



RIDOC REVIEW

AN OCCASIONAL PUBLICATION FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT

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Correctional Officer Yolette Perkins-Brown, mother of three and grandmother of four, has seen many changes during her 20-year career with the RIDOC, primarily in the Gloria McDonald Women's Awaiting Trial and Medium Security Facility (below).



Photo by Stephanie Ewens

CO Spotlight: Yolette Perkins-Brown

It was about 19 years ago when her friend, Mary, told Yolette Perkins-Brown that the DOC was hiring and she should go with her to “try out.” Mary knew that Yolette, then a single mom with two girls, had recently been laid off from her government job with Raytheon. She’d enjoyed the summer off but was starting to get nervous as her unemployment would soon run out.

“Back then, you had to take a physical fitness test first,” Yolette, often referred to by her colleagues as “Perky,” recalls. I was 29 years old and hadn’t done anything physical since high school except for a little running and some sit-ups.” The night before the exam, Yolette called Mary and told her “I’ll take you, but I’m not going. I’ll fail the physical part.” Yolette is glad that she let Mary convince her to ignore the jitters and give it a shot. Although Mary didn’t make it past the interview, five women — including Yolette — and 45 men did. Having trained at Max, High Security, Intake, and Medium, Yolette says she got more respect from the male inmates. When contemplating a move to the women’s facilities, she reasoned, “I’m a woman, they’re women. There’s going to be that conflict there.” Women’s was the last place she envisioned herself, but she’s been the bided Committing Officer there for 15 years and is comfortable with her role. Indeed, it was an adjustment. “The inmates looked at me like ‘who do you think you are?’” she shares. “I took the right path, they took the left path,” she goes on. “I came anyway. After being here and getting comfortable, I ended up staying.”

As Committing Officer, Yolette’s job is to process new or returning inmates, which includes filling out a tattoo sheet and a personal property inventory and conducting a suicide assessment. If an inmate answers “yes” to the question of whether she is feeling suicidal, she calls a counselor or nurse to do a more in-depth assessment. “I’ve been doing this so long, I can usually tell if they’re in distress,” she notes, adding that she occasionally calls for a medical consult even for women who say they’re fine. “I can tell if something’s not right. It comes from experience.”

It’s Yolette’s responsibility to make sure that all inmates are strip searched before they are transported to court. She carefully goes over her court list to see how many women are going to which court and to have everyone ready when the sheriffs arrive. When the inmates return from court, they have to be strip searched all over again.

Asked how things have changed over the course of her nearly 20-year career, Yolette notes that there are a lot more officers, particularly females. She also finds that the inmates are more disrespectful than they were back then. “I hate to put it on parents, but some parents are too busy trying to be their kids’ friends whereas when we grew up, our mothers and fathers weren’t our friends. When I hear them talking to their mothers, you’d think they were talking to some stranger on the street – they even disrespect the staff. If you disrespect your own parents, who am I? I’m nobody.”

Asked about the biggest challenge to the job, Yolette says “The hardest part for me is having patience. They tell me the older you get, the more mellow you get, but I must not be in that category,” she laughs. She tires of repeat offenders acting as if they’re being told the rules for the first time. “In the morning we tell them every

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RIDOC in the Classroom, the Community, and Beyond

Albert Alba, Ph.D., Teacher, co-presented *Negotiating Cultural Space: Education in the Big House* at the 62nd Correctional Education Association International Conference in Atlanta in July. Both Alba and fellow teacher **Kenneth Sarvia** received certificates of completion for the Highly Qualified Educators' Certificate Program.

Michelle Alexandre, Adult Counselor, Maximum Security; Erin Boyar, Principal Planner, Planning and Research; Kathy Kelly, Senior Legal Counsel; Micheline Lombardi, Probation and Parole Supervisor, and Lisa Santagata, Training Instructor, gave a panel presentation on careers in criminal justice at Johnson and Wales University in October.

Dawn Allen, Discharge Planner, spoke about the Fellowship CRS Discharge Planning program at the Centerforce Annual Summit in San Francisco in October.

Probation and Parole Officers Jeanne Baffoni and Arthur Robinson explained the work of the Adult Drug Court to a corrections class at Roger Williams University during the fall semester. Robinson also spoke on this topic on Channel 36's *Citizens' Summit* in October.

Gina Caruolo, Chief Program Development, Policy Unit, taught *Introduction to Sociology* at the Community College of Rhode Island and *Drugs, Society, and Behavior* at Roger Williams University in the fall.

Probation and Parole Officer II Fernando Comas spoke about probation and parole to students in retired **Assistant Probation and Parole Administrator Sisan Smallman's** *Introduction to the Criminal Justice System* class at URI during the fall semester.

Shelley Cortese, Assistant Probation and Parole Administrator, gave an overview of the Probation and Parole system to the Mount Hope Neighborhood Association at Providence Superior Court in July. She also spoke about the role of probation and parole in the court system as part of a panel presentation for teachers sponsored by the Rhode Island Legal Education Partnership at the Providence District Court in July.

Assistant Probation and Parole Administrator Richard Delfino taught *Corrections I* at Roger Williams University School of Justice Studies in the fall.



Assistant Director Roberta Richman, Coordinator of Education Lewis Allison, Governor Donald Carcieri, and Director A.T. Wall are seen here with a \$100,000 check presented to the RIDOC in July for ESL, GED, and Spanish GED services for inmates.

Cheryl Lopes, Public Health Education Specialist, was a presenter at the National Commission on Correctional Health Care Updates Conference in Orlando in May. Abstracts presented by Lopes and her colleagues **Deborah Davis** and **Richard Iadevaia** (since retired) were accepted. Lopes applied for and received a Leadership Development Grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to partially cover her attendance.

Paul Gutowski, Human Resource Analyst III co-presented, *21st Century Workforce* to the Arlington County (Va.) Sheriffs' Office in October. The two-day training encompassed building and maintaining an ethical workplace, understanding internal organizational culture, and recruiting and managing a multigenerational workforce.

Correctional Officer James L. Nelson gave a presentation on career opportunities in law enforcement to his daughter's senior class at Hope High School in Providence in September.

Ralph Orleck, Special Education Director, chair of the Special Education Interest Group (SIG), had an article published in the association's magazine in July.

Medical Program Director Dr. Michael Poshkus received a recognition award from the National Health Service Corps' SEARCH (Student Experiences and Rotations in Community Health Program) in July.

Correctional Officers Ada Santiago and Randy Denton, Deputy Warden David Caruso, and Security Specialist Glenn Matteson spoke about corrections in Rhode Island to the *Youth and Law* class at Westerly High School in December.

Principal Public Health Promotion Specialist Patricia Threats received a Master of Arts in Adult Education from the University of Rhode Island in May.

Director Ashbel T. Wall II moderated a session on the Code of Silence at the American Correctional Association's All Directors' Training in September. He also presented at the White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives National Summit on Prisoner Reentry in Los Angeles in November. He gave welcoming remarks at the Association of Women Executives in Corrections' annual gathering in Newport in November, which was attended by several RIDOC personnel.

Judith Fox, Coordinator of the Women's Mentoring Program, spoke about female offenders to students in the *Women, Crime, Justice* course at Rhode Island College during the fall semester.

Fredric Friedman, Ed.D., Clinical Director Psychologist, was interviewed for a special on *Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System* for the PBS/Cox Cable program *Minds that Matter* in June. Fred also became the first corrections professional to receive

a *Heroes in the Fight* award, which was presented to him in September by the National Association for Mental Illness/Rhode Island and several other organizations for his dedication to the mental health field.

Focus on Reentry: Inmates Building a Better Future



The Wall Raising drew statewide officials, volunteers, and the media to 815 Potters Ave. in September.



The RIDOC crew, supervised by CO Frank Morrobel (left) and Lt. Michael Gorman (right)

Habitat for Humanity of Rhode Island – Greater Providence, Inc. and the RIDOC have teamed up for the *Habitat Prison Partnership*, a program that gives select inmates from the Dorothea Dix Women's Minimum Security Facility the opportunity to learn valuable skills and give something back to the community by helping to build a home with a deserving family as part of a women's volunteer construction crew.



The White family at the December "Tree Planting."

The team from the Dix facility varies slightly from week to week but includes up to 12 female inmates who work on site at the future home of the White family located at 815 Potters Avenue in Providence each Wednesday and Friday, rain or shine, snow or sleet. The home is on an accelerated schedule and is expected to be complete in March. It is being built with and for Sheila White, grandmother of one and single mother of five children, ages nine to 21. As is customary with Habitat homes, the Whites are participating in the build.

The project is part of Habitat for Humanity's *First Families Building Homes Across America* program in which governors, their spouses, and other local and state-wide leaders roll up their sleeves with Habitat and women volunteers to construct new homes with a family in need in every U.S. state and the District of Columbia. The honorary chair of this project is First Lady Suzanne Carcieri, who attended the Wall Raising and Tree Planting at the site last fall.

Carole Dwyer, warden of the women's facilities, is enthused about the project. "It gives the women hope and makes them feel they are making a difference," she notes. "Not only is the project providing them with important skills that could help them find work in a growing field for women upon release, it's also helping them build positive relationships, something that's been lacking in most of their lives."



A few proud members of class two with the table and chair sets they made for the Impossible Dream playground in Warwick.

The second class of 26 Minimum Security male inmates will graduate from a new construction technology class offered in partnership with the Community College of Rhode Island in February. The intensive class includes 190 hours of hands-on training and graduates receive a certificate of completion and an OSHA card.

Gene Dufault, a Coventry High School shop instructor with extensive experience teaching in the Connecticut prison system, and Norman Cook, CCRI's senior department head for engineered composite building technologies, are the instructors. Both have found the inmates to be among the most dedicated learners they have ever taught. Will Jackson, CCRI coordinator, notes "The instructors were phenomenal, and they've told me this was the best group of students they've ever had. The guys in the program are in heaven."

Mock interviewing and résumé-building were included in the curriculum and as a result of emerging relationships with the construction community developed through the instructors and RIDOC's work release staff, employment opportunities for the graduates upon release look promising.

The program was accomplished with the support of CCRI and RIDOC personnel including Warden James Vierra and his staff, Assistant Director for Rehabilitative Services Roberta Richman, Director Wall, and many others. The Director is pleased with the program's initial success and sees it as an important piece of the department's commitment to prisoner reentry.

"One of the most critical factors in determining whether an ex-offender will be back in our custody is his or her success in finding gainful employment upon release," he notes. "This program is one of the many ways we are striving to break the cycle of the revolving door. I'm proud of our staff and the CCRI folks who got the program up and



The first class of 26 graduated in November.

CO PROFILE: YOLETTE PERKINS - BROWN

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single time to line up against the wall and stay there. I don't want them walking around where I can't see what they're doing," she explains. "Sometimes they act like it's the first time they're hearing it. I'm tired of saying the same thing every single day. They know the rules. They still try me. Some will push you to that limit, but you can't lose your cool."

When asked about what's different about being a CO in the women's facilities, Yolette describes the female inmates as "definitely more needy." Holding up two fingers to indicate a pinch, she says, "I probably do this much corrections and this much mentoring, mothering, and counseling. I have children too so they'll ask for advice if the courts are trying to take their kids away. I say if it were me, I would do everything in my power to try to hold onto them. I give a listening ear and try to satisfy them for the moment."

In terms of how she views her ability as a CO to prepare women for successful reentry, Yolette says, "The most important key to women staying out is drug treatment. They have to be ready to give up drugs. They have to decide they don't want to do this anymore or we can offer all kinds of programs and it won't make a difference." Sadly, she has seen dozens of women come through the system who are dead now. Troubled by the addiction she knows is a critical factor for the majority of inmates, she is inspired by a few people she has known personally who have had enough and just stopped.

How does she stay sane in what many would consider such a difficult environment? "People say 'that must be so stressful,'" when they hear what I do. "When I come in this door, I come in stress free. I have a wonderful husband, two beautiful children, and four grandchildren. When I leave here, whatever goes on at the ACI stays at the ACI. Very rarely do I go home and start complaining to my husband about things at work." Yolette's grandchildren, who range in age from a year-and-a-half to seven, all live in the Newport area. Her family is her focus when she's not on the job, and she isn't one to work exceptional amounts of overtime or call to check in on her days off.

Yolette's success in the field may also have something to do with her ability to get things off her chest. She jokes about an ex-boyfriend who used to tell her, "Yolette, the first thing I'd change about you would be your mouth." Captain Adams, her shift commander, is "a wonderful man," who she knows she can talk to if she has an issue to discuss. "When something bothers me, I've always been very verbal. I say what I have to say. Then I'm over it. I don't hold it in.

If anything comes out not too nice, I come back and apologize. I've never been out on stress. I come to work, do my job, and leave my job at my job. I don't want to bring it home. My home is my home. I focus on my grandchildren and I don't want to think about what goes on at the ACI."

For the most part, her children – two daughters aged 27 and 24 and a 10-year old son — are very proud of what she does. The girls weren't so thrilled back in 1991, however, when they learned about the prison riot on TV. "They saw it on the news," she recalls. "They were crying, wanting me to quit. So I had to reassure them. 'Mommy needs her job.'"

"My mother and father were always cool with it," she adds. "They knew I could take care of myself. I was always a leader, not a follower. I always had to run the show as a kid. They weren't worried."

Yolette had been in corrections for several years before she met her husband, Curtis, who works for the Boys & Girls Club in the Newport area where they live. She has gone to the Club on its Career Day to talk to the kids about being a CO. "I would definitely recommend this career to young women," she notes. "It takes a special kind of person. Not everyone can do it. If you have it in you, do it. It's not for everybody."

The field has been a good fit for Perky, who was able to purchase a home as a single parent and, though she admits she's "been through a lot," definitely looks forward to coming to work every day.

Yolette has lost touch with Mary, the friend who steered her to the DOC back in 1989. Her warden, coworkers, and the hundreds of women who have come and gone on her watch owe Mary quite a debt of gratitude.



CO Yolette Perkins-Brown

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bothers me,
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what I have to say.
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I don’t hold it in.”***

Heroes in the Spotlight



Although seldom recognized as such by the public, Correctional Officers are heroes on the job every day. As a result of their training and quick actions, that heroism often carries over into their lives “off the clock.”

Captain Michael Martufi and his wife, Karen, and sister-in-law, Nancy, had no idea what was in store for them when they headed out to a relaxing dinner at the Olde Mill Tavern in Harrison, Maine, during a weekend trip to their vacation home in Bridgeton not long ago. After a day at the Freyeburg Fair, Michael, Karen, and Nancy (a nurse) headed out to one of their favorite haunts for dinner. As is typical on Saturday nights, the place was packed.

Not long after arriving, Nancy noticed that a heavy-set man at the table next to them appeared to be choking. His wife was attempting, unsuccessfully, to administer the Heimlich Maneuver. Trained in CPR through his work as a 20-year veteran of the RIDOC, Michael saw someone in need and quickly stepped in to help.

When he first began the Heimlich, the man's dentures, but no chunks of food, popped onto the table. He soon began to go limp, so Michael knew he was in serious trouble. With three nurses, including his sister-in-law, shouting instructions at him, Michael laid the gentleman down on the floor and delivered two back blows. He then straddled him at the waist and began to administer CPR as the man turned grayish blue and became unresponsive. Applying pressure to the man's chest, Michael felt a rib crack, and on his second attempt, he heard the sternum crack. At that point, the man turned a deeper shade of blue, his eyes rolled back in his head, and he clearly wasn't breathing. “We thought he was dead,” he reflects.

The choking victim had come to the Olde Mill Tavern with a party of eight, including his stepchildren from Massachusetts, to celebrate his 79th birthday. Clearly, this wasn't the celebration the family had in mind. Thinking of how upsetting it would be for his grandchildren, including one young man who appeared to have Downe's Syndrome, if the man didn't pull through and remembering his RIDOC training, Michael hoisted him up onto the back of a chair, where he sat like a dead weight. He placed the old fashioned chair underneath the man's sternum and remembers hearing one of the nurses saying, “Something's coming up.”

Finally, a large piece of meat emerged from the man's mouth. Slowly, he began breathing and getting his color back. A local rescue, which had been called about 20 minutes earlier, arrived and transported the man to the hospital for x-rays and a full exam. They thanked Michael for saving a life.

“I felt like I'd run a marathon,” Michael reflects, crediting the combination of the physical exertion required to lift the man and the adrenaline rush associated with the severity of the situation. “The whole place clapped and applauded when he came around, which felt kind of neat.” The man's family called Michael a hero. Michael and his party, though somewhat shaken, finished their meal, paid the bill, and called it a night.

While others might have frozen in a similar situation, Michael credits his 23 years in the military and 20 years as a CO with conditioning him to act, rather than freeze, in the face of a crisis. He was a responding K-9 Officer in the yard of Maximum Security during the riot of 1991 and took part in numerous drug operations along with area police departments and the Attorney General's Office as part of the K-9

Unit. Along the way, he says he developed “a survivor's mind set.”

“I figure God put me there for a reason,” Michael notes, at the same time not wanting to make a “big deal” of his heroic actions.

Knowing only that the man's name was Fred, Michael called the Olde Mill Tavern about a week later to see if they knew anything about Fred's condition. He had, after all, possibly broken the man's ribs. Shortly after placing that call, Michael got a call back from Fred himself, who explained that he had spent two days in the hospital and did have a few broken ribs but didn't seem to mind since he had his life. Fred offered to take Michael and Karen out to dinner, but Michael joked, “No thanks, Fred, we haven't had such a great track record in restaurants with you.” “He said he'd pick up the tab, but I told him we'd have him to our house for a meal instead,” Michael shares, but that we'd be eating mashed potatoes and gravy.” At press time, the families were thinking of meeting up for a New Year's celebration.

Ideas for future Heroes in the Spotlight can be submitted to editor Tracey Z. Poole.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Promotions, Retirements, & Appointments

Congratulations to the following RIDOC employees who received **promotions** between July 1 and September 30, 2007:

Michael Martufi, CO Captain, Minimum
Donald Panarello, CO Lieutenant, Donald Price
Michael Lanowy, CO Lieutenant, Intake
Shelley Cortese, Assistant Probation and Parole Administrator

Congratulations to the following individuals who **voluntarily retired** between July 1 and September 30, 2007:

James Brantley, Correctional Officer
Evelyn Henley, Probation and Parole Officer II
Patricia Hepburn, Administrative Officer
Paul Kenyon, Probation and Parole Officer III
Robin Kulik, Correctional Officer
Paul Laroche, CO Lieutenant
Sisan Smallman, Assistant Probation and Parole Administrator
Paul Strumar, Correctional Officer

A warm welcome to these individuals who joined RIDOC's staff between July 1 and September 30, 2007:

Diana Andreozzi, Executive Assistant, Women's
Robert Autieri, Teacher
Lisa Faille, Clinical Psychologist
Billie-Jo Gallagher, Senior Word Processing Typist
Marissa Grilli, Teacher
Gail Lufkin, Senior X-Ray Technician
Kathryn Manning, Clinical Social Worker
Joseph Prato, Correctional Officer



Lt. Donald Panarello with Deputy Warden David Caruso



Capt. Michael Martufi



Lt. Michael Lanowy with Warden David McCauley



Shelley Cortese is the new Assistant Administrator for Probation and Parole

Focus on Reentry: Parenting Program Expands to Medium I

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections contracts with CCAP – Comprehensive Community Action Program, to provide visitation programs in several of the sentenced facilities so that incarcerated parents and children can continue to have positive interaction. The Saturday morning Father Child Visitation Program, which has been in place at Minimum Security and the Donald Price Medium Security facilities for some time, was recently launched in the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility.

“It takes a while for the guys to trust it,” says coordinator of parenting and discharge planning Sarah Gormley during a recent two-hour visit between about six Moran inmates and their kids, ranging in age from toddlers to middle schoolers. Unlike regular visiting hours where children have to sit still and aren’t able to play or run around, these Saturday visits allow the dads to get down on the floor with their children and play with a wide selection of donated or DOC-provided toys. The children are dropped off either by their mother, another relative or friend, or a DCYF social worker, at the facility’s front desk, where Gormley meets them and leads them to the Visiting Room. Dads can focus all of their attention on the kids with no other adult visitors present.

With the holidays approaching, this visit sees dads and children working on a Christmas “wish list” and having special holiday photos taken together, a copy of which will go to both the inmate and the child the following week. DOC volunteer Courtney Henderson, who approached the DOC wanting to help with this initiative, then takes the lists and shares them with friends, family members and coworkers, who purchase the items. Henderson then transports them (this year three carloads full) to the RIDOC where Gormley divides them up and takes them to the various facilities to be wrapped by the inmates during the week and presented to the children the following Saturday.

“It means a lot to the kids to feel like they’re really getting something from Dad,” she notes.

Richard Cote, whose sons Ryan, 4, and Jason, 2-1/2, visit him each Saturday morning, can’t say enough about the program. “It’s made a huge difference in my connection with my sons,” he notes. “My part is to do all I can to better myself and to make the changes I need so that I never come to prison again,” he shares. “This will definitely help me reintegrate back with my family and resume my role as a husband and father when I’m released. I won’t be a stranger, and my children will know me.” He is confident that the program will make for an easier transition when he leaves prison, “so I can concentrate more on my issues with addiction, structure, and routine which keep landing me back in prison and tearing me away from my family.”

Cote says his boys didn’t enjoy coming during normal visiting hours, nor did their mom who would wind up having to chase them around the room as they got antsy because inmates aren’t allowed to get up from their seats during regular visits. They would get restless and frustrated and they and their mom seldom made it through an entire visit. “Now,” Cote notes, “They ask at least once a day about when they’re coming to the prison to visit. It’s the highlight of their week.”

“Promoting positive relationships is one of the key factors in preparing inmates for successful reentry to their home communities,” notes Director Wall. “We know that offenders who leave our custody with a place to live, a job, and strong family ties have a much higher likelihood of staying out. Programs like this one are a win/win for everyone involved. We are so pleased that it’s now available in both men’s medium facilities and men’s minimum, and that a similar program exists in women’s medium and minimum.”



(Top) CCAP staff escort young visitors from the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility after a Saturday visit in December; (center) Inmate Jason Catoni plays “Chutes and Ladders” with daughter, Gina; (bottom) Inmate Richard Cote plays with sons Ryan and Jason.

- CCRI Construction Technology Class, continued from page 3 -



running. I congratulate the graduates of what I hope will continue to be a heavily sought-out program for our Minimum Security inmates, one that will set them on a path toward successful careers in their home communities.”

The second group of students took on an ambitious class project - building 10 sets of tables and chairs for the outdoor playground of the Impossible Dream in Warwick, a nonprofit dedicated to chronically ill children. The playground had been vandalized and Koi in its pond destroyed, so the tables were designed in the shape of fish and presented to an overwhelmed Executive Director Diane Penza, seen at left with inmate Alvin Cologne in December.

Observation and Stabilization Unit (OSU) Opens at High Security



Staff have been trained, renovations have been completed, and the Observation and Stabilization Unit (OSU) is open for business in High Security. The OSU was in development for over two years and was recommended by a comprehensive interdisciplinary work group. The group determined the need for such a unit for inmates who were housed in the sentenced facilities and who, because of their mental illness, were difficult for the staff to manage and/or required frequent transfers to the Intake Service Center for evaluation.

One medium security inmate, for example, was sent back to Intake a total of nine times during a six-month period. These inmate/patients are often non-compliant and do not or are unable to respond appropriately to the demands of the correctional environment. Though few in numbers, they were putting considerable stress upon staff and security in sentenced facilities.

The goal of the OSU is to provide psychiatric stabilization to sentenced, mentally ill, or cognitively impaired male offenders who, based upon their current exhibiting behaviors, are unable to function in the general prison population. Its mission is to provide a continuum of comprehensive interdisciplinary behavioral health treatment services focused on increasing individual

functioning and promoting institutional safety throughout the Department.

Because there are not many inmates who fit into this category at a given time, it was decided to house the OSU in a small module at the High Security Center. Four cells have been earmarked for initial evaluation and observation. Eight other cells will be used as the individuals begin to stabilize and improve.

The treatment team consists of both Ins/Ops and Rehab Services staff who will develop and implement individual treatment plans. This interdisciplinary team monitors progress daily. The goal is to return a stabilized offender back to the general prison population with a plan that can be followed back at his original facility.

CAREER MILESTONES RECOGNIZED IN OCTOBER 1ST CEREMONY

Fifty-seven RIDOC employees were recognized in an October 1st Career Awards Ceremony in the Minimum Security Multipurpose Room for having retired or reached significant anniversaries of their entrance into state service since the last such ceremony. In his welcoming remarks, Director Wall mentioned some of the challenges facing DOC employees but also elaborated on the many reasons for celebration, including the fact that the RIDOC has the lowest attrition rate of any DOC in the country.

Recognized in the ceremony were:

10 YEARS

Robert Batista, *CO, Maximum*,
Kathleen Kelly, *Senior Legal Counsel*,
Kristin Lomberto, *Adult Counselor, Maximum*,
Anthony Lucca, *CO, Intake*,
Regina Moore, *Executive Assistant, Minimum*,
Celeste O'Connell, *Implementation Aide, Policy Unit*,
and Anne Ring, *Probation & Parole Aide*

15 YEARS

Richard Blain, *CO, High Security*,
Armand Dame, *Electrician, Intake*,
Corinne Deneault, *CO Hospital II, Intake*,
Edward Doran, *CO, Medium II*,
Jorge Lamb, *CO, Medium I*,
Ralph Orleck, *Special Education Director*, and
Gerard Pilon, *CO, Medium II*

20 YEARS

Avelino Duarte, *CO, High Security*,
Anthony Grassini, *CO, High Security*,
Michael Kociuba, *Auto Body Shop Supervisor*,
David Lineham, *CO, Medium I*,
Bruce Martel, *CO, Minimum*,
Christopher Martel, *CO, Intake*,
Michael Martufi, *CO Lt., Medium II*
John Menard, *CO, Minimum*,
James Petrella, *CO, Intake*,

Joseph Soares, *CO, Minimum*,
Jeffrey Southworth, *Community Program Counselor*,
Karl Stumpff, *Storekeeper*, and
Alfred Zannini, *CO, High Security*

25 YEARS

Donald Bergeron, *CO, Minimum*,
Michael Bernard, *CO, Minimum*,
Joan Boucher, *Librarian*,
Stephen Boyd, *Warden, Medium Securities*,
Jeoffroy Brouillette, *CO, High Security*,
George Cacchiotti, *CO, High Security*,
Brian Dauray, *CO, High Security*,
Lucien Fontaine, *CO, Minimum*,
Joseph Legros, *Security Specialist, Minimum*,
David McCauley, *Warden, Intake*,
Guy Plouffe, *CO, Intake*,
Mark Sheridan, *CO, Intake*,
Robert Silva, *CO, Minimum*,
Stephen Stabile, *Chief of Motor Pool and Maintenance*,
and Gregory Sulham, *CO, Minimum*

30 YEARS

Colleen Capezza, *Director of General Nursing Services*,
Robert Faris, *Business Management Officer*,
Arthur Fillo, *Maintenance*,
Armand Frechette, *CO, Medium II*,
Donna Kenyon, *Director of Volunteers*,
Beverly Koly, *Executive Assistant, Office of Inspections*

40 YEARS

Robert Quinn, *Probation and Parole Officer III*

RETIREES

George Barker, *CO, 21 years*,
James Brantley, *CO, 22 years (accepted by his widow, Priscilla. Officer Brantley sadly passed away a few weeks after retiring.)*
Ronald Curtis, *Storekeeper, 28 years*,
Carol Goulet, *Clinical Psychologist, 16 years*,
Ernest Healey, *CO, 16 years*,
Robin Kulik, *CO, 21 years*,
Paul Laroche, *CO Lt., 34 years*, and
John Recupero, *Probation and Parole Officer III, 31 years*



Director Wall (left) with retirees recognized in an October 1st Departmental Awards Ceremony.



Robert Quinn, seen here with his supervisor Christine Imbriglio, was recognized for 40 years of service to the RIDOC on October 1st.



Thirty-year DOC veterans are seen here with Director Wall (center) at the October 1st Departmental Awards Ceremony.



TRAINING ACADEMY CLASS 76



Training Academy Class 76



Director Wall, Major Steve O'Donnell and Chief Inspector Aaron Aldrich at the December 7th graduation ceremony.

Despite the difficult fact that only 15 of the graduates of Training Academy Class 76 could be guaranteed a position immediately upon graduation due to the state's fiscal crisis, the mood was high at Rhode Island College's Gaige Auditorium when 37 dedicated men and women took the oath of office on December 7th. Those 37 represented two percent of the approximately 2,000 who applied to the Academy back in the spring.

Major Steven O'Donnell, deputy superintendent for the Rhode Island State Police, delivered the keynote address. Steve began his career as a RIDOC Correctional Officer, graduating in 1984 and serving in both Maximum and High Security before leaving for the North Kingstown Police Department several years later. He credits the RIDOC with providing him with the tools for a successful career, noting that only those who have "walked the beat" can fully grasp the difficulties Correctional Officers face every day in "the most difficult job of any in law enforcement."



WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD?

Virtual Tour Now Online! - Visit the Department's website at www.doc.ri.gov and take a virtual history tour of the RIDOC. Numerous

other updates are being made regularly to the site, so be sure and check it out!

Reentry Communications -- Copies of the *Rhode to Reentry* brochure are available by calling Tracey Poole, Chief of Information and Public Relations, at (401) 462-2609. Written by Poole and designed by Sarah Kilkelly, the brochure provides a good overview of the state's efforts in the arena of prisoner reentry. It was produced with grant monies from the Rhode Island Foundation.

Developing Partnerships - Emerging partnerships between the RIDOC's Probation & Parole Officers and police departments in Providence (District 7) and Warwick have been the topic of news articles in the *Providence Journal* and the *Warwick Beacon* in recent weeks.

CCRI Construction Technology Course - The course described on page 3 has been covered by Channel 12, the *Providence Journal*, *Providence Business News*, and corrections.com. Channel 10 and *Providence Business News* have covered the **Habitat for Humanity** project also covered on page 3.

The Providence Journal's Law & Order photo essay has focused on RIDOC-related topics frequently in recent months. The license plate shop, the father-child visitation program, and video court are just a few of the topics covered in that bi-weekly essay in the Rhode Island section.

RIDOC employees who volunteer in their communities during their time off will be the subject of a special feature in a January issue of the e-zine corrections.com.

ADDRESSING DUI

Rhode Island leads the nation in drunk driving fatalities, and the alarming number of DUI/Death Resulting incidents in recent months, particularly involving teens in the community of Barrington, has been a focus of the media. RIDOC Minimum Security inmate Brendan Lombardi, currently doing a long sentence for DUI/Death Resulting, has chosen to speak about his crime and the choice he made which forever changed his and numerous other lives. At the request of Assistant Attorney General Jay Sullivan, Brendan



Brendan Lombardi, standing before a slide of the car he was driving when his two friends were killed, speaks about DUI at Barrington High.

was granted a furlough by Director Wall to speak at Barrington High School in the fall. He also participated, via satellite, in a "Town Meeting" produced by Channel 10's Jim Taricani which aired in December. He had previously been interviewed for a documentary,

The Impact of Your Choice: Underage Drinking and Reckless Driving, produced by Deborah Hoch and now being used in middle school and high school health education curricula around the state and beyond. The Department is in discussion with the AG's Office about offering a targeted version of its SCORE Program on DUI.

FAREWELL, FERRO



Steve Hauser and Ferro

He served in countless patrol and narcotic details for the RIDOC and for law enforcement agencies around the state. His final accomplishment

was his recertification with the National Police Work Dog Association in September. The first canine in his group and in the country to complete the Level 2 Tactical Canine certification, Canine *Ferro* was laid to rest on December 20th.

In addition to assisting law enforcement in a variety of ways, RIDOC canines live in the homes of their handlers, and the special bond developed on the job grows deeper. Stephen J. Hauser, *Ferro's* handler and human partner, his wife, Lori, and their family are saddened by the loss of *Ferro* and ask that he be remembered for his nobility and confidence.

The *RIDOC Review* is published intermittently throughout the year by the Office of the Director, RIDOC. Please send suggestions for future topics and feedback to:

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