



GIPSA News

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

March 2003

2003 Leadership Program Selections

Congratulations to each of the following employees who were recently selected to participate in the USDA Graduate School's 2003 leadership programs. These employees are about to embark on exciting experiences.

Executive Potential Program

- Edward Durgin, Office of International Affairs
- Timothy Hansen, Office of Policy and Litigation Support

New Leader Program

- Martin Davis, New Orleans Field Office
- Danny Harpole, Jonesboro Sub-office

Aspiring Leader Program

- Steven Mason, Atlanta Regional Office

We wish these GIPSA employees much success as they undertake these challenging programs!

Annual and Export Reports Now Available

The FY 2002 GIPSA Annual Report is now available. It is posted on GIPSA's web site at www.usda.gov/gipsa/pubs/02ar/02arindex.htm. Hard copies are available from **Terri Henry**, telephone 202-205-8281, terri.l.henry@usda.gov.

The 2002 U.S. Grain Exports Quality Report also is available. It is posted at www.usda.gov/gipsa/pubs/02ex/02export.htm. Hard copies are available from **Dana Stewart**, 202-720-5091, dana.b.stewart@usda.gov.

In This Issue

Names in the News	2
Mary Long to Retire	3
Letter of Appreciation	3
Improving Global Testing	4
For Your Health	5
Free and Fee Learning	5
Issuances	5
Asian Pacific Appreciation	6
IT Support Web Page	6
Regulatory Info	6
Black History Celebration	7

Names in the News

PERSONNEL

Wes Hearn, agricultural commodity technician with the Technical Services Division's (TSD) Wheat Protein Group, retired on January 31, 2003. **Wes** started working with Federal Grain Inspection in 1989.

Greg Tomas, former assistant manager of the Baltimore field office, joined the Compliance Division's Regulatory Branch. **Greg** brings a wealth of field operations experience.

CONDOLENCES

Johnny Cox, former grader at the Stuttgart field office, died February 4th, 2003. During his time with FGIS, **Johnny** worked on detail at several locations, including Jonesboro, Greenville, and New Orleans.

AWARDS

Ron Bicsak, TSD, received an extra effort award for going beyond normal expectations in responding to the security needs of the TSD facility and employees and demonstrating creativity in dealing with the new environment.

Gertrude Curry and **Valerie Collins**, TSD, each received a spot award for exhibiting a team focus and dedication to customer service by stepping in to help analyze three bakery mixes for the Commodity Testing Laboratory.

Marsha Schwartz, TSD, received a spot award for initiative, resourcefulness, and negotiating skills in the design and implementation of a standardized timesheet for TSD. The new time recording process promotes significant in accuracy and efficiency.

Terri Liberty, TSD, received a spot award for exceptional support to the TSD staff in organizing, implementing, and training TSD employees in the process of procurement of and payment for office/laboratory supplies.

Don Kendall, **Tim Norden**, **Rich Pierce**, and **Eurvin Williams**, TSD, each received an extra effort award for extraordinary contribution to the mission of GIPSA and facilitating grain inspection functions with a high degree of efficiency.

Spot awards were presented to the following GIPSA employees for helping with the relocation of Field Management Division (FMD), the Information Technology Staff (ITS), and the Office of Policy/Litigation Support (OPLS) to new space in the South Building. For helping with the FMD move, awards were presented to: **Bob Lijewski**, Policies and Procedures Branch, FMD, and **Pat McCluskey**, Market Analysis and Standards Branch, FMD. For helping with the ITS move: **Diane Reeves**, Operations Branch, ITS; and **Dennis Thalacker**, Network/Telecommunications Branch, ITS. For helping with the OPLS move: **Jim Adams**, Financial Branch, OPLS. And, for helping with the moves of all three units: **Bill Bates**, Policies and Procedures Branch,

FMD; **Joe McNeil**, Review Branch, Compliance Division; and **Gilbert Sanchez**, Operations Branch, ITS.

35-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

William Napoleon, Jr., New Orleans

30-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Joe Hearn, League City
Robb Hermanson, Duluth/Superior
Jeffrey Joseph, League City
Joey McNeil, Washington, DC
John Roush, Kansas City
Josh Watson, New Orleans
Kenneth Weaver, Kansas City

25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

William Bates, Washington, DC
Dean Brown, League City
John Charmley, Jr., Portland
Stuart Conser, Portland
Scott Cooley, Olympia
Wendal Dillon, New Orleans
Edward Durgin, Washington
John Erickson, Portland
Steven Everidge, Portland
John Flemm, Olympia
James Gardner, Portland
David Johnson, Portland
Craig Klever, Portland
Rickie Klopp, Portland
Vernett Knight, New Orleans
Jeffery Lahaie, Portland

*Continued, see Names
on page 3.*

Mary Long to Retire

25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

continued

James Ledoux, Portland
Robert Lijewski, Washington, DC
Phillip Miller, Cedar Rapids
David Morris, Kansas City
Philip Moser, Portland
Gary Mustonen, Portland
David Olson, Portland
John Schoonover, Portland
Gregory Tomas, Toledo

20-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Christian Celino, New Orleans
Claude Hearn, Kansas City

15-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Valerie Collins, Kansas City
David Funk, Kansas City
Elsie Jones, New Orleans

10-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Erin Dubroc, New Orleans
Neil Foster, New Orleans

March 2003
is
National Women's
History Month

On March 28, GIPSA will bid farewell to **Mary Long**, Technical Services Division.

Mary started her career with the government in 1965. She took a break from 1971 through 1974 to raise her children, then returned to government service with the Corps of Engineers in 1975. **Mary** stayed with the Corps until 1979, when she transferred to the Packers and Stockyards Administration. She remained with PSA until 1986, when she accepted a position at the FGIS Technical Center as the deputy director's secretary. Later, **Mary** was promoted to the director's secretary. She has served TSD's last three directors: **Gail Jackson**, **Leslie Malone**, and **Steven Tanner**.

Mary's work ethic is top-notch. For over 17 years, she has kept the Director's office running efficiently and is seldom away from her desk. She has skillfully edited TSD's scientific documents to make them clear, concise and easily understood. Over the years she has acquired a wide variety of knowledge that make her a natural source of information on regulations, procedures, and practical advice. **Mary's** excellent tracking of deadlines and due dates has ensured TSD's reports are ontime.

Mary has been married for 37 years to husband **John**. **Mary** and **John** have 2 children **Jeanne** and **David**. **Jeanne** and her husband, **Rick**, have 3 children, **Jennifer**, **Josh**, and **Rebecca**. **David** and his wife **Deanna** have 1 child, **Ross**, and their second son, **Riley**, is due in April.

Retirement plans include a vacation to Yellowstone, babysitting her newest grandchild, visiting casinos (of course), playing with her new GameBoy Advance, and preparing honey-do lists for **John**.

Here's a letter from the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Association to field office manager Tom Wrenn and the staff of the Grand Forks Field Office.

Dear Tom,

On behalf of the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Association, I would like to express our sincere thanks for your contribution to the 2003 Pea and Lentil Annual Convention on January 21st & 22nd. Your contribution helped make this event a great success.

Over one hundred seventy five growers attended the 2003 Annual Convention in Minot. Many positive comments were made by growers about the opportunity to interact with you and the information you provided them with.

Again our sincere thanks.

Sincerely,

Eric Bartsch
NDDPLA

GIPSA Improves Product Testing Globally

Don Kendall, Kansas City, MO and Deborah Shipman, Washington, DC

The United States has been the leader in developing and commercializing new agricultural plants that are resistant to insects, or that can tolerate the application of common herbicides. Through modern biotechnology, varieties have been developed that are resistant to the European Corn Borer and Corn Root Worm, and tolerant of the application of common herbicides like Roundup™. Due to the lack of approvals in other countries and implementation of labeling regulations, the grain industry needs reliable testing for biotechnology-derived grains and oil seeds to manage risks, meet customer needs and maintain open grain markets.

To meet this demand for reliable testing, on February 7, 2002, GIPSA began offering a Proficiency Program to organizations testing for biotechnology-derived grains and oilseeds. Participation is voluntary and the program is designed to help organizations testing for the presence of biotechnology grains and oil seeds to assess their capabilities and identify areas for improvement. Organizations participating in the Proficiency Program receive 12 corn and 3 soybean samples on a quarterly basis to be analyzed for various biotechnology events. The majority of participants use DNA-based testing technologies, with a few participants using protein-based testing technologies. The results from the Proficiency Program are published on GIPSA's Biotechnology web page www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/proficiency_program.htm.

Don Kendall, chief of the Biotechnology Branch at GIPSA's Technical Services Division in Kansas City, reports that participation in the Proficiency Program has increased from 22 organizations in February 2002 to 67 organizations enrolled in the program as of January 2003. When the program was first introduced, participating organizations were predominantly from the United States, with a limited number from outside the U.S. Now the program has 22 organizations from the United States, 31 from Europe, 6 from South America, 4 from Asia, and organizations from Africa, Australia, Canada and Slovenia.

Don also mentioned that participants currently provide qualitative results only; i.e., the sample result is reported as either positive or negative for a particular biotechnology event. With the implementation of labeling regulations, it is increasingly important that testing organizations be able to provide quantitative results. To meet this need, the program was expanded in February 2003 to offer participating organizations the opportunity to receive samples for either qualitative or quantitative analysis.

GIPSA's Proficiency Program is the only Program in the world that offers the opportunity for organizations to test for all of the biotechnology events that have been commercialized in the United States over the last 5 years. Through this program, GIPSA has enabled organizations throughout the world to improve the reliability of their testing, and helped the U.S. grain industry to better manage risk, meet customer needs, and maintain open markets.

**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



For Your Health

Mavis Rogers, Washington, DC

Nutrition. You have seen them on nutrition labels or hear about them in cereal commercials. But how much do you know about these little-known nutrients?

Niacin helps break down blood sugar for energy, widens blood vessels, and increases blood flow. Doctors sometimes prescribe this B vitamin to lower cholesterol. Bioavailability is high from beans, milk, eggs and meat. Some flour is enriched with niacin (USA), and this bioavailability is excellent.

Thiamin (Vitamin B1) is found in whole grains, egg yolks, beans, and meat. Your body needs it for adrenal gland function, proper immune performance and the synthesis of neurotransmitters – vital chemicals in the brain. Although the Recommended Dietary Allowance varies from 1.1 to 1.5 mg for adults, increasing your daily thiamin intake to between 50 and 100 mg may increase your energy and improve your mood.

Riboflavin, also known as Vitamin B2, is found in most foods and is essential for turning proteins, fats and carbohydrates into energy. It plays a role in cell reproduction and keeps your skin, hair, nails, eyes and mucous membranes healthy.

Vitamin K is essential for blood clotting, and may also keep bones strong, according to recent research. Some sources of Vitamin K, such as broccoli also contain calcium another bone builder. Other best sources of Vitamin K are cabbage, Brussels sprouts, spinach, kale and dark lettuce.

Courtesy: Tophealth, The Health Promotion and Wellness Newsletter.

Free and Fee-for-Service E-Learning Update

Rosemary Mayne, Training Officer, Washington, DC

OPM has established one-stop access to both free and fee-for-service e-learning courses. (Fee-for-service courses require a license.)

Free Training. Every USDA employee with a government e-mail account can go to www.golearn.gov to register for free training now. After registering using your government e-mail account, the training can be accessed 24/7 from any computer system.

The OPM-provided free courses cover a broad spectrum of topics. Presently, courses are available on communication, customer service, e-learning, human resources, IT security, leadership, management skills, sexual harassment, ethics, management, project management, Microsoft Office 2000, personal development, and professional development. OPM will add more free courses in the future.

Fee-For-Service Training. SkillSoft license options vary.

- If you had a license and took SkillSoft courses, your license will be renewed. Note that the logon site will change to www.golearn.gov in the near future.
- If you had a SkillSoft ID but did not use it, your license will not be renewed.
- If you did not have a SkillSoft ID but now wish to take advantage of this opportunity, notify your Administrative Officer or Collateral Duty Training Officer to ask to be added to the office request list. The Training office will batch and transmit license requests at regular intervals, not individually.

Increase your skills on your own schedule and at your own pace! Go to www.golearn.gov and check out the free courses. **If you want a 1-year SkillSoft license, you must act now!**

Issuances

Fred Kelley, Washington, D.C.

New Issuances

- ❑ FGIS Directive 9180.17, "Inspection of Export Wheat Lots for Canada Thistle Seed," dated January 24, 2003 (Distribution: A, C, E).

Cancellations

- ❑ FGIS Directive 4732.1 (old AMS 364.1), "Personnel Security Program," dated October 28, 1975. The information contained in this directive is outdated.

Please call me at 202-720-0259, fax to 202-690-2755, or e-mail me at Fred.H.Kelley@usda.gov with concerns or suggestions.

Asian Pacific Culture Appreciation

Chuan Kao, Technical Center

On January 22, John Drakey and Frank Starr visited GIPSA's Technical Services Division (TSD) to demonstrate the Japanese martial art "Kendo" (sword fight). Mr. Drakey teaches Kendo in the Kansas City area and Mr. Starr is one of his students. Mr. Drakey went to Japan for 3 years to learn Kendo and has participated in numerous competitions. He is now a level three holder. During the demonstration, he first explained how to use the wooden sword, the armor, the rules of attacking and defending, and how to score a point. He and his student then went through a step-by-step demonstration, and then had a real duel. Due to the limitations of space, they could not move around as much as they would have liked. However, it appeared that the technique of the two matched fairly closely. At the end of the demonstration, he challenged the audience



TSD enjoyed a Kendo demonstration as part of its Asian Pacific Culture appreciation activities.

to try to strike him with the wooden sword while he was only fencing. Four of our colleagues challenged him but none were able to penetrate his defense a bit.

After the sword demonstration, I explained some common Japanese foods I brought to show the audience. These foods were made from cereal grains or oilseeds produced by American farmers. The food products and the cereal grains/oilseeds include: Udon or Japanese noodle (Hard Red Spring/Hard Red Winter wheats, Somen or plain noodle (Hard Red Spring/Hard Red Winter wheats), Steamed rice (Medium Grain Rice), Mochi or rice cake with stuffing (Glutinous Rice), Sushi or rice wrapped with sea weeds (Medium Grain Rice), Miso or fermented rice and soybean mixture (rice and soy), Shoyu or soy sauce (rice and soy), various Cakes (rice, wheat, corn), candies (corn sugar), Sake or Japanese rice wine (rice), just to name a few. After my explanation, I offered these readily consumable foods to the audience. The audience liked the foods so much that they ate all before a picture could be taken.

IT Support Web Page

The Information Technology Staff has developed an Information Technology Support page on the *inGIPSA* web page. The site currently includes the following topics: Help Desk Staff (Operations Branch) contact information; Weekly Help Call Status Report; Tips and Fixes; Frequently

Asked Questions; and Information Technology Staff – Structure and Responsibilities

The IT Staff wants this page to become a valuable tool to their customers. Please visit the site often and share with the staff your suggestions for topics you would like to see cov-

ered on this page. Please send your suggestions, comments, and criticisms to the Help Desk e-mail address, attention: **Richard Hardy**. They will use your suggestions to make the page a dynamic tool for all GIPSA users.

Employee Assistance Program

For confidential assistance, call

Washington, DC personnel, call...
301-570-3900
or 1-800-222-0364

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

Regulatory Management Info

Tess Butler, Washington, DC

Federal Register Publications

- Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Reestablishment - Published February 14, 2003

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 March 25, 2003!

Black History Celebration

Larry H. McDonald, Kansas City



The Thurgood Marshall stamp is unveiled at the Technical Center.

Ormer Rogers, Jr., District Manager for the Mid-America District, U.S. Postal Service, was the guest speaker for the Black History Month Celebration luncheon held at the Technical Services Division on February 19. Mr. Rogers unveiled the Thurgood Marshall Stamp and presented our agency with a framed enlargement of it.

Black History is celebrated by reflecting on the progress, richness, and diversity of African-American achievements. African Americans

have played a vital role in shaping America's history. The Postal Service has portrayed this American experience to the world through the Black Heritage Commemorative Stamps. This series salutes outstanding African-American activists, theorists, writers, educators, and leaders.

Thurgood Marshall is the 26th person to be on a Black Heritage Commemorative Stamp. Marshall was a well-known civil rights lawyer and the first African American to serve as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. He was the first Director and Chief Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. In 1954, he won the decision that struck down segregation in public schools —Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.

Marshall also won six other Supreme Court cases in the 1950s that led to the desegregation of public parks and swimming pools, including those in Kansas City.

Other notable African Americans on stamps are: Harriet Tubman, the first African American woman put on a stamp; Jackie Robinson who broke the major league baseball color barrier in 1947 and the first African American to be inducted into the Hall of Fame; Carter G. Woodson, "Father of Black History" educator, historian, writer, and publisher who started Negro History week in 1926, which later expanded to Black History Month; Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to earn her pilot's license (she earned it in France after being denied entry to flight school in the United States); Kansas City's own Charlie Parker who was an innovative composer and jazz saxophonist known as "Yardbird" or "Bird" (local artist Dean Mitchell painted the Parker stamp in 1995); and Langston Hughes, poet and novelist born in Joplin, Missouri, and raised in Lawrence, Kansas.

As you can see, African Americans have played a vital role in shaping America's history, and the U.S. Postal Service is committed to educating and informing Americans about their achievements and contributions.

For more than 200 years, the U.S. Postal Service has been a shining example of a public service institution that the American people rely on and trust. In many ways, the Commemorative Stamp Program best connects the Postal Service with the American people.

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