

Special thanks

Dear CNTA:

By now you may have heard the good news that SC State radiochemistry graduate and USNRC employee Miss Kara McCullough was crowned Miss USA 2017 in May. The Orangeburg newspaper recently did an article on Miss McCullough:

Kara McCullough '13, was the 11th graduate of the Radiochemistry program and the seventh SC State student hired by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. As a sophomore, she was a co-author of a paper published in the prestigious professional journal Health Physics with CNTA Davisson Award winner Dr. Zheng Cheng.

Other news that you may not be aware of is that as of this writing, there are four Black American graduate students in the nuclear engineering program at the University of Michigan; three of these are SC State students, and of those three, two are former CNTA Maher Scholar awardees Valerie Nwadeyi and Samuel Cole. They are doing well at this premier institution.

Over my 8 year tenure at SC State, participation at the CNTA Edward Teller Lecture series has played a major role in exposing SC State nuclear science and engineering students to key industrial players in the nuclear enterprise. Some had never experienced such a formal professional event before.

The results has been encouragement to succeed and excel, expanded opportunities for internships, employment, and educational opportunities. In fact, on several occasions, CNTA member industries have paid for SC State student participation in the lecture series. We are now seeing the fruits of all of this.

It is my sincere hope that CNTA continues its programs of outreach at all levels and its programs of recognition; these are effective and encouraging indeed.

Best Regards,
Kenneth D. Lewis, Ph.D., P.E.
Fellow, ANS
Former Dean of STEM, SC State University

FACES

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Christopher Allely



Allely

Christopher Allely grew up across the river from the Savannah River Site (SRS) in Augusta, Georgia. He landed his job as a radiological control inspector for Savannah River Remediation (SRR) after graduating from Augusta Technical College in May 2016 with a degree in Nuclear Engineering Technology.

He works at the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), the Site's waste glassification plant. DWPF converts high-level liquid waste into a glass form suitable for safe, long-term storage.

Christopher discovered his job through a friend who has been a long-time employee at SRS.

"At the time of hearing about the job, I was not aware of what radiological control inspector duties were, but my degree correlated to the industry, so I decided to apply and see where it would take me," he said.

In his year of working at SRR, Christopher's knowledge of radiological control has grown immensely. The nuclear field is all about continuous learning and improvement, he said, but his co-workers are always willing to help.

"You will truly never learn everything, which makes you want to learn more," he said. "I enjoy what I do, but most importantly, I love the people that I work with. What I've learned the most in the year I've been at SRS is that everyone is more than willing to help you."

Christopher aspires to continue in radiological control at SRR for many years.

"I grew up in the area, and I don't see myself leaving."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Workers monitor the liquid waste process.

WASTE

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the concept for Tank Closure Cesium Removal, an innovative, modular technology to strip cesium from tank waste. All of these outstanding advancements have and will continue to accelerate the liquid waste mission.

To successfully close waste tanks, SRR also overcame regulatory hurdles through the years. For example, SRR accelerated the closure documentation process from the baseline schedule, creating cost-savings.

While there were many successes, there were also many unplanned challenges. For example, for the last year or so of the contract, several major operational issues all arose around the same time.

When the DWPF melter ended a successful 14-year run (expected to operate only 3-5 years), SRR successfully completed the second melter replacement in DWPF history. When the 3H Evaporator – a critical part of creating waste tank space – developed a leak, it underwent a challenging, remote-control repair. Integrating the new Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) into the current liquid waste facilities continue on schedule, which will enable a successful SWPF startup. Additionally, important safety analyses are being addressed before restarting liquid waste facilities by the end of 2017. A thorough, intricate map of steps at each facility was masterfully blended to ensure safety and facility success.

During the past eight-plus years, SRR made history by meeting challenges, solving complex problems and sharing insights and innovations across the DOE complex.

TELLER

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of nuclear weapons and the materials to make nuclear weapons. He taught theoretical physics at several universities and viewed that as his principal occupation. He is often referred to as the "father of the hydrogen bomb" and played a major role in convincing President Truman that the nation should develop that weapon since the Soviet Union was known to be doing so. He was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom in July 2003 by President George W. Bush. Edward Teller died at his Cali-

fornia home in September 2003, at age 95.

Edward Teller presented a public lecture in Augusta, GA in 1992 and gave permission to CNTA to name the organization's annual lecture and banquet in his honor. The Annual Edward Teller Lecture/Banquet is CNTA's largest community activity. The audience includes community leaders, elected officials and nuclear professionals. Some high school and college students also attend, courtesy of corporate and college donors.

Notable presenters have included authors, industry leaders, senators, congressmen, a pioneer in nuclear medicine, national laboratory directors and many others, all with an impressive list of accomplishments.