



# RIDOC REVIEW

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Year End 2009

Vol. III, Issue 3

## CO Spotlight: *Michael Levesque*



*C.O. Michael Levesque*

Michael Levesque of Cranston was shopping for a gun in the hopes of getting into competitive target shooting when he learned from the shop proprietor that the Department of Corrections was hiring Correctional Officers. He was working in security at the time and had always wanted a career in law enforcement but until then hadn't considered corrections. He has two cousins who worked for the Bristol County (Mass.) House of Corrections to whom he'd been close since childhood, so he asked them about their work. "They made it sound interesting," he reflects, "so I decided to apply."

Fast forward 12 years and the father of two seems to have found his niche. He graduated from Correctional Officer Training Academy Class 66 in 1997 and went on line first at the Moran facility on the 3 – 11 p.m. shift, then moved to the 1 – 9 p.m.

shift. During his brief time at Moran, he had the Visiting Room post, which he liked because it involved dealing with the public and helped him improve his people skills.

In March of 1998, Officer Levesque moved to the Price Facility, where he has been ever since. His 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. schedule allows him to be involved in his family life as well as spend time on his main hobby and "side job" — photography.

Officer Levesque has utilized his photography skills on the job to chronicle Level III emergency drills at Moran and the Women's facilities. "It was great because it allowed me to get the whole picture," he says, "I knew what everyone's role was, all the way up the chain." He also takes photos for friends and family, often giving them as gifts. "It takes your mind off of things," he says of his avocation. "You can't think about the job 24/7." His children have cameras of their own and often go with him to scenic locations around the state, including Beavertail Lighthouse, to take pictures.

Asked what he enjoys most about his work in corrections, Officer Levesque says it's the fact that there is always something going on. He sees communication as 90% of the job, noting "It's important to learn how to talk to people, not just yell orders at them. If you treat both inmates and co-workers with respect, it's usually reciprocated."

One of his most memorable on-the-job experiences was an unfortunate one – when fellow officer About Saggal was assaulted by an inmate he was escorting to Segregation. Officer Levesque was among those to respond, coming on a bloody scene in which Officer Saggal received black eyes and a broken nose. "Everybody pulls together," he notes of such situations. "If something happens, any differences we may have go out the window to get the job done."

Asked if he often encounters ex offenders while out in public, Officer Levesque says he occasionally hears someone yell out, "Hey C.O." While he feels the public has no idea of the scope of the job and says "it's hard to describe," he does believe there is a lot of respect for the role, and says

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### Photos by C.O. Michael Levesque



*C.O. Michael Levesque took the above images in his capacity as the official photographer for two Level III drills.*

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Tracey E. Zeckhausen, *Chief of Information & P.R.*  
Editor, Designer, and Photographer  
401-462-2609; tracey.zeckhausen@doc.ri.gov

# RIDOC in the Community, the Classroom, and Beyond

Information for this page comes from the "Request to Make a Onetime External Presentation" and "Academic Course Notification" forms required of staff per Policy 1.12 Public Presentations.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**Assistant Director Ellen Evans Alexander** was a guest lecturer in the University of Rhode Island's Women's Studies class, discussing *Women Offenders and Women Employees* in November.

**Gina Caruolo, Chief of Policy**, taught *Drugs, Society and Human Behavior* at Roger Williams University and *General Sociology* at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) during the fall semester.

**Associate Director of Planning and Research Jeff Renzi** represented the RIDOC at the Bureau of Justice Assistance/National Institute of Corrections-sponsored national conference at Florida University concerning the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) in December. He participated in developing the agenda for the conference and chaired a panel and presented on the topic of *Data Collection, Research and Development, Documentation and Preparing for Audits*.

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

**Chief Inspector Aaron Aldrich** presented an overview of the RIDOC's investigative units to a law class at Rhode Island College in November.

**Director A.T. Wall** spoke to law students who work in clinical settings at Roger Williams University in September. He spoke to Brown University's Prison Discussion Group last fall, as did **Episcopal Chaplain Joyce Penfield**. The student organization meets weekly to learn about current issues and conditions in Rhode Island's prisons. The Director also lectured in Prof. Ross Cheit's *Criminal Justice* seminar at Brown in November. He also participated in a forum at Temple Beth-El in collaboration with St. Martin's Episcopal Church and Central Congregational Church, together with Providence Police Chief Dean Esserman and Peter Wells, Editor of the *Providence American*. They spoke about what's right and what's wrong with the state's criminal justice program and what improvements can be made.

## INSTITUTIONS & OPERATIONS

**Special Investigator Steve Cabral** spoke about *Gangs in Rhode Island* at the Fall Judicial Conference at Johnson & Wales University in September.

**Deputy Warden Sergio Desousarosa** has been selected to be on the Technical Advisory Committee at New England Institute of Technology for the Criminal Justice program. In November, he gave an overview of corrections in Rhode Island to students in the *Criminal Justice Research Methods* class at



*Community Confinement Administrator Maggie Picot (center) speaks to bome confinees in arrears at a mandatory meeting she instituted in December.*



*Roberta Rounds, Education Unit, holds the certificate she recently received from RIC.*



*Director Wall was the first guest reader for OpenMinds, a book club for children with a parent involved in the criminal justice system launched in December by OpenDoors, formerly the Family Life Center. He read Snowmen at Night on December 18th at the Providence Children's Museum.*

Johnson & Wales University and to students in URI's *Criminal Justice* class. In December, he gave an overview of corrections to students in Rhode Island College's *Criminalistics* class. He also participated, along with **Correctional Officer Johanny Viciano** and **Correctional Officer Lieutenant William Galligan** in a corrections panel at Johnson & Wales University in November.

## REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

**Vanessa Cameron, Probation and Parole Officer**, spoke about probation's role in community safety to students at Providence's Met School in November. In late summer, she spoke about her unit's partnership with the Providence Police Department in sex offender management to the Providence School Department.

**Bree Derrick, Clinical Social Worker**, participated in a national workshop on adult and juvenile female offenders in Jackson, MS, in October. Her presentation was on the risks of providing clinical services in a women's prison and suggestions for clinician self care.

**Jean Embrey, Probation and Parole Supervisor**, was invited to join the New England Institute of Technology's Technical Advisory Committee for the Criminal Justice Technology Department.

**Parole Unit Supervisor Lynn Gardiner** was invited by the Rhode Island State Police to speak about probation and parole in September.

**Magdalena Picot, Administrator of Community Confinement**, initiated a cost-saving effort to crack down on home confinees who violate the rules by not paying their required \$6/day cost to participate in the program. She instituted mandatory meetings for anyone who is in arrears. By sending out letters and having her counselors make phone calls, her unit collected \$5,300 prior to the first mandatory session on December 11th. Most who came to the session brought certified checks or cash and almost \$20,000 was collected.

**Deborah Rezendes, Probation and Parole Officer**, spoke about her field on Career Day at Textron Chamber of Commerce High School in Providence in November.

**Roberta Rounds, Senior Word Processing Typist**, completed the Case Manager Certificate Program at Rhode Island College School of Social Work in December.

## Personnel Notes: Comings and Goings

### Promotions, Retirements, & Appointments

A warm welcome to the following Correctional Officers who graduated with Class 77 and went on line between July 1 and December 30, 2009:

HEATHER ANDERSON	CHRISTOPHER FERRIS
ROBERT CUMMINGS	RYAN JARVIS
JOHN VIGNIERO	PHILIP LEITE
JON DEFILIPPIS	ALLEN PATNAUDE

A warm welcome to the following people who were hired between July 1 and December 30, 2009:

PATRICIA BELLISLE, **DATA CONTROL CLERK**  
 TINA LAPIERRE-MURPHY, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER**  
 JENNIFER MURPHY, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER**  
 ANN TETREAU, **FISCAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER**

Congratulations and farewell to the following persons who retired, transferred to another state agency, or voluntarily resigned between July 1 and December 30, 2009:

LEON CABREJA, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 DIANA CARDOSA, **ACADEMIC TEACHER**  
 J.E. CONNELLY, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER**  
 \*ALAN FEINSTEIN, **SUPERVISING CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST**  
 \*ARTHUR FILLO, **ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE**  
 \*MAURICE FORTIER, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 JENNIFER FRANKLIN, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 \*KEVIN FRENETTE, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 \*NANCY HALLMAN, **PROBATION & PAROLE SUPERVISOR**  
 \*EMILIO IACOVONE, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 \*KATHLEEN LOWRY, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 \*ALBERT MALKASIAN, **ACADEMIC TEACHER**  
 \*ALBERT MARCOTTE, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 CYNTHIA MAROTTA, **SENIOR CLERK**  
 PATRICIA MARKMAN, **SENIOR WORD PROCESSING TYPIST**  
 \*DAVID MERCER, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 \*STEVEN MISZTAL, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 \*THOMAS MONEY, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 \*TIMOTHY MURPHY, **ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
 \*LOUIS PANARELLO, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 MICHAEL POSHKUS, **MEDICAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR**  
 \*JAMES RATHBUN, **SUPERVISOR, CORRECTIONAL OFFICER TRAINING**  
 \*ANTONE SANTOS, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 \*GLENN SMITH, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 \*THOMAS SULLIVAN, **COUNSELING SERVICES COORDINATOR**  
 \*IDA THORNIMB, **MEDICAL RECORDS CLERK**  
 ILEANA VALERIO, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 JASON WARE, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**

*\*indicates voluntary retirement*

OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO THE FAMILY OF STEVEN JOHANSEN, CORRECTIONAL OFFICER, WHO DIED IN A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT IN OCTOBER.

#### CIT MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN NECNA PROGRAM

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, eight members of the RIDOC's Crisis Intervention Team participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual New England Crisis Negotiators Association (NECNA) regional training for Rhode Island, sponsored by NECNA, the FBI regional office, and Gateway Health Care Systems and hosted by Salve Regina University – Division of Graduate Studies. The program opened with a presentation by Major Robert Laprel (MASP, Ret.), currently a program director with the Samaritans (who maintain a nationwide network of suicide/crisis hotlines) with special emphasis on techniques for negotiating with the elderly. The afternoon session, facilitated by the Boston Office of the FBI, consisted of several hour-long role playing scenarios, testing a variety of negotiating techniques. The FBI agents and veteran negotiator Richard Sawyer, Deputy Chief of the Hampton, NH PD critiqued each team's performance during the role plays. The depth and experience of the RIDOC's CIT was evident, as the evaluations of their training exercises were consistently favorable.

RIDOC participants included Correctional Officers Marc Cormier, Maria Palomares, Byron Blackmar, Dantes Carrasco, Miguel Santiago, Edward Gervais, Bernard Fournier, and Deputy Warden Donna Collins. Negotiators from Providence, North Providence, West Warwick, Smithfield, Cranston, Pawtucket, Westerly and Little Compton Police Departments also participated in the training. Clinical supervisors from Gateway Health Care and administration of justice students from Salve Regina University were also part of the exercises. The event was coordinated by John Carr, the RI representative for NECNA, and clinical advisor for both the RIDOC's CIT and Stress Units.



Arthur Fillo, the Department's longest serving manager, retired in December as Associate Director of Facilities & Maintenance after a 33-year career. He is seen here with Warden Jim Weeden and Associate Director, Correctional Industries, Joe Flaberty.



Tim Murphy (right) retired in December as Associate Director of Education after a 28-year stint. He is seen here with Special Education Director Ralph Orleck, who has taken over his responsibilities.



Jim Rathbun, Supervisor of Training, stands in the doorway to his office one last time to bid farewell to colleagues. He too retired in December.

The RIDOC's CERT Team has assembled care packages for our employees who are on active duty with the military and serving overseas. Our thoughts and good wishes go out to them and their families as they continue to honor our Department with their service to our country:

Philip Aubin, CO, Medium  
 Luis Bayanilla, CO, Maximum  
 Kenneth Brooks, CO, Minimum  
 Joseph Callanan, CO, Minimum  
 Shayne Chapman, CO Lt., Women's  
 Joseph Charette, CO, Maximum  
 Justin Curran, CO, Intake  
 Matthew Laurence, CO, Women's  
 Paul Rao, Records & ID Lt.  
 Neil Nicholson, CO, Maximum

# Adding Years to their Lives



*C.O. Captain Paul Bartholomy (above) at a family gathering prior to surgery and (below) on the job last month.*



It's the American way to overindulge during the holidays, but for three Rhode Island Department of Corrections employees who have shed around 100 pounds each after having gastric bypass surgery, portions were small just as they must be any other time of the year.

It was when he had to special order a tuxedo for his daughter's Father/Daughter Dance at school that Correctional Officer Captain Paul Bartholomy began to think seriously about shedding the extra pounds he'd put on during the course of over a decade of unhealthy eating and living habits. His weight was beginning to affect him on the job too. When responding to a code, "they almost had to call a code on me," he reflects. The RIDOC employee had tried every diet available and none of them worked. Since having gastric bypass surgery last April, he has lost over 100 pounds. He has gone from a 48 waist to a 34, a size 2X shirt to Medium, and is fast approaching his goal of 170 pounds — his weight when he entered the Training Academy 26 years ago.

Despite the fact that he spent three days in Rhode Island Hospital's Intensive Care Unit on a breathing machine post surgery until his caregivers were able to regulate his pulse and breathing, Captain Bartholomy says he now feels healthier and more energetic than ever before. He knew going into the surgery that there were serious risks involved, but says "I rolled the dice and took a chance, and I'd do it again."

Captain Bartholomy's doctor had explained to him that over 90% of people who lose weight on diets regain it within two to three years. "Gastric bypass surgery is the only proven method for taking weight off and keeping it off," he says, "but it's not a magic bullet — just a tool. What you do with it is up to you."

What he's done is stopped eating after 6:30 p.m., started walking or running three to five miles a day, and basically taken his life back. When his mother passed away a few months ago, he wore a suit he hadn't worn in 17 years which had recently come back into style. A self-described jeans and t-shirt guy, he caused jaws to drop when he arrived at the service and saw family and friends he hadn't seen since losing the weight.

Captain Bartholomy says his fellow officers — some of whom visited him in the hospital — have been tremendous, and even inmates have complimented him. "I have a soft spot in my heart for people who are heavy," he shares, noting that he's regularly approached by people who are contemplating the surgery and seeking his advice.

Just six weeks after Captain Bartholomy's own surgery, he found himself visiting a colleague, Intake Service Center Correctional Officer Captain Robert Clancy, as he recovered from the same procedure at Roger Williams Hospital.

Captain Clancy has lost over 90 pounds and though he too had complications that led him back in the emergency room, he says he knows the surgery was the right choice for him. His doctor recommended it out of concerns over his high blood pressure and family history of heart disease. "I have been with the Department since July of 1982 and I never believed I would live long enough to retire...now I feel like I have that chance."

Al Charette, Senior Maintenance Technician with the Facilities and Maintenance Unit since 1991, had his gastric bypass operation in April of 2008 and has steadily been losing weight ever since. He is now 126 pounds lighter than he was prior to the surgery and feels better than ever. He was on six different blood pressure medications and his heart was enlarging when his doctor told him he had to lose weight or he would be dead within five years. He attended a seminar on gastric bypass surgery at the Miriam Hospital and did his own research before deciding to move forward with the procedure.

Al has had no complications and is able to eat just about anything, in small portions, four to five times a day. He lost between 80 and 90 pounds in the first six months and continues to lose gradually but steadily. He no longer takes any medication except for vitamins, protein shakes, and supplements required for those who undergo the procedure.

Now instead of sitting in the audience, Al goes around and speaks to groups of people interested in learning more about gastric bypass surgery at the Miriam. Informational meetings are held there the first Tuesday of the month with doctors and nursing staff present to answer questions. He just turned 50 and figures he has many additional years ahead thanks to the surgery and his drastic lifestyle changes. His two children, who were hesitant about him having the procedure at first, are very happy and confident that they will have their new and improved dad in their lives for many years to come.



*Al Charette (above) just prior to surgery and (below) with fiancée, Stephenie, last month.*



## CO Spotlight: Michael Levesque

(cont'd. from page 1)

that's a good feeling. His parents, who live in Chepachet, are very proud of their son for his chosen profession. He is an only child, but is close with his cousins and his wife's three brothers and their families.

He and his wife both grew up in Providence and now share their Cranston home with their kids and their pet Boxer. A dog lover, he's enjoyed his association with the NEADS Prison Pup Partnership Program which at one point placed up to four dogs at the Price Facility. "The guys in the program are really motivated," he notes.

A graduate of St. Raphael's Academy in Pawtucket and the Community College of Rhode Island, where he received an Associate degree in Criminal Justice, Officer Levesque briefly attended Bryant College for accounting but says, "The fit wasn't right." As a kid, he thought about joining the FBI, but he now hopes to stay in corrections and possibly move up the ladder if the opportunity arises. "I don't see this job as just a stepping stone," he says. "It's a very good career."

## Photos by C.O. Michael Levesque



## A Look Back in Time: Longtime Employees Return

October 21st, 2009, is a significant day for Warwick's Dennis Papa — it marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first day on the job with the RIDOC. To commemorate that important date in his personal history, Dennis returned to his former workplace for a tour of the Donald Price Medium Security and Minimum Security Facilities, where he spent the bulk of his career, and an informal meeting with Director A.T. Wall. Former colleague and RIDOC Warden Ron Brule, who retired in 1996 after 31 years of state service, joined him

for the daylong visit.



Retired employees Dennis Papa (left) and Ron Brule (right) with Director Wall on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dennis' first day on the job.

the notes he took during the sessions. They include information about the Department's herd of cattle and how much beef was produced from the herd. He recalls General Paul Sherman, then head of the Department of Social Welfare, under which the Department fell at the time, coming in to instruct the class.

Dennis had completed classes at Bryant College when he came to the RIDOC seeking a job. After a 20-minute interview with retired FBI agent Harold Langlois (then Warden in charge of the ACI facilities), he was hired as a Correctional Officer and placed at the "old" Medium Security, which is now the Donald Price Medium Security Facility. Mr. Papa knew and worked with Correctional Officer Donald Price, sadly the last officer to be killed in the line of duty when an inmate stabbed him in 1973.

A veteran of the Korean War, Mr. Papa returned to the Department from active military duty as an Associate Director. Some of

the other titles he held during his tenure include Correctional Officer, Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Warden, and finally Warden. During his career he received letters from sitting Governors for his work and various projects he undertook to save the state money. When he retired in July of 1990, a huge party was held in his honor at Evelyn's in West Warwick attended by many of the Department's longest and best known employees.



Retired employees Dennis Papa (left) and Ron Brule (right) with Minimum Security's Acting Deputy Warden Richard Meunier.

Among his many accomplishments, Dennis designed the Department's first patch, worn on Correctional Officers' uniforms (it has since been redesigned). In the process, he wrote to every other state requesting samples of their patches, which he still has today. He was around in 1971 when the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers was first formed so the officers and brass would have a collective voice. Previously, they were part of Council 70. He knew and worked with many of the "old timers" who would talk about the Great Depression when they earned \$75 a month and lived on the grounds. The Department had a farm and employees were permitted to take home all the food they wanted.

He was on duty during the Blizzard of '78 and recalls what a challenging time that was for departmental operations. During his tenure, there was 100% employment (on grounds) of Minimum Security inmates. He was responsible for the first contract with the Department of Transportation and the establishment and oversight of the first litter crews.

There were about 300 inmates in Minimum when he retired (on average last fiscal year there were more than 600). He left the same day former Director John J. Moran retired. He still has his badge — Badge #9, and several of his uniforms.

## RIDOC's STRESS TEAM: SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYEES

### IN A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT

Stress is a natural by-product of working in corrections. Corrections is at the tail end of the criminal justice system, and corrections professionals work behind prison walls with those whom the rest of society has marginalized and largely ignores. Our work often goes unrecognized and some of what we see and experience in the course of a "normal day" is difficult for the average lay person to fathom. To assist our employees and their families in dealing with this challenging environment, the RIDOC has put in place a Stress Team, comprised of 17 staff members who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The volunteer team operates in five different areas: referral, voluntary treatment, posttraumatic stress, education/training, and critical incident debriefing. It is important that employees feel safe to reach out to the team and are able to trust each member. Members are sworn to confidentiality so much of their work, by necessity, goes unnoticed.

The RIDOC's Stress Team networks with companies, hospitals, or clinicians for extended care for employees. The team has referred people who are dealing with financial hardship, in need of mortgage payment assistance, or seeking cancer support to outside agencies. The team works closely with the Rhode Island Peer Support Team. Team members come from all three divisions – Institutions and Operations, Rehabilitative Services, and Administrative Services. There are team members from Human Resources as well as representatives from each security. The team makes their cell or home phone numbers as well as office numbers and shift, available to all of the RIDOC's nearly 1,400 employees via the department's Intranet site.

According to Caterina Spinaris Tudor, founder of Desert Waters Correctional Outreach, a nonprofit for the well-being of correctional staff and their families, "Corrections is a difficult and stressful occupation and sooner or later most of us need to reach out for assistance to cope."



*Stress Team Co-Leader  
Lisa Santagata*



*Stress Team Co-Leader  
Charles Thomas*

## FALL 2009 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS MEDIA DAY



*Reporters from the Providence Journal and Newport Daily News take notes as a probation officer interviews a client during Community Corrections Media Day.*



*Director Wall speaks to reporters and is recorded by WPRO radio's Steve Klamkin during Fall 2009 Community Corrections Media Day on October 15th.*

Media Day, which has become a semiannual tradition here at the RIDOC, took on a different twist last fall when it focused on Community Corrections rather than tours of individual facilities. The day began at the Control Center for the Home Confinement Unit with a presentation by Administrator Maggie Picot followed by brief testimonies from a male and female offender currently on Home Confinement. The group of journalists then headed to the Kent County Courthouse where Probation & Parole Supervisor Christine Imbriglio had assembled some of her staff and representatives from some of our partner law enforcement agencies for a discussion on the emerging team approach and other improvements in how probationers and parolees are supervised. The day ended with a stop at the District 2 Probation and Parole Office where reporters were able to witness reporting sessions and see firsthand the close partnership between our staff and the Providence Police Department.

Attendees were enthusiastic about the experience, which resulted in positive press coverage of our Community Corrections efforts. A front page article on the new mapping software designed by the Providence Plan and used daily by our Probation & Parole staff appeared in the December 27th *Providence Journal* and WPRO aired a story on the event. Links to most press coverage can be found on the RIDOC's website - [www.doc.ri.gov](http://www.doc.ri.gov), under the "Media and Community Relations" link.

The next Media Day, which will include tours of some of our facilities, will be scheduled in the spring.

RIDOC Stress Team co-coordinator Lisa Santagata, Supervisor of Training with the department's Training Academy refers to the team as "unsung heroes." She says, "The work we do is not measurable in a scientific way, but is very rewarding." Santagata's co-coordinator on the team is Correctional Officer Steward Charles Thomas of Maximum Security. Says Thomas, "The occasional sleepless nights are worthwhile knowing we are taking care of fellow employees."

A list of current Stress Team members is below. Their contact information, is available to RIDOC employees on the department's Intranet site.

### RIDOC STRESS TEAM MEMBERS

Jonathan Addison, High Security	Sharon Hagenberg, P&P	Audra Russo, Admin.
Michael Blair, Minimum	Michael Laplume, Minimum	Jane Ryan, H.R.
Tonya Dana, Medical Records	John Lavery, Training Academy	Lisa Santagata, Training Academy, co-coordinator
Sergio DeSousarosa, Price	Scott Lepizzera, Intake	Charles Thomas, Maximum, co-coordinator
Wayne Gardner, Minimum	David Petronelli, Price	
Paul Gutowski, H.R.	Manny Pinheiro, Maximum	

## Visitors from Near and Far Impressed with RIDOC of Today

### Visitors...

In addition to the return visit of former longtime employees Dennis Papa and Ron Brule in October (see page 5), a number of groups and individuals from as nearby as our home city of Cranston to as far afield as the Republic of Moldova spent time at the RIDOC listening to staff and touring facilities. Despite these challenging economic times and the necessity of doing more with less, the impressions shared by these guests are evidence that not only is our mission still being fulfilled, it is being carried out with as much pride and professionalism as ever.

### ...From Near

"A good relationship with the courts is integral to my office's ability to effectively represent the Department," says Trish Coyne-Fague, Chief Legal Counsel for the RIDOC. Trish sometimes has the opportunity to accompany judges on tours of the institutions. Toward the end of this year, Superior Court Judge William Carnes took his annual tour of some of the ACI facilities and shared his positive impressions of that experience with Trish, who in turn passed them along to the staff involved. Deputy Wardens Matthew Kettle and Kirk Kaszyk escorted Trish and the Judge through the Maximum and Medium Moran facilities on very short notice. The judge let Trish know how positively impressed he was with the staff he encountered in both facilities, how clean and orderly the facilities were, and how the pride in the jobs people do there is evident. At Max, adult counselor Michelle Alexander spoke about her work with the inmate population. Because of the Judge's interest in discharge planning, Christine Greene, high risk discharge planner at Moran, explained her work. Judge Carnes found her upbeat and motivated demeanor impressive since it is so critical to getting inmates motivated themselves. As Trish noted in her memo to staff involved, "It's one thing to shine the place up and be prepared to talk when you know someone important is coming to visit, and another thing entirely to suddenly have a judge show up unexpectedly and say 'Hi, tell me about the work you do.' Everyone really stepped up to the plate. Thanks for making us all look good once again!"

Another local dignitary, now Cranston Police Chief Marco Palombo, toured Maximum Security on December 23rd. The former Correctional Officer has firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by our line staff every day. He was accompanied by Deputy Warden Matthew Kettle and C.O. Captain Jeffrey Aceto and shared that he was very impressed with the changes that have taken place in the facility since he left in the late 1980's.

### And Far....

During a weeklong stay in the U.S. five Moldovan leaders participating in the Open World Program hosted by the Rotary Club of Scituate, R.I., met with Director Wall and toured the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility. As part of the tour, the group had a brief demonstration by inmate handlers and pups participating in the *Prison Pup Partnership Program* offered through NEADS: Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans. "We are pleased that the Department of Corrections is one of the stops on the Moldovan delegation's itinerary," noted Director Wall at the time. "Any time there is an exchange of ideas and best practices, everyone benefits."

While in Rhode Island, the delegates also met with representatives from Rhode Island's Ethics Commission, Board of Elections, Commission on Human Rights, Crime Victim Compensation Program, State Police Detective Division, Attorney General's Office, Sixth Division District Court, and General Treasurer Frank Caprio and toured the Ocean Tides School. Through these experiences, the delegates learned about criminal justice in Rhode Island and the investigative system used to address violations of ethics, election laws, and human rights violations as well as victim services.

The RIDOC piece of the visit was facilitated by Probation and Parole Supervisor Micheline Lombardi, who is a member of the Scituate Rotary. Micheline received a letter of appreciation from Dorin Purice, Head of the Risk Management Department with Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova, which states, "The program was a great success, very well planned and comprehensive, answering all of our needs and expectations. The experience will be a starting point for the process of cooperation and dialogue between public bodies and central representatives of civil society for the launch and implementation of best practices and processes in anticorruption activities."



Top left: Moldovan leaders participating in the Open World program pose with Probation and Parole's Micheline Lombardi, Planning and Research's Ann-Marie Bandieri, and the Training Academy's Jim Rathbun prior to touring the Moran facility. Above: One of the Moldovan guests poses in the "Ready Room" at Moran. Left: The visitors are processed at the reception desk in Moran.



Director Wall poses with a group of dignitaries from the Dominican Republic who visited the RIDOC last fall.

## RIDOC Reentry Efforts Continue: Regional Reentry Council Model Expands to Westerly



Westerly Reentry Team Members (see list of name in box at right.)



On a recent Monday afternoon at the invitation of Teresa Smith, Adult Probation & Parole Supervisor, and Westerly Police Chief Edward A. Mello, an interdisciplinary team of professionals in law enforcement and social services gathered in a conference room at the Westerly Police Department to review a list of inmates who would be returning to their Westerly neighborhoods within the next six months. In addition to the RIDOC's Probation and Parole and discharge planning units, the agencies represented included the Westerly Police Department, South County Community Action Program (SCCAP), Pleasant Street Baptist Church, the WARM Shelter, Wood River Health Services, Phoenix House, Westerly-Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce, South Shore Mental Health, Westerly Housing, and the Westerly branch of the Department of Human Services.

As a RIDOC discharge planner read the name of an offender due to be released, Chief Mello would check records on his department laptop and various providers in the room would review their client lists looking for any past involvement with the individual in question. In most cases, the person had some contact with the police and had received assistance or treatment from one of the agencies in the room prior to incarceration. By comparing notes and sharing specific knowledge of the individual, the group collectively discussed what would be most helpful for the offender upon release. In some cases, his or her file was handed over to a particular team member for targeted follow up.

In most cases, a questionnaire on each offender was completed during incarceration listing self-identified needs, past services, programs completed while inside, and family and support network information. Offender A, who did only ten days for a DUI offense, stated to his discharge planner that he would be living with his dad, but the police had him on record as stating he didn't know the whereabouts of his dad. Offender B, it turns out, had a search warrant out of Superior Court and shouldn't be on the release list. Offender C was a "chronic non-compliant" with treatment providers and had mental health and substance issues that needed to be addressed. Offender D needed housing assistance. When the list was exhausted, one social service provider announced that she had 21 tickets available for Thanksgiving meals should anyone have clients in need. The Chamber of Commerce representative expressed her organization's need for project help should anyone on the release list or on probation have community service hours to complete.

This is the new model for corrections and is not unique to Westerly. The RIDOC, like many corrections departments across the country, has gradually redefined its mission of public safety. It is no longer enough to simply lock offenders up to keep the public safe. The RIDOC, along with its partner agencies, must also ensure that the time criminals spend incarcerated is focused on preparing them for a safe and successful return to their home community. The efforts begun behind the walls must continue on the outside in order for the returning offender to overcome the many obstacles he or she will face upon release.

Westerly's Reentry Council has been meeting for about six months and follows the same basic model as similar councils in Newport, Warwick, Pawtucket/Central Falls, Woonsocket, and Providence. While each council operates slightly differently depending on the unique characteristics of the community, each engages a group of professionals representing law enforcement, social services, and the faith-based sector – all of whom are serving individuals and/or families of individuals returning from prison or under DOC authority on probation, parole, or community confinement. In Westerly, Chief Mello and P&P Supervisor Smith have worked hand in hand every step of the way to select appropriate members for the group and schedule the meetings.

Director Wall, the driving force behind the Department's emphasis on prisoner reentry, applauds Westerly Police Chief Edward Mello's personal leadership in the Westerly area. "Chief

### WESTERLY REENTRY TEAM MEMBERS

First row: **Sean Walsh**, South County Community Action Program  
**The Rev. Joshua McClure**, Pleasant St. Baptist Church  
**Russell Partridge**, WARM Shelter  
**Teresa Smith**, Probation and Parole Supervisor  
**Paul Zambarano**, Family Life Center Discharge Planner  
**Cindy Gardiner**, Wood River Health Services  
**Chief Edward Mello**, Westerly Police  
**Peter Mendoza**, Phoenix House  
 Second row: **Lisa Konicki**, Westerly-Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce  
**Greg Williams**, Parole Officer  
**Kathy Garlick**, South Shore Mental Health  
**Captain Edward St. Clair**, Westerly Police  
 Not pictured: **Holly Peabody**, Dept. of Human Services, and **Richard Longolucco**, Westerly Housing

Mello has gone above and beyond in his investment in this important public safety initiative. We at the RIDOC are extremely grateful for his visionary leadership and partnership."

Roberta Richman, assistant director for rehabilitative services, has been instrumental in getting the reentry council model up and running. "Even when people are well intentioned and have skills," Richman notes, "there are barriers and obstacles facing them upon release, and many fail." She continues, "In a state like Rhode Island where there are virtually no intermediate sanctions, the kind of partnerships formed on our reentry councils are critical to breaking the cycle and keeping our citizens from falling into the same traps that brought them to prison in the first place."

Terry Smith, who has worked with probationers in the Westerly area for decades, is enthused and energized by the work of the Westerly council. "In a short time, I can really see our collaborative efforts paying off," she says. "The people around the table all have tidbits of knowledge which when put together, complete the puzzle. This kind of sharing can ensure that someone doesn't fall through the cracks, and that their individual needs are addressed."

Westerly Police Chief Edward Mello, says of the Council "The collaboration of these community stakeholders to better prepare inmates for release will pay tremendous dividends. From the perspective of law enforcement, we are insuring that the probationers are given the direction to keep themselves out of trouble. This will in turn have a positive impact, not only on those being released but the community as a whole."