

● NOVEMBER 2020

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

Orth Award honors

Dr. Steven Xiao
presented with SRNL's
Lifetime Achievement award



This month

SRS 70th anniversary • NA-50 awards • CNTA Distinguished Scientist • Coal Yard cleanup
STEM-ulating conversations • SRS preserves the past • Interns • Boss of the Year • LEAP



Stuart MacVean
SRNS President and CEO

Welcome

to the November 2020 edition of

SRNS Today

In many ways, 70 years isn't long in the history of our nation.

However, it is truly astonishing to think about the ways our country has changed and advanced since 1950. The rapid progress of technology alone is a marvel. The Savannah River Site and the capability of its employees are constants in this seven-decade era. As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of SRS, I'm proud to count the work by SRNS in the Site's long list of achievements.

SRNS continues to advance the Department of Energy-Environmental Management mission of cleanup to ensure the land that was disturbed during the building and nuclear material production era of the Site is left as close as possible to its original condition. The D Area Coal Storage Yard cleanup project is nearing completion, thanks to innovative approaches employed by SRNS that expedited the timeline and significantly reduced costs.

Our employees continue to be recognized for their dedication, accomplishments and ingenuity. Thirty SRNS and Savannah River National Laboratory team members were recently recognized for outstanding accomplishments in support of the National Nuclear Security Administration Office of Safety, Infrastructure and Operations. Also, Dr. Steven Xiao was awarded SRNL's prestigious Don Orth Lifetime Achievement Award and Dr. Paul Cloessner was selected as the 2020 recipient of the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award. I congratulate the recipients of these awards and thank them for their continued service to SRNS.

SRNS is also ensuring the Site's legacy continues to be preserved and recognized by supporting the efforts of the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program and the Cold War Historic Preservation Program. These entities, partnering with the SRS Museum, help to identify and protect artifacts, promote awareness of the Site's historical significance and assist DOE with the management of 1,300 known archaeological sites at SRS.

While missions have evolved since the Site's creation, SRNS will continue to support the goals of DOE-EM and NNSA. SRNS is proud to have played such an impactful role in the success of SRS.

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.

www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com



The Aiken Chamber of Commerce marked the anniversary during its annual pre-COVID dinner; the anniversary video and a message from Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette were featured.

A year of appreciation

Community, SRS celebrate this year to mark the Site's 70 years of service

At noon on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 1950, a carefully worded announcement accompanied by a map of the proposed Savannah River Plant area was released to the press and to radio stations, commencing the construction and operation of defense nuclear operations and support facilities at what would later be called the Savannah River Site.

In 2020, SRS celebrated its 70th anniversary by looking back at the decades of service to the nation and the surrounding communities, while continuing its important missions in environmental stewardship and national security.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic prevented many planned events from taking place, 2020 still offered Site employees and the public a variety of ways to celebrate the lives and achievements of the men and women who have made SRS into what it is today.

The celebration began on Jan. 17 with the Aiken Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner (pictured above). Throughout the year, both Aiken Mayor Rick Osbon and North Augusta Mayor Bob Pettit, as well as other municipalities, issued proclamations recognizing the Site's involvement in the community. The South Carolina legislature also presented a proclamation in November.

Communications to employees and the public kept the anniversary in the forefront. An SRS feature was included in the Aiken Report, which is mailed to all Aiken City water consumers with their monthly water bills. A monthly feature in Bella Magazine entitled, "Beyond the Barricades," showcased several prominent Aiken residents who have worked for or retired from SRS. Also, 70th anniversary messaging was prominent on SRS social media during the year.



Historical photos at the "Beyond the Barricades" exhibit provided a glimpse of the past to reception attendees at the Aiken Center for the Arts.



The billboard at the SRS Aiken Barricade celebrates 70 years of service.

The Aiken (S.C.) Center for the Arts hosted the SRS 70th anniversary exhibit featuring past-and-present images from SRS, along with the 2020 Snap SRS collection. The event was Sept. 3-Oct. 23, and the socially-distanced opening reception followed Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to ensure everyone's safety.

To conclude the celebration, SRS 70th anniversary banners are prominently displayed in five high-traffic locations in downtown Aiken, along with a 70th anniversary billboard was installed at the SRS Aiken barricade, in appreciation of all who played a role in the important history of SRS.

NA-50 Awards of Excellence

SRS personnel honored for support to NNSA mission

Thirty SRS personnel have been honored for outstanding accomplishments in support of the 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. This year, SRS personnel—including employees from NNSA-Savannah River Field Office, DOE-Savannah River Operations Office, SRNS and smaller direct NNSA contractors—served the nation as part of five teams selected for the honor.

“The NA-50 Excellence Awards are a way of recognizing incredible accomplishments of the NNSA employees and teams at the heart of mission success,” said Jim McConnell, Associate Administrator, Office of Infrastructure, Safety, and Operations. “The SRS recipients exemplify the hard work and innovation at the core of these awards.”

“I am always proud of the way SRS personnel support NNSA’s crucial missions,” said Jeffrey Allison, acting NNSA-Savannah River Field Office Manager. “What is really striking about these particular achievements is their positive impact on the future. In each case, they contributed in a meaningful way to enhancing the ability to safely and securely carry out NNSA’s important work that helps to keep our nation safe.”

NNSA activities at SRS primarily serve two NNSA missions: managing the nuclear stockpile and nonproliferation. The Site prepares the tritium supply for our national defense and is making preparations for a proposed mission to produce plutonium pits to meet requirements of the nation’s nuclear deterrent. Supporting nonproliferation goals, SRS is carrying out the Surplus Plutonium Disposition mission to permanently dispose of weapons-grade plutonium declared excess to national security, with priority on disposition and removal of plutonium previously consolidated at SRS.

★ and the honorees are... ★

Individuals whose active participation in a team

with other NNSA and contractor personnel produced the analyses, documentation and public involvement related to the proposed plutonium pit production mission, to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act

Jennifer Nelson, SRFO • Mary-Ellen Noone, SRFO • Robert (Bob) Houck, SRFO • Mtesa Wright, SRNS • Mary Flora, SRNS • Keith Dyer, SRNS • Andrew Grainger, Juno Management Professionals • Pauline Conner, SRFO • Joe Rivers, Rivers Consulting • Jay Rose, Tetra Tech, Inc.

A team that accelerated a complicated power line relocation, under budget, in a secure area of SRS which processes tritium for the U.S. nuclear deterrent

Joel S. Ray, SRNS Tad Dickinson, SRNS James Powe, SRNS
Jeff Westergreen, SRNS Donald Baston, SRNS Scott Siegler, SRNS
Chris Garnett, SRNS

A Savannah River National Laboratory team that certified a shipping package, safely doubling the shipping capacity to better serve upcoming missions

Robert Watkins Lynh Nguyen Glenn Abramczyk
Marcus Harris Matthew Kesterson Steve Nathan
Kathryn Karius Zachary Weis Juan Licea-Yanez
Charles McKeel

A team that applied a science-based modeling system to identify emerging infrastructure needs

Kevin Scaggs, SRNS Susan Arnold, SRNS
Glenn Morton, SRFO Roxanne Jump, SRFO

Two individuals who worked as part of a DOE/NNSA-wide team supporting the DOE/NNSA Explosives Safety Program

Mark Spurlock, SR Operations Office
William Lewis, SRNS

Xiao honored with Orth Award

Hydrogen researcher honored with SRNL’s highest recognition

SRNL manager Dr. Steve Xiao has been named the 2020 recipient of the Donald Orth Lifetime Achievement Award for being a leader and expert on hydrogen isotope separation technologies.

The Orth Award is the highest honor given by the laboratory for technical excellence and leadership. Established in 1993, the award was named for the late Dr. Donald Orth, who retired from SRNL in 1992 after a distinguished 41-year career. The award was established to honor an individual “who by character and leadership best exemplifies Dr. Orth’s character and contributions.”

Dr. Xiao is widely recognized at SRNL, Savannah River Tritium Enterprise, the DOE and tritium community as an expert on hydrogen isotope separation technology, in which SRNL is the world leader with Thermal Cycling Absorption Process. Dr. Xiao combines a strong educational background in chemistry, engineering, and physics with unmatched experience from solving complex challenges with efficient solutions.

“Steve is a technology pioneer and has frequently shown his prowess for identifying an out-of-the-box solution to projects studied by many others,” said Dr. Vahid Majidi, SRNS Executive Vice President and SRNL Director. “This award is in clear recognition of Dr. Xiao’s hard work and commitment of to SRNL, SRS and the nation.”



Dr. Steve Xiao with co-worker Ben Randall in the Thermal Cycling Absorption Process lab

Dr. Xiao is recognized for his commitment to teambuilding and has coached and mentored more than 10 employees at SRNL. Through his process development work, he has equipped a world-class measurement facility. With over 60 patents and patent applications, Dr. Xiao continues to excel as one of the lab’s leaders in innovation, a core mission at SRNL.

“I am extremely honored to receive this recognition,” Dr. Xiao said. “I hope my receipt of this award inspires young scientists, engineers and researchers to work hard, knowing they, too, can achieve this type of honor and recognition during their career.”

Cloessner honored with CNTA’s Distinguished Scientist Award

SRNL’s Dr. Paul Cloessner has been named the 2020 recipient of the Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award.

The honor is presented annually by Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA). The award is named after the scientist who was president of the University of Georgia for 19 years and served as Chairman of CNTA’s Board of Directors from 1994 until his death in 2004. It recognizes scientists or engineers of the southeast who have made exceptional scientific contributions during their careers.



Dr. Paul Cloessner

Dr. Cloessner, Laboratory Fellow, has worked at SRS for 36 years, with 32 years at SRNL.

Over his career, he has contributed to projects including the startup of the high-level waste treatment and Defense Waste Processing Facility processes where he directed the development of process control analysis and glass waste form certification analysis. He then

led the establishment of the reservoir surveillance program, fielding new reservoir technology, and supported the startup of the Tritium Extraction Facility. Along the way, he has contributed his expertise to the SRNL intelligence and nonproliferation programs.

Close colleagues of Dr. Cloessner note that his dedication to the nation’s missions is unparalleled, making him deserving of the award.

Currently, Dr. Cloessner is working to establish new capabilities at SRNL to produce plutonium pits for the Nuclear Stockpile Stewardship Program. In addition, he serves as a mentor, working alongside new employees and coaching them to think creatively to make their own significant scientific contributions.

For Dr. Cloessner, receiving this award reflects the relationships he has built over his career. “Being recognized for what I have done by the people who know me and have worked with me is quite an honor,” he said.

Dr. Cloessner received his doctorate in nuclear chemistry from Florida State University and Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Louisiana State University.

Federal programs protect SRS artifacts from the passage of time

Preserving the past for future generations

For DOE and SRNS, preserving SRS history is not only an important mission but a federal mandate.

“What happened here during the Cold War is of crucial historical importance and the passing of time is our enemy,” said Andy Albanesi, SRNS Site Services Program Manager. “It was post-World War II, and patriotism was at an all-time high during the construction and early operation of the Savannah River Plant (SRP), as it was known then. No one can place a value on the work performed by the SRP employees who did their part to create our nation’s nuclear deterrent, countering the threat the Soviet Union presented.”



Today, two programs assist DOE with the preservation of its patriotic history: the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) and the Cold War Historic Preservation Program. Each program partners with the SRS Museum located in Aiken, S.C.

As part of a cooperative agreement with the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina, SRARP handles the Site’s compliance related to archaeological resources. It serves as the primary organization investigating archaeological research associated with the Savannah River Valley’s cultural development. Their results assist DOE in the management of more than 1,300 known archaeological sites at SRS.

Originating in 1997, the Cold War Historic Preservation Program (CWHP) assists DOE in managing the documentation and preservation of the Site’s Cold War era history and in preparation for the Site’s 50th anniversary, a multi-year history project narrating SRS’s technical history.



The program developed a comprehensive inventory and historic description for SRS Cold War facilities in 2004, surveying 750 buildings and structures constructed between 1950-1989. At the close of that effort, 227 properties were recognized as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

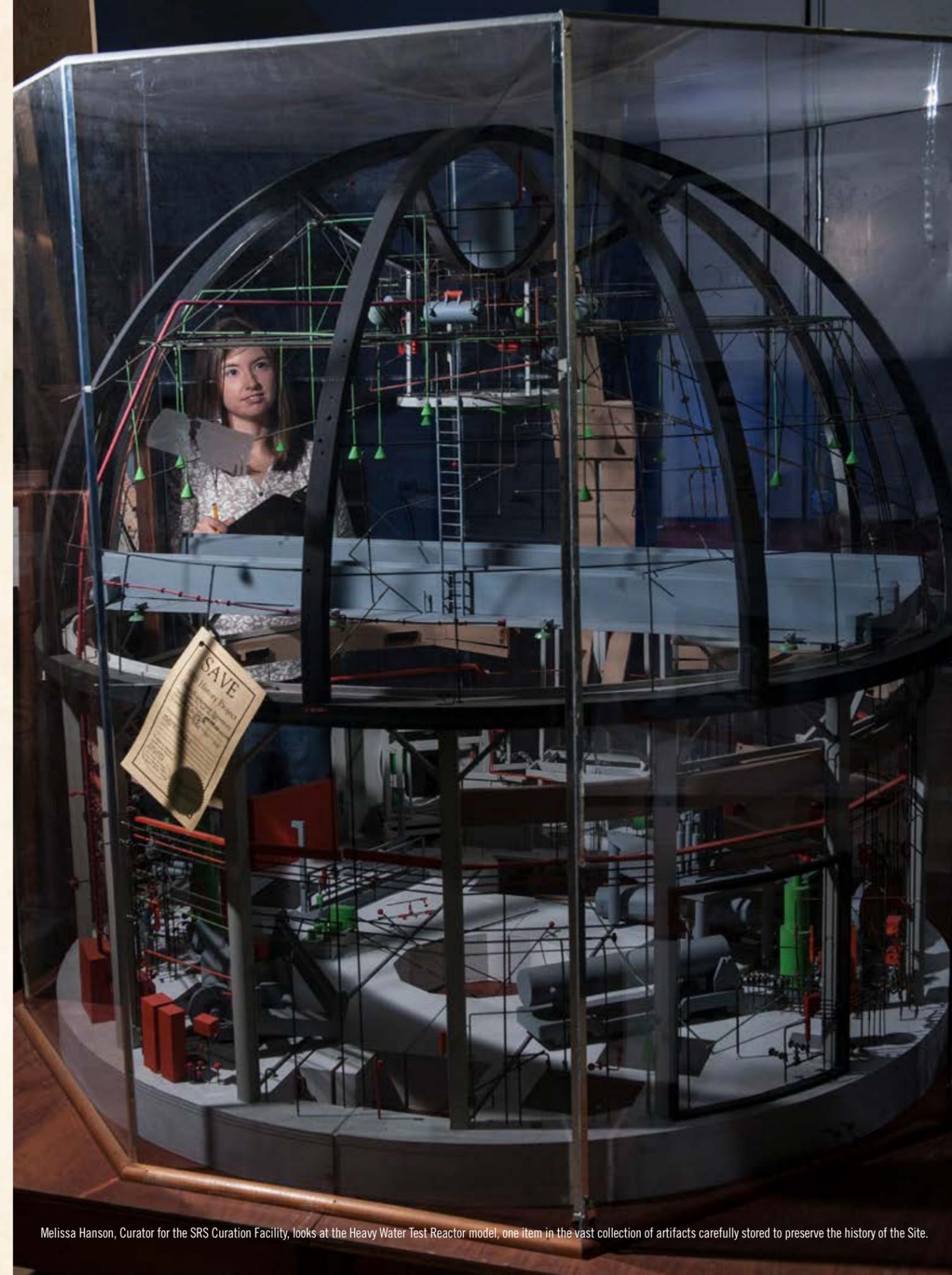
The CWHP works to identify artifacts and historic properties while promoting awareness of the Site’s historical significance through tours, historic photography, presentations, interpretive signage, films and exhibits for the SRS workforce, as well as surrounding communities.

The Curation Facility maintains a significant collection of Cold War artifacts in a large warehouse-like structure at SRS.

“The National Historic Preservation Act is the primary reason our program is here,” said Melissa Hanson, Curator for the SRS Curation Facility and New South Associates employee. “The act encourages federal agencies to survey and identify historic places to ensure that history is being collected should there be changes made to a structure, such as the demolition of a building or damage due to flood or fire. There are about 6,000 artifacts, such as documents, photos, building signs, equipment, tools and even a test reactor console—altogether, an incredibly wide variety of items.”



Photos (clockwise from bottom): The reactor control room console from 777-M controlled a mockup of the Savannah River heavy water moderated reactors. The test reactor ran from 1953 into the late 1970s. ■ A paper napkin made sure that security reminders were everywhere—even at meals. ■ These massive doors are from the 217-F vault, which housed final plutonium and tritium ready for shipment during the Cold War. ■ A “Reactor On” light and this safety sign are just two of thousands of artifacts preserved at 315-M.



Melissa Hanson, Curator for the SRS Curation Facility, looks at the Heavy Water Test Reactor model, one item in the vast collection of artifacts carefully stored to preserve the history of the Site.

STEM-ulating conversations

Students become 'pen pals' with SRS experts to learn about STEM careers

With students returning to school, a new experience awaits them with the creation of the STEMulating Conversations with SRS Experts program, managed by SRNS. An entire class can be "pen pals" with SRS employees whose degrees and careers involve science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

To date, 74 teachers and academic officials from local schools have enrolled in STEMulating Conversations to expose their students to a wide range of potential careers through electronic letters.

STEMulating Conversations offers K-12th grade students the opportunity to develop career aspirations and interests in STEM by communicating with a scientist, engineer, information technology specialist or other STEM professional from SRS. Through the program, they can ask an SRS expert STEM-related questions or connect personally with career questions about the duties of an expert.

The students at Diamond Lakes Elementary are already on their third letter. Ms. Annetea Mills' STEM Lab has been exchanging information with two SRS engineers, Pamela Finklin, SRNS, and Joel Maul, DOE. Each possesses a degree within a different engineering discipline (electrical and chemical). This gives participating students two different perspectives on a career in engineering.

"There's little doubt that the ongoing correspondence is already creating a mentoring relationship between the students at Diamond Lakes and our SRS engineers," said STEMulating Conversations Program Coordinator Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach. "It's been exciting for me to read the letters as well and see the enthusiasm they are generating. Each message from Pamela and Joel benefits 160 students from Diamond Lakes and exposes them to two different engineering fields."

Diamond Lakes Principal Lashantel Pinckney expressed her appreciation for the partnership between SRS engineers and the Richmond County (Ga.) School System. "Our district is truly appreciative of the efforts made by SRNS Education Outreach to think outside the box during the pandemic and to remain engaged in the business of educating and preparing students for their future," she said.

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Lashantel Pinckney

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DOE Engineer Joel Maul with students at Diamond Lakes Elementary School in Hephzibah, Ga., during a special visit to a class he has been corresponding with for several weeks.

With the receipt of each STEMulating Conversation request, Rice works through a database consisting of more than 90 SRS volunteers to determine the best match for each set of questions.

All the letters received to date have specifically asked about STEM careers. "This program is already proving to be a great way for students to begin thinking about what engineers, scientists or other STEM professionals do within their chosen profession," Rice added. "One of our beliefs is that you can't wait until college to reach students with this type of information. You have to reach them early, at the elementary grade level and then continue the dialog as they advance into middle and high school."

STEMulating Conversations with SRS Experts will soon move from a pilot program to an annual one offered by SRNS.

"Students need this kind of connection and the acknowledgement that people care about them and their career goals," said Rice. "We have so much talent and knowledge in different areas to share throughout the Savannah River Site."

Coal Yard closure

Innovation, creativity key to completing 12-acre cleanup

SRNS
Project Manager
Kelsey Holcomb discusses
the cleanup of the D Area Coal
Storage Yard with Karen Adams,
DOE-Savannah River Federal
Project Director, as the
project quickly nears
completion.

The final dump truck delivering limestone gravel to a 12-acre legacy coal yard cleanup project at SRS came and went, setting the stage for the completion of final closure details of what was once coal-contaminated soil in the D Area Coal Storage Yard.

Until 2012, the storage yard held huge piles of coal used to continuously feed an enormous powerhouse built in the late 1950s that provided steam and electricity for SRS missions. The facility was shut down and replaced with an environmentally sustainable innovative technology that burns forest debris, agricultural waste and scrap lumber to generate steam and power.

While the mammoth powerhouse awaits demolition, SRNS began restoring the land impacted by the decades-long operation of the coal-fired powerhouse through a series of intricately planned cleanup projects.

"Any large pile of coal that sits for nearly six decades will interact with rainwater and the atmosphere," said Kelsey Holcomb, Project Manager, SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects organization. "Coal contains iron sulfide, also known as pyrite or fool's gold, and when it mixes with rainwater, it creates sulfuric acid. The acidity could potentially leach into the soil and draw out toxic metals such as beryllium and chromium if left untreated."

According to Holcomb, if left unaddressed, the metals are capable of slowly migrating into the groundwater and ultimately can make their way into the surface waters on-site. Creating a less acidic environment will help reduce the presence of metals.

"We take ownership in catching potential issues as early as possible to alleviate concerns to human health or an ecological threat

condition," Holcomb said. "Completing this action to remedy the acidic condition of the soil in the coal storage yard is an important step towards the long-term protection of the environment at SRS."

Prior to the first shovel-full of coal-tainted soil being removed from the yard, the soil had approximately the same pH as a cola-based soft drink at 3.0 to 3.2. After SRS crews thoroughly mixed 1,000 tons of fine-grade limestone throughout the 12 acres, down to a depth of four feet, the pH returned to around 5.5, a normal level for the area.

Throughout the six-month project, SRNS construction personnel worked on only one acre at a time to control erosion and ensure no sediment entered nearby creeks and streams as a result of soil excavation. To accomplish this task, construction workers operated an excavator, dump trucks, a road scraper and a large industrial mixer to treat each section of the coal yard.

The sprawling coal storage yard has slowly changed from red to gray, as the fine-grade limestone was mixed with the soil and capped with gravel.

The innovative cleanup approach used for the project expedited the clean-up timeline and significantly reduced costs associated with traditional clean-up methods for projects of this size and scale.

"This project is typical of the creative, cost-effective and responsible cleanup activities we continually strive for at Savannah River," said Brian Hennessey, DOE-Savannah River Federal Project Director. "Working closely with our EM contractor and regulators in a Core Team environment of collaboration has been key to the series of successful cleanup projects at SRS over the decades."

Student life and learning

More than 1,000 interns find experience, contacts and often a home at SRS



Stephanie Shaw conducts an inventory of items contained in a special cabinet designed to safely store potentially hazardous household products.

Since 2008, more than 1,000 SRNS student interns have gained valuable knowledge, experience and networking contacts at SRS. Many have found a career and a long-term home at SRS.

“Though I will be graduating in May, this wonderful experience at SRS has me reconsidering what graduate degree to pursue,” said Stephanie Shaw, intern in SRNS Supply Chain Management and Information Technology student at New Mexico State University. “The entire internship has really opened my eyes to the diversity of missions found across this huge site. The exposure to different career fields and the expert guidance received from my managers has been invaluable. I just love it here.”

Rainer Neely, SRNS Intern Program Specialist, echoes SRNS management philosophy in that building a strong, mutually beneficial foundation with every intern often develops highly qualified and proven job candidates, a plus for all involved.

“Our hope is that any intern participating in our program will have a positive experience, whether they are going to stay with us or venture on to another company,” said Neely. “We want to make a significant contribution to the progress of their career.”

Neely noted that an internship might influence future generations within a student’s family. “This could lead their children and grandchildren to a career at SRS,” he said. “We fully understand the potential impact an internship can have, no matter the age of the intern, whether an 18-year-old freshman or military veteran.”

Though multiple methods are used at SRNS to train and provide on-the-job experience, three workshops are available to prepare interns for the process of applying for and obtaining a job upon graduation. The workshops are designed to help students create of an effective resume; find their innate personality traits to ensure a strong aptitude and alignment with a desired degree or occupation; and enhance and polish each intern’s ability to communicate their potential value in an interview environment.

“We also offer two networking events with SRNS senior managers at the Intern Reception and the Executive Meet and Greet Session,” said Neely. “This gives them exposure to SRNS senior vice presidents and our company president while helping them to put into practice those skills they just developed or improved upon in the workshops.”

According to Neely, people are often surprised at the number of interns at SRNS. “Though we value the more than 200 summer and winter interns and the contributions they make during their relatively short time with us each year, we currently have 52 year-round interns who we treat as Full Service Employees. We are always seeking ways to take their development to the next level,” he said.

The SRNS internship program has succeeded in building a strong reputation, because it draws upon the diversity of colleges and universities attended by its year-round interns. Currently, 18 colleges and universities are represented including Florida, Maryland, New Mexico and Louisiana.

“I would definitely recommend this program to my friends because it’s a welcoming environment here, and SRNS wants to hire interns,” said Max Florido, a Project Controls intern from the University of South Carolina Aiken. “It’s been a great experience. And, you’re going to come out with a new set of skills and that’s an important advantage. I’m very thankful I got this opportunity.”

Summer internships for 2021 will be posted November through February at www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com.



The entire internship has really opened my eyes to the diversity of missions found across this huge site. The exposure to different career fields and the expert guidance received from my managers has been invaluable. I just love it here.

Stephanie Shaw



Kevin Coley of P&TS named SRNS ‘Boss of the Year’

SRNS employees annually are provided the opportunity to nominate those managers they believe are truly exceptional, justifying why their nominee should be named Boss of the Year.

Packaging and Transportation Services (P&TS) Manager Kevin Coley has been named this year’s SRNS Boss of the Year.

The day-to-day responsibilities of the P&TS department include a variety of stressful challenges unique to its mission to safely ship a wide range of items such as chemicals, heavy equipment and radioactive materials.

“Though I appreciate this recognition, the team of highly dedicated and talented personnel I work with each day drive the success of this organization,” said Coley. “For me, the real honor is working with each one of them.”

Nominated managers were judged on criteria including fair and impartial treatment of all personnel, community involvement, outstanding accomplishments, ethics, professionalism, dependability and sensitivity to the concerns of subordinates.

“The number of managers nominated annually for the SRNS Boss of the Year Award is impressive as well as a strong indicator of the strength and excellence of our management team,” said Stuart MacVean. “Congratulations to Kevin for his achievement and to each of those nominated for this special award.”

Coley is a 35-year military veteran having served in Kuwait and Afghanistan. He continues to serve his nation and community in the U.S. Army Reserves, holding the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3. His experience gained from leadership positions in the military has been continually applied at SRNS, including through the mentoring program, which he supports as well. Coley began his career at SRS in 1998 and now manages 16 P&TS employees.

Coley was nominated in part for his efforts to continually improve, exemplified recently when he accomplished the arduous task of working across several departments to replace an outdated electronic shipping order process with a new state-of-the-art system, launched in September.

When asked to describe the most rewarding aspect of his current position with SRNS, he replied, “Being able to help others on a daily basis and upholding the SRNS Standard of Excellence.”



Kevin Coley



“Though I appreciate this recognition, the team of highly dedicated and talented personnel I work with each day drive the success of this organization. For me, the real honor is working with each one of them.”

Kevin Coley



LEAP holds virtual development conference, marks 10th anniversary

SRNS Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) recently hosted the sixth annual LEAP Professional Development Conference. The highly popular event, which is normally held in person, was made virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each year, LEAP puts on a conference for its members to hear from on- and off-site leadership, who offer various advice, personal experiences and anecdotes about navigating their careers.

This year’s speakers included SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Sean Alford, Chancellor of the University of South Carolina Aiken Dr. Sandra Jordan and Stephen Shedletzky of Simon Sinek Inc.

“The event not only provides LEAP members an environment to professionally develop, but also a way to do so in an atypical setting. Event attendees range from new hires to company executives, and the event keynote speakers provide thought provoking perspectives and key insights to their own successes,” said SRNS LEAP President Harris Eldridge. “Having a diverse crowd and well-established speakers gives LEAP members the opportunity to build relationships and to grow in ways not found anywhere else.”

The event started with a safety topic, welcome and thank you message from Dr. Alford, as well as a message of encouragement to look for opportunities to advance personal leadership skills.

Keynote speaker Dr. Jordan spoke on the topic of creativity in the workplace. During her presentation Dr. Jordan stressed the importance of bringing creativity into your career, company and teams while looking for ways to implement creative solutions and ideas into your realm of expertise.

Closing this year’s conference, Shedletzky presented attendees with advice on being an effective leader. He also stressed the importance of building highly-trusted teams when given leadership opportunities or positions.

Along with the annual Professional Development Conference, LEAP also celebrated its 10-year anniversary since becoming one of the professional organizations at SRNS.



INNOVATION • DEFENSE

NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT

SRNS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

We make the world **safer.**