



April 2011

Congratulations to Sandy Hineman our first Highlighted Office Professional for April, 2011. Sandy is a Program Support Assistant and is married to William Hineman and has 3 children, Jennifer, David, and Cheryl. She is with the Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Research Unit in Baton Rouge. She attended Temple School of Business, Baileys Crossroads, VA and studied Secretarial Studies. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, Kelcie, Elise, Dylan, and Kayla.



May 2011

Congratulations to Brenda Aysenne, the selection for May's 2011 Office Professional Highlight Program. Brenda is a Program Support Assistant for Dr. Edward Richard at the Sugarcane Research Unit in Houma, LA and has worked for ARS for thirteen years. She also worked for USDA, Rural Development from 1982 to 1997. Brenda is married to Joseph and has 2 daughters, Lauren, 24 and Kaitlyn, 16. They also have 2 miniature shelties named Lady and Pepper. Brenda loves sewing and reading. She is looking forward to her retirement years to travel with family to visit her sister in Wales.



June 2011

Congratulations to Gena Pancake, June's 2011 selection for the Office Professional Highlight Program. Gena is an Office Automation Clerk for Dr. Prakash Arelli at the ARS Crop Genetics Research Unit worksite in Jackson, Tennessee. She has worked for ARS for one year. She went to high school in Tennessee and has a BS degree in Criminology. Gena is married to Nick and has 1 son, Quentin, 15. They also have 3 dogs named Riley, Mudbud and Benny. Gena loves reading, shopping and going to the gym. She also loves to travel and lived in Germany for eight years. During that time, she was able to travel throughout Europe. She would now love to travel to as many places in the US as possible.



July 2011

Congratulations to Patricia "Tricia" Brown, the selection for July's 2011 Office Professional Highlight Program. Tricia is the Office Automation Assistant at the Auburn Location Administrative Office. Her supervisor is Betty Shepherd and has been with ARS for 4 years. Her husband of 28 years, Frank, passed away February 2010. She has a Pug puppy who is a year old. Tricia has one daughter, Elizabeth Brown and two granddaughters: Taylor and Jordan. Tricia attended Auburn University receiving a B.S. in English Secondary Education and Georgia College & State University receiving a M.S. in Public Administration. In her spare time Tricia enjoys reading, swimming, exercising, meeting new people; reacquainting myself with old and a few new friends on Facebook; and has recently joined the local arts association.



August 2011

Congratulations to Donna Signa, the selection for August's 2011 Office Professional Highlight Program. Donna is a Program Support Assistant in Stoneville, MS. Donna started in 2004, with her first five years serving as the Program Support Assistant for Application & Production Research Unit. Donna has worked for the last three years in the Genomics & Bioinformatics Research Unit. Her supervisor is Dr. Brian Scheffler. Donna is married to Frank Signa, Jr. and they have three children, Frank III, Francine and Severino. Donna attended Saint Joseph Catholic High School and Bauder Fashion College. She has received training in Business Management, Medical Billing and Accounting. Donna enjoys playing tennis, reading, walking and she loves meeting people. She is also a caterer as well as wedding director and is very active in the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Leland, MS.



September 2011

Congratulations to Telecia Burton, the selection for September's 2011 Office Professional Highlight Program. Telecia began her ARS career in September, 1980, serving for 19 years with the Southern Insect Management Unit in Stoneville, Mississippi. She transferred to the National Sedimentation Laboratory in 1999. Telecia is now the Program Support Assistant at the Water Quality & Ecology Research Unit in Oxford, MS. Her supervisor is Dr. Martin Locke. Telecia received her Associates Degree from East Central Community College. Telecia has been married to Don for 32 years and they have a 17 year old son, Andrew. Telecia lists her hobbies as: Reading, Walking, Traveling, and Spending time with family and friends.



October 2011

Congratulations to Melanie Carter, the selection for October's 2011 Office Professional Highlight Program. Melanie began her ARS career 11 years ago with the Poultry Research Unit in Mississippi State, MS. She is the Office Automation Assistant and her supervisor is Dr. Scott Branton. She is currently serving as the Acting Program Support Assistant. Melanie received her education from Woods Jr. College and Mississippi State University. Melanie has been married to John for 10 years and they have a 5 year old daughter, Rylee Reece. Melanie lists her hobbies as: Mississippi State Football and tailgating, reading and shopping. She spends the majority of her time enjoying anything and everything having to do with Rylee Reece and family time!



November 2011

Congratulations to Martha Ann Hardy, the selection for November's 2011 Office Professional Highlight Program . Martha Ann began her career with ARS 8 years ago in the Aquatic Animal Health Research Unit. This research unit has 2 locations, Auburn, Alabama and Chestertown, Maryland. She is the Office Automation Assistant in Chestertown and her supervisor is Dr. Philip Klesius. Prior to working in this ARS unit, she was a secretary for 23 years with GSA. Martha Ann is married to Tom and they have a 16 year old son, Thomas. She grew up and is a native of the "Eastern Shore" area where she works. Martha Ann lists her hobby as: Reading. But, it turns out that she loves to vacation anywhere that is warm and sunny with a beach. She got a good laugh when I shared that there was salt on the steps this morning due to heavy frost here in Mississippi.



December 2011

Congratulations to Olga Carias, the selection for December's 2011 Office Professional Highlight Program . Olga began her 20 year career with ARS at the Southern Regional Research Center (SRRC) in New Orleans, LA. She started out providing support as a program assistant in the Administrative Contracting office. Following this, she was back-up for several units. Olga has been back in the Contracting Office for several years where she does acquisition, T&As and property under her supervisor, Ida Lirette. Olga is married to Jesus, Sr. and they have two sons, Jesus, Jr. (Jesusito) 17 years old and Jonathan 9 years old. The boys both enjoy playing football. Olga states that her household includes her mother and 3 dogs! She reports enjoying soccer having played the sport in high school and it turns out that her husband played professional soccer in Honduras where they were born. Having come from a Central American country, she speaks Spanish. She also reports that her "specialties" that she cooks are always liked at SRRC get-togethers. Olga enjoys shopping, music and art in addition to all the activities listed.



January 2012

Congratulations to Dana Rubitsky, the selection for January's 2012 Office Professional Highlight Program . Dana began working as an Office Automation Assistant with ARS two years ago at a satellite location, Tucson, AZ, for the Food and Feed Safety Research Unit. That research unit is part of the Southern Regional Research Center (SRRC) in New Orleans, LA. Her supervisor is Dr. Peter Coty. Dana is married to Fred and they have 1 son and 2 daughters. She also reports having 6 grandchildren! Additionally, they are caring for 2 rescue dogs. Dana enjoys traveling and spending time with her children and grandchildren. She must travel across California, Texas and Thailand to spend time with them. When she is not traveling, at home she enjoys gourmet cooking and wine tasting. Dana also spends time riding Harleys, working on motorcycles, swimming and playing with the dogs. To top off all of the aforementioned hobbies, Dana is a self-proclaimed Disney fanatic! She has visited each of the theme parks except for the one in Hong Kong! She is planning her first Disney Cruise to the Bahamas this fall!



February 2012

Congratulations to Valerie Reed, the selection for February's 2012 Office Professional Highlight Program. Valerie began working as the Program Support Assistant three years ago in the Food and Feed Safety Research Unit at SRRC in New Orleans, LA. Her supervisor is Dr. Deepak Bhatnagar. Prior to coming to ARS, Valerie served in the military and retired with 28 years of service having been based at Headquarters at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans for the last 18 years. She worked with a diverse groups of people such as IT, a Judge Advocate, Personnel, Administrative and Finance. Valerie enjoys white water rafting, reading, martial arts, exercising and hiking. Valerie holds a Green Belt in Karate.



March 2012

Congratulations to Pat Hodnett, the selection for March's 2012 Office Professional Highlight Program. Pat began working as a Program Support Assistant in April 1997, in the Aquatic Animal Health Research Unit in Auburn, AL. Her supervisor is Dr. Phillip Klesius. She attended West Georgia College in Carrollton, GA, receiving her BS in Early Childhood Education and Auburn University obtaining a MS in Special Education. Pat has served on the MSACOP from 1998 until 2001. Pat is married to Bobby and they have 6 children: Shawn, Lisa, Brittany, Joshua, Whittany and Sharrae! They have 8 grandchildren and the 9th grandchild arrives in August! Pat is very active in her church serving on several boards and providing assistance to the Sunday School Superintendent. Pat enjoys reading, cross stitch, ceramics and working crossword puzzles.



April 2012

Congratulations to Peggy Tubertini, the selection for April's 2012 Office Professional Highlight Program. Peggy began her employment with ARS in the Application and Production Technology Research Unit in Stoneville and also spent about 6 months at the Cotton Ginning Research Lab before transferring to Oxford in 2001. She is a Program Support Assistant in the Natural Products Utilization Research Unit located at Oxford, MS under the supervision of Dr. Stephen Duke. Peggy graduated from Delta State University in Cleveland MS with a BS in Management. She has also completed coursework in supervision and HR and has received a certificate for completion of USDA Financial Management. She enjoys spending time with her fiancé Donnie Case, 3 nieces Landi, Lindsey and Laci and one nephew Nicholas. Her favorite hobbies and activities include singing in the Oxford Civic Chorus and church groups, crocheting, baking specialty cakes for weddings and birthdays, reading, travelling, getting together with friends and family and attending Ole Miss and Delta State football games along with other sporting events.