

● MAY 2016

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

SRNS Today



Class Act

New operator hires are
win-win for company and region



This month

S.C. honors Dr. Jantzen • AMP sponsors Leadercast • Celebrity Waiter • Mini Grants awarded





Carol Johnson
SRNS President and CEO

Welcome

to the May 2016 edition of

SRNS Today



"Why SRS Matters"

To see the H Canyon segment of our video series "Why SRS Matters," please [click here](#) or visit www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com/annual/Why_H-AREA_Matters.mp4

Paying it forward. Sometimes it's monetary funding. Sometimes, it's the right word at the right moment. Whatever the currency, our actions today help form the future.

On the next page, you'll see a wonderful example of "paying it forward." Dr. Carol Jantzen has been honored with the S.C. Governor's Award for Excellence in Scientific Research. Her amazing career has earned her the reputation as a world expert on waste forms and the safe disposal of high-level nuclear waste. This makes the world safer for us all. Congratulations to Dr. Jantzen on this outstanding honor.

SRNS has also chosen to "pay it forward" through various educational avenues. We recently selected 15 students—all children of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions' employees—to receive an SRNS Family Scholarship. Our company has also provided \$75,000 in mini grants to area teachers to support innovative teaching approaches. By providing support to these teachers and students, SRNS is helping generations to come. Hopefully, some of these students will look toward a future where they will choose SRNS as a place of employment.

This month, SRNS senior leaders and managers turned out to support the annual Leadercast event, sponsored by our Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals. By exposing our mid-career employees to the reflections and challenges from highly successful national business leaders and motivational speakers, we envision that these employees will "pay it forward" in developing innovative enhancements to our work here at the Savannah River Site.

As we have recently marked our national Memorial Day, I offer a deep and heart-felt "thank you" to our military veterans who are now making new careers with our company. Your past and present service to our nation is surely the ultimate example of "paying it forward," and we are grateful.

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.

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Governor's Award

Jantzen honored for work on waste processing models

A materials scientist and geochemist at SRNL has won the 2016 South Carolina Governor's Award for Excellence in Scientific Research. The award was given April 29 in Columbia, S.C., by S.C. Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster.

Dr. Carol M. Jantzen was recognized for her development of process models that operate the control system at the SRS Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), the nation's only operational, high-level waste vitrification facility.

"I am appreciative of the Governor's award committee for the recognition of my technical and innovative accomplishments in the safe disposal of high-level waste," said Jantzen. "I am even more appreciative the award committee recognized how I took ideas from one discipline—my background in geology and geochemistry—and applied these concepts to develop waste processing models and other engineering solutions."

Jantzen is considered one of the world's experts on waste forms by the International Atomic Energy Agency. She is an active member of the American Standards and Testing Materials organization, contributing to standards used around the world for the nuclear industry and high-level waste geologic repositories.

"This award speaks directly to the quality of work that Dr. Jantzen performs," said Sharon Marra, SRNS Senior Vice President and Savannah River National Laboratory Deputy Laboratory Director. "She's a researcher dedicated to innovation and new opportunity. Her work at DWPF is just one example of how her research has made a significant impact."

Jantzen has extensive knowledge of glass, ceramic, mineral, cement, geopolymers and hydroceramic waste forms, and has served on the National Academy of Science and the National Research Council. Her expertise in thermodynamics and geochemistry has been integral to providing know-how to DWPF's processes to transform high-level nuclear waste into glass for safe disposal.

"I always say I will try to find a way to solve the problem, and I constantly question how I can make it work or how can I improve on this model or that practice," said Jantzen.

The Governor's Award was established in 1985 by the Drug Science Foundation to honor an individual or team within the state whose achievements and contributions to science in South Carolina merit special recognition and to promote wider awareness of the quality and extent of scientific activity in South Carolina.

"SRNL is proud of Carol for receiving this recognition, we are thankful to her for her hard work," added Marra.



Dr. Carol Jantzen (left) with S.C. Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster and SRNS Senior Vice President and SRNL Deputy Director Sharon Marra

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Dr. Carol Jantzen

"This award speaks directly to the quality of work that Dr. Jantzen performs. She's a researcher dedicated to innovation and new opportunity. Her work at DWPF is just one example of how her research has made a significant impact."

Sharon Marra



Class Act

New operator hires are win-win for company, region

80

new operators were hired by SRNS in April, with the majority hailing from the local area. Their arrival helps the company address workforce sustainment needs created by current and expected attrition.

“Many of our new hires are from programs and schools that partner with SRNS through our training and education outreach programs,” said Wyatt Clark, Senior Vice President of Environmental Management Operations. “In fact, 12 operators are coming out of the Nuclear Engineering Technology program SRNS has established with Augusta Technical College. It is satisfying to know that not only are we getting the trained, quality workers we need, but we are also helping our neighbors and friends by hiring locally.”

Jake Jones, who will be working in H Area, is from Warrenton, S.C. He has several family members who already work at SRS. “I already have experience in operations from a previous job,” he said. “But I was looking for better career opportunities and heard SRS was the place to be.”

Job assignments for the new operators vary by the area where they are assigned, but include such tasks as rigging, nuclear material handling, and transport and nuclear material monitoring. Training the new operators will take approximately two years to complete, depending on their job assignment.

Bryan Depew is from Barnwell, S.C., and has a degree in the engineering field from Aiken Technical College (ATC). “I wanted a career I could use my degree for,” he said.

“It is satisfying to know that not only are we getting the trained, quality workers we need, but we are also helping our neighbors and friends by hiring locally.”

Wyatt Clark

“We need these employees to address workforce sustainment,” said Clark. “Hiring and retaining quality employees are concerns across the DOE complex because of the number of long-time employees who are becoming eligible for retirement. We expect to see approximately 50 percent of our workers retire within the next five years. The new operators will help ensure that a pipeline of qualified operators is available to replace the outgoing employees.”

Clark said that hiring will need to continue in order to ensure staffing levels remain adequate to perform mission-essential work safely. To this end, SRNS and ATC have partnered to create a Nuclear Fundamentals Certificate Program, similar to the program at Augusta Technical College. The first graduates are expected to complete the program in October 2016.

“This round of hiring was just one of the many steps we will take in workforce sustainment,” he said. “We also have several initiatives in place that will address such issues as knowledge retention and making SRS a compelling place to work.”

Overcoming Adversity

New SRNS engineers walk a different path to achieve their dreams



SRNS engineers Nhon Do (left) and Alex Somers (right) discuss the nuclear processes relating to H Canyon with the SRNS Engineering Leadership Development Program Manager Mike Hughes.

Alex Somers pursued a career in the military for years with a deep desire to one day defend his nation by serving on a nuclear submarine, until Type I diabetes ended that dream before it could begin. Nhon Do obtained a degree in criminal justice and nearly reached his goal to be a police officer, only to see that hope dashed as a result of a severe motorcycle accident that left permanent damage to one leg.

Both Somers and Do are now newly-hired engineers with SRNS after following unexpected and complex paths to careers at SRS.

“I’m so pleased to have found a job as an engineer within a company that plays a crucial role defending our nation,” said Somers. “What I also found attractive was the professional demeanor, devotion to teamwork and comradery that is the core of the engineering program at SRNS. I believe I’ve found a home here at SRS.”

Nhon Do’s father, after six years in prison due to his participation as a captain in the South Vietnam Army during the war, applied for a U.S. visa. Six years later, he and his family arrived in San Antonio, Texas, with only \$100 in his pocket. At the time, Nhon was a young teenager.

Today, in addition to being an electrical engineer with SRNS, Nhon also owns a nail salon and mushroom farm.

“The SRNS Engineering Leadership Development Program (ELDP) is one of the reasons I chose to work at SRS,” said Do. “The classes and types of mentoring are highly valuable for a new engineer. Our mentors’ level of experience is amazing, and the management team is excellent. I’d recommend this company to anyone.”

Recruiting and retaining engineers at a government complex can be difficult. Corporate positions within this field can be more lucrative.

“Our development program for new engineers focuses on a type of professional attention, support and respect that is hard to find today,” said Mike Hughes, SRNS manager, ELDP. “We want to attract the best engineers for the best reasons, creating and sustaining a mutually beneficial work environment.”

Somers and Do both acknowledge that SRNS strives to offer sincere, valued relationships between engineers and managers. “This type of training and supervision is highly appealing,” added Somers. “After all, we are all investing in the future of this organization and the important part it plays within the nation’s use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent.”

Somers and Do are two of the 25 new engineers currently participating in the ELDP. The core of the program involves an investment in technical engineering and operational training, combined with a series of short-term projects in a variety of facilities and processes across the site. To further enhance this diverse process, an emphasis is placed on knowledge transfer and one-on-one quality time with experienced engineers who act as mentors. Mentoring ensures these new employees and future site leaders gain skills and confidence in their new role.

Somers has a bachelor of science degree in nuclear engineering from North Carolina State University, while Do graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering.



SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson gives the introduction at Leadercast to AMP members, managers and executives.

Leadercast brings together mid-career professionals

At last year's Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals' (AMP) Leadercast event, author and communicator Andy Stanley asked, "What one thing that seems impossible in your business, if you could actually do it, would change everything?" The audience was challenged to identify what that "thing" might be for them, but this year, the AMP Steering Committee applied that question to the Leadercast event itself.

On May 6, more than 180 SRNS executives, senior leaders, work group managers and AMP members gathered in Aiken, S.C., for the third annual SRNS AMP-sponsored Leadercast live streaming event.

"This year's Leadercast was about more than watching dynamic and inspiring speakers," said Todd Woodsmall, SRNS AMP President. "Attendees were able to learn, engage in discussions, gain the perspectives of senior leaders, network with other attendees and identify areas of change that they could actually begin to implement."

Each table was sponsored by a senior leader who led discussion about the theme—"Architects of Tomorrow"—and encouraged attendees to envision and implement a meaningful change in their lives.

"I appreciate the random seat assignments because I was able to sit with colleagues and managers who I wouldn't normally meet in my job," said AMP member Sadika O'Quinn.

The leadership event was broadcast live from Atlanta to hundreds of off-site locations around the world, with speakers including Andy Stanley, leadership author and communicator; James Brown, CBS network broadcaster; Nick Saban, University of Alabama head football coach; Kat Cole, Group President of Focus Brands; and Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple, Inc.



Dr. Krissy Zeigler, SRNL Director, Materials Science and Technology, leads a table discussion during Leadercast.



SRNS Senior Vice President of Environmental Management Operations Wyatt Clark talks with SRNL Laboratory Specialist Ami Emery at Leadercast.

Johnson counsels USCA graduates: 'Stay humble and kind'

Graduation season is in full swing, and during ceremonies across the nation, leaders in business, world-class athletes, high-profile celebrities and award-winning authors are sharing stories about their path to rewarding careers and giving advice to graduates who are on the brink of entering the workforce.

On May 4, SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson delivered the commencement address to the 2016 graduating class at University South Carolina Aiken and received an honorary doctorate. Johnson's speech focused on personal advice she has found useful throughout her 35-year career in the nuclear industry.

"My career has afforded me many opportunities to succeed, fail, pick myself up again, grow and learn from others," Johnson said. "To be honest with you, looking back in time when I started my career, I couldn't have predicting making it to this point. I didn't have a roadmap or a precise game plan."

She asked the audience if there were any country music fans in the crowd because a hit country music song by Tim McGraw has resonated with her lately. The two simple tenets in the song



Carol Johnson speaks at the 2016 USCA commencement ceremony on May 4.

"Humble and Kind" have aligned with values that Johnson considers significant during her career. She challenged the graduates to reflect on the song that states, "I know you've got mountains to climb, but always stay humble and kind."

SRNL Collaborates with Universities



Dr. Terry Michalske, SRNS Executive Vice President and Director, SRNL, addressed university representatives from across the region during a University Planning Session held May 23 at USC Aiken. Attendees discussed partnerships for the development of new technologies with potential to reduce the cost and shorten the time to complete legacy waste cleanup.

Taking a STEP into science

Fourth graders take a closer look at the SRS environment

Equipped with special tools to study aquatic creatures and understand nature's use of water, more than 100 Aiken Elementary School fourth graders recently became environmental scientists for a day.

These young investigators visited SRS to participate in the Science and Technology Enrichment Program (STEP).

Managed by SRNS, STEP provides K-12 teachers and students with interactive science, mathematics and technology opportunities through real-world, issues-oriented investigations that focus on responsible environmental stewardship. This program is offered to teachers and students throughout the area, and is a cooperative effort by DOE-SR, SRNS, the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center (RPSEC), the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Forest Service.

"The partnership that SRNS has with educators, like those through the RPSEC, cannot be matched. Teachers jump at the chance for their students to take a trip here because of the unbeatable, hands-on lessons presented by interesting and knowledgeable instructors," said Kim Parrish, Aiken Elementary fourth grade teacher.

STEP lessons are designed in accordance with state and national standards to reinforce and enhance the classroom teacher's mathematics and science curricula. Classes are taught primarily in outdoor settings at the Silver Bluff Audubon Center in Jackson, S.C., or at SRS.

"The kids love insects, animals and a chance to get their hands dirty, especially the younger students," said Kim Mitchell, SRNS coordinator for the program. "It's rewarding to see that look on their face when they discover something new."



STEP participants J.P. Windham (from left), Aiken Elementary teacher Kim Parrish, Naliah Brown and David King studied tiny aquatic creatures at SRS.

Aiken Elementary student Naliah Brown explained that she now understands the importance of our planet's water cycle. "And, I learned that we need to protect things in nature like bugs and animals and keep our water safe too, not to harm it," said Brown.

Creativity by SRNS employees helps IT, Lab processes keep their cool

Typically, water and computers just don't mix. But adept handling by SRNS of an April chilled water outage kept the SRS information technology (IT) networks cool and humming without a hitch.

SRS uses chilled water to cool the Site Computer Facility. The facility houses IT equipment that supports a number of SRS operations, including critical response centers. SRNS also uses the chillers' cold water for humidity control, crucial for Lab processes and equipment safety.

A maintenance outage is performed each year on the cooling system just before summer begins. This work is conducted over a weekend to minimize impact on end users. This year, the large underground valves normally used to isolate the chiller system were discovered to be leaking, creating a need for them to be replaced before the annual inspection and maintenance process could begin.

After evaluating the issue, SRS subcontract personnel suggested installing special equipment to temporarily stop the

flow of water to the damaged valves. The estimated cost for this work was \$70,000.

After research and further assessment, SRNS personnel realized that the rental of a mobile chiller unit for about \$20,000 would supply an alternate, equally effective solution, saving approximately \$50,000. This creative thinking provided a quick, innovative method to repair the valves and resume the annual work on the A Area chiller units. All mechanical and electrical tasks were performed safely during the outage and work was completed as planned.

"This kind of outage isn't a new concept, but we've been using the approach more widely as a way to control our backlog of infrastructure repairs and reduce the utility backlog," said Dave Eyler, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "Many of our workers recently spent the majority of a weekend supporting these efforts and their hard work certainly paid off."



Faye Speight of W.E. Parker Elementary School in Edgefield, S.C., celebrates at the Mini Grants reception.

SRNS presents \$75,000 in mini grants to CSRA teachers

SRNS presented grants totaling \$75,000 to 151 Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) educators recently as part of this year's SRNS "Innovative Teaching Mini Grants Program."

"Having donated half a million dollars to our hard-working teachers from throughout the region over the last eight years is gratifying," said Carol Johnson, SRNS President and CEO. "It's rewarding to think of the hundreds of teachers and thousands of students who have been touched in some way through this program."

Applicants were honored at a reception at Newberry Hall in Aiken, S.C., where the awards were officially presented.

More than 200 grant proposals were submitted by teachers from schools located in four CSRA counties.

"We're pleased to help fuel the passion we see in the hearts and minds of highly deserving teachers year after year," said Johnson. "The creativity and ingenuity of the ideas described within the grant proposals is truly admirable."

The Mini Grants Program recognizes and supports projects that enhance elementary and middle school science, mathematics and technology programs. Educators from all CSRA elementary and middle schools (public and private) are eligible to apply for Mini Grants in the amount of \$500, \$750 or \$1,000.

The grants are provided through corporate funding from the parent companies of SRNS (Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell).



SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dave Eyler (left) presents a mini grant to Oscar Stevens of Johnson-Edgefield-Trenton (S.C.) Middle School.

Dean Van Pelt to serve as loaned executive for SCA 'Promise Zone' initiatives

SRNS continues to partner with the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (SCA), whose mission supports industrial development and employment opportunities in some of the state's most rural counties.

Dean VanPelt, Director of Program Support for SRNS Environmental Services and Safety and Health, has been named as an SRNS loaned executive, to work with the SCA home office located in Barnwell, S.C. VanPelt will assist with implementing "Promise Zone" initiatives throughout Barnwell, Allendale, Bamberg, Hampton, Colleton and Jasper counties.



Dean VanPelt

"I'm excited to partner with SCA to continue to bring economic growth and employment opportunities to the area through Promise Zone initiatives. As one of four national Promise Zone designees, SCA will partner with the federal government to gain access to critical resources and expertise to help these counties grow and thrive," said VanPelt.

Promise Zone recipient counties will have access to multiple federal incentives over the next 10 years. These incentives will help establish and nurture new federal programs that are designed to boost economic and educational growth within high-poverty, rural and tribal communities.

The six-county Promise Zone area with which VanPelt will assist is home to about 90,000 residents, with a median household income that is 25 percent less than the state average.

"I look forward to bringing my years of service at SRS to further strengthen the SCA mission. With more than 4,000 jobs already created in the six county region and more than \$1 billion in capital investments in those areas since 1996, SCA has proven that some of our most rural counties have the potential for tremendous economic advancement," said VanPelt.



SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson (far right) and SRNS Senior Vice President for Workforce Services and Talent Management Carol Barry (far left) join the recipients of the 2016 SRNS Family Scholarships. They include (front row, from left): Caroline Schaade, Sallie Walkup, Kristen Livingston, Caroline Sharpe, Kiana Franklin and Mohsin Rizvi; and (back row, from left) Tristin Nguyen-Tu, Michael Serkiz, Jack Serkiz, Alexander Karius, Steven Sheets, Logan Skidmore, Lydia Hicks and Devin Fulmer-Key. Not pictured is Timothy Dolin.

SRNS awards 15 scholarships to children of employees

Fifteen children of SRNS employees have each received a \$3,000 SRNS Family Scholarship at a special ceremony held in Aiken, S.C.

This program rewards graduating high school students on the basis of general ability, leadership and scholastic achievement, recognizing the top students participating in the competition. Since 2009, more than \$360,000 in scholarships has been presented to area students as a part of this program.

“Every year, I’m impressed by the exceptional work and extraordinary dedication displayed by these remarkable students,” said Carol Johnson, SRNS President and CEO. “I’m confident a rewarding college degree program and career lies ahead for each one of them as they have already achieved so much. We are pleased to do our part to help them during their academic journey. And hopefully, one day, they will join our ‘family’ at SRNS.”

“This is such an honor for me,” said Kiana Franklin, a senior at North Augusta High School, who will pursue a degree in nursing at USC Aiken. “I try to volunteer as much as possible, so being able to win an award for volunteer work and academic merit is really amazing to me because it makes me feel like I’m doing something for society. It’s amazing and wonderful that SRNS is willing to give \$45,000 each year to students. I’m so thankful.”

“It’s nice to know that my father’s company cares about his children and the direction they are going in life,” said Logan Skidmore, Grovetown High School, who has been accepted at the University of Georgia. “I’m passionate about technology and ways to help the environment and discover energy sustainability solutions. To be recognized by this company means a lot to me.”

Community Leaders Forum

SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson addresses the Community Leaders Forum, held May 25 in Aiken, S.C. Attendees at the DOE-Savannah River-sponsored event heard presentations from SRS federal and contractor entities. Johnson gave an overview of SRNS missions and workforce planning initiatives. SRNS Executive Vice President and SRNL Director Dr. Terry Michalske presented an overview of the Laboratory.



SRNS employees turn out to give back to the community during Project Serve, Care

More than 200 employees from SRNS volunteered recently to work at multiple United Way agencies located throughout the greater Augusta area as part of this year’s Project SERVE.

Project CARE was held the same day as Project SERVE and provided a wide range of assistance for a number of United Way organizations in Barnwell County.

Employees commit to work during their day off to take on projects that will improve the living conditions of disadvantaged children, low-income senior citizens, the disabled, single-parent homeowners or a specific United Way agency partner.

Team projects typically include clearing debris, painting, repairing flooring, performing electrical work, putting up drywall, building fences and wheelchair ramps, replacing boards, fixing faulty plumbing and performing yard work.

“I’ve been involved with Project SERVE for about seven years,” said SRNS employee Eloy Saldivar. “I’ve seen the really good side of the CSRA and a side that may need some help. And so, I think about all the things I’ve been given at the Savannah River Site and with my family, and believe that donating one day to this effort is not too much give.”

According to Lynn Smith, president of Easter Seals East Georgia, the organization’s funds are limited, with the bulk of their budget going towards service and to support their day-to-day mission.

“Whenever we can get some people to volunteer, we are deeply grateful for their time,” Smith said. “In fact, I always get excited to see the folks from SRNS during Project SERVE because they’re highly organized, with a project management mentality.”

Other 2016 Project SERVE teams from SRS worked at the Augusta Family Counseling Center, CSRA Boy Scout facility, East Heritage Academy and Girl Scout Camp Tanglewood.

Projects SERVE, CARE (Barnwell County) and VISION (Aiken County) assist United Way agencies throughout the CSRA.



SRNS employees Scott Pardue and Trung Van improved the landscaping at the Easter Seals facility in Augusta, Ga.



Jan Folk of SRNS gives the Blackville town sign a lick of paint during Project Care, which served Barnwell County.



JR Ludwick’s winning bid netted a fishing package at the Celebrity Waiter event.

Celebrity Waiter event raises \$28,000 for Children’s Place

More than 200 SRNS employees recently gathered for Celebrity Waiter Night, where SRNS executives, managers and leaders volunteered as waiters at Newberry Hall in Aiken, S.C.

The event raised \$28,189 for Children’s Place, a non-profit agency in Aiken County that provides a variety of services for children in need. All proceeds from the dinner, silent auction, live auction and “tips” for the celebrity waiters will go towards the operational costs of Children’s Place.

“SRNS’ participation in Celebrity Waiter not only makes a big difference in the community, but it is also an opportunity for colleagues and friends to have fun in a meaningful way,” said Glenn Morgan, Vice President, SRNS Nuclear Materials Operations and Children’s Place Board of Directors. “I appreciate all the volunteers who made this event possible. This event makes a tremendous impact for Children’s Place, as our company is a top contributor.”



P.K. Hightower, Manager, SRNS Continuous Improvement (left); Steve Howell, Director, Business Planning and Integration; and Dr. Paul Deason, Vice President and Deputy Director, SRNS Business Services, volunteer as waiters at Celebrity Waiter.

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