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SRNL Researcher James Marra Recognized for Leadership

AIKEN, S.C. (May 27, 2014) – Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) investigator Dr James Marra has been named the 2014 recipient of the D.T. Rankin Award for exemplary service to the Nuclear Environmental Technology Division of the American Ceramic Society (ACerS).

Marra has been a member of the American Ceramic Society for almost 30 years. He started as a student member and served on the Society's Board of Directors from 2009 to 2012. The award was granted based on leadership within the Nuclear Environmental Technology Division, professionalism, and participating in technical activities and innovation.



This award honors the late Tom Rankin and recognizes an ACerS member who has demonstrated exemplary service. Rankin was an employee of SRNL and a pillar of the ACerS Nuclear and Environmental Technology Division. He served as chairman of the division and spearheaded the efforts within the group to encompass environmental issues and technology. Rankin also worked within the society to expand the division's reach in the environmental area as much of the work of the division membership involves applying ceramic technologies to waste management and environmental remediation. Rankin passed away in 1999.

Marra said the award has great value to him in that he and Rankin were co-workers and friends. "This is the most meaningful recognition I have ever received in my career. Tom provided me many opportunities and was a trusted advisor and friend along the way. I am very proud and humbled to win this award. Tom hired me at SRNL in 1990 and was my first supervisor."



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According to Marra, it was at Rankin's encouragement that he became an active member of ACerS. "He was truly a mentor and was the one who got me actively involved in the American Ceramic Society. Although I was a member, I had not participated other than attending conferences. I was working again for Tom when he passed away. Tom was an inspiration and this award means a great deal to me."

The award will be presented in October 2014 at the ACerS Annual Meeting and MS&T-14, being held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is a multi-program applied research and development laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy. SRNL applies state-of-the-art science and engineering to provide practical, high-value, cost-effective solutions for our nation's environmental cleanup, nuclear security and clean energy challenges. Visit us on the web at <http://srnl.doe.gov>

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