



**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 successful community reintegration.*

**From the Commissioner:**



As you may be aware by now, I have agreed to stay on and delay my retirement while a national search is conducted to fill the void left by the retirement of Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz. It shall truly be an honor to serve as your interim commissioner.

Though our agency will be experiencing unprecedented change and turnover, I stand confident that this Department shall continue to fulfill our mission of protecting the public.

Through my 28 years of working in our Department, I have come to appreciate the ability of our staff to adapt, adjust, and overcome any obstacles in the fulfillment of our mission. I am also confident that we have appropriately prepared and mentored individuals to assume various leadership roles through the agency.

As we look to streamline the department to be more effective and responsive, we shall continue to maintain safe, secure, and humane correctional facilities and work with offenders to prepare them to become law abiding citizens through our re-entry efforts. Continuing our re-entry efforts will be critical to the ongoing safety of the citizens of Connecticut, and benefit the state financially.

In closing, please let me extend my sincere congratulations to all of those staff members who have decided to retire. I wish you health, happiness, and success in your future endeavors. For the staff that are staying, I ask for your continued commitment to make our Department the best it can be.

I look forward to working with all of you through this transition period.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Murphy

May 28, 2009

through

June 29, 2009

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Department of Correction  
24 Wolcott Hill Road  
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M. Jodi Rell  
Governor

Theresa C. Lantz  
Commissioner

Web address:  
[www.ct.gov/doc](http://www.ct.gov/doc)

Public Information  
Office telephone:  
(860) 692-7780  
Fax: (860) 692-7783

## Visitors from the East

During the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Connecticut Department of Correction served as host for four visitors from Malaysia. They were associated with the Department's research partners from Yale University. They visited New Haven and York Correctional Institutions as well as Central Office.

The visitors included Tuan Darussalam Bin Budin, the Director of Rehabilitation and Treatment Division, for the national Prison Department of Malaysia; Tuan Anbalagan Subramaniam, Deputy Superintendent of Prisons for Malaysia; Dr. Muhammad Muhsin bin Ahmad Zahari, Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer/Study Coordinator, Department of Psychological Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, and Tunku Noor Hayati binti T.A.Rahman, Counselor, Centre of Excellence Research in AIDS (CeRIA), University of Malaya. Noor wouldn't mention it herself, but she is a princess in one of Malaysia's royal families and the daughter of the Malaysia's first post-independence Prime Minister.

Along with Diane Foxworth and Alicia Ikovic-Mau, Warden Correa welcomed the visitors to New Haven C.C. and spent a great deal of time in conversation and touring the facility. They were also able to spend some time with members of the facility's Correctional Managed Health Care (CMHC) staff.

At York, Ron Labonte and Dianne Carter, both from CMHC, took time out of their busy schedules to meet with the Malaysian visitors. They were very impressed with the operational organization at York CI.

They were here because Yale was recently awarded a grant to create a new prison-release behavioral counseling intervention, "Positive Transitions" (PT).

Engaging in a research partnership with a community partner such as the University of Malaya is a relatively new endeavor for the Prison Department. Since the DOC has been working collaboratively with community researchers such as Yale for quite some time, it was helpful for the Prison Department officials to learn from our experience. They were interested in: how we decide what research to engage in, what our processes are, how we manage the collaboration, and how research partnerships have benefitted the DOC.

The Malaysians were also able to enjoy some down time while in the U.S. and capped off their time with a day in New York City.



**The Department of Correction in association with Yale University recently hosted a delegation from Malaysia**

# Bridgeport Correctional Center Volunteers Celebrated their 2008-09 Gala Banquet

The Bridgeport CCC Volunteers recently celebrated their 2008-09 Gala Banquet at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn. This year event, coordinated by Correctional Substance Abuse Counselor Diana Garcia, was live broadcasted through Radio Cumbre, 1450 A.M. from 8:00 p.m. through 11:30 p.m. Many family members and friends from out of state and other countries were able to listen the program via the internet through w.w. radiocumbre.am.

Warden Walter Ford, Religious Services Provider Nasif Muhammad, Chaplain Juanita Dinkins, CSAC Erica Reshard and Diana Garcia, Volunteer Coordinator at B.C.C., welcomed over 300 distinguished guests. DOC professional partners from Casa de Hostos, Helping Hands Center, Isaiah House, La Casa del Inmigrante, Coop Center and District representatives from Alcoholic and Narcotic Anonymous groups participated in the event. Many B.C.C. volunteers, staff members and representatives

from community agencies were honored, awarded and recognized. Bridgeport CCC Quality of Life composed of Captain James Keel, C.O. Dana Smith and C. O. Patricia Daniels received the Excellency Award 2009. Mr. Pablo De Jesus Colon, president of Radio Cumbre, received an appreciation plaque for his support to the B.C.C. Volunteers Banquet. He expressed his admiration and respect to Warden Ford, Diana Garcia and the important work of the B.C.C. volunteers. Dr. James Cook was the guest speaker and received a standing ovation.

The musical presentation started with Volunteer Michael Scott who sang "You raised me up" followed by Peniel Band (composed by recovery members), solos by volunteer Belinda Young and the rock band Blessed Hope from St. Andrew Catholic church. Tears of joy and happiness were observed in many guests when

Mariachi Nuevo Mexico surprised the guests with their interpretation of the songs "Amigo" (My Good Friend), Las Mañanitas and "El Alfarero" (The Potter) while yellow roses were handed to the guests as symbols of friendship and success.

It was a very special moment, when pre-screened messages of gratitude from selected inmates were released through the radio. Volunteers were able to listen to accounts of how motivation, faith and hope received through fellowship meetings and religious services impacted the lives and attitude of the inmate population in a positive way.

Attendants to this gala banquet were amazed with the beautiful handmade decorations created by CSAC Garcia including the large cornucopias filled with fruits and yellow roses used as table center pieces. Inspired in the theme Planting Seeds of Hope for an Abundant Harvest, CSAC Garcia designed a special red velvet cake filled with crème cheese and decorated with blue, yellow sugar handmade roses, orchids bouquets made of sugar and angels with sparkling butterfly wings. Handmade souvenirs and packages of seeds were handed to the guests with a note that read: "Plant these seeds and watch the plants' growth, a reminder of the joy and beautiful moments we shared together and please remember they are symbols of loving hearts that care, B.C.C. Volunteer Services."



**Warden Walter Ford enjoying himself at the B.C.C. Volunteer Banquet**



**Counselor Diana Garcia passed out yellow roses as symbols of friendship and success.**

## The Defense Rests

Three of the stalwart legal team with the Office of the Connecticut Attorney General that defend the Department of Correction have decided to accept the retirement incentive plan. Both Henri Alexandre, who has headed the Public Safety Department of the Office of the Attorney General and Richard Couture who has represented the agency on many medical matters, will be retiring on July 1, 2009. Also taking advantage of the incentive was Assistant Attorney General Michael Lanoue, who with 35 years of state service, retired on June 1, 2009. Appointed to replace Alexandre is Terrence O'Neill who has also worked for a number of years on behalf of the DOC. He has been in the Attorney General's Office since 1996 and has extensive experience in trying cases, handling appeals in state and federal courts. Assistant Attorney General O'Neill is the son of AAG Steve O'Neill, who represented our agency for nearly four decades. Our appreciation and gratitude go out to Attorneys Alexandre, Couture and Lanoue, and congratulations to Attorney O'Neill.

### Retirement Day Has Come

Retirement Day Has Come; I'll remember this date,  
I've received my blessing from God and state.  
Many long years I gave my best,  
This shield worn proudly upon my chest.  
The Department of Correction gave me my chance,  
Prayers to God, my confidence enhanced.  
My family, my strength they believed in me,  
Coming home to my children kept me free.  
Pride, Dignity and Integrity established my creed,  
Blue is the color of the blood we bleed.  
Family on the job, friends on the street,  
Conversing with a language only we can speak.  
I've lived my life to protect and serve,  
Blessings come only, when they are deserved.  
My smile will forever be a memory in your mind,  
My understanding heart is one of a kind.  
To those who follow I'll say to you,  
Retirement for me is a dream come true.  
Humble beginnings never forgot where I'm from,  
Thank God for my faith, Retirement Day Has Come.

TO: Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz  
FROM: Officers and Staff of Webster C.I.

WRITTEN BY: Correction Officer Michael Cain

## Around the Cell Block



**Texas** – Violating Gonzales High School's dress code is not a crime, but some of the offenders are about to start looking like convicts. Once school resumes, violators of the district's beefed-up dress code will have to wear navy blue coveralls unless they get another set of clothes from home – or serve an in-school suspension. The jumpsuits are made by Texas inmates.

**New York** – A top New York Correction Department official who is suspected of approving a bar mitzvah at a Manhattan jail last year has submitted his resignation. The bar mitzvah party, arranged for the son of an inmate, lasted nearly six hours with about 60 guests in attendance. The gym was turned into a banquet hall, with a kosher/catered meal served on china and guests using metal knives and forks.

**Total  
Supervised  
Population  
on  
June 29, 2009  
23,389  
On June 29, 2008  
the population was  
23,671**

## Did You Know?



*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692-7554. This article was written by Plant Facility Engineer I Ron Mattias, any questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at (860) 253-3645.*

### *Teaching Children to Save Energy*

Having twin four-year-old children, my wife and I always seemed to be turning off lights, shutting doors or turning off the hot water in the tub because it's fun to wash Elmo. So lately, we have been teaching them some ways to save energy, and having everybody involved should result in increased savings.

Saving energy doesn't have to be complicated or difficult, there are many small things you, and yes, even your kids can do at home in order to save energy. It is important to teach kids how to save energy and getting them involved in doing so will give them a sense of responsibility, accomplishment and fun. The things your kids can do to help save energy cover areas from hot water usage, to window coverings.

Here are a few, not so uncommon, ideas on saving energy that are easy to do and are kid friendly. It takes a lot of energy to heat water, so reducing hot water usage, in turn, saves energy. Have your kids take tub baths instead of long showers. Be sure to fill the tub with only enough water to do the job. It is not necessary to fill a bathtub to capacity in order to take a bath as my grandmother used to say, "You're bathing not swimming".

Kids can also help to reduce hot water usage by helping to wash small amounts of dishes by hand and only using the dishwasher when there is a large load of dirty dishes. Always fill the dishwasher, with which they can help you. Remember, it uses the same amount of hot water to wash six dishes as it does to wash 20- be sure it is full. Likewise, have your kids help you do the same loading the clothes washer. Use the warm water setting instead of the hot setting and only wash full loads of clothes. Hang clothes to dry when possible to reduce the use of the dryer. Remember, if it heats up, it uses a lot of energy.

Keeping the refrigerator door closed also helps to save energy. No more standing undecided in front of the open fridge. Kids should be taught, trained might be a better word, to turn off lights when leaving a room. Teach your kids also to close the front door too. Explain that leaving the door open longer then it takes to step through it puts strain on the A/C in the summer and the heater in the winter. It allows precious cool or warm air to escape.

If they use chargers for cell phones or iPods, be sure they unplug them when not in use. Any child old enough to use a computer, is also old enough to shut it down when not in use. Computers use energy even when they are in stand-by mode. Remind your children to turn them off, including the monitor. Have them do the same with other electronics like TV's and game systems too. Another energy-saving task you can give a young child is to make sure all windows are tightly closed and that the drapes and blinds drawn. It may not sound like much but it makes a huge difference in how warm or cool a room gets.

In the case of saving energy, little things mean a lot. It all adds up to less energy used. So, teach your children some helpful habits and get them involved no matter what their age by making it fun.

## Bike-A-Thon Update

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Counselor Knight, along with several DOC staff, held and participated in the first bike-a-thon for the non-profit organization Educate Malawi, Inc. This organization was started by Counselor Knight (CRCI) and her family after she returned from volunteering there with her daughter for two months in 2007. There were several volunteers, some of which were DOC staff.

Picture below, from left are Counselor Joyce Cooney (Radgowski, CI), Counselor Sue Calkins (Bergin CI), Counselor Supervisor Pat Kupec (Bergin CI), and Counselor Pat Sherrill (Gates CI). Not shown was Counselor Pat Norton (CRCI) who also helped in making the event successful. There were several

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R i d e r s  
f r o m  
t h e



Department of Correction included, Jerrilyn Kelly, Bill Lawlor, Colleen Gallagher, Brian Freeman, Seneca Patterson, Gemini Murray and Vernetta Sharp. Sylvia Lorenzi was unable to ride but her efforts in raising funds were nothing short of awesome.

Total donations collected exceeded the goal set of \$4,000 and many thanks to the DOC staff who contributed to the event. The monies raised will go towards building a classroom block in the District of Zomba in Malawi. The cost of the project will be approximately \$24,000. Classroom sizes in Malawi average 75 students to one teacher with the numbers reaching as high as 200 students. At times there is not enough classroom space for the students, so they learn under a tree. Counselor Knight and her husband Stephen will travel to Malawi in June to begin this project.

Thank you to all who contributed in the many ways that you did to make this event the success that it was! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## Pomp and Circumstance

After many years of hard work and perseverance, Lieutenant Jennifer Feitel of the Manson Youth Institution was awarded a Master in Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Central Connecticut State University.

She graduated on May 28<sup>th</sup>. With her newly acquired educational knowledge and Departmental training, Lieutenant Feitel aspires to transition into a valued manager. She also plans on teaching part-time at the college level using her correctional experience and her educational knowledge to edify others. Lieutenant Feitel has been employed with the Department since 1998.



Lt. Jennifer Feitel

## Higher Knowledge

Congratulations are in order for the Reverend Doctor Charles Williams, the Protestant Chaplain at Bergin C.I. , who graduated with his Doctor of Ministry Degree (D. Min) from Hartford Seminary on May 29, 2009. His graduation comes after successfully completing all classes and then designing, implementing and writing a thesis on a new program at Bergin on "Spirituality and Addiction Recovery." Using 169 Power Point slides, journaling, meditation along with classroom discussion, this twenty hour program (10 two-hour sessions) focuses on using spirituality as a tool for addiction recovery.

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## Years of Services as of May 2009

### Employees with 20 Years of Service

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Ramirez, Belman	Correctional Officer	Central Office	5/19/1989
O'Reardon, Edward	Correctional Officer	Central Office	5/19/1989
Sanchez, Wanda	Office Assistant.	Central Office	5/5/1989
Ross, Gary	Correctional Officer	CCI	5/19/1989
Olszta, Kenneth	Lieutenant	HCC	5/19/1989
Avery, Ronald	FSSIII	MWCI	5/5/1989
Chambers, Steven	Correctional Officer	NCI	5/19/1989
Murphy, Thomas	Correctional Officer	OCI	5/19/1989
Pelletier, Roger	CorrPlmr&Stmfr	WCCI	5/5/1989
Aspinwall, Andrew	Correctional Officer	YCI	5/19/1989
Garrett, Tina	Correctional Officer	YCI	5/19/1989

### Employees with 25 Years of Service

Paskow, Dianne	AFAO	Central Office	5/4/1984
Ruffin, Charles	Captain	ECI	5/11/1984
Loos, Scott	Correctional Officer	MWCI	5/11/1984
Inglis, Deborah	Mail Service Sup. I	NCI	5/25/1984
Smith, Calvin	Correctional Officer	OCI	5/14/1984

## Superwoman Conference

The 14th Annual "Women in Criminal Justice" Conference was held on April 3rd at the Massachusetts Mutual Center in Springfield, MA. Among the presenters were three members of the CT DOC: Michele Pidgeon, DW of CCI-E and Andrea Baker, CCS and Marva Malone-Lyles, CSW, both of MWCI.

Their presentation, "Balancing Act" (family, work and you) was an interactive workshop that addressed the "superwoman syndrome" and many issues that plague working women on a daily basis. Women in attendance were helped in creating their own personal wellness recipe for emotional, physical and educational needs.

## WCCI Births

Please join Warden Torres in congratulating Lieutenant Bouchard and his wife Paula, on the birth of their grandson, Blaise James, born on June 16th, weighing in at 8 lb., 1 oz. and 20".

Congratulations also to Correction Officer Mark Robinson and his wife Ashley, on the birth of their son, Colton Andrew, born on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, weighing in at 5 lb., 11 oz. and is 22".

## A Fond Farewell

**To:** The Staff of Enfield Correctional Institution  
**From:** Retired Captain Kevin DeGray

Before I walk out that front door as a DOC employee for the last time, I need to say a few things. First, thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done for this facility and for all of the support and tireless efforts that you have given to me for these past several years. The respect that you have shown me throughout the years can only be exceeded by my respect for you.

If I had just one wish that I could ask for and have fulfilled here, it would be for all of you to continue to be kind to each other and to pick each other up when one of you stumbles and falls down. It's so much easier getting back up when you have caring hands that help to lift you up. Make no doubt about it that the future will hold many challenges and some difficulties. I am confident however that you will prevail just as you always have, simply by looking out for each other. In closing, I'd like to thank you for all of the good will, laughter and memories. I will cherish them, as I do you, forever.

## Student Exchange

Students from Hong Kong University visited New Haven C.C. as part of their U.S. exchange with Asian American Students Association at Yale. The group was welcomed by Warden R. Correa, D/W T. Kearney



and Deputy Warden K. Lewis. Lt. Lytle and Principal Green gave the students a tour of the facility. They also met with the teachers and a group of students in the school. The group was invited by Peter Lu, volunteer tutor who recruits other Yale students to volunteer in the school at New Haven C.C..

## A Letter of Thanks

We would like the opportunity to thank all of the generous people who have helped our family in this time of tragedy, your generous and heartfelt gifts have come at the most needed time. Our family is settling in to our temporary home waiting for the insurance process to move at its usual lightning fast pace, so that the reconstruction of our home can begin. During these trying times take time out of your day to just say thank you for the blessings you may receive, and cherish the little things, because in an instant it could be gone. My family and I would again like to thank you for your generous gifts, your thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

The Pittman Family

## A Proud Soldier Passes

Warden Bruce Cuscovitch and the staff at CRCI are saddened to announce the passing of former Correction Officer Willie Jackson who retired on May 1,



2009. He was a veteran of the United States Army, and an active member of the Buffalo Soldier's heritage group.