



# RIDOC REVIEW

AN OCCASIONAL PUBLICATION FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Spring/Summer 2008

Vol. III, Issue 1

## CO Spotlight: Shawn Largy



It has been 18 years since Shawn Largy relocated to Rhode Island from New Hampshire, where he owned his own drywall company, to embark upon a career in

corrections. A relative had seen an ad in the paper for Correctional Officers at the RIDOC and since the economy was in a slump at the time, Shawn decided to check it out. He didn't know anyone in corrections, or in the Ocean State for that matter, and had no prior military training.

Shawn graduated with Correctional Officer Training Academy Class 60 and came on line in September of 1990. His training took place at the old National Guard facility during the hot months of July and August. While Shawn has kept in touch with some of his classmates, he's the only one from his class still working in Maximum Security. "I enjoy the building, and I enjoy

- continued on page 4 -

## Comedian Bill Cosby and Ex-Offender Andres Idarraga Deliver Powerful Messages to Inmate Graduates

In keeping with its commitment to improving ex-offenders' chances of success by providing educational opportunities during incarceration, the RIDOC held its annual recognition ceremonies during the week of June 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 650 inmates in six facilities were presented with certificates in either GED, ABE, ESL, arts programs, or vocational training. An additional 693 inmates completed CCRI classes during the 2007-08 academic year (some of whom have since been released), including four who received Associate's degrees from CCRI during the ceremonies.

It's not every day that the RIDOC is honored by the presence of a celebrity. Thanks to his willingness to accept the invitation of Chief of Information and Public Relations Tracey Poole to speak at one of the RIDOC's spring 2008 graduations, Bill Cosby brought an unprecedented level of interest and excitement to this year's ceremonies. Well known to the world as Cliff Huxtable of *The Cosby Show*, Bill is now taking his role as "America's dad" to a whole new level. Over the last few years, he has traveled the country to spread the word about the violence and lack of education faced by minority youth in the United States. He has been on a mission to help people think about raising children with more integrity and has traveled from city to city, lecturing about education, parenting and responsibility. In October 2007, he released a book, *Come On People: On the Path from Victims to Victors*, which explains the causes of the problem and gives advice on how to address it. As a follow up to his appearance at the Moran Facility ceremony, Dr. Cosby has offered to provide each of the RIDOC prison libraries with copies of that book. He charged the RIDOC nothing for his appearance, asking only for a bottle of water (glass, not plastic!) and a T-shirt from CCRI, which he wore during his visit.

- continued on page 4 -



Dr. Bill Cosby dons a CCRI T-shirt as he addresses an audience of inmates receiving certificates and degrees in a June 9<sup>th</sup> Moran Facility recognition ceremony.

**"You've got to believe in you!"**

**Dr. William Cosby**



In a meeting he requested with teachers and Corrections officials prior to the ceremony, Dr. Cosby listens as Andres Idarraga speaks about what inspired him to pursue his education while behind bars.

### In This Issue.....

- Cover - \*CO Profile: Shawn Largy
- \*Cosby Inspires RIDOC Grads
- P. 2 - \*Employees in the Community
- P. 3 - \*Personnel Notes
- P. 6 - \*ZFP's Sobering Message
- \*CO Recruitment Update
- P. 7 - \*Interrupted Life Conference
- \*Career Milestones
- P. 8 - \*Remembering Sandy Thornton
- \*Inmates Give Back
- \*Prison Pups Making an Impact

# RIDOC in the Community, the Classroom, and Beyond

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**Gina Caruolo, Chief Program Development, Policy Unit**, taught *Urban Crime* at Roger Williams University in the spring.

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

**Chief Inspector Aaron Aldrich** taught a class at the Burrillville Police Department's Citizens' Police Academy in February and at Gibbs College in the spring on *Investigative Practice and Prison Culture*.

**Senior Legal Counsel Kathleen Kelly** spoke to students at Cranston West High School about *Incarceration and Inmate Rights* in May.

**Chief of Information and Public Relations Tracey Z. Poole** coauthored an article with Director Wall, *Partnerships with Local Law Enforcement and Community Agencies: A Critical Component to Successful Prisoner Reentry*, which appears in the April 2008 issue of *Corrections Today*.

**Director Ashbel T. Wall II** attended a federally-funded meeting of criminal justice experts to discuss how to reduce sex crimes by safely housing sex offenders post release in April. The meeting was convened by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, where Director Wall is a board member, with support from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. He attended the CHisPA and NAACP breakfast meetings in April and participated in a panel discussion titled *The Incarceration Rate for Males of Color in the State of Rhode Island* hosted by Rhode Island Young Professionals at Brown University in May. Also in May, he participated in a panel on *The Prison-Industrial Complex* as part of *Justice or Just Us?*, cosponsored by AS220 and Perishable Theatre. The Director met with Newport Police Chief Michael McKenna and Warwick Police Chief Stephen McCartney to discuss police/probation partnerships in those communities in May. Also this spring he appeared on Channel 12's *Newsmakers* and did a taped interview on FM Latina 100.3 with **CO Dantes Carrasco** and on WBRU Radio with **CO Tiffini Isom** to promote CO recruitment.



Director Wall (center) and members of the press pause in the High Security Center during the June 2008 Media Day to hear from Chaplain Maria Garomba.

## INSTITUTIONS & OPERATIONS

**Deputy Warden David Caruso** taught *Introduction to Corrections* at Gibbs College in the spring. He also spoke about criminal justice to students at Westerly

and Johnston High Schools along with **COs Randy Denton** and **Ada Santiago** and **Security Specialist Glen Matteson**.

**CO Lieutenant William Galligan** presented his research paper, *Examination of the Plausibility of Network Access Compromise Using USB and Live CD Tools*, at the Northeast Decision Sciences Institute's annual regional spring meeting in Brooklyn, NY, in March.

## REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

**Albert Alba, Academic Teacher**, and **Ralph Orleck, Special Education Director**, were presenters at the Rhode Island Adult Educators' Conference in May. Al led a workshop titled *GED as Project* and Ralph co-led a workshop on *Learning Disabilities*.

**Probation and Parole Officers Jorge Chamorro** and **Leo Vue** spoke about the *Safe Streets* Program to a class at Johnson & Wales University in March.

**Shelley Cortese, Assistant Probation and Parole Administrator**, was selected by Rhode Island College as a recipient of the 2008 Alumni Honor Roll Award. She received her M.A. in Justice Studies from RIC in 1997.

**Charles Dawson, Clinical Psychologist**, spoke to CCRI's Psychology Club about *Psychology in Corrections* in April.

**Bree Derrick, Clinical Social Worker**, wrote an article, *Gender Responsive Reentry in Rhode Island: A Long and Winding Road*, which was published in a National Institute of Corrections report in February. A link to the article appears on the Statewide Prisoner Reentry page of the RIDOC website.

**Assistant Probation and Parole Administrator Richard Delfino** spoke about Probation & Parole and its role in prisoner reentry to a *Public Administration* class at URI in March. He also taught *Community Corrections* at Roger Williams University in the spring. **Joseph Gaspar, Probation and Parole Officer**, spoke about Probation and Parole, domestic violence, and child abuse to a *Family Interaction* class at URI in March.

**Micheline Lombardi, Probation and Parole Supervisor**, participated in a focus group facilitated by the Family Life Center and Social Venture Partners addressing the barriers ex-offenders face when seeking sustainable

employment in January. In February, she was interviewed by two students at Ricci Middle School about careers in Probation and Parole. In July and August, she was invited to participate in a seminar for educators sponsored by the Rhode Island Judiciary and Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership.

**Pauline Marcussen, Interdepartmental Project Manager, Medical Records Unit**, taught *Workplace Relationship Skills* for CCRI at the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility and *Health Information Management Departments* at Fisher College in Boston during the spring semester. Pauline is now president of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) for the third time and has been on its board of directors for eight years.

**Acting Nurse Supervisor Clement Ojo, R.N.** attended a national training sponsored by Day One to certify nurses in examining victims of sexual assault in March.

**Roberta Richman, Assistant Director**, received an award from Northern Rhode Island Community Mental Health Center for Community Partnerships in April. In May, she was a panel member at a workshop on rehabilitation in prison at the Perishable Theatre and attended a NIC meeting for executives in Probation and Parole in New Orleans.



Lisa Holley, Chair of the RI Parole Board, accepts the Ben Baer Award from the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) in April.

# Personnel Notes: Comings and Goings

## Promotions, Retirements, & Appointments

Congratulations to the following RIDOC employees who received promotions between January 1 and June 30, 2008:

STEFANIE COLANGELO, **PROBATION & PAROLE AIDE**  
 MARK MOODY, **PROBATION & PAROLE SUPERVISOR**

The following individuals **retired** between January 1 and June 30, 2008:

LEO ASHTON, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER CAPTAIN**  
 DENIS BEAULIEU, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER II**  
 HARRY BOCK, **LOCKSMITH II**  
 GARY BOULEY, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 DRUE CHATFIELD, **ADULT COUNSELOR**  
 KAREN COUTU, **MEDICAL RECORDS CLERICAL SUPERVISOR**  
 JAMES DARDEEN, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 JOHN D'ERRICO, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER II**  
 ROBERT EVON, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 DAVID FLORIO, **PROBATION & PAROLE SUPERVISOR**  
 RICHARD FRECHETTE, **INTERDEPARTMENTAL PROJECT MANAGER FOR STATEWIDE PRISONER REENTRY**  
 ANN FROST, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER HOSPITAL II**  
 MICHAEL FROST, **SECURITY SPECIALIST**  
 DEBORAH HOUSTON, **RECORDS & ID CAPTAIN**  
 GEORGE KIERS, **GRAPHIC MAKE-READY SUPERVISOR**  
 MICHAEL KOCIUBA, **AUTOMOBILE BODY SHOP SUPERVISOR**  
 PHYLLIS LAUTIERI, **OFFICE MANAGER**  
 RALPH LEE, **ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, MAINTENANCE**  
 JOHN McNULTY, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 LINDA MEAKER, **DATA CONTROL CLERK**  
 THERESA PECCHIA, **DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
 JOHN POLAND, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 GERALD RAGOSTA, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 RICHARD RITOLI, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 ANNE SERENO, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER II**  
 PETER TURCOTTE, **PROBATION & PAROLE SUPERVISOR**  
 MARGARET VIERRA, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER II**



Richard Frechette has retired after a long career in state service. Prior to assuming the role of Project Manager for Statewide Prisoner Reentry last year, Richard was the Associate Director of Financial Resources. His is one of the many familiar faces that will be sorely missed around the Department.



May 8th, 2008, marked the last recognition ceremony for two veteran Human Resources staff members, Deborah Rotondo (far left) and Christine Marchetti (third from right), seen here with colleagues from the HR Unit, from left to right: Carole McMabon, Anne Marie Hamilton, Sharon Oden, Paul Mancini, and Jane Ryan. A retirement celebration was held for the two at Papa Razzo Restaurant in Garden City on July 24th.



The Probation & Parole Unit recently welcomed six new Probation & Parole Officers. Five were hired in light of recently enacted legislation allowing prisoners to earn credit for program participation and correcting the state's inverted system of awarding earned time. The new POs are pictured at left: (back row, L to R) Joseph Bouchard, Jean-Paul Dujardin, and Greg Williams and (front row, L to R) Heidi DuPerry, Jennifer Taylor, and Jamilah White.

A warm welcome to these individuals who joined RIDOC's staff between January 1 and June 30, 2008:

BOBBIE JO ABAGA, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 JOSEPH BOUCHARD, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER I**  
 ANDRE BROWN, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER I**  
 JUSTIN CURRAN, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 RONALD DAVIDSON, **ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**  
 JEAN-PAUL DUJARDIN, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER I**  
 HEIDI DUPERRY, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER I**  
 SARAH EDDY, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 MARIE FARIS, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 BRANDON FERREIRA, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 MICHAEL LAVALLEE, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 MARY MARONI, **SENIOR WORD PROCESSING TYPIST**  
 LARRY MCCLINTON, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 KIMBERLY MCGHEE, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 ALLISON MCMANUS, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 JOSEPH MENEZES, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 BARRY MOLLOCK, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 ANDREY NAKHLIS, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 PATRICIA NUNES, **ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**  
 TREMAYNE PACCASASSI, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 NORMAN PAOLELLO, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 ROBERT PELOQUIN, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 PAUL RAO, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 TODD STUBELICK, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 JENNIFER TAYLOR, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER I**  
 STEVEN TURCOTTE, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 COLLINS UMOH, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 JASON WARE, **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**  
 GREG WILLIAMS, **PROBATION & PAROLE OFFICER I**



The Financial Resources Unit recently welcomed two assistant administrators, Patricia Nunes and Ron Davidson, pictured above. Both are located in the Admin-A Building. Pat's office is on the first floor in the Legal Services wing and Ron's is upstairs.



All of the new COs listed at left were called up from Class 76, shown above.



Mare Moody, center, with Assistant Director Roberta Richman and Director A.T. Wall at his promotion ceremony, is now a supervisor in the Woonsocket Pe&P Office.

# BILL COSBY SPEAKS AT JUNE 9TH CEREMONY

- continued from page 1 -

When Dr. Cosby learned that Andres Idarraga, an ex offender and May 2008 graduate of Brown University, had already been invited by Director Wall to speak in each of the men's facilities, he insisted that Andres speak first at Moran, noting, "He's the one they need to hear." Andres, who spent much of his 20s in Rhode Island prisons after being convicted of selling cocaine, was paroled in 2004 upon his acceptance to URI. He transferred to Brown as a sophomore and will enroll at Yale Law School in the fall. He spoke about his background leading up to his incarceration, his experiences in prison, the impact education has had upon his life, and his plans for the future. Andres was one of the leaders behind the movement to restore voting rights to people who have been released from prison following felony convictions which resulted in Rhode Island becoming the first and only electorate to repeal a state law on felon disenfranchisement through the popular vote.

In a letter of recommendation for Andres to Yale Law School, Director Wall, himself an alumnus of that institution, wrote, "While he readily acknowledges the pain associated with imprisonment, he is remarkably unscathed by those years....He clearly feels that he has received a second chance at life and is eager to seize the opportunity." Wall's letter continues, "Andres realizes that his story is in some measure about redemption and is well aware that he can provide hope to others."

Andres' story was covered by *The Providence Journal*, *The New Haven Register*, and on Brown's website, and an interview with him, portions of which were filmed at Maximum Security, will be aired on the *Today Show* in September.

The keynote speaker at the Dorothea Dix Women's Minimum Security Facility graduation was Rhode Island's Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts. Ms. Roberts spoke at the Association of Women Executives in Corrections' annual gathering in Newport last November, where she met Carole Dwyer, Warden of the Women's Facilities. Warden Dwyer subsequently invited the Lieutenant Governor to tour the women's facilities, which she did, speaking with a group of inmates in the Spectrum drug treatment program. She readily accepted the



*Dr. Bill Cosby poses with Tracey Poole and Bob McCutcheon in the Biltmore's Starbucks prior to being driven to the Moran Facility graduation where he shared his messages of personal responsibility with inmate graduates.*



*Andres Idarraga shares his inspiring story with Minimum Security inmate graduates on June 9th.*



*Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts addresses women receiving education certificates in the Dorothea Dix Women's Facility.*

Warden's invitation to speak at the spring recognition ceremony.

CCRI President Raymond DiPasquale presented Associates degrees to Moran inmates Lance Dellay (highest honors, 3.77 GPA), Frank Moniz, and Douglas Azevedo. One former Moran inmate, Gregory Tovmasian (highest honors, 3.82 GPA), received his degree at Minimum Security.

Links to some of the extensive press coverage of the ceremonies are posted on the *Media and Community Relations* page of the RIDOC's website at [www.doc.ri.gov](http://www.doc.ri.gov). A link to Dr. Cosby's speech appears on the home page of the RIDOC website.

## CO Spotlight

- continued from page 1 -



my job," he notes, adding "We have a tight group of guys."

Anyone who worked in Max during the riot in 1991 will say that event stands out as one of the most significant of their career, and Shawn is no exception. He and a fellow officer saw the whole thing from what's now called Hope 1. "Everything went through there, including all the negotiations," he recalls.

Shawn also happens to have the dubious distinction of being "the one who got bit by Craig Price." It was 1995 and one of Rhode Island's most notorious inmates had recently arrived from the Training School upon turning 21. "We were going to move him to Prudence 2, and he didn't want to move," Shawn says of inmate Price. "The reason he picked on me — supposedly I was the smallest one down there. I was 185 pounds back then. He almost bit my finger off." He holds up a finger showing the scar from a good 20-25 stitches that were needed to reattach the finger. Shawn filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office and had to go to court. Price assaulted another officer after being moved over to High Security and an additional 25

- continued on next page -

years were added to his sentence for the two assaults. “I wouldn’t say you get used to it,” Shawn shrugs, but he credits years of karate training with giving him confidence in the face of danger. “I’d been doing it (karate) since I was 13. At the time I was teaching down in Wakefield and had extensive training in martial arts.”

Asked how Maximum Security has changed over the years, Shawn points out that when he started, the inmates wore civilian clothes, some had guitars and furniture they’d made in Prison Industries in their cells, and the inmates “pretty much ran the place and had free reign.” It wasn’t until Assistant Director Joe Ponte, serving under Director George Vose, came in that things began to change. He instituted IDs and uniforms, and the inmates responded by staging the riot. “Back then, there were a lot of drugs, a lot of assaults,” Shawn recalls. “I’ve gone through a lot, had stuff thrown on me, been beaten up, stuff like that, but it’s not an every day thing like it was at the time.”

Asked how he copes with job stress, Shawn says he keeps busy. He was part of the RIDOC delegation invited to participate in a civilian to civilian partnership with Her Majesty’s Prisons in Nassau, Bahamas, two years ago. He also coordinated the Special Community Outreach Education (SCORE) Program during the four or five years it was held in Maximum Security. During that time he and fellow Officer Danny Desrochers traveled to area schools to speak to kids about making better choices and welcomed groups of middle and high school students to Max to hear from a panel of inmates. “We took them to a cell block and into a cell. That hit home and meant more than hearing from us or the inmates.” Shawn and Danny hand picked the inmates on the panel and helped put together a DVD on the program.

Shawn also volunteers to be part of the CERT Team and is in charge of all the CERT specialty teams, each of which holds a monthly drill. Team members are on 24-hour call. The team has been activated for critical incidents including the roof collapse and fire at Minimum, or any time there is suspicion of gang presence or contraband. “My philosophy is that if I can keep somebody else from getting hurt, I want to do that. As long as everybody goes home safely at the end of the shift, that’s all that matters,” says Shawn.

Shawn’s bidded post is called Utility 3, which has him handling Inmate Accounts issues for the facility, coordinating IDs, working on anything gang related, and overseeing the

Visiting Room for Administrative Restricted Status (ARS) visits each morning. Those visits are for inmates who have had a positive urine screen and are allowed only a weekly 45-minute, no contact visit.

Asked if he would recommend the field to young people starting out, Shawn hesitates, “It’s not for everybody, and you’ve got to be strong willed,” he notes, adding, “You learn how to leave the job at work.” He also cautions that for some young officers starting out “a little bit of power corrupts,” saying having control over a lot of inmates sometimes “gets them in trouble.”

Shawn’s son, who graduated from high school this spring, did a senior project on corrections for which he interviewed his dad, a few captains, representatives from RIBCO leadership, and staff at the Training Academy. He’s working in security now and isn’t yet sure whether corrections is in his future. Shawn’s daughter is 16. “She might do very well,” he jokes, “she’s got my attitude — very strong willed.”

Asked how his life would be different had he stayed with his drywall company, Shawn says “I’d probably make a lot more money. You’re not gonna get rich here, that’s for sure.” He’s glad, however, that he stuck it out and has witnessed many positive changes. “Nobody wanted to work this building when I started,” he recalls, “but it’s a well run building now. There’s very little back talk from inmates, and assaults have gone way down.”

Asked what the public should know about Correctional Officers, Shawn refers to the broad array of responsibilities officers face beyond simply guarding inmates. “We wear many hats as COs. You’re a counselor one day, the next you’re trying to direct somebody on how to go to school,” he explains. “I feel bad when I see more young kids coming in here. Are the parents too afraid to tell the kids what to do?” he wonders. Shawn has seen two inmates attempt to jump to their death from the top tier, noting an incident that happened very recently. “The officer did a great job putting the mattresses down on the ground.” He goes on, “Someone may come back from court with a life bid, so you’re trying to console them somewhat – not everybody in here is a monster. You advise them on how to get medical help, you’re a teacher, and many times you’re intervening to save lives.”

As he heads off to tackle his next responsibility of the day, it’s apparent that the dry wall business’s loss is the Corrections Department’s gain.



*Volunteering for the Department's CERT Team is one of the things CO Shawn Largy most enjoys about the job.*



*Officer Largy has spent his entire career in Maximum Security.*

# ZERO FATALITIES PROJECT DELIVERS SOBERING MESSAGE

## *RIDOC Partners With AG's Office to Address the Issues of Underage Drinking and Driving and Reckless Driving*



*Attorney General Patrick Lynch speaks at the April press conference announcing The Zero Fatalities Project. Behind him are partners in the initiative, from left: Corrections Director A.T. Wall; DOT Director Michael Lewis; High Sheriff Gary Dias; Col. Stephen McCartney, Chief of the Warwick PD and head of the Police Chiefs Association; Col. Dean Esserman, Chief of the Providence PD; Col. Brendan Doherty of the Rhode Island State Police, and Col. Brian Sullivan, Chief of the Lincoln PD.*



*Barrington's Dan Converse speaks to students about the loss of his son, Jon, in a drunk driving crash in November of 2007.*



*Assistant Attorney General Jay Sullivan debriefs with Deputy Wardens Kirk Kaszyk and Al Leach.*

The Visiting Room of the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility was an even busier place than usual this spring as over 1,600 teenagers, teachers, and service providers from 26 different schools and organizations attended a new joint initiative with the Attorney General's Office, *The Zero Fatalities Project*. This public safety initiative is aimed at raising awareness of the devastating consequences of underage drinking and driving and reckless driving. It brings together a panel of male and female inmates doing long sentences for DUI-related offenses and the parent of a victim to speak about the painful consequences these crashes have had on virtually hundreds of lives. Assistant Attorney General Jay Sullivan shares a PowerPoint presentation which includes statistics and photos from crash scenes at the start of each session.

Because the initiative, which was launched during the spring prom and graduation season, was so successful, it will continue throughout the year. A few evening sessions have been held for RIDOC employees and their families and more will be scheduled upon request. Thanks to generous support from the Tori Lynn Andreozzi Foundation, a brochure describing the program has been printed and will be mailed to schools and community groups this summer. The RIDOC's Planning & Research Unit is working on compiling a summary of the hundreds of evaluation forms which have been submitted in response to the program. AMICA Mutual Life Insurance Company has provided some assistance with transportation costs, which are also supported through federal funding channeled through the Department of Transportation.

In addition to the Attorney General's Office, the RIDOC's partners in the initiative include MADD-RI, the Police Chiefs Association, the Department of Transportation, the Rhode Island State Police, and the Family Court. Anyone interested in obtaining further information or booking a presentation is urged to contact Tracey Z. Poole, Chief of Information and Public Relations, at (401) 462-2609 or via email at [tracey.poole@doc.ri.gov](mailto:tracey.poole@doc.ri.gov).

## Spring 2008 Correctional Officer Recruitment Update

Another successful CO recruitment campaign yielded 2,240 applicants. Of those, 914 took the



*Director Wall, flanked by Correctional Officers, speaks at the spring 2008 CO Recruitment Kickoff at the netWORKri Office in Providence.*

cognitive and written exams and 476 passed both. The Physical Fitness test will be the next hurdle facing applicants at the end of July, followed by extensive background checks and finally Director's Interview panels. The interview panels are scheduled throughout September and early October; afterwards psychological and medical tests will take place. Ultimately, the goal is to graduate a class of 60 to 65 new officers who will go on line in January of 2009.

## Interrupted Life: Breaking the Cycle of Inter-generational Crime and Violence



Keynote speaker Providence Mayor David Cicilline

Challenging issues related to Rhode Island's response to the over 4,300 children (and their caregivers) who have a parent released from prison each year in our state were addressed in a conference titled ***Interrupted Life: How Do We Break the Cycle of Inter-generational Crime and Violence?*** on Thursday, April 10, at Bryant University. Co-sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Making Connections,

Providence; Bryant University; The City of Providence; The Family Life Center; the RIDOC; Rhode Island Kids Count; and Rhode Islanders Sponsoring Education (RISE), the conference featured national and local speakers and a variety of break-out panels, all aimed at facilitating dialogue and discussing solutions to one of the most significant issues facing Rhode Islanders today. About 150 social workers, corrections professionals, ex-offenders, and caregivers attended the free day-long event.

Providence Mayor David Cicilline delivered the keynote address. Featured presenters included: Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts; DCYF Director Patricia Martinez; Corrections Director

A.T. Wall; RI Kids Count Director Elizabeth Burk Bryant; Bryant University Sociologist and author Sandra Enos; Carol Thompson, Senior Associate, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Joyce Dixon-Haskett of Resiliency Without Compromise, Inc. A DVD of the plenary sessions is available through Tracey Poole at (401) 462-2609 for anyone who would like to borrow it.

In conjunction with the conference, *Interrupted Life*, a Ford Foundation-sponsored traveling public art installation examining the lives of incarcerated mothers and their families, was on display at Providence's AS220 Project Space throughout the month of April.

## CAREER MILESTONES RECOGNIZED IN MAY 8TH CEREMONY

Seventy-nine RIDOC employees were recognized in a May 30th 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.

Reaching career milestone were:

### 10 YEARS

Teresa Berube, *Adult Counselor, Minimum*  
Erin Boyar, *Principal Planner, Planning & Research*  
Christine Correia, *Executive Assistant, Ins/Ops*  
Kevin Croce, *Field Investigator, Probation & Parole*  
Pauline Marcussen, *Interdepartmental Project Manager, Medical Records Unit*

### 15 YEARS

Michael Bernard, *CO, Medium*  
Christine Chase, *Probation & Parole Officer II*  
Cindy Conti-Cook, *CO, Women's*  
Thomas DiRaimo, *Community Program Counselor*  
Pamela Hughes, *Probation & Parole Officer II*  
Arlene Manuel, *Community Program Counselor*  
Paula Turcotte, *Probation & Parole Officer II*  
Suzanne Wood, *Fiscal Management Officer*

### 20 YEARS

Roger Angelone, *CO, Minimum*  
Donald Blais, *CO Steward, Minimum*  
Dennis Bonollo, *CO, Intake*  
John Brazil, *CO, Minimum*  
David Campagnone, *CO, Medium*  
Jody Corvese, *CO, Medium*  
Gene Davenport, *CO, Medium II*  
Joseph Forgue, *CO Investigator I*  
John Funderburk, *CO, Minimum*  
Laurie Greenless, *Dental Assistant*

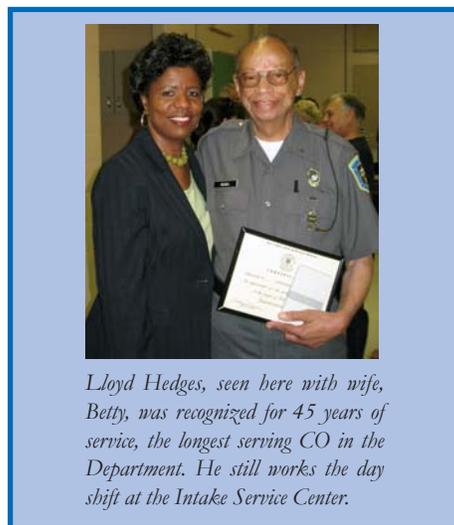
Robert Grossguth, *CO, Intake*  
Eugene Gwizdak, *CO, Medium II*  
Deborah Houston, *Records & ID Captain*  
Maurice Johnson, *CO, Maximum*  
William Lafleur, *CO, Maximum*  
William Langlois, *CO, Medium*  
Muriel Lapiere, *Executive Assistant, Maximum*  
Matthew Lombardo, *CO, Intake*  
Robert Miller, *CO, Minimum*  
Donald Panarello, *CO Lt., Medium II*  
Charles Pepin, *CO Steward, Women's*  
J.R. Perez, *CO Hospital II, Medium II*  
Gregory Richards, *CO Training Instructor*  
Allan Staton, *CO, Intake*  
Louise Stolasz, *Executive Assistant, Rehab Services*  
Dorothy Valenzuela, *Data Control Clerk*  
John Viti, *Training Academy Instructor*  
Joseph Wojtanowski, *CO, High Security*

### 25 YEARS

Gilbert Baker, *CO, Medium*  
William Bove, *CO Lt., Women's*  
Dennis Desantis, *CO, Maximum*  
Charles Fontaine, *Chief of Motor Pool & Maintenance*  
Ann Fortin, *Assistant to the Director*  
Joseph Gaulin, *CO, Medium*  
Frederick Haibon, *Captain, Records & ID*  
Nancy Hallman, *Probation & Parole Supervisor*  
Sandra Pettit, *Fiscal Clerk*  
Michael Reis, *CO Lt., Minimum*

### 30 YEARS

Michael Adams, *CO Lt., Medium II*  
Ronald Belanger, *CO, Intake*  
Joseph DiNitto, *Associate Director, Classification*  
James Hall, *CO, Intake*  
Joseph Jankowski, *CO Lt., Medium*



Lloyd Hedges, seen here with wife, Betty, was recognized for 45 years of service, the longest serving CO in the Department. He still works the day shift at the Intake Service Center.

Michael Kobelecki, *Adult Counselor, Women's*  
Robert Langlais, *CO Lt., High Security*  
Robert Millard, *CO, Medium II*  
Thomas Money, *CO, Medium II*  
Deborah Moretti, *Classification Counselor*  
Thomas Morrison, *Manager, Food Processing Plant*  
William Votto, *Adult Counselor, Medium II*

### 35 YEARS

Sandra Thornton, *Confidential Secretary to the Director (Accepted by Sharon Oden, Administrative Assistant, H.R.)*

### 45 YEARS

Lloyd Hedges, *CO, Intake*

### RETIREES

Thirteen employees had retired since the last ceremony. Retirees are recognized on the *Comings & Goings* page.

## IN MEMORIAM: SANDRA THORNTON



*Sandra Thornton with close friend and colleague Bob McCutcheon, Grievance Coordinator, one of several RIDOC employees she requested as pall bearers at her funeral.*

A RIDOC legend was lost when Director Wall's confidential secretary, Sandra Thornton, died on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Honoring a request Sandy had made when she learned her condition was terminal, the RIBCO Honor Guard participated in the June 18<sup>th</sup> service at Carpenter-Jenks Funeral Home in West Warwick and the burial at New Fernwood Cemetery in South Kingstown. Many current and former RIDOC employees whose lives were touched by Sandy over the course of her 35-year career with the Department, including former Director John Moran, were in attendance.

Recognized just the week before her death (in absentia) for having reached the milestone of 35 years of state service, Sandy joined the Adult Probation & Parole Unit in November of 1973 as a Senior Clerk Stenographer. A single mother of three at the time, she needed a job and was willing to endure the long bus ride from her South County home to Providence for this opportunity with the state. Five years later she became Principal Clerk Stenographer for the Assistant Director of Field Services, and shortly thereafter Clerk Secretary for Adult Services, as these divisions were then known.

Sandy was promoted to Secretary to the Director in 1985 and 11 years later to Confidential Secretary, a position she held until declining health forced her to take medical leave several months ago. She loyally and capably served three directors: John Moran, George Vose, and A.T. Wall.

The following comments are excerpted from Director Wall's memo to staff announcing her death, "For many years, Sandy's was the face and voice of the Director's Office. She treated everyone with dignity, respect and courtesy, whether they were state officials and dignitaries or offenders and their loved ones. When her health began to deteriorate, she still came in to work, faithfully maintaining the same sense of professionalism that was always her hallmark. The fact is that Sandy loved this department and was loved by many in return. She will be deeply missed by those of us who had the good fortune to work with her these many years as well as by the extended network of family and friends whose lives are better for having known her."

## PRISON PUPS MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR COMBAT VETS AND DISABLED



*Sgt. Darryl Wallace and "Buddy"*

On Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Darryl Wallace and his wife, Tiffany, of Harlem, Ga., traveled from the NEADS/Dogs for Deaf and Disabled American campus in Princeton, Mass., with NEADS Executive Director Sheila O'Brien to the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility where Darryl's assistance dog *Buddy* was trained by inmate handler Mike. Darryl lost both legs while serving in Afghanistan and received *Buddy* through the **Canines for Combat Veterans Program**. The poignant meeting was filmed for a NEADS fund raising and awareness video and was covered by all three Providence TV stations.

Nothing drives the success of the NEADS Program home more powerfully than client visits, which normally take place each quarter and allow clients to meet and thank inmate trainers. The visits allow the pups a brief reunion with their handlers and to return to the prison they once called home. A close second in emotional impact are the bi-annual NEADS graduations held each fall and spring. Four Rhode Island-trained NEADS pups "graduated" on **Sunday, June 22**, at the NEADS Spring Graduation at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. In addition to *Buddy*, the graduates, two of whom were trained at the Moran Facility and two at the Donald Price Facility, included *Mosby*, paired with Lynda Fisher of Littleton, Mass., as a Service Dog for the Ministry; *Nora*, paired with Jeanne Bozenhard of Unionville, Conn., as a Service Dog, and *Tabitha*, a hearing dog paired with Christine Goodreau of Framingham.



## INMATES GIVING BACK THROUGH LOCKS OF LOVE

Eight RIDOC inmates have donated their hair through the **Locks of Love** Program so far this year. **Locks of Love** is a nonprofit that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the U.S. and Canada who are suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Donated hair is used to create hair prosthetics which are in turn used "to help restore self-esteem and confidence, enabling these children to face the world and their peers," according to the organization.



The RIDOC has been involved with **Locks of Love** through longtime employee Frank Bruno Jr., who runs the barbering apprenticeship program wherein inmates become licensed barbers while in prison. If an inmate expresses an interest in donating to **Locks of Love**, Frank cuts his or her hair according to **Locks of Love's** requirements. An inmate assistant then puts the hair in rubber bands and envelopes and sends it off to the organization in Lake Worth, Florida.

"The guys are proud to help out kids – everyone has a soft spot for kids – and it gives them a little humanity," notes Frank. Inmate donors receive a thank you card from **Locks of Love** which reads, "Your donation of hair will help return smiles to the many varied faces of our children. On behalf of those children, their families, and the Board of Directors, THANK YOU – YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!"

Although he hasn't kept statistics, Frank estimates he's had about 40 inmate donors over the several years he's been involved with the program. The donation must be at least six inches, and it takes six to ten ponytails to make one hairpiece.

The *RIDOC Review* is published quarterly by the Office of the Director. Please send suggestions for future topics and feedback to: Tracy Z. Poole, Chief of Information & P.R. Editor, Designer, and Photographer 401-462-2609; tracy.poole@doc.ri.gov

*RIDOC Review* is printed by Correctional Industries.