



Cultural Diversity

National Weather Service
Alaska Region Newsletter
March 2012

In This Issue

- ✿ The Director's Corner
- ✿ Leo's Retirement
- ✿ Meet Michael Lawson
- ✿ Meet Dave Snider
- ✿ Say Hello to Steve Erickson
- ✿ Chili for the Homeless
- ✿ AR Week of Service
- ✿ Cultural Differences
- ✿ Annual Cookie Contest
- ✿ Monthly Celebrations
- ✿ Indoor Rain
- ✿ New/Departing Employees
- ✿ Years of Service

"Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity."
-- Robert Alan Silverstein



Editors

Ursula.Jones@noaa.gov
Kristine.A.Nelson@noaa.gov

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

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Frank Kelly

Diversity as a Mission Multiplier

As dedicated public servants we are all well aware and tuned to the advantages of having a diverse group of people working within the Alaska Region. We all benefit from the differences among us in many intangible ways. I also believe there are distinct advantages to meeting our broad mission through the diversity of our workforce. At the basic level, the different skills we each bring to our jobs allow us to meet the mission requirements as described in position descriptions. We all have a role and we each have a skill to bring to the job. In other words, we work our jobs to be effective in meeting the mission of our Region.

In addition, the diversity of our experiences enhances our ability to do our jobs. We each bring life experiences to the workplace and we merge these experiences together in ways so we can be more efficient in what we do. Many times we have opportunities to add a personal insight to the situation resulting in an innovation or a better way doing the task. Our collective diversity produces effectiveness and efficiency through the combination of our knowledge, personalities, understanding and approaches to our jobs. It sort of just happens and it is a good thing.

If we really want to leverage our diversity as a mission multiplier, I believe we have to specifically target what we need to do here in the Alaska Region. For instance, do we understand how the diversity of Alaskan's relates to how our forecasts and services are used? Do we understand the impacts of the wording we use in the context of the diverse population here in The Great Land? I am confident that through the efforts related to decision support services that we will be able to understand and describe our services to meet the challenges of a diverse constituency. The concept of an impacts catalog is not solely a database of thresholds based on physical phenomena. How people discuss what they need, the time line when they need it and how they will use our information to make a decision is all related to the diversity people have in their lives. We as public servants need to use our diversity as a way to help our constituents to understand what we can do for them, how they will see the service and what they may want to do in response.

We need to understand what motivates people to work in the NWS at ARH and the field offices. With that knowledge, how then do we recruit people into our organization and then sustain them in their work? What can we each do to help our co-workers develop their careers? There are probably some good stories from within our ranks about people who went Outside and then decided to return to work in the AR. What drew people to leave and what drew them to return? How do we leverage those stories to help sustain our diverse workforce? We all want to reach a level of productivity that makes our jobs fulfilling and helpful to meeting the mission. If we view diversity as a mission multiplier we will take advantage of intrinsic aspects in helping us take positive action to move us all forward. We will act in the timeline we have before us leveraging our differences in meeting the mission. 🌸

A Scholar & A Gentleman

By Nikole Gallegos



Leo Bailey

Leo was born in Youngstown, Ohio and lived there during his early years. His father was a truck driver and, with his dump truck, would *guarantee* that if there was something to move, HE could move it. I recall the stories Leo shared with me that his father and him would shovel recycled glass by the truckloads. Can you imagine the weight of those shovels? I could hardly get my son to shovel snow flurries in his youth. I understand that Leo's father worked well into his late 80's and I would like to believe that it was his father that instilled these strong work ethics in Leo. However, I think it's not just something you learn - it's in your blood. Leo has only finessed his work ethics by always offering to help when he saw work was needed to be done no matter what the job entailed. Leo also kicked it up a notch by wearing high-end 2-piece suits, shined leather shoes, Louis Vuitton gold spectacles, silk tie and handkerchief to match, along with a sapphire ring the size of meatball.

In 1958, Leo decided he was ready for an adventure to break away from Youngstown. He found his adventure in Anchorage, Alaska. He had family in Anchorage, his brother was in the Army stationed at Fort Richardson. Upon arriving, he landed a job working at a men's clothing store in downtown Anchorage. Moving the shipments where they were needed at "The Dazzery." Here is where I believe Leo's love for fashion began.

Almost as soon as Leo arrived, he fell in love with Anchorage and knew this was home. Not only did he fall in love with Anchorage, but he met a beautiful woman named "Jeanie" and set his mind on making her his wife. After some courting, and I have been told the story, gaining a few pounds from her delicious cooking; Leo's dream came true and they were married.

About 1959, Leo worked at THE happening burger joint on Mountain View Drive called Jim Dandy's, not far from the livelihood and hungry stomachs of the soldiers on Post. Each night Leo would grind the meat with a crank grinder, hand form the patties and come in to cook the next day. The joint was hopping and they went through plenty of beef each week.

When Leo wasn't working long hours at the burger joint, he was



Nikole Gallegos & Leo

picking up side jobs of janitorial service and more. Not long after the burger joint, Jeannie and Leo took on a new venture of their own in the early 1960's and opened up "Bailey's Family Restaurant" where later "Flapjacks" took residence. Some of you may recall that this was located off Spenard Road, on West 27th, across from the Bear Tooth Theatre, formerly the Denali Theatre.

In 1965 the Bailey family was almost complete: Leo, Jeanie, 6 children and 1 on the way (#7 would be little Britt). Although Leo worked his tail off, even

preparing tax returns on the side, he always found time for family. Summertime they would load up all 7 children in the family station wagon and venture down the ALCAN for a road trip back to Ohio. Imagine the memories Leo and his children must have of their father sharing his taste for adventure with them in tow. And imagine those long car rides with 7 children!

Leo's government service has been a long and successful journey. He started his service with the U.S. Army in the early 1950's in Indiana for 2 years. Already working around the clock, Leo was now running his own janitorial service plus Bailey's Family Restaurant in the early 60's. Leo then began a third job in telecommunications with Alaska Communication Systems, now known as AT&T Alascom, supporting White Alice facilities for the Air Force.

On January 29, 1971, Leo joined the National Weather Service family as an Electronics Technician.

During this time the NWS was at the old federal building on 4th Avenue. It was not until 1979 that tenants moved into the 'new' federal building. Upon joining the NWS, Leo gave up his other business ventures and devoted his time to the NWS and, in 1984, was converted to a computer specialist.

Leo has received numerous awards over the years; however, his most notable award was signed by President Bush in 2008 and presented by former NWS Alaska Region Director Laura Furgione. It was a lifetime achievement



Leo - the happy retiree!



Tom Henry, Angel Corona, Jeff Osiensky, Amy Holman, Aimee Devaris, Dean Prowker, Harry Dermer

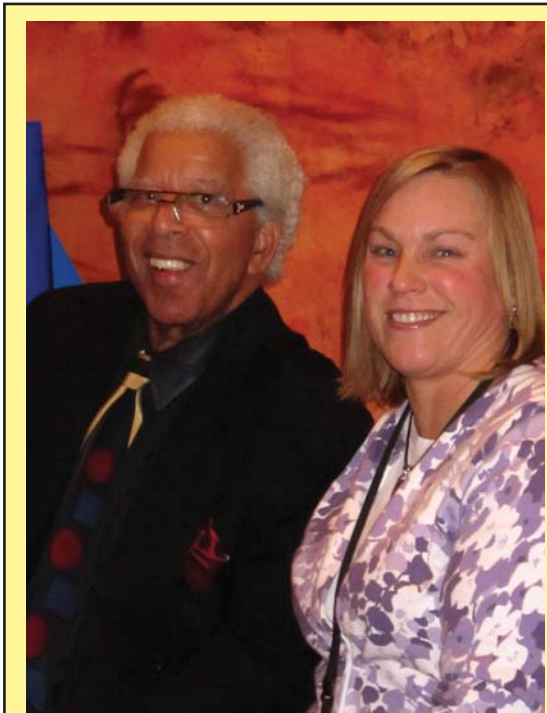
honoring Leo for 50 years of federal service.

My first encounter with Leo was when I worked for National Marine Fisheries Service, next door to NWS, in February 1992. He would help us out with that stubborn old Banyan Token Ring network. Otherwise known as “broken ring.” In December 1992, when I joined the Weather Service, I recall following Leo around as we looked for an opening in the network coax cabling. Leo had every segment precisely labeled: 15 feet... 33 feet... 41 feet. He showed me how to put on a barrel connector, t-span or terminator; find a fault in the cable using the TDR (Time Domain Reflectometer), and most



importantly: TO DOCUMENT every change. Every phone jack and coordinating punch down was labeled as well. All of these changes he documented using a text editor on the Prime terminal. To this day he kept his records using vi on Linux.

There are so many stories I have enjoyed over the years from my dear friend Leo. Many of them, risqué and full of life. You’ll have to sit down for a Budweiser, in a fresh cold glass of course, with my good friend Leo to hear the stories he paints as you imagine Anchorage of only yesterday. When I go to social outings on the town and folks learn I work for the Weather Service, they always ask me, “Hey, do you know Leo?” Many of you have heard that Leo is like “Norm” from Cheers. He can walk into ANY joint in Anchorage and SOMEBODY will know him. I heard a story once where he walked into a bar in Honolulu where the crowd there shouted out, “LEO!!!!” as he entered the room.



Leo & Valerie Flynn

Leo is always kind, considerate, one of the last true gentlemen (and lady’s man) that I know. And, of course, the best dressed man that I know. Leo - you ARE a special person and I am so proud to have worked along side of you. Enjoy your time off away from the hustle. Don’t forget to stop by every once in awhile to ensure we’re following in your footsteps by keeping up OUR strong work ethics as you have shown us. You’ve got big shoes to fill. But we can try! 🍷

Your friends and family at the NWS Alaska Region.

Michael Lawson is a Country Boy

By Alberta Vieira

Mike was born in Pearl City, Illinois, in the far northwestern portion of the state. "There were about 650 people in the town growing up. I graduated from high school in a class of 40, and somewhere around 160 kids in the entire high school. I went to kindergarten through 12th grade in the same building. While it had its pros and cons, I wouldn't change it at all. That being said, I'm glad I'm not there anymore." He says he's still a country boy. Mike's parents continue to reside in Pearl City, while his younger sister works as an accountant in Bloomington, Illinois.

Weather always fascinated him growing up. It's been the only thing he's ever been passionate about. If he couldn't be a meteorologist, he would have enjoyed some kind of earth science or space/astronomy-type position.

Mike received his B.S. in Meteorology from Northern Illinois University in 2007. With job opportunities scarce, he decided to return for a graduate degree.

Shortly after deciding to return to school, a job offer came through for a forecaster with Meridian Environmental Technology in Grand Forks, North Dakota. In addition to working for Meridian for four years, Mike has worked as a contract

observer for two and a half years with Harris Weather for the FAA at Grand Forks International Airport.

For the last five years he had hoped to land a job with the National Weather Service. Now that this has been accomplished by taking a position as a meteorologist in the Anchorage office, what does he see himself doing in five years? "I'd rather fly by the seat of my pants and see where life takes me."

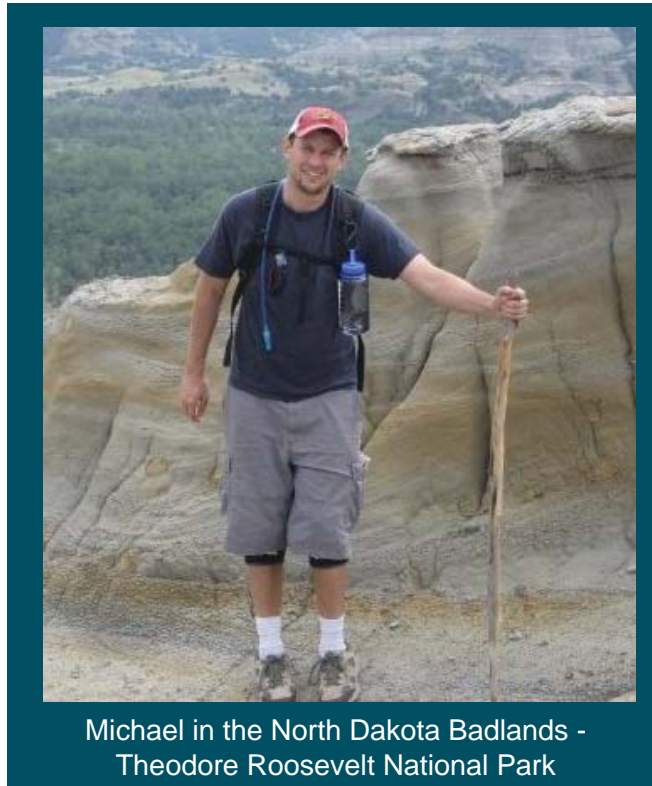
When asked about his favorite past job he says, "I worked for a couple Applebee's restaurants before and while in college doing everything from prep chef, cook, host, to server, and bartender.

If I wasn't in meteorology or earth science, I'd probably still be in the restaurant industry. Generally, it was a fun place to work.

Other than that, I enjoyed working as a painter for a summer. Being outdoors for work was a good experience."

"In the summertime I like to hike, camp, and play softball." He likes to rollerblade, but found Grand Forks to be much better place for rollerblading than Anchorage.

When the snow falls he plans on enjoying downhill skiing, and stated he looks forward to skiing at Alyeska. In between all the exercise, he can be found playing video games or reading a good book. 🎮



Michael in the North Dakota Badlands - Theodore Roosevelt National Park



Meet Dave - WFO Anchorage's Latest Edition

Dave Snider is a 15-year broadcast veteran and a classically-trained meteorologist coming to the TV Desk program at the Anchorage National Weather Service Forecast office from Springfield, Missouri.

Dave is a graduate of Parks College of St. Louis University where he earned his degree in Meteorology.

Dave began working in broadcast meteorology in 1996 with KJCT-TV in Grand Junction, Colorado, as Chief Meteorologist, where he forecasted for eastern Utah and western Colorado. In 1997, he moved across the Continental Divide to the base of Pikes Peak when he joined KRDO-TV in Colorado Springs and faced the challenging weather of Colorado's Front Range. In 2002, Dave helped develop and shape a 24-hour weather show for News 14 Carolina in Raleigh, North Carolina. He covered the weather every 10 minutes and, in doing so, saw his fair share of thunderstorm outbreaks, tornadoes, tropical storms, hurricanes, and winter weather nightmares (by Carolina standards). In 2005, Dave moved to Springfield, Missouri where he aggressively worked on social media for the KY3 (KYTV-NBC) weather center and continued to upgrade the look and presentations of teams' broadcast. He developed and managed a new 24-hour weather channel, recruited volunteers for the CoCoRAHS (www.cocorahs.org) network, and spoke to thousands of people at school and community groups stressing the importance of being ready for tornadoes, thunderstorms, and flooding.

Dave is a member of the American Meteorological Society and earned the American Meteorological Society's Seal of Approval. He's also a newly licensed amateur radio operator, KD0ONB.

In April 2004, Dave was recognized for the Best Coverage of a Hurricane from his peers at the Bahamas Tropical Weather Conference for his coverage of Hurricane Isabel making landfall in North Carolina and has been nominated for an Emmy for his work during several tornado and winter weather events in Missouri. Dave received several regional awards from the community, including the Springfield Business Journal's 40 under 40 award.

On Sunday, May 22, 2011, Dave covered the EF-5 Joplin, Missouri tornado and reported live from Joplin during the week that followed. "Unless you saw it with your own eyes, no pictures or video could possibly convey the magnitude of destruction and pain I saw through our radar beam that night. I hope I never see that again," said Snider, "but I hope it leads us to be better prepared and more equipped in the future."

In 2010, Dave participated and presented during NCAR's Societal Impacts Program collaborative conference, WAS*IS, and recommends the experience to anyone able to participate.

Dave enjoys being outdoors. He's climbed 12 of Colorado's "14ers" including Colorado's tallest peak, Mt. Elbert and hopes to summit more peaks in the future. He's a steadfast St. Louis Cardinals fan and is happy to explain where the best place to find an inverse catenary arch can be found in the Midwest.

Dave and his wife, Mary Helen, have backpacked in the Colorado wilderness and in the Smoky Mountains. They enjoy bird-watching, skiing, fishing, and exploring the back roads. The Sniders have two boys and a faithful Labrador retriever companion. 🌸

Meet Steve Erickson

By Peggy Perales

Steve Erickson, a recent hire for WSO Valdez, grew up mostly in western Oklahoma and southern Arizona but also lived in several places including Water Stratford, England and Denver, Colorado.

He spent over 20 years in the Air Force working at all levels of weather service: observing, forecasting, and management. Steve moved a lot, so he and his family lived in several states, England for 3 years, Korea for 3 years, and was also able to visit about a dozen other countries.



Before moving to Alaska, Steve was an Air Force, civilian/contractor supervisory meteorological technician on Fort Huachuca, Arizona for over 12 years.

Steve says, "I have wanted to work for NWS for several years and am very happy to be at WSO Valdez. It is a new adventure for me to have this job in such a great location. I like being outside and watching the wildlife, so photography has become my new hobby over the summer. Working on old cars and building things kept me busy in Arizona. I still have a 1953 International pickup and a 1987 Chevy El Camino SS. Over the past few years I've helped build houses, garages, carports, decks and porches, and a shed or two. There are so many things to see and do in Alaska, so I'll see what other activities to get involved with as we go along."

He has been married to Betty, his high school sweetheart, for 39 years. They have 2 grandchildren and 3 children:

- Angela, former Marine and now middle school teacher in Olive Branch, Mississippi
- Stephanie, parole officer in Tucson, Arizona
- Daniel, professional dancer who teaches in and around New York City 🌸

Chili for the Homeless

By Ursula Jones

In early December, WFO Juneau fed folks at the local homeless shelter. For the past two years, WFO Juneau staff have purchased the food and prepared a meal at The Glory Hole, the local homeless shelter. This year the staff made chili, cornbread, and salad. Several types of cookies were baked ahead of time and donated by Nikki Becker, Carl Dierking, Paul Shannon, Geri Swanson, and Miranda Vaughan. 🌸



Left to Right: Cera Jones, Geri Swanson, Tim Steffen, Carl Dierking, Richard Lam, Kimberly Vaughan, Tom Ainsworth, Ursula Jones

Alaska Region Week of Service September 25 – October 1, 2011

By Andy Brown, WFO Anchorage

The 2011 LEAD class (Central Region's leadership development course) championed the idea for a nationwide Week of Service. The effort was born of the idea that trusted leadership begins with a commitment to inspire the absolute best in others. To do so, leaders must serve! The National Weather Service Alaska Region recognized the importance of developing servant leaders and accepted this challenge to give back to the community that we are committed to protect.

In the weeks leading up to the scheduled event, a team at the Anchorage Forecast Office began planning ways that we could donate our services. It was decided that we wanted to promote the many different ways people could get involved in the community; that way the focus would not be just one event that only a limited amount of people could join. The mission of our team became one of education as well as service.

A list of opportunities was agreed on and we began advertising to the region. Listed below are the activities that we were involved with during the week.

- Volunteered at the Alaska SPCA
- Donated blood to the Alaska Blood Bank
- Volunteered at the Downtown Soup Kitchen
- Participated in Anchorage Park Foundation's Trail Watch and Park Report Card programs
- Gathered donations and packaged 18 boxes for local troops deployed overseas!
- Raised over \$200 to ship those boxes!
- Cleaned up Sand Lake Road
- Picked up about 10 bags worth of trash
- Gathered an impressive amount of food for the Alaska Food Bank



Left to right - Jim and Cedric Nelson, Dave and Sam Snider, and Andy, Katy, & Alyssa Brown.

The response from the individuals and organizations that we helped has been very positive. Recently, we have received a few thank you letters from service members who received packages from our office. Here is what First Sergeant Christopher Robar had to say:



Clockwise from left to right - Katy and Alyssa Brown, Shaun Baines, Andy Dixon, Jim Nelson, and Mary-Beth Schreck.

“Thank you and the crew at the National Weather Service for your thoughtful and generous gift. Being a US service member in a deployed environment it is rare when we get sundry items and niceties from home. We tend to forget about birthdays and the day to day events that allow us to take a break and feel as part of our families. So it is a rare treat to receive these items from caring folks such as yourselves.”

~ Christopher Robar
First Sergeant, 716th EOD

I know the National Weather Service Alaska Region greatly benefited from participating in the “Week of Service”. Voluntarily giving is not only rewarding, but it demonstrates our compassion, dedication, and appreciation for others. Diversity is about recognizing the differences that make every person unique, whether that is their background, education, or personality. The “Week of Service” was an excellent tool to encourage people to do just that. 🌸



Left to right - Jim Nelson, Andy Brown with Katy and Alyssa, Andy Dixon, Shaun Baines, Mary-Beth Schreck, Emily Niebuhr.

Cultural Differences

Time Orientation

There are cultural variations in how people understand and use time. Researchers have found that individuals are divided in two groups in the ways they approach time.



Monochronic

Monochronic individuals are those who prefer to complete one task at a time. For them, task-oriented time is distinguished from socio-emotional time. In other words, there is a time to play and a time to work. These individuals value punctuality, completing tasks, and keeping to schedules. They view time as if it were linear, that is, one event happening at a time. Examples of monochronic cultures include the U.S., Israel, Germany, and Switzerland.

Polychronic individuals, on the other hand, are more flexible about time schedules; they have no problem integrating task-oriented activities with socio-emotional ones. For them, maintaining relationships and socializing are more important than accomplishing tasks. These individuals usually see time in a more holistic manner; in other words, many events may happen at once. Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa are places where the polychronic orientation prevails.



Polychronic

In certain cities in the U.S., it is not uncommon for us to find timetables or daily schedules for buses or trains. If the bus is to be at a certain stop at 10:09 PM, for example, one can expect that to happen at the designated time, give or take a minute.

For polychronic individuals such precise timetables are mind-boggling, as many of them are simply used to going to the bus stop and waiting – not knowing whether they will be waiting for five or forty-five minutes. That is just the way things are.

This difference in time orientation is reflected in the complaints of U.S. business people conducting business in Saudi Arabia or in Mexico, for example. A big source of frustration for them is the difficulty of getting through a meeting's agenda. That is because in these countries meetings begin with an extended socializing time in which time is spent establishing social rapport – usually over many cups of coffee or tea.

The Context of Communication

This dimension has to do with the way people communicate with each other. Some cultures value a high context communication style while others value a low context style.

In **high context cultures**, information is either in the physical context or internalized in the person. Behavioral rules



are implicit; in other words, the context is supposed to give you the cues you need to behave appropriately. In these cultures, members tend to use a more indirect style of communication. Examples of societies that value this communication style include Japan, Korea, China, and many of the Latin American countries.



In **low context cultures**, information is part of and conveyed through the verbal content of the communication. The rules and expectations are explained and discussed; individuals tend to prefer a more direct communication style. Examples of countries that would prefer this communication style include the United States and most European countries.

In the U.S., for example, it is very common for college students to receive a course syllabus at the beginning of the semester. In it, students find detailed information such as the course description and learning objectives. It is not uncommon for the syllabus to also provide the instructor's policies regarding attendance, course assignments, course preparation, how grades will be determined, and even a tentative course schedule. That is because, in a low context culture such as the U.S., expectations are often

communicated directly to the individual. In a high context culture, students may not be given all this information directly. As a student, it is your job to find out what the rules and expectations are.

Need another example? A quick look around campus will reveal signs such as the one at left.



In high context cultures, this type of information is

less likely to be displayed. There is no need for them to post a sign telling you to clean up after yourself. The expectation is that you should know what to do in situations like this.

Given the differences between high context and low context individuals, can you think of other potential sources of conflict or misunderstanding between them?

Individualism Versus Collectivism

This cultural dimension is concerned with the extent to which the welfare of the individual or that of the group is more valued in a society.

In **individualistic societies**, the goals of individuals are valued more highly than the goals of the group. Individuals are rewarded for behaving independently, making their own plans, and working toward achieving their personal goals. In these societies, individuals are hired and promoted largely based on individual achievement and qualifications. Examples of individualistic societies include the United States and Northern and Western European countries.

In **collectivistic societies**, on the other hand, the needs of the group are considered more important than those of the individual. In these societies, kinship ties are much stronger and may take precedence over expertise in matters of appointments and promotions. Collectivism is a value in Asian, African, as well as South American cultures.

Take, for example, the case of arranged marriages, still common in countries such as India or Pakistan. In those cultures, marriages are times to form family alliances. You marry whomever your family chooses or whoever is best for the family. In the U.S., on the other hand, you marry whomever you choose, the implication being that it's your decision and you choose the one best for you. In this case, the welfare of the individual takes precedence over the welfare of the family. The same can happen in your professional life. A student from a collectivistic culture may be sent to the U.S. to study whatever his/her government or company needs and not necessarily what he/she wants to pursue; whatever the group needs (i.e., country or company) takes precedence over what the individual wants.

Given the differences between individualistic and collectivistic individuals, can you think of potential sources of conflict or misunderstanding between them?



Differences in Value Orientation or “Cultural Baggage”

When you visit another country, you take along a lot more than what is in your suitcase. You will also be carrying your “cultural baggage”.

Your cultural baggage (or culture) is the collection of all the values, beliefs, concepts, and behaviors that you learned as a child and that will have a great effect on the way you see the world. Keep in mind that your cultural baggage is unique and will most certainly differ from that carried by members of your host culture.

Cultures vary in many ways; we have discussed just a few of those ways. It's important that you realize, though, that the cultural dimensions presented here do not apply to all individuals within a culture. An individual's behavior may also vary depending on the situation. In other words, treat the differences discussed here as general guidelines and understand that there will always be individuals who don't fit the dimensions discussed here.

Information on Cultural Differences, thanks to Iowa State University Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching and Iowa State University Study Abroad Center. 🌸

WFO Anchorage's Annual Cookie Contest

By Alberta Vieira

The Anchorage Forecast Office held their 4th annual cookie contest last November. We had 11 entries. Each year, the submissions have varied in flavors and bakers were allowed to enter more than one kind of cookie. This year's most unusual entry, submitted by myself, was the Cheddar-Pecan Thing; a savory, cheesy, and addictive cookie more like a flat cheese biscuit.

We had four judges. The three Anchorage Forecast Center (AFC) judges were Robin Radlein (RFC), Dan Hembree (El-Tech) and Jocelyn Perry from the group of traveling technicians at the AFC. David Kochevar (CWSU) was the fourth judge. They said they enjoyed sampling all the different entries.

Second place went to Kristine Nelson's red-velvet brownie cookies. Mary Beth Schreck's pumpkin-chocolate chip cookie came in third place, which tied with her tea cookie. The contest rules called for each entry to include two dozen cookies. After being judged, the cookies were sold to raise money for a charity of the winner's choice. This year's choice was the Food Bank of Anchorage.

Although we primarily promote the cookie contest as a method for generating charitable donations, my personal motive for starting this contest was to find recipe ideas for goodie baskets to send to family members at Christmas. For this reason, all participants were required to submit recipes with their entries.

This year's winning cookie was a chocolate-truffle cookie baked by Rick Vickery (my husband). The cookie looked and had the same texture as a flat brownie. Rick's chocolate-truffle entry was similar to the winning entries for the past two years – Dave's Moose Dropping cookies and Peanut Butter Brownie cookies.

Congratulations to Rick! We also wanted to thank David Stricklan (winner from the last two year's) for being out of town the day of the contest. 🍪

Upcoming Meetings

March 28, 2012

May 16, 2012

July 18, 2012 - nominations

September 19, 2012 - elections

Monthly Diversity Celebrations

March - Women's History Month

Ninety-one years ago, on August 26, 1920, the ratification of the 19th Amendment to our Constitution was completed, guaranteeing women the right to vote, renewing our commitment to equality and justice, and marking a turning point in our Nation's history.

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

In looking ahead, "Build Opportunity: 20 Years of Education, Empowerment, Experience" suggests that an even bigger and brighter future is ahead for all our nation's daughters and sons. It reminds our youth to be brave as they dream seemingly impossible dreams, explore new challenges, and attain the success they have always hoped for in education, work, home, and in their communities. Such futures are possible because mentors, like those involved in Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® provide a steady foundation for them to grow and build upon.

June - Gay Pride Month

Indoor Rain

By Kristine Nelson

"Do you think I can make it rain?", I asked the group Girl Scouts eagerly leaning forward in their seats. They were learning about the phases of water and now were eager to see how I was going to make it rain. While holding a pot full of ice over a steaming pot of water, moisture began to form on the sides and bottom. "Hey, the drops are getting bigger and falling off! It's raining!", they yelled.

The Girl Scouts 20th Anchorage Women of Science and Technology Day was host to over 800 Girl Scouts. Three groups of girls, 32 total, from Kindergarten to 4th grade attended my presentations on "Phases of Water" from liquid to frozen to gas. They learned when air rises it cools, warm air holds more moisture than cold air, and they can make a mini cloud by just breathing on a cold winters' day. They also learned it was really dry that day. I put cups of ice on all the desks. The idea was moisture would collect on the outside of the glass. The experiment worked, it proved the air was too dry for much, if any, moisture to collect on the cups.



Cloud charts made out of cotton balls were the summation of all that water science. The girls created their favorite cloud structures, labeled and mounted with their favorite colors. As they exited the room on their way to the next science and technology workshop, they received a NWS Cloud Poster. Watching them smiling and clutching both of their cloud posters, I feel I've succeeded in showing that science is everywhere; in the sky, in our breath, on the ground; and that, sometimes, you can even make it rain indoors. 🌧️

The Winds of Change The Winds of Change



A WARM WELCOME GOES OUT TO ALL NEW EMPLOYEES AND CONGRATULATIONS ON PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS!

New Employees

Mamie (Christy) Splechter, from North Pole, Alaska, transferred from the Department of Interior taking the Administrative Support Assistant position at WFO Fairbanks effective July 3, 2011.

David Snider, from Ozark, Montana, took the Meteorologist (TV Broadcast Program Leader) position at WFO Anchorage effective July 5, 2011.

Jeffrey Prucinsky transferred from the Department of Defense in Bellevue, Nebraska taking a Meteorological Technician in WSO Cold Bay effective July 31, 2011.

Christopher Popham, a local hire in Palmer, took a Watchstander – (Oceanographer) position at West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center effective August 15, 2011.

Bohyun Bahng, from Lynnwood, Washington, took an Oceanographer – (Watchstander) position at the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center effective November 7, 2011.

Yoo Yin Kim, from San Diego, California, took an Oceanographer – (Watchstander), at the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center effective December 5, 2011.

Retired/Transferred:

David Noble transferred to the WFO Office in Missoula, Montana from WSO Valdez effective August 13, 2011.

Debra Elliott transferred to the WFO Detroit/Pontiac Office in White Lake, Michigan from WSO King Salmon effective August 28, 2011.

Eric Stevens resigned from WFO Fairbanks effective September 10, 2011.

Jeremy McMaster transferred to FEMA from WSO Kotzebue effective September 18, 2011.

Thomas Foss retired from the Electronics Unit Anchorage effective September 30, 2011.

Rebecca Legatt transferred from the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center as a Watchstander to the WFO Anchorage Office as an Assistant Ice/Sea Meteorologist effective October 24, 2011.

Todd Foisy transferred from Alaska Region, ESSD to WFO Office in Caribou, Maine effective November 6, 2011.

Stephen Kearney transferred from WFO Fairbanks to CWSU Office in Memphis, Tennessee effective November 20, 2011.

Francis (Frank) Kelly transferred from Alaska Region to USGS Office in Sioux Falls, South Dakota effective December 4, 2011.

Leo Bailey retired from Alaska Region, Systems Integration Branch effective December 16, 2011.



Joseph Schulz retired from Alaska Region, Administrative Management Division effective December 31, 2011.

Braydon Mikesell took an IT Specialist position in the Department of Homeland Security/US Customs and Borders in Miami, Florida effective January 13, 2012.

Stephen Senisch transferred from the WSO St. Paul Office as a Supervisory Meteorological Technician to the Electronics Unit Anchorage Office as a Electronics Technician effective January 15, 2012.

James (Dean) Prowker, an Engineering Technician, retired from the Facilities Shop at the WFO Anchorage Office effective January 31, 2012.

YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Employee	Position	Office	Years
Robert Fischer	Lead Forecaster	WFO Fairbanks	45
David Angaiak	Meteorological Technician	WSO King Salmon	40
Robin Radlein	Hydrologist-In-Charge	APRFC	35
Peggy Perales	OIC	WSO Valdez	30
Geri Swanson	Hydro-Meteorological Technician	WFO Juneau	30
Eric Holloway	Hydro-Met Analysis & Support Forecaster	APRFC	25
Gerald Smith	Information Technology Officer	WFO Fairbanks	25
Paul Whitmore	Scientist in Charge	WC/ATWC	25
Jerry Steiger	Meteorologist in Charge	WSO Nome	25
Guy Urban	Geophysicist - (Lead Watchstander)	WC/ATWC	25
Tony Hall	Meteorologist in Charge	WFO Fairbanks	25
Michael (Pete) Dellinger	ASOS Electronics Technician	Electronics Unit Anch.	20
Nikole Gallegos	AFSU Computer Program Manager	SIB ARH	20
Daniel Samelson	Meteorologist	WFO Anchorage	20
Benjamin Balk	Hydrologist	APRFC	15
Edward Plumb	Service Hydrologist	WFO Fairbanks	15
Sue Shuart	Travel Technician	ARH	10
Emily Aquino	Supply Technician	ARH	10
Jeffrey Cotterman	Special Applications Program Manager	AR SIB	10
John Snell	Information Technology Specialist	AR SIB	10
Charles T. Miller	Electronics Technician	WFO Fairbanks	10
Aaron Jacobs	Meteorologist	WFO Juneau	10

The views expressed in this publication are specific to each author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NWS or US Government.