

# United States Patent and Trademark Office CAREER SPOTLIGHT

VOLUME I ISSUE 12

APRIL 2008 | [www.usptocareers.gov](http://www.usptocareers.gov)



FORWARD  
THINKING

## Benefits/Feature: Saving for the future

Your career with the USPTO will not only take care of your life now, but help you prepare for your life after your career is over. We have several programs – retirement, savings bonds and our Thrift Savings Plan – that will help you ensure comfort and stability past your employment with USPTO.

### Retirement

U.S. Federal Government employee retirement is recognized as the gold standard for retirees nationwide and worldwide. Currently it is being made even better through the efforts of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Retirement Systems Modernization (RSM) Program.

### Savings Bonds

USPTO employees can participate in a Federal Investment Program that is focused on the long-term security and earning power of United States Government Savings Bonds.

### Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

The TSP is a retirement savings plan administered by The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board to provide Federal employees with many of the same savings and tax benefits that 401(k) plans offer the private sector.

## Living & Working in D.C.: Neighborhoods & their Nightlife

When you're looking for an evening out on the town, there are plenty of destinations within the D.C. metro area. In addition to having access to incredible music, art, history, food and more, there's also a wide variety of neighborhoods, each with its own atmosphere and attitude, in addition to plenty of restaurants, shops, bars and more.

**Old Town Alexandria.** One of the more historical areas, Old Town offers a family-oriented scene with plenty of shopping and dining. Right on the river, you'll have your pick of great seafood restaurants. It's a perfect afternoon destination on a nice day.

**Clarendon.** This Arlington, VA neighborhood has boomed with young post-college residents and attractions in recent years. There's a surplus of great neighborhood restaurants that turn into booming singles bars on the weekends.

**Adams Morgan.** 18th Street NW in Washington is home to a stretch of bars and restaurants of every kind. Whatever you're looking for – whether it's a jazz club or Ethiopian food – you can find in Adams Morgan. It's flooded with party goers on weekend nights, and a good place for a calm evening out during the week.

**Georgetown.** The neighborhood grew up around the university, so it attracts lots of young people as you might imagine. In addition to college bars, it's also home to some very upscale dining -- like the historic 1789 and Hook, which is quickly becoming one of the city's premiere restaurants. It's also a great shopping destination, with all of the names you'd expect to find in a nice mall.

**Capitol Hill.** This is the neighborhood where the federal government goes to loosen their ties after work. More of a pub and tavern scene, it's great for low-key but happening happy hours. Plenty of cafes and the famous Eastern Market make it a great spot to head on a weekend afternoon.

**Silver Spring.** This up-and-coming Maryland area has put a lot of focus on building up its nightlife in recent years. Opening music and art venues, it's becoming a cultural center with plenty of dining and drinking options, as well. In the summer, they welcome live music on an outdoor town center.

**U Street.** Historically, U Street was the epicenter of D.C.'s jazz scene. Now, it's home to some of the hippest bars and music venues in the area. This is the neighborhood where you'll find the city's bloggers and most happening young folks, typing away at the coffee shops by day, and throwing back pints by night. From lounges to dives, it's got something for anyone who likes things off the beaten path.

### Invention Trivia

Many of us would not be able to go about our daily routines without this invention to press away the wrinkles in our clothes. What is it?

Answer: The ironing board, which was invented by Sarah Boone and patented on April 26, 1892.

If you have questions, would like to opt-out of receiving future newsletters, or would like to change your email address for future newsletters, please contact [newsletter@uspto.gov](mailto:newsletter@uspto.gov) and reference USPTO Newsletter in the subject line.

## FROM PTO

For the month of March, a total number of 92 new employees joined the USPTO of which 83 were hired as new Patent Examiners.

As of March 31, the USPTO has received a total of 245,229 Utility, Plant, Reissue and Design applications, of which 166,313 have been filed electronically.

## FAST FACTS

### Spring Is In The Air: Horticultural Patents & Trademarks

Spring has sprung in the D.C. area, which means it's almost time to plant flowers and take care of your lawn. Here's a list of a few inventions that have had an impact on horticultural pastimes.

- On February 16, 1932 James Markham received the 1st fruit tree patent for a peach tree.
- In the same month, John Deere received a patent for ploughs on the 21st in 1865.
- One of the most famous agricultural inventors, Eli Whitney was granted a patent for his cotton gin in March of 1794.
- Helping good neighbors everywhere, Manning patented a mowing machine in May of 1831.
- Right in the PTO's back yard, Cyrus McCormick of Virginia patented the reaper for the cultivation of grain in June of 1834.

The very first plant patent was issued in 1949 to Henry Bosenberg of New Brunswick, NJ for a climbing rose.