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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Lifelong Learner, A Lifelong Teacher: SRNL Scientist Takes on Professor Role at UGA

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 13, 2016) – A scientist from the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS) has brought her expertise to the classroom at one of the nation's top universities.

Principal Scientist Dr. Simona Hunyadi Murph has successfully completed her first semester as an adjunct professor at the University of Georgia (UGA) where she served as a mentor and academic advisor to students.

"I joined the UGA physics and astronomy department to become part of a heritage of outstanding educational and research professionals before me," said Dr. Murph. "UGA has a reputation of being one of the top universities in our nation, excelling in a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs and providing opportunities for students to grow and use their knowledge for career purposes."

In her role as professor, Dr. Murph will participate in Ph.D. committees and faculty panels that are focused on course development, departmental organization and budget planning. In the near future, she plans to conduct online courses on nanotechnology for graduate- and undergraduate-level courses.

As an ambassador of the initiative to build collaboration with academia



Dr. Simona Hunyadi Murph, Principal Scientist at the Savannah River National Laboratory, instructs undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students from GIANTS, Group for Innovation and Advancements in Nano-Technology Sciences, at the Applied Research Center in Aiken, S.C. Dr. Murph recently completed her first semester at the University of Georgia as an adjunct professor in the physics and astronomy department.



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and industry, Dr. Murph is also able to assist with recruiting professionals from UGA to form interdisciplinary teams to research, solve and advance SRNL and DOE's missions.

Teaching has always been a passion for Dr. Murph, who has two decades of teaching experience at the university and K-12 level. Since she started working at SRNL almost a decade ago, she has mentored and trained a number of undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral scholars interested in nanotechnology through a program she created called Group for Innovation and Advancements in Nano-Technology Sciences, or "GIANTS."

This year, Dr. Murph has mentored 15 students at SRNL as they worked on a variety of cutting-edge projects in nanotechnology that would help the students gain experience, as well as expand DOE's role in supporting scientific discovery and innovation for the next generation workforce.

"Sharing what I have learned through my academic background and research experiences with young scholars fuels and inspires me each day," said Dr. Murph. "It is my legacy, and it is what I want to do for the rest of my life. I am fortunate to be in a national lab that supports my desires to conduct research in one of the most sought after fields of nanotechnology, and allows me to inspire the next generation of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) leaders. SRNL supports me in my desire to fulfill all of my career goals."

Dr. Murph holds a doctorate in chemistry/nanotechnology from the University of South Carolina, an Education Specialist degree in educational leadership and administration from Augusta University, and a Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in chemistry/physics with an education minor from Babes-Bolyai University in Romania.

Growing up in Transylvania, Romania, as a female scientist with English as her second language, Dr. Murph faced many obstacles and trials. Perseverance, hard work and dedication have been the key to her success. "I hope that my life story will inspire young scientists and help them fulfill their potential. I hope to show them countless opportunities as a way of guiding them to the wonderful and fulfilling future of their choice," said Dr. Murph.

As one semester comes to an end, Dr. Murph is enthusiastic about her position, pursuing her passion and giving back to the community. "I have always led my life as a lifelong learner, and I believe that it is my mission to ensure the next generation continues to be lifelong learners," said Dr. Murph. "I look forward to meeting my new students next semester, accepting challenges that may come, and most of all innovating nanotechnology research."

The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is a multi-program applied research and development laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy. SRNL applies state-of-the-art science and engineering to provide practical, high-value, cost-effective solutions for our nation's environmental cleanup, nuclear security and clean energy challenges. Visit us on the web at <http://srnl.doe.gov>