

● FEBRUARY 2018

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



# SRNS Today

## Education meets reality

Job shadowing at SRNS allows students a glimpse at possible careers



### This month

Reverse Career Fair • Joint Faculty Appointment • Fleet Improvements • Wheel of Fortune





**Stuart MacVean**  
SRNS President and CEO

# Welcome

to the February 2018 edition of

# SRNS Today

Since I came to SRNS over a year ago, I have periodically met with small groups of employees in facility “roundtables,” to give them a chance to ask me questions or discuss topics pertinent to them. I always leave these sessions amazed at the talent, dedication and strength of our workforce. I am convinced that SRNS boasts one of the greatest work forces in the state, if not the country, and I am humbled to work with them.

Dr. John W. Weidner joined our ranks this month in the first SRNL- University of South Carolina joint faculty position. In this position, Dr. Weidner will work to build regional advanced manufacturing partnerships while providing research expertise in the areas of corrosion, batteries, fuel cells, electrolysis and sensors.

SRNS employee Ken Stanley was recently elected the DOE/NNSA Precious Metals Council Chair, leading six other DOE/NNSA sites on the best business practices in the management of precious metals.

Our SRNS Education Outreach Program employees are continuing to build the workforce of excellence for the future through job shadowing programs and a “reverse career fair” for career counselors and professors from nine local colleges and universities.

SRNS can now even boast a Wheel of Fortune contestant! SRNL’s Brian Viner recently competed on the TV show, and came away with some big prizes.

SRNS is a great place to work in large part due to the excellence our employees strive to achieve daily. SRNS employees continue to make the world a safer place. I look forward to seeing what they will do in the future.



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 803.952.9584 or visit our website.

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## education meets reality



Grovetown High School senior Micah Gilbert tests his skills as a videographer during his Job Shadow Day.

## Job shadowing at SRNS allows high school students to explore the possibilities of future careers

**H**igh school students from area schools can experience where classroom education meets workplace reality during a day of job shadowing at SRS.

“The goal of the program is to ensure that each student, when he or she leaves the site, feels more confident about their decision to pursue a particular career or field of interest,” said Gladys Moore, SRNS Education Outreach. “We want this experience to have a positive impact on all involved, the student and the mentor, even if the end result is the student now believes another type of job needs to be explored instead.”

Approximately a dozen students participate each year in the career outreach program. Job shadowing can help forge personally satisfying connections with young people that could ultimately contribute to building a more prepared and focused workforce of tomorrow.

To date, most of the participants have been learning about the field of engineering, though literally hundreds of different occupations are found at SRS.

“February is Job Shadow Month for us,” added Moore. “During this time, we devote the resources needed to give students an up-close

and personal insight into the job they would one day like to fill.”

Grovetown (Ga.) High School student Micah Gilbert recently spent a day with the SRNS Communications and Media Services group. The visit capped his efforts to prepare a senior project required for graduation.

For Gilbert, the day covered video production, photography and computer graphics for site employees and the public.

“This type of work is fascinating. I learned a lot about this industry and how to get into it,” said Gilbert. “This experience has confirmed for me that this is something I’d like to do.”

Job Shadow Day can provide experiences that are as unique as every person who participates. For students, the experience can increase their knowledge or show how education can be translated into a potentially rewarding and financially secure future. For the teachers, it can provide the link between schoolwork and real life, answering the question, “Why do I have to learn this?”

SRNS Education Outreach Programs work with high schools throughout the CSRA to identify students who would benefit from a job shadowing experience. Requests are filled depending on the availability of employee volunteers to spend a day with a student.



SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean (right) welcomes career counselors and professors from nine local colleges and universities during the SRNS reverse career fair.

# Reverse career fair

SRNS outlines future hiring needs for local colleges and universities

at a traditional college career fair, students meet dozens of potential employers in one place and describe their job qualifications. A different dynamic was underway at SRS when SRNS hosted its first “reverse career fair” at the Applied Research Center in Aiken, S.C.

Career counselors and professors from nine local colleges and universities in the CSRA had the opportunity to meet with SRNS employees to learn about the various internships and full-time positions available that may be of interest to their students.

“I’ve been on the tour of SRS before, and I’m familiar with the site and its missions, but this event has given me a comprehensive overview of what companies here are looking for from students in terms of internships and long-term opportunities,” said Corey Feraldi, Director, Office of Career Services, University of South Carolina Aiken. “SRS is so large that sometimes it’s hard to know exactly who does what, but now I have a better understanding of the application process, which will help me bridge that gap for our students.”

The event began with an introduction from SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean, who described the wide range of career paths available for prospective employees.

“SRNS is on track to hire about 400 employees this year, and we anticipate having between 150 and 175 interns this summer,” MacVean said. “We have jobs that range from janitorial and lawn care to operations and maintenance to engineering and the sciences, as well as teachers for our training department, and at the pace we’re hiring the training needs are even higher. Our work at SRS has a tremendous impact not just for national security, but for global stability and will continue for many generations, as



Donna Wendt (left), Director of Career Services, Augusta Technical College, visits the Savannah River National Laboratory’s exhibit during the career fair.

we have new missions coming to us that are projected to last for decades into the future.”

Following the introduction, the college representatives were given an overview of SRS history, current missions and employment opportunities. After the overview, the attendees visited SRNS organizational booths including Site Services, Engineering, Information Technology, Environmental Stewardship & Safety and Health, Radiological Protection, SRNL, Workforce Services, Tritium and Environmental Management Operations.

“I really appreciate the opportunity to meet professionals from SRS face to face,” said Dr. Joe Newton, Assistant Professor of Nuclear Science, Department of Chemistry and Physics, Augusta University. “After visiting each of the tables, I have gained a ‘big picture’ understanding, so I can be more effective at preparing my students. I plan to spend time in class showing them how to search for available job postings at SRS and explaining the timeline involved with the application process.”

The reverse career fair was the first event of its kind at SRS, and the guests included representatives from Aiken Technical College, Augusta Technical College, Augusta University, Benedict College, Clafin University, Denmark Technical College, University of South Carolina Aiken, USC Salkehatchie, Voorhees College and the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization.

## Ken Stanley to chair national DOE/NNSA Precious Metals Council

SRNS employee Ken Stanley was recently elected chair of the DOE/NNSA Precious Metals Council Chair.

“The council provides a forum for the management of precious metals between DOE/NNSA and its contractors,” said Stanley. “It strives to identify and champion best business practices throughout DOE/NNSA. It will also continue to raise the level of growth, development, lessons learned, benchmarking and professionalism within the DOE precious metals community.”

In addition to SRS, the council is made up of six other DOE/NNSA sites including Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex.

As the Precious Metals Control Officer for SRNS and Savannah River Remediation, Stanley keeps track of eight precious metals at SRS including gold, silver, platinum, rhodium, palladium, iridium, osmium and ruthenium.

Stanley also conducts inventories on SRS’ precious metals annually to ensure compliance with federal regulations and helps ensure that the return of these metals follow DOE requirements. From there, the metals can be reclaimed by other DOE sites for reuse through DOE’s Business Center for Precious Metal Sales and Recovery.

## Pat, I’d like a ‘T’: SRNL meteorologist takes a spin on ‘Wheel of Fortune’

On Feb. 9, hit television game show “Wheel of Fortune” featured a special contestant from SRNL.

Brian Viner, an SRNL meteorologist, swept through the puzzles to make it to the final round, winning an exciting array of prizes including a trip to Hawaii. And while he didn’t solve the final puzzle, he said he came away with the biggest prize of all: appearing on the show.

Viner has always wanted to be on the show, but it was a little extra encouragement from his wife that prompted him to attend a “Wheelmobile” event this past November. Wheelmobile is the yellow Winnebago that travels across the U.S. giving thousands a chance on the traveling game show version of Wheel of Fortune. Those contestants then have another chance for a spot in the final contestant auditions. When Viner participated in Wheelmobile, he was invited to a formal audition in December and then was offered a spot on the show’s taping on Jan. 11.

Viner said he was nervous throughout the entire game. “When the final round finished and I realized I was going to the bonus round, I can’t put into words how excited I felt except to say that I don’t really remember Pat Sajak at that point,” said Viner. “And even though I didn’t get the bonus puzzle, I can say I was feeling about as excited as if I had!”

Now that the show has aired, Viner is excited that his friends and family have seen it and the secret is finally out. “After having time to think about it, I wouldn’t change anything I did that day except to maybe start with something other than a ‘T’ when it was my turn to start a round,” said Viner.



SRNL’s Brian Viner on “Wheel of Fortune”



# Fleet feat

## Infrastructure push continues with innovative equipment upgrade

A four-year effort by SRNS to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of its light and heavy equipment fleet has yielded significant results as part of a broader effort to implement infrastructure improvements site-wide.

Challenged with how to refurbish a fleet of more than 1,300 pieces of equipment without additional costs, SRNS Portable Equipment Commodity Management Center (PECMC) staff developed a novel solution: incorporating a “replenishment” fee into the rental rates. In order to keep rental rates low, the fleet was substantially downsized to eliminate older equipment with higher maintenance costs. Combined with increased rental utilization for the new equipment, the total PECMC budget has remained stable.

In 2013, SRNS had 1,348 pieces of active equipment in its fleet, with more than half of that equipment at or beyond life expectancy and more than 70 percent set to have exceeded life expectancy by 2016.

Five years later, 30 percent of the fleet is less than three years old. The overall size of the fleet has been reduced by over 300 items and 164 new items have been purchased, including emergency response vehicles, cranes, bulldozers, forklifts and generators. In FY2018, SRNS expects to purchase 21 pieces of equipment, including a new tow truck and fire pumper truck.

“We are looking for every opportunity to deliver infrastructure services to the site as efficiently and effectively as possible,” SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean said. “We are proud to be able to deliver a modern, reliable equipment fleet and look forward to implementing further efficiencies and innovation.”

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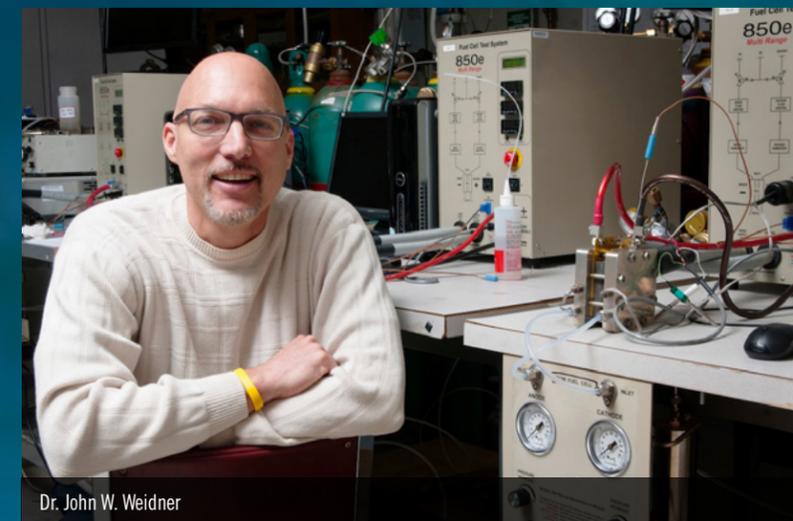
“An important part of this initiative has been right-sizing the fleet,” said Bob Bonnett, cost accounts manager within the SRNS Portable Equipment Commodity Management Center. “We looked at which equipment was being used regularly and which pieces were not, allowing us to remove excess equipment from our inventory and focus on replenishment and replacement of equipment that is most in demand.”

Today, the utilization rate for the SRNS fleet is more than 88 percent, exceeding the utilization goals DOE has set for SRNS.

Up next for SRNS will be a focus on the crane fleet at SRS, where the average age of the cranes is more than 30 years old. In 15 years, SRNS plans to have reduced the crane fleet from 32 to 13, with no crane more than 15 years old.

“We’re going to follow the same successful model we have with the rest of our equipment fleet, right-sizing the fleet based on usage and putting a fee in place to fund replenishment,” Bonnett said. “We are also looking at the possibility of exchanging several of our older, rarely-used cranes for a single new one, without money changing hands.”

## SRNL, USC appoint joint faculty member



Dr. John W. Weidner

### Position to focus on advanced manufacturing, electromechanical research

SRNL and the University of South Carolina (USC) College of Engineering and Computing have appointed Dr. John W. Weidner to the first joint faculty position to serve both institutions. In the position, Dr. Weidner will work to build regional advanced manufacturing partnerships while providing research expertise in the areas of corrosion, batteries, fuel cells, electrolysis and sensors.

“We are excited to welcome Dr. Weidner as our first SRNL-USC joint faculty appointment. His spirit of collaboration and expertise in advanced manufacturing will help strengthen our long-standing partnership and accelerate both our institutions’ impact on South Carolina’s growing manufacturing economy,” said Dr. Terry A. Michalske, SRNS Executive Vice President and SRNL Director.

“This joint appointment is an important milestone as we increase our partnership with SRNL,” said Dean Hossein Haj-Hariri at the university’s College of Engineering and Computing. “Dr. Weidner’s expertise serves as an excellent initial condition to our joint efforts to build relationships between academia and industry.”

In his new role, Dr. Weidner will be engaged in building partnerships among regional companies, universities and other DOE national laboratories to support SRNL’s secure energy manufacturing and advanced manufacturing initiatives. The role will also serve to increase the lab’s involvement with the Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment Manufacturing Institute and the Clean Energy Smart Manufacturing Innovation Institute.

Dr. Weidner will also be involved with SRNL’s Laboratory Directed Research and Development program to establish new projects in advanced manufacturing, nuclear materials treatment and processing, secure energy and environmental management. In addition, he will provide expertise in material development, modeling and theory validation for lab projects of an electromechanical nature.

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**Dr. Terry A. Michalske**

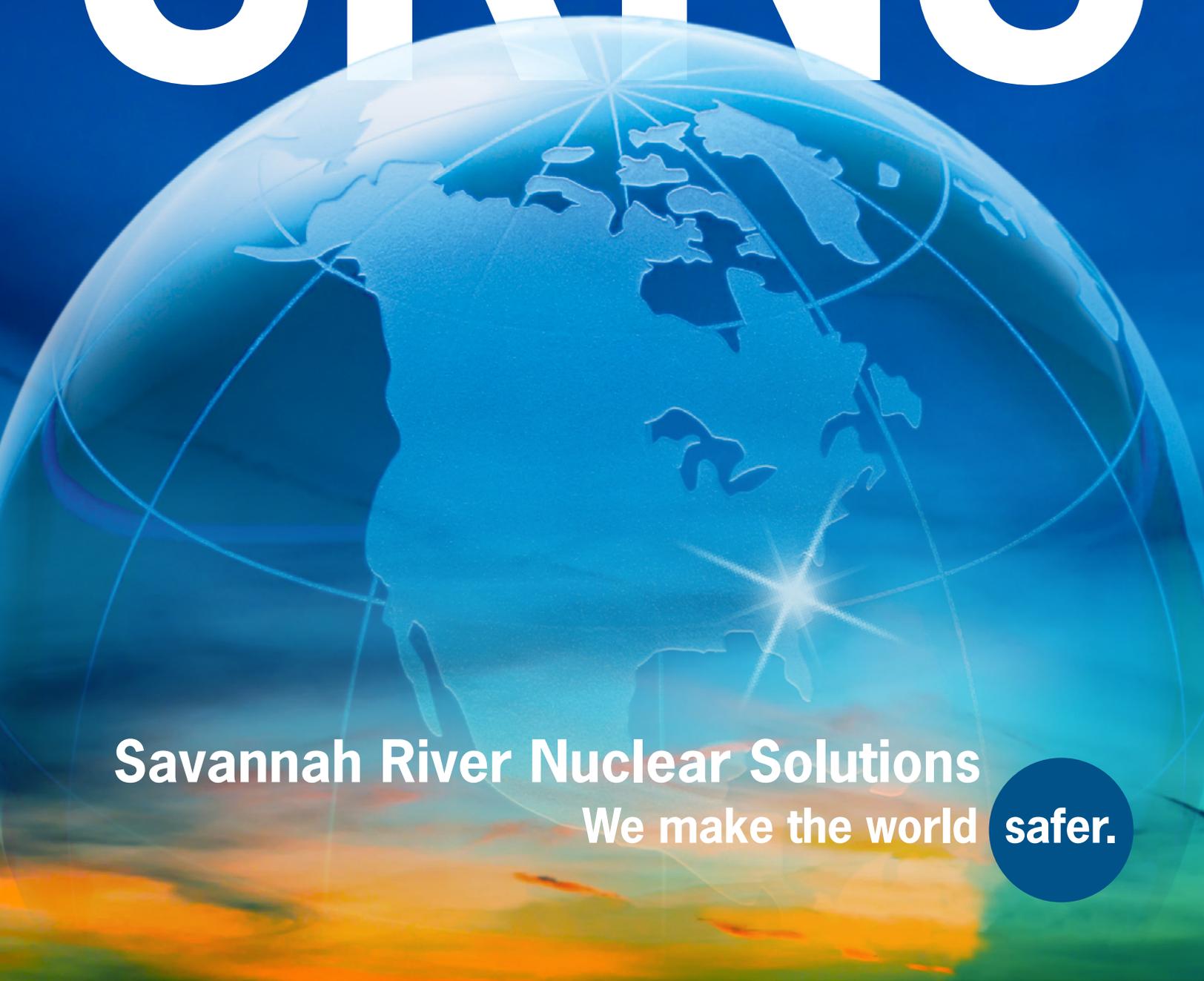
“I’m excited about this role and the college’s continuing relationship with SRNL,” said Dr. Weidner. “The work is extremely important, and I look forward to helping accelerate our advanced manufacturing and energy research.”

Dr. Weidner is a professor and department chair in Chemical Engineering at USC. He leads the university’s Hydrogen and Fuel-Cell Center, which helps industry advance the technology and commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cells. The center trains graduate students and conducts research within the areas of fuel cell and electrolyzer design and performance; mathematical modeling of electrochemical systems and components; and electrocatalyst development.

Dr. Weidner holds a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a doctorate in chemical engineering from North Carolina State University. He has published over 100 referenced journal articles and is internationally recognized in the field of electrochemical engineering. He is a fellow of both the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Electrochemical Society.

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# SRNS



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