Welcome to the pilot edition of the SRS newsletter, known henceforth as the SRS Update. This is written and produced for and about you – the Safety and Risk Services Department staff. Moving forward, I hope you will assist in sharing ideas for content and design. Feedback of a constructive nature is welcome.

Hopefully, what you find in these pages is meaningful and provides you new perspectives on your colleagues and their personal interests on and off the job. The newsletter will also be used as a forum to share important safety information and to discuss the work and programs at SRS.

Contributions to the newsletter are voluntary. The intent is to highlight and promote, not embarrass or expose. It would be great if each of us is able to contribute in some way as we move this initiative forward. Stories do not have to be long, or of a personal nature necessarily. Shared photos from a special life event could be considered, for example.

In closing, please take a legitimate look at what’s inside. You might be surprised at what you find. If you are, comment (nicely, please).

Looking forward to hearing what you think...

WE NEED GOOD IDEAS! Help us generate more content for the SRS Update. Have a great story? Some good pictures? A great joke? Pass it along to adbishop123@unm.edu
Faron Valencia Rocks Out In Iron Maiden Cover Band

If ever there was an anti-safety device, it would be the iron maiden: a mythical medieval torture apparatus resembling an upright coffin with sharp metal spikes jutting from its insides. Victims of the contraption were slowly closed in, impaled by its heavy-gauged points.

Talk about confined spaces.

It seems ironic and somewhat antithetical that someone who makes a living as a safety professional would be drawn so intensely to loud, fast heavy-metal music generated by a band whose namesake is that of the previously-described – and very unsafe – horror machine. Of course, we’re talking about Faron Valencia’s near-obsession with the East London powerhouse death-rock outfit Iron Maiden. But the pure joy found in jamming songs like “Speed of Light” and “Be Quick Or Be Dead” is the driver when the SRS Safety Specialist gigs as bassist for local Iron Maiden tribute band Sons of Icarus.

“Groove, drive, and the impact sound; especially the more aggressive music – lots of fun,” Valencia says.

Valencia plays shows around the Albuquerque and Rio Rancho areas at places like Burt’s Tiki Lounge, Rock N’ Brew, Top Deck, and the Library Bar and Grill, occasionally donning a big-hair wig to compliment his Fender Precision ‘Steve Harris Signature’ bass (he has two) which he uses in homage to Harris - Iron Maiden’s original bass man.

Growing up in Pecos, Valencia learned music watching his dad and uncles play everything from guitar to saxophone in bands rooted in traditional Spanish-Country genres, including the group Bandolero, whose tunes are still in rotation on KANW, 89.1 FM. He then learned to read notes in middle school.

But it was metal music and Harris’s galloping staccato style that ultimately captured Valencia’s heart.

“I first started out as a guitar player in my first band back in high-school...but never really felt comfortable with it,” Valencia says. “I grew up listening to a lot of Iron Maiden and I really loved the impact that Steve Harris brought to the music – nobody else at the time had this type of sound.”

While a hard hat may be on his head more these days than a rock-frock, Valencia still pounds the strings, looking for improvement, trying to sound as close to his hero Harris as possible.

“It took a long time to get the sound right, but I think I do a decent job at it now, although I will never be as good as Steve,” Valencia says. “In all, I’ve just always liked playing bass to rock-metal.”
Mike Tuttle To Retire: Life After UNM & Beyond

Almost 50 years after he took his first job - and 14 years after starting work at UNM - Mike Tuttle can finally see the end of the road. He officially retires from the work world, effective July 31.

For someone who has worked steadily for five straight decades, the prospect of waking up one day with no job to go to is both exciting and a little nerve-racking.

“I have no idea what it will be like that first week or two when I don’t have to get out of bed and get ready for work,” Tuttle said. “I have two acres of property in the east mountains that always need some work keeping trees trimmed and scrub oak cleaned up.”

But the future looks good for Tuttle and his family. A trip to the Caribbean is on the docket for August, as is a family reunion around Balloon Fiesta in October. Perhaps the most intriguing item on Tuttle’s post-work agenda is the idea of experiencing life in other parts of the country via his wife’s job as a nurse case manager.

“My wife, Linda, is a nurse case manager who is employed by Presbyterian Hospital, but works in the UNMH emergency room,” Tuttle said. “We have discussed the idea of her becoming a ‘traveling nurse’. We have discussed working in some places, like New York, Boston and San Francisco. We can spend 13 weeks there and experience what it is like to live in some places where I have never lived.”

Tuttle is also an avid scouting enthusiast, having been involved in various levels of the Cub Scout and Boy Scout organizations since the early 1980s. Although he admits he is “probably one of the only Scoutmasters around that doesn’t love to camp,” he says scouting will continue to play a large role in his life.

“I love working with the young men as they learn leadership skills and obtain experiences that will assist them in their lives going forward,” Tuttle said. “I plan on continuing with this work for as long as I can.”

In the final few weeks of his last career position, Tuttle has a lot to reflect on. The positive experiences and relationships gained at UNM as a student (Class of 1979), risk manager and associate director will continue to resonate with him.

Asked if he had any parting words of wisdom or advice for those of us who have known him and will continue in his wake at SRS, Tuttle shared the following:

“I’ve experienced a great many changes during my 14 years here. I know that we have adapted well to various situations. I believe that we provide a great deal of expertise and value to the entire UNM community. We have a staff here that is dedicated to their specific area of expertise, whether it is Risk Management, Fire Safety, Environmental Health, etc. I would only suggest to them that they continue to work together as a team, remain professional and work hard in their given areas.”

Thanks, Mike, from all of us. Have a great time out there.

Miguel Delgado has always been a big brother. His two younger siblings - Jeremy and Sarah - are 4 and 8 years apart from him, respectively. But in 2014, the “big brother” moniker took on a different meaning.

Through an initiative developed by former UNM President Bob Frank, Delgado entered the Big Brothers Big Sisters 2.0 Program, which, through mentoring, is aimed at providing high school students with the support and guidance they need to graduate and succeed in college and beyond. In Albuquerque, the program has partnerships with the South Valley Academy and at Amy Biehl High School, where Delgado’s mentee is now a senior student.

Every week for roughly the past four years, Delgado has worked toward cultivating a positive relationship with his “little brother” by providing life-related guidance and a personal window into what the academic and work worlds may have in store via shared experiences. Areas of discussion can include things like dealing with conflict, overcoming obstacles, planning, and even basic things like how to build a good resume.

“I helped my mentee get his first job, and he is now planning on attending college,” Delgado said. “The program has been extremely fulfilling and I have thoroughly enjoyed helping mentor and develop Aidan as he navigates high school and prepares for college. I would recommend this program to anyone looking for a greater sense of purpose in life.”

For more information on the 2.0 program, visit the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central New Mexico website.
SRS Environmental Safety Eyeing UNM Pollution Prevention Campaign

With an eye toward bolstering its pollution prevention work at UNM, the SRS Environmental Health and Safety group is in the early stages of researching potential new marketing endeavors for some of its water-related programs. While providing outreach to the UNM community is rewarding enough on its own, it also helps the university comply with various NM Environment Department requirements.

Already in May, the EHS team worked with KUNM broadcasting on developing content for radio spots promoting water pollution awareness. Ads touting the virtues of cleaning up dog poop in order to keep the Rio Grande clean ran on air in strategic drive-time slots from May 6 through May 19, reaching thousands of listeners in the Albuquerque area daily during the campaign.

A few ideas are currently swirling on potential next steps in developing new, untapped resources for promoting clean water around UNM. Casey Hall, SRS EHS Tech III is looking at collaborative opportunities with existing environmentally-focused campus groups and departments.

Proposals En Route For Enhancements To SRS Facility & Grounds

As many of you know, SRS took measures to increase security around its facilities following a barrage of thefts and criminal activity in 2015 and 2016, with particular focus on the perimeter surrounding its internal parking area.

Repairs were made last summer to the fence line and concrete bollards were installed to prevent vehicles from being removed easily through vulnerable areas along the east face of the SRS property. Moving into FY18, discussions are on the table about the installation of additional features to help keep SRS staff and equipment safe.

The main gate to the parking lot will be the primary focus of future enhancements. Several ideas are under consideration for replacing the gate structure or reinforcing it. Costs will be carefully measured to determine the best approach.

Other vulnerable areas include the east fence line – especially in the bollard-protected area – and the six-foot fence separating the SRS common area from the lot directly behind HSC Radiation Safety. Thoughts on improving these lines have generally funneled toward replacement with perforated or heavy-gauge mini mesh to prevent climbing and visual access to the vehicles in the yard. In either case, more razor wire or barbed wire rings would be added.

Other long-term considerations include laser-sensor alarms, security-related signage and better lighting. Of course, keeping eyes and ears open for potential threats is always a good idea. If you spot something that looks fishy, please make sure you report it appropriately. Ideas and suggestions on making our building safer are welcome.
SRS Completes FY-17 UNM Alarm Tests In June

The SRS Fire Safety team recently closed in on an annual milestone for the department when it officially completed testing of every fire alarm system on campus in June. Faron Valencia, who manages the alarms program credits enhanced communication with vendors and campus entities and a new systematic approach to testing procedures for the year’s success. In total, SRS finished 142 tests.

“We’re happy with the FY17 results and we want the workflow template to stick to make it happen again in FY18,” Valencia said.

Work In Progress...

⇒ UNM CENTER FOR THE ARTS/POPEJOY HALL FEASIBILITY STUDY BEGINS IN JUNE.
⇒ MOU WITH UNMH AND PATS FOR NEW EMERGENCY LIGHTS AND EXIT SIGNS AT LOMAS PARKING STRUCTURE IN EFFECT.
⇒ SRS SAFETY TRAINING MODULES HAVE BEEN CONVERTED TO OFFICIAL CLASSES IN LEARNING CENTRAL IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH.
⇒ SRS ADDING GAS CABINET CERTIFICATIONS TO FUME HOOD/BIO CABINET PROGRAM AT UNM.
⇒ RISK STAFF COMPLETES COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT OF CLAIMS FILES.
⇒ SRS MANAGERS DEVELOP STRATEGIC 5-YEAR GOALS FOR DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS.
⇒ SRS IN EARLY STAGES OF FACILITATING PRE-DEMOLITION ABATEMENT EFFORTS AT THE ELKS LODGE.
⇒ ANNUAL UNM STORMWATER REPORT CURRENTLY BEING COMPLETED.
‘A.C.E. Award’ Employee Recognition Program Highlights Great Service From SRS’s Finest

THANKS!

MARTY GIRON
FIRE SAFETY SPECIALIST
NOVEMBER

MELISSA TERRY
HAZMAT SPECIALIST
MAY

DOUG PETERS
FIRE SAFETY SPECIALIST
JANUARY

CARIN KELLEY
SAFETY SPECIALIST
DECEMBER

JASON TERRY
SAFETY SPECIALIST
FEBRUARY

FARON VALENCIA
SAFETY SPECIALIST
APRIL

JOEL JACKSON
CLAIMS SPECIALIST
MARCH

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The summer heat is here. As safety professionals, we’re in the field interacting with the campus community in many different circumstances and environments.

While we are relied upon to provide workplace safety information to others, it’s also important for us to consider our own safe work practices. As we know, OSHA provides high-level standards for protecting ourselves and others in virtually all work conditions.

The OSHA Heat Stress Quick Card below provides some great information on how we as safety staff can provide a first line of defense for ourselves against heat-related issues so that we may assist others. Please read through it. You can even print it out and take it with you to share.