

# *New Faces and Places*



# **Welcome**

## **To The Jungle**



# BELTSVILLE AREA



# SUE SPARLING

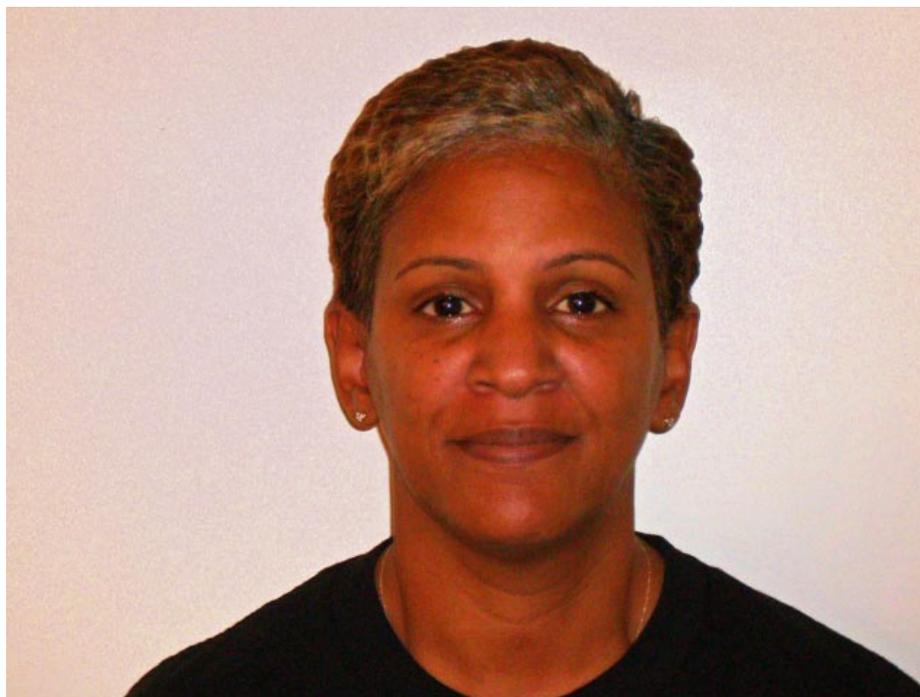
Human Nutrition Research Center, Beltsville, MD



Sue Sparling is the AO at the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center (BHNRC), Beltsville, Maryland. She has been with BHNRC about six years and with that the last 2 years in the AO position. Within 6 months of working in this position they have had a new Center Director after a 5 year vacancy and within a year from that they went through a major re-organization so she's had to learn this job really quickly. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Arts and has been working with the Federal Government for 20 years. Sue is married and has 3 daughters. Her and her family moved to the USA from Korea 7 years ago. She loves to travel and read and doesn't mind spending all day in the library.

# KATRINA WASHINGTON

Administrative Services, Beltsville, MD



Katrina started in the federal government in June, 1978 straight out of high school as a GS-2 Clerk Typist with GSA. She moved around as a secretary and office automation clerk with the Dept. of Commerce and Federal Communications Commission. She began her career with USDA in 1988 with what was then Extension Service. Seven years later a merge took place and she stayed with CSREES for 10 years until accepting a position with BARC on December 26, 2004. She's been married for 24 years with 4 grown children and 1 grandson and just enjoying life each and every day.

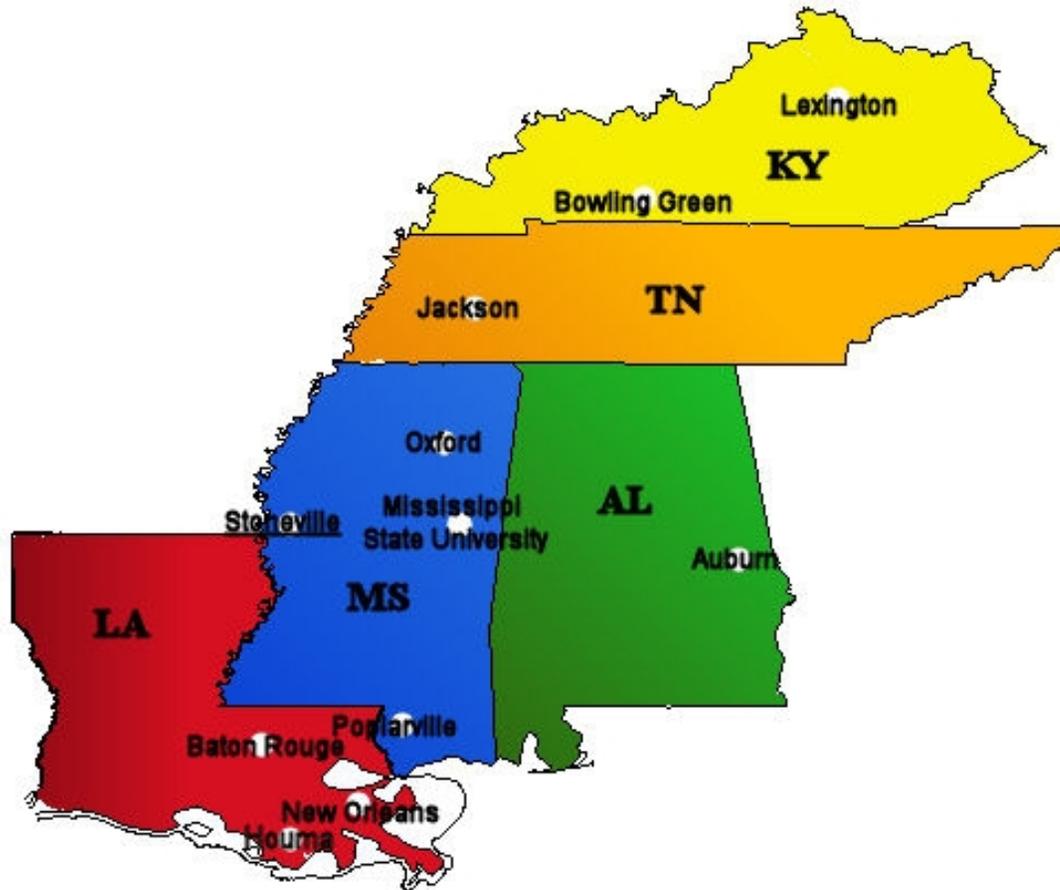
# LYNN WINDSOR

Animal & Natural Resources Institute, Beltsville, MD



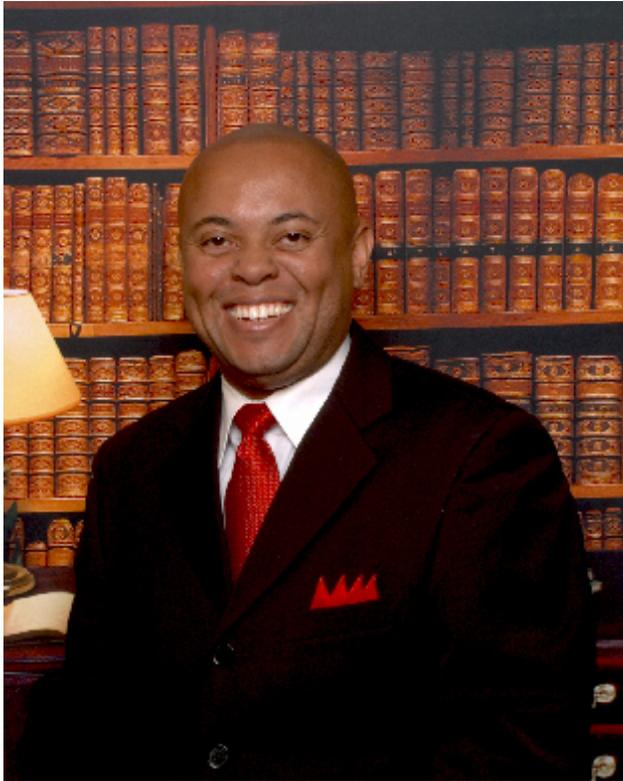
Lynn has been with the Federal Government for 24 years. She began her career with the Dept. of Commerce and from there went on to work for the Office of Personnel Management and then Fish and Wildlife Service. She's been with ARS for the past 19 years and have served as Administrative Officer for 3 years.

# MID SOUTH AREA - MSA



# MARLON COLEMAN

Oxford, MS



Marlon J. Coleman is a native of New Orleans, LA. He attended Southern University in New Orleans and received the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. He also has a Masters and Doctorate of Theology degree from Andersonville Theological Seminary. Marlon began his ARS career with the Southern Regional Research Center in 1989. In 2002 he accepted a position as a Management Analyst with the ARS Office of Technology Transfer. He later moved to the position of Human Resources Specialist with the Metropolitan Services Branch in Washington, D.C. Marlon accepted his current position as Administrative Officer for the National Sedimentation Laboratory in Oxford, MS in April of 2007.

# ANITA JUSTICE

Bowling Green, KY



Anita has been with the Animal Waste Management Research Unit of ARS in Bowling Green Kentucky, since June 2004, but has more than fifteen years of service with the Federal Government, to include agencies such as the IRS, DOD, DOA and DOAF. Anita attended Western Kentucky University (WKU) in Bowling Green Kentucky and Colorado Springs College of Business in Colorado Springs Colorado. Although she has resided overseas in Germany and in several other states within the U.S., Kentucky is her home state. Anita has two grown sons, Derek and Matthew and two grandchildren, Derek and Savana. Anita is also a member of Southside Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

# JAMES WILLIAM (BILL) TYLER

New Orleans, LA

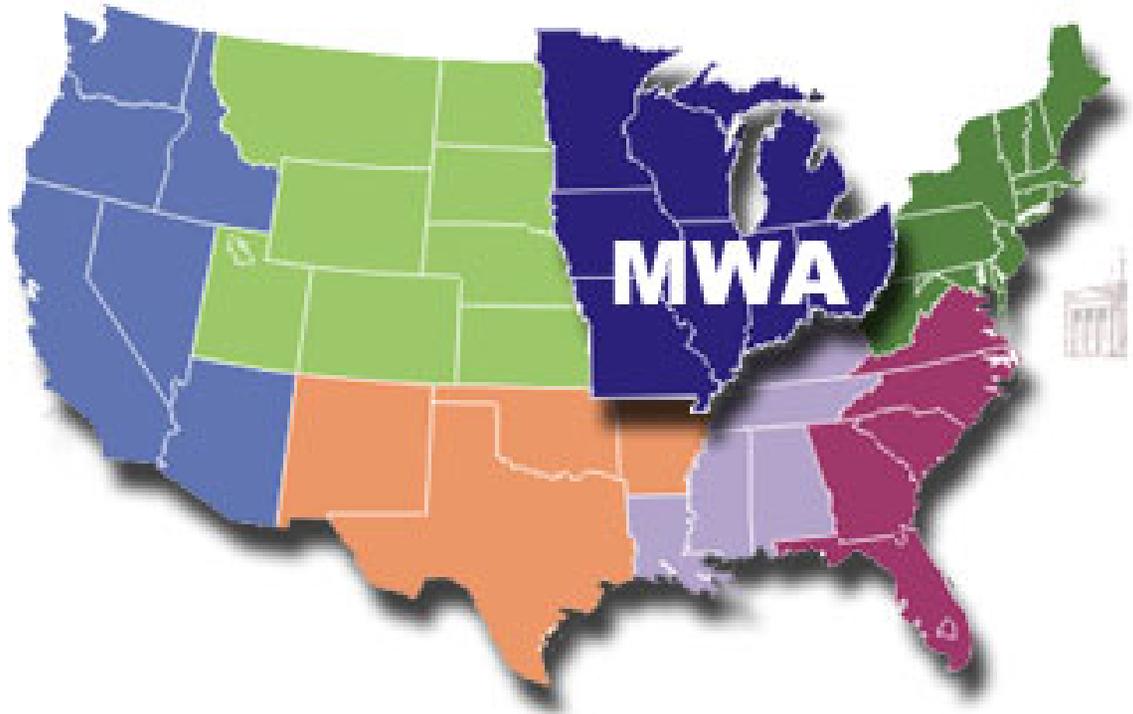


In May, 2007, after relocating to Mandeville, LA with his wife, Ann, Bill became the Administrative Officer at the Southern Regional Research Center, ARS, USDA in New Orleans. Their son, daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters reside in Madisonville, LA.

His employment history includes a military career, positions in private industry, and service with the State of Arkansas. His military career included command and staff assignments in the combat arms, as well as other duties such as Assistant Professor of Psychology and Leadership at West Point and as an Instructor at both the U.S. Army's Armor School and Command and General Staff College. Retiring in 1989, he accepted a position as Vice President, Operations for Corporate Resource Associates, a training development firm in the San Francisco Bay area, and was later recruited as Vice President, Human Resources by Hamilton Taft & Co. In 1992, he relocated to become Assistant Director of Human Resources and Support Services for the Arkansas Department of Human Services until retirement in February, 2004. Having become Adjunct Professor in 1999 in Webster University's MBA Program, he continued teaching Organizational Behavior and Strategic Management until joining USDA.

His educational credentials include a Bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Military Academy, a Master's Degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from the University of Minnesota and graduation from Northwestern University's Graduate School of Management's Executive Management Institute, the Army War College, and the Armed Forces Staff College.

# MIDWEST AREA - MWA



# KRIS FOIGHT

East Lansing, MI



Kris Foight started as the Administrative Officer for the East Lansing location last March. Most recently, she was the Executive Director for the Clinton Conservation District, where she was introduced to the USDA and agricultural issues. Most of Foight's career has been related to municipal management; she was the manager of two Michigan communities, Potterville and Jonesville, and has worked in Wisconsin, Kansas and Tennessee. Foight has prior federal experience as a Personnel Management Specialist for the Veterans Administration in Milwaukee. She has a Master's Degree in Urban Affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, as well as degrees in music from UW-M and the University of Toronto. Foight is married to her husband David and has three step-sons, Chris, Dillon and Austin. She enjoys gardening, camping and singing with the Renaissance Singers of East Lansing.

# NORTH ATLANTIC AREA - NAA

North Atlantic Area



# CARLOS SANTOYO

DAD, NAA



Carlos Santoyo is the Deputy Area Director, NAA. He came to NAA from Plum Island, site of the mystery novel, Plum Island. Carlos is a wine aficionado and it's rumored that he is the first cousin of El Zorro, the fox!

# MICHAEL CANADY

Beaver, WV



Michael is an 8 yr Marine veteran (1994-2002) and proud West Virginian and he wanted me to let everyone know that yes, he does wear shoes!

He left active service to work for the newly formed Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in 2002 as a supervisory screener.

Michael then transferred to Forest Service in early 2004 as a Support Services Supervisor, and to ARS in October, 2004 to take the AO position at the Appalachian Farming Systems Research Center in Beaver, WV.

He is an active member of the Army National Guard where he expects to receive his commission in July 2008.

Michael is a husband and father of 3 - 2 boys and 1 girl - ages 5 (boy), 3 (girl), and 3 months (boy).

# DIANNE EMERSON

Geneva, NY



Dianne started with USDA, ARS, in January 1987 as an Administrative Assistant for the Plant Genetic Resources Unit, Geneva, New York. She came from Department of Defense, Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, New York as an EEO Secretary. At that time it was a lot smaller location and she did everything from interpretive summaries, to doing purchase orders, to filling out the hugh green and beige time sheets for everyone in block format, and working on the Telex 360 computers with MultiMate and Lotus 123. She worked in Geneva until the summer of 1995 and then was reassigned to the Beaver, West Virginia location. In February 2000, she transferred to the Frederick, Maryland location, which is a BSL3 lab responsible for foreign plant disease. Here she had a "change of life" coming from WV to Maryland. The location is based on an Army base and co-located with 37 other government agencies. Because of the biosecurity requirement as a result of 9/11, for this location, she was required to get involved with the personnel clearance process as well as the location security requirements. All employees were required to get Limited Background Investigations, some Secret and Top Secret. She currently holds a Top Secret clearance. She transferred to National Cancer Institute, Rockville, Maryland, in August 2005 for another promotion. After the holidays in 2005 she started looking for another position where she could be more productive and away from the DC traffic. She was called by several ARS AOs informing her that the Geneva location was becoming its own location again. In 1995 when she left, the location was merged with the Ithaca, New York, as a satellite. She applied for it and was selected and started in May 2006 – back home, away from the hustle and bustle. She did think it was going to be an easier gig, but it's not. Geneva now has 2 management units and growing. She has been an AO in 3 locations but all within the same Area and did some diversity in the function of the AO and someday when she grows up, she wants to be an AO, can't imagine doing anything else. She guesses we're all a special "breed".

# JOANNA SULLIVAN

Wyndmoor, PA



Joanne is a native Philadelphian. She began her Federal career in 1970 with the Department of Labor as a Clerk Stenographer (GS-3) and progressed to a Program Assistant (GS-7) in the Regional Director's Office. Eventually, she became the Executive Assistant to the former Congressman Thomas M. Foglietta. In 1979, she took a ten year full time "Mom job." Her federal career began again in 1989 with acceptance of a position with the USDA, working with John Crew who was the Administrative Officer for the North Atlantic Area. One short year later, her family relocated to the New Jersey area. She took a position with the Bally's Entertainment Casino in Atlantic City where she progressed to a Program Analyst with the responsibility to develop and execute application training programs.

She returned to the Philadelphia area in 2000 and began work again in the North Atlantic Area Office and transferred to a position at the Eastern Regional Research Center (ERRC) working as a Program Support Assistant for one of the research units. In June 2006, she was appointed the Administrative Officer for the Center. She reports directly to the Center Director. She supervises 6 employees which include: Finance, Human Resource, Purchasing, and Procurement/Property technicians. The Center's budget of \$32M supports 24 CRIS projects. The Center breaks down to 6 research units and 2 shared support groups. Her office is responsible for providing technical and customer service to approximately 250 employees.

On a personal note, she is raising her 3 grandchildren (ages 5, 8, and 9). Her spare time is devoted to kitchen table homework, Home and School Association meetings, and overseeing many tooth brushings and showers. Go Figure, who knows where life will take her tomorrow. All she knows is that she is thankful to be where she is both in her career and personal life.

# KATHRYN THOMAS

Boston, MA



Kathryn started as a federal employee two years ago in DC for USDA, Office of the General Council and moved back to Boston to work for ARS @ the Jean Meyer Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging. She has a Bachelor's degree in International Business & Finance from Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island. In her spare time she enjoys gourmet cooking and traveling.

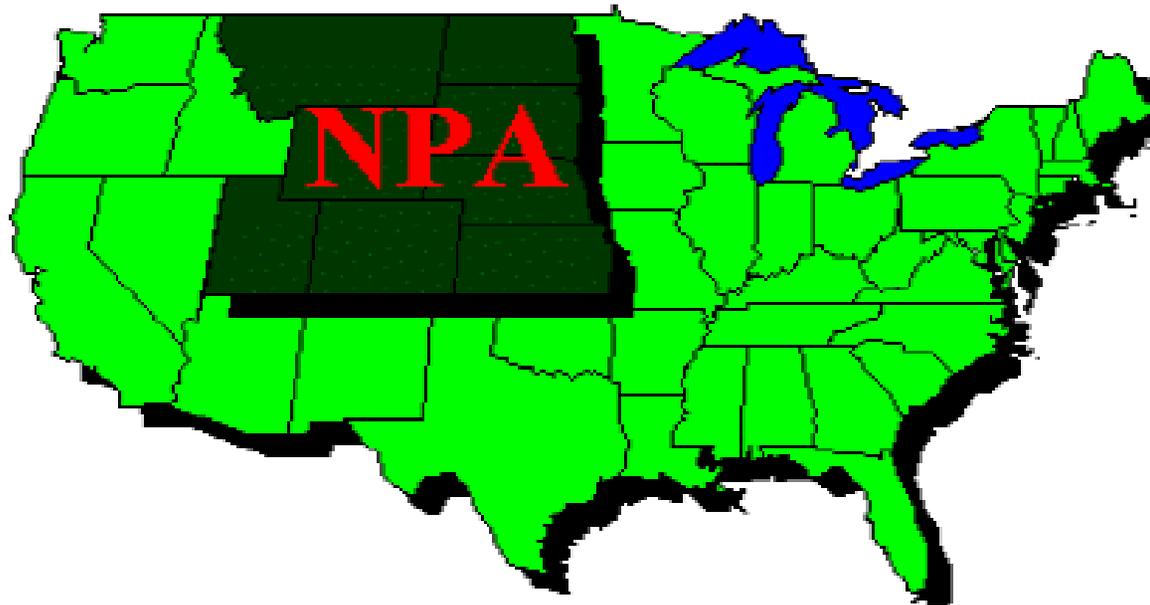
# CANDACE WILSON

Frederick, MD



Candace started her ARS career in January, 1996 but did not report for work for the first week as Frederick, Maryland had just received a record snow storm. She looked forward to working one exit closer to home than she currently did and never believed that she would make a career at ARS. In 1997, at a shared dinner table with not only her Location Administrative Officer but with other NAA LAOs, a couple of them stated to her that she would make a good LAO and then they asked her what she thought about a career as one. Candace didn't really consider it at the time, however in 1999 that changed when she accepted the LAO position in Miami, Florida with the Subtropical Horticulture Research Station. So, not only was she considering a physical move but also a career move to become an LAO. She wanted to notate that she is using the old term LAO although we now just use AO (she believes the "L" stands for "Love"). Since that time, she has been indoctrinated into the ARS way of life so much so that she just had to go back to where it all started. Therefore, she returned to the Foreign Disease Weed Science Research Unit at Ft. Detrick, Maryland and a dynamic group of scientists where she began her appreciation for supporting the science we conduct at ARS by their shared enthusiasm.

# NORTHERN PLAINS AREA - NPA



# BARBARA FLAMMOND

Sidney, MT

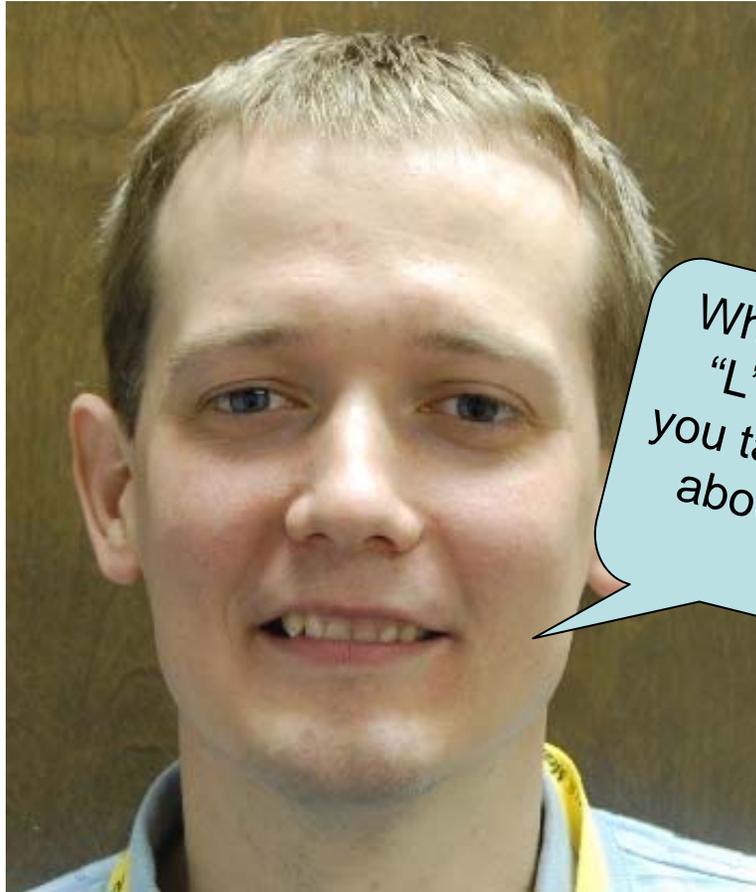


Barb became a federal employee in May 2004 as an accounting technician. As luck has it, the Administrative Officer decided to take another position with ARS elsewhere allowing Barb to expand her career in Federal Government as an Administrative Officer for a great facility (Sidney, MT) in July 2006. Prior to Federal Government, Barb spent 13 years on the retail side of the oilfields of Northwestern Montana managing a chain of Oilfield Supply stores. Then she went to college and acquired a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Great Falls, Great Falls, Mt. After college, she returned to retail business managing the Eastern Regional Business Office for Cenex/Harvest States Cooperatives for 4 years, spent 2 years at a local bank creating an audit program, and worked 2 years as a business manager for a state facility for the severely disabled. Barb has a passion for horses and enjoy many types of equestrian competitions and just plain riding as much as she can.

Lisa is so cool and awesome! I want to be just like her. I wonder if she has a BFF?

# BUCKY HERMAN

Clay Center, NE



What the  
"L" are  
you talking  
about?

Bucky began his duties as the Administrative Officer at the U. S. Meat and Animal Research Center (USMARC) on September 30, 2007. Prior to becoming the Administrative Officer, Bucky was an Information Technology specialist at USMARC for 5 years. He graduated from Hastings College with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science with an Information Systems emphasis. He was raised on a grain, cattle, and swine farm about an hour from Clay Center, NE near Clarks, NE. He has been married to his wife Andrea for five and one half years and they have three sons. Xavier is 4 years old. Isaac is 2 years old. Oliver is 5 months old.

# MARIBETH WUERTZ

Miles City, MT



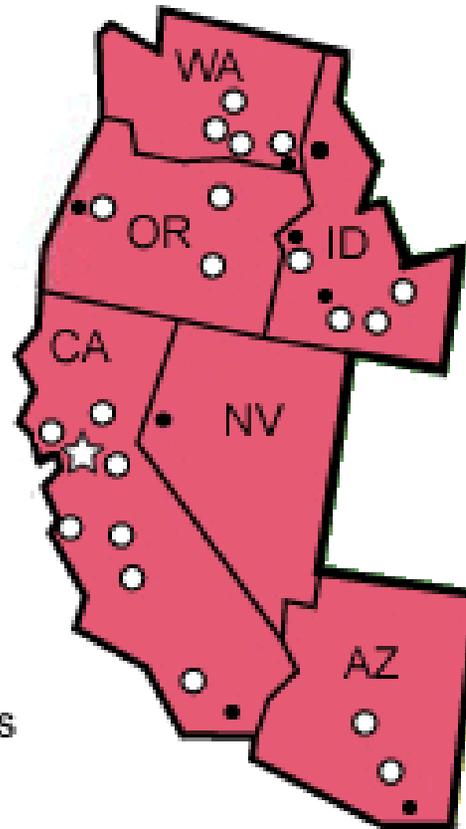
Maribeth began her federal career in 1991 in Yellowstone National Park. She's worked all of her federal service in Yellowstone Park in Human Resources. She's been the Human Resources Officer since May, 2002. Her human resources experience and management includes classification, staffing and recruitment, employee and labor relations, benefits, payroll, training, and the Volunteer in Parks Program.

Maribeth transferred to USDA/ARS in Miles City in November, 2007 and looks forward to learning more about all facets of administration, the Agricultural Research Service, and working with all of Administrative Staff throughout ARS.

# PACIFIC WEST AREA - PWA



- ☆ Area Office
- Research Locations
- Work Sites



# JEFF VAN HOUTEN

DAD, PWA



I trust you know enough about me.

Jeff joined ARS as Deputy Area Director for Business Management in March of 2005. He came to ARS from Beringer Blass Wine Estates in Napa, CA, where he worked for 7 years and served in various roles including Director of Finance and Director of Business Development for Consumer Sales Division. Prior to his life in ARS, he was Chief of Engineering at the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing, in charge of production systems and capital facilities for the US currency.

Jeff is an engineer, with a BS in Structural Engineering from the University of Michigan, and he has a Masters in Management from George Washington University.

Jeff is particularly interested in 1) The science of how organizations learn and improve; 2) Using technology to automate business processes; and 3) Empowering an innovation culture within large organizations. In this context, several of the initiatives he started in the Pacific West Area are now taking on multi-Area and Agency-wide scope, including the LAO Manual (Lisa Langdon, Chair), the PWA Customer Service Index, and the Extramural Agreements Business Process Improvement Initiative.

# BOBBIE BOBANGO

Wapato, WA



Bobbie is the Administrative Officer for the Yakima Agricultural Research Laboratory in Wapato, Washington. She recently transferred from the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Laboratory in Laramie, Wyoming. As a Wyoming native she attended the University of Wyoming before beginning her career in federal service. She has worked in administrative services with USDA, Forest Service, Medicine Bow National Forest in Laramie; USDI, National Park Service in Yellowstone National and Grand Teton National Parks; USDI, National Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Cultural Development Center and USDA, Gallatin National Forest in Bozeman, Montana. She has 21 years of service with ARS,

# JANIS CONTENTO

Fairbanks, AK



Janis is currently serving as the Administrative Officer for Alaska (Fairbanks & Palmer). She started her government career in 1982 with Department of Defense. Janis was promoted from a Budget Assistant then Budget Analyst to a Senior Budget Analyst for the Directorate of Resource Management. In 1991, Janis worked for the Directorate of Logistics as a Management Analyst which broadened her experience in the roles of budget, manpower, supplies, transportation, and maintenance. In 2004, she joined the ARS family when she was selected as the AO for Alaska. Since that time, she has served as a Team Member/Co-Leader/Leader on several CARE reviews. Janis obtained her degree in Business Administration from Wayland Baptist University. When not at work, Janis enjoys snowshoeing, canoeing, and church fellowship.



# LAURA COONTZ

Pullman, WA



Laura transferred to ARS February 2005, from USDA Forest Service. She has 25 years in the Forest Service career which included:

- Started government career in Missoula, MT working multiple administrative positions
- Transferred to San Dimas, CA as the Administrative Officer for San Dimas Technology and Development Center
- Transferred to Clovis, CA as the Province Finance Team Leader (Finance Team support three Forests)

She grew up on a farm in Montana and enjoys the outdoors. She's hoping next year she can get out more and enjoy the Palouse country. Her husband and her are in the process of building a home and airplane hanger at Sun Rise Sky Park outside of Boise, ID and they are hoping the investment will be their retirement home some day.

# PHILLIP DAILEY

Corvallis, OR



Phil was born and raised on a dry land wheat farm in the Palouse Country of eastern Washington State. He graduated from Washington State University in 1988 with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Psychology. He began working for ARS in the fall of 1988 as Purchasing Agent at the Pullman, Washington Location. In 1991 he was promoted to the LAO at the Pendleton, Oregon location. In 1994, along with Pendleton duties, he began providing LAO service to the Burns, Oregon location. In 1997 he was promoted to the LAO at Corvallis, Oregon, while still serving as the LAO at Pendleton and Burns. In 1999 he moved to the Northern Plains Area and served as the LAO for the Miles City, Montana location. In 2002, he was promoted to the Area Budget and Fiscal Officer of the Northern Plains Area in Fort Collins, Colorado. He has now returned back to his home, the Pacific North West, retaining his old position as AO in Corvallis, Oregon. Throughout his career, he has served four years in the CARE program, and is currently in his second year in the HQ, LEAD program. He is also Co-Chair of the CATS to Oracle migration team and is serving on the e-Travel implementation team. He and his wife Jane, still have the youngest of their four sons with them. Of the older boys, one is in Montana; one in Colorado and one proudly serving his country in the US Marine Corps. Phil and Jane enjoy gardening, traveling and Pac-10 sports, especially football.

# PATRICIA FRANK

Pendleton, OR



Patricia Frank is the Administrative Officer for the Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center, in Pendleton, OR. She started her career in ARS as a clerk typist, GS-3, in Pendleton, OR in 1987. She left ARS to work as a medical secretary with the Department of the Army in 1991. She returned to ARS in Pendleton in August of 1996. In February 2007, she was promoted to Administrative Assistant on the Career Enhancement Program, and in November 2007 promoted to Administrative Officer at the completion of the Career Enhancement Program. She is the mother of two children. Her daughter Jada Taylor is a registered nurse, and her son Jared Frank is a student at Washington State University studying to become an Engineer. He is a veteran of the War in Iraq - Semper Fi! (Marines motto – “Always faithful”) Pat is also the grandmother of the smartest and sweetest grandchild ever put on this earth, Isabelle Taylor.

# NANCY KNAP

Riverside, CA



Nancy Knap has been the AO for the US Salinity Lab, Riverside since October 1, 2007. She previously provided research support to the Wildland Recreation & Urban Cultures Research Work Unit of the Riverside Fire Lab, US Forest Service for 6 years.

In 1999, she earned Master of Science degree from Michigan State University in Park, Recreation, and Tourism Resources where she developed a focus group methodology for recreation needs assessments.

Previous work experience prior to this includes being Property Manager for Towers 500 and 600 (one-half million square feet of office, retail and food service space) of the Renaissance Center in Detroit for 10 years and Shopping Center Manager and Marketing Director for The Jacobs Group for 4 years.

In 1979, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

For the past 3 years, she has been a volunteer reader for RFB&D, Reading for the Blind and Dyslexic.

# BETTY LARSEN

Tucson, AZ

Betty Larsen joined the PWA ARS Tucson Location Support Staff as Administrative Officer on May 27, 2007. She brings over 17 years of federal employment, with administrative experience in various roles, including past purchasing agent at ARS. Her most recent position was with Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services, as an Administrative Specialist. She was an Administrative Officer with the VA prior to joining us in 2001. Betty has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. She enjoys golfing, hiking, jogging, quilting, and playing piano and bells. She and her husband moved to Tucson in 1995 from Minneapolis, Minnesota. They have five children.



# JOSE SANCHEZ

Prosser, WA



Jose Sanchez is the Administrative Officer of the The Vegetable and Forage Crop Research Unit, West Pacific Area, in Prosser, WA. In Prosser Mr. Sanchez leads an administrative team that handles the full range of functions including personnel and resource management; budget formulation, execution and financial management; procurement and contracting program; extramural research agreements program; real property management, safety, occupational health and environmental protection programs; and automated data processing support services.

Mr. Sanchez came to the The Vegetable and Forage Crop Research Unit in 2006 after serving for 5 years as the Center's Accounting Technician with a budget of more than 30 million dollars. At the Eastern Regional Research Center, North Atlantic Area, he supported the Microbial Food Safety, Dairy Processing and Products, Crop Conversion Science and Engineering, Fats, Oils and Animal Co-products, Food Safety Intervention technologies, and Microbial Biophysics and Chemistry Research Units.

Jose Sanchez is the Administrative Officer of the The Vegetable and Forage Crop Research Unit, West Pacific Area, in Prosser, WA. In Prosser Mr. Sanchez leads an administrative team that handles the full range of functions including personnel and resource management; budget formulation, execution and financial management; procurement and contracting program; extramural research agreements program; real property management, safety, occupational health and environmental protection programs; and automated data processing support services.

# SOUTH ATLANTIC AREA - SAA



# JOON PARK

## DAD, SAA



Joon joined ARS on September 4, 2007. Joon has served the last 11 years with the Department of Defense (DoD) at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) in Patuxent River, MD. Joon most recently served as the Navy Multi-Mission Helicopter Program (H-60) Director of Logistics (DOL). Joon has also served in various logistics management positions with the F/A-18, E/A-6B and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) programs.

Joon was born in Seoul South Korea and moved to the US when he was 9 years old. Joon is a 1996 graduate of Liberty University with a B.S. in Government. Joon is also a 2001 graduate of The Johns Hopkins University with a Master of Business Administration (MBA).

Joon enjoys golf, tennis, college football, playing the Viola and leadership / organizational behavioral books.

Joon is married to Stacey and they have 2 children: Chloe (6) and Justin (2).

# JUDY HENDRIX

Griffin, GA



Judy was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas and grew up near the Trumann area on a 26-acre farm and shared chores with 4 brothers and 2 sisters: chopping and picking cotton, gathering corn, working in the garden, feeding chickens and pigs. She completed 1<sup>st</sup> – 12th grades at the same country school where all her brothers and sisters graduated. She married Michael Hendrix in 1971 and they have one son, daughter-in-law, and grandson (Cory, Rachel, and Seth--age 9). Judy and Michael lived in the Trumann area the first 6 years of their marriage and Judy worked at a bank, a woods product factory, a sewing factory, and as typist for the local weekly newspaper. In 1977, Michael joined the U.S. Marines. From then on, Judy's career has been trying to have a career while following her husband in his. During Michael's service years, Judy found work as a clerk-typist, secretary, or receptionist through temporary staffing agencies. After an 8 year tour in the Marines, they moved back to Tennessee and Judy found work with the federal government around 1986 at Memphis Naval Support Activity (NAS). She worked in two temporary clerk-typist positions before getting a permanent position as a GS-3 Purchasing Clerk. Later, she was selected for a GS-4 Secretary position with the Submarine Warfare Training Dept within the Chief of Naval Technical Training Command at Memphis NAS. In 1990, Michael accepted a permanent job with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Miami, FL and she soon found work with the FAA as a GS-5 Secretary at Tamiami Sector Field Office in Miami. In 1994, Michael transferred to the FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center in Hilliard, FL and she also worked at the Center as a part-time GS-5 Secretary from 1994 to 1995. In 1995, she accepted a full-time position with the State of Florida as the Secretary at Ft Clinch State Park in Fernandina Beach, FL. In 1998, Michael transferred to the FAA Long Range Radar Site in Lincolnton, GA. After a short while in Lincolnton, she was finally able to get back into a federal job as a GS-4 Office Automation Asst from March to August 1999 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Hartwell, GA, and then as a GS-6 Secretary from August 1999 to January 2003 with the Dept of Energy's Southeastern Power Administration in Elberton, GA. In 2003, Michael transferred to the FAA Atlantic Operations Control Center in Hampton, GA. She went to work as a GS-7 Office Services Asst from January to November 2003 with the Dept of the Army at Ft McPherson, GA. Because she didn't enjoy driving in Atlanta traffic, she applied and was selected for the GS-7 Administrative Technician position with USDA ARS at the Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (PGRCU) in Griffin, GA, in November 2003. The position was later converted to an Administrative Officer position and Judy applied and was selected in March 2005 for the GS-9 Admin Officer position at PGRCU in Griffin. Such was the journey to being the Admin Officer with ARS in Griffin, GA. Judy's husband Michael retired from the FAA in 2004. They now live on 2 acres in a rural area south of Griffin in Williamson, GA. Their son, daughter-in-law, and grandson live nearby.

# SUE KEUSCH

Fort Lauderdale, FL



Sue was born in Manchester, NH and lived there until she was 40 years old. At that time she realized she was tired of the long cold winters so she moved to Indianapolis, IN. After 4 years in Indianapolis, it was time to move to a warmer climate. Her and her family moved in August 1998 to Sunrise, Florida and she loves the weather. She has worked for the Government for 16 years. Her first position was with the Department of Veterans' Affairs in the loan guarantee department in Manchester then she went on to work with the Internal Revenue Service as an accounting technician. She started with ARS in January 2000 as a secretary. She loves Agricultural Research Service. She is a single mother with a 17-year-old daughter who wants to attend Florida State University as a theater arts' major in the fall of 2008.

# MARY MARTINEZ

Fort Pierce, FL



Mary was born in South Miami, Florida, oldest of two children. Grew up in the Everglades National Park, only seemed natural that her first job would be there. In 1981, Mary started working for the Everglades Natural History Association (now known as Florida National Parks & Monuments Association). From there she decided to try her luck with the National Park Service.

In 1984, Mary began her National Park Service career. Her first position held was a clerk typist, taper position, at Everglades National Park in Maintenance. During her stay at Everglades she went from Maintenance, Research, Administration/Personnel, and then Budget. In 1990 she transferred to Biscayne National Park, where she continued in Administration until 1999. Then, she moved on to New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park in her first Administrative Officer position. In April of 2002 she moved to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona, also as an Administrative Officer. Her position in Arizona was the most exciting and challenging experience during her career so far. The National Park Service was home for her. She had never imagined ever working for any other agency. The National Park Service not only protects the resources but they share the knowledge with the public, so they gain the understanding and appreciation of the unique and different legacies available for all to enjoy. Now she finds herself working for the United States Department of Agriculture, so after 20 years with the National Park Service she begins a new adventure with a new agency and looks forward to the new opportunities, experiences and challenges she will be faced with. It's been three years and she can say there have been many challenges, all very exciting. She's happy that she made the agency change and is enjoying this new adventure beyond belief.

Mary is a wife, mother of three children: Vanessa 19, Marcus 15, and Matthew 9, and a grandmother: Julien 8 months.

# ANGELA QUINATA

Miami, FL

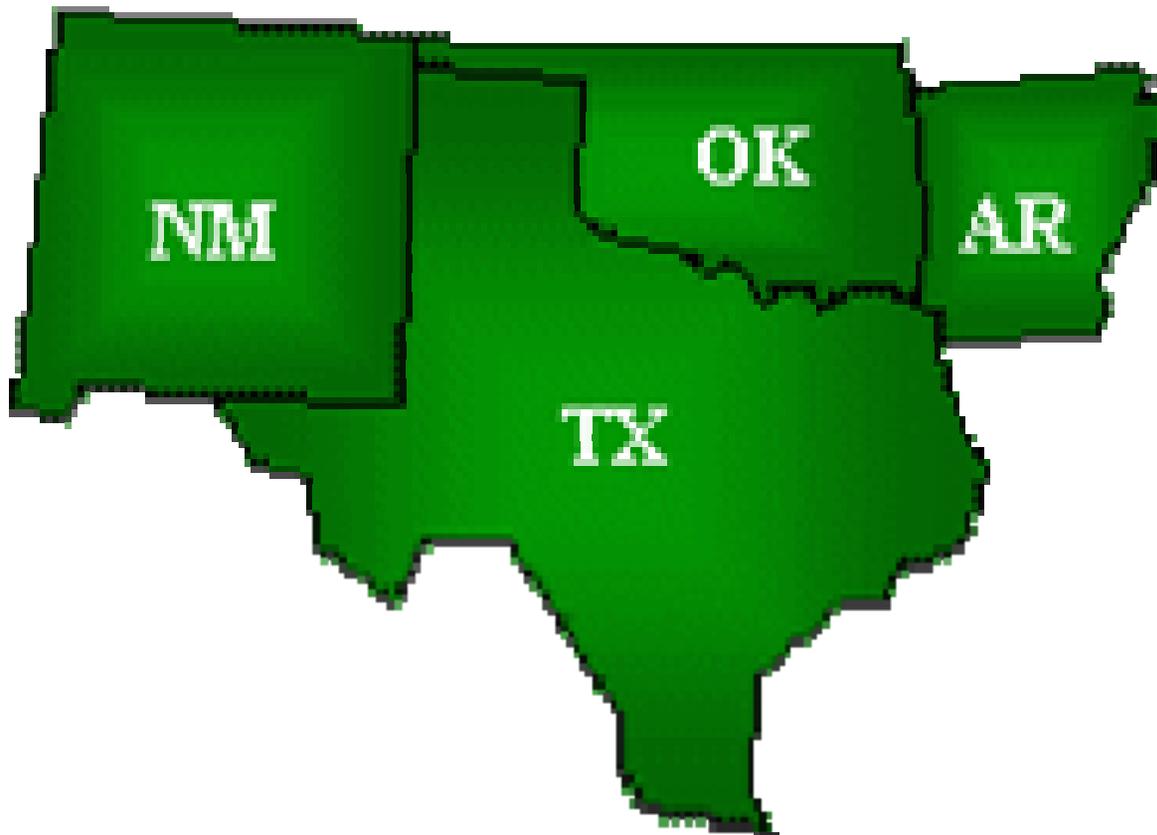


Angela came to USDA/ARS in August, 2006 through the Defense Logistics Agency – Defense Energy Support Center, Houston, TX. Although she transferred from Texas, she has lived most of her life in the Miami area. She graduated from Florida International University (FIU) in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and plans to return to FIU for her Masters.

Although this is her first assignment with the USDA, Angela is familiar with the agriculture world. After serving several years in the US Army, Angela returned to Miami to run the administrative part of her family's six acre bonsai nursery business. Hurricane Andrew forced the closure of the nursery. Angela then applied and was hired at the Subtropical Horticulture Research Station (SHRS), working with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture from 1997 to 2000.

Reflecting on her first year on the job Angela said that she's very happy to be here and that she's learned a lot about ARS and enjoys the people. With all the new things happening, she's looking forward to the coming year."

# SOUTHERN PLAINS AREA - SPA



# WILLIS COLLIE

## DAD, SPA



Mr. Willis Collie is the Deputy Area Director – Business Management for the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Southern Plains Area.

He has worked for USDA for over twenty years. For much of his career, he served in the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) organizing market promotions and trade events throughout Asia, Europe, and Latin America . In 1996, he established the FAS Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office in Miami to promote U.S. food and beverage exports to the Caribbean region, and served as the Director until 2000. Willis was a three-time recipient of USDA's Export Expansion Award during his tenure with FAS. He spent two years in the private sector at the World Trade Center Miami as the Director of a large food and beverage trade show to increase trade opportunities within the Western Hemisphere . Willis joined ARS in 2002 as the USDA-Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Liaison Officer for Florida and Puerto Rico , was promoted to Deputy Director, HSI, in 2003, and became the Southern Plains Deputy Area Director in 2006.

Mr. Collie holds a Master's degree in International Business from Florida International University , as well as a B.S. in Agricultural Business and a B.A. in Spanish from Clemson University . He was reared on a livestock and tobacco farm in Southern Virginia .

# HARRISON AXUM

Lubbock, TX



Harrison started his appointment with ARS on November 26, 2007. He comes to ARS from Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, where he served as the Executive Officer in the 433d Maintenance Group. He has over 20 years experience in the private and non-profit sectors and has had an extensive and distinguished career in the United States Military. He earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas, San Antonio, and completed a second Master's degree in Vocational Education from Southern Illinois University. He is the recipient of the prestigious Dale Carnegie Award for outstanding public speaking ability and is currently serving as President of the Lions Club. He recently served as Protocol Officer on a military deployment to Kuwait where he coordinated the transportation of more than 13,000 Coalition troops from Japan, Korea, Italy, and Poland, as well as the reception of congressmen, entertainers, and generals traversing the base.