

RIDOC REVIEW

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT
Fall 2010



CO Spotlight: Leonard Larrivee



Quiet and unassuming, Leonard Larrivee comes to work every day with a smile on his face. He goes about doing his job with the same pride and professionalism he has since he first came on board almost four decades ago. One of the Department's longest-serving C.O.'s, Lenny says enthusiastically, "Put it this way, I don't just like my job, I love it!"

Enlisted in the Army for two years, Lenny did his basic training at Ft. Jackson and served in Anchorage, Alaska, with the 56 MP Detachment. Upon returning home to Tiverton, where he has lived most of his life, he went to work for Texas Instruments in Attleboro, Mass., as an inspector of coin material. During this time he purchased his parents' home and got married. When he got laid off by T.I., Lenny contacted

the RIDOC about work, and the rest, as they say, is history.

A 37-year veteran of the Department, Officer Larrivee began his tenure in 1973, at the height of a period of violence and unrest following the stabbing death of young Correctional Officer Donald Price by an inmate. The Department was having a hard time attracting new employees, and in his early days on the job, says Lenny, it wasn't uncommon for someone to leave for their lunch break and never return!

There were only six men in his Training Academy class, which back then lasted just a few weeks. Despite the brevity of the training, Lenny says he did indeed feel prepared when he went on line. "The Lieutenant in charge of the Training Academy at the time asked if I knew about Officer Price's murder and if, in light of that, I still wanted the job," Lenny recalls.

"...I don't just like my job, I love it!"

He did, and after providing a letter of recommendation from his Commanding Officer in the Army and going through a fairly simple application process, "They took me right away," Lenny recalls.

Officer Larrivee was first assigned to Maximum Security, where he spent a grueling 14 months he will never forget. "It was enough to last me a lifetime," he says. "There was a rescue parked outside. Officers and inmates were assaulted on such a regular basis. You had to walk underneath the tiers, or inmates would throw things at you," he recalls. "Prisoners were allowed matches and cigarettes back then, and they would light their mattresses on fire, bang on the bars, and make a racket." Inmates in those days wore civilian clothes and kept animals such as cats and in one case, a goat, in their cells.

As one of his earliest assignments, Officer Larrivee had the duty of taking inmate John Carillo, the one who had killed Officer Price, outside for the daily hour of exercise Judge Pettine had ordered. Once when they got to the yard, Lenny recalls Raymond Patriarca (whom he refers to as "the most polite inmate in the system") sunning himself and ignoring Carillo when he boasted, "I got them in court. They're gonna give me an hour of exercise a day."

The closest Officer Larrivee ever came to being assaulted was when he was assigned to the BCU (Behavioral Control Unit) and a group of "incurable" inmates who had gone out for exercise refused

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P.O. Spotlight: Michele Berkley



It's impossible for Michele Berkley, promoted to Supervisor in the Woonsocket Adult Probation & Parole Office in October, to discuss her chosen profession without referencing her upbringing. She grew up with a grandmother who marched on Washington with Martin Luther King, Jr. While in college, her dad once brought her a newspaper clipping of her grandmother being hauled off by police for protesting discrimination in education. Her mom was a union activist who marched for safer, healthier work conditions in the meat industry, where she worked as a meat-wrapper. Michele remembers marching with her in the pouring rain. Her dad was a black man from Harlem, N.Y., who attended college through the GI Bill (after serving his country during World War II) dropping out

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

RHODE ISLAND A MODEL FOR HIV/AIDS TESTING AND TREATMENT IN PRISONS

NATIONWIDE



Dr. Josiah Rich

Over the past 20 years, as prison populations have skyrocketed due to society's failure to adequately treat addiction and mental illness in the community, a tremendous opportunity has been presented to researchers and physicians to improve public health. In Rhode Island, Brown researchers, the Miriam Hospital, the Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights, and the RIDOC have capitalized on this opportunity. "It is a tremendous testimony to what we have achieved," says Josiah Rich, M.D., "that three of the 12 newly-awarded National Institute of Health grants aimed at improving HIV prevention and treatment of prison and jail inmates have been awarded to The Miriam Hospital for this collaborative work." Rich calls the grants, "the first major push by the NIH to study HIV in the corrections setting."

The awards are part of *Seek, Test, and Treat: Addressing HIV in the Criminal Justice System* – the NIH's largest initiative to date to aggressively identify and treat HIV-positive inmates, parolees, and probationers and help them continue care when they return to their home communities.

There are currently approximately 1.1 million people in the U.S. who are infected with HIV. Approximately 56,000 new infections are reported annually. An estimated one in seven people infected with HIV annually passes through a correctional facility (prison or jail) suggesting that there is a disproportionate number of HIV-positive people in the criminal justice system.

The grants will fund three projects:

A randomized controlled trial and cohort study of HIV testing: Clearly there is a link between incarcerated individuals and HIV, but less is known about HIV high risk behaviors for those on probation and parole. In this case study, probationers and parolees from Providence and Baltimore, Md., will randomly receive HIV testing either at the Probation/Parole Office or rapid HIV testing at a community center. In a separate cohort study, all individuals with HIV identified at Community Corrections will be offered enrollment into a 1-year intervention study to help improve the connection to HIV care. Dr. Rich is co-principal investigator of this study.

Improving Linkages to HIV Care Following Release from Incarceration: Led by Rich and co-principal investigator Liza Solomon, Ph.D. from ABT Associates, will focus on improving the link between HIV-positive inmates and HIV care following release from incarceration. The new Ryan

White HIV/AIDS Program data set will be linked to corrections release data and then applied across many states, correctional jurisdictions and care environments. The goal is to better understand the elements influencing an inmate's linkage to HIV care in the community in order to improve systems and future interventions.



Dr. Timothy Flanigan

CARE Corrections: Technology for Jail HIV/HCV Testing, Linkage and Care: Jails and correctional facilities provide a unique opportunity to offer HIV testing and treatment to a high-risk population. Since length of stay is often very short, however, HIV screening and intervention need to be conducted both efficiently and cost-effectively. In this study, co-principal investigator Curt Beckwith, M.D., an infectious disease specialist at The Miriam Hospital, and colleagues at George Washington University and New York University will modify two interactive health communications tools, known as CARE and CARE+, which provide counseling and consent for rapid HIV testing in both clinical community settings, for use within jails and prisons. The newly adapted tools will include additional content relevant and specific to inmates, including hepatitis C (HCV) infection and maintaining HIV treatment in the community following release, as well as text messaging capabilities. As part of the study, researchers will assess the feasibility and accessibility of these new tools among jail detainees in Rhode Island and Washington, DC, and will analyze their cost-effectiveness.

The grants were primarily awarded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), with additional support for Beckwith's study provided by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

"The Miriam Hospital and our partners are proud to lend our collective expertise to this important initiative. Having the support of the NIH will go a long way toward our shared goal of improving HIV care and treatment in correctional facilities and ensuring HIV interventions continue after individuals are released from prison," says Timothy Flanigan, M.D., Director of Infectious Diseases at Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals.

Flanigan, Rich and Beckwith are also on the faculty of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

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.

ADMINISTRATION

Ellen Evans Alexander, Assistant Director of Administration spoke about *Women Offenders and Women Employees at the RIDOC* to a URI Women's Studies class on November 15th.

Gina Caruolo, Chief of Program Development, is teaching *Urban Crime* at Roger Williams University and *General Sociology* at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) during the fall semester.

Human Resources Analyst III Paul Gutowski represented the RIDOC at a November 3rd meeting with Roger Williams University faculty and students majoring in Criminal Justice and Legal Studies. He provided information about the Department, including internship and employment opportunities.



Pauline Marcussen is a newly elected Board Member of the NCCH.



C.O. Paul Fetter (above) and C.O. Mark Moore (below) were recently promoted to C.O. Lieutenant.



IN TRIBUTE: JOHN GORMAN JANUARY 21, 1963-OCTOBER 24, 2010

course of his illness. He was emblematic of the best we hope for in our staff - honest, fair, firm, consistent, a straight shooter, and a well-liked individual...The love and support for him in this Department was evidenced by the large contingent of staff who attended his wake and funeral. (Excerpted from Director Wall's Intranet Message following John's death.)

REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Jennifer Clarke, M.D., M.P.H., spoke about *Reproductive Health Issues for Incarcerated Women: Challenges and Solutions* at the National Conference on Correctional Health Care in Las Vegas, NV., on October 13th. On November 9th, she lectured on *Acceptability of Routine Trichomonas Screening for Incarcerated Women* at the American Public Health Association meeting in Denver, Co.

Parole Officer Fernando Comas spoke about parole, electronic monitoring parole, and GPS to a Criminal Justice class at New England Institute of Technology in early December.

Public Health Education Specialist Deborah Davis discussed careers in healthcare at the RIDOC with Lincoln High School students in December.

Clinical Psychologist Charles Dawson spoke about *Criminal Minds* to students in the fall General Psychology class at Johnson and Wales University.

Probation and Parole Supervisor Jean Embrey is teaching *Sentencing Probation & Parole* during the fall semester at New England Institute of Technology. She led a training in November for the staff at Codac Behavioral Health Services, Inc., on prisoner reentry.

Probation & Parole Supervisor Christine Imbriglio was invited to speak about what Kent County Probation and Parole is doing with the mapping technologies that Providence Plan helped develop for them. She has been asked to provide the information for a book *Space, Time, and Crime* being written by Dr. Timothy C. Hart, Director of the Center for the Analysis of Crime Statistics.

Pauline Marcussen, Interdepartmental Project Manager has been elected to the Board of Directors for the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare.

Probation and Parole Officer Arthur Robinson spoke about the drug court to students in the New England Institute of Technology's fall *Criminal Justice* class.

Parole Officers Greg Williams and George Lang taught a basic overview of Probation and Parole and mapping at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy in Lincoln on November 30th.

The RIDOC suffered a great loss when C.O. John Gorman's 6-year battle with brain cancer ended on October 24th. A 22-year veteran of the Intake

Service Center, John was an inspiration to many as he faced obstacle after obstacle during the

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Patricia Coyne-Fague, Chief Legal Counsel, spoke about corrections and juvenile prosecution to students in Lasalle Academy's Pegasus Program on November 15th.

Kathleen Kelly, Senior Legal Counsel, is teaching *Criminal Law & the Constitution* at CCRI this fall

Director A.T. Wall was the keynote speaker at the fall grantee meeting of the Evaluation and Support Center for the *Enhancing Linkages to Community Primary HIV Care for Jail Releases* on October 7th. He spoke about "What does program cost have to do with sustainability?" The RIDOC is one of ten sites on a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/HRSA demonstration project for the enhancing of linkages for HIV infected detainees to care in the community. Director Wall also participated in a round table discussion on the challenges facing veterans at the National Guard headquarters in mid-October. Other participants included Rep. Patrick Kennedy and Rep. James Langevin. On October 27th, Director Wall was the keynote speaker for the Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys' annual meeting in Providence. He attended All Directors Training in San Francisco, Calif., in early December.

INSTITUTIONS & OPERATIONS

Sergio DeSousarosa, Deputy Warden, Anthony P. Travisono Intake Service Center is teaching *Corrections* at Johnson and Wales University during the fall semester. The Deputy also gave a guest lecture on criminalistics to a Rhode Island College Corrections class on November 29th.

Personnel Notes: Comings and Goings Promotions, Retirements, & Appointments

A warm welcome to the following people who were hired between July 1st and September 30th, 2010:

JONATHAN FERNANDES, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER*
GERARD GRANDPRE, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER*
RAYMOND LAWSON, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER*
JOHN MCCOY, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER*
CANDY NHOYBOUAKONG, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER*
LEO NYSTROM, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER*
DARRYL PALANA, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER*

Congratulations to the following persons who received promotions between July 1st and September 30th, 2010:

LYNNE ADAMS, *COMMUNITY PROGRAM COUNSELOR*
BREE DERRICK, *PRINCIPAL PLANNER*
MICHELE BERKLEY, *PROBATION AND PAROLE SUPERVISOR*

Congratulations and farewell to the following persons who retired, transferred to another state agency, or voluntarily resigned between July 1st and September 30th, 2010:

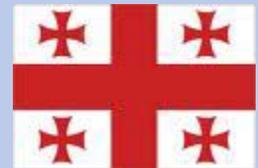
ALBERT PRATTE, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER*
SHAYNE CHAPMAN, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER LIEUTENANT*
KAREN DEGNAN, *SENIOR WORD PROCESSING TYPIST*
RONALD DAVIDSON, *ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT*
JULIE SCHROER, *EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT*
WAYNE SHEPARD, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER*
FRANK COOK, *CORRECTIONAL OFFICER CAPTAIN*
KIRK KASZYK, *DEPUTY WARDEN*
ANN MARIE BANDIERI, *SENIOR RESEARCH TECHNICIAN*



(Above left): Darryl R. Palana of Coventry, Valedictorian of C.O. Class 78, delivers the student address at the September 24th graduation ceremony at RIC. Above right): Members of the RIBCO Honor Guard play during the ceremony. (Below): Members of Class 78 pose as family and friends take their photos. Seven graduates went on line right away; others will be called up as retirements occur.



PRISON OFFICIALS FROM THE BAHAMAS AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS FROM THE COUNTRY OF GEORGIA VISIT THE RIDOC



The RIDOC served as host to a delegation of Bahamian prison officials in late September. The visit was facilitated through the Rhode Island National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP). The National Guard's SPP links U.S. states with partner countries for the purpose of supporting security cooperation objectives for respective combatant commanders. Rhode Island has had a bi-lateral relationship with the Commonwealth of the Bahamas since 2005.



A delegation of four prison officials from the Bahamas, seen here with their RI National Guard hosts, spent three full days at the ACI

Asked what most stood out during their visit, delegation members mentioned the height of RIDOC security fencing, which is much higher than theirs, and the no smoking policy. Prisoners in the Bahamas are still allowed to smoke, and cigarettes are provided by the Bahamian government, which is very costly. There are many similarities between the two systems, but some differences are quite marked. In addition to the smoking situation, in the Bahamas, for instance, officers go through a 16-week training vs. the 9-week Training Academy we have in Rhode Island.

Bahamian prison officials are striving to improve the conditions of their prisons. The visit was intended to allow officials from both countries the opportunity to develop better techniques for managing a correctional department by sharing ideas and experiences about prison security and operations.

An intensive 3-day, 8-hour schedule was created by the RIDOC to accommodate the Bahamian officials' requests. The delegation toured the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility, Minimum Security, Maximum Security, and the Anthony P. Trivisono Intake Service Center. Topics addressed during the visit included basic operations, food service, training, illegal alien procedures, emergency planning, and rehabilitative services.

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URI NURSING STUDENTS INTERN AT THE ACI



Probation and Parole's Greg Williams (center) poses with Chief Anthony Silva and criminal investigators from the country of Georgia outside of the Admin-A Building in early November.

The RIDOC hosted a delegation of criminal investigators from the Republic of Georgia on Wednesday, November 3. The visit was facilitated through Chief Anthony J. Silva and the Department of Public Safety's Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy and Dean Robert W. McKenna of Roger Williams University. The investigators heard briefings from RIDOC officials prior to touring the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility. Nancy Bailey, former Assistant Director of Institutions and Operations, briefed the group on custody and control and gave an overview of the RIDOC. Aaron Aldrich, Chief Inspector, discussed how the RIDOC conducts criminal investigations and collaborates with outside law enforcement. Teresa Foley, Professional Services Coordinator/Transitional Services, provided an overview of the RIDOC's Rehabilitative Services Unit.

During their stay, the Georgian delegation visited other law enforcement agencies. They stayed with host families. Greg Williams, a Parole Officer with the RIDOC, served as host for two of the guests.

URI Nursing Professor Ginette Ferszt says it's been a longtime goal of hers to have URI nursing students interning in the ACI, where she has worked with pregnant inmates for many years. Last year, she approached then interim Director of General Nursing Services, Gordon Bouchard. After several meetings, they decided to move forward and subsequently they met with Diane Martins, R.N., Ph.D. and eventually Dr. Michael Fine, Medical Program Director. They discussed what the Community Clinical rotation would look like for the students and what facility would be the best.

It was decided that the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility would be the ideal location, in part because the nursing staff there was so enthusiastic and eager to work with the students. Calling the nurses, "very excited and professional," Diane enthuses about what an excellent setting Moran has proven to be for the eight undergraduates and one graduate student, Joyce Hickey, who is studying Psychology and Mental Health. The group spends every Thursday at Moran, with two of the students rotating out over to the Women's facilities with Ferszt each week.

When plans were finalized this summer, the students were told about the opportunity and all eight in Diane's clinical chose to sign on for the experience. The students are offered the opportunity to do a lot of hands-on learning. They give medications and insulin, are taught about drawing blood, complete basic health assessments, take vital signs, do EKG's, give vaccines, see each diabetic patient in the building, help assess inmates coming in for sick visits, and more, all under more experienced nurses' supervision. They even get to spend time in the Segregation Unit so they learn the difference between inmates in Seg and those in the general population.

To increase their ability to learn about what life is like for inmates, Diane has arranged for all of the students to attend the Special Community Outreach Education, or SCORE, Program. At SCORE presentations, the students hear from a panel of inmates doing long sentences for a variety of offenses who tell about their lives leading up to and during their incarceration and encourage audience members to make better choices than they did. They discuss such topics as peer pressure, substance abuse, respect of authority, bullying, and the importance of education. Those who have attended to date have found the experience fascinating and extremely eye opening. The staff and students applaud the Correctional Officers in the unit, Lisa Favino-Freeman and Silka Delgado. They are also quick to compliment Gordon Bouchard, who gave the students an orientation. They have worked closely with several nurses including Mel White, R.N., who has been, according to Diane, "delightful, patient, and unbelievable with the students."

URI School of Nursing's Dean, Dayle Joseph, has been very supportive of the partnership between the URI School of Nursing and the RIDOC and, according to Martins and Ferszt is supportive of creative and

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VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2010



Volunteer Coordinator John Antonelli gives welcoming remarks.



Volunteers of the Year Marilyn and Paul Renner with Director A.T. Wall



Senator Harold Metts, a longtime religious volunteer at the RIDOC, delivered a brief message on volunteerism.



Marilynn and Dave Renner of Barrington, R.I., were presented with the *Russell E. Dixon Volunteers of the Year Award* during the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, October 26th, at 4 p.m. in the Admin-A Large Conference Room.

Married for 48 years, the Renners have been presenting the *Alpha for Prisoners* course at the ACI for the past six years on a voluntary basis. *Alpha for Prisoners* is a 15-week course on the basics of Christianity whose focus is to build a relationship with Jesus Christ. The Renners have offered the program twice at Maximum Security, once for the protective custody inmates at High Security, twelve times at the Donald Price Medium Security Facility, and four times at the Dorothea Dix Women's Minimum Security. A total of over 200 inmates have participated in the class under the Renners' tutelage.

In addition to their volunteering, the Renners keep busy with the families of their two married children, Keith and Kristen, each of whom have two children. Marilynn is a retired dental assistant, and David is retired from the insurance industry.

There are over 300 men and women who selflessly give of their time and talents to the RIDOC, and close to 20 volunteer-provided institutional programs. During these fiscally challenging times, volunteers are perhaps more appreciated and vital than ever.

"The RIDOC could not sustain itself were it not for the hundreds of devoted volunteers who give us the gift of their time and

talents every day," noted Director Wall. "Especially during a time when the state is experiencing serious budget shortfalls, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to these people who take time out of their busy lives to make a difference in the lives of our inmates, many of whom have had very few positive role models."

The Russell E. Dixon Award is presented each year to an individual who represents "the spirit of volunteerism" in memory of Russell E. Dixon, a man who was not only a respected employee of the RIDOC but also an active volunteer within the Department. Members of the Dixon family attend the ceremony every year.

- C.O. Profile - Leonard Larrivee - continued from page 1

to go back into their cells. Stevie Rollins, Tommy Goff, Eddie Raso, Charlie Marchetti, and James Silvia were among the more notorious men in that unruly group. He recalls being with fellow C.O. Bud Gardner (who has since retired) and says that after officers responded with tear gas, the inmates gave up their attempt to take over Segregation and went back into their cells without incident.

Lenny's post at Max was in ABC block (also known as Lower South) which housed awaiting trial inmates, since there was no Intake Service Center. "Men would come in off the streets," he reflects, "and bring their problems in with them." "Guys would get stabbed over someone else going out with their girlfriend."

One day, when he was still a rookie, Officer Larrivee went to deliver a meal to an inmate who, unbeknownst to staff, had been hoarding pills. The inmate vomited and Officer Larrivee watched him die, then had to clean up the vomit.

From Max, Officer Larrivee moved to the Donald Price Facility where he spent 16 years on the third shift. It was a much quieter facility, but inmates would still set their bunks on fire on a fairly regular basis.

Lenny has been working at the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility ever since it opened in 1990. For the past 20 years, his post has been the Sally Port, where he inspects vehicles coming in. While some would find being in the Gatehouse lonely or boring, Lenny enjoys the independence and quiet of his post and is clearly proud of the work he has done there over the years.

Continued on next page

innovative clinicals in general. “She is committed to working with vulnerable populations,” says Ferszt, “and to creating more linkages with the community.”

On their first Thursday at the men’s facility, the students had an hour-long discussion with a group of inmates there. That helped break the ice, they say, describing the inmates as very open and appreciative of what is done for them by the nursing and medical staff.

Enthusied about their clinical rotation at the ACI so far, the students seem surprised at how polite the inmates are to them and how patient and supportive the staff has been toward them. “I’ve gotten more experience in this clinical than I have in all of my others put together,” says one of the seniors. Inmate patients tend to be plagued by chronic and mental health issues, and particularly in the Moran building, there are a lot of older adults.

Kristen says she was very nervous coming in the first time but now feels safe and “absolutely loves it!” She and many others mentioned that the dogs in the *Prison Pup Partnership Program* in the Moran building helped put them at ease and break the ice. Ashley learned how under-educated the inmates can be about things like sexually transmitted diseases. Abbey, who was one of the first to attend the SCORE program, found it moving and inspiring to listen to the inmates’ stories. “Many of them don’t know where they will go from here, or how they will live on the outside,” she commented. “They had bright futures, which they lost over a stupid decision,” she goes on. “It’s a great learning opportunity for young kids.” Maleny points out that the prison population is much like any other population – “if you give them respect, they will give you respect in return.” Marissa found it shocking when at Women’s the inmates spoke about things she and her classmates take for granted, like not being able to have a snack any time you want. Or having to go to the hospital in handcuffs and worrying you might see someone you know. Another thing the students said is that they do not know what an inmate is doing time for. They are here to provide nursing care just like they would for any other patient. They were also surprised at how trusting the female inmates are and how much confidence they have in the nursing and medical staff. Someone who will listen is a big comfort to them.

Asked if they would consider a career in correctional nursing after graduation, many raised their hands. Kristen notes that getting all of this practical experience during their senior year when they are about to graduate is really great.

URI School of Nursing currently has 13 different student groups doing clinicals out in the community, but this is the very first at the RIDOC. If the students and staff involved in the partnership have their wish, it is the first of many.

The Students: Abimbola Adeboye, Maleny Arounlangsy, Kristen Chamberlain, Ashley Coviello, Cara Daniels, Marissa Lachaga, Lauren Poston, Kristen Sankey

The Staff: Ginette Ferszt, Associate Professor of Nursing; Diane C. Martins, Associate Professor of Nursing



C.O. Leonard Larrivee in his post at the Moran Gatehouse.

- C.O. Profile - Leonard Larrivee - continued from previous page

Officer Larrivee has saved three letters of commendation he has received for recovering concealed items during vehicle searches. The first came in 1993 from Warden Ron Brule following Lenny’s discovery of an air pistol in the floor panel in the back of a vehicle. In the letter, Warden Brule wrote, “This pistol could have fallen into the hands of the inmates, where it very easily could have been used to injure a C.O. or an inmate.” Then Deputy Warden James Vierra wrote a 1994 Letter of Commendation to Officer Larrivee after he found a homemade knife and screwdriver in a fire truck. In July of 1997, then Warden Jake Gadsden commended Lenny for unearthing a packet of cocaine and two bags of marijuana in an incoming police cruiser heading into the Auto Body Shop for repair work. In each case, Lenny’s thoroughness and attention to detail were credited with averting a potential security breach that could have had deadly consequences.

Asked how the inmate population has changed during his tenure, Lenny says “Most of the inmates today just want to do their time and get out, unlike the ‘incorrigibles’ we had back in the day who have since aged and mellowed.” His nonchalant attitude about the dangers he faced early in his career, his calm demeanor, and his upbeat personality are key to Lenny’s having lasted as long as he has. “Nothing bothers me,” he smiles, “If somebody’s going to get you, they’re going to get you.”

Asked what it was like for his wife, Janeth, to have her husband heading off to work every day to such dangerous conditions in those early days, Lenny recalls that Janeth would say as he was leaving, “I wonder if you’re coming home,” to which he would reply, “Don’t worry about me, I can take care of myself.”

Sadly, Janeth, passed away three years ago at the age of 64. Losing his wife of 40 years obviously had life altering consequences for Lenny, who says, “Everything changed,” when she passed. The couple had two daughters, Donna and Denise, who were ages 4 and 2 when Len first started as a C.O. at 32. Today, the girls live within five and ten minutes of their dad.

At 69, Lenny has no thoughts of retirement. Having endured the craziness of the 1970’s, he says of today’s DOC, “It’s all quiet now, the way we like it.” He enjoys fishing on his son-in-law’s boat and spending time with his two girls and eight grandkids. Asked how long he will stay on the job, Lenny answers with a smile, “as long as I’m walking.”

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to provide for his growing family. Although his dream of a college degree was not realized, he made sure that all five of his children had the opportunity to pursue higher education. Michele's brothers attended two-year technical colleges and pursued technical careers. She and her two sisters have Master's degrees. One sister also has her Ph.D. and provides supervision and training for juvenile probation officers in Syracuse, NY. Her dad was also a past Director of the Urban League of Bridgeport, Conn. "I grew up with a strong sense of wanting to give back and help those who needed 'a hand up'" she says, "because of the lives my parents and grandparent lived."

Michele is the mother of three adult sons, ages 27, 26, and 24, each pursuing a different career. Her youngest followed her footsteps and graduated from Brown University with a major in Asian Studies. He is fluent in Japanese and becoming fluent in a diverse group of other languages. He is working locally but continues to pursue employment overseas. Her middle son graduated from Rhode Island School of Design and is a cinematographer at Harmonics in Cambridge, MA- the company that developed *Guitar Hero* and *Rock Band*. Her oldest son is in the entertainment industry and is known locally as *DJ Tek*.

Michele is married to the Rev. Charles A. Berkley, Jr., pastor of a church in Providence, who is involved with the RIDOC's Providence Reentry Council. Michele heads the women's ministry at her church, is a soloist there and occasionally delivers sermons inspired by issues impacting the people in her church community.

First hired by the RIDOC in 1997, Michele came from the Department of Children, Youth & Families, where she feels she found "her niche." She says that DCYF was excellent preparation for the work she does now, in part because she served a diverse population with a multitude of issues. "I honed my case management, interviewing, and assessment skills," she says. "I learned how to engage with community service providers, the courts, and the recipients of these services," she reflects on her seven-and-a-half years in that role. "It was a matter of helping people identify their issues, receive appropriate help and then move forward in their lives."

While at DCYF, Michele says, her work with her clients also paralleled her own life as her oldest son struggled with behavioral issues. The family sought various avenues to help him, but his problems would eventually bring him under the supervision of the RIDOC. "The experience of having a son in the criminal justice system has informed the work that I do and inspired me to see the dignity and potential of the people under my supervision." It taught her to encourage people not to give up when things don't work out. In her previous work with children and their families, Michele always remembered there was someone investing in her own son. "I wanted those families to have hopes and dreams for a better future just as I wanted for my own child," she says.

While the picture has, thankfully, turned around for her son (he is now a successful disc jockey, voted *DJ of the Year* twice by the *Providence Phoenix* and has a small local marketing company), she'll always carry these experiences with her. "Inspiration mixed with setting limits is the key," she notes. "My family history and my work have shown me the potential human beings have, and also that people have varying degrees of resiliency. I really believe it is important to recognize not only our differences, but our similarities, regarding the people we supervise. Our society is made

better when the RIDOC's staff and local communities work together to enhance people's rehabilitative process," she notes.

Prior to her stint at DCYF, Michele taught at a private school and did some group home work. She received a B.A. in English and American Literature from Brown University and completed three semesters of a 6-semester program for the Juris Doctor degree at Rutgers University School of Law. She returned to school and received her Master's Degree from the Boston University School of Social Work in 2007.

When she first came to Probation & Parole, Michele had a sex offender-specific case load in the newly developed Sex Offender Unit. She did that job for three years before becoming a Parole Officer. Her parole work included the supervision of parolees convicted of sex offenses and those with significant mental health issues. She worked briefly at the Woonsocket office before being named Interim Supervisor, and then Supervisor.

Michele felt the loss of working directly with offenders during the first six months in the supervisor role. "I really enjoyed that interaction but was also ready to experience

another facet of our work," she explains. "Mentoring workers, using my skills to engage people in the community, creating an atmosphere that allows staff to perform to the best of their abilities, and impacting policy were all appealing to me." She notes of her promotion to Supervisor, "You give up something, but you also gain a lot. I get to be an encourager, community activist, office manager and a limit setter." She continues to enjoy participating with staff and probationers on home visits and goes to the ACI monthly to engage with sex offenders in Peter Loss' sex offender treatment program. "It's certainly never boring," she says of her work.

Michele has nine staff members who report to her (two are stationed part time in the Woonsocket Office). She is the self described "quarterback" of the Woonsocket Reentry Council. It is truly a team model, she notes, saying that everyone carries a piece of the work. The agencies represented on the Council with the RIDOC include Trihab, Gateway, Thundermist, Northern Rhode Island Family Services, Family Resources, Vantage Point, the Woonsocket Police Department, and the Department of Labor and Training. The Council meets monthly for community forums – targeting new probationers in the Woonsocket area – and quarterly for strategic case planning. The Council recently met with the Department's Discharge Planners to discuss their various agencies and services. They are the primary resources used by those on probation and parole in the Woonsocket area.

Asked if she would encourage young people to enter her field, Michele says "Absolutely!" She is proud of the great diversity of cultural and educational experiences represented in the RIDOC work force and believes this makes us a better, more effective Department. She has seen a great deal of progress in this area since she joined the Department in 1997.

Michele had the privilege of her paternal grandmother's influence throughout her years in college, as a young wife and through the adoption of one son and birth of another. Her grandmother died at age 83 after running a senior center in Bridgeport, Conn., which now bears her name, the Ella Marie Jackson Senior Center. Somehow, when speaking with Michele Berkley, one gets the sense that she too will continue to live a meaningful and productive life and will leave a lasting legacy of having made a real difference in many lives. Her grandmother would undoubtedly be proud.

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TRADING SPACES: NEW WOMEN'S FACILITIES OPEN



The Dix Building will no longer house inmates - it will be used as office space, including the Cranston Adult Probation & Parole Offices and the Education Unit.



Medium Security and Awaiting Trial inmates will no longer be housed in the old Gloria McDonald Building. They will go to the former Reintegration Center (below left).



The building above will house Awaiting Trial and Medium Security females and will be known as the Gloria McDonald Building.



The new GM Building's common area includes exercise equipment donated by Curves.

For years, the Department's budget proposal has included a new women's prison. The buildings which have housed Rhode Island's adult female offenders since the early '90's were originally built as mental health facilities, not prisons, and their condition has steadily deteriorated to the point of being almost uninhabitable. In the meantime, Federal funds had been used to construct a new facility, the Reintegration Center, which was originally slated to house 175 male offenders who would receive intensive programming prior to their release. Because of the state's budget crisis and the shifting space needs of the Department, that Reintegration Center building, as well as the Bernadette Building next door to it, will become the Department's New Women's Facilities. By the end of December, all female inmates from the Dorothea Dix Minimum Security Facility will have moved to the new GM Building, formerly the Reintegration Center. Eventually, those inmates will be moved over to the Bernadette Building, which formerly housed Probation & Parole, and the inmates from the old GM Building will be permanently housed at the former Reintegration Center. Probation & Parole has been relocated to the Dix Building, with an entrance for probationers in the back of the building. The Education Unit will also move to Dix.



The new GM Building's Visiting Room features attractive architectural details such as these curved windows. In this photo, staff members tour the facility before inmates moved in on December 13th. The move will take place in phases, with Segregation inmates moving in first.