



## UCO PARTNERS WITH SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL LAB

Aug. 27, 2009

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### UCO PARTNERS WITH SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL LAB TO CREATE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

University of Central Oklahoma students now have the opportunity to study and conduct research with some of the most highly regarded scientists in the country thanks to a new partnership between the university and the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) in South Carolina.

The SRNL formally signed a memorandum of agreement with the university on Aug. 27, creating the partnership with the UCO Forensic Science Institute (UCO FSI). The lab has similar partnerships with higher education institutes like John Hopkins University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Dwight Adams, director of the UCO FSI and a Central alumnus, recalled how unique research opportunities like this helped him grow as a student into his professional career, which includes being the former director of the FBI National Laboratory in Quantico, Va.

"This relationship will allow our students to conduct research with some of the greatest minds in this country," added Adams.

Also in attendance at the signing were SRNL Director Samit Bhattacharyya and Todd Coleman, SRNL program manager for the lab's Law Enforcement Technology Support Center.

"The significant point about this agreement is that working together on science and technology initiatives will help both our institutions carry out our missions in support of the law enforcement community," said Bhattacharyya.

"Collaborating and making use of our complementary strengths will increase our ability to offer solutions to complex problems in law enforcement and forensics. At the same time, by helping the university fulfill its educational mission, the laboratory gains access to the tremendous pipeline of future nuclear and forensics professionals represented by the students at UCO's Forensic Science Institute."

The agreement will create valuable internships at the SRNL for UCO students, with stipends and housing assistance funded by SRNL. SRNL is the U.S. Department of Energy's applied research and development national laboratory at the Savannah River Site (SRS), near Aiken, S.C. SRNL puts science to work to support DOE and the nation in the areas of environmental management, national and homeland security, and energy security.

"This agreement enhances the opportunity-rich culture we offer at Central," said UCO President Roger Webb.

"We are pleased the Savannah River National Laboratory also recognizes the opportunities and quality students we have here at UCO. This partnership will no doubt benefit both of us, but, more importantly, we are training the next generation of scientists and law enforcement professionals, which will enhance the quality of life throughout the nation."

The management and operating contractor for SRS and SRNL is Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.

For more information on the UCO Forensic Science Institute and other programs Central offers, visit [www.uco.edu](http://www.uco.edu).

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Editor's Note: Art for publication with this story may be downloaded at [www.uco.edu/photo/UCOFSI-SRNL](http://www.uco.edu/photo/UCOFSI-SRNL)

Cutline: Savannah River National Laboratory Director Samit Bhattacharyya and UCO President Roger Webb sign a memorandum of agreement between the university and the lab creating internships and research opportunities for UCO students, including those studying at the UCO Forensic Science Institute.