Researchers garner R&D 100 awards

Y-12 National Security Complex researchers Ron Simandl, Roland Seals, Gerald Devault and Bob Smithwick all captured prestigious R&D 100 awards.

R&D Magazine issues the awards in recognition of the year’s most significant technological innovations. This year’s winners, announced June 30, will receive their awards at a ceremony this fall.

Simandl’s Negligible-Residue Tack Cloth or Non-tacky Tack Cloth works by trapping dust, dirt or other particles in the cloth as it is wiped over the surface of the material being cleaned.

Seals collaborated with researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to create Cratos V Nano-Wool, which is a new process for producing high-purity carbon nanotubes quickly and at a fraction of the typical cost.

Devault and Smithwick were part of a team, including members from ORNL, CenTACat at Queen’s University Belfast and Hiden Analytical, that developed SpaciMS: Spatially Resolved Capillary Inlet Mass Spectrometer. SpaciMS takes samples inside the confined spaces of reactors such as automotive catalysts, fuel reformers or fuel cells, measuring changes in chemical composition in both space and time within the reactors.

President and General Manager Darrel Kohlhorst said, “Working mainly on classified programs, Y-12 researchers have limited external recognition because of the nature of our work. We know what we can do, but most of the outside world doesn’t. These awards are a great spotlight for our talented researchers.”
A job well done

The Y-12 National Security Complex has reached a major milestone in the National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA’s) Stockpile Stewardship Program with completion of the canned subassembly production for the B61 Life Extension Program (LEP).

Under the LEP, B61-7 and B61-11 strategic nuclear bombs are being retrofi tted with the refurbished canned subassemblies produced by Y-12. The canned subassembly contains the secondary—the second stage of modern thermonuclear weapons.

Ted Sherry, Y-12 site manager for NNSA, said the completion of the refurbishment for a major weapon system in the stockpile is a significant accomplishment. Darrel Kohlhorst, Y-12 president and general manager, said Y-12 employees feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment. “When they faced challenges, the employees tackled them head-on and met all the program’s goals. I personally congratulate them on a job well done,” said Kohlhorst.

Maj. General (Sel.) Donald Alston, U.S. Air Force, director of Nuclear Operations, Plans and Requirements, Dr. Billy Mullins, Department of Defense B61 project manager, and Steven Goodrum, NNSA assistant deputy administrator for Science, Engineering and Production Programs, recently congratulated employees on their accomplishment.

Festival highlights

Y-12’s unique place in history

One of the Southeast’s premier festivals, the Secret City Festival, welcomed more than 25,000 people to Oak Ridge in June, and B&W Y-12, the event’s largest corporate sponsor, contributed $25,000 again this year.

“Because of the Y-12 National Security Complex’s unique place in history, it is only appropriate that we continue to support the Secret City Festival each year,” said Jane Miller of Public Affairs and Communications and chair of the festival’s sponsorship committee.

B&W Y-12 has contributed to the festival each of the last four years. Y-12 also hosted a sponsor lunch and provided tours of certain areas of the site.

Y-12 retiree Connie Bolling, a supervisor of the “calutron girls” in 1945, greeted visitors as they arrived at New Hope Center. “More than 400 people toured Y-12,” said Ray Smith, site historian. “At the end of the day, there were folks still wanting tours.”

Touring Y-12 was not the only highlight of the festival. At the A. K. Bissell Park, attendees could watch a re-enactment of World War II’s D-Day invasion. Tanks, machine guns and military tents decorated the field as the Axis and Allied powers battled for control. Children weren’t left out of the fun; they could visit the petting zoo, rock climb or play the free games.

Last year’s festival was awarded the 2007 Festival of the Year Award from the Southeast Tourism Society. This award designated the Secret City Festival as the best festival in the Southeast United States with attendance up to 100,000.
RECYCLE to help others

The Aluminum Beverage Can (ABC) Committee recently donated $1,200 to six nonprofit agencies, thanks to Y-12 employees recycling their ABCs. In the June issue of The Y-12 Times, the first three agencies (Emory Valley Center, Tabitha’s Pantry and the Guiding Light Circle) were recognized. This article highlights the remaining recipients.

Jackie Jackson, the executive director of the YWCA in Oak Ridge, was happy to hear from Y-12. YWCA provides many services to area women. One of the most used services is its shelter for abused women. The center helps women get medical attention, a home, household items and a job after they leave their abuser. Rick Shipp of Information Technology nominated the agency.

The next recipient was the Corryton Hospitality Pantry at Rutherford Memorial United Methodist Church. Carey Norton of Analytical Chemistry nominated the agency. “My grandparents volunteer their time to the pantry. It provides food to anyone who needs it. Since it is located in a rural area, any assistance they get is much needed and greatly appreciated,” said Norton.

The last recipient was the Y-12 Relay for Life Team. The team supported the June 5 American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life and was nominated by team chair Keith Swinney of Engineering. “There aren’t many people who haven’t been touched somehow by cancer,” Swinney said.

Molly Brewer of the ABC Committee encourages employees to bring their ABCs from home to work for recycling. “If everyone recycled ABCs at work, we would see a growth in funds available for distributing back into our communities.”

SIMPLIFYING work, SAVING time

About 1,000 employees are saving as much as an hour a day thanks to a new program from Information Technology (IT). Created as a way to save time and equipment, Big Yellow is also making work simpler for employees who handle UCNI (unclassified controlled nuclear information).

For years, Y-12 ran three separate information security systems: red for classified, yellow for UCNI and green for lower classification levels such as official use only. By folding the green into yellow, IT saved employees the repeated 10- to 15-minute effort of unlocking a safe, pulling out a hard drive and uploading data to work on UCNI projects. And most impressively, IT kept Internet access in the mix.

“It would have been easy to just cut off the Internet,” said George Dailey, manager of IT. “But we have a lot of people who use the Internet every day in their jobs—Procurement and Public Affairs and Communications, for instance. It would have killed them.”

Once funding and equipment were in hand, project lead Jeff Jones and a team of 19 from across Y-12 put Big Yellow in place in less than a year. And while the change gives UCNI users more productive time, it makes very little difference to the average user.

“We wanted to help all constituents, not just a few,” said Dailey.

Jones said, “IT performs a lot of work that affects all of Y-12, but the implementation of Big Yellow permits Y-12 to more efficiently provide service to our customers.”

Dailey said, “These guys [the IT team] are heroes. They’ve done great work.”
More than 150 walkers spent their Saturday morning recently supporting the March of Dimes’ Anderson/Roane/Loudon counties March for Babies. The event, held at A. K. Bissell Park in Oak Ridge, marked its tenth anniversary. The Atomic Trades and Labor Council (ATLC) and B&W Y-12 acted as the Local Gold Sponsor for the walk.

The ATLC/B&W Y-12 team raised some $3,917 to help fund the fight against premature birth. This year’s goal of $73,000 for the walk was met and exceeded with the B&W Y-12/ATLC team coming in sixth in fundraising. Team captain Keith Wilson of Facilities, Infrastructure and Services captured honors as a “pacesetter walker” by raising more than $1,000.

Pictured above from left to right are Yulonda and Rick Wilson, and Amber Wilson, Earl Johnson (ATLC second vice president), Keith Wilson, and Tim Wegner (of Labor Relations). In front are Lexee (stroller) and Jackson Wilson.

Brig. General Jonathan George, principal assistant deputy administrator for Military Application, National Nuclear Security Administration, visited Y-12 in June as part of a tour of U.S. Department of Energy sites. This was the general’s first visit to Y-12; Y-12 President and General Manager Darrel Kohlhorst briefed him on security, transformation and the Uranium Production Facility.

Y-12’s New Hope Center was recognized as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified facility by the U.S. Green Building Council. There are only eight facilities in Tennessee that have LEED certification.

LEED is a program of the United States Green Building Council and guides building design toward a holistic approach to sustainability. The country’s need to construct smarter, more environmentally friendly buildings is the primary focus of the program.

“Achieving this recognition has been one of Y-12’s Environmental Management System goals,” said Wayne McMahon of Environment, Safety and Health.

Randy Spickard, vice president and executive director of Science, Technology and Partnerships, said the LEED designation “demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.”
Hammond, right, B&W Y-12 socioeconomic program specialist, was honored recently for his work on the 2007 Small Business Administration's (SBA's) Veterans Advocate Award program. The award was presented at B&W Y-12's small business awards event recently. Hammond was honored for his work on the 2007 Veterans Business Conference. The 2008 Veterans Business Conference will be held at the New Hope Center.

It wasn't a regular day at work for many Y-12 employees recently when more than 150 children accompanied their parent to work. The young visitors had a busy day of activities as part of Y-12's Bring Your Child to Work Day. Shown here is 11-year-old Lisa, daughter of Production's Corrie Lopez, trying to assemble a 3-D triangle shape out of connected balls.

The Y-12 team members were Dan Alley, Donna Bennett, Scott Chippendale, Wes Collins, Michael Davenport, Kathy Evans, John Hehmeyer, Annette Levin, Jan Mincey, Keith Moats, Otis Peterson, Sharon Price, Chris Robinson, John Royster, Cheryl Sanz and Keith Swinney (team captain). Many employees, including Gary Hagan (left), Chris Hammonds (center) and David Mosby (right), walked during the night.

The Y-12 Relay for Life team raised almost $23,000 for the American Cancer Society, surpassing its goal of $20,000. The team received four honors at the recent ceremony:

- 1st place: Top Fundraising Team
- 1st place: Top Fundraising Team, Large Team
- 1st place: Top Luminaria Sales
- 2nd place: Best Campsite

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Help fight Alzheimer’s

Help those with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia by joining the Y-12 team at this year’s Memory Walk, Sept. 6, at the Oak Ridge Civic Center.

Many employees are dealing with loved ones who have Alzheimer’s. In fact, that’s why Engineering’s Ryan Hay volunteered to be the team’s captain. “I have a grandmother who has Alzheimer’s disease, so it really hits close to my heart,” Hay said.

Many team members are walking for loved ones. Erin Rood of Transformation and Projects is walking in honor of her uncle. “It is so hard seeing a loved one suffer, especially since he understands what is happening to him.”

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services’ Jane Nations is in a similar situation. “My mother was recently diagnosed. … the walk is one way I feel I am doing something to help.”

If you are interested in supporting the Y-12 team, please contact Hay at 241-8635.

Oak Ridge has one of the largest outdoor swimming pools anywhere around. Like Y-12, it has a history. John Getsi of Y-12’s Web Communications recalled some of his memories at the spring-fed pool.

During his teens, Getsi was the attendant for the men’s locker room at what he calls “Oak Ridge’s magnificent outdoor swimming pool” that is known for the chill of the water.

Getsi said, “My summer job at the pool gave me opportunity to meet several folks who influenced my love for being in the water.” One person was Bill Lewis, the coach of the Atomic City Aquatic Club and who occasionally let Getsi swim with the team. Experiences at the pool engendered in him a lifelong love of swimming for both recreation and exercise. Decades later, “I still swim a mile two or three times a week, often more during the summer,” he said, when Getsi can swim the 100-meter course in the pool.

Getsi recalled when a group of residents strongly opposed an effort to downsize the pool in the 1990s. They packed a City Council hearing and succeeded in preventing the reduction of the pool’s size.

In memoriam

Bill Leinart of Safeguards, Security, & Emergency Services passed away June 16. He had 27 years of company service.

His co-worker, Dan Stitt, said, “Bill treated everyone like an old friend. He had an aura of wisdom and respect for others that went far beyond being an ordinary gentleman. What really impressed me was the Christian family man he was. He was a model for all of the things that are good in this world.”

July

43 years
Production: Harvey L. Stevens

40 years
Applied Technologies: Don A. Carpenter
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Jerry L. Peddicord
Production: Millard N. Wilkerson Jr. and Arthur W. Williams
Quality Assurance: Ronald P. Allen

35 years
Information Technology: Janis H. Stout

30 years
Emergency Services: John J. Miller IV
Engineering: Michael E. Davenport, David E. Harvey and Terry C. Howell
Environment, Safety and Health: Timothy J. Denton
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Roger E. Barnes, Darrell L. Chadwick, Thomas W. Esmond, Kenneth B. Layden, Carl T. Lyster, Gary L. Martin,

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES


Human Capital: Faye S. Ellis

25 years
Chief Financial Officer Division: Larry B. Creekmore
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Marion W. Wampler
Program Planning: Daniel E. Tracy
Quality Assurance: Tegwyn L. Berry
Safeguards, Security, & Emergency Services: Mary E. Gaines and Lindsey L. Pyatt

20 years
Emergency Services: Sharon A. Alcorn
Engineering: Terry L. Brown, Ross C. Robinson, Stanley O. Santich and Terri L. Warren
Environment, Safety and Health: Peggy L. Duncan, Norman A. Teasley III and Barbara V. Wojowicz
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Sarah K. Davis
Production: Scott D. Albston

Originally constructed in 1944 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Oak Ridge’s outdoor swimming pool provided hours of entertainment for Manhattan Project workers.
Creating more job satisfaction

As the newly appointed leader of the Talent Management group, Renee Smith’s organization delves into “all things at Y-12 that have to do with employment,” and she is serious about job satisfaction.

With words such as “dream,” “believe” and “Yes!” decorating her office, Smith’s interest in “putting the right people with the right job” drives her desire for continuous improvement of the Human Capital programs her organization oversees. Programs include succession planning and employee development.

“The company is serious about keeping the talent they hire,” said Smith. “If people don’t perceive opportunities to grow, then you will have turnover. Our goal is to help Y-12 employees feel engaged and discover avenues for growth and development.”

Smith says succession planning has come to the forefront as jobs deemed “critical skills” are in danger of being vacated. “We are in competition with businesses across America for those trained in certain fields and crafts, for instance, certain engineering disciplines,” she said. “Today’s college graduates and those with trained craft skill are more likely to move around in order to advance their careers. That is why we need to provide an atmosphere where people have the feeling that they can advance.”

If you are interested in any of the Talent Management programs, contact Smith (3qm; 574-8072).

Quality Assurance’s Toletha (aka Fruity) Davis (with President and General Manager Darrel Kohlhorst) celebrated 30 years as a Y-12 employee at the recent service awards dinner at Fox Den Country Club. As a material clerk, Davis said she’s “worked from one end of the plant to the other. I’ve had great mentors.”

She said her foremost mentors have always been her mom, Christine, and her aunt, Ruth. “God’s blessed me with one of the best mothers in the world,” she said. Family is important to Davis, who has daughter Tera and son Tilmer and four grandchildren. “My grandbabies are the light of my life,” she noted. Her father, Tommy, retired from Y-12 after 22 years of service.

Davis explained that her nickname, Fruity, came from her Uncle Tilmer, who also worked at Y-12. “When I was born, my uncle couldn’t pronounce my given name, and whenever he turned on the radio, the hit song ‘Tutti Frutti’ by Little Richard was playing,” she recalled. “The nickname stuck.”

In memoriam

Clarence Kirkpatrick of Quality Assurance passed away April 29. He had 31 years of company service.

“Clarence had a wonderful way of helping everyone stay compliant with requirements and improve quality,” said co-worker Rick Slagle. “He partnered with you, and you knew he had the organization’s and your own best interest in mind. He loved his family, was active in youth work, sang in a church group, and genuinely cared about everyone he met.”

In memoriam

Kimberly Joni Gambrell of Facilities, Infrastructure and Services passed away June 14. She had 28 years of company service.

“Joni was one of the first people I met when I came into the Utilities group. She was an excellent worker who taught me so much,” said co-worker Jackie Wilson. “As a woman in a predominantly male profession, she was knowledgeable, hardworking and always ready to help. She liked to laugh with her crew and made the shift easier for those working with her.”
Random drug testing begins July 29
performed by Occupational Health Services

Readiness Workshop
Sponsored by B&W Y-12
Aug. 19–20
Register at http://www.y12.doe.gov/news/events/readiness/
Contact: Cindy Bailey (bcw; 574-5941)

Teamwork opens doors

Kenny Self of Transportation and Materials Management was instrumental in facilitating delivery of a truckload of surplus doors from US Resources, the largest manufacturer/distributor of interior trim products in Nevada, to the Habitat for Humanity of Anderson County Home Store in June.

Self used to work for EnergySolutions; the company did a similar delivery of doors last year. Now that he's at Y-12, Self was encouraged by his mom, Judy Bailey of Maintenance, to get another shipment of doors delivered. Bailey works in the Habitat Home Store every Saturday and is also on the board of directors.

Rodney Parrish, store manager at Habitat, heard about the surplus doors and began contacting area truckers to see who might be going to and from Nevada. Self introduced Parrish to Anthony Metler, who is a transportation subcontractor for Y-12. Metler agreed to load the doors into his empty truck for the return trip to Oak Ridge.

Y-12 has a history of helping Habitat. This year, a group of 16 Y-12 employees and spouses worked there on Day of Volunteering. Some worked at a construction site, some worked in the Home Store and some picked up donations for the Home Store.

The Habitat Home Store is located at 105 Randolph Road at Grove Center in Oak Ridge. They accept donations of new and used items, which are then sold to the public at a fraction of retail price. The profits are used to help build houses in partnership with low-income families.

Everyone benefits from such generosity, and Y-12 employees like Self and Bailey are proud to be part of a team that provides help to the community.