



CNTA Aware



Fall 2023

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Update from our Executive Director

It was a very busy fall season here at CNTA. Outreach activities reached thousands in our community, we held two very successful fundraisers, hosted three community events, & published our annual Nuclear Science Week Insert.

Dozens of CNTA members volunteered at events & activities to help represent our mission of being the voice of truth on nuclear matters. Many thanks to those who helped at events & those who worked on the Nuclear Science Week Insert! With a focus on education this year, the insert is a testament to all those in our community working to improve understanding of nuclear technology & build a pipeline of workers into the industry.

Wrapping up a very successful 2023, I want to thank the hundreds of members of CNTA. Without you this organization would not exist. Next year, look for new projects to improve our members' knowledge surrounding nuclear topics & technologies so we can all be better advocates.

I hope you have a safe & happy holiday season,

Allison

Update from our Board Chair

Happy Holidays all,

After recently reviewing the results of a survey conducted by ecoAmerica, I am reminded how much work we still have to do in educating the public. While it shows 52% of Americans support nuclear energy, 54% think nuclear power plants release air pollution - this is even higher than their results for natural gas at 52%. With many of our members writing articles, reviewing essays, supporting classroom activities, and helping with STEM events and Earth Day celebrations on behalf of CNTA – we are striving to improve awareness and understanding of all things nuclear in our region. Thank you!

I am thrilled that young professionals are taking advantage of free CNTA memberships and that their numbers are growing. The key is to get them more involved and the management teams of our corporate sponsors are vital to providing them the opportunity and the encouragement to do so. CNTA's sponsors have provided steadfast financial support so they see the importance and value-added of our outreach – now we need their help developing the future leaders of our organization. This is great opportunity for networking and professional development – maybe senior management will make a New Year's resolution to actively pursue ways to get their young professionals engaged.

As my term as Board Chair comes to an end, I want to voice my appreciation for the leadership and innovation of the Board and of Allison and Jim over the last two years guiding CNTA back to full strength after two years of Covid. We are well positioned to grow our outreach over the next three decades.

Finally, congratulations to the rising Board Chair, Dr. Forest Mahan, for being selected as the CEO of the Year by the Association of Community College Trustees for the southern region. Without a doubt, leadership of the CNTA Board will be in very capable hands.

May you and yours have a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year,

Steve

Education Committee Updates

STEM ACTIVITIES

CNTA volunteers were busy with many fall education outreach activities. A few of them include:

- SEED (Science Education Enrichment Day) at USC Aiken
- SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville, SC
- SRS Museum's Fall Fission Festival
- Ridge Spring-Monetta Middle School Science
- Ridge Spring-Monetta High School Chemistry
- Riverside Middle School



Thank you Education Committee Volunteers!

The bulk of the education outreach CNTA does each year is provided by our volunteers. While not a comprehensive list, recent volunteers have included: Marissa Reigel (committee chair), Allison Hamilton Molnar, Jim Marra, Paul Ebel, Ken Stephens, Dave Fauth, Amber Bolen, Henry Bolen, Meredith Fulton, Jim Tisaranni, Aherial Polite, Holly Flynn, Vinh Nguyen, Paul Cloessner, Carol Wood, John Alexander, Stephanie Gamble, Michele Wells, Wayne Rickman, Robert Wilson, Quentin Price, Chris Noah, Nathan Jones, James Oldani, Spencer Scott, Mel Buckner, Bob Hinds, Kevin O'Dowd, Kadedra Burgess, Joshua Goldbatt, Jon Guy, Rachel Oldani, Bill Molnar, Ben Kinlaw, Peggy Kinlaw, and Kaitlyn Hodges!



Essay Contest & Educator Grants Program for 2024 Launched

The 2024 High School Essay Contest and Educator Grants Programs were launched in October as part of Nuclear Science Week.

The essay contest is open to Juniors & Seniors in high school. Topics and application materials can be found at: <https://cntaware.org/high-school-essay-contest/>. The deadline for entries is February 29, 2024.

The educator grants program is open to any k-12 educator! Details and application material are at: <https://cntaware.org/educator-grants-program/>. The deadline for entries is January 31, 2024.

Communications Committee Updates

The Communications Committee was hard at work this year putting together another fantastic Nuclear Science Week Insert. This partnership with *The Aiken Standard* reaches over 30,000 households in Aiken and North Augusta and is also available for free online. It receives thousands of hits online once shared across the social media platforms.

It was published October 14th in *The Aiken Standard*, and October 18th in the *North Augusta Star*. Many thanks to our Communications committee members (including: Lindsey MonBarren, Dean Campbell, Chris Noah, Gary Bunker, James Oldani, and Colleen Hart) for their incredible work!

The 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019 inserts can be found at: <https://cntaware.org/nuclear-science-week/>. We also have paper copies in the CNTA office if you'd like to stop by and pick some up!



Advocacy & Public Outreach

In addition to the Nuclear Science Week Insert, the Communications Committee helped launch the 2024 Educator Grants Program & High School Essay Contest, wrote seven press releases, and had nine articles published in local news outlets. They organized a Nuclear Science Week themed social media campaign, and coordinated with the other committees to highlight CNTA's many fall activities.

CNTA also had the opportunity to present to the Aiken 50 Plus Men's Club in December. Over 50 men attended this luncheon and learned more about CNTA, our activities, nuclear in our community, and the basics of radiation in our world.



CNTA on Social Media

Over the last few years CNTA has become active on a variety of social media platforms. You can now find us on all the major platforms by searching @cntaware.

The expansion of CNTA's presence on social media is to ultimately inform members and average citizens on the benefits of nuclear technology and drive them to our website to learn more. All of this comes with analytics that the committee and staff track to see how many are seeing our message and ultimately how many people are using the website.

If you have an interest in social media, websites, or web analytics, CNTA could use your help! Contact the CNTA office for the many opportunities we have available.

CNTA has launched the 2024 Essay Contest! High School Juniors & Seniors submit an essay & have a chance to win up to \$1,000! Details at: <https://lnkd.in/g/v55Xkb> #nuclearscienceweek #nuclear #STEMeducation

18th Annual CNTA High School Essay Contest

Open to: High School Juniors & Seniors Aiken, Abbeville, Bamwell, Burke, Columbia and Richmond County schools, households, and children of CNTA Members regardless of school district.

Write a 1,500 word essay on one of the following:

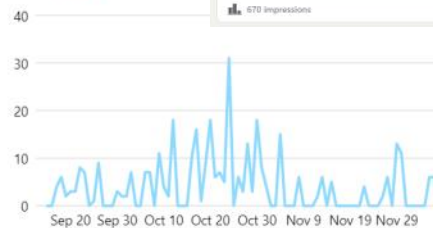
- As climate change continues to impact our lives, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is critical. Compare and contrast three greenhouse gas emissions from nuclear power plants and other energy sources. Include any concerns used for medical procedures and diagnostics. Consider at least 2 benefits and discuss how they are obtained and used in medical applications.
- When people look at stars, they still need energy sources to survive. Discuss how nuclear technology can be used to get to and live on Mars.

Deadline: February 29, 2024
Details and Entry form at: <https://cntaware.org/high-school-essay-contest/>
For more information email: cnta@bethsouth.net or office@cntaware.org

Up to 10 winning essays will be awarded from \$500 to \$1000.

Facebook visits

346 ↑ 35.7%



Up & Atoms

- October 3, 2023- “SRNL Research SLAM Encore Performance” 5 young researchers were tasked with presenting their research in 3 minutes!
- October 31, 2023 “Faster Times at SRNS” Dennis Carr, President & CEO of SRNS presented.



CNTA Recognizes ATC Nuclear Scholarship Recipient

The recipient of this annual award, funded by CNTA, is a deserving second year student enrolled in a nuclear program at Aiken Technical College (ATC). The award was started in celebration of CNTA's 25th Anniversary in 2016.



The recipient for 2023 is William (Cody) White. He is pursuing his Associates in Applied Science with a major in Radiation Protection Technology after serving in our military. Cody is from Aiken, South Carolina, and was a volunteer for CNTA at several of our events this year including our annual Charity Golf Tournament in May.

He attended & was recognized at this year's Teller Lecture on October 24th in Aiken, SC.

Young Professionals Committee Update

Tap Into Nuclear

The Tap Into Nuclear Series closed out 2023 with our annual “Night of Giving Back” at the Savannah River Site Museum on December 14th. Members were able to enjoy the exhibits at the museum, network with likeminded nuclear supporters & contribute to organizations helping those in need within our community.

Over \$500 in cash and hundreds of dollars worth of items were collected & distributed to ACTS, Cumbee Center, Golden Harvest, the Salvation Army, & the Blessing Boxes.



The Young Professionals Committee will launch 2024 with a sponsored Aiken Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals event on January 11th. The event will be from 6-7:30pm at the SRS Museum. All are welcome!

Thank you Young Professional Committee Volunteers!

The Young Professionals committee, chaired this year by Sally Bartelmo, has committed to helping young professionals network, raise funds for outreach, and grow the skillsets of our younger members. Many thanks to Sally, Sunny Somers, Holly Vermuelen, John Ekechukwu, Kenny Lee, Mckenzie Woodward, Azi Samadi, Samantha Cloessner, Allison Lee, Noah Smith, Geoffrey Rothenberg, Holly Flynn, John Alexander, Vinh Nguyen, Cody White, Taylor Demeter, & the countless others who helped make the committee’s work happen this year!

5th Annual Oyster Roast & Low Country Boil

The Fall Young Professionals fundraiser was held October 7th at Palmetto Golf Club. The 5th Annual Oyster Roast & Low Country Boil raised over \$11,000 for young professional membership in CNTA & our education & outreach activities.

The winner of the 2023 Maher Memorial Scholarship, Simon Bratescu, was recognized by representatives of SRMC. SRMC sponsors the annual award & as the title sponsor of this years oyster roast.

Over 200 young professionals have taken advantage of the free membership this year! Many thanks to the committee, sponsors, & attendees for a great evening!



32nd Annual Teller Lecture

Over 150 attendees enjoyed the evening at our 32nd Annual Teller Lecture at the Amentum Center for Performing Arts. The Honorable Joyce Connery, Chair, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, was the keynote presenter.

During the lecture CNTA recognized this year's Maher Memorial Scholarship winner, Nuclear Service Award winner, Distinguished Scientist Award winner, our educator grant recipients, & essay contest winners.

With the support of our members and sponsors, this event raised over \$12,000 to support CNTA's mission to be the voice of truth on nuclear matters.



Thank You Sponsors:

PLATINUM- AMENTUM, BATTELLE SAVANNAH RIVER ALLIANCE, SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

GOLD- APPLIED RESEARCH CENTER, BECHTEL, CENTERRA-SRS, HUNTINGTON INGALLS INDUSTRIES, MERRICK & COMPANY, SOUTHERN NUCLEAR-PLANT VOGTLE

SILVER- ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (ETEBA), NUCLEAR WORKFORCE INITIATIVE, SRS COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION

CORPORATE & NONPROFIT- LONGENECKER & ASSOCIATES, NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE, SAVANNAH RIVER MISSION COMPLETION, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

CNTA COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Detailed information on ALL of our committees available at: <https://cntaware.org/committees/>

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is responsible for ensuring accurate and timely information to the media, stakeholders, and the public and to reflect the goals and objectives of CNTA. They write all CNTA press releases and publish the Nuclear Science Week Insert in the Aiken Standard every year.

Education Committee

The goal of the Education Committee is to educate the public on the benefits, uses, and truths of nuclear technology. They oversee all education outreach activities and organize the Educator Grants Program and Essay Contest.

Young Professionals Committee

The purpose of the Young Professionals Committee is to recruit and engage young professional members by providing them with mentorship and professional development opportunities as well as raising money to make membership free for those under 40.

Golf Tournament Committee

The Golf Committee is responsible for reviewing previous tournaments and planning the next annual tournament. This planning includes raffles, marketing, and food and beverage. The Annual CNTA Charity Golf Tournament is the biggest fundraiser of the year. Volunteers are needed to help plan the event and dozens of day-of volunteers make this event possible.

2023 Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award Winner Announced

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2023 Fred C. Davidson Distinguished Scientist Award is Dr. Eliel Villa-Aleman. This prestigious award was announced on October 24, 2023, at the 32nd Annual Teller Lecture and Banquet held in Aiken, SC.

Dr. Villa-Aleman has led research and development programs for the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) addressing critical national security needs across the U.S. Government. These advanced technology programs are in the fields of particle collection, instrumentation, and analysis; laser and general spectroscopy; advanced infrared imagery; remote sensing; Pu-bearing compounds and nuclear forensics; quantum entanglement; and prototype COVID face masks utilizing electrostatic precipitation technology to filtrate and clean air.



Dr. Villa-Aleman received his B.A. in Chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico in 1979 and his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Wayne State University in 1987. His doctoral dissertation was entitled "Photoionization Studies of the Triplet State in a Supersonic Jet." He is a prolific author with numerous articles in peer reviewed publications in addition to internal SRNL technical reports.

Over the last 30 years, Dr. Villa-Aleman's research funding has exceeded \$20 million. He is a recognized expert to the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security. He has worked with research teams from across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex including Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratory. Dr. Villa-Aleman became a SRNL Laboratory Fellow in 2021.

"When it comes to particle science technical research and development, I consider Eliel the lead subject matter expert in this area. His technical competence and project management acumen are unmatched by his peers," said Christopher Iwan, a Program Manager at the Y-12 national Security Complex / Pantex Plant. "Eliel is one of the best at proposing technology advancing proposals and leading cutting-edge projects that advance scientific capabilities ... I have the upmost confidence in his technical abilities and consider him the standard bearer for all other Principal Investigators."

Commenting on his collaborations with Dr. Villa-Aleman, Daniel Orlikowski, the Nonproliferation Stewardship Program Lead at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, wrote that he, "Demonstrated 'out-of-the-box' thinking and was able to unlock strong insights on material science and metallurgical observables ... Eliel's leadership in particle collections is very useful to those designs in this field."

The Distinguished Scientist Award is presented annually to recognize regional scientists and engineers who have made exceptional lifetime scientific achievements. The award is in honor of Dr. Fred C. Davison who was Chairman of CNTA's Board of Directors from 1994 until his death in 2004.

Davison was President of the University of Georgia for 19 years where he encouraged math and science education and managed the doubling of graduate enrollment. Davison was also President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Science Center Foundation, President of the Georgia-Carolina Boy Scouts Council, an elder at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, and an active Rotarian.

2023 CNTA Nuclear Service Award Winner Announced

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2023 Nuclear Service Award is William (Bill) Wabbersen. This prestigious award was formally announced on October 24, 2023, at the 32nd Annual Teller Lecture held in Aiken, S.C.

Bill Wabbersen graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in Nuclear Engineering. Following service in the U.S. Navy, he enjoyed a three-decade career at the Savannah River Site (SRS) with both the M&O Contractor and the Department of Energy (DOE). His dedicated service extended beyond the Site's boundaries to our community's classrooms where he championed all things nuclear to the rising generation through hundreds of classroom presentations.

Wabbersen developed several teaching tools including the Isotope Discovery Kit and the "Journey to the Center of the Atom" classroom guide. He developed the Interactive Nuclear Display that was exhibited at Fort Discovery in Augusta for many years. He led a group of students at the University of South Carolina – Aiken (USCA) in the development of the Interactive Isotope App that is on the American Nuclear Society website. Recently, Bill volunteered his time and talents as the Subject Matter Expert on the conceptual design and construction of the Heavy Water (D2O) display at the SRS Museum.



Wabbersen has served as an Honorary Trustee of the National Museum of Nuclear Science & Technology since 2020 and has been a Volunteer Science Education Demonstrator at the USCA Ruth Patrick Science Education Center since 1994. Previous nuclear outreach activities include serving twice as the Local Section Chairman for the American Nuclear Society, a Counselor at the South Carolina Academy of Science, and membership on several CNTA committees including the Essay Contest Committee, the Education Committee, and the Speakers Bureau.

"I know of no one who better personifies the mission and goals of CNTA through the nuclear service he has brought to the CSRA," said CNTA Board of Directors Chairman Stephen Sheetz. "From tossing 'neutron' cookies around the room to exploring 'radioactive' Fiestaware with Geiger counters, there's never a dull moment. It's his passion."

Describing a presentation that Wabbersen made to a liberal arts class at the University of South Carolina, Dr. Travis W. Knight, Director of the Nuclear Engineering Program, recalled that, "It was very encouraging to see the students' transition from skeptical and hesitant to engaged and curious. The activities and tools that Bill created to teach students are both creative and engaging."

"Bill has a true passion to educate, teach, and share his knowledge of the nuclear industry with students and the public," wrote SRS Museum Board of Directors Member Susie Ferrara. "He volunteers selflessly. We are forever grateful to Bill."

The Nuclear Service Award is presented annually to recognize accomplishments in applying nuclear technology, advancing education in nuclear technology, increasing public awareness of the benefits of nuclear technology, and in promoting and defending the safe and effective use of nuclear technology.

Fall Fission Festival

Submitted by the Savannah River Site Museum

As part of Nuclear Science Week celebrations, the Savannah River Site Museum successfully hosted its inaugural Fall Fission Festival with 650 people in attendance, on October 21st. Sponsors for the event included SRP Federal Credit Union, Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA), SRS Community Reuse Organization, Security Federal Bank, Aiken Standard, and New South Associates.

A special thanks to Dr. Allison Molnar and the CNTA volunteers who supported the event. Other exhibitors included South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Aiken Technical College, Savannah River National Laboratory, City of Aiken Energy and Environmental Committee, SRS Curation Facility, SRNS Leaders Investing for Tomorrow, SRS Women in Nuclear, SRS Retirees Association, Security Federal Bank, Aiken County Historical Museum, and New South Associates. The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center participated by sharing a variety of reptiles with attendees.



The SRS Museum “mad scientists” conducted several experiments, teaching kids about scientific processes, including an experiment with dry ice and “Boo Bubbles” that released a ghostly smoke when popped. The event also included costume and coloring contests, a variety of local food trucks, a local bluegrass ensemble, and a DJ spinning spooky tunes made the day complete.

Please make plans to join us for the 2024 Fall Fission Festival; we hope to see you there!



Preparing for the Future: EM to NNSA SRS Landlord Transition Summit

Submitted by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

The future of the Savannah River Site (SRS) was the topic of conversation at the recent Environmental Management (EM) to National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) SRS Landlord Transition Summit, held Oct. 31-Nov. 1 in the on-site Collaboration Center. Personnel from the Department of Energy (DOE) and NNSA gathered to discuss plans for the upcoming SRS Landlord Transition, which will occur on Oct. 1, 2024, when primary authority, accountability and Site stewardship responsibility for SRS is transferred from DOE-Savannah River Operations Office (SROO) to the NNSA-Savannah River Field Office (SRFO).

Deemed necessary due to the steadily increasing NNSA mission requirements at SRS and the concurrent progression of the EM clean-up mission toward a defined end-state, the transition will include transfer of four major areas of responsibility from DOE-SROO to NNSA-SRFO: the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) Management and Operating (M&O) Contract, including Landlord Services (LLS) and Essential Site Services (ESS); Pro-Force Contract; K Area Complex; and Environmental Permits/Agreements.

“We thought it was important to have everyone here so we could meet as many people as possible in person,” said Mike Budney, DOE-Savannah River (SR) Manager. “A lot of people have worked very hard on the original Transition Plan and to put this Summit together. They’ve done a tremendous job in getting us to this point, and now we’ve got to carry things through for the next 11 months.”

The Transition Summit was designed to provide detailed briefings to the NNSA organizations who will be assuming SRS Landlord function, responsibilities and interfaces, on both an internal and external level, and to continue optimizing communications flow between DOE and NNSA personnel to accomplish a seamless SRS transition.



“We wanted to ensure that we had as an outcome of this Summit some sense of where we are today and what we will end up looking like,” said Sherri Robinson, DOE-SR Transition Steering Committee Lead. “We have the ‘as is’ and the ‘to be.’ In order to get to the ‘to be,’ we had to start talking collaboratively as a unified group between EM and NNSA. This was the platform we chose to go with.”

At the conclusion of the two-day Summit, Robinson said she was pleased with the results. “I’m very happy with the way everything has turned out. This was a success,” she said. “As some of our SRNS and EM folks have said, they’re ready to launch and feel confident to launch on October 1, 2024. I appreciate everyone’s support.”

Jeff Allison, NNSA-SRFO Deputy Manager, agreed. “This Summit was excellent. I think this has been a great forum,” he said. “There’s a lot of good work that’s happened so far. There is still a lot of work to be done, but I think we understand what that looks like. Let’s keep communicating and collaborating, and on October 1 [2024], we’ll be ready to go.”



Sherri Robinson, DOE-SR Transition Steering Committee Lead, gives remarks at the EM to NNSA SRS Landlord Transition Summit.

Centerra Recognizes Employees for Performance Excellence and Community Service

Submitted by Centerra-SRS

Centerra-SRS, the security contractor at the Savannah River Site, recently honored 63 employees for performance excellence.

“The General Manager’s Award is the highest award within our Company and was established to recognize exemplary performance of our employees,” said Mark Bolton, General Manager. “We are pleased to present this award to 63 employees for their extraordinary performance during FY 2023.”

In 2023, the Company successfully completed four decades of service at SRS and believes that employees are our most valued resource. The employees have a long history of providing best-in-class service to our client, and the Centerra Team has the site-specific experience and knowledge of Savannah River Site missions and operational needs that helps provide the flexibility needed to ensure continued protection of SRS security interests as Site missions continue to evolve. Centerra employees excel in their duties and responsibilities, and the Company is proud to recognize their commitment and dedication to our important National Security mission.

At an off-site ceremony, the Company presented the General Manager’s Award to the following employees: Rebecca Lindsay, Elizabeth Harris, Vickie Neupert, Leslie Burdette, Michael St. Angelo, Larry Akins, Mark Farmer, Travis Fulmer, Chelsea McLeod, Marsha Baskett, Erik Batie, Karen Brown, Eloise Moore, Denise Moseley, Cathy Patterson, Rich Brede, Clay Bryant, Tommy Evans, Phillip Hattaway, Lana Hoover, Robert Shobert, David Dodds, Richard Haynes, Bart Little, Jason Mahoney, Aaron Price, Jason Stump, Mike Weaver, Erik Abelar, Tom Boone, Joseph Cannella, Benjamin Clark, Coty Courtney, Brandi Smith-Girdner, Dontarius Hampton, Clint Pearson, Douglas St. Pierre, Mike Suttles, Rodney Thigpen, Joenell Thompson, Jim Williams, Ricky Wortham, Anthony Brant, James Cochran, Sanford Corbitt, Michael Davis, Dale Deal, Brian Dean, Robert Hardy, Bradford Hicks, Pam Howard, Stephen Jones, Kenneth Leonard, Jimmie Livingston, Tyler Marzofka, Chelsey McLendon, Benjamin Parrish, Chris Pinkard, Mark Randall, Rory Smith, Erik Syvertson, Andrew Vaughn, David Yopp.

“I’m proud of the accomplishments of each of our GM Award recipients and very appreciative of their hard work,” said Mr. Bolton. “I’m also impressed that each of them consistently performs their job safely and in a quality manner as expected by our DOE customer.”

In addition, the Company honored Bill Charters with the prestigious Humanitarian Award for his commitment to community service. Mr. Charters was presented the award for his volunteerism, dedication to service, and commitment to enhancing the lives of youth through the Boy Scouts of America. He has been a devoted and committed member of the Boy Scouts of America for over 32 years. Bill has devoted his life to the youth of America by devoting his time, money, and resources to this extraordinary organization and helps provide leadership, guidance and a positive role model to our young people.

New Software Improving Transfers Within SRS Liquid Waste Program

Submitted by Savannah River Mission Completion

A digital transformation initiative in the Savannah River Site (SRS)'s waste vitrification plant is ensuring accuracy and consistency and streamlining operations of nuclear waste transfers.

SRS liquid waste contractor Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) developed and implemented computer-aided software to assist control room operators at the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). That facility converts the high-level liquid waste stored in the SRS Tank Farms into a glass form within stainless steel canisters that is safe for long-term storage and disposal.

Material such as radioactive waste and other liquids are transferred throughout DWPF using the plant's distributed control system — an automated computer system with physical control elements. Such systems are also used to make material transfers in SRS' other liquid waste facilities, including the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF), Saltstone Production Facility and Tank Farms, which is a group of underground waste-storage tanks.

As a 24/7 nuclear facility, DWPF operators transfer materials in, out and through the plant over 1,500 times per year. The new software directly assists operators who are used to making those transfers manually on the distributed control system, according to Will Brown, SRMC Information Technology/Operational Technology Programs and Innovation manager.

Collaborating with SRMC employees across many disciplines, Brown's team implemented the computer-aided software that enhances operability of DWPF transfers. Specifically, the software is programmed to follow existing transfer procedures verbatim, which automates facility equipment manipulation per procedure; provide enhanced plant monitoring, both prior to and during material transfers; predetermine the amount of material to be transferred and move exactly that much material; and complete calculations that support the transfer.

Over 130 transfers between May and September this year have been completed with the new software with a 100% success rate.

Other benefits of the software include providing real-time transfer status and aggregated transfer data on a single screen. Overall, this computerized transfer assistance provides exceptional consistency, reduced operator touch points and improvement of transfer accuracy.

Mirwaise Aurah, SRMC chief information officer and engineering director for operational technology, said with SRMC's drive toward digital transformation, it is important to find the right balance between the risks and benefits of using technology to make lives and jobs safer and more efficient.

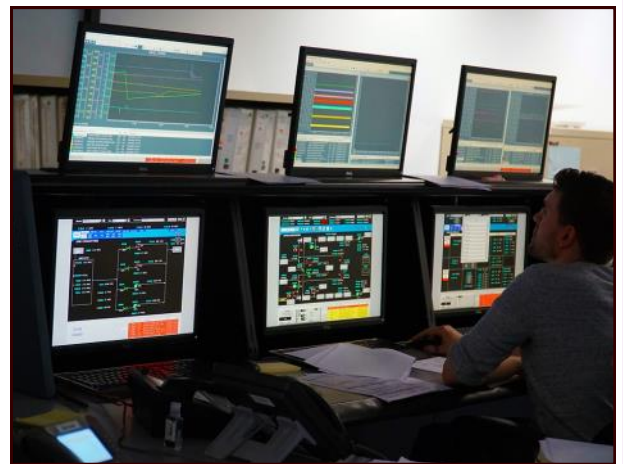
"Engaged and attentive operators ensure the success of the facility's critical processing system," Aurah said. "And this computerized enhancement reduces the risk of human-performance-related errors during transfers."

SRMC President and Program Manager Dave Olson said this innovative enhancement is an ideal example of SRMC's core value of continuous improvement in action.

"The successful implementation of the transfer-assistant software into the Defense Waste Processing Facility paves the way for further enhancements throughout the Liquid Waste Program by adding more of these assistants to all facilities' control systems," Olson said.

He noted the software implementation was a multi-disciplined effort that needed a wide group of contributors to succeed.

"Thank you to all who worked together to assemble, deploy, refine and improve this important product," Olson said. "I am proud of SRMC's commitment to safety, reliability and continuous improvement — all of which are attributes that are critical as we advance our mission."



Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) control room operator Garrett Jarnagin works at a distributed control system console for the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). SRMC has implemented software to assist control room operators with the operability and efficiency of waste transfers within DWPF.

Huge Progress Made at AMC and Big News from North Wind Leadership

Submitted by NorthWind Group



A construction crew lowers the last piece of structural steel into place on the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative facility.
Credit: DOE Office of Environmental Management Newsletter

Construction on the 60,000-square-foot Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative (AMC) took a noticeable step forward as crews recently placed its last piece of structural steel, achieving an EM 2023 priority ahead of schedule and moving closer to providing accessible, modern and flexible laboratory space for Savannah River National Laboratory and its collaboration partners. The AMC will combine the unique capabilities of the DOE national laboratories, industrial enterprises and educational institutions to drive practical, cost-effective solutions to many of the nation's most challenging environmental cleanup and energy security challenges while supporting long-term sustainability of the United States manufacturing sector. The facility is being built on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus, next to the proposed National Guard Cybersecurity Readiness Center and collaboration space. The facility is expected to be completed by June 2025.

North Wind Group (North Wind) is pleased to announce Mr. Richard "Rich" Driggs has been appointed to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer Elect of North Wind, assuming the role on November 13, 2023. Rich Driggs is a respected leader in the engineering and construction industry that brings more than 30 years of experience acting as both CEO and COO for multi-national organizations. Mr. Driggs succeeds Christopher P. Leichtweis, who has led the company with extraordinary entrepreneurial spirit for the past 10 years. Driggs and Leichtweis will be working closely together through the end of the year to ensure a smooth and orderly transition.



North Wind Dynamics, the Infrastructure Support Services contractor at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, has notably marked 2 million consecutive safe work hours — or zero recordable injuries and illnesses — since the inception of its contract in 2016. In addition, North Wind also recently received its second DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Legacy of Stars Award, which is awarded to sites that have achieved the Star of Excellence award for four consecutive years. The Star of Excellence award is awarded to sites that maintain an injury and illness rate at least 75% below the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics industry average, actively mentor other companies, and demonstrate strong community involvement.

The 22nd Annual North Wind/Idaho State University Tom Sherwood Scholarship was awarded to two Idaho State University (ISU) students, Haley Wright and Joseph Hively, for \$4,461 each. In addition to the Sherwood scholarship, North Wind is proud to announce the addition of a new STEM scholarship offered this year, to benefit a current outstanding ISU STEM student, selected by ISU representatives. This year's first annual STEM scholarship was awarded to Levi Farber for \$2,087.

For more information, visit the North Wind website at www.northwindgrp.com.

SRNL Researcher Sean Noble Wins Environmental Resilience Category at Inaugural Research SLAM

Submitted by Savannah River National Laboratory

SRNL Researcher Sean Noble took first place in the Environmental Resilience category at the inaugural National Lab Research SLAM held Nov. 15 in Washington D.C.

The National Lab Research SLAM featured collaboration among 17 Department of Energy National Labs and highlighted DOE research programs, while educating policymakers and their staff about the key role DOE national labs play in the nation's innovation ecosystem and their impact on the nation.

Noble and 16 others presented compelling three-minute presentations about their research in lay person language. Sean's presentation explained how his research in advanced computer modeling increased safety and productivity while reducing costs associated with mixing and transporting liquid waste.

Speaking about his experience, Noble said he learned how to compose a talk in a way that's more compelling than he had known before. "I would highly recommend this experience to national laboratory colleagues because your comfort zone is stretched a bit, but you learn a lot and you have a good time," said Noble.

Sponsored by the House Science and National Labs Caucus and the Senate National Labs Caucus, the SLAM highlights the importance of effective science communication, especially while communicating with the general public. The event offers career development opportunities for participants and provides visibility into scientific disciplines and research. Participating in the SLAM also promotes cross-discipline collaboration and networking opportunities with other national labs.

"The ability to make our science relatable to all people is key to being successful scientists and to our ability to attract the next generation of researchers to our national laboratories," said SRNL Laboratory Director Vahid Majidi. "I'm proud of Sean's work at SRNL and his performance at the Research SLAM."

To view Sean's winning performance at the National Lab Research SLAM, visit <https://nlresearchslam.org>



SRNL Researcher Sean Noble at the National Lab Research SLAM held Nov. 15 in Washington, D.C.

Not your average Vacuum; SRS employees use unique underwater vacuum to ensure continued spent nuclear fuel processing

Submitted by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

SRNS employees recently used innovative techniques to complete the vacuuming of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) stored in the L Area Disassembly Basin to ensure continued processing of the fuel, while working toward de-inventory of the basin.

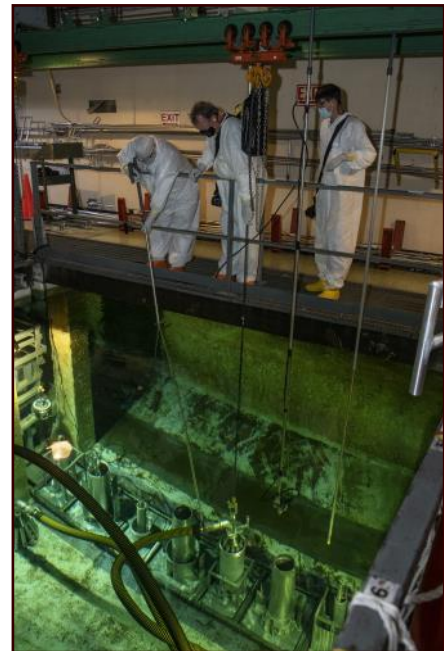
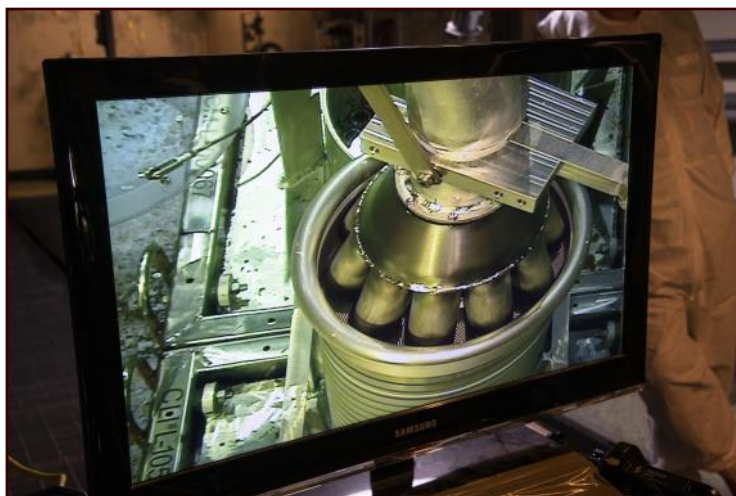
SNF from foreign and domestic research reactors is safely stored in an underwater basin inside of a former production reactor in the Site's L Area. The SNF are then dissolved in H Canyon at SRS and sent through the Site's liquid waste facilities to be vitrified, or made into glass, and safely stored on-site until a federal repository is identified.

"In the early '90s, resin was deposited on a number of High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) cores and the racks that held them during L Area Basin operations," said L Area Operations Specialist Steve Osteen. "The resin is made up of tiny beads that trap radionuclides and help to remove radioactive ions from the basin water. The H Canyon dissolver is not able to process the resin, and the HFIR racks will be needed for future SNF receipts, so, in 2020, SRS employees developed a plan to remove the resin from the cores and racks."

A team made up of SRNS engineering, operations and construction partnered with scientists and engineers from the Savannah River National Laboratory to develop a methodology for removing the resin. The team designed and installed a HFIR cleaning station and vacuum tooling to be used in conjunction with an existing basin vacuum system. HFIR cores were placed in the HFIR cleaning station vacuumed and relocated, which allowed operators to vacuum the HFIR racks. By using this new process and associated tools, SRNS was able to recover 30 racks and add an additional 60 clean storage positions.

"The ingenuity of this team in planning, designing and implementing new tools to allow for the vacuuming of the cores is commendable," said L Area Facility Manager Neil McIntosh. "The nearly two-year effort not only allows transfer to H Canyon of all HFIR cores currently stored in the basin but also allowed reclamation of all storage racks for future receipts. The ability of the SRNS team to always find a way to get the job done safely and efficiently is why they make a great workforce. Now, the HFIR cores can be scheduled for dissolution and the basin can receive more cores without causing any interruption to other operations."

HFIR is the highest flux reactor-based source of neutrons for research in the U.S. using highly enriched uranium. The fuel elements, an inner and an outer element, together form a reactor "core." The reactor is located at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.



Operators in SRS' L Area Disassembly Basin vacuum spent nuclear fuel cores in to ensure continued processing of the fuel, while working toward de-inventory of the basin.

Waséyabek Development Company Becomes Majority Owner of Michigan Environmental Engineering and Consulting Firm

Submitted by Waséyabek Development Company

Waséyabek Development Company, LLC (Waséyabek), a leading economic development firm in Indian Country, has become the majority owner of BLDI, LLC, an innovative environmental engineering, consulting, and remediation firm headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Waséyabek is the non-gaming economic development company of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) Tribe based in southwest Michigan.

BLDI's staff of engineers, geologists, scientists, and business professionals is focused on providing high-quality, cost-effective environmental services throughout the United States and is well-positioned to deliver services at the Savannah River Site and across the Department of Energy Complex.

The company's services include environmental due diligence and risk assessment; Phase 1 & Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessments; PFAS testing and remediation; underground storage tank assessment, removal, and corrective actions; asbestos surveys; lead-based paint inspections, brownfield assessment grants, cleanup, remediation, and closure; soil sampling; vapor intrusion and indoor air quality surveys and mitigation, and wetlands assessment.

"Adding BLDI to the Waséyabek family of companies creates a tremendous business growth opportunity for both entities and is in line with our overall strategic plan," said Deidra Mitchell, Waséyabek President and CEO. "BLDI delivers services, including PFAS assessment and remediation, that are in great demand. We're thrilled to add this firm to the Tribe's non-gaming economic development portfolio."

BLDI was founded in 1991. It has offices in Grand Rapids and greater Detroit and can easily support Savannah River Site from Waséyabek's Augusta office.

Waséyabek's portfolio of non-gaming investments now totals 31 entities, encompassing more than 500 employees. It also further diversifies the types of industries represented by companies the NHBP Tribe owns. BLDI will become part of the environmental services division in the Waséyabek Federal Group of companies.

"The addition of BLDI to our portfolio will strengthen our environmental service group and bring their experienced subject matter experts to our current customers and prospective clients in the federal contracting space," said Bethany Harris, President of Waséyabek's Federal Group. "BLDI will continue to deliver great service to its existing customers while expanding into new markets, including the federal contracting space."

To find out more visit: <https://waseyabek.com/>



New Worker-to-Trainer Program Supports Peer Learning at SRS

Submitted by Savannah River Mission Completion

The Savannah River Site's (SRS) liquid waste contractor has implemented a program for workers to train new hires through a peer-to-peer learning opportunity.

Employees with Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) have the opportunity to become temporary classroom instructors through SRMC's new worker-to-trainer program to qualify fellow teammates. The program was created to identify, train and temporarily reassign internal employees to provide critical knowledge transfer. The inaugural group of worker-to-trainer participants began co-teaching courses in September.

Before teaching their first course, the program participants receive training on best teaching practices from a full-time SRMC instructional professional, helping them gain confidence and become comfortable with leading in a classroom setting. Examples of courses taught by the worker-to-trainer program participants include instruction on water, ventilation and electrical distribution; cold chemical systems; response procedures; and electronic rounds.

The program allows avenues for selected participants to provide in-depth knowledge that is often only obtained from time in the job, according to Charles Lampley, SRMC Training, Emergency Management and Conduct of Operations manager.



Chad Champy, a tank farm operator, conducts his practice session to employ the skills covered in a course he will teach as part of Savannah River Mission Completion's worker-to-trainer program. The liquid waste contractor launched the program this year to provide critical knowledge transfer among the workforce.

“Savannah River Mission Completion’s worker-to-trainer program brings a real peer-to-peer learning experience and expertise to the classroom, closing knowledge gaps and increasing worker proficiency,” Lampley said. “Feedback from program participants has been positive. They are enjoying the opportunity for personal and professional development gained by teaching other adult learners, while at the same time earning extra compensation for their temporary, increased work scope outside of normal job responsibilities.”

Jim Folk, DOE-Savannah River assistant manager for waste disposition, commends SRMC for leveraging the significant institutional knowledge that exists within the liquid waste workforce.

“The SRS liquid waste facilities and systems are highly complex with unique features and challenges,” Folk said. “With their firsthand operating experience, liquid waste employees can provide great insight to new hires when teaching the systems or maintenance activities. It makes the work being done to advance EM’s liquid waste mission at Savannah River more personal.”

Thank You Business Members!

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*Thank
you*

Information on Business Membership & Individual Membership to CNTA is available online at:
<https://cntaware.org/join-us/>

All memberships help CNTA be the grassroots organization dedicated to the truth on nuclear matters! Let us know if you have questions.

Thank You Champion Members

Kim Cauthen	Jesus Mancilla
Paul Cloessner	Chris Noah
Paul Ebel	Jon Wickliffe

Thank You Advocate Members

Jeffrey Allender	Lyddie Hansen	Larry Ling	Kent Rosenberger
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			Craig Williamson

About CNTA

Mission

CNTA serves to educate the public by providing objective information on the value of nuclear technology with respect to our health, economy, environment, and national security.

Vision

CNTA will become the recognized avenue for the collective engagement of its members in increasing the awareness and support of nuclear technology and its benefits to the public.

Value

Through inclusiveness and engagement, CNTA and its volunteers create a voice to provide the public with factual, objective information on nuclear subjects, while also providing opportunities for its members' personal and professional growth.

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Bronze: \$1,000—\$2,4999
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Young Professional : Free for 1 year, and free renewals until age 40.

Membership Information is available online at:
<http://cntaware.org/join-us/>

All membership levels include invitations to breakfasts/dinners, other events, quarterly newsletters and opinion letters/editorials. Benefactor and Member Plus also receive one free private reception ticket and one free Teller Lecture banquet ticket when dues are current.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a charitable, non-profit organization, CNTA can ALWAYS use help.

Opportunities include:

- Donate Items for Raffles/Auctions
 - Donate to Our Community Gift Card Program!
 - Donate to CNTA as a charitable non-profit (<https://cntaware.org/about-us/>)
- Volunteer your time
 - Get involved with a CNTA Committee (*committee information on page 6*)
 - Help CNTA expand their reach on social media
 - Volunteer to help in our Office (there is always work to be done!)
 - Be an event-specific volunteer
 - Be an education committee contest judge or outreach volunteer
- Sponsor a 2024 Event or Education Outreach!

For information, email Allison at office@cntaware.org

CNTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **January 11, 2024-** CNTA sponsored AYP Event with the Chamber of Commerce. 6-7:30pm at the SRS Museum in Aiken SC.
- **March 21, 2024-** Membership Appreciation Night. 6-8pm at Newberry Hall in Aiken SC.
- **May 10, 2024-** 22nd Annual CNTA Charity Golf Tournament at Houndslake Country Club.