



GIPSA News

A newsletter for the employees of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

January 2008

2007 Administrator's Awards

Jim Link

I am delighted to announce the recipients of the 2007 Administrator's Awards. Please join me in congratulating this year's recipients:

EDWARD DURGIN **Distinguished Individual**

Ed Durgin, Office of International Affairs, is an excellent role model and leader for the collateral duty officer (CDO) program. He has been instrumental in the success of the Asia CDO program, and has played a vital role in GIPSA's success internationally by promoting our mission to facilitate the marketing of grain and rice around the world. This award recognizes Ed's leadership skills, professionalism, ability to diffuse sensitive issues, and exemplary diplomatic skills, which together make him an invaluable leader and role model for the Asia CDO program and the Agency.

PROGRAM CHANGE **AGENTS** **Distinguished Group**

Team Members: Gayle Barnett,

William Crutchfield, Herple Ellis, James Elswick, Peter Jackson, Pamela Lake, Kristen Pirtie, Roger Schneider, John Ver Linden

This group was recognized for their dedication and commitment to improving P&SP by helping form a quality improvement program. Their work in implementing standard operating procedures enabled P&SP to more accurately measure organizational accomplishment and performance. Their work will have an immediate impact on our ability to reach our organizational goals and achieve the Agency's mission.

JOANNE PETERSON **Superior Individual**

Joanne Peterson, Management Support Staff, demonstrated dedication and commitment to providing high quality Freedom of Information Act support to GIPSA resulting in significant contribution to the mission of the Agency. **Joanne's** exemplary customer service and support has freed program resources to concentrate on

program activities and positively impacted GIPSA's mission.

ROBIN ROTHER **Superior Individual**

Robin Rother, Information Technology Staff, was recognized for her creative efforts and outstanding contributions to the mission of the Agency. Her performance has been continually outstanding, and she consistently performs her duties at a level far beyond that expected of her position.

CAROL CARTER **Safety Award**

Carol, administrative assistant, Western Regional Office, serves as the Collateral Duty Safety and Health Officer for the Western Region. She continuously improves her knowledge of safety and health issues, provides training to others, and ensures the safety of the workplace.

*Continued, see Awards
on page 3.*

Names in the News

PERSONNEL

Brian Teer, certification assistant, Stuttgart, left GIPSA on January 5 to take a job with the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Little Rock. **Brian** is looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities of his new position.

RETIREMENTS

Craig Johnson, equipment specialist, Wichita, retired January 3, after 31 years of service. **Craig** joined FGIS in 1977 in Grand Forks, ND, and transferred to the Wichita field office in 1983. He became the field office equipment specialist in 1985, a position he has held ever since. **Craig** will be staying in Wichita and spending more time enjoying his hobbies of building scale models, reading, walking, and visiting friends and family.

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Mike Johnson, manager of the California Federal/State Office in Sacramento, retired on January 3, after 31 years with FGIS.

Mike's long career with FGIS included working in the New Orleans Field Office for 9 years, Atlanta Regional Office for 1 year, Baltimore Field Office for 5 years, and in Sacramento for the past 16 years. He had a passion for maintaining high standards of accuracy whether it was in scale performance or inspector results. He believed in innovative and 'outside the box' ideas for improving the system along with maintaining honesty and integrity. **Mike** always maintained a professional relationship with the many different segments of the California grain, rice, and commodity industry, with the different associations, and with the state/county governments. His knowledge and experience will be missed. **Mike** plans to stay busy with woodworking, building and flying model airplanes, traveling with his wife Lavena, and his favorite hobby, coin collecting (he is a licensed coin appraiser). **Mike** will be spending more time with his family in Sacramento and Oregon, and he is eager to get serious about fishing again.

Wayne Melvin, officer in charge, Crowley, retires on January 3, after more than 37 years of Federal service. Wayne began his FGIS career in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He survived a layoff early in his career, which he says wasn't too bad because he fished everyday. Wayne spent about 10 years in the Lake Charles Field Office before moving

to Greenville, Mississippi, in 1980 as the field office supervisor. Two years later, he returned to Louisiana to become the officer-in-charge at the Crowley Suboffice. At that time, Crowley was under the Lake Charles Field Office, which later moved to Beaumont. Since then, the office has been under Destrehan and most recently the New Orleans Field Office. Wayne was on one of the first Compliance Review teams and served on the Rice Quality Improvement Team. He had the pleasure of working on details in Portland, Baltimore, Seattle, Houston, New Orleans, Kansas City and Washington, DC, over the years. He has gotten to know a lot of people and has made many friends along the way. Wayne worked under eight different Field Office Managers during his time with FGIS. He has touched the lives of countless individuals in FGIS and the rice industry.

Robert Petersen, Moscow, retires on January 3, 2008. **Bob** was hired in Galveston in May 1977; in October of 1977 he was reassigned to Peoria. With the closing of Peoria in 1995, he was reassigned to Moscow. In 2001, **Bob** was selected to be officer-in-charge of the suboffice. Prior to working for FGIS, **Bob** was in the Navy and worked for the Bureau of Land Management. While **Bob** has made no mention of definite plans, he and his wife **Doris** are planning to do some traveling, and plan to stay in the Moscow area for the present.

Continued, see Names on page 4.

Tom O'Connor Named Director of the Compliance Division

Tom O'Connor will join GIPSA as the new Director of the FGIS Compliance Division, effective January 20, 2008. **Tom** brings to the position a wealth of agricultural and management experience, and the essential qualities of personal and professional integrity.

Tom earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, an MS degree in Environmental Engineering and Science from Virginia Tech, and an MBA from Memphis State University. He has held a variety of positions in the grain and oilseed industry, including manager of grain operations for the Central Soya Company in the late 1980s. From 1990 to 2005, he was the Director of Technical Services at the National Grain and Feed Association. His responsibilities included government relations in the areas of occupational safety and health, environmental compliance, food safety, grain quality, and biotechnology. Most recently, **Tom** served as the National Trade Director for Grains for the USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. As National Trade Director, **Tom** represented the United States during negotiations on phytosanitary issues, and excelled at bringing stakeholders together to resolve complex trade issues.

Awards, *from page 1.*

ALKIE TSANG Non-GIPSA Support

Alkie Tsang is an administrative assistant located in Hong Kong. She was recognized for her extra effort to ensure that GIPSA's international outreach efforts have been successful. She takes care of country clearances, and provides insight into different Asian cultures and advice on travel arrangements. **Alkie** was instrumental in ensuring that logistics were completed on time, and ensured that employees had adequate information and an understanding of how the "daily business" is conducted at the Consulate.

Employee Assistance Program

Call for confidential help.

Washington, DC personnel, call...
1-800-222-0364

Field personnel, call...
1-800-222-0364

GIPSA Receives OPM Benchmark Award

On November 28, 2007, the Office of Personnel Management presented to GIPSA its Benchmark Award for Excellence in Leading Change. The award was given in recognition of GIPSA's strong leadership commitment to the success of the Organizational Assessment Survey (OAS) and organizational change processes in GIPSA.

The award was presented at OPM's "Challenges and Successes in Managing Organizational Change" conference in Washington, DC. The conference addressed the many facets of OPM's organizational change process, including the OAS and action planning process that GIPSA implemented with OPM guidance in 2006. The day-long conference was hosted by the Assessment Services Branch of the Center for Talent Services, a division of OPM's Human Resources Products and Services.

At the conference, **Rosemary Mayne**, GIPSA training officer, accepted the award on behalf of the GIPSA Executive Leadership Team, and represented the Agency on a panel with representatives from the Department of Education and Environmental Protection Agency. Each panel member discussed leadership perspectives on managing the OAS and organizational change processes.

Albert Conerly, director, Management Support Staff, and **Dana Stewart**, Assistant to the FGIS Deputy Administrator, also attended the conference.

Names, from page 2.

Duane Putnam, senior compliance officer, Washington, DC, retired from the Compliance Division's Regulatory Branch on January 3, with 31½ years of public service. **Duane** started his Federal service as a USDA meat inspector, and then joined the AMS Grain Division in 1976, which soon became FGIS. In 1979, he was in "Area 2," which became the Destrehan field office, when a tragic elevator explosion claimed the lives of 13 FGIS employees in Westwego, Louisiana, and days later in Galveston, Texas. **Duane** had worked closely with the employees in Westwego setting up one of the first field aflatoxin labs. **Duane's** FGIS career included details to Beaumont, Omaha, Chicago, the Board of Appeals and Review, the Safety Office, and the Compliance Division. He joined the Regulatory Branch in 1993. **Duane**, and his wife **Alice**, a retired teacher, plan to spend their retirement time and money (mostly money) restoring an 1871 house on 10 acres just outside Warrenton, North Carolina. They also plan to develop an organic orchard and vegetable operation, with a small private label winery in the future. **Duane** also hopes to get back to his first love of fire fighting. He was a member and officer in a volunteer fire department in Luling, Louisiana, for 15 years and still has the "itch" to serve. **Duane** attended Iowa State University and received a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education and Farm Operations. After his retirement, "when they don't have anything else to do," **Duane** and **Alice** plan to travel to Ireland, Scotland, and Great Britain, among other

destinations. **Duane** also hopes that after retiring he can adjust to a more reasonable wakeup time than 3:15 a.m.

Gary Zella, assistant quality assurance specialist, New Orleans, retires on January 3, with 30 years of service. Gary has worked in the Beaumont, Corpus Christi, and Stuttgart field offices. He noted that "to have retired from the New Orleans Field Office makes my career complete." **Gary** also had opportunities to work on details with the Compliance Division and Technical Services Division over the years. **Gary** plans to retire to Arkansas, where he will hunt, fish, and spend time with his children and grandchildren. He also plans on traveling and spending time in his hometown of Texas visiting with family and friends, tending the cow and calf operations, and working cattle.

CONDOLENCES

Paul Schumacher, physical science technician, passed away on December 5, 2007. **Paul** was born on February 4, 1950 in Lexington, Missouri. He married Marcia Wilhoit on August 19, 1972. **Paul** graduated from Central Missouri State University in 1972 with a B.S degree in Agriculture Business. After working for General Motors in Kansas City for several years, he accepted a position with the FGIS Technical Services Division (then QARD) in July 1988. **Paul** served in the Moisture Group until 1995, when he transferred to the Type Evaluation and Calibration Group. **Paul's** favorite hobbies were

Civil War history and deer hunting. His many FGIS friends always looked forward to his special venison sausage.

AWARDS

William Bates, Field Management Division, Washington, DC, received an extra effort award for his outstanding effort in planning and coordinating the Scales Specialist Seminar in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on September 18-22, 2006.

Ron Beukema, Information Technology Staff, Washington, DC, received a certificate of appreciation for continuous support, maintenance, and improvement of GIPSA's public and internal web sites.

Bill Burden, chemist, Technical Services Division, received a Certificate of Merit for outstanding efforts to coordinate all aspects of the new GIPSA facility in Kansas City, including the needs assessment, facility design, and serving as GIPSA's liaison with the General Services Administration.

Gary Fremmerman, attorney-advisor, USDA Office of the General Counsel, received a Certificate of Merit for outstanding efforts in resolving an Environmental Protection Agency complaint against GIPSA.

*Continued, see More Names
on page 5.*

Milton Hansen, Denver, received an award for outstanding performance during FY 07 which exceeded expectations and led to the success of the P&SP Western Regional Office.

Jay Johnson, Des Moines, received an award for outstanding performance in achieving P&SP goals.

Doug Lacefield, Field Management Division, Washington, DC, received a spot award for continuous support, maintenance, and improvement of GIPSA's public and internal web sites.

Norma Phelps, Field Management Division, Washington, DC, received a spot award for providing essential logistical support for the FGIS all-employee Open Forum meetings.

Are EEO/CR issues or concerns affecting your employment with GIPSA? Do you have questions? Need help?

Then let your voice be heard.

Call the EEO Advisory Committee at...

1-800-639-5167

Civil Rights Hotline

Storing GIPSA employee data on central file servers offers a number of conveniences: the data are easy to locate, easy to transfer to another employee, and easy to back up. However, centralized data storage does pose one problem: How do you prevent a single employee from using all of the available disk space?

The use of disk quotas, which are disk space limits, is a proactive measure that allows for better management of disk space resources. By allocating a "fair" amount of space to each employee, the larger population is protected from a scarcity of space due to monopolization by one or a few employees.

Disk quotas, recently implemented by GIPSA, provide a way for system administrators to monitor and control disk space use on servers, including an employee's H:\ drive and all other network disk drives. With disk quotas, limits are set on an employee's disk space. If an employee exceeds his/her quota, it is recorded in the system event log of the servers, an email is sent to the employee and system administrators, and the employee is denied from storing additional information.

Disk quotas enable GIPSA to:

-  Track disk use on a per-employee, per-volume basis, and thus better plan for storage allocation.
-  Manage storage resources more effectively by requiring employees to periodically delete unneeded files.
-  Decrease backup and restoration times by limiting the amount of data that needs to be backed up and restored.

Checking the size of your H:\ drive can be performed by following three easy steps:

-  Open up Windows Explorer (not Internet Explorer) and click on your H:\ drive. You should see all of your file folders in the right hand window.
-  Click in the window and go to Edit/Select All. Your file folders on the H:\ drive should become highlighted.
-  Right click any of the highlighted folders and go to properties. Your H:\ drive space will show up in the dialog box that appears.

Be careful not to select only the H:\ drive in the right pane (in which case, none of your folders on the H: drive will become highlighted) and view the properties. This will give you the total space left on the H:\ drive for the entire Agency.

Issuances

Terri Henry, Washington, D.C.



- GIPSA Directive 1470-1, "Freedom of Information Act Program," dated December 10, 2007
- FGIS Program Directive 9180.62, "Clothing and Identity Apparel Policy," dated December 11, 2007
- P&SP Directive 9700-11, "Dates between Custodial Account Analyses When Alleging Custodial Account Shortages," dated December 14, 2007
- PSP Directive 9700-12, "Dates between Balance Sheets When Alleging Operating While Insolvent," dated December 14, 2007
- P&SP Directive 9700-2, "Investigations and Regulatory Activities," dated December 17, 2007

2008 USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum

*Energizing Rural
America in the Global
Marketplace*

USDA's 84th annual Forum will be held on February 21-22, 2008, in Arlington, Virginia. At the forum, the Secretary of Agriculture and government, farm, and industry leaders will discuss the future of American agriculture.

in **GIPSA**

The *in*GIPSA web site
has moved to a new URL:

<http://ingipsa.usda.gov/>

Please update your bookmarks!

Leadership Development Program Graduation

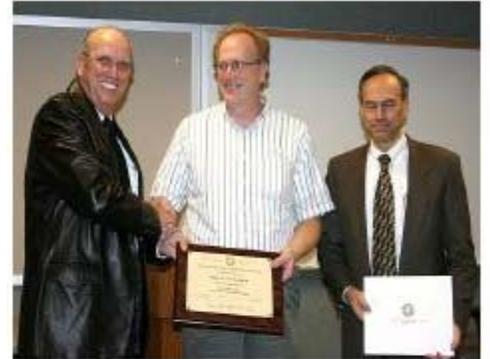
Rosemary Mayne, Washington, DC

On December 7, GIPSA's Leadership Development Program (LDP) culminated in a graduation ceremony for the 19 participants. Congratulations to all for a year of hard work, commitment, and dedication!

The graduates were joined by, among others, Administrator Jim Link, and Deputy Administrators Alan Christian and Dave Shipman.



*Pat
McCluskey*



*Jack
VerLinden*



*Terrell
Bailey*



*Ronald
Hill*



*Rangan
Chinnaswamy*



*Peter
Jackson*



Gary May



*Luke
Shokere*

LDP Graduation, *from page 8*



*Gayle
Barnett*



*Philip
Tate*



*Kraig
Roesch*



*Margaret
Cummings (r)*



*Adam
Fast*



*Frank
Bowen*



*Eric
Jabs*



*Catherine
Grasso*



*Lynn
Thomas*



*Joel
Menking*

For Your Health

Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC

Alcohol and drugs don't mix well with driving at any time. But in the winter, when road conditions may test even the quickest unimpaired reflexes, the mix can be even more dangerous.

Follow these tips to stay alert and avoid weather-related accidents.

- ◆ Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- ◆ Make sure you are well rested before getting in the car.
- ◆ Avoid fatigue while driving. Stop every 3 hours and stretch your body when on long trips. Rotating drivers helps to reduce fatigue on long trips.
- ◆ Prepare your car for winter by having the following items inspected: the ignition; brakes; wiring; hoses; fan belts; spark plugs; air, fuel, and emission filters; PCV valves; distributor and battery; and tires, which you should check for air pressure, sidewall wear, and tread depth. And don't forget to add fresh antifreeze.

Another winter hazard is black ice, which occurs when clear water that has frozen on black pavement and is especially dangerous because it is so difficult to see. It usually forms on bridges, below overpasses, and on roadways where water runs off from the surrounding land area. Black ice frequently forms at night, when road surfaces start to freeze, or on roads that are shaded from the sun. Drivers usually don't see black ice until their vehicle is on it. Improve your chances of coping with black ice by slowing down, especially in situations of reduced visibility (curves, fog, snow, hill, etc.).

GIPSA for \$500, Alex

James Morcaldi, Denver



On Friday, November 30, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration was one of the clues on Jeopardy under the category of Federal Government cabi-

nets. The players were asked to name the Federal department to which GIPSA belonged. Unfortunately, none could.

GIPSA News is the employee newsletter of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. Send your news, ideas, suggestions, comments, questions, or thoughts for the next issue to:

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by January 25, 2008!

Retiring? To be included on our email distribution list after you retire from GIPSA, please send your email address to dana.b.stewart@usda.gov.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

*January 15, 1929 -
April 4, 1968*

Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the main leaders of the American civil rights movement. A Baptist minister by training, King became a civil rights activist early in his career, leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott and helping to found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. His efforts lead to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, raising public consciousness of the civil rights movement and establishing King as one of the greatest orators in American history. In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means.

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter in 1977. Martin Luther King Day was established as a national holiday in the United States in 1986.

Source: Wikipedia

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