Bronze Medal and Distinguished Career Awards

May 23, 2017
NOAA Auditorium • Silver Spring, MD
Bronze Medal and Distinguished Career Awards

NOAA AUDITORIUM | SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND
MAY 23, 2017

PROGRAM

WELCOME
Kimberlyn Bauhs
Director, Workforce Management Office

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Tishema Miller
Management and Program Analyst, Resources Management Division

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Benjamin P. Friedman
Deputy Under Secretary for Operations
Performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
NOAA Leadership Competencies Development Program Participants
Line and Staff Office Representatives

CLOSING
Kimberlyn Bauhs
Bronze Medal Award

The highest honor award granted by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, the Bronze Medal recognizes superior performance by federal employees.

National Environmental Satellite Date and Information Service

Dawn “Dee Dee” Anders
Steve Ansari
Steve DelGreco
Ed Kearns
Katy Matthews
Brian Nelson
Ryan Nelson
Doug Ross

For outstanding innovation and effort supporting NOAA’s public-private sector Big Data Partnership by enabling the use of Next Generation Radar data in the cloud.

Freeman B. Blackwell
Johnny R. Clark
Albert J. McMath
Van D. Crawford
Thomas E. Reynolds
William F. Nock
Mark O. Hall
Gregg Frostrom
Vernon E. McIntosh
Nathan B. Clark

Andre Hammond
Amy Bennett
James Schreiber
Brian Little
Chadd St. Pierre
Russell Dyson
Bruce Plott
Paul Haggerty
Donna McNamara
Linda Statthoplos

For developing, testing, and implementing solutions to establish a ground system to support NOAA’s Deep Space Climate Observatory mission.

GOES-R Ground Segment Project Schedule Management Team

For rescuing the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R Series IT System development by recovering 11 months of schedule to deliver the system on time to meet critical launch preparations.
Jerod W. Cook
For taking immediate action to save the lives of two fishermen whose boat had sunk while they were fishing for halibut in Alaska.

Robert Simons
For development of the ERDDAP web data service that has revolutionized public access to NOAA's data, and facilitated ecosystem based management.

Christopher D. Wilson
Alejandro De Robertis
Scott R. Furnish
For their novel application of trawl-resistant, bottom-mounted, autonomous echosounders to address fishery stock assessment needs.

Garwin Yip
Brycen Swart
Evan Sawyer
Brian Ellrott
Amanda Cranford
Eric Danner
Christina Durham
Rachel Johnson
Maria Rea
For efforts to protect the brood year of endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon during the fourth year of California's severe drought.

Jonathan A. Hare
Roger B. Griffis
Larry Alade
Antonie S. Chute
Kiersten L. Curti
Tobey H. Curtis
Daniel Kircheis
John F. Kocik
Sean M. Lucey
Camilla T. McCandless
Lisa M. Milke
David E. Richardson
Eric Robillard
Harvey J. Walsh
Michael A. Alexander (OAR)
For successful completion in NOAA of the first Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of fish and invertebrates.

Richard Merrick
Bonnie Ponwith
Russ Beard (NESDIS)
Mary Erickson (NOS)
Frank Parker (NOS)
Rebecca Allee (NOS)
Gary Matlock (OAR)
Lois Schiffer (OGC)
Chauncey Kelly (OGC)
Stephen Smith (CFO)
For establishing the RESTORE Act Science Program, an integrated partnership focused on Gulf of Mexico sustainability through applied ecosystem science.
National Marine Fisheries Service

Alaska Regional Office
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Office of the General Counsel,
   Alaska Section

For the careful analysis and successful legal defense of new measures to manage Alaska fisheries while protecting endangered Steller sea lions.

Highly Migratory Species
   Management Division
Southeast Regional Office Information
   Technology Branch
Southeast Regional Office Limited
   Access Privilege Programs/
   Data Management Branch
General Counsel for Fisheries and
   Protected Resources Section (OGC)

For innovative design of individual incentives, performance measures, and electronic monitoring to conserve bluefin tuna and yield economic benefits.
National Ocean Service

Jason Woolard
Jon Sellars

For professional excellence using cloud computing to improve quality, reduce cost, and accelerate delivery of emergency response imagery to all users.

National Weather Service

Daniel Baumgardt

For outstanding initiative, creativity, and achievement in the technical development of science-based operational forecasting tools across the National Weather Service.

Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade

For providing exceptional leadership that has resulted in a significant improvement in tsunami awareness and preparedness across the Caribbean Basin.

Brian Barjenbruch
Jacob Beitlich
Evan M. Bookbinder
John T. Ferree
Michael J. Hudson
Harold “Jim” Keeney, Jr.
Phillip Kurimski
Greg Mann
Richard Wagenmaker

For exceptional teamwork implementing Impact-Based Warnings, a pathfinding approach to improved information that helps build a Weather-Ready Nation.

Derek R. Deroche
Brian P. Walawender

For designing the Briefing Image Generator, a web-based graphics generator tool used to provide consistent impact-based decision support services.
Ronla Henry  
Bryan Ruby  
Joshua Watson  
William Gery  
Tony Freeman  
Ulysses Davis  
Eugene Petrescu  
Eric Lau  
Shannon White  
Steve Schotz  

For exemplary performance in the deployment of the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System II to all Forecast Offices.

Yuejian Zhu  
Dingchen Hou  
Shrinivas Moorthi  
Steven Earle  

For implementing Global Ensemble Forecast System to improve probabilistic guidance for public safety, quality of life and business decisions that drive U.S. economic growth.

Ocean Prediction Center  

For exemplary service during an exceptionally active 2015–2016 winter season, enabling mariners to take life- and property-saving precautions.
National Weather Service

Southeast River Forecast Center
Weather Prediction Center
Weather Forecast Office
Wilmington, NC
Weather Forecast Office
Charleston, SC
Weather Forecast Office Columbia, SC

For providing extraordinary decision support services to decision makers and the public saving lives during the historic flooding of October 2015 in South Carolina.

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Weather Forecast Office Lubbock, TX
Weather Forecast Office
Midland/Odessa, TX

For the accurate, long lead-time prediction of the historic and crippling Christmas Weekend Blizzard 2015 across eastern New Mexico and west Texas.

Weather Forecast Office Fairbanks, AK
Weather Forecast Office
Anchorage, AK
Alaska Regional Operations Center

For setting a new standard for service delivery and decision support serving core partners during the unprecedented 2015 Wildfire Season.

Weather Forecast Office New York, NY
Center Weather Service Unit,
New York
Weather Forecast Office Mt. Holly, NJ
Weather Forecast Office
State College, PA
Weather Forecast Office Pittsburgh, PA
Weather Forecast Office
Charleston, WV
Weather Forecast Office
Baltimore/Washington Center Weather Service Unit Leesburg
Weather Forecast Office Blacksburg, VA
Weather Forecast Office Wakefield, VA
Weather Forecast Office Paducah, KY
Weather Forecast Office Louisville, KY
Weather Forecast Office Jackson, KY
Weather Prediction Center
Ocean Prediction Center
National Aviation Meteorologists
Warrenton, VA

For extraordinary performance before, during, and after the historic Blizzard of January 2016.
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Eric J. Anderson
Greg A. Lang
John G.W. Kelley
Aijun Zhang

For successfully developing and transitioning the next-generation Lake Erie Operational Forecasting System into NOAA operations.

Simone Alin
Catherine Cosca
Richard Feely
Dwight Gledhill
Elizabeth Jewett
Jeremy Mathis
Christopher Sabine
Krisa Arzayus (NESDIS)
Russell Brainard (NMFS)
Zdenka Willis (NOS)

For creating the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network, a collaborative international approach to document the progress of ocean acidification.

Physical Sciences Division
Aircraft Operations Center (OMAO)
NOAA Ship Ronald H. Brown (OMAO)

For rapidly implementing and supporting a complex, multi-platform, multi-organizational field campaign to observe a rare, high-intensity El Nino event.
Office of
Marine and Aviation Operations

ENS Max Andersen
ENS Marybeth Head
Alex Ligon
LT Joseph Carrier
LT Matthew Forrest
RDML Shepard Smith
Kirk Andreopoulos
Michael Peperato
LT Damian Manda (NOS)
LT Eric Younkin (NOS)

For rapid integration and deployment of Autonomous Surface Vessels for hydrographic use aboard the NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*. 
Distinguished Career Award

NOAA’s Distinguished Career Award honors cumulative career achievement of sustained excellence, rather than a single defined accomplishment, in specific categories. In addition, this award recognizes significant accomplishments across all NOAA program areas and functions that have resulted in long-term benefits to our mission and strategic goals.

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National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service

Glenn Rutledge

For the continued outstanding leadership and innovation as program manager for National Centers for Environmental Information’s Climate Data Model Archive Program.
National Marine Fisheries Service

Richard Merrick
For sustained leadership in directing innovative scientific research and policies to solve complex problems throughout 31 years of service to NOAA.

Galen Tromble
For exemplary service to the nation, our fishery resources, and colleagues and constituents to conserve and manage fisheries for the benefit of all.

Barbara A. Schroeder
For leadership as the NMFS National Sea Turtle Coordinator during Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill response, damage assessment and early restoration.

James A. Bohnsack
For 32 years of sustained, distinguished public service and scientific achievement in understanding and improving coral reef ecosystem health.

Ann Matarese Kiernan
For achievement in life history research that provided foundational knowledge for ecosystem approaches to management.
National Ocean Service

Kathy Salter
For exceptional financial management, innovation, and development of the next generation of financial leaders.

Reed Bohne
For exceptional contributions to the management and growth of the National Marine Sanctuary and National Estuarine Research Reserve systems.

Norman Meade
For excellence in developing and applying innovative methods for assessing ecosystem services lost at pollution sites over 41 years of service to NOAA.

National Weather Service

Robert Hartman
For sustained leadership and service in pioneering the implementation of new technologies in hydrologic forecasting and in developing future leaders of the National Weather Service.

Richard Wagenmaker
For outstanding professional contributions to NOAA’s Great Lakes observations and services, and advancement of National Weather Service severe weather warning services.

Frederick Toepfer
For 29 years of continued achievements improving NOAA’s National Weather Service Hurricane Warning Services, Locally Severe Weather, and Winter Storm Warning Services.
Office of
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Ronald J. Stouffer
For pioneering the understanding of climate sensitivity through discovery of fundamental mechanisms and global Earth System modeling with 39 years of distinguished service.

Stephen R. Piotrowicz
For continued efforts in developing and managing NOAA’s ocean observing programs during a distinguished career of over 35 years.

Dian Seidel
For 30 years of sustained dedication, leadership excellence, and scientific contributions to NOAA’s climate science research program.

Under Secretary

Robert C. Hansen
For a highly successful, multi-faceted 40-year career particularly his ability to leverage his vast knowledge of the organization to the advancement of the agency.
Employees/Team Members of the Month

These awards reward excellence for demonstrated and sustained effort in advancing NOAA’s mission. The NOAA Employee of the Month Award honors an outstanding employee chosen from among all occupations and grade levels except members of the Senior Executive Service and Office Directors. The NOAA Team Member Award pays tribute to a non-NOAA employee.

December 2016
Kyle Ward, NOS
Rhonda Graves, CFO

January 2017
Patti Jones, NMFS
Lindsay Averill, OMAO

February 2017
Lans Rothfusz, OAR
Mark Wakeam, NWS

March 2017
Erin McNamara, OCFM
Emre Saricicek, NESDIS

April 2017
Frank J. Forbell, OMAO
Sarah Latshaw, NOS

May 2017
Adena G. Fritz, NWS
Michelle Clingan, NMFS
Department of Commerce
Gold and Silver Medal Honorees

The Gold Medal is the highest honorary award given by the Department, granted by the Secretary for distinguished performance characterized by extraordinary, notable, or prestigious contributions that impact the mission of the Department and/or one operating unit and that reflect favorably on the Department.

The Silver Medal is the second highest honorary award given by the Department, granted by the Secretary for exceptional performance characterized by noteworthy or superlative contributions that have a direct and lasting impact within the Department.

To warrant a Gold or Silver Medal, a contribution must focus on qualitative and quantitative performance measures reflected in the Department’s Strategic Plan and in one of the following areas:

- Leadership
- Personal and professional excellence
- Scientific/engineering achievement
- Organizational development
- Customer service
- Administrative/technical support
- Heroism

These awards were bestowed on September 27, 2016.
GOLD MEDAL AWARD

LEADERSHIP

James M. Roberts
Nominated by OAR for leading three field studies that revealed the cause of high-ozone episodes in Utah’s oil and gas fields and led to effective new regulations.

N. Michael Simpson
Douglas Biesecker (NWS)
Ronald Mahmot
Nancy DeFrancesco
Kevin Berberich
Richard Ullman
Jeffery Clegg
H. Douglas Whiteley
Irene Parker
Suzanne Hilding
Nominated by NESDIS for deploying the first operational space weather environmental spacecraft to provide storm warnings that protect the Nation’s critical infrastructure.

SCIENTIFIC / ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Kenneth L. Pryor
Nominated by NESDIS for developing the Microburst Windspeed Potential product from GOES-13/15 sounders, resulting in high accuracy for predicting thunderstorm downbursts.

Jeffrey S. Whitaker
Nominated by OAR for creating the 20th Century Reanalysis, the pioneering reconstruction of global weather and extremes using only surface pressure observations.

Jay Lawrimore
Anthony Arguez
Boyin Huang
Matthew Menne
Russell Vose
Huai-Min Zhang
Patricia Viva Banzon
Byron Gleason
Thomas Smith
Claude Williams
Nominated by NESDIS for ground-breaking research using NOAA’s global surface temperature dataset to show there was no “hiatus” in global warming over the past 15 years.
HEROISM

Sean P. Campbell
Nominated by OMAO for saving the life of a co-worker by administering first-aid on a remote mountain trail and then delivering him to the nearest medical facility.

Todd Nickerson
Nominated by NMFS for an act of heroism that saved the life of a badly injured driver trapped in an overturned vehicle.

Jeffrey Pollack
Grant Demesillo
Nominated by NMFS for their rapid and courageous response to a mayday call, saving nine crewmen adrift in heavy seas after their 95-foot tugboat sank miles offshore.
SILVER MEDAL AWARD

LEADERSHIP

Todd Smith
Mathew Gilmore
James Cassin
Scott Doyle
Jeffrey Ray
Jason Couse
Susan Oliver

Nominated by NMFS for investigative excellence in dismantling a $1.2 million conspiracy to illegally harvest summer flounder through NOAA’s Research Set Aside Program.

Mark Tew
Pablo Santos
David Sharp
Shannon White
Michael Dion
John Kuhn
Frank Alsheimer
Matthew Belk

Nominated by NWS for developing and implementing a new hurricane warning product to better protect lives and livelihoods during high impact tropical weather events.

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Greg Bast
Devin Brakob
Ken Heystek
Terry Lynch
Bill Olney
James Price (AGO)
Scott Price
Damon Sans Souci
Michael Silah
Mark Sweeney

Nominated by OMAO for being the first to deploy the T56 Series 3.5 package, an aircraft engine package that enhances NOAA’s mission while significantly cutting fuel use and pollution.

Diane Kapareiko
Dorothy Jeffress
Gary Wikfors

Nominated by NMFS for developing a probiotic bacterial strain to improve survival of oyster larvae and negotiating a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement for commercialization.
CUSTOMER SERVICE

Southern Region – National Weather Service

Nominated by NWS for exceptional forecasts and warnings and exemplary support during the historic and catastrophic flooding across Texas and Oklahoma in spring 2015.

ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Michael Blumenfeld
Olivia Bradley
Kelly Mabe
Mitchell Ross
Mike Kane (NWS)
Ben Kyger (NWS)
David Michaud (NWS)
John Potts (NWS)
Zach Goldstein (OCIO)
Shraddha Upadhyaya (DOC OGC)

Nominated by AGO for dedication in acquiring supercomputing capacity to advance production of the Nation’s operational numerical weather and climate forecast systems.
We appreciate the work of the many individuals across NOAA who contributed to our efforts to recognize our colleagues’ outstanding achievements.

Special thanks to:

The Nominators

Line and Staff Office Performance Management and Awards Committees

NOAA Incentive Awards Board Members

Line and Staff Office Incentive Awards Program Representatives
Charlene Dunn, CFO
Charmaine Jones, OCIO
Cynthia Way, OAR
Daria Webb, OCIO
Delores Frazier, NWS
Gregory Newton, OGC
Helen Buggs, OCAO
James Duncan, AGO
Kathy Lewis, ODUS
Keisha Palmer, OAR
Kevin Jackson, OMAO
Marie Toussaint, NMFS
Marielle Campbell, NESDIS
Nancy Jackson, OMAO
Nicole Scarborough, NESDIS
Octavia Saine, OGC
SheRee Lee, NMFS
Sloane Strother, NOS
Tishema Miller, OCIO
Tonjania Temple, WFMO

Workforce Management Office
Cynthia M. Davis
Karen Robin