

United States Patent and Trademark Office **CAREER SPOTLIGHT**

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**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.

The most well-known part of Washington, D.C. is, of course, our monuments. Now is the perfect time to take a tour of what sets the nation's capital apart. Here are a few great ways to see the sights.

Bike the Sites. There are a few companies, like Bike and Roll, that offer daily bicycle tours of the monuments. You can rent bikes and strollers, get guided tours, and even schedule group events.

Segway Tours. Cruise around the monuments on a Segway. You have to be at least 16 to take part in these tours, but for the older people in your family, it's a great way to explore the sites.

Cruise the Potomac. Why not enjoy the sites from the water? You can see the Kennedy Center, the Watergate Hotel, the Washington Monument, the Capitol and much more from the comfort of a riverboat on the Potomac. Some tours even take you to Old Town Alexandria.

Tour by Trolley. A guide will talk you through the history you're driving by as you see the city from an Old Town Trolley. You can even take a moonlight tour, to see the city in a whole new light.

Free and By Foot. Free walking tours of the monuments are hosted daily by DC By Foot. Starting May 15, the tours take off 3 times a day – at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Meet near the Washington Monument at the Northeast corner of 15th & Constitution to join in the fun.

Additionally, be sure to explore some of D.C.'s women's historical sites such as the [National Museum of Women in the Arts](#), [Daughters of the American Revolution Museum](#), and [Mary McLeod Bethune Council National Historic site](#), to name a few.

Invention Trivia

Which of the following was invented by a woman?

- a) Alternating Current
- b) Bakelite
- c) Windshield Wipers
- d) Band-Aid

Answer: Windshield Wipers. Mary Anderson was issued a patent for the windshield wipers in 1905.

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 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.