

40 Years of Service-

Department for Children and Families-

James Fox- Jim is a lifelong Kansan who graduated from Wichita State University and began for the Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services not long after that. He has worked in various departments for the agency and has enjoyed a long employment history with the State and serving the children and families of Kansas.

Brenda Parrish- Brenda began her career as a clerk/steno II on May 17, 1977 and switched to a worker position in January of 1980. She worked as an I.M. Supervisor for 11 months before switching to an I.M. worker II position. She then transferred to Lawrence in July of 1992 where she still works as a Human Services Specialist.

Department of Corrections-

Carolyn Grillot- Carolyn is an Administrative Specialist and started her career at the Pittsburg Parole Office on June 29, 1977. She has worked for the agency for all 40 years and seen numerous changes. She has helped train Parole Officers and Parole Supervisors during her career and was also the Southern Parole Region Employee of the Year in 2001.

Department of Health and Environment-

Michael Cochran-Mike graduated from the University of Kansas in 1976 and began with the Dept. of Health and Environment as a Geologist in 1977. In 1979, he became the District Geologist in Chanute and later worked for the Corporation Commission. In 1986 Mike returned to KDHE where he still works today as the Geology and Well Technology Section Chief in the Bureau of Water.

Patti Croy-Patti began her career in 1976 for the Dept. of Transportation in the Inventory Section. She then transferred to the Dept. Health and Environment to work as an Environmental Technician. Today she is still with the Department and working in the Public Water Supply-Capacity Development/Enforcement Unit.

Alda LaCrone-Alda began her employment with the Dept. of Administration, Division of Personnel in 1976 as a Clerk Typist I. She has received various promotions throughout her career with various agencies. She currently works as an Administrative Assistant w/ KDHE in the Bureau of Environmental Remediation Storage Tank Unit.

Department of Revenue-

Belinda Clark-Belinda has spent her entire career with the Dept. of Revenue. Her first position was a Clerk Typist where she typed up dealer licenses and filed them. She has been promoted multiple times and is currently an Applications Programmer III. She has many memories of all the years and has seen many changes.

Peggy Frye-Peggy began with the Dept. of Revenue in April of 1977 as a Clerk Typist typing driver's license renewals on a manual typewriter. Peggy held various positions throughout her career with different agencies but returned to the Dept. of Revenue in 2000 where she currently resides as a Revenue Customer Rep Senior.

Department of Transportation-

Kenton Bahr-Kent has worked for the District Shop on 21st street his whole career. He began as an Auto Mechanics Helper on Sept. 13th 1976 and has been promoted several times. He is currently an Equipment Mechanic Senior.

Sherri Bain-Sherri began her career with the Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services in 1977 as a Key punch Operator. In 1987, she promoted to an Office Assistant with the Dept. of Transportation. Sherri currently works in the Bureau of Right of Right of Way as an Administrative Assistant.

Michael Montgomery- Mike started with KDOT on January 10, 1977 as a Custodial Worker. Mike promoted on June 2008 to a custodian specialist and has worked in the district shop on 21st street his whole career.

Thomas Wendell-Thomas began at the Beloit Subarea on January 3, 1977 as an Equipment Operator. He grew up on a farm South of Beloit with Beloit always being home. He continues to live on a farm and is looking forward to retirement next year.

Emporia State University-

Gloria Swift-Gloria was born and raised in Emporia. In December of 1975 she graduated from Kansas State Teachers College, now Emporia State University. She began her employment with ESU in October 1976 in their Business Office and in 1978 she transferred to the Office of International Education where she continues to work.

Judicial Branch-

Debbie Lemieux-Debbie's career started in July of 1974 as Secretary for the Adult Probation Office with the Chanute City Court. Court unification was in 1977 and that is when Debbie started with Neosho County Court Services which was with the 11th Judicial District then later with the 31st. She continues to work in Neosho and Allen counties as Secretary for Court Services. She has held the same position with the State of Kansas for over 40 years!!

Donna Oswald- Donna Oswald started her 40 Year career with the court system in Atchison County May 1977 as a secretary to the probation officer. She has served in various positions as a Trial Court Clerk, Court Transcriptionist, Administrative Assistant to the District Judges, and in 2000 was promoted to the Clerk of the District Court in Atchison County. Donna has always said she learned more about life from being in the courtroom than she could have ever learned out of a text book.

Kansas State University-

Gary Johnson-Gary began with KSU on August 24, 1976 and he has spent his entire career working for the Ahearn Sports Complex. The sporting complex has held many sporting events throughout the years and Gary has been active in making sure the complex is in excellent condition.

Ronald Pope-Ron began working for the KSU Animal Sciences and Industry Department in January 1977 as a Research Assistant, in charge of the Beef Research Unit. In January of 1992 his position changed to coordinating activities between the ASI livestock units, teaching an introductory lab, advising undergraduate students and hosting various tours. In addition to these duties he is also co-advising Block and Bridle Club, teaching Sheep Science and co-leading two study abroad trips to South Africa.

John Uthoff-John has served as lighting designer, scenic designer, sound designer, or technical director of more than 200 productions. These include musicals, dance concerts, operas, original scripts and many plays. He is also interested in International Design, and was involved with World Stage Design in Toronto, and has studied productions in Russia, Estonia, Finland, the Czech Republic and Canada.

Schools for the Deaf and Blind-

Madeleine Burkindine-Madeleine is the former Superintendent for the Kansas Schools for the Deaf and Blind. Madeleine began working summers at the School for the Blind while in college and began her teaching career full time from 1973-1977. In 1977, she became a part-time teacher before returning to full-time teaching in 1980. She was later chosen as Principal of the Kansas School for the Blind before becoming Superintendent for both schools on July 1st, 2007. She remained in that position until her recent retirement in July.

University of Kansas-

Debbie Elaine Forsyth-Debbie began with KU in 1976 as a Clerk Typist II working for the Director of the Institute for Social and Environmental Studies. She left KU briefly in 1978 and transferred to Pittsburg State University but returned to KU in the Fall of 1979. She currently works in the School of Business as a Senior Undergraduate Academic Advisor.

Richard Hermes- Rick started working at KU soon after graduating from KU. Working the entire time in administrative computing support. And being essentially on the same team, supporting the applications side of the student information system.

Linda Keeler- Dr. Keeler served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas School of Medicine after completing her residency and fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. She transferred to the position of psychiatrist on the University of Kansas campus in 1984 and has continued to provide for the psychiatric care and treatment of University of Kansas students at Counseling and Psychological Services on the Lawrence campus.

University of Kansas Medical Center-

Linda Redford- Dr. Linda Redford is Associate Research Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Associate Director of the Landon Center on Aging at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC). She has also served as a faculty member with the KU School of Nursing. Dr. Redford has worked as a community health nurse, nurse educator, researcher and administrator and is a frequent speaker at national meetings on aging and health-related topics.

Wichita State University-

Syed Taher-Dr. Taher joined Wichita State in 1976 and is an Associate Professor of Physics. Dr. Taher's research interests have been in solid state physics and Biophysics. He has over 30 research publications in national and international journals and over 50 presentations in national and international scientific conferences. In addition to serving on numerous faculty committees at WSU Dr. Taher has been nominated for the Board of Trustees Excellence Award, Effective Teaching awards.

Samuel Yeager- Samuel J. Yeager, Ph.D., University of Georgia, is a Professor and the Graduate Coordinator for the Master of Public Administration degree program, Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs, Wichita State University. His teaching and research interests are in organization theory and behavior, public administration, and ethics.

Winfield Correctional Facility-

Patrick Murphy-Pat began his employment with the State on August 18, 1976 at the Winfield State Hospital as a Laborer II. In January of 1980 he was reallocated to a Pro II and in 1983 his title was changed to Power Plant Operator II. Pat has worked many different positions at Winfield State Hospital and in 1997 his position at the time was changed to a Corrections Officer Trainee for the Winfield Correctional Facility. Pat remains there today as the Facilities Maintenance Supervisor in the Laundry where he has been since November of 2010.

50 Years State Service-

Department of Transportation-

George Dockery-

Graduate of the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Was first employed by Kansas Highway Commission on February 1, 1967. After completing a 2-year rotational training program, was assigned to the Iola Construction Office. In 1976, was promoted as the Resident Engineer in Pittsburg. In 1978 was promoted to be the Area Engineer in Area 4-District Four at Pittsburg. (one of the first Area Engineers in the state and has the most years serving as an Area Engineer.) Served on numerous state wide transportation committees. Served 30 years on the Advisory Board of the Construction Technology Program at Pittsburg State University. Married with three children and eight grandchildren.