

## Preface and Acknowledgments

Throughout 2000, a remarkable variety of events are commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Savannah River Site. One of the major events is the symposium *50 Years of Excellence in Science and Engineering at the Savannah River Site*, sponsored by Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness and chapters of the American Nuclear Society and the Health Physics Society.

During most of its history, SRS was an important supplier of nuclear materials for America's nuclear arsenal. The Site also produced unusual radioisotopes in its reactors for research, industry, and the space program. At the end of the Cold War the reactors were shut down. Now the emphasis is on environmental remediation and the disposition of plutonium from decommissioned nuclear weapons.

In a technically challenging enterprise like SRS with its diverse nuclear facilities, a large community of skilled scientists and engineers is essential. This book, the symposium proceedings, highlights some of their outstanding achievements during the past half-century and some of the people associated with these accomplishments.

A principal purpose of the symposium is to bolster the institutional memory of SRS, not for fond reminiscence but as a foundation for vision and mission. Equally important, the proceedings can serve as a benchmark and reminder for the current and future technical staffs of SRS that they are members of a community with a long tradition of excellence in science and engineering. This should be a source of stimulation and encouragement.

The Symposium Committee invited current and former employees to nominate the innovations to be recognized. Several selection panels of experts in various technical fields reviewed 190 nominations and selected the achievements included in these proceedings. Neither the Symposium Committee nor the selection panels claim that these accomplishments are the best of the best. Instead, we believe they typify the outstanding quality of science and engineering at the Site during its first half-century.

Like most of SRS's achievements, many people worked together to make the symposium a success. First, we are indebted to the authors. About half of them have retired from SRS, some long ago. Our particular thanks to them for painstakingly reconstructing important technical programs in the earlier years of the Site.

Two of the authors, Dr. Myung Lee and Dr. D. Thomas Rankin, died several months before the symposium. The distinguished character of their work is shown in the symposium papers that describe their notable achievements.

The Symposium Committee acknowledges with gratitude the support of the Savannah River Operations Office of the Department of Energy and the Westinghouse Savannah River Company in the preparation of these proceedings. We also are grateful for the help from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, chaired by John Granaghan, and the many organizations that provided financial support to that committee.

Special thanks to Fred Springer, Amy Phillips, and Cyndi Damiano for the editorial expertise needed to produce this volume.

Thanks to my fellow Symposium Committee members, Steve Epperson, Mel Buckner, Bruce Cadotte, Fred Springer, Todd Crawford, and Tom Parkinson for their time, effort, and good sense in making the symposium happen.

Finally, a blanket thank you to the many other people who lent a hand, especially those who nominated the achievements and the experts who served on the selection panels.

Bill Reinig