

● OCTOBER 2020

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

New L Basin project begins

Resin vacuuming
of spent fuel cores
paves the way for
accelerated de-inventory



This month

Virtual field trips • TEF process improvement • Ideas America awards • Project Unite •
DOE VPP awards • Annual Site Environmental Report • Interns • Golden Harvest donation



Stuart MacVean
SRNS President and CEO

Welcome

to the October 2020 edition of

SRNS Today

The beginning of a new fiscal year offers an opportunity to reflect on FY20, and the achievements that our Savannah River Nuclear Solutions team achieved in what was a uniquely challenging year.

SRNS has received its 11th Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program (DOE VPP) Star of Excellence since becoming the SRS managing and operating contractor in 2008. This prestigious award is presented to DOE VPP sites who exhibit a Total Recordable Case rate of injuries 75 percent lower than the industry average. Additionally, SRNS Health and Safety Manager George Wisner was honored with the DOE Contractor Champion Award. Congratulations to George and to our SRNS team for their dedication to our safety culture.

In Operations news, SRNS employees recently began underwater vacuuming in L Basin to remove resin from High Flux Isotope Reactor spent nuclear fuel cores, which will allow the cores to be processed in H Canyon. The SRS Tritium Extraction Facility completed a five-year project to more efficiently handle waste gases resulting from work supporting the nation's nuclear deterrent. The Annual Site Environmental Report for calendar year 2019 was published, demonstrating SRS' commitment to its continued record of environmental excellence.

SRNS continues to excel in accomplishing DOE and National Nuclear Security Administration missions, and in operational achievements and safety performance. We have proven it this year more than ever before. I look forward to even greater accomplishments in FY21.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of SRNS Today and, as always, thank you for your interest in Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.

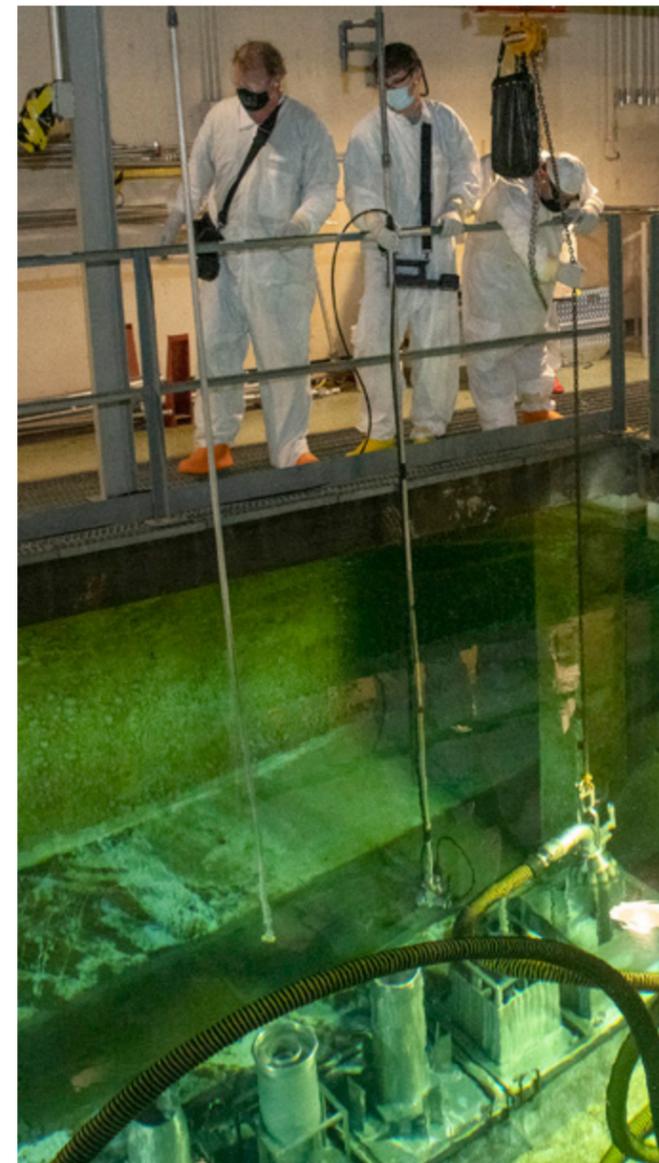


Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina, 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 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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Operators place the vacuum head on an outer HFIR core assembly.



Operators Thomas Dill (from left), Jack Phillips and Carl Cato position an underwater vacuum on top of a High Flux Isotope Reactor core in L Basin.

Accelerating L Basin de-inventory

Spent Fuel Program begins resin vacuuming of spent fuel cores

SRNS Spent Fuel Program employees have begun underwater vacuuming to remove resin from High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) spent nuclear fuel cores, allowing the cores to be processed in H Canyon and moving L Basin closer to de-inventory.

"In the early 90s, resin was deposited on a number of HFIR cores during L Area deionizer vessel operations," said L Area Facility Manager Neil McIntosh. "The resin deposits rendered the cores unsuitable for dissolution and processing in H Canyon, which is the disposition path for this type of fuel. Our team had to come up with an innovative method for resin deposit removal while the cores remained underwater to maintain adequate shielding from radiation."

Before beginning vacuuming, personnel went through extensive training involving dummy fuel and used virtual reality to practice the operation.

"Installation of the vacuum station and the start of vacuuming were completed ahead of schedule, even with the delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic," said McIntosh. "Once the cores are vacuumed clean of resin, they can be sent for further processing in H Canyon."

HFIR cores are sent to H Canyon for disposition. The cores are dissolved in nitric acid and the resulting materials are dispositioned as authorized by DOE.

"Thanks to the innovation of the L Basin team, we are able to clean and process the affected HFIR cores," said DOE Nuclear Materials Senior Technical Advisor Maxcine Maxted. "Accelerating the de-inventory of L Basin moves us closer to our long-term goals of environmental cleanup."

Current plans estimate completing all vacuuming by fiscal year 2023.

SRNS dominates Ideas America competition

SRNS dominated the competition at the 78th annual IdeasAmerica Virtual Training Summit, held virtually in September. SRNS won 19 recognitions and awards at the global conference.

IdeasAmerica is a national organization that allows American companies with Lean Six Sigma and suggestion system programs to benchmark with one another and to compete based on innovations developed by their employees.

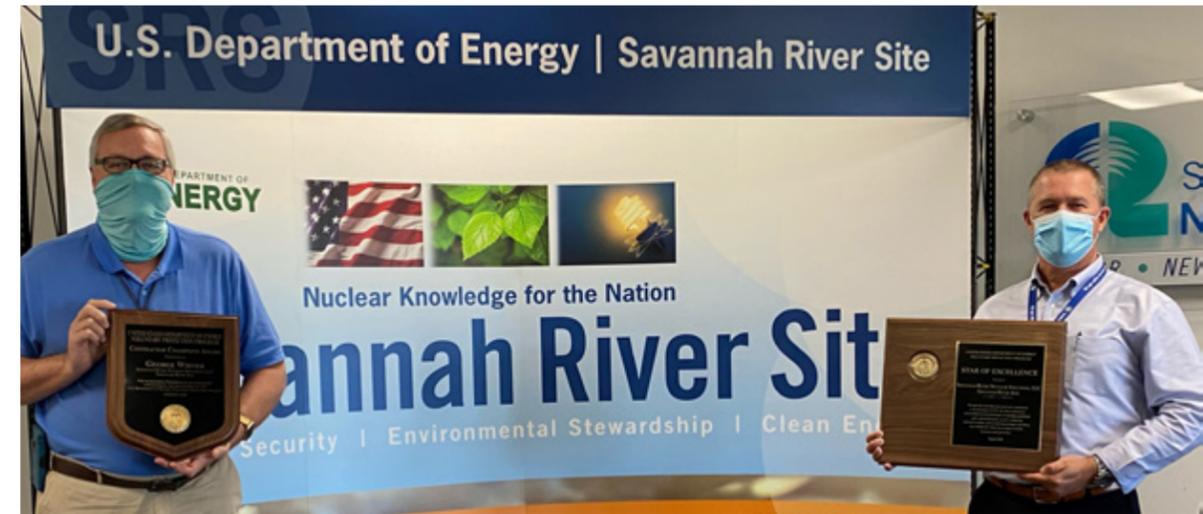
Its members also compete with international companies in sister organizations such as Ideas Arabia, Ideas Germany and Ideas United Kingdom. At this year's conference, SRNS was the only American company among other American-based member companies to make the finalist list for award consideration.

"It's been an exceptional year for SRNS employees who truly understand the value of this competition," said Blake Leaphart, SRNS Senior Productivity Specialist. "Our employees embrace a culture of improvement and have adopted a Lean mindset to improve SRS processes."



And the winners are...

- 1 Green Idea of the Year:** Recognizes an idea or project that is eco-friendly and has significant positive effects on the environment. Hazardous Waste. Susan Cornwell and Darren Gillis, ESH&Q, Gold Award, first place globally
- 2 Evaluator of the Year:** Recognizes employees within a company that go above and beyond in evaluating ideas and projects for implementation and who champion different improvement initiatives. Paula Croom, ESH&Q, Gold Award, first place globally; Charles "Chuck" Bell, SRTE, Silver Award, second place globally
- 2 Best Program Administrator of the Year:** Recognizes the most productive, supportive and influential suggestion program administrator within a company as well as a leader of Lean Six Sigma practices. Blake Leaphart, FIT/CI, Silver Award, second place globally
- 3 Safety Idea of the Year:** Recognizes an idea or project that significantly improves safety for a company or solves a serious safety problem. Molded Case Breakers. Joe Legge, David Hawver, Tico Machado, Jackie McAlhaney and Mark Muir, Silver Award, second place globally; SRNL Operations Fans. Alex Atkins and SRNL, Bronze Award, third place globally
- 3 Advocate of the Year:** Recognizes the employees within a company that go above and beyond to actively promote and assist with a company's suggestion program and Lean Six Sigma program. Deanna Goodlove, IT, Bronze Award, third place globally; Jennifer Scott, ESS/PeopleSoft, Honorable Mention
- 3 Champion of the Year Award:** Recognizes employees within a company who go above and beyond in championing ideas and Lean Six Sigma projects within their work groups and who assist others with submitting their own ideas while promoting the suggestion program. David Dixon, Site Services (SS), Bronze Award, third place globally
- 3 Executive Leadership Award:** Recognizes a director or senior level manager within a company who goes above and beyond to promote ideas and Lean Six Sigma projects. Freddie Grimm, Business Planning & Integration, Bronze Award, third place globally
- 3 Communication Excellence Award:** Recognizes individuals who excel at communicating projects and coordinating improvements in a company. Cynthia Boler-Melton/Karen Degange (ESS/PeopleSoft), Honorable Mention
- 3 Team Idea of the Year:** Recognizes an idea or project worked on by a team that achieved significant cost savings and successfully improved a company-wide issue. Replacement Bidding Process TOPR vs. BOA. Joe Legge, Phillip Douglas, Clay Whitt and Perry Byrd, Honorable Mention
- KUDOS Award Winners:** This award recognizes those that show exemplary support for a company's Lean Six Sigma program. Melody Bell, F Area Operations; Kirby Thompson, Project Management & Construction Services; Laura Barsh, SRNL; Shelby Rutland, Engineering; Max Cavett, SS; Samantha Leonard, SS&ES; Joe Legge, SS



Safety and Health Manager George Wisner (left) received the DOE Contractor Champion Award and Safety and Health Director Mike Conaway (right) accepted SRNS' 11th Star of Excellence.

SRNS earns 11th VPP Star of Excellence award

SRNS recently earned two coveted safety awards at the annual DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Participants' Association meeting, held virtually.

SRNS received its 11th DOE-VPP Star of Excellence since becoming the SRS management and operations contractor in 2008. This award is presented to DOE-VPP sites who exhibit a Total Recordable Case rate of injuries 75 percent lower than the industry average.

"SRNS is comprised of over 6,800 employees who perform diverse, highly technical and often hazardous work," said Stuart MacVean. "In order to keep ourselves, our communities and our nation safe, it's important that our safety programs and culture perform to world-class

standards. Earning our 11th Star of Excellence is validation of our dedication to safety excellence."

Additionally, SRNS Health & Safety Manager George Wisner received the DOE Contractor Champion Award. This is a national award given to DOE contractor employees who demonstrate outstanding commitment to advancing the message and spirit of DOE-VPP.

"SRS is home to an exceptional, 70-year legacy of safety," said Barbara Guenveur, SRNS Safety and Health Program Employee Engagement Lead. "It's thanks to the hard work of employees like George that our safety culture has been able to thrive from generation to generation."

Glover honored as one of Georgia Trend's 40 under 40

SRNS Senior Computer Security Engineer Shanteka Glover was recently honored as one of Georgia Trend's 40 Under 40, a collection of nominated working professionals under the age of 40. Nominees come from every corner of Georgia and represent nonprofit organizations, large corporations, healthcare, legal sectors and entrepreneurial ventures.



Shanteka Glover

"It is truly an honor to be recognized by the state of Georgia for doing something I truly love, and feel is part of my purpose, and that is to give back," said Glover. "I want to be an example, create a path and engage more young girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related fields, especially in the nuclear, information technology (IT) and cyber security industries."

Glover is originally from Bowman, S.C., and has worked at SRS for 11 years, where she is responsible for the Site's Cybersecurity Awareness Program. "SRS is creating history every day, and I aspire to be a part of that history and continue to grow in the nuclear, cyber security and IT industry as a whole and to promote STEM education and careers," said Glover.

"I want to be an example, create a path and engage more young girls to pursue careers in STEM-related fields, especially in the nuclear, IT and cybersecurity industries."

Shanteka Glover

Earlier this summer, Glover was also selected as a Top 10 in 10 Young Professionals to Watch by the Augusta (Ga.) Metro Chamber, in partnership with Augusta Magazine.

According to Georgia Trend, this year's 40 Under 40 were selected by staff from nominations provided by readers throughout the state. Individuals who were nominated go above and beyond their day jobs by finding time to volunteer and give back to the communities around them.

In her free time, Glover is an involved member of Brown Girls in Tech; a volunteer with the Arts in the Heart of Augusta festival; an active Restoration Ministries International greeter/hostess and Special Projects member; President of SRS Women in Nuclear; and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Farewell to the Ford Building

SRNS successfully removes former nuclear facility



Demolition of the Ford Building (photos top and bottom)



During the height of the Cold War, a large metal storage building at the Savannah River Plant (SRP)—now SRS—tested mechanical systems used to remotely raise and lower control rods within nuclear reactor vessels at SRP. Made by the Ford Motor Company, these control systems played an important role within the Site's now dormant reactors.

This control system test facility became appropriately known as the Ford Building.

"Employees worked daily on hundreds of these control rod assemblies, which were used to ensure a stable nuclear criticality within each reactor vessel," said Grady Friday, SRNS Decontamination and Decommissioning Project Lead. "Ford was making more than cars in those days."

The control rod drive system can insert or withdraw a control rod at a slow, steady rate to fine-tune reactor operation. In the event of an emergency, it also allows the neutron absorbing rods to drop, using gravity into the reactor core and slow or stop the reactor.

Later, the Ford Building was reconfigured to function as a repair facility for nuclear reactor heat exchangers. These devices removed heat from heavy water used to control the temperature within a reactor vessel by transferring the heat to water circulating inside the exchanger.

"Along with the heat exchangers came the potential for radioactive contamination," said Friday. "A large metal-walled containment room was built within the Ford Building with a negative air flow system that exhausted air through HEPA (high-efficiency particulate absorbing) filters to remove any potential radioactive particles. The room was about 100 feet long and 40 feet wide."

The Ford Building is now just a collection of memories, photographs and a few historical artifacts, after two construction excavators recently worked systematically together to bring the building down.

The original concrete flooring will be covered by an additional six inches of new concrete, sealing the area and acting as an extraordinarily large memorial to the building and its workers who played a small but important role in protecting our nation during the start of the nuclear era.

"To date, 292 structures on the Federal Facility Agreement list have been deactivated and decommissioned at SRS," said Steve Conner, SRNS Project Manager. "We no longer need to incur the ongoing costs associated with maintaining obsolete structures like the Ford Building. We can safely and efficiently demolish unneeded buildings to eliminate the need for surveillance and maintenance, while preventing any potential release of hazardous substances to the environment. These are all good reasons to move forward and prepare for the next building to be safely demolished."



To date, 292 structures on the Federal Facility Agreement list have been deactivated and decommissioned at SRS.

Steve Conner



Environmentally safe

Report details annual data from SRS monitoring and compliance

Each year, SRS prepares an annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) in accordance with DOE requirements. The Site releases this report annually to give the public and SRS regulators detailed information regarding environmental conditions at SRS for the previous calendar year.

In 2019, SRS continued to operate safely, completing its missions while maintaining a record of environmental excellence. As in previous years, the Site met federal and state standards designed to protect the public, environment and SRS workers.

The report also summarizes SRS environmental data; environmental sustainability performance; compliance with applicable DOE, federal and state regulations; and remediation and surveillance monitoring programs.

SRS has monitored environmental conditions since the Site was built in the early 1950s and has published an ASER since 1959.

Each year, SRNS collects more than 10,000 monitoring samples found on- and off-Site including air, water, soil, sediment, food products, freshwater fish, seafood, wildlife, plants and trees. Samples are collected from neighboring cities, towns and counties in Georgia and South Carolina.

"Our goal is to ensure that risks from SRS operations are low, and that our community is engaged in our mission execution and environmental performance. We are proud to have environmental reports and records dating back to 1959 showing how important we view engagement with our communities," said Michael D. Budney, Manager, DOE-Savannah River. "Each year we strive to provide meaningful data to improve our communication and outreach in efforts to keep our citizens connected."

ASER Summary features 'new and improved' format

A smaller publication that accompanies the SRS ASER provides an overview of the report's technical information in an engaging magazine-style, written to appeal equally to both the lay reader and the technical-minded individual. SRS releases the ASER and the Summary Report annually to provide information to the public regarding the Site's environmental performance and radiological dose from the preceding calendar year.

"Over the last four years, we've worked to improve the readability of the Summary Report," said Teresa Eddy, SRNS Manager, Environmental Monitoring Programs.

At DOE's request, the Summary has transitioned from a structured technical report to a magazine-style format to further engage the public with short articles and sidebars, highlighting environmental

accomplishments and projects, Site history and new technology. Along with the Summary, the team incorporated improvements to the full report and associated website, which includes a layout with animated photographs and links to technical documents of interest.

The covers of the 2017 and 2018 ASERs and Summaries featured photographs of scenery in the area taken by local photographers, while the 2019 ASER and Summary covers showcase several Site employees' entries to the 2019 SRS Snap photo contest.

"The Site has and will continue to focus on responsible and accurate reporting involving safety, security and the environment," said Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality Assurance. "It is an obligation we take seriously and will continue to fully support."



The 2019 Annual Environmental Report and Summary are available online at <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html>



When the people can't come to the pond,

bring the pond to the people

Since popular educational environmental field trips to SRS have been halted because of the pandemic, SRNS now is taking an SRS pond to the students via virtual field trips.

"For many years now, we have hosted visits from local schools at SRS as part of our Science and Technology Enrichment Program, or STEP," said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach. "Teachers traditionally would select an environmental topic from several options that best fit their classroom needs.

"Our 'Wet Wonders' lesson allows for students to study biotic factors that determine the health of a pond by capturing and examining macro-invertebrates," Mitchell added. The lesson is the first of a series of virtual field trips to be created by SRNS that will benefit students from elementary to high school.

Educators can use the virtual field trip video in the classroom or opt to schedule with the University of South Carolina Aiken Ruth Patrick Science Education Center for a classroom experience. This option for a hybrid experience allows instructors to conduct or livestream the lesson at the school to create a "virtual field trip."

Mitchell explained that the pandemic has inspired her workgroup to reorganize nearly all their outreach programs, searching for a means to remain relevant to the education community. The SRNS Education Outreach team is considering multiple options. "We're definitely going virtual within our competitive programs such as Future City, Science Bowl and Science Fair," said Mitchell.

"The silver lining is that this new approach will increase our opportunity to reach a much larger number of students," said Francine Burroughs, Manager, Talent Management and Education Outreach. "Even our employee volunteers have been stepping it up to assist in finding new ways to reach students in this new virtual world."

SRNS STEP provides K-12 teachers and students with hands-on science, mathematics and technology opportunities that focus on responsible environmental stewardship.

Photos: Kim Mitchell of SRNS (inset, from top), along with Beth Eberhard (center) and Kimberly Fickling of the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, create the lesson "Wet Wonders," from collecting pond specimens to preparing them for video capture. In the background photo, Brad Bohr of SRNS Video Services, films the experience with Fickling.

TEF improvement

New diffuser system capability boosts process efficiency

A five-year project at the SRS Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) has enabled the Site to more efficiently handle waste gases resulting from work supporting the nation's nuclear deterrent.

At TEF, tritium (a radioactive isotope of hydrogen and a key element in nuclear weapons) is extracted from rods irradiated in a Tennessee Valley Authority reactor in preparation for loading into reservoirs for shipment to the U.S. Department of Defense.

This process creates waste gases containing a mixture of hydrogen isotopes and other isotopes, a combination that TEF previously sent to a separate tritium facility for processing. With the new diffuser system design, TEF separates the hydrogen isotopes from the other types, allowing the non-hydrogen gases to be discharged with the building's heating, ventilation and air condition exhaust through a stack.

"This project was the result of careful planning, perseverance and diligent work by many different work groups over the last five years," said Joey Huckabee, TEF Facility Manager. "TEF now has more freedom to stack its own process waste gas without having to coordinate interbuilding transfers with the H Area New Manufacturing (HANM) facility. This eliminates the need to interrupt processes to manage waste gas, reduces the burden on the HANM tritium process stripper system, and provides valuable stacking redundancy within the tritium facilities."

This project was completed in several phases. Detailed design started in April 2015, followed by procurement and field construction. Operational readiness activities involving safety basis work, training



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Joey Huckabee



and procedures, and maintenance records were followed by system testing. These activities were self-assessed by groups within the SRS tritium facilities.

Following self-assessment, SRNS and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) performed independent Readiness Assessments and once those were complete, Construction performed final tie-in activities. The system was then tested using normal operating procedures and placed in service July 2020.

Mark Davis, SRNS Acting Senior Vice President of NNSA Operations and Programs, said, "This new capability was several years in the making, and I'm proud of all the teams that worked to make what began as an idea a reality. Thank you for all you do to keep us the backbone of deterrence in support of peace."

Intern Program grads Gomillion and Schaufler grow from experience

Taylor Gomillion and Jacob Schaufler, both of SRNS, have completed a fellowship program that accelerates the learning process and transfers decades of knowledge and experience in all phases of the nuclear weapon lifecycle from experienced weaponeers to the new generation of stockpile stewards. The two graduated from the Sandia National Laboratory Weapon Intern Program (WIP), with Gomillion receiving the Distinguished Graduate Award.



Taylor Gomillion

Jacob Schaufler

Gomillion, Schaufler and WIP participants from other organizations completed more than 1,200 academic hours, 600 professional development hours, 120 leadership development hours and four research projects working with active Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE)

programs. Participants traveled to nuclear security sites to hear from weapon system experts, tour operations and network.

Gomillion, a Reservoir Assurance Engineer, said, "Learning firsthand from experts at other sites and the interaction among the weapons interns, who are also experts in some aspect of nuclear weapons, made the class such an informative experience."

Reservoir Systems Engineer Schaufler agreed. "A large benefit of the program is being able to hear different perspectives from people throughout the NSE," he said. "The travel was important because not only did we learn what other sites do, but we also saw the work they do in action. You walk away from the program with a dependable network of people."

At the program's conclusion, Gomillion received the Distinguished Graduate Award, which recognizes a participant for outstanding achievement in WIP academic curriculum. Speaking about the award, Gomillion said, "I was honored and surprised to receive it at graduation. I'm proud that Jacob and I could represent SRS well."

"WIP is one of the efforts by the NSE to grow and maintain a knowledgeable workforce in support of the nuclear weapon mission, and SRS now has eight graduates," said David Carroll, Reservoir Engineering Manager and WIP Coordinator for SRS. "I congratulate Taylor and Jacob on completing the program and look forward to seeing how their experiences are integrated into their work."

SRNS investment in small businesses helps put America back to work

SRNS is using a proven, grassroots initiative to create jobs locally, regionally and nationally, by growing small businesses, both in size and number. Over the last five years, SRNS purchased more than \$1 billion in products and services from small businesses throughout the U.S.

Just last year, 75 percent of SRNS procurement dollars went to small business subcontracts. Furthermore, more than \$150 million of those purchases were dedicated to small businesses found throughout the five-county region surrounding SRS.

"When you look at how we get people engaged to increase economic growth, it starts with small businesses," said Stuart MacVean. "It's these companies that drive the economic engine of our nation, and SRNS will continue to work with DOE to make a significant impact in this area."

According to SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer Alex Agyemang, extensive data and studies demonstrate that small businesses offered the same quality of products and services provided by large companies, but at a lower cost, due to lower overhead expenditures.

"We expect to see a continued positive impact where unemployment is further reduced as we help increase the number of opportunities for small businesses," said Agyemang. "To date, it's been a hugely successful and synergistic program, especially throughout numerous nearby communities."

Harris Weinstein, the president of KAMO Manufacturing, explained that he was unsure at the start of the pandemic if employees at his small



SRNS Strategic Sourcing Buyer Colleen Shoaf and KAMO Manufacturing Delivery Coordinator Drew Wikander inspect a shipment of disinfectant delivered to SRNS.

local business would have to be sent home. "SRNS was one of the first companies to step forward and help us not only to stay open but take that next step to further grow our business.

"We spent the first 90 days of the pandemic working with numerous SRNS procurement staff members around the clock, seven days a week, to get items that would ensure the safety of SRS employees," he said. Weinstein added that being able to support essential businesses, like SRS, ensured their employees never missed a paycheck, while creating an opportunity to hire new employees that had previously been laid off from other industries.

SRNS IT provides new platform to identify assets and increase accuracy



Insight into infrastructure

The SRNS Information Technology (IT) department is implementing a new platform, ServiceNow Discovery, to provide insight into IT's infrastructure and its ongoing changes, reducing the potential for human error, providing near real-time updates and saving time for IT staff and customers.

"IT hardware assets such as servers, routers, switches, wireless access points and many other devices that connect to the SRS network can be managed this way," said Kent Weymouth, ServiceNow Project Lead. "The commercial off-the-shelf platform we are implementing, ServiceNow Discovery, will not only automatically identify all of these assets attached to the network, but also provide valuable additional information not captured via manual input, like attached storage devices, installed software and even relationships with other assets."

Before implementing ServiceNow Discovery, IT relied on manual entry of the Configuration Management Database (CMDB) to manage infrastructure assets. Manual entry meant relying on asset owners to enter initial asset information and be responsible for updating any and all changes manually. Not only is this process time consuming, it increases the likelihood of human error. ServiceNow Discovery not only captures the information on the assets, but also runs at regularly scheduled intervals to make sure that information is always current.

"Along with helping IT monitor its assets, the platform will also benefit other groups and Site tenants," said SRNS Chief Information Officer Jeff Krohn. "For example, it has the potential to interface with our existing cyber security software to enhance network protection."

Additionally, the asset relationships enhanced by ServiceNow will give IT a new level of precision in both outage planning and recovery. The intent is also to provide a central CMDB for all site tenants and fully integrate the Change Management Process.

"This will be a major improvement in the way we do work," said Krohn. "It can help with efficiency and manual data errors and is another example of how IT is working to improve the Savannah River Site."

Photo: IT employees set up laptops for deployment. These laptops, along with other IT assets can now be automatically identified using ServiceNow Discovery.

Operator Apprentice graduates

First cohort in SRNS and ATC program completes coursework for certificate

The first cohort from SRNS Operator Apprenticeship Program was recognized on Oct. 2 upon completion of their Nuclear Fundamentals Certificate course from Aiken Technical College (ATC).

The eight-month Operator Apprenticeship Program provided a unique learning opportunity for eight apprentices from ATC to simultaneously complete classroom work while receiving on-the-job training. Students spent two days a week receiving instruction from ATC and two days a week working at SRS.

SRNS paid the tuition for the operator apprentices enrolled in the first round of this program. Apprentices learned the basic qualifications of a production operator including conduct of operations principles, radiation worker training and qualification, and how to perform shift rounds.

SRNS has hired six of the apprentices, who will be put to work in areas across the Site.

"This pilot program was a success for both the operator apprentices and SRNS," said Stuart MacVean. "Through the program, the apprentices have gained the skills to prepare them for jobs in the nuclear field, while SRNS is receiving employees already trained in the work for needed positions."

The Nuclear Fundamentals Program, created in 2016 in collaboration with SRNS, prepares students for entry-level positions in the nuclear industry. The recent addition of the apprenticeship program pathway further helps to build the workforce pipeline.

"Providing opportunities for educational and workforce development is central to ATC's mission and contributes to the economic vitality of the region," said ATC President Dr. Forest E. Mahan. "This partnership is a great example of creating a pathway for students

from the classroom to the workforce. We strive to provide students with employable skills that are valued and meet the needs of our local employers."

The Operator Apprenticeship Program is part of Apprenticeship Carolina™ (AC). AC is a division of the South Carolina Technical College System, and leads South Carolina in registered apprenticeship programs that help businesses and communities thrive economically. With the guidance of AC as well as the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, the Operator Apprenticeship Program has been registered both with the state and nationally.

"Many employers struggle to find the skilled workers they need to grow their business," said Amy Firestone, Vice President for Apprenticeship Carolina. "Apprenticeship Carolina and our technical colleges across the state are dedicated to increasing the awareness and use of registered apprenticeships in South Carolina. We know from experience that apprenticeships, like Savannah River Nuclear Solutions', can go a long way to bridging the skills gap so many companies face."

For more information on the Operator Apprenticeship Program, visit: <https://savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com/careers/careers.htm> or call Janessa Smith, SRNS Human Resources Specialist, at (803) 646-3538.

For more information about the Nuclear Fundamentals Program, visit www.atc.edu.

Photo: The first cohort from the SRNS Operator Apprenticeship Program was recognized on Oct. 2. Pictured are (front row, from left) Kevin Thomas, Melinda Green and Alexander Sims; (second row, from left) Adam Thomas, Denis Pressley and Christopher Sullivan; and (back row, from left) Michael McAduy and John Starnes.



Project Unite

LEAP, AMP, LIFT gather to do some good in the community



The "Brothers and Sisters" building benefitted from a fresh coat of paint during Project Unite.



SRNS employee Patrick Dicks volunteered at this year's Project Unite helping to make upgrades at a local Tri-Development Center.

Three SRNS professional development organizations—Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP), Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP) and Leaders Investing for Tomorrow (LIFT)—recently partnered to support the United Way, the Tri-Development Center of Aiken County and Brothers and Sisters of Aiken County for this year's Project Unite volunteer event.

Teams from each organization worked together to complete various projects at several Tri-Development Center and Brothers and Sisters locations. These projects included construction, painting and other beautification tasks.

Holding true to the SRS safety culture, each participant was required to use proper personal protective equipment to participate in volunteer activities.

AMP member and Team Lead Zane Prosser finds it important to give back to the community. "Project Unite enables us to help bring the community together and shed a positive light on those in need," said Prosser.

"Through events like these, where AMP, LEAP and LIFT work together, we can develop and build relationships with colleagues from diverse backgrounds and work experiences, which promotes an environment for both professional and personal growth," said Prosser.

In addition to supporting the needs of local communities, this year's event was designed to help strengthen the bond between LEAP, AMP and LIFT, while upholding the SRNS value of giving back.

LEAP's Co-Chair of Outreach John Ekechukwu encourages individuals to get involved with their respective professional development organization. "LEAP, AMP and LIFT offer their members opportunities to be involved with volunteering, outreach, networking and other activities with fellow employees," said Ekechukwu. "By being involved with these organizations, you are making meaningful connections while improving yourself and the organization."

Tri-Development Center of Aiken County provides services for adults and children with autism, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and intellectual disabilities deemed eligible through the Aiken County Board of Disabilities. Tri-Development offers vocational services, residential services, rehabilitation services and summer programs for children and teens.

Brothers and Sisters of Aiken County is a United Way of Aiken agency that provides academic and life skills support to youth ages five to 18 years of age that are enrolled in the Aiken County Public Schools.

All peer-led organizations, LEAP members are full-time employees at SRNS and have earned, at a minimum, an associate degree within the past seven years. AMP serves SRNS full-time employees who have between seven and 20 years of work experience, offering professional development, networking and community outreach opportunities for their members. LIFT is for SRNS exempt employees with 20 or more years professional work experience.



Golden Harvest Executive Director Amy Breitmann accepts the SRNS donation from Mike Swain, SRNS Senior Vice President of Technical Services.

SRNS contributes \$27,000 to Golden Harvest Food Bank

SRNS has made a \$27,000 donation to the Golden Harvest Food Bank, to support their mission across Georgia and South Carolina.

Golden Harvest serves the hungry in 25 counties across the two-state area, both directly and by providing food to 175 Community Partners and 300 hunger relief agencies.

"For every dollar donated to Golden Harvest, we are able to distribute \$9 in food across our region," says Golden Harvest Executive Director Amy Breitmann. "We've continued to find ways to feed those in need during the unprecedented challenges of this pandemic, thanks to the support of corporate partners like SRNS, their employee volunteers, and so many other organizations in our region."

SRNS has contributed \$137,000 to Golden Harvest Food Bank since 2012. "Golden Harvest has provided 6.6 million meals so far in 2020," says Stuart MacVean. "SRNS employees, retirees and their families are supporters and volunteers for Golden Harvest, so we're proud to partner with such a great organization that is dedicated to fighting hunger and improving lives in our communities."

Golden Harvest has warehouse and distribution facilities in Augusta and Aiken, and only four percent of donations received go towards overhead costs – leaving 96 percent to support a wide variety of services and programs such as the Senior Food Box, the Master's Table, Mobile Market and The Backpack Program.



Site Services golf tourney raises record amount for UW

The annual Site Services Golf Tournament has raised a record \$40,575 to benefit the United Way.

The tournament started 17 years ago and has raised over \$350,000 for the United Way's community agencies. Children, families and individuals have benefited tremendously from the services provided.

Long-time Tournament Director Kevin Heath praised those involved and said, "The key to the long tradition of successful Site Services tournaments is the dedication of the volunteers who work behind the scenes to ensure golfers have an enjoyable day, sponsors are sought and appropriately recognized, and local golf courses' support for the tournament. I would just like to thank all of our sponsors, players and volunteers that make this event possible each year."

Postponed from an earlier date due to COVID-19 concerns, protocols were implemented to ensure everyone in attendance had a safe experience and could enjoy the day throughout the tournament.

All golfers were issued individual carts, and tee times were assigned instead of a shotgun start to avoid a large crowd before or after the event. Although no group meal was provided following the tournament, a box lunch was given to each golfer as they arrived. Each golfer was instructed not to show up more than 30 minutes prior to their tee time to avoid crowds, while sanitizer was provided at check-in and at each drink station.

Site Services Director, Geoff Reynolds was excited with the results, "As usual, Kevin Heath did a great job putting on this tournament. The difference this year was the new COVID-19 restrictions; however, after talking to folks, a great time was had by all. This is one of the highest dollar United Way events for the Site. Even with C-19, folks did an excellent job of coming out and supporting the community."



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