



Our Mission
The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support restitution, rehabilitation and successful community intergration

**Class 255 Graduates
 Two Managers Also Sworn In**

The recent graduation ceremony of Class 256 on Wednesday, September 4, at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development was a cause for multiple celebrations. Not only did 120 correctional professionals join the agency’s ranks, but in addition two recently promoted managers were officially sworn in. One of the highlights of the graduation was the rousing rendition of the Star Spangled Banner provided by Parole Manger Leigh Ware. Commissioner James E. Dzurenda approached the podium and addressed the audience.

see [Support Them/page 7](#)



Commissioner Dzurenda addresses Class 255.

September 12, 2013
 through
 October 24, 2013

Distributed monthly
 to 6,200 staff
 and via the Internet
 throughout Connecticut
 and the nation
 by the
 Department of Correction
 24 Wolcott Hill Road
 Wethersfield, CT 06109

From the Commissioner



Every month it seems like more and more staff members are reaching their 20 year mark and choosing to retire. Yet despite the fact that our agency continues to experience change and turnover, let me assure you that we will continue to fulfill our mission of public safety.

I know that it is very difficult to replace the years of correctional experience and knowledge that is lost when a seasoned officer walks out of a facility for the last time, but that is exactly what we must do. Let us not forget that those now eligible for retirement, were once “rookies” too. Moving forward, we shall continue to maintain safe, secure, and humane correctional facilities, as well as continue to work with offenders to prepare them to become law abiding citizens through our re-entry efforts. To that end we are in the midst of replenishing our ranks with three consecutive pre-service classes. With the recent graduation of Class 255 there are an additional 117 correction officers now working in our facilities.

see [Replenishing the Ranks /page 8](#)

Dannel P. Malloy
 Governor

James E. Dzurenda
 Interim Commissioner

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Fast, Fearless, First Responders

The aftermath of a terrible car accident that occurred on August 30, on Shaker Road near the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution, could have been much worse if not for the fast and selfless response of several members of the Connecticut Department of Correction.

The accident, a head-on collision between a minivan carrying a mother and her three young children and a tractor-trailer, happened at approximately 2:15 p.m. on Shaker Road in front of the credit union. The white minivan came to rest off to the side of the road. Parts from the vehicle including a tire, bumper and what looked like the engine block lay scattered across the road.



The aftermath of the truck vs. minivan accident on Shaker Road.

Correction officers Carlos Wilson of the Enfield Correctional Institution and Christopher Jones with the Central Transportation Unit were at the credit union at the time of the crash. As the first responders to the scene, they approached the badly damaged car, which was leaking gasoline, to check on the occupants. The two officers proceeded to rescue the three children including an infant in a car seat – removing them from the vehicle and bringing them to safety. The mother was trapped in the wreckage and had to be freed by firefighters using the Jaws of Life hydraulic equipment. The driver of the tractor-trailer did not appear to be hurt.

Among the several staff members who assisted at the scene of the crash included officer Aaron Bowman of the K9 Unit who kept the five-year-old boy calm while attending to his facial wounds.

Carl Robinson Correctional Institution's warden, Christine Whidden, worked with members of the Enfield Police Department to help coordinate the response to the accident. Initially, preparations were made for LIFE STAR to land in the parking lot of Carl Robinson, but in the end all the victims were transported to area hospitals by ambulance.

DOC staff members and emergency responders were amazing and the incident was managed proficiently and with dignity, said warden Whidden. "I was proud to be there and represent our agency with such a dedicated and professional group of individuals."

The warden was not the only one impressed with the heroic actions of the Department of Correction staff members. Gary Wiemokly, the chief of the Enfield Emergency Medical Services, was moved to write a letter to Commissioner James E. Dzurenda, extolling the extraordinary efforts of the department's staff members.

In his letter he wrote, "I wanted to take a moment and acknowledge them for going above and beyond in providing care that they could, and comfort that they provided the victims. Most of their attention was focused upon two children injured in this crash."

He went on to add: "...I wish to extend a gracious thank you to these men and women who did the right thing, extended themselves, and reached out to those in trouble on this day. I do not know their names, but I know they are an example of the best in your department. The family that received their attention I am sure is grateful beyond measure and if they were aware of the actions of these men and women, they would thank them as well. Please thank them for all they do."

Prison Opens its Doors

The Hartford Correctional Center Hosts Open House

With newly made signs and lots of fresh paint, the staff of the Hartford Correctional Center welcomed family and friends to an open house on August 23. The event, which ran from noon to 8:00 p.m., included tours of the facility, demonstrations by various tactical units, and refreshments.

Adults and children alike were able to see essentially every aspect of the facility including: administrative, school, medical, counseling, intake and processing, and even an empty housing unit.

Staff was pleased with the turnout, as a stream of visitors (that seemed to increase as the day went on) came to see where their loved ones worked. Several children proudly wore the toy Department of

2013 Hartford Correctional Center Annual Awards

Teacher of the Year
Military Prestige Award
Supervisor of the Year
Manager of the Year
Officer of the Year
Excellence in Training
Kitchen Employee of the Year
Counselor of the Year
Maintenance Employee of the Year
Religious Employee of the Year
Correctional Clerical of the Year
Warden's Award 2013
Distinguishing Service Award 2013
Distinguishing Service Award 2013
Employee of the Year 2013
Health Service Emp. of the Year
Department of the Year 2013

Frances Cohen, SST
Patrick Forde, Correction Officer
Alan Kaminski, SN-CF
Greg Conashevick, Lieutenant
Jose Santiago, Correction Officer
Robert Hetrick, Correction Officer
Robert Turgeon, CFSSII
Ruth Jansen, Corr. Counselor
Matthew Pioggia, Locksmith
William McKissick, Chaplain
Joyce Scarlett, Secretary II
Evelyn Castro, Office Assistant
Robert Dale, Correction Officer
Scott Jowett, Correction Officer
Marlyn Moore, Medical Rec. Spec.
Larry Spencer, Corr. Nurse
Correctional Counselors



Correction Officer Marco Correia leads a tour of the Hartford Correctional Center.

Correction PRIDE badges they received upon entering the facility. Some of the more adventurous children even tried on CERT gear. Among the favorite demonstrations was that of the department's K9 Unit.

Warden Walter Ford seized the opportunity to acknowledge all the hard work of his staff - not only in preparing for the open house, but throughout the year as well - when he presented certificates to the facility's Annual Award winners.

By all accounts the open house, the first in several years at Hartford, was an overwhelming success. "A lot of people worked really hard to make this happen," said Warden Ford. "They deserve all the credit."

Who's In Connecticut Prisons?

Mary Lansing, Associate Research Analyst in the MIS-Research unit, has been working over the past year with the Connecticut Sentencing Commission's Research, Measurement and Evaluation Committee to prepare for a presentation about the demographics, offenses and sentences of Connecticut offenders. The co-chairs of the Committee, Central Connecticut State University Dean Susan Pease and Public Defender Thomas Ullmann asked for a Power Point presentation, which



Associate Research Analyst Mary Lansing (R), with the Honorable Robert J. Devlin at the Criminal Division Judges' Seminar.

they entitled, "Who's in Connecticut's prisons?" The slides prepared by Mary Lansing and Associate Research Analyst Nancy Dittes are based on a snapshot of May 1, 2013, and show data from that day analyzed from various perspectives. Ms. Lansing also collaborated with the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (Probation) and the Criminal Motor Vehicle System, to include their data in the presentation as well. Ms.

Lansing gave the presentation to the entire Sentencing Commission on June 20th at the Legislative Office Building. Karl Lewis, Director of Offender Classification and Population Management, also attended to help field questions from the Commission.

The Sentencing Commission, created in early 2011 by a Public Act, is responsible for the ongoing review of the existing sentencing structure in the state, as well as for making recommendations concerning sentencing statutes, policies and practices. Department of Correction Commissioner James Dzurenda, is one of the 23 members of the Commission.

At the conclusion of the June 20 presentation, Chief Administrative Judge for the Criminal Division, the Honorable Robert J. Devlin, Jr. asked Ms. Lansing to give the presentation as part of the Criminal Division Judges' Seminar on September 25 and 26, which she did.

The Power Point slideshow can be seen on the department intranet website - DOCWEB at: http://docweb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2570:ct-sentencing-commission-presentation&catid=45&Itemid=62

Around the Cell Block



PENNSYLVANIA -The state's Office of Victim Advocate administers a coordinated program with the Department of Corrections called the Inmate Apology Bank (IAB), the voluntary program provides an avenue by which crime victims can receive an apology from their offender without having direct contact. As of August, 537 inmate apology letters have been submitted and 96 crime victims have registered to receive letters.

MINNESOTA - Prison Officials will allow sex offenders in the state's high-security treatment program to marry one another. Three pairs of men in treatment at the state facility in Moose Lake are seeking marriage licenses following Minnesota's new gay marriage law, which took effect Aug. 1.

*Total
Supervised
Population
on
October 24, 2013*

21,251

*On October 24, 2012
the population was
21,249*

Did You Know?



“Did You Know” is an informational column aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This article was compiled by Public Information Officer Andrius Banevicius. Any questions related to this article may be answered by contacting him at 860-692-7780. If you have any questions, or have an idea for a future column, please leave a message at 860-692-7780.

Why Do Leaves Change Color in the Fall?

The colors we see in fall are always present, but normally they’re hidden from view.

Not all leaves turn vivid colors in the fall. What type of trees—and weather—produce the most vivid fall foliage? Only a few of our many species of deciduous trees—notably maple, aspen, oak, and gum—produce stellar performances for our annual autumn spectacular in North America.

Several factors contribute to fall color (temperature, precipitation, soil moisture), but the main agent is light, or actually the lack of it. As the autumn days grow shorter, the reduced light triggers chemical changes in deciduous plants causing a corky wall to form between the twig and the leaf stalk.

This “abscission layer” eventually causes the leaf to drop off in the breeze. As the corky cells multiply, they seal off the vessels that supply the leaf with nutrients and water and also block the exit vessels, trapping simple sugars in the leaves. The combination of reduced light, lack of nutrients, and no water add up to the death of the pigment chlorophyll, the “green” in leaves.

Once the green is gone, two other pigments show their bright faces. These pigments, carotene (yellow) and anthocyanin (red), exist in the leaf all summer but are masked by the chlorophyll. (The browns in autumn leaves are the result of tannin, a chemical that exists in many leaves, especially oaks.)

Sugar trapped in autumn leaves by the abscission layer is largely responsible for the vivid color. Some additional anthocyanins are also manufactured by sunlight acting on the trapped sugar. This is why the foliage is so sparkling after several bright fall days and more pastel during rainy spells. In general, a set growing season followed by a dry autumn filled with sunny days and cool, frostless nights produces the most vibrant palette of fall colors.

Just as April showers bring May flowers, overnight temperatures in the 40s contribute to the vibrancy of autumn leaves. Some of the conditions needed for rich fall color is a rainy June, no strong winds and plenty of sunny summer days. This year, Connecticut’s weather has had all of the above.

Of course, if freezing temperatures and a hard frost hits, it can kill the process within the leaf and lead to poor fall color. Also, drought conditions during late summer and early fall can trigger an early “shutdown” of trees as they prepare for winter, causing leaves to fall early from trees without reaching their full color potential.

While tradition has it that Columbus Day weekend is when the color peaks in New England, the mythical maximum occurs in northern Maine in mid- to late September and “travels” south, reaching the Connecticut shore by late October. Colors tend to last the longest in the Connecticut River Valley, up as far as Moodus, Chester and Deep River. Also, a drive along the tree-lined Merritt Parkway or beside the Naugatuck River on Route 8 can provide stunning views.



Weather conditions earlier in the year were perfect for creating an excellent fall foliage season.

Witness to History

As the nation observed the 50th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s iconic "I Have a Dream" speech on Wednesday, August 28, 2013, most of us can only imagine what it must have been like to be there and hear one of the most famous speeches ever given. However, Correctional Substance Abuse Counselor Gwendolyn Dunson does not need to use her imagination, because she was there.

In the summer of 1963, Ms. Dunson, was enrolled as a rising sophomore at the University of Connecticut, when a reverend from a local church came over to their house and asked permission to take her and her brother on a trip to Washington D. C. to attend the March on Washington.

"Being only 19 years old at the time, I didn't really understand the significance of what was taking place – I wasn't really politically active" she said. "I understood after I heard Dr. King's speech."

Ms. Dunson, whose spry appearance belies her age, began working at the Department of Correction in 2007. After retiring from Southern New England Telephone in 1986, she worked as a substitute teacher in the Hartford school system for 18 years. On the 50th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s, speech, Ms. Dunson made her own speech, briefly addressing staff during roll call, reminding them of the historic event, and letting them know that she was there.

In Washington D.C., thousands of people once again descended on the Lincoln Memorial to commemorate the



Correctional Substance Abuse Counselor Gwendolyn Dunson.



The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. giving his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington D.C.

occasion. Joined by former presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, President Obama paid homage to Dr. King and others involved in the civil rights era. "And because they kept marching, America changed," President Barak Obama said. "Because they marched, the civil rights law was passed. Because they marched, the voting rights law was signed."

While paying homage to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, President Obama also issued a call to arms for the next generation of Americans. "To dismiss the magnitude of this progress — to suggest, as some sometimes do, that little has changed — that dishonors the courage and the sacrifice of those who paid the price to march in those years," Mr. Obama

said as Dr. King's relatives, compatriots and admirers watched. "But we would dishonor those heroes as well to suggest that the work of this nation is somehow complete. This remains our great unfinished business, we shouldn't fool ourselves. The task will not be easy."

At 3 p.m., bells rang across the country and the world to commemorate the moment that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his speech.

The bell that rang at the Lincoln Memorial had been salvaged from the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., which was bombed on Sept. 15, 1963, killing four girls. The bombing, which came shortly after Dr. King's speech, was a turning point in the civil rights movement. In Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall tolled for the occasion.

Special Delivery

Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center's Grounds Officer Joe Schoonmaker recently dropped off a pickup truck load of vegetables that were donated from Corrigan-Radgowski and York Correctional Centers' gardens to the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport.



Officer Joseph Schoonmaker delivers a virtual cornucopia of produce to the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport.

The Thomas Merton Center was founded in 1974 by a group of concerned individuals who saw a need for services to the economically disadvantaged people in the city of Bridgeport. Over the years the Center's staff has developed programs that address issues such as housing, nutritional needs, healthcare needs, parenting issues and youth at risk. The Thomas Merton House of Hospitality provides breakfast, lunch and day shelter Monday-Saturday to approximately 300 people daily.

Support Them

from page 1

At one point during his remarks, he turned his attention specifically to the family members of the new graduates. The Commissioner implored them to be supportive of the new officers, though he acknowledged that at times it would not be easy.

"Don't get mad at them when they tell you they have to work a double," he said. "They don't have a choice."

The ceremony moved on to the main event, the presentation of certificates and badges to the graduates. A total of 117 correction officers, one general maintenance officer, one commissary operator, one correctional food service supervisor made up the graduating class. Many of them paused on stage to allow their loved ones to photograph them with Commissioner James E. Dzurenda.

With all the graduates having made their way across the stage, Commissioner Dzurenda officially swore in the members of Class 255. The focus of the ceremony then turned to the swearing in of the new Director of Human Resources, Susan Smedes, and the Deputy Warden at the Bridgeport Correctional Center, Kim Jones.

Following a benediction, the department's honor guard retired the colors, and the graduates processing out of the auditorium ready to start their careers.

Years of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of August 2013

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Calkins, Dale	Cmissry. Oper.	Cen. Off.	8/20/1993
Dolan, Dennis	Chaplain	York CI	8/6/1993
Marto, Paul	Electrician	York CI	8/20/1993
Rosato, Saverio	Gen. Main. Off.	MWCI	8/20/1993
Zimmerman, Michael	Electrician	CRCI	8/20/1993

Years of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of July 2013

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>HireDate</u>
Alexander, Bart	Lieutenant	Cen. Off.	7/23/1993
Arline, Tyrvonder	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	4/16/1993
Baker, Danya	Correctional Captain	MYI	6/11/1993
Barry, Patrick	Correction Officer	York CI	7/23/1993
Beaudoin, Paul	Food Serv. Sup. 2	Cen. Off.	7/9/1993
Cascella, Ronald	Lieutenant	Cen. Off.	7/23/1993
Chicano, Jeremy	Correction Officer	Garner CI	6/11/1993
Colon, Luis	Correction Officer	Northern CI	7/23/1993
Culhane, Dennis	Correction Officer	WCCI	7/23/1993
Garcia, Paul	Correction Officer	Hartford CC	7/23/1993
Howes, Jeff	Correction Officer	CRCC	7/23/1993
Kinney, Donald	Correction Officer	York CI	7/23/1993
Kurtzenacker, William	Correction Officer	CRCC	7/23/1993
Martin, Chad	Correction Officer	CRCC	7/23/1993
McLeod, Susan	Indry. Sup.1	Garner CI	7/23/1993
Muhammad, Nasif	Chaplain	BCC	7/1/1993
O'Grady, Robert	Chaplain	Hartford CC	7/1/1993
O'Neill, Scott	Counselor	MWCI	3/19/1993
Perez, Carlos	Correction Officer	Northern CI	7/23/1993
Pollard, James	Lieutenant	Cen. Off.	7/23/1993
Read, Brenda	Correction Officer	Northern CI	7/23/1993
Robinson, James	Correction Officer	Hartford CC	7/23/1993
Rodriguez, Raymond	Correction Officer	Hartford CC	7/23/1993
Sanabria, George	Correction Officer	WCCI	7/23/1993
Schmidt, William	Rec. Supervisor	Enfield CI	7/23/1993
Smith, Allen	Lieutenant	BCC	7/23/1993
Sullivan, Cyril	Correction Officer	York CI	7/23/1993
Trotman, Sidney	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	3/19/1993
Ward, Harold	Correction Officer	York CI	7/23/1993
Wilks, Kenton	Correction Officer	York CI	7/23/1993

Employees with 25 Years of Service as of July 2013

Johnson, Mary	Rec. Spec. 2	MWCI	7/29/1988
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Employees with 35 Years of Service as of July 2013

Parks, Kevin	Correction Officer	BCC	7/14/1978
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Replenishing the Ranks from page 1

Following on their heels is Class 256, which graduates on November 6; an additional 87 officers will be added to the fray. Last but certainly not least Class 257, which began their training in early October, consists of 42 correction officers, 7 counselor trainees, 5 state school teachers, 1 general maintenance officer, 1 commissary operator, 2 chaplains, and 1 rabbi.

On top of the three pre-service classes, we are in the process of requesting approval from the State's Office of Policy and Management to hire an additional 400 correction officers.

We have also recently completed the interviews for the two vacant Deputy Warden positions. Let me just say, that I was extremely impressed with the quantity of quality candidates for the position. It is going to be a tough task to choose just two individuals from such a qualified group.

Whether you are a deputy warden, a counselor, or a correction officer, our duty of protecting the public, our fellow staff, and the offender population is the responsibility of all of us who work within the correctional environment. I have full faith that the veteran staff will help new staff members adapt and adjust to their new roles.

Let me take this opportunity to once again welcome our newest staff members to what I am sure will be a rewarding career. I want to also thank the veteran staff members for mentoring the next wave of staff, and by doing so, ensuring that we remain among the finest correctional agencies in the nation.