

Oak Ridge Associated Universities has published a grand new book (As published in *The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking* column on June 23, 2014)

When Pam Bonee, Oak Ridge Associated University's Director of Communications and Marketing, called me to say she had something she thought I would enjoy reading, I hurried to her office expecting something she had found about the history of Oak Ridge or maybe even some new find about the history of ORAU. What I found when I got there was something even more valuable.

Pam presented me with an advance copy of *Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education*. The subtitle of this new book is *Delivering Agile Mission Solutions for DOE to Strengthen and Secure America*.

ORISE was created in 1992 and is the portion of ORAU that is an asset of the Department of Energy and is dedicated to strengthening scientific research and education across the nation. ORISE also supports DOE's public health and environmental cleanup initiatives as well as providing assistance through emergency preparedness to address acts of terror, natural disasters and other health and security threats. Dr. James Drewry was appointed the first director of ORISE.

In the Foreword, Andy Page, ORAU President and Chief Executive Officer as well as the ORISE Director, states, "For the past four years, it has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve as director of ORISE. When I first stepped into this role in 2009, I already knew I would be leading something distinctive. I had been with ORAU since 1999 when I was brought on as a project manager for ORISE national security and emergency management programs."

Andy went on to say, "It was a time of great uncertainty in our country as we faced a significant rise in terrorism. During those ten years, I saw first-hand that the greatest strength of ORISE is its ability to transform and leverage diverse capabilities, develop and integrate new skills, and provide an expedient response when called upon."

The Foreword concludes by stating that this book looks back on "20 years of positive impact that ORISE has had on DOE's mission accomplishment..." and also looks to the future by citing ORISE's ongoing support of DOE Secretary Ernest Moniz's new strategic plan. And, finally the Foreword concludes with, "...ORISE will be an enduring asset for accomplishing DOE's mission and addressing changing national priorities."

Oak Ridge can be proud of ORAU and all of the varied activities they support. ORISE stands tall in the quality and quantity of support provided to DOE. The services provided by ORISE are targeted toward significant issues facing the department. ORISE stands ready to respond to national and even international emergencies and is often called upon to be among the very first organizations asked to respond.

The introduction of the book begins with the following statement, "One moment in time, one event, one discovery can change the course of history and affect the pace, progress and potential of the human experience." Of course, what is being referenced is the nuclear age that began with the discovery of the splitting the atom to release enormous amounts of energy. Oak Ridge played a huge role that helped end World War II using this emerging technology.

After the war ended, immediately there was a growing need to focus on the science and education necessary to both control and exploit this new phenomenon. Energy from the atom brought tremendous potential when properly handled and the need to understand how to do that resulted in the creation of a number of national laboratories and research programs.

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It was at this time, 1946, that Oak Ridge Institute for Nuclear Studies (later to become ORAU) was formed. Dr. William Pollard (1911-1989), then a University of Tennessee professor, led the effort of 14 southern universities (Alabama Polytechnic Institute [now Auburn University], Catholic University of America, Duke University, Emory university, Georgia School of Technology [now Georgia Institute of Technology], Louisiana state University, Tulane University of Louisiana, University of Alabama, University of Kentucky, University of North Carolina consolidated, University of Tennessee, University of Texas, University of Virginia, and Vanderbilt University) which resulted in winning the political battle that was instrumental in the formation of not only ORINS but also the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Without the dogged determination and willingness to undertake the enormous task of astute political maneuvering exhibited by Dr. Pollard, the Clinton Laboratories could well have been removed from East Tennessee and relocated to New York City! After winning the fight to locate a national laboratory in East Tennessee, Dr. Pollard became the Executive Director of ORINS (later ORAU) and served in that capacity until 1974.

During the years Dr. Pollard led ORINS/ORAU education remained a strong component as it still does today by being one of the key strategies of ORAU. But also, in those early years, nuclear medicine grew from an experiment in new technology to a proven treatment method. This happened primarily through the efforts of the medical division's hospital. There many cancer patients arrived with no hope and gained months and sometimes even years of life as new radiation treatments added improvements in quality of life and extended their time with their families.

ORINS became ORAU in 1966. The focus remained the same. ORAU has grown to well over 100 universities in the association but education, training, and medical research remain key emphasis areas. Over the years ORAU has also expanded to encompass new areas, such as national security, emergency preparedness, and environmental monitoring. ORAU continues to provide an important link between academia and federal research facilities. Over the years ORAU has helped the nation meet many national and international challenges.

In 1992, when the Department of Energy officially established the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, ORAU had already anticipated the types of things DOE was needing. The official formation of ORISE was done to recognize the expertise ORAU had developed in environmental cleanup verification, worker and public health, scientific and technical peer review, radiation emergency medicine and technical training. DOE decided to continue in partnership with ORAU to manage this new dedicated effort and that arrangement continues today.

Almost immediately after ORISE was formed DOE began expanding the operation to add worker exposure to workplace hazards, cleanup of contaminated sites, nuclear safety issues and global competitiveness in science and technology. An added emphasis was placed on education to ensure the next generations of scientists and engineers would be available to work in the nation's national laboratories and other nuclear facilities.

ORISE offers the nation a single source for integrated solutions to a wide range of potential hazards, crisis response and deliberate strategies to advance education. This book about ORISE covers in great detail the specific actions already being taken, the plans being made and the tremendous potential

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ORISE has to deliver prompt and thorough solutions to many of the nation's hazardous material issues, health related concerns and other types of situations facing our nation.

The visual images and the supporting text in the book enable the reader to quickly learn that ORISE is a key element in our nation's strategy to address many and varied issues. The Critical National Priorities, the Key DOE Missions and the ORISE Capabilities are clearly spelled out early in the book.

Beginning on page 12, the book has a *Timeline of ORISE Impacts and Influencing Factors* which begins with the early 1990's. The timeline continues for the remainder of the book. Each page is packed with exciting and relevant visual images illustrating the myriad of actions detailed in the text for each era along the timeline.

As with all government support organizations, the events following the attack on the World Trade Center towers on September 11, 2001, changed ORISE as well. Since then many programs have been created to deal with terrorism. ORISE provides educational opportunities to equip the nation's first responders with detailed knowledge and experience to deal with future terrorist attacks.

During ORISE's history of the past 22 years many significant accomplishments have been made.

Examples of some of these achievements that are listed as the reader moves along the timeline are:

1994: "Precedent-setting model was developed to protect healthy organs during cancer treatment"

1999: "Nationwide beryllium screening effort launched by ORISE"

2002: "Equipping those on the domestic front line for future terrorist attacks"

2004: "A leader in safety: ORISE achieved Voluntary Protection Program Star Status for excellence in safety performance"

2007: "Cytogenetic Biodosimetry Laboratory, one of only two in the U.S., offered powerful resource for international radiation emergency response"

2010: "ORISE supported award of 150 fellowships in new DOE graduate student research program"

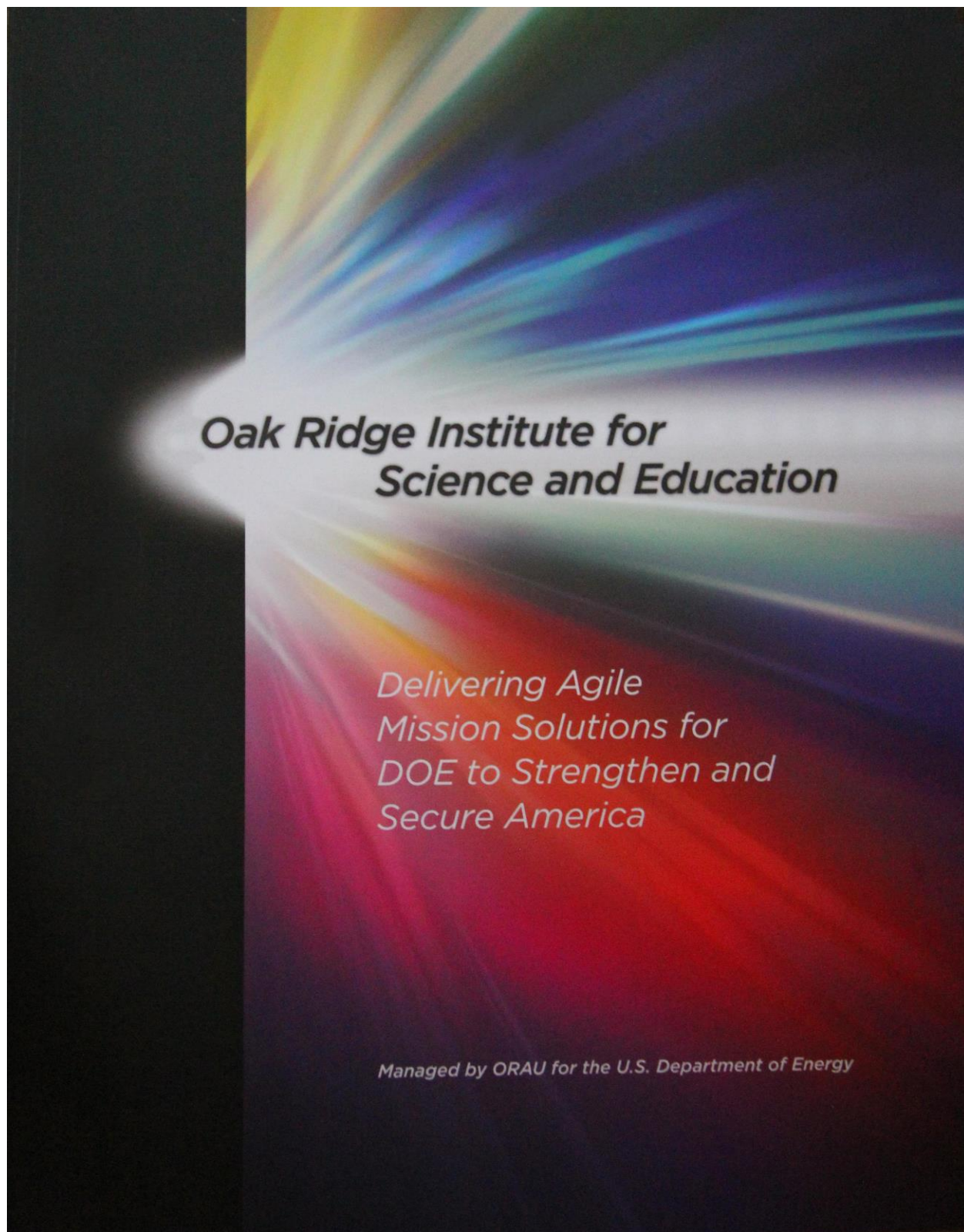
2011: "Diverse ORISE capabilities provided integrated support for DOE's response to Fukushima disaster"

2012: "ORISE, ORNL, Roane State Community College partnered to develop carbon fiber workforce"

2013: "\$1.6 million potential savings for DOE as a result of ORISE's increase in virtual meetings"

This book created by ORAU Communications and Marketing organization is an exemplary tool to help the employees of ORAU appreciate what they have accomplished and also to help the general public become more aware of one of Oak Ridge's true jewels.

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A new book published by ORAU that highlights the ORISE organization's history