



Impact Georgia

March 2013 Newsletter

In This Issue

1 New Inside-Out Exchange Program at Smith State Prison

Northwest RSAT Graduation

2 Bluebird Corporation Delivery Ceremony

MLK Drum Major Award presented to Metro DRC

3 20th Anniversary Celebration of Johnson State Prison's Fire Station

Recognition of Retirees

4 Images Across the State - Special Management Unit at GDCP

Probation Officer Sentencing Specialists Training

Have a great



story idea?

Please submit articles and photos to

Gwendolyn Hogan

by **March 21st.**

Email:

hogang00@dcor.state.ga.us

New "Inside-Out" Prison Exchange Program at Smith State Prison

Contributed by Ruthie Moody, Secretary to Deputy Warden of Care & Treatment



Staff pictured with the program's first participants.

Smith State Prison has begun a new journey. It will be the first state prison in Georgia to take part in the "Inside-Out" Prison Exchange Program with Georgia Southern University (GSU). This program was introduced to the prison by Bryan Miller, Ph.D.; the Head of the Justice Studies Department at GSU. After contacting the facility, permission was granted by the Depart-

ment for the program to begin. Dr. Miller's class has left the collegiate halls of the university and is now being taught inside of a level five close security prison. The program held its first meeting on January 18th, of this year.

The "Inside-Out" Prison Exchange Program is an opportunity for a small group

of students from Georgia Southern University and a group of inmates who are serving a Life sentence at Smith State Prison to exchange ideas and perceptions about crime and justice, the criminal justice system, corrections and imprisonment. It is a chance for the students to gain a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system through the combination of theoretical knowledge and practical experience achieved by weekly meetings extended throughout the semester.

There are 15 students from the university in the program and 17 inmates from Smith SP actively participating with them. The inmates involved are allowed the opportunity to explore their own views on these issues in an academic setting. This setting will create an environment that will facilitate the honest exchange of ideas in a dialogic format. And will provide each student an experiential setting to test and hone their theoretical understanding about various criminal justice and correctional issues.

Northwest RSAT Graduation

Contributed by Mark Abusaft, Superintendent Northwest Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Center on Feb. 8.



Graduating class at Northwest RSAT

Representatives from the Georgia Northwestern Technical College of Adult Education and family and friends attended the ceremony.

Remarks and words of encouragement were provided by Nicole Duck and Brenda Harris of Georgia Northwestern Technical College of Adult Education. Chaplain Jeremy Stroop provided spiritual guidance and Superintendent Mark Abusaft acknowledge Ms. Duck, Ms. Harris and Mr. Andrew Lee of the college for their commitment and determination for delivering the best education

program at Northwest RSAT Center.

During the ceremony, detainee Tarrant McDowell was acknowledged for receiving a perfect score of 800 in literature and detainee Joseph Gentile was acknowledged for receiving the highest overall average of 3240.

Family and friends had the opportunity to visit and celebrate this special occasion with their loved ones.

"I would like to send a special thank you to the staff who planned and coordinated this event for Northwest RSAT," said Superintendent Abusaft.

Did You Know..Fire Station #14 at Johnson State Prison celebrated it's 20th Anniversary

Blue Bird Corporation Delivery Ceremony



L to R: CEO Phil Horlock and Commissioner Brian Owens



2014 All American bus

The Department is excited to announce the addition of 10 new 2014 All American buses to its fleet.

On Feb. 27, Blue Bird Corporation and Yancey Bus Sales and Service presented the Department with two of the ten buses at State Offices South at Tift College during a delivery ceremony in Forsyth.

"Georgia welcomes the new partnership," said Chief Operating Officer for the State of Georgia Bart Gobeil. "We need to always work together to ensure that we look at Georgia made products."

State and local elected officials were in attendance along with Georgia COO, Bart Gobeil; Corrections Commission-

er, Brian Owens; Blue Bird President & CEO, Phil Horlock; Yancey Brothers Company Vice President, Eric Arnold as well as representatives from the Department, Blue Bird Corporation, Yancey Bus Sales and the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce.

These ten buses will replace buses in the Department's current Fleet that have more than 300,000 miles.

The buses will feature 50 passenger seating, fully-maximized exterior and interior storage with pass-through luggage compartments and a customized on-board lavatory.

"Our buses are world class with the best fuel economy, best tight turn range, widest entrance door, best durability in crash testing and best roll over rate," said Blue Bird CEO Horlock.

For more than 86 years Blue Bird has been making buses. Blue Bird's headquarters is located in Fort Valley Georgia and was founded in 1927. The new

buses will go into use immediately.

"Our partnership with Blue Bird Corporation is a new beginning for the Department," said Commissioner Owens.



L to R: COO Gobeil, Commissioner Owens, CEO Horlock



2014 All American bus

MLK Drum Major Award Presented to Metro DRC

Contributed by Kimberly R. Davis, M.Ed., Metro Atlanta Day Reporting Center Stakeholder Coordinator



Front Row L to R: Susan Phillips, Coordinating Chief Probation Officer-Atlanta Judicial Circuit; Sandra Thomas, Northwest Probation Field Operations Manager; Veronica Cox, Chief Probation Officer, Atlanta Judicial Circuit; Back Row, L to R: Keith Camp, Chief Probation Officer, Atlanta Judicial Circuit; Rosalyn Davis, Statewide Day Reporting Center Manager; Neal Carney, Center Administrator, Metro Atlanta Day Reporting Center.

On January 29, the Metro Atlanta Day Reporting Center (DRC) received the MLK Drum Major for Service Award during the Seventh Commencement Ceremony by Hands On Atlanta (HOA).

This award was created and executed by President Barack Obama. The criteria states that this award "honors those volunteers who perform extraordinary everyday acts of service with reliability and commitment, but who seldom receive recognition".

The MLK Drum Major for Service Award has afforded Metro Atlanta DRC

the opportunity to address a variety of unmet critical needs in underserved, under developed areas such as the Historic West end area of Atlanta.

HOA is a not for profit organization that partners with the Office of President Obama to serve as the liaison for this award.

HOA has been an invaluable partner with Metro Atlanta DRC for almost three years and continues to provide noteworthy projects specifically tailored to court ordered participants.

Community Relations Manager

Genora Crooke was instrumental in the planning and implementation process of this award. Crooke continues to collaborate with Counselor Kimberly R. Davis, who also serves in the capacity of the center's Stakeholder Coordinator. Crooke was awarded Stakeholder of the Year for her many creative initiatives, her outstanding service, dedication and always going the extra mile to execute the mission of the Metro Atlanta DRC. Crooke said she was honored to share this moment in history with such an outstanding leadership team.

"As a team, we value and understand the importance of giving back without expecting anything in return and have instilled this belief to program participants through our Restorative Justice Initiatives and projects," said the Metro Atlanta DRC team.

Many projects totaling hundreds of exceptional service were performed by program participants and counselors Kimberly R. Davis and Kahala Russell.

A few highlights of those projects are as follows: preparation of meals to feed the hungry and homeless, warehouse assistance to prepare and ship books to children in Africa, gardening projects with the focus of assisting participants with the necessary skills to plant, weed, and harvest fruit and vegetables.

The West End Urban Garden Nursery always encourages those who assist with this project to return to learn additional skills and share in the har-

vest. Participants have also assisted with home renovations to ensure that women who would otherwise be homeless would be able to experience a life inside the walls of their home, and various MLK projects.

The feedback from organizations is that these participants always perform with professionalism, they are reliable, and they work hard and with pride!

President Obama wrote a personal letter to staff at the Metro Atlanta DRC. Below is an excerpt from the letter:

***The President's
Volunteer Service
Award is presented by
the Corporation for
National and Community
Service to Georgia
Department of Corrections
Metro Atlanta
Day Reporting Center in
recognition and appreciation
of your commitment to strengthening
our Nation and for making
a difference through
volunteer service.***



Fire Chief Stan Garnto with inmate fire fighters

Community leaders, area fire chiefs and DOC officials came together on Feb. 28 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Johnson State Prison Firehouse.

Warden Jose Morales served as the master of ceremonies, recognizing those in attendance and thanking the fire firefighters for their service in the community.

"The community is very appreciative of

our station," said Warden's Secretary Jan Martin, who is also a council member in Wrightsville. "These men risk their lives and we thank them."

During the ceremony Fire Chief Stan Garnto was presented with a plaque commemorating the anniversary by Assistant Director of Fire Services Larry Brown.

Warden Morales concluded the

ceremony with a story of how firefighters saved his family from a house fire and with the Prayer of Firefighter.

Station No. 14 responds to an average of 125 calls per year and has automatic aid agreements with Laurens, Washington, Emanuel counties and all of Johnson county.



Station #14 gear



Attendees in the middle of the Firefighter's prayer

Recognition of Retirees

Katrinka Glass 30 Years of Service



Friends and family gathered for the retirement ceremony of Katrinka Glass on February 26, 2013. Katrinka was presented with an award for her 30 years of faithful & dedicated service, an Alumni Award, a Leadership Award and Certificates of Exemplary Service plaques & an inscribed keepsake box marking distinguished public service.



"Thank you for your selfless service to the great state of Georgia."

-Brian Owens
Commissioner

A.J. Sabree 25 Years of Service



More than a hundred family, friends, and co-workers gathered for A.J. Sabree's retirement ceremony on February 26, 2013. A.J. was presented with an award for his 25 years of faithful & dedicated service to the Department, an Alumni award, a Leadership award and certificates of Exemplary Service plaques & an inscribed keepsake box marking his distinguished public service.

February Retirees

10+ Years of Service

Marshall Hudson, Hancock SP CO
Carol Ruth Gibbs, Wilcox SP CO
Connie S. Haynes, Engineering Personnel Rep
Cheryl M. Black, Valdosta SP Personnel Mgr
Linda Brown, ASMP CO
Clinton Hagan, Columbus TC CO
Albert Kellum, Jr., McEver PDC CO
Leanne Lanzetta, Cobb PC Secretary I
Robert McClendon, Facilities Reg. Oper. Coord.
Melvin Meeks, Telfair SP Trades Supervisor
Stephen Moore, Smith SP CO
Karen Lopez, Phillips SP Transfer Officer
Marian Robley, Coastal SP Food Service Sup.
Rhonda Segars, Baldwin SP CO
Shelia Kay Smith, Rogers SP Accountant
Lois E. Woods, Phillips SP Accountant

20+ Years of Service

William Archer Bell, Public Safety Trn Instructor
Karen Jett, OIC Superintendent
Gwendolyn B. Clark, Probation Aide
Pamela B. Bittick, DW Security/C&T
Robert Reb Adams, Baldwin SP LT
Cathie Ann Brantley, Telfair SP Dental Hygentist
Malcolm V Coxe, Dodge SP CO
Walter N. Goode, Georgia SP CO
Melvin B. Hinton, Metro TC Asst Superintendent
Juanita Jinks, GSP CO
Myron D. Jones, Atlanta PC Counselor
Gerald Baxter Jordan, Inmate Construction CO
Jerry Lawrence, Hancock SP CO
Terry James Nickelson, Inmate Construction CO
John Anthony Sellers, Dodge SP Superintendent
William Shamblin Sr., Hays SP Public Safety Trn Instruct.

30+ Years of Service

David Mason Spires, Telfair SP Security Chief
Cathy Sumner, Inmate Classification Examiner
James Thomas, Douglas PC PO I/II
Corey Wells, Hays SP Transfer Officer
William Wesley, Douglas PC Counselor
Timothy Wesson, Hays SP CO
Kenneth Barnes, Macon TC Asst Superintendent
Lindy Clark, Probation Opns Hearing Examiner I
Jesse Durden, Jr., Smith TC Counselor
James Earn, Tift Academy Craftsman
Rose Hall, Valdosta SP CO
Thomas Moore, Brunswick PC PO I/II
Sandra Simmons, Baldwin SP CO
Brenda Singleton, ASMP Behavioral Specialist

Calendar Events

Thursday, March 7
Board of Corrections Meeting

Friday, March 8
Forsythia Festival Golf Tournament

**Tuesday-Sunday
March 8-10**
Forsythia Festival

Sunday, March 17



**Monday-Friday,
March 18-22**

Pre-Command College

Monday, March 25
Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, March 31



WATCH US ON



youtube.com/user/GACorrections



facebook.com/georgiacorrections



GA_Corrections



Sergeant John Wilkins and Officer Timothy Fenner operating the automated shower system in the GDCP Special Management Unit.



CERT members Sergeant Andrew Russo and Officer Ricky Parks of GDCP Special Management Unit conducting daily shakedowns.



SMU Clerk Britney Hall, Officer Sarah Barber and Unit Manager James McMillan compiling the monthly CompStat Report for the Special Management Unit.

Probation Officer Sentencing Specialist Training

Contributed by Cliff Hartley, Probation Management Specialist and Mark Morris, Deputy Director of Probation



Group photo of all PO Sentencing Specialist attendees



POSS officers participating in a training exercise

ed the Probation Operations' POSS In-Service Training at Middle Georgia Technical College in Warner Robins on Feb. 19.

This training was provided to ensure POSS Officers continue to serve as an indispensable resource for Georgia's Superior Courts and Court family. Training included Mental Health/Substance Abuse Integrated Treatment programming, Criminal Justice Reform legislation and trends; Pre-Sentence Assessment initiative to include scope and vision; Probation Options Management—current use and credibility; Day Reporting Center-Lite Program - purpose and availability; Offender Administration sentencing requirements; Communication and Protocol expectations between POSS and Georgia's Courts; and, current Sex Offender case management requirements.

In step with the Probation Operations' award winning 10-Step Framework Initiative, select Probation Officers statewide have been assigned as Probation Officer Sentencing Specialists (POSS).

ensure seamless professional relationships continue between GDC, the Courts, District Attorneys, Georgia's Sheriffs, Pardons and Paroles and other stakeholders - internal and external to law enforcement.

sentencing alternatives and tailored community supervision options (pre & post incarceration) in order to ensure cost-effective, research driven, evidenced-based practices are available and utilized by Georgia's criminal courts to affect offender recidivism and heighten the public's safety.

Using their experience, training and customer service skills these officers serve the Department as liaisons to

It is the responsibility of the POSS officers to provide their customers with timely information relevant to current

These selected officers recently attend-

MISSION

The Department of Corrections creates a safer Georgia by effectively managing offenders and providing opportunities for positive change

VISION

To be recognized as the best corrections organization in the nation.



BRIAN OWENS
Commissioner

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joan Heath
Director

Gwendolyn Hogan
Managing Editor

Dabney Weems & Rachad Hollis
Contributors, Public Relations & Information Specialist