

NOAA

FIFTH ANNUAL
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
TRAINING CONFERENCE

APRIL 10-11, 2007



"GENERATIONS OF WOMEN MOVING HISTORY FORWARD"



BETHESDA NORTH MARRIOTT HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
5701 MARINELLI ROAD, BETHESDA, MARYLAND

MOVING NOAA WOMEN UPWARD

NOAA's 2007 Women's History Month Training Conference Agenda *"Generations of Women Moving History Forward"*

DAY ONE - APRIL 10, 2007

Mistress of
Ceremonies

Ms. Brenda Taylor (*page 4*) - Executive Officer, NOAA's NWS CIO

7:45 a.m.

Registration - All day

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Opening

Charly Wells, Director, NOAA's NWS Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management (OEODM)

Posting of Armed Forces Color Guard

National Anthem

Nancy Jackson - NOAA's OMAO

Presentations

Charly Wells - Director, OEODM

Michelle Crockett - Manager, NOAA Ocean Service Office of EEO and Diversity

Al Corea - Director, NOAA's Office of Civil Rights

Welcome

William Broglie - Chief Administrative Officer, NOAA

John Jones - Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA), NOAA's NWS

William Corso - DAA, NOAA Ocean Service

Keynote Speaker

Juanita Shanks (*page 4*) - Special Assistant to the Director, Civilian Personnel Management Service, Department of Defense

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Workshops

(1) "**Visible in the Workplace**"

Presenter: **Crystal Williams** (*page 5*) - President and CEO of International Training Associates (ITA)

(2) "**It All Begins with Attitude**"

Presenter: **Beatrice Jones Ross** (*page 5*) - Founder, President, and CEO of RCO Communications Corporation

(3) "**Creatively Managing Loss, Conflict and Change: Team Collaboration For Productivity and Fun**"

Presenter: **Dr. Mark Gorkin** (*page 6*) "The Stress Doc" - Psychotherapist and Motivational Humorist

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

Speaker: **Juliette Rizzo** (*page 6*) - Director, Exhibits and Events Planning, U.S. Department of Education

1:45 - 3:15 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops

(1) "**Visible in the Workplace**"

Presenter: **Crystal Williams** (*page 5*) - President and CEO of International Training Associates (ITA)

(2) "**It All Begins with Attitude**"

Presenter: **Beatrice Jones Ross** (*page 5*) - Founder, President, and CEO of RCO Communications Corporation

(3) "**Creatively Managing Loss, Conflict and Change: Team Collaboration For Productivity and Fun**"

Presenter: **Dr. Mark Gorkin** (*page 6*) "The Stress Doc" - Psychotherapist and Motivational Humorist

3:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

"Open Mike Night"

Testimonials

DAY TWO - APRIL 11, 2007

Mistress of Ceremonies

Ms. Lori Budbill (*page 7*) - Director, NOAA Fisheries Service Alaska Center's Operations, Management and Information Systems Division

7:45 a.m.

Registration - All day

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Opening

Charly Wells, Director, NOAA's NWS OEODM

Recap of Day One

Ms. Lori Budbill (*page 7*) - Director, NOAA Fisheries Service Alaska Center's Operations, Management and Information Systems Division

Welcome

Scott Rayder - Chief of Staff, NOAA

John Oliver - DAA, NOAA Fisheries Service

Charles S. Baker - DAA, NOAA's Satellite and Information Service

Craig McLean - DAA, NOAA Research

Geoffrey D. Fuller - DAA, NOAA's OMAO

Keynote Speaker

Juana Bordas (*Page 7*) - Founder and President, Mestiza Leadership Institute

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15 - 11:45 a.m. **Concurrent Workshops**
 (1) **"Connecting from the Inside Out to Reduce Stress"**
 Presenter: **Dr. Colette McKie** (*page 8*) - Owner, Turning Point Hypnotherapy Strategies and Acupuncture

(2) **"Emotional Intelligence - Why keeping it all together Matters"**
 Presenter: **Dr. Andre Leyva** (*page 8*) - Licensed Psychologist Specializing In Cultural Diversity And Emotional Intelligence, Private Practice

(3) **"Career Development As A Life Long Process: What's Next For Me?"**
 Presenter: **Susan Driscoll** (*page 9*) - Independent Private Practitioner, Licensed Counselor, Teacher and Group Facilitator

11:45 - 12:00 p.m. **Break**

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**
 Speaker: **Ms. Vickie L. Nadolski** (*page 9*) - Director, NOAA's NWS Western Region

1:45 - 2:45 p.m. **"Understanding Your Federal Benefits & Women and Investing"**
 Presenter: **Ms. Darlene Jenkins** (*page 10*) - Wealth Manager and the Director, Financial Assurance Corporation's Business Acquisition and Retention Department

2:45 - 3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:00 - 4:15 p.m. **Panel Discussion**
"Let's be Real - Real Keys for Opening the Door to Success!!!"

Panelist:
Ella Lichtenberg (*page 10*) - NOAA's NWS Office of the Chief Information Officer

Deirdre Jones (*page 11*) - Director, NOAA's NWS Office of Science and Technology, Systems Engineering Center

Gloria Thompson (*page 11*) - Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries Service

Randee Exler (*page 12*) - Director, NOAA's OAR Communications Office

Brenda Taylor

Day One Mistress of Ceremony

About the Mistress of Ceremony

Brenda Taylor has been a federal employee for over 23 years. The last seven years have been in the Office of the Chief Information Officer with NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), where she currently holds the position of OCIO Executive Officer and Information Technology Strategic Planning Officer.

As OCIO Executive Officer, she assists the NWS CIO, Adrian Gardner, with the daily operations and supervision of the OCIO staff and employees. In her role as IT Strategic Planning Officer, Ms. Taylor oversees and manages the NWS Portfolio of capital assets [better known as OMB Exhibit 300s] for both major and non-major IT investments that comprise the overall NWS IT portion of the budget; the NWS Strategic IT Plan; the NWS Operational IT Plan; and the Annual Operating Plan of the NWS CIO office. Ms. Taylor works very closely with programmatic and technical staff to ensure that IT initiatives provide thorough alternatives analysis to demonstrate that solutions are technically sound, fiscally responsible, and the approach is consistent with the NWS IT Architecture, as well as affirms that milestones and budget are within reason and attainable; reviews budget initiatives; provide substantive input toward developing IT budget strategies and priorities; develops, tracks and updates the performance measures and milestones.

Before joining the CIO's Staff at NOAA's National Weather Service, Ms. Taylor worked for 16 years at the National Information Technology Center of the United States Department of Agriculture in Kansas City, MO.

Juanita C. Shanks

Keynote Speaker

About the Keynote Speaker

Juanita Shanks is the Special Assistant to the Director, Civilian Personnel Management Service (CPMS). In this capacity, she provides administrative and management support to the Director in his executive oversight of the organization. CPMS manages civilian personnel programs, provide personnel policy support, functional information management, and civilian personnel administrative services to the DoD Components and their activities.

Prior to this position Mrs. Shanks served as the Administrative Officer for the Department of Commerce Human Resources (HR) office where she provided administrative/management support to the HR Director; and, prior to this position, she served as the Executive Assistant to the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Human Resources Director where she transitioned from the Secretary field. Mrs. Shanks has 25 years of experience as an Administrative/Management Professional in the Department of Defense. Her background includes Budget, Management and Program Analyst, and Project Management.

Mrs. Shanks earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business from Strayer University and is the recipient of numerous awards, to include the Superior Civilian Service Award from DLA. Mrs. Shanks developed an administrative support certificate program to enhance the skills and abilities of the support staff through training, education, and development; to ensure a cadre of highly capable, well-trained, and knowledgeable support staff. She is married with 2 adult children and one very special granddaughter.

Crystal M. Williams

Facilitator

Are You the Invisible Woman?

A major turning point in most women's careers comes when they recognize that self-promotion is part of the game of business. In this engaging and informative session, you will explore strategies to become a master of the visibility game.

About the Facilitator

Crystal M. Williams is President and CEO of International Training Associates (ITA) a human resource consulting firm with a global practice in workforce diversity and software applications technology. ITA strives to enhance the ability of employers to operate effectively in multicultural environments. ITA is headquartered in Prince-George's County and for more than 20 years has proven itself through consistent outstanding performance as a leader in organization and people development. ITA has over 125 clients internationally that include the District of Columbia Court System, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and US Embassy of the Bahamas, Department of Defense, The National Science Foundation and Aspen Systems Corporation. ITA is internationally known for excellence. In fact, the President and CEO of ITA, Crystal Williams was recognized in the Minority Business Advocate Magazine, February 2005. In June, 2005 the U.S. Small Business Administration nominated Crystal M. Williams for the National Minority Small Business Person of the Year Award for the Washington Metropolitan Area District Office.

Beatrice Jones Ross

Facilitator

It All Begins With Attitude

This workshop will address the barriers to developing and maintaining a positive attitude about organizational dynamics and the rebuilding of trust and high performance. It will present strategies for innovative personal change – for recharging our commitment to a balanced life of personal development and family commitment.

About the Facilitator

Beatrice Jones Ross is the Founder, President, and CEO of RCO Communications Corporation, a firm specializing in Workplace Learning and Performance Consulting. For 19 years, RCO Communications' clients have included corporations, federal agencies, educational institutions, and health and social service agencies throughout the United States and British Columbia, Canada. Trained as a scientist, Ms. Ross transitioned into the human resource management arena. She holds both a B.S. and M.S. in Zoology from Howard University. She is currently doing coursework toward a National Certification Program in *Human Performance Improvement*. Ms. Ross has received the 2004 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award, Prince George's Community College (Largo, MD); Woman of the Year, *Bowie-Crofton Business & Professional Women's Club*, October 2000; Special Community Service Award for work with the Choices and Challenges Programs for Youth, *Greater Bowie (Maryland) Chamber of Commerce*, October 2000. Ms. Ross is an Adjunct Professor at the Prince George's Community College (Largo, MD); OPM's Eastern Management Development Center (Shepherdstown, West Virginia); Community College of Baltimore County (Baltimore, MD).

Doctor Mark Gorkin

Facilitator

Creatively Managing Loss, Conflict and Change: Team Collaboration for Productivity and Fun

In a 24/7 world that's cycling from "lean-and-MEAN" downsizing to ever faster upgrading while periodically spinning scarily out of control, managing stress and effective team communication and cooperation are on everybody's mind, especially in today's demanding and diverse workplace. The pressure for organizations, divisions and departments to sustain morale, productivity and team communication has never been greater, especially in a time of rapid and/or major transition. Have no fear...Mark Gorkin, "The Stress Doc"™ is here with his dynamic and interactive, inspiring and FUN-filled presentation and small group exercises. Learn to channel loss and conflict, stress and frustration into safe sharing, cooperative/creative action and group bonding.

About the Facilitator

Mark Gorkin, MSW, LICSW, "The Stress Doc"™, is a psychotherapist and "Motivational Humorist," an acclaimed Keynote and Kickoff Speaker and an OD/Team Building Consultant. Mark is the author of *Practice Safe Stress: Healing and Laughing in the Face of Stress, Burnout & Depression* and of *The Four Faces of Anger: Transforming Anger, Rage, and Conflict Into Inspiring Attitude and Behavior*. Also, the Doc is America Online's "Psychohumorist"™ running his weekly "Shrink Rap™ and Group Chat." See his award winning, *USA Today Online "HotSite"* -- www.stressdoc.com (cited as a workplace resource by National Public Radio (NPR)). Email for his monthly newsletter showcased on List-a-Day.com. For more info on the Doc's speaking and training programs and products, email stressdoc@aol.com or call **301-946-0865**

Juliette Rizzo

Keynote Speaker

About the Keynote Speaker

From covering and coordinating national news stories as a journalist to being selected by an organizing committee of the Atlanta Olympic Games to carry the Olympic torch through downtown Dallas, Juliette Rizzo has proven that personal dreams and goals are within reach for people with disabilities when the appropriate supports are in place. Juliette recently provided input to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Improve the Health and Wellness of Individuals with Disabilities and is currently working on disability-related national outreach projects and initiatives with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Among her many activities, Juliette has appeared on "The CBS Early Show" in New York as the national spokeswoman for National Women's Health Week, a first for a woman with a disability, as the first model in a power wheelchair in the American Heart Association's national Heart Truth campaign in Wisconsin, on "The Today Show" with Al Roker raising awareness of scleroderma, delivered remarks at American Airlines Corporate Headquarters, co-hosted an international Fourth of July broadcast to the troops in Iraq, and appeared at the Rose Bowl and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades as Ms. Wheelchair America 2005.

Juliette holds a Master of Journalism degree, focusing on public relations, with a unique minor in rehabilitation studies from the University of North Texas, and a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from Texas A&M University. She served as the first runner up to Ms. Wheelchair Maryland 2003, was Ms. Wheelchair Maryland 2004, and was named Miss Wheelchair America in 2005.

Lori Budbill

Day Two Mistress of Ceremony

About the Mistress of Ceremony

Lori Budbill is currently assigned to National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, Washington. Lori began her career with the federal government in 1979 working for the Office of Personnel Management while attending the University of Washington where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. In 1984, Lori transferred to NOAA to work in the Western Administrative Support Center's Human Resource Division performing staffing and recruitment and managing the Special Emphasis Employment Programs for women, minorities, students, veterans and disabled individuals. She then moved into HR Policy and Program Management and eventually served as a Human Resources Adviser for several years. In 1996, Lori accepted the position of Executive Officer with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center with oversight for all administrative functions including budget, human resources and acquisitions management. In July 2006, Lori was selected as the Director of the Alaska Center's Operations, Management and Information Systems Division where she continues to manage all administrative functions for the Center as well as outreach, education, safety and environmental compliance, facilities, publications, graphics and web development. Throughout her career, Lori has been involved with EEO, diversity, affirmative employment and conflict resolution programs and activities.

Juana Bordas, MSW

Keynote Speaker

About the Keynote Speaker

Is president of Mestiza Leadership International – a company that focuses on leadership, diversity, and organizational change. She is a founder of Mi Casa Women's Center and founding President/ CEO of the National Hispana Leadership. For her contributions to women's advancement, she was initiated into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame and honored as a Wise Woman by the National Center for Women's Policy Studies. Juana recently served as advisor to Harvard's Hispanic Journal on Public Policy and the Kellogg National Fellows Program. A former Peace Corps volunteer, she received the Franklin Miller Award from the US Peace Corps for her life long commitment to advance communities of color and the Leadership Legacy Award from Spellman's College Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement. Her first book, *Salsa, Soul and Spirit – Leadership for a Multicultural Age*, will be published by Berrett-Koehler in May 2007.

Dr. Andre Leyva

Facilitator

Emotional Intelligence - Why keeping it all together Matters

Dr. Leyva coordinated and developed the Multi-Cultural Program for Project Head Start in Montgomery County, Maryland. He has studied Oriental Medicine since 1983 and is a certified Acupressure practitioner. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County Maryland for more than two years, and he is an active member of the National Hispanic Association of Psychologists.

About the Facilitator

A licensed psychologist specializing in cultural diversity and emotional intelligence, Dr. Leyva works within a multi-cultural counseling framework. He has been in private practice for over 20 years specializing in working with children, adolescents, marriages and families, and in providing consultations, workshops and seminars. He is an author, trainer and international speaker. Dr. Leyva currently provides all the DOC-sponsored workshops on "Emotional Intelligence," "Moving From Conflict to Collaboration," and "Anger Management."

Colette McKie, PhD

Facilitator

Connecting from the Inside Out to Reduce Stress

How do you experience stress: tightness, body pain, headaches, digestive issues, irritability, insomnia, depression, allergies, headaches...? These messages from your body to you have a meaning. Understanding the meaning gives you freedom with flexibility and puts you back in charge of your life. Learn simple tools that you can do for yourself in response to those important messages from your body. Alleviate the pains of life and be more comfortable in your everyday living.

About the Facilitator

Colette McKie, PhD (c) has a varied background and expertise: she is active in her community and is a well-known business owner of Turning Point Hypnotherapy Strategies and Acupuncture with offices in Bowie and Annapolis. She is completing her PhD in Clinical Hypnosis and has an MA in Acupuncture. Specializing in alleviating pain in all of its forms (including stress, depression & fatigue) and enhancing fertility, she relishes each day with her many patients to live more comfortably. Earlier in life she attained success with IBM, earned an MA in Education, and utilizes those experiences and expertise in her practice.

Ms. Nadolski

Keynote Speaker

Keynote Address

"Ms. Nadolski will share with the audience her personal story, describing the influence of her parents, and the challenges and opportunities she encountered during her career. No one does it alone. We all need mentors and a network for support, professionally and personally. The message for the audience is to be courageous, be strong, and seek out a mentor."

About the Keynote Speaker

Vickie Nadolski was appointed Director of the National Weather Service Western Region in January 1999. She oversees the management and operation of twenty-four Weather Forecast Offices, three River Forecast Centers, and four Aviation Center Weather Support Units, which provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for eight states, adjacent waters, and ocean areas for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. In November 2006, Ms. Nadolski was named NOAA Regional Collaboration team lead for NOAA's Western region. She is responsible for directing NOAA's regionalization along four priority areas in the Western U.S.: Integrated Ecosystem Assessment, Integrated Water Resources, Hazard Resilient Coastal Communities, and Outreach and Communications. She began her NWS career as a staff meteorologist in 1976 in Cleveland, Ohio, where she issued public, aviation, and marine weather forecasts and warnings for 32 counties in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Lake Erie.

Ms. Nadolski holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science equivalent in Meteorology from Pennsylvania State University. She received the honorable Fellow status with the American Meteorological Society in January, 2006. Her numerous awards include the Department of Commerce Silver Medal and several awards from local, state, and national organizations for her work on automating surface observations. Ms. Nadolski serves on the AMS Board for Women and minorities. She also serves as the gender focal point for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the gender focal point for the WMO Commission for Basic Systems and the gender focal point for the WMO Commission on Instruments and Methods of Observations.

Susan Q. Driscoll, LCPC

Facilitator

Career Development As A Life Long Process: What's Next For Me?

Career planning and development is a life long process that allows individuals the opportunity to grow professionally and personally. Mid-life for women, in particular, is often a time for reevaluation of dreams and life's goals. One of the first steps in this process of redefining an individual's career is skill assessment. This highly interactive presentation will assist individuals in defining their skills, to determine suitable points of transfer and to begin to create a new career dream.

About the Facilitator

Susan Q. Driscoll, LCPC, is a licensed counselor, teacher and group facilitator. She holds a master's degree in counseling psychology from Hood College in Frederick, Maryland and has done post masters work at Johns Hopkins University. Susan currently works as an independent private practitioner, working with individuals and organizations to affect change. Her clients include NIST, the Department of Commerce, the Law Offices of Patton-Boggs, Frederick County Head Start and the Center for the Advancement and Renewal of Educators. She is a member of the American Counseling Association and the American Academy of Bereavement Association.

Ms. Darlene Jenkins

Facilitator

Understanding Your Federal Benefits & Women and Investing

This seminar is designed to emphasize the importance of understanding your federal benefits as they relate to financial planning. During the session, we will explore the sexual stereotypes and old patterns of socialized behavior and thinking that prevent women from taking control of their families. In addition, the session will help participants to prepare and enjoy retirement through proper understanding of their federal benefits. Women will be exposed to tools enabling them to develop their own blueprint for financial planning. Whether you are just starting or well into your career, this course will make it possible to chart a personal road map to a new financial you.

About the Facilitator

Darlene Jenkins is a native of Washington, DC. Ms. Jenkins is a Wealth Manager and the Director of the Business Acquisition and Retention Department for her firm, Financial Assurance Corporation – Wealth Management Brokerage Firm in DC. She has been a licensed insurance broker since 1990. She oversees and handles new client acquisition as well as customer satisfaction and is one of two Trainers with her firm.

Ms. Jenkins has worked with the Government market since starting as an insurance broker and is a former government employee. During her tenure as a civil servant, she served 5 years in the personnel arena and 2 years as a budget analyst. She currently has over 1000 government clients that she services personally; and helps maintain over 5,000 clients for her agency. She is well trained in this field.

Ms. Jenkins teaches several workshops for the Blacks in Government Annual National Training and local chapter meetings, AFGE Union meetings, Postal conventions and local meeting, Dept. of Air Force, and Walter Reid Army Medical Center, etc. The workshop is titled “Balancing the Responsibilities: Women and Investing”. She has won numerous awards and rankings in her field.

Ella Lichtenberg

Panelist

Ella Lichtenberg began her career in the government as an American University graduate student coop employee at the IRS. She also worked at the Department of Treasury, OPM, and now works at NOAA’s NWS, Office of the CIO. As one of the first women to become a telecommunications specialist, she used her higher education and technical expertise to implement and manage several networks over a 20 year period. Ella switched her career to work in administration for one of the NWS National Centers, the Telecommunications Operations Center. Throughout her career, she also volunteered and held positions in the human resources area. Ella served as a career development counselor and is now a NOAA facilitator and a Diversity Management leader.

Deirdre Reynolds Jones

Panelist

About the Panelist

Deirdre Reynolds Jones is currently the Director of the Systems Engineering Center for the NOAA's National Weather Service Office of Science and Technology. Deirdre Reynolds Jones joined the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) in 1992 at the Radar Operations Center (ROC) in Norman, OK. She held several positions at the ROC in the Quality Assurance and Engineering fields. In 2000, she was selected for and completed the Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program. Ms Jones was appointed Director of the Systems Engineering Center in 2001 where she oversees technical implementation of several NOAA projects, including the Linux migration project to rehost the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) to the open source Linux Operating System, and the rehost of the Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD) Radar Data Acquisition system to open standards.

Prior to joining the NWS Ms Jones worked nine years with Vitro Corporation on the Ground Launched Cruise Missiles (GLCM) program. She improved the integration and test programs for the GLCM Weapons Control System software. In 1987, she moved to Oklahoma with Vitro where she became Chief Engineer for Vitro's Oklahoma City Engineering Office until its closing in 1990.

Ms Jones holds a Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California (USC). She is also a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. She resides in Silver Spring, Maryland with her spouse of sixteen years, Bobby Jones.

Gloria D. Thompson

Panelist

About the Panelist

Gloria Thompson serves as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. She has held this position since October 1992. In this capacity, she manages all aspects of the Assistant Administrator's day-to-day activities in carrying out the NOAA Fisheries domestic and international missions. Prior to joining the Assistant Administrator's office, she served as an Assistant to the Director, Office of Protected Resources focusing on endangered species and marine mammal conservation and management issues. From 1978-1987, she worked in the National Ocean Service as an project support assistant with the National Estuarine Research Reserve Program and later as an assistant project manager with the National Marine Sanctuary Program. While with the sanctuary program, she worked on the USS MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary and was part of the team that recovered the anchor in 1983. Ms. Thompson has over 30 years of experience with the Department of Commerce/NOAA in administrative and management positions.

Randee Exler

Panelist

About the Panelist

Randee Exler is currently the Director of NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Communications Office. Developing the new OAR Communications Office is Randee Exler's second "start up" for NOAA. She became OAR's first Communications Director in April 2006 after building a communications office for NOAA's National Weather Service's (NWS). Her goal then, as now, is to find innovative ways to tell the NOAA story to a variety of audiences and gain support for the agency and its mission. Among her accomplishments as the NWS Communications Director, from 2000 – 2006, was implementing an internal communications program driven by qualitative research. Ms. Exler also set a new standard for NOAA exhibiting by pulling together all NOAA Line Offices into one exhibit at the 2003 American Meteorology Society Meeting. These standards are now procedures for NOAA's exhibit program.

Her first NOAA assignment was in 1994 as the NWS Public Affairs Director. In 1998, she served on the leadership team that conducted a White House climate conference for broadcast meteorologists. OAR is not the first research organization where Ms. Exler has led communications activities. At NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) from 1985-1994, she honed her skills first as a Public Affairs Officer and later as both the GSFC News Chief and head of the Public Information Unit. In these roles, she managed a team that developed national media campaigns, ran an employee communication program, and interacted with the public and special interest groups. She gained crisis communication skills while working at NASA's Kennedy Space Center following the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. Known for her creative solutions, when NASA discovered that the Hubble Space Telescope had a lens problem and was "near sighted" Ms. Exler convened a daily telephone conference call so media across the country could collectively interact with NASA scientists and engineers.

Before joining NASA, Ms. Exler began her federal career in 1980 at the U.S. Department of State where she served as the Public Affair Officer for Mid-Atlantic Public Programs in 1984. She was member of the advance team for Secretary George Schultz for several trips she organized a World Affairs Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa. A native of Baltimore, Md., Ms. Exler resides in Silver Spring, Md. with her husband Sandy Kramer and daughter Molly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Executive Planning Committee for the NOAA Women's History Month Training Conference acknowledges with grateful appreciation your presence with us. It was our privilege to present this training conference.

We especially want to thank the NOAA Leadership for their participation and support. We also wish to extend our gratitude to all other program participants and presenters not listed.

2007 NOAA WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH TRAINING CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Charly Wells - Committee Chair

Alfred A Corea

Rosemary Pettis

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