
- Sonya Patton
- Deb Solomon
- Brian Lewis
- Don Bickley
- Kirsten Aylward
- Marion Cofer
- Rich Izard
- Pat Rapp

Jeffery Westergreen

- Jill O'Donnell
- Sean Lynch
- Joseph Huckabee
- Tim Bolen
- Marvin "Dex" Ray
- John Gordon
- Tim Linder
- Linda Wozniak

### 2020 SRS Deep Dive Team

Team Lead:

**Kevin Scaggs**

Team Members:

- James Angelos
- Susan Arnold
- Edwin Deshong (NNSA)
- James Epting
- Annette Gibson
- Donna Hasty
- Charles Hayes, Jr.
- Richard Izard
- Emily Kirk
- Gerald Levi
- Glenn Morton (NNSA)
- Allen Neiling
- Lana Patterson
- Robert Snyder
- Steven Wach
- Jeffery Westergreen
- Michael Willis
- Joann Wingard

### SRTE - Oxygen Monitor Completions in FY20 Team

Team Lead:

**Timothy Richardson**

Team Members:

- John Quarles
- Chris Polonski
- Robby Free
- Cary Milliner
- Mike Munie

### Restoration of Mass Spectrometers Following Water Leak Team

Team Lead:

**Bogdan M. Oliy**

Team Members:

- John A. Mims
- Garrett J. Hall
- Larry J. Olive
- Trenton L. Seigler
- Steven A. Banks
- Keith L. Leopard
- Joseph V. Cordaro
- John McIntosh

# Drones inspect closed and covered waste sites

Camera-mounted drones have been seen hovering, dipping and gliding along above the engineered covers of fully remediated SRS waste sites to ensure their continued structural integrity.

“This is a new use for our drones, and it’s had a huge impact on meeting the needs of our Federal and State regulators who annually conduct site inspections. For this aerial inspection, 10 engineered protective covers at waste facilities within SRS were inspected,” said Juana Maddox, Project Lead, SRNS Area Completion Projects. “Normally, we send out teams of employees to walk these sites, which combined can be more than 100 acres in size.”

Maddox noted that waste site infrastructure, such as signs, monitoring wells and fencing, has to be inspected as well.

“The pandemic forced us to think outside of the box and come up with a safer way to demonstrate to our regulators all is well with our engineered covers, which consist of a special geosynthetic material, soil and topped with grass sod. Nearly every one of our regulators has been working from home, and no one wants the increased risk of driving to the Site and gathering to use traditional Site inspection methods,” said Maddox. “So, we’re meeting virtually and viewing aerial footage and photos. We have high expectations that this will work out extremely well for everyone.”

All involved agree that the advantages of using drones for this purpose are significant.

“We can quickly and efficiently ensure all aspects of the remediated waste site are in good condition in a fraction of the



time required to walk the Site,” said Troy Lorier, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operations Manager and Aviation Safety Officer, SRNL. “Plus, issues such as damaged fencing, erosion or where hogs have rooted up the soil, can be quickly identified and the exact location passed on to maintenance crews.”

Lorier explained that a height of 10 to 12 feet above the ground was typically maintained during the aerial inspections while occasionally soaring up to 150 feet for a broader perspective. Because each engineered cover varied in size, time in the field lasted as little as 30 minutes and as much as four to five hours.

“Our Environmental Compliance Department five-year review was recently completed where every closure project needed to be closely examined,” said Maddox. “We greatly appreciated SRNL’s drone team, who helped us with this challenge. The regulators were pleased with the presentation and stated that this method gave them a better view than what they would have seen at ground level.”

The drone program at SRS began in 2009 during the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act when the SRNS Area Cleanup Projects group purchased the Site’s first drones. Since that time, the program has grown in size, scope of work and the number of highly experienced personnel.

“The SRNL UAS Program recently received DOE’s UAS Aircraft Unit Award for FY20, an aviation safety award recognizing our program as the best in the DOE complex in 2020,” said Lorier.

“The SRNL UAS Program recently received DOE’s UAS Aircraft Unit Award for FY20, an aviation safety award recognizing our program as the best in the DOE complex in 2020.”

Troy Lorier

According to SRNS Manager of Area Completion Projects, Steve Shirley, the five-year environmental inspection of the entire length of the Lower Three Runs watershed is about a year or two from starting. “We may be able to work with SRNL on how to use drones to cover that 25-mile stretch without having to depend on a large number of Site employees working in a difficult environment all the way down to the Savannah River.”

Drones are being used at SRS for a variety of missions including emergency response surveillance, radiation detection, aerial photography and videography, as well as counter-UAS testing and training. The number and types of drones are expected to grow over time. The sky and creativity are the limit.



SRNL employees Dalton Hare (left) and Jeff Steedley prepare a drone for flight to visually inspect engineered protective covers at remediated SRS waste sites.



SRNL's Kevin Counts attaches extensions to a camera rig to lower into the mock-up test bed as SRNL's Lisa Ward looks on.

## Through the lens

### A new approach for assessing spent nuclear fuel containers

**F**or the first time, SRNS recently completed visual examinations of non-aluminum clad spent nuclear fuel (SNF) bundles stored in the L Disassembly Basin using underwater cameras, which helped to ensure the integrity of the underwater storage systems for this fuel for an extended storage time.

Most SNF stored in L Basin is covered, or clad, in aluminum and then placed in aluminum bundles. However, a small portion of the fuel in L Basin is housed in aluminum bundles but clad in either zirconium alloy (zircaloy) or stainless steel.

“We needed a way to inspect the aluminum bundles that house non-aluminum clad spent nuclear fuel to make sure galvanic corrosion wasn’t occurring,” SRNS Augmented Monitoring and Condition Assessment Program (AMCAP) Manager Michelle Hromyak said. “Galvanic corrosion happens when two metals that are dissimilar in nature, in this case the aluminum bundles and the zircaloy or stainless steel clad spent nuclear fuel, are closely coupled underwater and one metal corrodes the other.”

AMCAP is a spent fuel program that provides non-destructive examination capabilities to aid extended safe storage of the SNF until its final disposition.

The cameras were specially selected, and tooling was designed in conjunction with SRNL to withstand the radiochemistry of the water while being submerged approximately 30 feet into L Basin.

In advance of the examinations, SRNL and SRNS developed a mock-up to test the cameras and the accompanying long-handled tools specially developed to accomplish the fuel bundle visual examinations.

“Over the next few years, we plan to continue visual examinations to ensure fuel integrity,” Hromyak said. “With SRNL’s help, we are also developing ultrasonic testing capability to validate the integrity of the fuel inside the bundles and determine if any worsening storage conditions are occurring that we cannot see with just visual examinations.”



The camera in position over the fuel bundle to be inspected in the mockup

**STREETSIDE EVENTS**



**Celebrity Waiter Night raises over \$30K for Children's Place**

SRNS recently raised more than \$30,000 in support of the Children's Place, Inc. Since 1994, Celebrity Waiter Night has been the largest fundraiser for Children's Place, Inc. Annually, SRNS shows support for this non-profit through a private event for employees and their family members.

With the COVID-19 pandemic causing many events to be postponed or rescheduled, 2021 Celebrity Waiter Night SRNS Co-Chairs Elizabeth Harm and Anne Claire Jordan put their heads together to host a socially distanced event. After the huge success from last year's car hop event, Harm and Jordan were excited to lead this year's effort in support of Children's Place, Inc.

This year's event featured a "to go" style dinner, which offered a pot roast, mashed potatoes, salad and cookie dinner prepared by Newberry Hall in Aiken. In addition to the "to go" meals, the Celebrity Waiter Night Auction was held virtually.

Harm and Jordan were very appreciative of the support for this year's fundraiser. "We are so thankful for such a giving and

supportive workforce," said Harm. "Year after year, the SRNS community comes together in support of Children's Place through Celebrity Waiter Night. Together, we make a tremendous impact on the children and their families in our communities."

"COVID-19 has affected everyone and forced many organizations to find new ways to conduct business, host events and raise funds," said Kevin Whitt, SRNS Site Training Director and 2021 Celebrity Waiter Night Executive Sponsor. "The mission of Children's Place is such a vital part of our community. We are so appreciative to everyone who purchased tickets, made donations and placed bids in our auction that helped us make a positive impact on such an important organization like Children's Place."

Celebrity Waiter Night specifically supports the Therapeutic Childcare Program at Children's Place, one of only two programs of its kind in South Carolina. The program serves children ages 18 months to five years old who have endured adverse childhood experiences and offers early childhood mental health services and occupational, speech and play therapies.



Supporters lined up outside of Newberry Hall to pick up their to-go dinners from this year's celebrity waiters.



**STREETSIDE EVENTS**



**SRNS lines up to honor Mini Grants recipients**

As part of the 2021 Innovative Teaching Mini Grants Program funded by SRNS, 78 local educators received grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 prior to participating in a recent curbside celebration.

Using this money, teachers can purchase equipment, supplies and resources to enhance their students' performances in mathematics and science.

"With this grant, I plan to purchase science kits that will allow my students to investigate and make sense of science and mathematical process skills that often elude them. The kits will help foster critical thinking, in order to plan, implement and connect science and math to the real world," said Vanessa Stone, fifth grade teacher at Millbrook Elementary School in Aiken.

The Mini Grants Program recognizes and supports projects that enhance elementary and middle school science, mathematics and technology curricula.

Typically, the grants are used to purchase project materials, hands-on kits and computer programs such as: Using Maps and Robots to

Explore Animal Shelters; Marvelous Math Stations; 3D Printing, Out of the Box Thinking; and Kindergarten Computer Coding and Connections. Educators from local elementary and middle schools (public and private) can apply for \$50,000 in mini grants, funded by SRNS parent companies Fluor, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell.

"I am forever grateful to SRNS for approving our grant," said Stone. "Without their generosity, students would not have access to the kits that are related to the fifth-grade science and math standards. The kits bring the standards to life by giving students practical experience. The Mini Grant program is extremely important to local educators, because the program serves as a way to connect with the community through this type of support."

Gladys Moore, SRNS Education Outreach, applauds the efforts of teachers who participate in the various programs offered by SRNS. She said, "By doing so, they demonstrate how deeply invested they are in making a difference in the lives of their students."

To date, more than \$700,000 has been contributed to support educators throughout the region.



Standing outside Newberry Hall, SRNS Education Outreach staff members and volunteers showed their appreciation for local teachers who received grants.

# Imagining the ‘Best Age-Friendly City’

## McCracken Middle School wins special award at Future City nationals

The Future City Finals Competition went out of this world, challenging middle-school students to design and build a model future city on the moon.

This year’s theme encouraged each team to imagine how to make life on the moon not only feasible but optimal—a topic that is pertinent to today’s news with NASA engineers currently gathering data from equipment on Mars. Like current engineers, the competitors had to research and determine how best to survive in this hostile environment.

The team’s lunar city is set more than 100 years in the future. It has already gone through many years of development. It started as a collection of lunar landers that expanded into an outpost. Gradually, it grew into a village and is now a city. The students must build on this history, describing the new, complete city.

The team representing McCracken Middle School from Spartanburg, South Carolina, took full advantage of this challenge and was rewarded with the Best Age-Friendly City award, sponsored by AARP.

“I’m pleased that SRNS and the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center can continue to offer these types of STEM-based competitions for students locally and throughout the region. It’s often at these events that students discover their future career path even with the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach.

“The team’s creativity and ingenuity combined with sound engineering design for this city in such a difficult environment was impressive,” said Jennifer Keiner, seventh grade science teacher at McCracken. “The three-level, underground model is absolutely amazing.”

Keiner also said that the teams at the international level of the finals are the best of the best, and winning this award affirms the dedication and hard work that went into the project. “It’s quite an accomplishment considering last year, they won Best Rookie Team at the regional competition and, this year, they came back and won the regional competition, earning them the opportunity to compete virtually at the international finals competition,” she added.

McCracken eighth-grader Avery Gilley acknowledged the contributions of his teammates. “Though we may not have won the competition as a whole, receiving an award on the national scale is a huge honor. The award that we got, the Best Age-Friendly City Award, is a testament to the dedication we put into the well-being of our citizens when designing our city, giving them an important place in society, even as they aged, and supporting them when they are no longer able to work.”

Future City teams are judged and scored on: The City Essay, City Model slideshow, City Presentation video, Project Plan and their response to judges’ questions.

# Field of dreams

## Site Services employee leads local ballpark restoration



Jermaine Patterson, Site Services, formed a nonprofit to help restore a sports park in New Ellenton.  
*Top inset:* Patterson and a volunteer examine the athletic facilities. *Bottom inset:* Patterson works on excessing SRNS equipment in 704-1N.

## BCBS of South Carolina recognizes SRNS wellness programs

BlueCross BlueShield (BCBS) of South Carolina recently honored SRNS with the 2020 LiveLifeBlue award. The LiveLifeBlue award is given to a BCBS of South Carolina affiliated organization that displays high standards in the areas of healthy workplace basics, health and well-being education, health policies, benefits measuring effectiveness and more.

The BCBS of South Carolina’s LiveLifeBlue award committee seeks out companies who take all aspects of employee health into consideration, including financial, physical, professional and social well-being.

SRNS, along with previous winners of the LiveLifeBlue award, are prime examples for other companies to follow in supporting their employees. BCBS recognized SRNS for not only taking employee health and wellness solutions seriously, but for developing an approach to wellness that effectively engages employees as they make improvements to their overall health.

SRNS Senior Human Resource Specialist Torrey Davis has been involved in various wellness programs put on by SRNS. “BlueCross BlueShield was highly impressed by our creative effort with the Biggest Winner competition that motivated employees to get active and then lose weight,” said Davis. “The implementation of benefits from Livongo Health Inc., Hinge Health and Catapult Health were also highly regarded by BCBS.”

“We have had great success in our SRNS Wellness Programs each year, and we look forward to continuing to offer our employees these benefits and programs,” continued Davis.



“SRNS takes the health and wellness of its employees very seriously,” said Stuart MacVean, SRNS President and CEO. “We strive to make sure our employees are set up with all the necessary tools and resources to encourage them to focus on their overall well-being.”

In 2017, SRNS also won the regional LiveLifeBlue award for best-in-class well-being employee program.

SRNS is proud that so many employees volunteer to make our region a place for everyone to reach their full potential. For Jermaine Patterson of Site Services, his dream was to restore his childhood sports park in New Ellenton, South Carolina.

The New Ellenton Community Ballpark near Greendale Elementary was a big part of Patterson’s childhood, and he was among the many kids who watched New Ellenton Rams baseball games and used the park’s playground athletic facilities. He went on to play college basketball and earn his degree at Hamilton College in Nebraska, and he credits sports as helping to open doors for his academic achievements. “This park created opportunities for kids like me for competition and fun,” Patterson explains.

Newly moved back to New Ellenton, Patterson has rolled up his sleeves and formed a nonprofit, “Real Dreamerz,” to help restore the park. Academy Sports has sponsored new basketball goals, and SRNS has provided a \$10,000 grant for Phase 1 of Real Dreamerz’ planned restoration: materials for new bleachers, repairs to the dugouts and concession stand, basketball court concrete, a new irrigation system and new fencing. After several cleanup days, the improvements are expected to pick up in upcoming months.

“New Ellenton is excited that our community is coming together around this park,” says New Ellenton Mayor Vernon Dunbar, also

with S’roots in the creation of the Savannah River Site, so it’s great to see contributions from SRNS and a new generation of SRS employees, like Jermaine, who are emerging leaders in our city.”

And Patterson hopes the restored park will foster dreams for a new generation: “I wanted to find a way to give back, to support new opportunities for kids, residents and businesses,” he explains. “The confinement that surrounded me growing up never confounded what was in me, and some of that hope came from this place.”

Click below to watch the SRS YouTube channel “Savannah River Site Field of Dreams” video.



# Record-breaking Heart Walk wins awards

The 2021 SRNS American Heart Association (AHA) Heart Walk campaign reached new levels this year, shattering their \$120,000 goal by raising over \$150,800.

AHA representatives, Heart Walk committee members, SRNS executives and employees gathered to celebrate the huge successes of the 2021 SRNS Heart Walk Campaign. During the celebration, awards were presented to organizations and teams for their hard work, including the Overall Division Award, Top Team Award, Top Walker Award and more.

“We knew going into this year’s campaign that we were going to have to be really creative and push hard to meet our goal due to the circumstances we were facing with COVID-19,” said 2021 SRNS Heart Walk Campaign Chair Lindsay Robinson.

For the first year ever, SRNS was the number one contributing company out of the 59 in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA).

“I just want to say thank you to all of the SRNS employees who supported us during this year’s campaign,” said Robinson. “Without all of the employee support, we would have not been able to not only meet our goal but exceed our goal and set a new record. Thank you to our executive team who also supported our campaign, especially our SRNS Heart Walk Campaign Executive Sponsor Janice Lawson. Her leadership was vital to accomplishing such a fantastic outcome.”

SRNS Site Services Work Window Manager Josh Montgomery led the CSRA City-Wide Executive Challenge, which is a hand-selected group of individuals who are asked to raise at least \$2,000. Through Josh’s hard work and perseverance, he recruited over 50 individuals (30 of whom were SRNS employees) who collectively raised over \$114,217, beating last year’s record of \$63,000.



Lindsay Robinson, Stuart MacVean with the Heart Walk medal and Josh Montgomery

“I’ve had the honor to work with SRNS for the past three years, and you all are truly amazing people,” said CSRA AHA Director of Development Kim Enoch. “SRNS is an example of what can be done when people put their minds and their hearts into the Heart Walk campaign.”

During the celebration, SRNS President and CEO was honored with the inaugural Stuart MacVean Heart of the CSRA Volunteer of the Year Award. This award will be given out to individuals who embody the heart and passion of the CSRA Heart Walk in the future.

“I’ve been with the American Heart Association for years, and over that tenure I have come across about five volunteers that just make it happen,” said Enoch. “They are passionate, they do what they say they are going to do and they truly support our whole team and our mission. To commemorate these volunteers, we created the Stuart MacVean Heart of the CSRA Volunteer of the Year Award.”

## Expanding resources for children in Aiken and Barnwell

Over the last two years, SRNS has contributed \$40,000 to the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Aiken County. While Aiken is listed in their name, the CAC provides support for victims of child abuse in multiple counties across South Carolina, including Barnwell.

In 2003, a group of concerned citizens spear-headed a task force made up of representatives from local child-serving agencies to address the lack of a coordinated response to investigations into child abuse. The CAC was established to ensure that all the services and assistance a child and their family would need could occur in one location – a safe, nurturing, child-friendly environment, at no cost to a child’s family.

CAC offers a team approach that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, and other specialists who make decisions together about how to best help the child and their family. This multidisciplinary team (MDT) response is a core part of the work CAC does in South Carolina. Captain Darlene Cook of the Barnwell Sheriff’s Office is a member of the MDT in Barnwell. “The CAC provides a safe environment for children to talk to an experienced interviewer, while gathering information law enforcement can use for prosecution,” said Cook. “Our children are our future, and we need to protect them.

The CAC is one of the big pieces of the puzzle that provides that protection and is a doorway to healing for both children and parents. It is a priceless resource.”

Coming alongside community partners like the CAC is a vital theme to the SRNS Corporate Philanthropy Program. “The CAC met with us and expressed their interest in expanding mobile services to Barnwell County,” said Kent Williams, SRNS Director of Radiological Protection and CAC Board Member. “In 2020, 34 children from Barnwell, Allendale and Bamberg County were interviewed, and the CAC has already interviewed 13 so far in 2021. Having a place to offer services in Barnwell will reduce travel time for victims and their families and provide services closer to those in Allendale and Bamberg as well.”

“During these changing times, the CAC remains focused on protecting the children. Through this collaboration, prevention services and support help protect children and produce thriving families,” said CAC Director, Maryann Burgess. “We are so grateful to SRNS for their continued support of our mission and supporting not only the victims of child abuse but our continued efforts to train others in recognizing and preventing abuse.”



Candice Gordon

AT SRNS: Principal Business Analyst for the Solid Waste Management Facility

IN THE COMMUNITY: Vice-Chair for SRNS Heart Walk

## THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Candice Gordon is the Principal Business Analyst for the Solid Waste Management Facility. Gordon has worked at SRS since 2013. She began her career in Payroll Operations as a Financial Analyst, then moved to Tritium Controller before landing in EM-Project Controls. As the Principal Business Analyst, Gordon develops, implements and maintains cost baselines and project schedules, while utilizing the Earned Value Management (EVM) tools and techniques to analyze project performance.

Gordon enjoys finding ways to make a positive impact for her colleagues and community. As the 2021 Vice-Chair for Heart Walk, she recently helped lead the company in surpassing its fundraising goal. In addition to her current volunteer leadership roles, Gordon has also been a Local Safety Improvement Teams (LSIT) Chair, a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Member and Toys for Tots Treasurer.

Gordon also serves as the 2021 Vice President of Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP). “Your time is the most valuable thing you can offer anyone,” says Gordon. “SRNS provides a wealth of opportunities to network and expand your career. I’ve had the chance to collaborate with a multitude of skill sets across the Site.”

Gordon is a native of North Augusta. She received her bachelor’s degree from University of South Carolina Aiken, MBA from Walden University and holds a Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification. A few of her hobbies include: spending time with family, traveling, cooking, event planning, do-it-yourself crafting, and of course, shopping.

# End of an era: Saying goodbye to SRNL



At a recent SRNS Board of Directors meeting, a special cake commemorated the upcoming transition of SRNL to Battelle Savannah River Alliance.

On February 16, Battelle Savannah River Alliance received the Notice to Proceed with transition of SRNL as a separate Management and Operations Contract to DOE. The 120-day transition of SRNL to Battelle began a new era at SRS. SRNS and the national laboratory have worked collaboratively to establish defined service level agreements and formally document the completion of transition activities and the transfer of facilities, projects, assets, programs and personnel, effective June 20, 2021.



SRNL’s Senior Vice President and Deputy Director Sharon Marra with Executive Vice President and Director Vahid Majidi

SRNS is committed to supporting the effective, efficient and orderly transition of SRNL work scope. Transition activities are being conducted in a manner that ensures safety of personnel, disciplined operations and uninterrupted SRNS and SRNL missions and services.

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# SRNS



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