



# Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

Monthly Employee Newsletter Published by the Department of Administration  
AUGUST 2009 - Volume 16, Issue 8

## Employee of the Month

### BRIM's John Fernatt Recognized for Getting Things Done

JOHN FERNATT, an Information Systems Specialist III for the Board of Risk and Insurance Management (BRIM), has been selected as the Department of Administration's *Employee of the Month* for August.

A state government employee for more than 11 years, Fernatt's primary duties include serving as a liaison between BRIM and the Office of Technology. He is also a licensed claims adjuster, which includes

overseeing a variety of property and mine subsidence claims.

"John is known in the BRIM office as the 'man who knows how to get things done,' according to one of his co-workers. "He is well respected in the BRIM office. It is common to see a fellow employee seek John's advice on a wide range of business topics."

Another co-worker added, "John is a compulsive learner and spends much time reading

the latest technical manuals and studying for various technical certification exams. He is an indispensable member of the BRIM team."

In his spare time, Fernatt enjoys playing the guitar and is an avid reader. He will be joined by his friends and co-workers at a special ceremony presented by Cabinet Secretary Robert W. Ferguson, Jr., on Thursday, August 6, at 11 a.m. at the BRIM office in South Charleston.



**JOHN FERNATT**  
August Employee of the Month



### Secretary Ferguson Honored for 'Going To Bat' for Agency

Public Defenders Services' Executive Director Jack Rogers presented Department of Administration Cabinet Secretary Robert W. Ferguson Jr. with the annual "Outstanding Contribution to West Virginia Public Defender Services" award recently. The award, traditionally given to individuals who have worked to assist the entire public defenders system, was given to Secretary Ferguson for his support of Senate Bill 1015, which consisted of a \$21 million supplemental appropriation from the State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund to address unpaid counsel fees for Public Defender Services. In addition to the award, the cabinet secretary was also presented with a baseball bat for "going to bat" for the division and its goals.

**Pictured, (l-r), Cabinet Secretary Robert W. Ferguson, Jr., and Public Defender Services Executive Director Jack Rogers.**

## SNEAK PEEK



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# Capitol Market Returns to State Capitol to Delight of Campus Employees and Visitors



First Lady Gayle Manchin greets patrons at the opening of the Capitol Market at the Capitol on July 15. The Capitol Market event is held every Wednesday and Friday through August 19. Also pictured is, from left, Steve Hannah, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture; Martha Walker, Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Health and Human Resources; Robert W. Ferguson, Jr., Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Administration; and Kelley Goes, Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Commerce.

One of the most popular Capitol campus events has returned for 2009.

The Capitol Market at the Capitol officially opened on July 15 as First Lady Gayle Manchin welcomed patrons. The First Lady remarked how sales have grown every year and how not only does the Capitol

Market at the Capitol support West Virginia farmers, it assists the efforts of the Governor's Healthy Lifestyles Coalition – which she chairs - in its mission to promote healthy eating habits.

The Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) coordinates the annual event, now in its fifth year, and is assisted in a coordinated effort by the wellness coordinators of the Department of Health and Human Resources, Development Office, Division of Motor Vehicles and Department of Education. The Department

of Administration sets up and breaks down tables on market days, while the Department of Agriculture and the Capitol Market operate the market. Vendors from the Capitol Market provide the produce.

The Capitol Market at the Capitol will operate at the fountain behind Building One from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays through August 19.

There will also be a fall market day on September 16. Samplings of West Virginia food products will be offered by the Department of Agriculture on August 5, including fresh corn which will be roasted and given away to market visitors.

The wellness coordinators involved in this effort indicated that the market is one of the highlights for state employees and visitors at the Capitol campus. Providing access to fresh fruits and vegetables promotes employee health, supports West Virginia farmers and allows Capitol complex employees the opportunity and convenience of shopping during the workday.

## Public Awareness Efforts Boosting WVCHIP Enrollment

*Searching for low-cost health coverage for your kids?*

### Take a second look at CHIP!

The **NEW CHIP PREMIUM** program allows working families to purchase low-cost, comprehensive health coverage for their children at the rate of **\$35/month** for one child and **\$71/month** for 2 or more children.

Family Size	Premium Plan Maximum Yearly Income
2	\$36,425
3	\$45,775
4	\$55,125
5	\$64,475

Apply Online at:  
[www.wvinroads.org](http://www.wvinroads.org)

Call Toll-Free **1-877-982-2447**



The West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (WVCHIP) is seeing the fruit of its public awareness efforts as its enrollment has taken a leap in recent months.

When WVCHIP expanded its health coverage for eligible state children in January to include those in families with incomes up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level, Director Sharon Carte began putting together an advertising campaign to spread the positive news to reach eligible families.

The new standards continue to be promoted in various media outlets throughout the state, particularly in regions where statistics indicate there is a high percentage of families eligible to enroll in WVCHIP. The advertising complimented customary WVCHIP outreach efforts conducted through health clinics, hospitals and schools.

The early results are favorable. From April to June of this year, new enrollees into the WVCHIP Premium program jumped more than 40 percent. There has been a noteworthy 130 percent increase in enrollees from June 2008 to June 2009.

"This is very good news," Carte said. "Our new enrollee numbers are certainly meeting our expectations. The advertising push will expand in the

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# Department of Administration Agencies Benefit from Governor's Internship Program

Department of Administration agencies continue to benefit from the Governor's Internship Program which pairs some of the state's most astute college students with state agencies.

This summer, 16 program participants have worked in several Administration agencies, assisting with a variety of assignments and projects, which allows the interns to gain valuable knowledge and networking opportunities in a real-world work environment.

Molly George, a special projects coordinator for the Department of the Education and the Arts, said 388 college students applied to the program, with 105 being hired by state agencies this summer.

"This has been one of the largest groups of interns to be hired through the Governor's Internship Program," George said. "Nearly 40 state offices have taken advantage of this wonderful resource, allowing many of our best and brightest college students to gain skills and experience working in government. Their participation has benefited themselves and the state."

Below is a brief introduction of our department's interns this year:

**Nora Sheridan**, a sophomore at Middlebury College, is working in the Information Services section at the Consolidated Public Retirement Board, helping to organize and produce several informational videos for the agency's Web site. A first-year participant in the program, Sheridan is from Charleston.

**Valerie Bevans**, a Charleston resident working in the Infrastructure Unit at the Office of Technology, is compiling data and telephone infrastructure information about different agencies within the state. A second-year program participant, Bevans graduated in May from West Virginia University and begins graduate school there. "The Governors Internship Program is a great opportunity to gain meaningful work experience during the summer. I have enjoyed working for the state and learning about how the state government operates," she said.

**Ashley Danielle Johnson**, a first-year participant in the program, is working this summer for the Office of Technology, assisting with a variety of projects. The Sissonville resident is a sophomore at West Virginia University, majoring in chemistry with minors in Italian and biology. She plans to attend medical school upon graduation.

**Kenneth (Mike) Jones** is collecting various state agencies data and telephone infrastructure information as part of his intern duties at the Office of Technology. Jones is a senior at West Virginia University, majoring in business administration-accounting. A first-year participant in the program, Jones resides in Hurricane.

**Corie Lynch**, of White Sulphur Springs, is working for the Cabinet Secretary in his office. A first-year participant in the program, Lynch is majoring in political science at Concord

Quotes, Notes and Anecdotes



University. Law school is one avenue Lynch said she is considering after earning her undergraduate degree.

**Jeremy Azevedo** is a second year participant in the program at the Office of Technology, working in the accounts management section. The Pinch native is a junior at West Virginia University Institute of Technology, majoring in computer science. His post-college plans may include going to New Zealand. He notes about his experience at the Office of Technology, "The Governor's Internship Program is awesome."

**Benjamin Wood**, a senior at the West Virginia University Institute of Technology, is majoring in history and government. This is his second year participating in the program in the Cabinet Secretary's Office, assisting the Cabinet Secretary. The Charleston native plans to enter a career in federal law enforcement after finishing

**Governor Internship Program participants working in the Department of Administration agencies this summer include: pictured (front row from left) Benjamin Wood, Cabinet Secretary's Office; Corie Lynch, Cabinet Secretary's Office; Shelly Gardner, Cabinet Secretary's Office; Nora Sheridan, Consolidated Public Retirement Board. Back row from left, Michael Stark, Office of Technology; Kyle Estep, General Services Division; Chelsie Bush, General Services Division; and Jeremy Azevedo, Office of Technology.**

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# Newly Acquired State Office Building a Source of Pride

On a sunny weekday morning, Maintenance and Operations Manager David Parsons of the General Services Division is on a mission. He is inspecting the new offices for the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) at Building 74 in South Charleston.

The three-story building is the new office space for approximately 109 DNR employees following the agency's move from Building 3 on the State Capitol campus. This move came as part of the plans to relocate several divisions and agencies from Building 3 to prepare for the complete renovation of the building.

As Parsons walks through the newly-occupied Building 74 (also known as Plaza IV), he sees the hours of work put into updating the structure to allow DNR to have its new home. Parsons credited the work of the Real Estate Division in finding the building. Parsons said, while the building itself was structurally sound, there was sub-



stantial work required to bring it up to necessary standards.

Parsons said the General Services Division performed approximately 90 percent

**Building 74, the new offices for the Division of Natural Resources, was extensively renovated by the General Services Division.**

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## INTERNS

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college. "The Governor's Internship has been a great experience and has helped me understand how my state government works," he said.

**Amelia Ferrell** of Rand is in her second year as a program participant. She works for the General Services Division and has built the agency's new Web site. Ferrell is a senior at Shepherd University, completing a double major in political science and mass communications. Her post college plans include graduate school to earn a masters degree in political journalism with an emphasis in conflict resolution and policy.

**Kyle Estep** of Van is spending his first year as a program participant in the General Services Division, helping develop and implement the Department of Administration's Continuity of Operation Plan. Estep is majoring in industrial engineering at West Virginia University.

**Michael Stark** is performing various tasks at the request of members of the accounts management team at the Office of Technology. This is the Charles-

ton native's first year participating in the program. Stark is in his first year of law school at the West Virginia University College of Law and he hopes to practice law in Charleston.

**Natalie Thomas** of Charleston is a legal intern in the Cabinet Secretary's Office. A first-year program participant, Thomas begins her second year at the West Virginia University College of Law.

**Christopher Bailey** is in his second year as a program participant. The Charleston resident is working at the West Virginia Ethics Commission assisting with advisory opinions and interrogatories. He is in the West Virginia University College of Law and plans to practice in corporate business.

**Chelsie Bush**, a sophomore at the University of Tennessee, is studying architecture. The Southside resident is in her first year participating in the program at the General Services Division. Bush is working in the business section, assisting with the purchasing work that is required by the construction and

maintenance units. "The Governor's Internship Program has been an incredible learning experience for me, one which has allowed me insight into several aspects associated with my field of study, of which I was previously unaware. I am truly grateful for this enriching opportunity," she said.

**Shelly Gardner** of Charleston is a first-year participant in the program, working in the Cabinet Secretary's Office as a legal intern for the General Counsel. Gardner is in her third year of law school at Elon University and is reviewing legal issues, writing memos and researching statutes and case law as part of her intern duties. Gardner states, "This program has been a great learning experience and has given me the opportunity to work with many talented people."

Two other GIP participants include **Stephen Chenoweth** and **Trevor Harrison** who are working for the Office of Technology. The department extends our gratitude to our interns and wish them the very best for the upcoming year.

# Writing for Results: Division of Personnel Course Aims to Unlock More than One Mystery

An unexplained death. Forensic clues. A crime to be solved. What do these things have to do with effective writing? Writing for Results, a newly redesigned program offered by the Division of Personnel's Organization and Human Resource Development (OHRD) section, will solve those mysteries.

Typical writing classes use a lecture-based approach to cover the most common mistakes in the areas of punctuation, spelling and word choice, and then move on to effective e-mail, letter, and report writing. As a result, many class participants find themselves gently snoring in record time.

If you have taken an OHRD class before, you know the instructors work to keep their classes interesting and engaging. That is certainly the case with Writing for Results. In this two-day workshop, participants use their newly acquired writing skills to discover the haunting details behind actress Julianne Smith's death, all while learning how to consider the needs of their audience, use proper punctuation, and compose



effective memos, reports and e-mails.

Why use a mysterious death to teach writing? Class facilitator Nicole Michaelis provides two reasons for her unique design: "First, I believe that this murder mystery scenario will facilitate a fast-paced flow for the class. I want to avoid the typical approach to teaching business writing. Second, studies have shown that learning and recall is enhanced when feelings and emotions are connected to the learning. All of our instructors believe in this concept, and we try to make our classes as creative, fun and engaging as possible."

The unique program desing goes be-

yond the mysterious death of Julianne Smith. Writing for Results also features a superhero named Grammar Man and a punctuation challenge involving macaroni.

Evie Davis, Assistant Director in charge of OHRD, believes the program offers significant value to state employees and managers. "Our customers have been asking for training that will help them achieve their goals through written correspondence. I am pleased that Nicole has not only

produced a program filled with useful content, but has designed it in a way that will please her participants."

If you want to improve your credibility, enhance your written communication skills and achieve your professional goals, join OHRD for Writing for Results. Who knows? You may help to solve a crime as well.

The next session of Writing for Results is scheduled for September 29-30. You can enroll by faxing an OHRD Program Enrollment Form to 304-558-3327. For more information, call 304-558-3950, ext. 57204.

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## OFFICE

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of the renovation work, including installing new sheetrock on the extensively renovated third floor for new walls and office spaces. The Office of Technology installed new computer wiring for the building; the Divisions of Corrections made signage for individual offices; and statewide contracts were used for other work throughout the building.

"We were able to work fast by using our own crews," Parsons said. "When we are utilizing our own forces, we can be both more proactive and reactive to anything

that arises."

Other work required was the installation of a new fire system and security system as well as making the building compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Parsons is especially proud of the work completed in the building to ensure the building is energy efficient.

"I will admit I have been pretty picky on this project, but we have put our hearts and souls into the work here," he said. "It is vital that we work to protect the taxpayers' investment here."



**David Parsons, far right, speaks with General Services Division employees and DNR staff members about continued work on Building 74 in South Charleston.**

## State Credit Union Offers Employees Exclusive Benefits

The State Credit Union, just two blocks from the Capitol, has established benefits exclusively for state employees and their families. The State Credit Union offers regular savings, Christmas and vacation club accounts, and also an investor's savings account. The State Credit Union makes it convenient for you to save through payroll deduction and direct deposit.

To join, go to [www.wvpecu.org](http://www.wvpecu.org) and click on "How to Join the SCU" and follow the steps to start enjoying any of the following: Loans, Free Checking, Credit Cards, Online Banking and Phone Service, and Check Cards.

The State Credit Union can provide on-site informational visits for groups. For more information, contact the State Credit Union 304-558-0566 or [contact@scuwv.com](mailto:contact@scuwv.com).

### CHIP

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coming months to coincide with the beginning of the new school year, and the more we bring into the program, the more we can help ease the health care burden on West Virginia families."

The new expansion which took effect earlier this year allows families of four with incomes between \$44,102 and up to \$55,125 to qualify if they are willing to pay a monthly premium. Premiums run \$35 per month for one child and \$71 per month for two or more children.

Questions concerning any additional details, such as eligibility information, benefits, co-payments and requests for applications, should be directed to the WVCHIP Helpline at 1-877-982-2447 or go to [www.wvchip.org](http://www.wvchip.org).

**Welcome! ...** to our new employees: **Bethany Funfstuck** (CPRB); **Gregory Finley** and **John Mann** (Office of Technology); **Paula Roberts** (Personnel); **Tony Adkins** (PEIA); and **Pamela Hodges, Dirk Hyre** and **Matthew Williams** (Purchasing).

**Time to Relax ...** After many years of hard work, **Darrell Samples** of Aviation is now ready to kick back and relax. Happy retirement, Darrell!

**Best Wishes ...** to our employees who recently resigned from our department: **Jennifer Schiefer** (BRIM); **Bryan Ramsdell** (Office of Technology) and **Shelly Lowery** (Personnel).

**Baby News ...** **Teddy Thompson** (Office of Technology) welcomed his son, Colton, on June 30 ... **Deidre Rainwater** (Office of Technology) welcomes her granddaughter, Gabriella Jessica Davant, on June 20. *Congratulations!*

**Got News?...** Let us know what's going on with you and your family. Contact Diane Holley, Editor, at (304) 558-0661 or at [Diane.M.Holley@wv.gov](mailto:Diane.M.Holley@wv.gov) with information to share with the department's employees.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY ... in August

1 Mike Campbell ..... Technology	17 Lindsey Duvall ..... Personnel
Doug Schwab ..... Technology	Elizabeth Perdue ..... Purchasing
2 Gary Burns ..... Technology	18 Chris Bostick ..... Aviation
3 John Rogers ..... Public Defender	James Hicks ..... Technology
4 Shawna Carson ..... CPRB	Rebecca Owens ..... Technology
Tim Graley ..... Technology	Mike Sheets ..... Purchasing
Mark Miller ..... CPRB	Beverly Toler ..... Purchasing
5 Rosa McFarland .... Public Defender	19 Antonia Anderson .... Technology
Sabrina Snead ..... Technology	Robert Krause ..... Gen. Svs.
6 Sheila Straley ..... Finance	Bill McGinley ... Grievance Board
7 Patricia Bowgren ..... CPRB	Donna Price ..... Technology
Janine Ganoie ..... Technology	David Tincher ..... Purchasing
Michele Null ..... Technology	Michael Usher ..... Technology
8 Anthony Brooks ..... Gen. Svs.	20 Robert Fisher ..... BRIM
Kellie Carper .... Public Defender	Bryant Reynolds ..... Technology
Robin Chambers ..... Finance	Carla Taylor ..... Gen. Svs.
Kristina Strader ..... Purchasing	21 Tim Miller ..... Purchasing
9 Joseph Bolar ..... PEIA	22 Cynthia Smith ..... Technology
Amber Rose ..... PEIA	23 Charles Adkins ..... Gen. Svs.
10 Linda Dexter ..... BRIM	Bryan Hoffman ..... Finance
Larry Meninger ..... Technology	Michael Lakin ..... Aviation
11 Donald Patterson .... Technology	24 Frances Buchanan ..... PEIA
12 Ed Nelson ..... Technology	Carlos Fortune ..... Technology
13 Phil Debruyne ..... Technology	25 Tammy Patton ..... CPRB
Brittany Smith ..... CPRB	26 Sheila Coughlin . Public Defender
14 Marta Dean ..... Technology	27 Gerald Stricklen ..... Gen. Svs.
Pamela James ..... Technology	28 Michael Austin ..... Purchasing
Richard LeMasters .... Technology	Greg Ganoie ..... Technology
Richard Wickert ..... Technology	29 Heather Bartholomew Grievance
15 Marilyn Padon ..... Technology	Candace Vance ..... CHIP
David Scruggs ..... Purchasing	30 Elizabeth Humphreys Technology
16 Nancy Baire ..... Technology	Nancy Stark ..... Technology
Cynthia Good ..... Technology	Claudia White ..... CPRB
Paul Halloran ..... PEIA	31 Sharon Carte ..... CHIP
Joyce Larrabee ..... Technology	Cynthia Dotson ..... PEIA

# Administrative Notes

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