



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

# BUCKLE UP AMERICA! NOW

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## Tennis Stars Venus and Serena Williams Join Buckle Up America!

**December 21, 1999. West Palm Beach, Florida.** Calling them our “Newest Ambassadors for Safety,” Secretary Rodney Slater and NHTSA Acting Administrator Rosalyn Millman welcomed tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams as partners in the *Buckle Up America!* Campaign.

At the Palm Beach Lakes Community High School in the sisters’ hometown, Secretary Slater said, “Because of their strong commitment to America’s youth and their well known devotion to community service, the Williams sisters have agreed to partner with the Department of Transportation to promote proper seat belt use among children and young adults, particularly among African Americans who have a higher than average risk of dying in a motor vehicle crash. We hope that through the Williams’ sisters personal commitment to the *Buckle Up America!* campaign, millions of America’s teenagers will hear and heed the lifesaving message to buckle up.”

The new Williams sisters “Tennis is a game... Life is not. BUCKLE UP.” television and radio PSAs are part of a comprehensive public education campaign. In addition to PSAs,

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## Completion of First Part of Metropolitan Branch Trail Opens as Part of Millennium Trails

by Marietta Pearson,  
OTICP

**October 26, 1999.  
Washington, DC.**  
U.S. Department of  
Transportation staff,  
including Secretary Rodney  
Slater and representatives

from NHTSA and FHWA, joined members of the Congressional Bike Caucus, local officials and others from the cycling community for a ribbon cutting for the Metropolitan Branch Trail, making it easier to connect with other trails in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County. Along with Secretary Slater, D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congressman James Oberstar,

Congressman Earl Blumenthauer, D.C. Department of Public Works Director Cel Bernadino and others participated in the cutting of the ribbon on the first .9-mile segment of the Metropolitan Branch Trail. This segment of the trail, funded with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds totaling \$1.9 million provided by FHWA, will allow bicyclists and other trail users to go from Union Station to Silver Spring, parallel to Metro’s Red Line where it will join the Capital Crescent Trail.

The Metropolitan Branch Trail is one of 50 Millennium Legacy Trails designated in 47 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico

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## Tennis Stars Venus and Serena Williams Join *Buckle Up America!*

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the *Buckle Up America!* Campaign also will receive photos of the Williams sisters for public education efforts such as posters, exhibit boards, brochures and other promotional material.

According to a study on seat belt use by Meharry Medical College of Nashville, Tennessee and General Motors Corp., African American youth are 50 percent less likely to be buckled than whites or Hispanics. The Meharry study also observed that 100 percent use by African Americans could save as many as 1,300 lives per year and prevent 26,000 injuries at a cost savings of nearly \$2.6 billion.

Serena was enthusiastic, expressing delight at being part of such an important public safety issue. Venus told the students in attendance that when she's driving, she insists that her passengers wear a seat belt, or they don't ride with her.

Clearly, the sisters are great role models to carry the message about the life saving benefits of seat belts into the new century. ■



Venus and Serena Williams with their parents join Secretary Slater in Florida to launch the new *Buckle Up America!* public service announcements.

## A Note of Thanks



Herman L. Simms, Associate Administrator for Administration received a token of appreciation at the recent Administrator's Awards Ceremony from Fran Backer, Director of the Carpenter's Homeless shelter located in Alexandria, Virginia. The award was presented on behalf of the staff and volunteers from the Administration for a recent donation of used computers to various schools throughout the country and to some local non-profit organizations. According to Ms. Becker, clients are now able to work on job applications to gain employment. "This wonderful gift made our dreams come true," she said. ■

## Completion of First Part of Metropolitan Branch Trail Opens as Part of Millennium Trails

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and the Virgin Islands. The Millennium Trails were announced October 21, 1999 at a White House ceremony featuring First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary Slater, and state and local officials from across the country. Millennium Trails is a national initiative of the White House Millennium Council in

partnership with the Department of Transportation that will recognize, promote and stimulate the creation of trails to "honor the past and imagine the future" as part of America's legacy for the year 2000.

For more information on Millennium Trails, contact [www.whitehouse.gov/Initiatives/Millennium/trails.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/Initiatives/Millennium/trails.html). ■



Pictured, left to right: Jeff Olson, OST; Maria Vegega, NHTSA; Secretary Slater; Marietta Pearson, NHTSA.

# *Laissez le bon temps rouler!* The Irrepressible Crew of SCS Earns Accolades for This Year's CFC Hoe-down on the Banks of the Big Muddy

By *Anonymous*,  
Office of State and Community Services

December 15 was the big day: the Sixth Annual Gourmet Luncheon, sponsored by State and Community Services in support of the Combined Federal Campaign. The theme this year was *Mardi Gras*. The SCS staff transformed themselves and their digs into *The Big Easy Cafe*, an authentic Bourbon Street bistro complete with purple and green streamers, tinsel curtains, wild masks, outlandish costumes, an authentic voodoo queen-cum-tarot-dealer and approximately 27,562 pounds of truly tasteless necklaces of beads, beads, beads. All of this, of course, was just to provide the proper atmosphere for a mouth-watering barrage of Pat O'Brien's Hurricanes, Barbecue Shrimp Remoulade, Creole Salad, Cajun Chicken, Red Beans and Rice, Jalepeno Corn Bread and Beignets with Fruit — all easily living up to its advance billing as “the best New Orleans eatin’ this side of Lake Pontchartrain... or maybe, Iraq.”

The Guest of Honor at this Ragin’ Cajun Carnival was Sandra Dickerson of Exec Sec, who graciously shared her good fortune with office mates Nicole Graham and Jaimme Riano, and Alice Dyson of the Front Office. They paraded to lunch to the tune of *The Saints Go Marching In*, accompanied by the entire SCS crew: Brad Johnson, Ron Filbert, Carmen Hayes, Marlene Markison, Jack Oates, Adele Derby, Pearlie Joyner, Ed Pacchetti, Antoine Clark, Joan Tetrault, Chester Jourdan and Peggy Barker. Along the parade route, they encountered many a NHTSA colleague, green-eyed with jealousy,

each of whom was constrained to don one of the garish, beaded necklaces.

An otherwise splendid occasion was disturbed by a brief moment of panic, when the revelers realized there was no one available to snap the camera as the staff posed with their guests. Quickly to the rescue came the intrepid *Cathy Hickey*. With her usual cheerful aplomb, smiling and graceful as always, she clicked away, producing the lovely photo accompanying this article.

As the meal drew to a close, Sandra,

Nicole, Alice and Jaimme sipped tall glasses of chicory-laced and heavily sweetened iced tea, and listened to the SCS acappella chorus’ stirring rendition of Johnnie Horton’s immortal paean to the Crescent City, *The Battle of New Orleans*. Finally, they joined the staff, several passers-by, some folks from the IG’s office and at least two people who wandered in looking for HUD, in the closing parade, accompanied once more by the strains of *The Saints Go Marching In*. Another unforgettable culinary experience had come to an end. After bidding the guests *au revoir*, the still-costumed staff hastily beat feet for the Administrator’s Holiday Party, where they completed their own degradation by consuming most of the food while festooning innocent party-goers (including several current and former Administrators) with the obnoxious @##!%\$%##@ beaded necklaces. ■



The staff of SCS and the lucky diners!

## The Washington Auto Show: NHTSA is There

**December 26 – January 3, 2000.** The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) and Planning and Consumer Programs teamed up to promote their safety programs at the 58th Annual Washington Auto Show. The NHTSA booth featured the Hotline exhibit and a wide range of literature, including the new brochure from Planning and Consumer Programs, “Buying a Safer Car 2000”, and literature on child safety seats and *Buckle Up America!* from Traffic Safety Programs.

Volunteers from the two offices were on hand to distribute the literature and answer questions about NHTSA’s safety programs from a steady stream of visitors. The volunteers who staffed the booth were Scotty York,

Kelly Schuler, Darlene Curtin, Barbara Jackson, Rhonda Dinello, Gladys Hutcherson, Larry Long, Peter Kivett, Greg Magno, John Abbott, and Tom Cooper.

This year’s show was one of the largest ever, with an approximate attendance of 702,420. More than 500 new makes and models were on display. ■





## Recent People Saving People/Teamwork Leadership Challenge Awards

Tilda Proctor For her outstanding service as the Executive Assistant to the Chief Counsel.	NOA	Tom Hollowell Lori Summers Lee Franklin Ellen Martin William Fan Darlene Curtin Charlie Case Zack Fraser Joan Tetrault	NRD NRD NRD NOA NPS NPS NSA NSA NSC	JoeAnn O'Hara William Quade In recognition of participation on the evaluation team to award Discretionary Cooperative Agreements to Support Seat Belt Enforcement in Major Metropolitan Areas.	NTS
Earleen Hughes In recognition for six months of exceptional service to state officials requesting assistance from the Office of Civil Rights.	NOA			Lori Miller Tina Foley Cathy Hicky Darlene Curtin George Mouchahoir Roger Kurrus Karen Scott Joan Tetrault Cheryl Neverman	NTS NOA NOA NPS NPS NPS NTS NSC NTS
George Quick For the hard work and dedication towards the success of the Hispanic Heritage month celebration.	NOA	For their participation with the Kids and Air Bags working group. They worked diligently to discuss and develop policy options for management decision on a number of issues related to transporting children.		Lynn Castro In recognition of participation on the ad hoc Child Passenger Safety Government/Industry Government planning committee.	Contractor
Phyllis Alston In recognition for planning and implementing NHTSA's National Hispanic Heritage month activities.	NOA	Stephen Summers John Lee Don Willke Jing Wang Susan Partyka Steve Duffy	NRD NPS NRD NPP NPS Contractor	Lori Miller JoAnn Murianka Rhonda Dinello James Onder Alan Block Edward Pacchetti Cheryl Neverman	NTS NTS NPS NTS NTS NSC NTS
Pamela Anikeeff Peggy Barker Barbara Carnes Catha Cummings Earleen Hughes Barbara Jackson Brenda Jones Delia Lopez Paulette Rucker	NTS NSC NPP NTS NOA NSA NRD NPS NAD	In recognition for their outstanding teamwork in the preparation and delivery of the "Ejection Mitigation Using Advanced Glazing: Status Report II".			
		Susan Ryan Luis DelRio Sandi Usher William Kootsikas Jennifer Scofield Barbara Sauers James Fell Amy Berning James Wright Robert Hohn Charles Peltier Sandy Richardson Kathryn Henry	NTS NTS NTS Reg. IV NSC NTS NTS NTS NTS NTS NTS NTS NOA	In recognition of participation on the evaluation team to award Discretionary Cooperative Agreements Supporting Innovative Programs to Increase Booster Seat and Seat Belt Use Among Children.	
Marcia Robertson In recognition for her work in coordinating and assembling the air bag supplemental notice for Federal Register publication.	NCC			Catherine Larsen Bob Ross Jack Oates Rose Watson	NTS NTS NSC NAD
LaVerne Watkins In recognition for helping assemble the air bag supplemental notice for Federal Register publication.	NCC			For going beyond the call of duty reviewing and rating the proposals for the State Association of Chiefs of Police in a very short time frame.	
Cathy Gotschall Deidre Fujita Lori Miller Rebecca MacPherson Randa Samaha Ed Glancy Chip Chidester Rae Tyson Matt Maltese Clarke Harper Phil Gulak JoAnn Murianka	NPP NCC NTS NCC NRD NCC NRD NOA NRD NPS NTS NTS	<b>Certificates of Appreciation</b>  K. Craig Allred Susan Malkoney In recognition for their leadership in developing and completing the Comprehensive Impaired Driving Program Guide.  Philip Gulak Jack Oates Amy Berning Janice Hartwill-Miller	Utah HSO Connecticut HSO	Jonathan White For being instrumental in preparing and presenting a technical presentation and working with the delegates to enhance their understanding of the Safety Defects Program in the United States.	NSA
				Arlene Harley For her initiative, assistance, and prompt response in producing and mailing invitation letters to law enforcement officers and their supervisors.	NTS

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Kathryn Henry  
Editor

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### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**"No matter how small, acknowledge the achievement."**