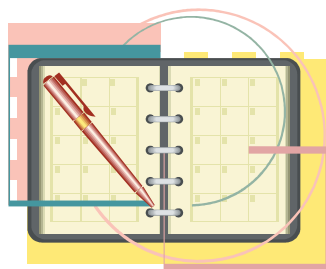




Cultural Diversity

National Weather Service
Alaska Region Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1 February 2007



Check out our Diversity Calendar at http://eeo.arh.nwsar.gov/library/Diversity_Library.xls

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Next EEO/Diversity Meeting will be Wednesday, March 21st at 8:30 a.m.



<http://eeo.arh.nwsar.gov>

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Laura Furgione

Diversity – Is it Soda or is it Pop?

My husband says "pop" and I say "soda." Diversity and the National Weather Service have a stronger connection to the private sector than you may believe. Did you know soda and cereal, some of America's primary consumer supplements, have significantly impacted the Department of Commerce? This includes Carlos Gutierrez, our current Secretary of Commerce, who was promoted from a sales representative to the chief executive officer for Kellogg Company.

An article in the *Anchorage Daily News* on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, caught my attention. It was headlined, "Blacks key to Pepsi sales push in 1940s." The article referenced how "the struggle of African-Americans to gain access to professional jobs in major corporations" such as Pepsi was achieved. After World War II, the underdog Pepsi-Cola Company decided to tailor their advertising to more diverse communities by hiring a team of black marketers. The win-win situation provided the three-member African-American team with professional jobs as well as giving Pepsi the opportunity to gain a marketing edge on the competition.

Pepsi took their advertising campaign even further by featuring a successful black family. The son was played by Ron Brown, our late Secretary of Commerce under the Clinton administration.

The whole idea supports the theory of diverse teams and work groups. By taking the time to establish a diverse team and/or workforce, the decision making process will be more thorough and the end product will appeal to a more diverse community.

So, regardless if you refer to the dark syrupy drinks as soda or pop, your opinion and diverse upbringings will, in the end, provide a better product and service to our diverse Alaskan and international community. Being different does provide an advantage; just take the "real Pepsi challenge" and find out. □

Ethical Awareness Inventory - How's Your's?

By Nikole Gallegos

In a recent course I attended, the students were asked to evaluate their ethical awareness by answering a series of questions called an “Ethical Awareness Inventory.” The analysis stated that my personal ethical perspective is based on the results or consequences of my actions – I didn’t need a test to tell me that. After going through a series of thought-provoking questions and interpreting my results, I decided to take a step back and research from where the term ethics was derived and from where my ethical beliefs evolved.

I interpret ethics to be something I feel is appropriate to do or follow. A translation from the Greek ‘ethos’, meaning custom, I believe I do use ethics as a guideline for what I feel is customary through my upbringing. What is ethical for me is more than likely what I have learned as a child or was influenced upon me by my family. As I have matured, however, some of my ethics have evolved or changed as I was introduced to new people, new customs, and new environments.

Some of my views changed after living in Alaska for the first nineteen years of my life. I moved to Germany for three years and it was there that I experienced a new culture and individuals different than Alaskans. It was enlightening to find out that racism was alive and well in the world – something I had never seen up close. As a young military wife, thousands of miles from home on foreign soil, I began to slowly divulge ethical beliefs that were already inherent to my personality. I instantly became protective of my minority friends. As a child of a Hispanic father and an Austrian mother, I was raised to treat everyone equal and never saw ‘color.’ During that part of my life I often dealt with conflicts in a mild manner and tried to resolve any issues by rationalizing with my opponents.

I returned to the United States, at twenty-two years old, and with a new baby on the way, I began my career with the National Weather Service as a young mother. Again, I was introduced to a new environment, only this time it was almost the exact opposite of my military experience. My co-workers were older, well educated, and willing to share a suitcase full of life experiences. Soon, I was exposed to new ideas and experiences and again my ethical beliefs evolved. I was now learning to speak up louder and was no longer easily intimidated. I often voiced my opinion, but would often back down if I could not produce enough evidence to back up my viewpoints.

My inventory analysis states that I want to know the bottom line, which equates to how I handle tasks in the workplace. I do not like excuses, instead, I want to get to the root of the problem. The analysis also describes my ethical style as wanting to achieve measurable results. Possibly because I want to be able to show progress in what I am trying to accomplish. I relish in the statement, “wanting to improve the overall satisfaction by creating a more pleasant environment for people to enjoy learning and working together for the betterment of society.” This statement holds true to my attempts in the workplace of wanting to smooth out operations, implement structure to aide in making our jobs easier, and working together as a team.

Today, I am rarely influenced by others without good reason since my beliefs are primarily set in stone. My views are quite vocal. I will listen to reason; however, I will also put up a good fight. I imagine that in the next phase of my life my ethical awareness may evolve yet one more time. Will I be more stringent or become a softie? As society around me changes and I grow older, I am sure that these challenges and new life experiences will only develop my ethical reasoning even more.

Top of the World Toy Summit

By Kelly Songster
WSO Fairbanks

While Santa was making his "Nice List" this year, he discovered that there are more children than ever who made it to his scroll of kindness. This is going to be the busiest year ever for ol' St. Nick. So Santa

decided to recruit some honorary elves from Wal-Mart, Operation Homefront, and the National Weather Service in Fairbanks. Santa supplied his home in North Pole, Alaska as a meeting place, Operation Homefront supplied 34 "Ambassadors of Fun" (children of soldiers who have served or are currently serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan), Wal-Mart supplied the toys, and, as Santa's Official Meteorologist, I supplied the weather expertise.



Kelly is the 3rd person from the right.

Santa decided to call this "Top of the World Toy Summit" to do some research on which toys the Ambassadors of Fun enjoyed the most. That way, his elves can use these last weeks before Christmas to make these toys as fast as they can! Also, since Santa's elves are going to be so busy making extra toys, they can't keep an eye on the weather like they normally do and Santa decided he needed help from the National Weather Service Office in Fairbanks.

At the Summit, the Ambassadors and I made some world weather maps for his famous reindeer to advise them of the safest route to take around the globe. The Ambassadors and I worked together on a list of winter weather safety tips for Santa and ideas on how to adjust to the warmer parts of the World. The last thing Santa needed was the weather to surprise or slowing him down! After all, we are America's No-Surprise Weather Service!

The Ambassadors went to work playing with each toy and advising Santa on which toys are the best. They also came up with some great ideas on how Santa and his reindeer can stay safe in any weather conditions. I think the Ambassadors will do a great job spreading Christmas cheer to all of their friends and they will make Santa's list even longer!

Operation Homefront (From www.operationhomefront.org)

Operation Homefront provides emergency assistance and morale to our

troops, to the families they leave behind, and to wounded warriors when they return home. A nonprofit 501(c)3 founded after September 11, Operation Homefront leads more than 2,500 volunteers in 26 chapters nationwide. Since its inception, Operation Homefront has provided critical assistance to more than 40,000 military families in need.

America Supports You (From www.americasupportsyounil)

America Supports You is an ongoing, nationwide program that helps showcase American's support for the men and women of the Armed Forces. Since its launch in November of 2004 by the Department of Defense, America Supports You has welcomed 225 member organizations and more than 20 corporate sponsors to its team. Many America Supports You team members support the troops by writing letters, sending care packages, helping the wounded when they return home, assisting military families, sending e-mails or simply extending kind gestures to the troops.

Wal-Mart (from www.walmartfacts.com)

Every week, more than 176 million customers visit Wal-Mart Stores, Supercenters, Neighborhood Markets, Sam's Clubs or a subsidiary location in 13 countries around the world. In each of the countries where Wal-Mart operates, the company and its Foundation are committed to a philosophy of operating globally and giving back locally. Wal-Mart (NYSE: WMT) is proud to support the causes that are important to customers and associates right in their own neighborhoods, and last year gave more than \$270 million to local communities. □



Cultural Diversity Newsletter

1st Year Anniversary

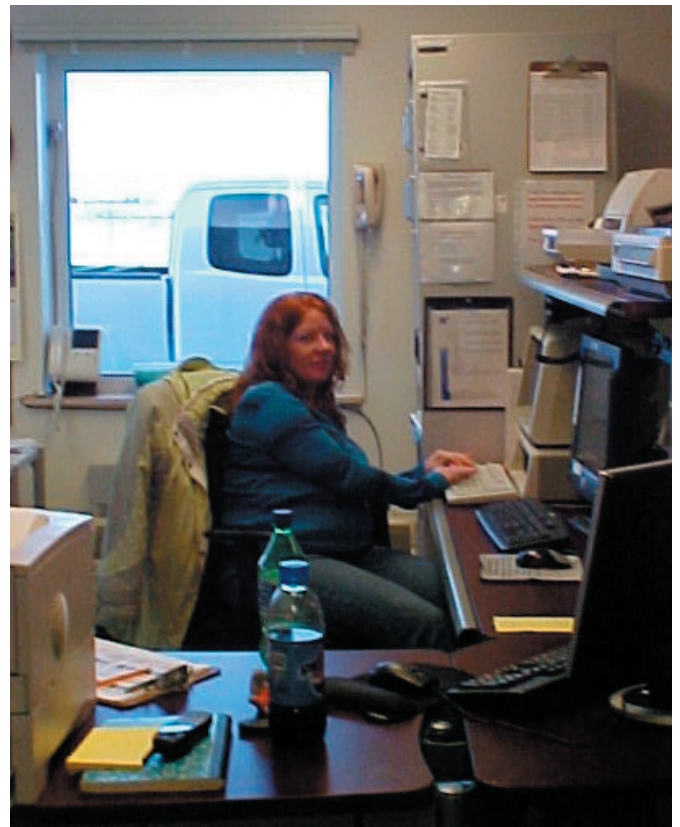
By Ursula Jones

It's hard to believe we are starting our 2nd year of publishing the AR Cultural Diversity newsletter! Starting from Wes Adkin's idea at the April 2005 EEO/Diversity meeting, the newsletter blossomed into not 1 page, not 2 pages, but an average of 7 pages per newsletter! Containing over 20 articles written by over 10 authors, the newsletters included articles about Samoa, National Museum of American Indian in Washington, D.C., volcanoes in New Guinea, even a photo of a very large bear in Cold Bay, and much, much more. During this first year, we have been able to highlight cultural exchanges with communities we serve, profile our different working cultures, communicate the variety of diverse activities taking place throughout Alaska and provide an avenue to encourage others to participate in diversity. In the 2nd year, let's continue our success and put out four more outstanding newsletters! □

Home for the Holidays

By Peggy Perales

Army Specialist Angelica Perales, daughter of OIC Peggy Perales came home to King Salmon for the holidays. Currently stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas, Angi couldn't wait to get away from the 70+ degree days and into the -20 degree days. When asked what she thought of the weather she said "the days are ok, but the nights are a bit chilly (-35F). While in King Salmon, she relaxed at home, played with the dogs, and even spent a day in the life of a technician at WSO King Salmon, that included launching the weather balloon and learning to process the upper air data. As an Apache (AH64) Crew Chief in the Army, Angi is usually on the other side of the counter as a weather user. This gave her a unique opportunity to see what goes into getting the data used by the pilots to plan and execute their flight.



Angi hard at work

Angi and her squadron are due to re-deploy to Iraq in the late summer. □

Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Count - 2006

By Ursula Jones

Jim Smith, from WSO Cold Bay, has again participated in the Christmas Bird Count at Cold Bay on December 27th. This year, nine participants (including Jim and his wife Elizabeth) in six different parties, covered 53 miles by truck, 51 miles by snow machine, 2 miles by ATV, 8 miles by front-end loader, 0.5 miles by snowshoe, and 0.5 miles by foot for a total coverage of 115 miles. Observations included 31 species, totaling 2,434 birds with Steller's eiders(482), brant (434), glaucous-winged gulls (218), snow buntings(178), and rock sandpipers (160) being the most abundant species observed. Noteworthy birds observed during this year's Christmas Bird Count included a belted kingfisher and a black-capped chickadee. This year's count included 64 red poles, a record number, with the previous maximum of 42 recorded in 1975. Other critters viewed during the count included 133 sea otters in Izembek Lagoon and Cold Bay, 17 harbor seals in Izembek Lagoon, 4 red foxes, 5 caribou, a short-tailed weasel, and fresh bear tracks; of course, no adventure would be complete in Alaska without them. □



Black-capped chickadee

February is Black History Month

By Molly Murphy MacGregor
Executive Director, Co-Founder
National Women's History Project
nwHP@nwHP.org

2007 is the 50th anniversary of a pivotal event in the Civil Right Movement that challenged racist segregation and moved history forward for all Americans --the integration of Central High in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Fifty years ago, the doors of Little Rock's Central High School became gates of change, when on September 4, 1957, nine African American students came to school for class - for the first time. Turned away by Arkansas National Guard soldiers under orders from the Governor, the students finally entered safely three weeks later when the President of the United States sent the 101st Airborne to enforce the Supreme Court's desegregation rulings.

The historic events of the integration of Central High School and the re-opening of all of Little Rock's schools a year after the Governor closed them are quintessential women's history. Women's bold actions made both events possible.

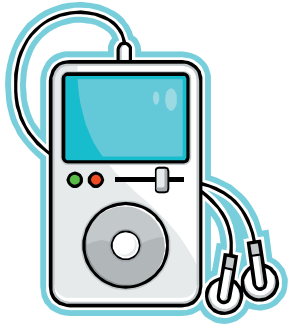
Civil Rights activist, Daisy Bates, The Long Shadow of Little Rock gave the nine students (two boys and seven girls - see photo below) the information, encouragement, and support they needed to enroll in Central High School. When the Governor resorted to closing the schools in Little Rock to prevent integration, it was the women of the "Women's Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools" who with daring courage organized the effort to open the schools and in so doing changed themselves and the community.

One of the 2007 NWHP Honorees, Minnijean Brown Trickey, (http://www.nwHP.org/whm/trickey_bio.php) was only sixteen years old when she became involved in the integration of Little Rock's Central High School. In 1957, along with eight other black teenagers she defied death threats, hostile white demonstrators, and even the Arkansas National Guard to attend the all-white Central High School. Rising above the adversity, these students took a courageous step that not only changed their lives and education but the lives and education of African Americans around the country.

African American history is essential to American History and needs to be merged in the telling of the story. Until that time, we need to use the important focal celebration of Black History Month to inform and expand our society's knowledge of African American history. □



Daisy Bates (top row, 2nd from right)



Music at Work

By Wes Adkins

He who sings scares away his woes. -Cervantes

Music transfers a vital energy among us. It rejuvenates, boosts, nurses, and agrees with us; sometimes, it can even agitate. It is often far more efficient at conveying feelings than any gamut of dry sentences. But not to demeanize the spoken word. It often influences us more than what we'd like to admit. Music demands rhythm from words. It decorates words with pitch and makes the simplest of phrasing more meaningful than the best written paragraphs. What is it we constantly sing in our heads? Those catchy tunes of our favorite (and sometimes most annoying) choruses and jingles. Even to the tone deaf among us, there is an invaluable joy that can only come from music. Perhaps it's the beat. Maybe it's watching everyone else absorb the thrill. True, a few of us would rather have a buzzing noise in the background than the most regal of symphonies. After all, it's just a form of sound. But doesn't a perpetual sound possess rhythm in the form of an infinite string of tied whole notes? I remember an old Jeopardy question indicating that in the old days our rotary Ma-Bell telephones all rang to the note of F. Whether true or false, it goes to show that music is as much a scientific reality as it is something other-worldly. And doesn't hip hop marry together the beauty of alliterate prose to a uniquely flexible but no less solid structure of rhythm? Where are the notes? Who said music actually needs notes? It's fun to dance to, it conveys a feeling and, by George, its got a beat! It must be music!

I worry that the person who thought up Muzak may be thinking up something else.
-Lily Tomlin

My first exposure to music aside from lullabies, Sesame Street, choirs, and birthday parties came from a radio station out of Huntsville, Alabama. I can still repeat the jingle in my head, "Music for the Valley, Beautiful Ninty-Seven...BEAU-TI-FUL!" as a chorus blasted into some form of "barber-shop" on the last word. WRSA was my Dad's favorite radio station, really his only one, and it played perpetually in my house. To my Dad and the other thousands of listeners of Beautiful 97, "Beautiful Music" meant cleansed of those annoying words, commonly called vocals. WRSA specialized in dismembering the vocals of Top 40 hits and replacing them with some sort of oboe solo or other misplaced instrument. You too have heard this musical genre, commonly played in department stores, elevators, and airport terminals. It can even take even on "holiday" forms such as in shopping malls the day after Halloween. You know it as Muzak. Luckily, I think I've expanded my musical taste just a tad, but having been raised by someone who'd rather hear the "voice" of an

instrument rather than a “voice as instrument,” I certainly respect the idea music is not limited to my own finite tastes.

If I ever die of a heart attack, I hope it will be from playing my stereo too loud. -Anonymous

As surely as I declared that my Dad became deaf as a teenager, as an adult I’ve lost hearing listening to music, but have certainly had fun doing it. Whether some high mass before an exam in school to call upon heavenly good fortune, or maybe some fast paced dance hit to strike up the confidence before a big day, music surrounds my life to pad my inner sanctity from the world going on outside. Despite our differing levels of expertise, or even our different tastes in music, it plays a vital role to most of us in our professional lives. With cd players now standard on PCs, the exponential sales of MP3 players, and various “i” equipment tailored to musical listening, our favorite tunes are as diverse as our workforce and that’s forgetting about the great diversity of our own individual tastes. To sample the breadth of what we’re listening to, I surveyed our region during the past several months to see what music keeps us going while working late at night. Here's a short region-wide play list, Alaska...in your own words...



ABBA
Barry Manilow
Time to Spa
No Music, just news and information
ASOS Beeps and Art Machine Tones
White Zombie
Red Hot Chili Peppers
Arena Rock
Noches Eternas
Soundtrack to WWE
Victoria Williams
Professor Trance and the Energisers

Music is the wine which inspires one to new generative processes, and I am Bacchus who presses out this glorious wine for mankind and makes them spiritually drunken. -Ludwig von Beethoven

As Mr. Beethoven would have wished, may we all find the musical wine that suits us and whistle that tune which makes work a pleasure. ☐

My Visit to the Martin Luther King's Jr. Center

By Carlos Godfrey

On this cool day, January 9, 2007, I sit with my twin nephews and niece at the temporary gravesite of Mr. and Mrs. King beside the King's Center in Atlanta, Georgia. I tell them about my experiences, growing up in the south, and what Martin Luther King's Jr. "I have a Dream" speech means to me.

Listening to his speech about what is to come, brought joy and all the people together as one in that crowd on August 28, 1963. I told my niece and nephews this made the speech exciting and compelling to everyone that hears it now or when it was originally given. I can only imagine the energy level felt during the speech because it still moves me today when I hear or think of it. King's "I Have a Dream" speech had an extraordinary impact on the American culture. His speech has and continues to influence people's thoughts and their lives. Through careful thought and consideration, Martin Luther King Jr. found a way to appeal to everyone, making sure the nation could feel and understand every word spoken.

My personal experiences have had ups and downs, but for the most part, I am happy with what the civil rights movement did for me by giving me a chance for advancement throughout my career. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King mean a lot to me. They represent love, courage, dignity, freedom, unity, and compassion. I also think that they represent the struggles that everyone has in their daily lives. As I depart King's Center, I feel I will truly miss Mr. and Mrs. King. Their time on earth was well spent. □



Carlos Godfrey with his niece and twin nephews at the King Center.

NEW EMPLOYEES

A WARM WELCOME GOES OUT TO ALL NEW EMPLOYEES! HERE IS A LITTLE TIDBIT ABOUT SOME OF OUR LATEST ADDITIONS.

Met Tech:

WSO Cold Bay: Scott Frickey from Bentleyville, PA

Met Intern:

WSO Nome: Daniel Robinson arrived November 13 from Washington, MO

Administrative Support Assistant:

WFO Fairbanks: Beatrice Hall arrived January 21 from Girdwood



Paul Suffern on the ferry from Bellingham, WA to Juneau.

Paul Suffern arrived at WFO Juneau on January 22 from Chappel Hill, NC when he accepted a position as a Met Intern. For the past 12 years he has lived in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he recently finished his masters in atmospheric science at North Carolina State University. His thesis was on mesoscale gravity waves and turbulence associated with thunderstorms. Paul enjoys doing anything outdoors (sports, hiking, skiing, etc...), which is just one of the reasons he moved to Juneau!

Coming to us from Billings, Montana, **Todd Foisy** is a new General Forecaster for WFO Anchorage. Before moving to Anchorage, Todd's most recent position was as an Intern at Billings, Montana Forecast Office and before that he was a SCEP Student at the Salt Lake City Forecast Office.

He is extremely excited to be living in Alaska! His wife, Jenevra, and he recently purchased a home in Girdwood, which is paradise to them since both love snow. Todd enjoys skiing and hiking. Originally, he grew up in Alabama, but Todd has gradually moved his way northwest to Alaska over the last seven years. He thoroughly enjoys forecasting Alaska weather because it is so challenging.



Todd Foisy and wife Jenevra

YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Since October 7, 2006

Employee	Position	Office	Years
Kenneth Bennekamper	Meteorologist	WFO Anchorage	40
Alec Medbery	Senior Watchstander	WC&ATWC	35
Ken Burke	Meteorologist	AAWU	30
Joe Schulz	Support Service Specialist	ADMIN	30
Christopher Strager	Deputy Director	RD Office	25
David Vonderheide	Hydro meteorological Technician	WFO Anchorage	25
Paul Whitmore	Scientist in Charge	WC&ATWC	20
Gerald Smith	Information Technology Officer	WFO Fairbanks	20
Tony Hall	Meteorologist in Charge	AAWU	20
Jerry Steiger	Official in Charge	WSO Nome	20
Guy Urban	Geophysicist	WC&ATWC	20
Sam Albanese	WCM	WFO Anchorage	20
Michael Dellinger	Electronics Technician	EUA	15
Nikole Gallegos	Office Automation Program Manager	SIB	15
Daniel Samelson	Meteorologist	WFO Anchorage	15
Michael Rehbein	Meteorologist	WFO Juneau	15
Edward Plumb	Service Hydrologist	WFO Fairbanks	10
Kenneth Simosko	Meteorologist	WFO Fairbanks	10

Welcome to Janet Herr (ATWC) and Alberta Vieira (AAWU) who will be filling the vacated Hispanic American SEPM slot as co-chairs.

Upcoming Monthly Celebrations

February - African-American Heritage Month

March - National Women's History Month

April 26th - Take Our Daughter's & Son's to Work Day

As always, meeting minutes and other EEO/Diversity information may be found at <http://eeo.arh.nwsar.gov/>. EEO/Diversity Meetings for the rest of the year are as follows:

March 21
April 18
May 16
June 20
July 18
August 15
September 19
October 17
November 21
December 19

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

- Mahatma Gandhi