



**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.*

**Class 246 Graduates**

On Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful spring afternoon, family and friends gathered at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development to participate in the graduation ceremony of pre-service Class 246.

Commissioner Brian K. Murphy greeted those gathered and officially welcomed the graduates into the “correctional family.” He also thanked the families for their support of the members of Class 246.

Consisting of only 29 members, Class 246 was among the smallest groups to graduate in recent memory. The majority of the group consisted of 12 Correctional Managed Health Care staff members.



see **Team of Teams/page 7**

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**From the Commissioner**



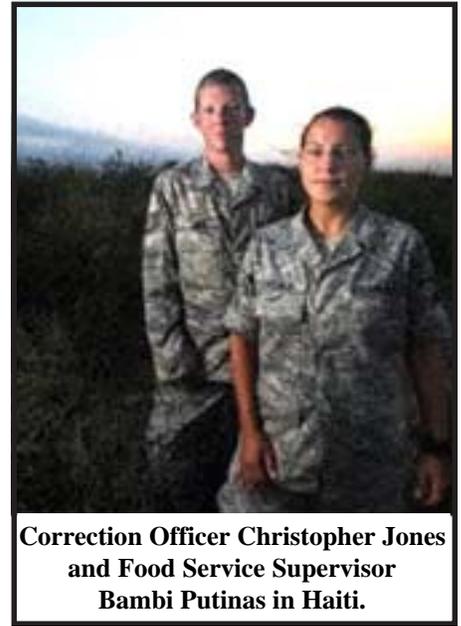
Someone from outside the Connecticut Department of Correction likely would not be aware of the code that we have to alert a correctional facility when a staff member needs assistance. Inside an institution when that code is called, everyone who is able responds as quickly as possible to assist the colleague in need, knowing full well that next time it might be them. You would have thought that code had been called recently at the Legislative Office Building when the issue of restricting inmate access to staff personnel records through the State’s Freedom of Information Statues came before the Judiciary Committee. Before I go any further, I will tell you that as commissioner, I could not have had any more pride than I did that day as I listened to the professional men and women of our agency who came forward in an effort to protect themselves and their fellow staff from what is a very real threat to our safety, that of our families, the security of our facilities, and ultimately to the protection of the public. Those who don’t work within the correctional environment have found it difficult to appreciate that even knowledge of an officer’s first name can be a foot in the door that an inmate can use to undermine that officer’s authority.

see **Private Matters/page 6**

# Help to Haiti

## Two DoC staff members step up to a difficult challenge

In the wake of the earthquake that devastated so much of the Haitian capital of Port-Au-Prince, relief efforts poured in from seemingly every corner of the world. Not surprisingly, staff members of the Connecticut Department of Correction have also done their share to help. Among them are Correctional Officer Christopher Jones of the Willard- Cybulski Correctional Institution and Food Service Supervisor II Bambi Putinas of the New Haven Correctional Center. Jones and Putinas have been involved in the search and recovery of the 17 American victims that were at Hotel Montana. The Hotel Montana, a four-star hotel where diplomats, dignitaries and other world leaders often stayed, collapsed during the January 12 earthquake trapping many of its guests in the rubble. A few made it out alive, and the task of finding and identifying those who did not, fell to a variety of organizations, including search and recovery teams from France, Mexico, Canada and members of the U.S. military.



**Correction Officer Christopher Jones and Food Service Supervisor Bambi Putinas in Haiti.**

“We all volunteered to come here, but we had no idea what we would be doing,” Technical Sergeant Putinas, a member of the services flight for the Connecticut Air National Guard’s 103rd Airlift Wing, said. “In the back of our minds, we all thought possibly mortuary affairs.”



**The remains of the Hotel Montana in Port-Au-Prince**

When a call for volunteers to assist at the Hotel Montana site was put out, Putinas was one of many from her unit to volunteer for the mission. “We would help with the preliminary identification of remains and make sure they got back home safely and also any articles, luggage, personal effects,” she said. “We helped to document what we found, and those also would be shipped home.”

Putinas said it was an important job to do, but also a difficult one. “It was hard,” she said. “Sometimes you could actually put a face with a name or an article or something that was inscribed.” For many who worked at the site, it was an opportunity to provide a sense of closure to the grieving family of those who died in the hotel.

“We were recovering those that had fallen at the [Hotel] Montana, so that they could be returned to their loved ones and bring closure,” said Technical Sergeant Chris Jones, also with the 103rd Airlift Wing. “We were sending them home.” That was part of what made many who worked at the site go back day after day. “Some people wanted to go out every day, no matter what,” said Putinas. “You think that you’re going to find somebody one day and you just keep on searching hoping to find someone.”

Though it is part of the services mission set, mortuary affairs is not a skill that unit members use on a regular basis. “It was a lot of nerves the first time we went out there,” said Jones. “We do a lot of training, but this was our first real-world experience handling this aspect of our career field. It was a lot of nerves, a lot of anxiety, but everyone got out there and did their job and handled it very well.”

see [Relief Efforts/page 3](#)

## Relief Efforts from page 2

Unit members also relied on each other for support during the recovery operations. “We kept an open door policy and set rank aside if anybody needed to talk or had any questions,” said Jones, who added that there were briefings and other opportunities for those at the site to discuss or work through any issues.

“We’re a pretty strong group to begin with,” said Putinas. “I think it was a great team that we put together, and we were there for each other.”

Jones recalled the day the remains of an Air Force officer were recovered. “They said he was still in his uniform,” said Jones. “His body was covered, and he was moved out of the rubble and all of us stopped working and we went to attention and saluted as he was moved past us. It was our way of paying final respects to him.”

For those at the site, doing the job was something they took great pride in. “We received a great sense of fulfillment in the job we were doing,” said Jones. “We had an extreme amount of pride in the job that we had done.”



**Food Service Supervisor II Bambi Putinas at an orphanage in Haiti.**



**The aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti.**

In their spare time, the two DoC employees work to provide morale boosting activities for fellow troop members. As a result, they managed to raise \$200.00, along with many donated items for a local orphanage. During their off-duty time, they also spend time, working and playing with the orphans, which helps counteract the toll their daily grim task exacts.

The overall experience is something that will no doubt stay with them long after they return home. “I think I’ll be telling my family members about the team I worked with,” said Putinas. “And how great it was to work with the Army, the Navy, the French, the Canadians, and how people from all aspects of life

could come together for one mission, in a country that none of us ever thought we would come to, and pull together and do a mission that needed to be done.”

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## Osborn CI Staff Donate to Haiti

Warden Carol Chapdelaine is proud to announce that during the month of February, Osborn staff teamed up with the First Cathedral Church in Bloomfield, Connecticut to help earthquake victims in Haiti. Staff generously donated money, tons of food supplies, clothes, shoes, sheets, blankets, toiletries and numerous other items to the relief effort. What a wonderful display of the continued generosity of the staff at Osborn Correctional Institution.



**Next stop - Haiti.**

## Reentry “Options”

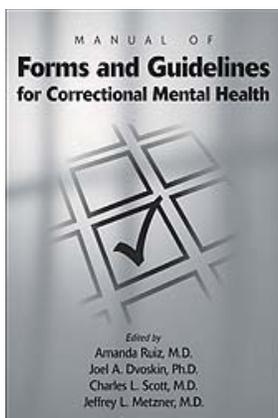
In 2006, Captain Theresa Penn of the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center and Counselor Supervisor Leigh Ware of the York Correctional Institution completed the Criminal Justice Command Institute Supervisory Leadership Program at Tunxis Community College. The two created *OPTIONS - Optional Programs to Integrate Offenders into Neighborhoods Successfully*, a reentry model that connects existing faith-based community resources and DOC resources for successful offender reentry outcomes.

For their research efforts, Captain Penn and Counselor Supervisor Ware received the Criminal Justice Command Institute Visionary Award. On Saturday, January 23, 2010, Rev. Mack Elder, DOC Chaplain, invited Capt. Penn and CS Ware to present *OPTIONS* to the *CT Interfaith Housing Network* in Middletown, a faith-based reentry partner with the Connecticut Department of Correction. The presentation highlighted the national public safety reentry agenda, the documented successes of faith based reentry programs across the country, and the opportunity to network existing faith community and DOC resources for successful transition to our communities.

Director of Health and Addiction Services for the Department of Correction, Dr. Dan Bannish also presented an overview of the existing DOC reentry framework for offenders with mental health needs and the relevance to the Second Chance Act.

Congratulations to Captain Penn and Counselor Supervisor Ware for the vision to connect community partners, eliminate gaps in programs in the public safety mission and save critical state resources to support successful offender reentry.

## A Different Kind of Texting



Congratulations to Health and Human Services Principal Psychiatrist Suzanne Ducate who recently published a chapter in a medical text.

Dr. Ducate’s contribution was Chapter 10, *Parole and Reentry*, in the *Manual of Forms and Guidelines for Correctional Mental Health*, Editor, Amanda Ruiz, et al. Published by American Psychiatric Publishing Inc. 2010.

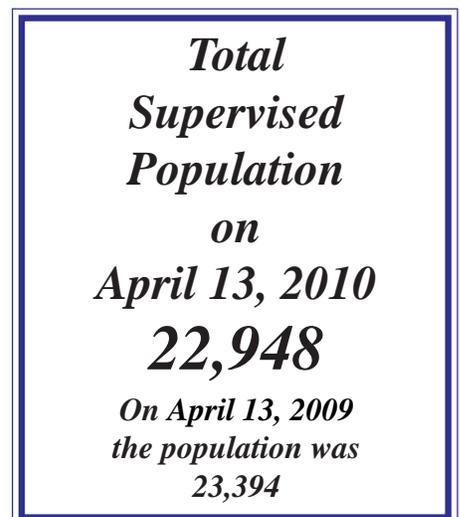
## Around the Cell Block



**Utah** – Eleven inmates in Utah are accused of swindling the IRS and the Utah State Tax Commission out of \$26,000. Using their real names and social security numbers and false income amounts, the inmates filled out tax forms and waited for their refunds. Along with additional charges, the state plans to seek their own refund from the prison inmates who spent the taxpayer money.

**Florida** – Miami jail officials say inmates recently figured out a way to hack into outside fax lines and rack up thousands of dollars in collect calls.

**Iowa** – Thirty percent of the inmates in the Polk County Jail were illegally collecting food-stamp benefits, a state investigation shows.



## Did You Know?



*“Did You Know” is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Services Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This article was written by Jim Thomson, Design Engineer 3, and questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at 860.692-7518. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at (203) 806-2666.*

## Gas Grill Care

Winter will eventually be over and many of us will be eager to start grilling food on our gas grills. Before the grill is fired up for the first time this season, there are some items to check to ensure safety and uniform cooking. Mechanical failures – Check for cracked wheels, broken bolts, rusted out metal supports. These can make the grill unstable and unsafe. Pay close attention to the burner unit. If there are rusted out holes in it there will be hot spots where the holes are. The burner should be replaced.

**Gas (Propane) tank manufacture date** – Propane tanks have a date of manufacture stamped on the lifting collar (where you pick the tank up). The tank is usable for 12 years beyond that date, after that, the tank must be re-conditioned and re-certified. A propane provider cannot fill a tank that is past its end of service date. If your tank is out dated, buy a new one. Your propane supplier may sell you a new tank and take your old tank.

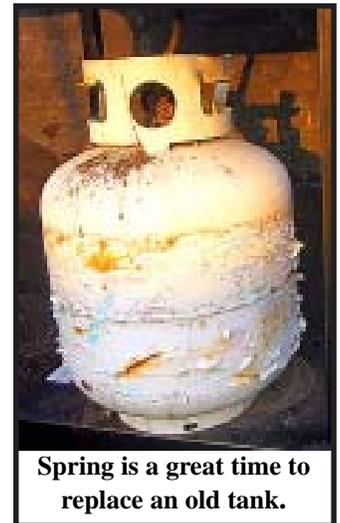
**Regulator hose** – The device that screws onto the tank is a pressure regulator. It controls the flow of gas to the control valves and burner. Inspect the rubber hose that goes from the regulator to the burner control valves. The hose should be flexible with no cracks, kinks, cuts or abrasions. If the hose is damaged, it must be replaced.

**Bugs** – The metal tubes connected to the burners that receive gas from the control valves are not permanently attached to the valves. There are air slots in these tubes. The loose connection and the air slots allow bugs to enter the tubes and disrupt the flow of gas. This can cause the gas to burn under the grill which is dangerous. Inspect the tubes and clean out any bugs and debris.

**Charred drippings** – Charred drippings build up under the burners and block air flow, resulting in poor heat distribution and in severe cases, loss of flame at the burner. Clean out the solid residue under the burners. A vacuum works well.

**Warming rack** – If your grill has a warming rack, it will become rusty after a few years. This rust will rain down on your food when you close the cover. Either brush the rack thoroughly before grilling or just replace it.

**Where to purchase replacement parts** – Look at the manuals that came with your grill, there will probably be telephone or web contacts listed for spare parts. Some big box stores sell replacement grill parts. These are not designed for specific grill models and may not fit properly. Searching the web for “gas grill parts” will give you some suppliers to check out. Many of them will ask you to enter your grill make and model number. This will lead to a list of parts that are designed for your grill. I have ordered replacement grill parts that are identical to the originals.



Spring is a great time to replace an old tank.

## Private Matters from page 1

In fact staff is specifically trained beginning in the earliest days of the academy, as the men and women informed the lawmakers that day, to not share personal information such as their first names with inmates. What we all made clear is that seemingly mundane information from a personnel file can lead to threats, intimidation, coercion and even worse in the correctional environment. For several years now we have been fighting inmate efforts to utilize the FOI statues to gain access to our personnel files. As we made clear to the lawmakers, it has become common place for an inmate who doesn't like the disciplinary report you wrote, or how his or her cell was searched, to retaliate against staff by filing an FOI request for their personnel file or their disciplinary information. We have fought against this at the FOI Commission and have appealed the resulting rulings in the courts. I have made clear that we will continue this fight because of what is at risk. We have been challenged to produce instances in which this information has been used to harm staff. My response and that of our agency has been that we have been trained in corrections to prevent issues such as this from resulting in harm to staff. We do not wait until someone is hurt. Still in that hearing, before a panel of legislators, who are now beginning to understand, staff came forward and told of having current and former inmates harass them, in one case an inmate tattooed a female officer's name on his body, in another child welfare investigators were anonymously sent to an officer's home. The result of our response that day I believe is that we presented a unified front that has hopefully convinced lawmakers that while the state's open government laws are a necessary part of our democracy, they should not be used by inmates as a weapon against the dedicated men and women who have a hard enough job, insuring that our facilities and therefore the citizens of our state are safe and secure.

## Why I Joined Class 246

### **Darlene Dailey, Correctional Counselor**

My primary personal reason for working as a counselor for the Department of Correction is to fulfill a lifelong dream of doing so. My hiring is both the end point of a nearly 11 year objective, as well as the beginning of a new and even more ambitious set of life goals.



### **Robert Haire, Vocational Instructor**

As a teenager I found myself heading down the wrong path, and received the chance to turn my life around. My decision to come on board with the Department of Correction was based solely on wanting to give back. I believe that a positive impact can be made and a skill can be learned to prepare them for a better life after incarceration.



### **Jack Jeffries, Correctional Nurse**

The day I graduated from nursing school, I retired with nearly 22 years on the police force. I have never looked back. But, something was missing. It is here that the "something" has been found. The question, "Why did you choose to work for the Department of Correction?" The answer: "It was obvious."



# Highly Qualified Teachers Team of Teams from page 1

*This article was written by Angie Jalbert Acting Superintendent of Unified School District #1*

In June of 2006, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act required all teachers of core academic subjects be not only state certified but “**Highly Qualified**” as well.

What does it mean to be a “Highly Qualified” teacher? The federal definition of a “Highly Qualified” teacher is one who is fully certified and/or licensed by the state; holds at least a bachelor’s degree from a four-year institution; and demonstrates competence in each core academic subject area in which the teacher teaches. This “Highly Qualified” criterion is required of Title 1 public school teachers who teach in core academic subject areas. This means all teachers who teach in the Connecticut Department of Correction, Unified School District #1 must hold a bachelor’s degree, be state certified and “Highly Qualified” as well.



**Acting Superintendent  
of USD #1, Angie  
Jalbert.**

How did teachers in USD #1 become “Highly Qualified”? Since the new program began, veteran teachers needed to provide extensive proof that they could achieve the “Highly Qualified” status, new teachers needed to pass the new and rigorous Praxis I and II state exams, and other teachers who did not qualify in these areas needed to participate in a special program called the High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE).

I am pleased to announce that recently the State Department of Education once again reported to us that all academic core subject area teachers in USD #1, nearly 130 teachers required to be “Highly Qualified”, have met this standard. In addition, nearly all of our special education teachers, for whom “Highly Qualified” status is optional, have also met this standard. Many congratulations to the high quality of teachers who are employed by Unified School District #1, Connecticut Department of Correction!

The remaining make-up of the class consisted of: four correction officers, four parole officers, three substance abuse counselors, two food service supervisors, one plant facility engineer, one vocational instructor, one counselor trainee, and one chaplain for good measure.

The Highest Scholastic Achievement award was presented to Parole Officer Andre Davis with a score of cumulative test score of 99.49%. Lieutenant Russell Taylor received both the Victor E. Harris award and the Most Outstanding Instructor award.

Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Peter J. Boynton was the guest speaker. Fresh from viewing the damage caused by historic levels of flooding in Groton, Commissioner Boynton told the group that despite the fact they represented a wide range of job titles; together they made up a “team of teams.” He went on to say that oftentimes in emergency situations, it takes just such a “team of teams” to get the job done. He wished them well, and shortly afterwards the group was sworn in by Commissioner Murphy.

## Hats Off to Officer Andrade

While on his way to the Northern Correctional Institution, Captian David Butkiewicus came upon a motor vehicle accident at the corner of Stebbins Road and Route 83 in Somers. Stopping to lend assistance, he noticed that Correction Officer Jose Andrade was already on the scene in advance of any emergency vehicles.

Officer Andrade and another civilian assisted in aiding an elderly man that was involved in the accident. Andrade and the civilian moved the elderly gentleman from the accident sight, gave him a blanket, and stabilized him until EMS arrived. In addition to a blanket, Officer Andrade even gave the man his knit hat to keep warm.

## Years of State Service

### 20 Years as of February 2010

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>HIRE DATE</u>
Angeloni, Albert	CorrSvcsMgr(Cmry)	Central Office	2/9/1990
Bederman, Rudolph	Correctional Captain	Bridgeport CC	2/9/1990
Benoit, Daniel	Correction Officer	Bergin CI	2/9/1990
Bergeron, Craig	Correction Officer	Osborn CI	2/9/1990
Curry, Thomas	Correction Officer	Manson YI	2/9/1990
Laureano, Gilberto	Correction Officer	MWCI	2/9/1990
Lee, Jesse	Correctional Lieutenant	WCCI	2/9/1990
Leva, Christian	Correctional Lieutenant	Corrigan/Rad. CC	2/9/1990
Mack, Dirmy	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	2/9/1990
Macrae, Donald	Correction Officer	Corrigan/Rad. CC	2/9/1990
Mathis, Willie	Correction Officer	Hartford CC	2/9/1990
Owens, Russell	Correction Officer	Central Office	2/9/1990
Roman, David	Correction Officer	Bridgeport CC	2/9/1990
Rybak, Terrence	Correction Officer	Enfield CI	2/9/1990
Wilson, Anthony	Correction Officer	Bridgeport CC	2/9/1990

### 25 Years as of February 2010

Floyd, Kenneth	CorrectionOfficer	Hartford CC	2/1/1985
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## Lopedota Locks-Up Award

The Connecticut State Prison Employees Union, Local 391 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) recently awarded its Distinguished Service Award to Correctional Locksmith Augustine Lopedota.

The criteria for the award is that it be given to an individual or group that represents the Connecticut State Prison Employees, AFSCME Local 391 membership in an exemplary fashion within the workplace or community. In a letter addressed to Union Representative Lopedota, dated January 4, 2010, AFSCME Local 391 President Jon Pepe highlighted some of reasons for selecting Lopedota including regularly donning a red hat and beard to play Santa Claus at the union's annual holiday party. However, it was Lopedota's organizing of a raffle to benefit the Richards family that truly impressed the union leadership. "In truth, your efforts on behalf of this family brought them tremendous hope and strength to continue their fight." Pepe went on to write, "... You have always been considered an integral part of Local 391 and a most valuable asset to our team, and we are proud to call you our brother. Congratulations on a job well done."



L to R: AFSCME Local 391 President Jon Pepe with Locksmith Augustine "Augie" Lopedota.