

● MARCH 2015

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

SRNS Today



10 million safe hours!

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Savannah River National Laboratory employees demonstrate their unwavering commitment to safety

Also this month

DOE, NNSA Visitors • Sustainability Award • Continuous Improvement • Waste Management Symposia





Carol Johnson
SRNS President and CEO

Welcome to the March 2015 edition of SRNS Today



Video: Safety at SRS

To see a video about the safety program at SRS, please [click here](#) or visit [www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com/annual/Journey-To-Safety-Empowerment.mp4](#)

SRNS employees set amazingly high standards. And this month, they outdid themselves once again.

On March 22, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions surpassed another safety milestone by achieving 10 million safe hours without a lost work day, and Savannah River National Laboratory was recently named the safest lab in the DOE complex in 2014. These are remarkable achievements, and it's all thanks to our employees, who embody our slogan, "Safety and Security begin with me."

Our employees' high standards were observed by a number of important visitors to the Site over the past few weeks. Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Deputy Secretary of Energy, visited SRS on March 4-5, and toured SRNL, H Canyon, our tritium facilities and K Area. The following week, National Nuclear Security Administration Principal Deputy Administrator Madelyn Creedon visited SRS on March 10 to tour the tritium facilities, the Waste Solidification Building, K Area, SRNL and MOX. Both visitors' feedback was very positive, and our employees once again left top administrators with favorable impressions.

Our employees shine both at work and in the community, and on the following pages, you'll see the results. Millions saved through Continuous Improvement initiatives. Awards received from technology innovations and research excellence. Top awards at the United Way Annual Meeting. And a great turnout in support of the annual Heart Walk and Project Vision.

The Savannah River Site is impressive because of our employees' hard work. I'm always pleased to share our accomplishments and great feedback from visitors. But I'm more proud of the dedication and commitment our employees exhibit every day to safe and secure performance excellence.

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

Carol



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

[www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com](#)

10 million safe hours worked

SRNS employees demonstrate dedication to safety culture

The employees of SRNS take safety seriously and their commitment shows in their safety performance. They achieved a significant safety milestone the week of March 15, 2015, by working over 10 million hours without a lost work day case.

This is the second longest streak of safe work hours achieved by the company since SRNS took over the contract in 2008, surpassed only by a 24.8 million man-hour milestone achieved in 2013.

"It takes a lot of attention to detail and focus on safe behaviors for our employees to perform hazardous work safely and achieve such a significant accomplishment. Most impressively, when the unlikely event of an injury does occur, our employees come back stronger than ever and look for opportunities to prevent recurrence," said Alice Doswell, SRNS Senior Vice President for Environmental Services, Safety and Health. "It is that resilience and commitment to safe performance that enables SRNS to have a world class safety culture."

A significant contributor to this safety achievement is attributed to SRNS' Project Management and Construction Services (PMCS) division, who also recently surpassed an organizational safety milestone of 3 million safe hours worked without a lost work day due to injury. This organization supports all site facilities and conducts some of the most hazardous work at SRS.

"For a construction organization, logging three million safe man-hours is a significant achievement," said Dan Armstrong, Vice President for SRNS Project Management and Construction Services. "It takes a strong team of construction, project and support employees to make sure we send everyone home safely to their family each day."



SRNS employees working safely in L Area

DOE, NNSA officials visit the Savannah River Site

Deputy Secretary of Energy

Deputy Secretary of Energy Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall visited SRS March 4-5, and toured SRNL, H Canyon, the tritium facilities and K Area. In the photo at right, Dr. Sherwood-Randall and SRNS Senior Vice President and SRNL Deputy Director Dave Eyler listen to an explanation of SRNL's work on waste disposition at Hanford.



NNSA Principal Deputy Administrator

NNSA Principal Deputy Administrator Madelyn Creedon visited SRS to get a first-hand look at the activities and facilities that support important NNSA programs. Although this was her first trip to SRS since being confirmed in her current position last July, she is not a stranger to the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE), having participated in the Tritium Extraction Facility groundbreaking in July 2000. As part of her recent trip, she toured SRTE, Savannah River National Laboratory, MOX facility construction, and the Waste Solidification Building. Creedon is pictured at right with NNSA-Savannah River Field Office Manager Doug Dearolph (from left); SRNS Senior Vice President for NNSA Operations and Programs Wallis Spangler; and SRNS Director of Tritium Operations Lee Schifer.



CI success

SRNS saves \$45.7 million in FY14 through Continuous Improvement initiatives

Continuous Improvement (CI) at SRNS is all about eliminating non-value added steps in processes. Making changes in little ways has resulted in significant savings for the company.

In fiscal year (FY) 2014, SRNS achieved \$45.7 million in cost savings by engaging in CI initiatives, exceeding its goal for the year by more than \$30 million. Since SRNS assumed the contract in 2008, CI productivity and efficiency cost savings total over \$200 million.

"Through cost avoidances, productivity and efficiency improvements, SRNS employees have returned significant value to their customers. The CI program at SRNS strives to improve our processes in a highly-regulated environment while saving taxpayer dollars," said PK Hightower, Manager, SRNS CI.

An example of a CI initiative from FY14 is the Corrective Action Program (CAP) Project, which will save 14,000 man-hours per year or \$1.24 million in productivity savings. A program required by DOE, CAP serves to correct and prevent recurrence of issues affecting personal safety, operational safety and regulatory compliance.

Over 2,000 employees at SRS use software called STAR (Site Tracking and Reporting) to track corrective actions. The CI initiative not only made usability improvements within the software but also streamlined the overall corrective action process.

"I use STAR as part of my job as the Analytical Lab F Area Operations STAR and Assessment Coordinator. Since STAR was improved upon in early August, I've saved a lot of time and the interface is a lot easier to use," said SRNS employee Janice Steadman Shipes.

SRNS has continued on its operational excellence journey by hiring Simpler Consulting, a proven leader in Lean transformation, to help develop Lean experts within the company. Simpler will also



SRNS employee Matthew Gay uses critical electronic rounds to take a reading at SRNL. Critical electronic rounds, a CI initiative, reduced Operator readings from 326 to 26, freeing up as much as 3.5 hours per shift to work on other facility needs. The validated annual savings are 730 man-hours and over \$42,000.

help implement a Lean business system to improve employee satisfaction, reduce costs, increase productive capacity, improve quality and timeliness of product delivery, and ultimately, increase value to SRNS customers.

"Simpler's successful track record for implementing Lean management initiatives in the government sector will be invaluable for SRNS during our Lean transformation," said Hightower.

SRNS names scholarship winners

SRNS has announced the recipients of the 2015 SRNS Family Scholarships. Children of SRNS employees, the winners were selected based on their ability, leadership, community service, scholastic assessment and achievement. A scholarship awards ceremony will be held in May to recognize the students and their families. The winners are listed below.

- Brenna Ashe, daughter of Bryan Ashe, ESS&H
- Jonathan Bowman, son of Charles Bowman, NNSA
- Cameron Clamp, son of Calvin Clamp, NNSA
- Caleb DiPrete, son of David and Cecilia DiPrete, SRNL
- Logan Hughes, son of Michael Hughes, Engineering
- Dillon Jones, son of Dwight Jones, NNSA
- Jonathan Ketusky, son of Edward Ketusky, SRNL
- Stephanie Munie, daughter of James Munie, Engineering

- Sophie Nance, daughter of Thomas Nance, SRNL
- Katie Rogers, daughter of Milton Rogers, NNSA
- Jessica Schifer, daughter of Lee Schifer, NNSA
- Mikaela Schifer, daughter of Lee Schifer, NNSA
- David Stoner, son of Kevin Stoner, Technical Services
- Jessica Tran, daughter of Michael Tran, Engineering
- Tho Van, son of Truong Van, Engineering

Secure Wireless

New TAMS prototype demonstrates high reliability in wireless monitoring

Step by deliberate step, SRS is moving toward bringing the advantages of wireless network technology into secure environments.

Following a year of data collection in the SRS Tritium Facilities, a secure wireless Tritium Air Monitoring (TAM) cart designed by SRNL has been assessed as appropriate for “Safety Significant” service. The prototype cart houses robust tritium monitoring equipment, a secure wireless transmitter, alarms and a backup power source. TAMS is designed to continuously monitor the process rooms for the presence of tritium and, upon its detection, trigger visual and audible alarms.

System performance was evaluated by monitoring the network in real time, verifying that data was delivered consistently. Based on the demonstration, it was determined that the wireless air monitoring system demonstrated the high level of reliability required for a system that protects worker safety.

The test and resulting endorsement are important steps in demonstrating the ability to reap the benefits of wireless technology in a secure environment. Wireless networks have become commonplace in homes, restaurants and retail environments, but until now, they have not been suitable for secure environments.

SRNL designed and fabricated the prototype wireless TAM cart, funded by the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise’s (SRTE) Plant-Directed Research and Development program, which funds innovative research, development and demonstration projects relevant to SRTE’s support for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

“Secure wireless technology offers a lot of advantages to help achieve our goals of improving reliability, reducing complexity and providing deployment flexibility for our TAM systems,” said Lee Schifer, SRNS Director of Tritium Operations.

NNSA sites around the country could benefit from this type of wireless technology for radiation monitoring in nuclear facilities, where monitoring is essential for operating safely and protecting personnel. A wireless system could save millions compared to the cost of running cable into a radioactive process room.

A secure wireless Tritium Air Monitoring cart designed by SRNL has been assessed as appropriate for “Safety Significant” service.



SRNS fields a strong showing at 2015 Waste Management Symposia

SRNS was a strong presence at this year’s Waste Management Symposium, held in Phoenix, Ariz., in March. Attended by over 2,000 people from 40 different countries, the annual Waste Management Symposia is the premiere international conference for the management of radioactive materials and related topics.

SRNS employees represented the company during panel discussions, giving presentations on a number of topics, presenting posters and manning the SRS booth in the exhibit hall.

SRNS won several awards and recognitions at the conference, including a poster entitled “Achieving Groundwater Monitoring Optimization at SRS: A Core Team Process Based on Rigorous Technical Assessment,” which was honored with a Best in Track award. The poster was presented by Senior Scientist in Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects Teresa Eddy, and authored by Eddy, Chris Bergren, Mary Flora, Cathy Lewis and Jeffrey Ross of SRNS and Brian Hennessey of DOE.

SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson was among the panelists for the popular Women of Waste Management (WoWM) Panel and Networking Reception, attended by more than 200 conference participants. WoWM was sponsored by Fluor, who donated \$25 for each person in attendance to the American Heart Association’s Go Red™ for women program.

SRNS was also a Gold Sponsor of the Students and Young Professionals Networking reception, during which SRNS and SRNL executives and professionals shared their expertise and advice.

Simulator: Big benefits in a smaller space

A recently completed project to consolidate the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise’s distributed control system (DCS) training simulators has brought five simulator systems from three locations into one building.

“This move makes space available in two buildings to support future Tritium Transformation Projects,” said Lee Schifer, SRNS Director of Tritium Operations, “But we’re also providing a more realistic training experience because it more closely emulates a control room atmosphere.”

Other significant benefits of this consolidation—including enhanced security controls and increased flexibility—result from the use of virtualization, which replaces physical computers with images of the original machines that run on servers by sharing hardware. By employing virtualization technology, the project team replaced 23 aging computers with three new servers, thus reducing the computer footprint by 75 percent.

The SRTE training simulator is used for training individual control room operators, shift managers, shift operations managers and process operators, as well as team training and drill scenarios. The training simulator is also used to validate procedures and as a test bed for upcoming production changes.

TRU honor: DOE honors SRNS with Sustainability Award for new technology development

A new method for measuring the radioactivity of transuranic (TRU) waste, items primarily contaminated with plutonium as a result of common activities within nuclear facilities, has resulted in a savings exceeding \$10 million at SRS.

“This new non-destructive technology led to significant cost savings and earning of a DOE Sustainability Award in the category of Exemplary Practice,” said Bert Crapse, Waste Disposition Programs, DOE-Savannah River Operations Office. “Every team member contributed to the use of this technology and achievement. What they accomplished will have a significant impact on many organizations throughout the DOE complex,” Crapse said.

Non-destructive technology uses highly sensitive instruments to provide accurate data for each waste container placed into the highly shielded unit. The new technique significantly improves existing methods to determine the strength or level of radiation emitted from each TRU waste container being tested.

Two years of careful analysis and documentation were required to receive full approval from the SRNS TRU Waste Team, DOE and Environmental Protection Agency for use of this new method in the TRU waste characterization and certification program at SRS.

Engineers from SRNS worked closely with DOE’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) personnel and employees from the company Canberra to obtain this level of achievement. Both WIPP and Canberra have employees with expertise in the area of analyzing radiological test results.

The DOE Sustainability Performance Office sponsors sustainability awards to recognize outstanding contributions at DOE facilities across the country involving energy, water and vehicle fleet management, as well as achievements in other projects representing exemplary practices.

This new variation of non-destructive measuring also eliminated the need to repack containers filled with highly contaminated TRU waste and the hazards associated with this type of hands-on work.

Repackaging would have resulted in the generation of over 600 55-gallon drums of unexpected contaminated waste, creating a need for 28 additional waste shipments from SRS to the federal repository.

SRNL researcher honored for excellence by S.C. Governor’s Office

Dr. Brenda García-Díaz of SRNL has been honored by the South Carolina Governor’s office as the recipient of the 2015 Young Researcher Award for Excellence in Scientific Research.

The award was presented March 25 by Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster in a program at the state capitol.

Dr. García-Díaz joined SRNL in 2007 after receiving a doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of South Carolina. Prior to moving to South Carolina, she received both her B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez.

During her time at SRNL, her wide-ranging research assignments have included modeling and experimentation for safe storage and closure of high level waste tanks; materials research for alternate and renewable energy; accident tolerant nuclear fuel research; hydrogen storage research, and other materials-related activities.

Most notably, she has served as a lead investigator on an SRNL-led team (working with the Universities of South Carolina and Alabama) that won a three-year research grant through DOE’s SunShot Initiative, a national effort to make solar energy more cost-competitive. The project is identifying how new, corrosion-resistant materials and strategies can contribute to a higher efficiency solar energy carrier system.

In his official letter of nomination, SRNL Director Dr. Terry Michalske referred to García-Díaz as “an exceptionally strong research engineer with high-impact accomplishments.”



Dr. Brenda García-Díaz

“Within her short seven years at SRNL, she has made a strong impression on other researchers and the SRNL management team through the breadth and technical quality of her work, earning the respect as a team lead from both our junior staff and senior technical staff.”

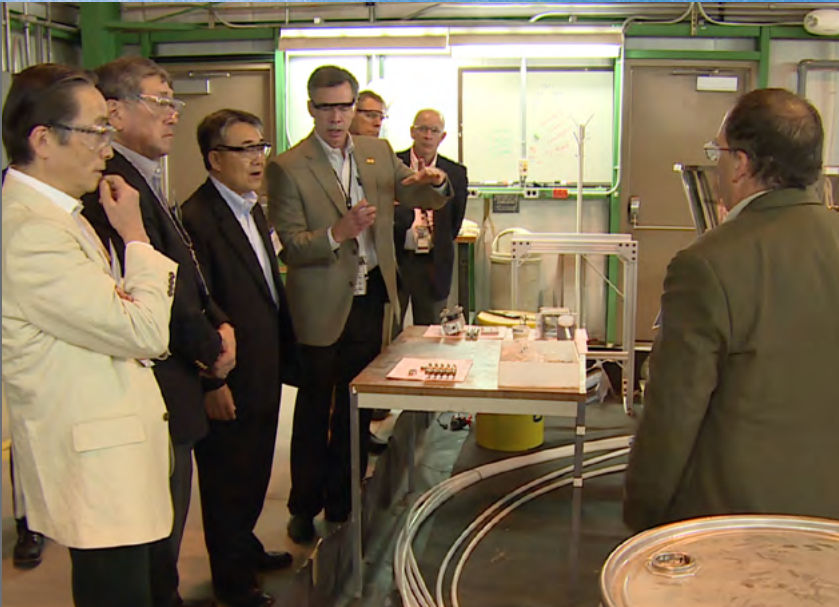
Dr. Terry Michalske

“Within her short seven years at Savannah River National Laboratory, she has made a strong impression on other researchers and the SRNL management team through the breadth and technical quality of her work, earning the respect as a team lead from both our junior staff and senior technical staff,” said Michalske. “Her engaging and gregarious personality brings excitement to our research staff. She has a record that proves her to be an effective technical researcher and manager, and an emergent leader in our laboratory. She is clearly deserving of this recognition.”

In addition to her research activities, García-Díaz has taken an active role in mentoring and counseling high school and college students who are interested in science and math. She currently serves on the external advisory boards for the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of South Carolina and is the local chapter president for ASM International, a professional society for materials engineers.

Japanese visitors to SRNL

Mamoru Numata, Tadatsugu Sakaya and Yasuharu Igarashi observe as the Savannah River National Laboratory’s Jeff Griffin discusses technology strategies for closing radioactive facilities during a March visit by the three-man Japanese delegation. The visitors, representatives of Japan’s Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation, spent a day in discussions, demonstrations and tours with SRNL personnel related to the ongoing remediation at the tsunami-damaged Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. SRNL continues to serve as a technical resource on remediation activities in the aftermath of the 2011 accident. Also pictured are SRNL’s Kevin Kostelnik and David Hobbs (background) and Alex Cozzi (far right).



Living United

SRNS and employees recognized for positive community impact

During the United Way of Aiken County’s annual meeting on March 12, SRNS employees received seven achievement awards that recognized the impact they made to the Aiken community.

SRNS won the “Highest Employee Achievement Award” for contributing \$579,034, and the “Second Highest Corporate Contribution Award” for its \$112,000 corporate match. SRNS also received the distinction of “Highest Overall Campaign” for 2014.

“SRNS employees demonstrate that ‘LIVE UNITED’ is more than just a slogan to them, as SRNS continues to have the largest contribution to our campaign. I just want to thank everyone at SRNS for being good neighbors and for their support last year at the bowling, softball and golf tournaments, as well as Project VISION and Raising the Steaks,” said Sharon Rodgers, President, United Way of Aiken County.

SRNS also received the “Special Event of the Year Award” with Outback, Aiken Electric Cooperative and Savannah River Remediation for the “Raising the Steaks” fundraising event.

Overall, the United Way of Aiken County raised \$2,978,653 during its 2014 campaign. Supporting 25 partner agencies, the organization strives to help people in Aiken County with the building blocks of life, which include a good education, access to healthcare and financial stability.

In the summer of 2014, SRNS employees achieved \$1.03 million for nine local United Way organizations during the company’s annual campaign, and SRNS provided a \$200,000 corporate match. The United Way organizations that received contributions from the SRNS employee campaign included: Aiken County; Allendale County; Bamberg, Colleton and Hampton Counties; Barnwell County; Edgefield County; Midlands; McDuffie County; Screven County; and United Way of the CSRA.



UW of Aiken County President Sharon Rodgers with 2014 “Volunteer of the Year Award” winner Barbara Smoak (left), SRNS Director of Business, Technical and Employee Communications.



John Mikalonis, UW of Aiken County Campaign first vice chair and SRNL Fellow Engineer, with Allison Townsend, 2014 “Campaign Leader of the Year” winner.

Individual awards

Barbara Smoak
Director, SRNS Business, Technical and Employee Communications
Smoak received the “Russell A. Foret Volunteer of the Year Award” for her seven years of service on the United Way executive committee and board of directors. She played an instrumental role in establishing the UW of Aiken County’s Young Philanthropists Society and currently is a member of the Women in Philanthropy exploratory committee.

Allison Townsend
SRNS Accounting Manager
Townsend was presented with the “Campaign Leader of the Year Award” for her role as chair of the 2014 SRNS Employee United Way Campaign.

Jim Moore
SRNS Loaned Professional

Moore won the Humanitarian of the Year Award. For three years, Moore has represented SRNS through the Loaned Professional Program, assisting businesses, schools, state agencies, and county and city governments with United Way campaigns. Some of his responsibilities include arranging guest speakers from member agencies and providing materials for campaign meetings.



ATC at SRS

Aiken Technical College graduates find careers with SRNS in radiation protection

Seven graduates of Aiken Technical College's (ATC) Radiation Protection Program have joined SRNS as Radiological Protection Inspectors for the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE). The seven are currently participating in Savannah River Site-specific training that applies the skills learned at ATC to SRS radiological operations and facilities. Then they will take their places with the radiological protection inspectors whose work helps to ensure that SRTE employees are able to carry out their important national defense mission safely. Among the educational goals shared by SRNS and ATC is a focus on preparing students for opportunities in the nuclear industry. Last year, 40 ATC graduates were hired by SRNS, many with degrees in nuclear quality systems and radiation protection technology.

Photos: (Top) Michael Nora (from left), Colby Kight, Tanner Thompson, Jonathan Hart and Allison Cunningham practice in a non-radiological training classroom; (right) Sharon Anderson and Michael Nora demonstrate monitoring.



AMP welcomes Medal of Honor recipient

The SRNS Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP) group recently held their first professional development event for the year. In line with AMP's 2015 theme of "Courage in Leadership," Major General James E. Livingston, a Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient who served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 33 years, spoke on having the courage to change.

"I feel confident that the attendees of the Major General James Livingston AMP event walked away with some valuable life lessons that can also be applied to their careers," said Jason Davis, AMP Communications co-chair.

AMP focuses on professional development and business awareness specific to SRNS, providing employees with career development tools, networking and community outreach opportunities, and increased visibility.

AMP Information Technology co-chair Wendy Peak, along with Scott Pardue, AMP Professional Development co-chair, welcome Major General James E. Livingston.



Troops in transition

Veterans visit SRS Curation Facility for insight into operations

The transition from service in the U.S. armed forces to a normal work life in America can be difficult for soldiers returning from active duty involving overseas conflicts.

To assist them with this transition, SRNS, the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) and SRNS subcontractor New South Associates recently invited a group of military veterans to visit the SRS Curation Facility, owned by DOE.

The visit was part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Veterans Curation Program (VCP), which provides veterans with tangible work skills and experience through the rehabilitation and preservation of federally-owned archaeological collections.

The VCP employs veterans for up to five months. Work products developed in archaeological curation readily translate to entry level skill sets for the fields of forensics, administrative duties, and museum and records management.

According to Caroline Bradford, New South Laboratory Manager for Archives, the goal of the program is to help the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with their backlog of unprocessed historical records and artifacts, while vocationally helping the veterans of recent conflicts.

"It's a mutually beneficial program," said Bradford. "And, we're here today to learn how SRS Curation Facility personnel conduct their archaeology duties. Our employees visiting SRS today are essentially doing the same type of work in the Veterans Curation Program as they are doing here, only in an institutional setting. All of this helps our veterans to see where they fit within the field of archaeologists and collection managers. The SRS Curation Facility is a great local resource."

DOE, working closely with site operations and management contractor SRNS, New South and SRARP, is fulfilling a commitment to preserve decades of culture, accomplishments and history

associated with life at the Savannah River Plant, now known as SRS, through the creation and continued growth of the curation facility.

This former warehouse preserves and protects historic artifacts. Though not a museum, the curation facility is home for artifacts from SRARP and the Cold War Preservation Program.

"All of this helps our veterans to see where they fit within the field of archaeologists and collection managers. The SRS Curation Facility is a great local resource."

Caroline Bradford

Items currently stored in the facility range from approximately 1950 to 1989, the "era of significance," and they relate to the key themes of the collection: historical figures, historic events, the history of technology on and off site, and the social history of the men and women who worked at the Savannah River Plant.

Because the themes are broad, the artifacts themselves are also diverse. They range from small campaign buttons worn by engineers at SRP who transferred from the Manhattan Project to large control room panels used to operate a test reactor.

Will Dangerfield, VCP Laboratory Analysis Technician, stated that he believes this is a great opportunity for veterans to obtain valuable instruction involving the processing of artifacts from experts. Dangerfield, who has a degree in history, believes his time with VCP will help him earn a master's degree and pursue a career in the field of history.



Melissa Jolley, Curator, SRS Curation Facility, provides a tour to a group of military veterans learning about curation project operations.



Joe Ormand at Golden Harvest Food Bank



Julie Boan at a Salvation Army shelter



Dave Simpson at the Aiken County Nurture Home

Project Vision

SRNS employees team up to help those in need in Aiken County

Dozens of SRNS employees volunteered to work March 20 at United Way agencies and private homes to improve the lives of citizens living throughout Aiken County during this year's Project VISION. This effort is part of the "Days of Caring" United Way program.

Team projects typically include painting, repairing flooring, performing electrical work, building fences and wheelchair ramps, replacing rotting boards, fixing plumbing and performing yard work.

"It's rewarding to have the opportunity to give back," said Cynthia Williams, SRNS Nonproliferation Programs. "It's just one day, and it makes such a huge difference."

According to SRNS Project VISION Coordinator Joey Smiley, each year a large number of SRS employees work on their day off to take on a project that will improve the living conditions of disadvantaged children, low-income senior citizens, the disabled and financially-challenged single parent homeowners. Frequently, a team of volunteers is assigned a project involving a specific United Way agency facility, such as Helping Hands, Tri-Development Center, Community Medical Clinic of Aiken County, Children's Place or the Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons.

"I'm continually impressed with the devotion of our employees to serve, in so many ways, those who live in communities near SRS," said Fred Dohse, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer.



Sean Barr at a residence in Aiken



Terri Bolton at Helping Hands, Inc.

Rockin' the Heart Walk

SRNS contributes more than \$91,000 to American Heart Association



Maurice, Evin and Erica Lee were among the thousands who participated in the 2015 Heart Walk.



More than 300 SRNS employees were among 5,000 Aiken-Augusta area residents who hit the trail March 7 for the 2015 CSRA Heart Walk at the North Augusta Greenway.

Over the course of a two-month campaign, SRNS employees raised \$81,850, which is 136 percent of the fundraising goal. SRNS also provided a philanthropic-giving donation of \$10,000. The annual event promotes awareness of heart-healthy living and benefits the American Heart Association.

"CSRA Heart Walk is so thankful for the support from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. Several employees from SRNS qualified as 'Top Walkers' for raising over \$1,000. On top of that, the wellness program at SRNS fits the American Heart Association's criteria for a fit-friendly company," said Kayla Yates, Director of Development, CSRA Heart Walk.

"I can't begin to thank our team captains and contributors enough for their fundraising efforts. Your hard work and enthusiasm made this year's campaign a great success."

Wallis Spangler

"This was my first time participating in the CSRA Heart Walk. I wasn't expecting the Heart Walk to be such a family-friendly event. My young son really enjoyed the 'Kids Zone,' visiting the tables to collect snacks and prizes, and the one-mile loop was the perfect walking distance for him so he could have plenty of time to play on the playground afterwards," said Nick Weaver, SRNS Process Control Engineer.

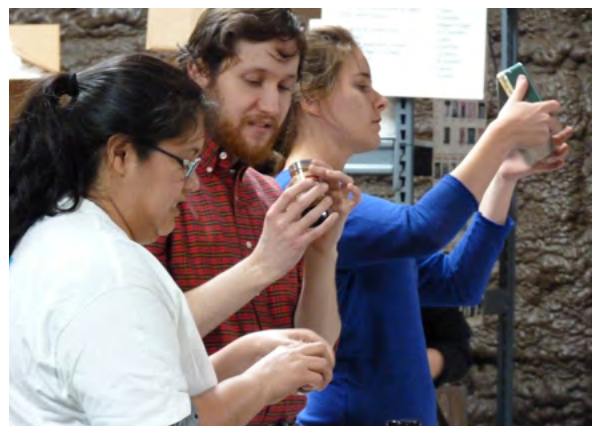
"I can't begin to thank our team captains and contributors enough for their fundraising efforts. Your hard work and enthusiasm made this year's campaign a great success," said Wallis Spangler, SRNS Senior Vice President for NNSA Operations and Programs, and Executive Sponsor of the 2015 SRNS Heart Walk Campaign. "SRNS is proud to partner with CSRA Heart Walk to help bring awareness to the importance of heart health. And for me personally, participating in the Heart Walk campaign over the past few months has been a constant reminder to make better choices for a healthier lifestyle."

● SRNS sponsors Juilliard in Aiken

More than three hundred third, fourth and fifth graders from Allendale and Fairfax (S.C.) elementary schools attended the SRNS-sponsored Juilliard in Aiken and STEM Event on March 11, along with their principals, teachers and chaperones. The sponsorship included transportation, the Kidz Bop concert featuring the Juilliard Jazz Ensemble at the Etheredge Center (pictured), lunch at the campus cafeteria and STEM classes taught by the staff from the Ruth Patrick Science and Education Center at USC Aiken.



LEAP assists Golden Harvest with food sorting at Faith Food Factory



SRNS LEAP members (above) Hortencia Roach, Perry Levin and Anne Kelly sort dry goods along with other LEAP members at the Golden Harvest Food Bank's distribution center (below).

Golden Harvest Food Bank received some help from SRNS Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) at the Faith Food Factory in Augusta, Ga. In just three hours, the group sorted 3,152 pounds of food, enough to supplement 85 people in need for an entire year.

The food supplies the Golden Harvest's "Agency Marketplace," the shopping area for the organization's partner agencies, which include churches and non-profits. Representatives from the partner agencies visit the Agency Marketplace to receive much-needed donations for their food pantry.

Before Golden Harvest can stock the marketplace's shelves, each grocery item donated to food bank is inspected for quality. The LEAP volunteers checked thousands of canned and dry goods to ensure the packages were unopened, contained a list of ingredients and had not expired.

"Without volunteers, Golden Harvest Food Bank wouldn't exist because we are 40 percent volunteer-driven. We can help provide for families and individuals because groups like LEAP pitch in to do our heavy lifting behind the scenes," said Natalie London, Volunteer Coordinator, Golden Harvest Food Bank.

LEAP is a peer-led organization whose members are full-time employees at SRNS and have earned, at a minimum, an associate's degree within the past seven years.

● SRNS engineers share science with students during teach-ins

SRNS employees recently provided science- and engineering-based demonstrations for more than 2,000 students throughout the greater Aiken-Augusta area in honor of National Engineers Week 2015.

Known as "Teach-Ins," 90 of these demonstrations were conducted by more than 40 SRNS engineers, scientists and technicians at 19 middle schools with a focus on seventh grade students over a two-week period, donating their time to this cause.

Teach-Ins have proven to be instrumental towards promoting the importance of a high level of math, science and technology literacy. SRNS volunteers provide interactive demonstrations and informative discussions to give students a broader understanding of the field of engineering. The experiments and presentations often involve such things as flying objects, lasers, dry ice and robotic creatures to captivate the minds of the students.

Middle schools in the South Carolina counties of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Edgefield, plus the Georgia counties of Columbia and Richmond, have participated in this outreach program managed and sponsored by SRNS since 2008. During this time period, over 12,000 students from this region have benefited from the creative work and hours of effort provided by hundreds of enthusiastic Teach-In volunteers.

National Engineers Week celebrates the positive contributions engineers make to society and is a catalyst for outreach across the country to kids and adults alike.



● Introducing girls to engineering

SRNS mechanical engineer Annamarie MacMurray (above) discusses a new program developed at North Augusta (S.C.) High School where students learn how to design, build and program robots to compete at competitions around the nation during this year's "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day." The event is sponsored annually by SRNS, the Society of Women Engineers and the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, and focuses on middle school girls from the greater Aiken-Augusta area.

● SRNS continues coordination of Science Fair

With the support of the U.S. Department of Energy and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), hundreds of Central Savannah River Area science-savvy students recently participated in the 2015 Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair competition.

More than 200 students representing schools from a six-county region located within the greater Aiken-Augusta area put their project on display at the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA) in an attempt to impress the judges.

"We are always impressed with the diversity of projects and themes. Many of the experiments can be extremely creative," said Candice Dermody, SRNS Manager, Education Outreach and Talent Management. "The dedication and ingenuity displayed by the students can be inspiring."

With the support of co-sponsor USCA, SRNS coordinated the competition for the eighth year, ensuring an educational and rewarding experience for each student competitor.



SRNS engineer Missy Byrne works with middle school students during the 2015 SRS Teach-Ins at Davidson Fine Arts, Augusta, Ga.

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Carol Johnson
SRNS President
and CEO



Fred Dohse
SRNS Executive Vice President
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Terry Michalske
SRNS Executive Vice President
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