

DOCS TODAY

Autumn 2004

New York State Department of Correctional Services

Vol. 13, No. 10

Crime-cutting Shock saves taxpayers \$1B



Inmate platoon leader carries guidon as Shock graduates parade in front of inmates who have yet to complete the rigorous program at Lakeview Shock Incarceration Facility, the largest and one of the most successful of the “boot camp”-style programs in the nation. More than 31,000 nonviolent, first-time prison inmates have completed the six-month program.

Efforts of local legislators help avoid prison closures

DOCS successful in identifying savings to operate 3 prisons through fiscal year

Working cooperatively with members of the state legislature representing Saratoga and Chenango counties, we have identified funding to assure funding this fiscal year for Camp Pharsalia, Mt. McGregor camp and the Fulton work release facility in the Bronx.

The efforts of these upstate legislators were crucial in making the case for keeping these facilities open this fiscal year.

Besides agreeing to keep them open through March 31, 2005, Governor Pataki is also working with legislators to identify future potential uses for the three facilities, both public and private.

Their continued operation this fiscal year means we will have more minimum-security space than planned. So my plan is to spread bed vacancies out among our minimum-security prisons. That means each facility will have relatively the same percentage of empty beds.

It also means that, as staff choose to attrit out of these facilities, backfills will be determined by their actual inmate populations, not by their capacities.

Shock a success for taxpayers as well as for inmates

One of the reasons for the decline in minimum-security camp-eligible inmates is the success of our Shock Incarceration program.

More inmates in that successful program means fewer eligible to enter our camps.

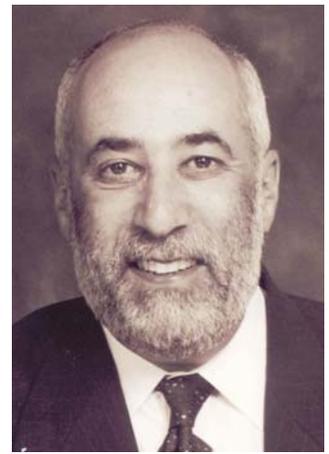
We feature this month a major milestone for the Shock program: continuing to reduce recidivism while saving taxpayers more than \$1 billion since the program began in 1987.

This month's articles

- ***Two employees honored for their ideas: Page 3.***
- ***Elmira improvements to cost \$16.4 million: Page 4.***
- ***Shock cuts crime, saves taxpayers \$1 billion: Page 6.***
- ***A picture page look at Shock Incarceration: Page 10.***
- ***Shock graduates tell of their success: Page 11.***
- ***Employee promotions, transfers, deaths: Page 12.***
- ***Arthur Kill GED program on public TV: Page 16.***

I was an Assistant and then Deputy Commissioner back then, charged with implementing and then overseeing this successful program.

Governor Pataki has been a big supporter of the program as well. In fact, the majority of inmate graduations and taxpayer savings have occurred since he took office in 1995.



Commissioner Goord

In reading our articles about the program, I was especially struck by the comments made by a few graduates. While we know the program works, it is especially gratifying to hear success stories first-hand from our graduates.

Flu shots uncertain

We are affected by the same flu vaccine shortage that affects the rest of the United States. Contrary to popular belief, we order vaccines and wait in line like everyone else.

As a result, we do not know at this time how many high-risk inmates and staff will be getting shots this winter.

Last year, we provided shots to 13,000 inmates, and some 300 staff in the highest risk groups.

They included staff assigned to our regional medical units. They included inmates with HIV infection as well as those who are elderly plus those with heart problems, diabetes and other serious conditions.

The state Department of Health will work with federal officials to determine dosages that will be sent to New York and how they will be apportioned.

Once that information becomes available to us, we will pass it along through the medical staffs at each facility.

DOCS|TODAY publication schedule change

You may have noticed this is the "Autumn" edition of DOCS|TODAY, rather than the monthly edition that you usually read.

We combined the October and November editions because of a staffing change within our Public Information Office, responsible for the writing and desktop layout of this publication.

Next up will be the Winter edition to be published in December. We anticipate bringing the Public Information Office up to its normal staffing in time to allow regular monthly publication to resume in the Spring. 📖

DOCS|TODAY is published monthly by the New York State Department of Correctional Services: George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York; Glenn S. Goord, Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services; James B. Flateau, Director of the Public Information Office, and Linda M. Foglia, Assistant Public Information Officer.

ON THE COVER: The masthead brings DOCS|TODAY together with its past via "Copper John," the Colonial soldier who has stood atop the front gate of Auburn, the state's oldest prison, since 1821. The American flag was affixed to his bayonet in memory of those who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States. The flag itself was taken from a photograph of it flying above Ground Zero.

CORRESPONDENCE: Should be sent to the Department of Correctional Services, Office of Public Information, Building Number Two, Room 203, 1220 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12226-2050, or to the Department's Internet address: www.docs.state.ny.us

PUBLICATION: DOCS|TODAY is prepared in-house via desktop composition. Camera-ready pages are sent to the Elmira Correctional Facility and published in the print shop operated by the Division of Industries (*Corcraft*). DOCS|TODAY is available on the Department website: www.docs.state.ny.us

Washington, Elmira employees earn awards for practical ideas

Two civilian employees have been cited for practical suggestions that improved Department operations and saved taxpayer money.

Each was awarded Certificates of Merit by the state Civil Service Commission.

George J. Sarno, an industrial training supervisor at Elmira who joined the Department in 1989, was honored for a suggestion that will boost revenues earned from the sale of scrap metal hauled from the prison.

Gary W. Bogdan, a plant utilities engineer who joined DOCS in 1988 and now works at Washington, came up with a money-saving idea involving the boiler operation when he was at Mt. McGregor.

At Elmira, Mr. Sarno noticed that the New Jersey company that had been hired to haul away scrap metal seemed to have frequent scheduling problems in removing material from the facility's industrial aluminum foundry.

On his own initiative he took a sample of the scrap metal to a local company who promised no problems in scheduling pickups. Further, the local company would pay 36 cents a pound for the material instead of the 7 cents a pound the New Jersey company had been paying.

With the foundry generating 12,000 pounds of scrap annually, Mr. Sarno's action solved the hauling problem, delivered business to a local firm and increased revenues from the sale of the material by \$3,480 a year, from \$840 to \$4,320. He was awarded \$348 for his suggestion.

"He always goes above and beyond what's required of him," said Terry Chamberlain, production control supervisor who is Mr. Sarno's immediate boss.

"He always comes up with good suggestions and different ways of solving problems, making this easier for everybody," Mr. Chamberlain added. "He has a high degree of respect from all his co-workers."

Mr. Sarno works with inmates in Elmira's industrial print shop, where DOCS|TODAY is printed.

When he was a plant utilities assistant at Mr. McGregor, Mr. Bogdan confronted what appeared to be an expensive problem.

One of the facility's two main #6 fuel oil tanks had been taken out of service for repairs and was unavailable for use. Consultants were recommending emptying the #2 oil storage tank and using the tank for storing #6 oil.

Removal and disposal of the 16,000 gallons of #2 oil would cost an estimated \$80,000. Operators were told the work

needed to be done immediately since the heating season had arrived, and the facility faced the risk of running low on fuel for the main power plant resulting in damage to utilities throughout the complex.

Mr. Bogdan recalled discussions from several years ago about the possibility of converting the #1 boiler into a dual-fuel unit capable of burning the #2 oil. He contacted a retired employee of the department to see what he remembered, then proceeded to investigate if the project could be done.

After completing research, plant operators devised a plan to solve the problem. By reconfiguring the distribution of the oil, adjusting boiler tolerances and making other mechanical modifications, they succeeded in making it possible to burn the #2 oil that would otherwise have been pumped out and discarded.

All the #2 oil was burned in 10 days, avoiding the \$80,000 cost of removal and disposal. Mr. Bogdan was awarded \$642.20 for his suggestion.

Chris Gundersen, plant superintendent at Mt. McGregor, was plant utility engineer at the time and had been Mr. Bogdan's supervisor for many years as their careers advanced.

"Gary talked to a couple of people and figured out what we had to do. He's always coming up with new ideas on how to do things," Mr. Gundersen said. "Everybody was pretty much involved, but Gary was the catalyst who got it going."

He attributed Mr. Bogdan's ingenuity, at least in part, to his growing up on a farm and having to learn to be adaptable to circumstances.

"Gary was always a positive guy around here, trying to improve the way we do procedures," he said.

Commissioner Goord congratulated both award recipients for their ingenuity and initiative.

"Your accomplishments are a reminder to all of us in DOCS. We should always be looking for creative ways to solve problems and save the taxpayer's money," the commissioner said.

The awards are part of the New York State Employee Suggestion Program to recognize and encourage proposals from employees and retirees to increase economy and efficiency in state government.

Besides certificates signed by Gov. Pataki and members of the Commission, winners can also be eligible for cash awards based on the savings their suggestions will produce. 



Mr. Bogdan



Mr. Sarno

Perimeter fence at Elmira most visible of \$16.4M in improvements

Projects improve arsenal, utilities, parking; new centers for inmate processing, visitors

The construction of a U-shaped fence perimeter system at Elmira is one of several capital projects at the maximum-security prison that will cost about \$16.4 million before they are all completed, most by the end of next year.

Besides the \$4.7 million high-tech fence perimeter, other projects and their estimated price tags include:

- \$6 million to begin replacing the 1940s-style electrical service at the prison.
- \$2.3 million to construct parking lots to replace existing spaces being taken for the new fencing system.
- \$1.4 million for a new inmate processing area to make their reception even more secure and efficient.
- \$1.3 million for an entrance building serving staff and all visitors in front of the existing main entrance.
- \$500,000 to expand the arsenal, where fence perimeter cameras will be monitored.
- \$179,500 for the modular construction of a hospitality center run by volunteers for inmate visitors.
- The cost, yet to be negotiated, for the purchase of up to 15 acres of adjacent land, for drainage and an access road.



Hospitality center under construction along Davis Road.

Commissioner Goord said, “These projects will ensure the viability of this 128-year-old prison for many years to come. It represents our commitment to the people of Chemung County that our long-term relationship will continue well into the future.

“Our plans for the upgraded security perimeter pre-date the escape of two inmates last year. Our discussion with city lawyers and others has been on-going for 18 months toward acquiring the property ideally needed for this project.

“We promised the citizens of Elmira that we would accomplish all within our power to improve security and the operations of this prison in their midst. These projects represent our fulfillment of that promise,” he said.

Perimeter project adds fencing, wire, secure systems

The fence will run 900 feet along the front of the facility. It will extend back 450 feet on the north side to the power house. On the south side, it will run 705 feet to the disciplinary housing unit.

The rest of the prison, except for the ball park, is surrounded by a 30-foot perimeter wall with tower posts for armed officers. The ball park outside the west wall is surrounded by a fence with cameras and a detection system. The ball park offers an alternative recreation site to the field house within the prison.

The high-tech security perimeter will start with an interior eight-foot-high taut wire detection fence erected 50-75 feet in front of the existing wall. The distance from the wall is necessary to ensure compliance with state laws mandating room inside the fence for access by fire and emergency vehicles.

The fence will also be topped with four-foot high “outriggers” angled toward the prison to provide additional safeguards against a breach of the fence.

Next will be a 20-foot wide “no man’s zone.”

Then there will be an outer 16-foot fence, again topped and banked with razor wire. Sensor cables in the razor wire will warn of any weight or pressure on the wire. Closed circuit television cameras will also be installed along fence posts, wired to video monitors in the prison. The images will be especially clear because the project also in-

cludes the installation of new and improved exterior lighting on poles along the fence.

From Bancroft and Davis streets that intersect in front of the prison, daytime viewers will next year see the relatively lower profile of a 16-foot fence in front of the existing 30-foot high cellblock wall. After dark, the silver-colored fence and razor wire will reflect the brighter lights that will aim downward to illuminate the area of the fence.

When completed next September, the fence will reduce the current eight points of prison access down to three: the main entrance on the east side, the truck entrance on the south side and the emergency entrance on the west side.

Upgraded electrical service to meet future growth

As the fence work gets underway, the electrical service trunk lines need to be installed beneath the fence construction area.

While it has nothing to do with the fence project, laying the conduit now avoids any need to disrupt the fence system in future years as the 1940s electrical service is replaced in stages.

Continued on facing page



New parking lot is under construction at right, above an existing lot. It will replace parking shown at top of the hill in front of the prison. New perimeter fence will be built across the front of the prison, extending to enclose area where tower is located at far left. A statue of a man and boy, now located near the flag pole, will be relocated to the area of the facility sign to the left of the walkway down the hill.

Continued from previous page

The new 13,200-volt electrical distribution system will replace the current 2,400-volt system. The upgrade will have a lower voltage drop across the system. That results in a more efficient delivery system and savings in operating costs.

The conduit work in front of the prison and inside hook ups are expected to be bid in January and completed in June 2006.

Parking to accommodate staff, visitors

The space required to build the fence requires taking the land that now serves as parking for approximately 240 vehicles in two lots, one adjacent to the prison's main entrance and the other just north of it.

Temporary parking has been established on the northeast side of the prison near the power station, where a permanent lot with eight spaces will be constructed for disabled drivers.

Three parking lots will be built to provide parking for 375 vehicles. Work on them is underway and is expected to be completed in January.

The statue of a man and boy standing in front of the entrance to the prison will also be relocated down the hill, to a site just south of the existing hill walk way. It will be relocated next July.

Inmate processing center consolidates effort

The custodial maintenance/recycling shop building will be renovated into a draft processing unit. It is located on the south side of the prison a short distance inside the truck entrance.

Currently, inmates from other prisons are bused through the truck entrance and then some 300 yards across the prison to the existing processing center on the north side of the prison.

Processing inmates nearer the truck entrance limits the movement of incoming felons.

Inmates brought to the prison by counties are now processed through an entrance at the northeast corner of the prison. In the future, they will enter through the truck entrance and be processed in the new location as well.

The new processing center will accommodate both groups.

At 5,600 square feet, it is 150 square feet larger than the existing processing center. The new quarters will include wire mesh holding pens to separate inmates.

The conversion is expected to be completed in March. Once processing is relocated, the current processing center will be converted for another, as yet undetermined purpose.

The displaced custodial maintenance shop is being relocated to available space in an existing vocational area, while the recycling program will be moved to the horticulture building.

Entry building upgrades security

This 2,500-square foot, single-story structure will be located directly in front of the main entrance to the prison. It will be the sole entry point for pedestrian traffic.

Visitors will no longer be processed through the basement entry way south of the existing main entrance.

These larger quarters will relieve congestion in processing employees and visitors to the prison. It will also provide space to receive and inspect incoming packages.

Weapons issued to staff for outside trips will also be picked up and returned here.

As part of the perimeter fence project, heating and lighting system hookups will be run underground from the prison to the entry building site. As with the electrical conduits, laying the piping for these services now will eliminate the need to disrupt the fence system later.

The project is expected to be bid in January and be completed in January 2006.

Arsenal expansion upgrades vigilance

Expansion of the existing 1,000-square foot arsenal will allow staff to provide increased security.

The 700-square foot expansion will include reconfiguring the existing U-shaped unit into a square. The layout change will provide a more efficient uses of space.

The enlargement is also required to accommodate the video

Continued on page 15

31,284 nonviolent Shock graduates work hard to earn early release

Return rate lower than comparable groups, while saving New York taxpayers \$1 billion

New York embarked upon a unique and innovative program on September 10, 1987, when it offered a group of nonviolent, first felony offenders a second chance.

That's the day the initial platoon of 38 male inmates, all older than 16 but younger than 24, entered the state's first Shock Incarceration program at the minimum-security Monterey prison in Schuylar County.

Through July 2004, 31,284 Shock graduates have earned early release from prison – a savings to taxpayers of more than \$1 billion. And once released, these graduates stay out of prison at higher rates than inmates who did not complete the program.

The Shock Incarceration concept was as simple to describe in the late 1980s as it would be a monumental effort to implement:

- Screen selected, nonviolent offenders within three years of release and allow those who meet program criteria to volunteer for this new, intensive six-month program.
- Mandate these inmates undergo intensive academic education, drug treatment and personal counseling – balancing the program with tough military-style regimens and hard physical labor.
- Approve early parole for those who completed the program, allowing them to earn a sentence reduction of as much as 30 months off their minimum sentences, thereby also reducing prison operating and capital costs.
- Generate a “win-win” for the public: A reduction in crime shown by reduced recidivism, which reduces tax dollars necessary to support the prison system.

By every reasonable standard, Shock has met the goals origi-

nally set for it since 23 inmates from that first platoon graduated at Monterey on March 8, 1988:

- Only 32 percent of Shock graduates return to prison within three years of release, compared to a return rate of 40 percent among Shock-eligible non-participants and 48 percent among Shock drop-outs, who together



National media record Monterey's first Shock graduation in 1988.

serve an average of 18 months in prison.

- That means Shock is accomplishing a better success rate in six months than the return rate of comparable inmates spending a year longer in a traditional prison.
- New Yorkers saw a budget savings of \$878 million in operating costs because, without Shock, inmates would have spent at least another 12 months in prison. Those longer prison stays would also have necessitated \$126 million in capital construction of the additional prison beds that would have been necessary to house them.

Shock, never a silver bullet, grows

The program has long been recognized as the largest and among the most successful programs of its type in the nation.

Its half-year duration and intensive treatment components differentiate it from other programs across the country lumped together under the heading of “boot camps.” Many of them are of shorter duration, typically 30 to 90 days. Most are based on aversion therapy. They focus solely upon hard labor that is designed to dissuade conduct that might earn offenders a return to prison.

In 1987, then-Commissioner Thomas A. Coughlin III observed at Monterey that “Our Shock program will not be a silver bullet because there are no silver bullets in corrections. We'll see how our program fits long-term with what else is happening around the country.”

Shock Incarceration would eventually ex-

Continued on facing page



Moriah Shock inmates fill sandbags to help reduce flooding in Essex County.

Continued from facing page

pand by 1992 to a maximum of 1,850 beds at five minimum-security facilities. The declining inmate eligibility pool led to its down-sizing to today's four facilities with 1,410 beds, which allow for 2,820 annual participants.

Today's Shock capacity includes 1,290 beds for males plus 120 for females. Beds for males include 540 at Lakeview, a 750-bed prison where all Shock-eligible inmates are processed, plus 300 beds each at Monterey and Moriah and 150 at Summit. There are 120 beds at Lakeview for females, who were first admitted into the program at Summit in 1988.

Pataki's efforts reduce crime, enhance Shock

Governor Pataki's "right-sizing" plan called for alternatives for nonviolent offenders but longer prison terms for violent, repeat and predatory felons.

It led to the construction of 4,800 maximum-security prison beds. That is the largest such building project in the history of the prison system.

But his support for and expansion of Shock Incarceration has contributed greatly to its record of success: Two-thirds of its graduates and savings have occurred with his support since he took office in 1995.

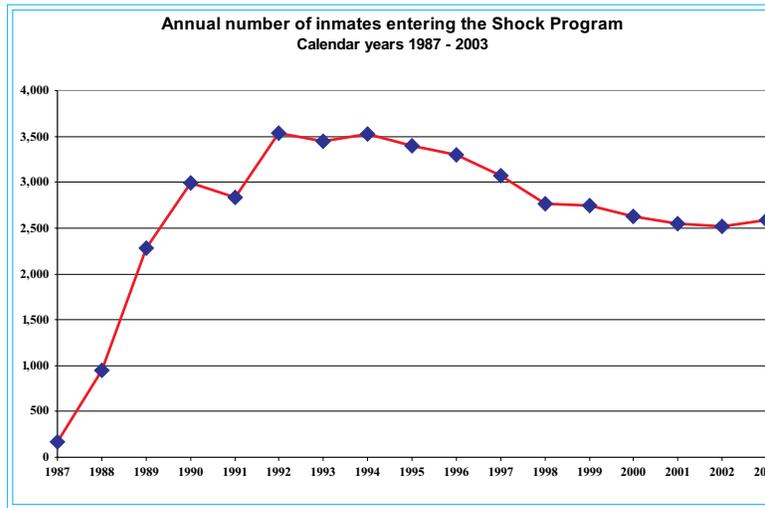
It was during his administration that physical requirements were altered to allow participation by otherwise eligible but disabled inmates. In 1999, he raised the age limit on entry into the program from those under age 35 to those under age 40.

Pataki also created the highly-successful, 90-day Willard Drug Treatment Campus program in 1995 that builds upon many of Shock Incarceration's concepts.

Nearly 56,400 nonviolent inmates have earned early release from 1995 through March 2004 under the alternative programs supported by the Governor, including Shock and Willard.

On the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Shock program at Monterey, Governor Pataki said, "As we continue with our efforts to increase penalties for violent offenders, Shock Incarceration offers nonviolent, first-time offenders an alternative to traditional prison incarceration. Providing alternative punishments for nonviolent offenders helps create the space we need in our prison system to house violent offenders."

Taken together, alternative programs for nonviolent offenders have contributed to a 10 percent decline in the state's prison



population, from a high of 71,538 inmates in December 1999 to 64,092 in October 2004. Meanwhile, state prison populations around the nation actually increased by an average of six percent during the same period.

The prison population decline is also driven by the Governor's other criminal justice initiatives, that have contributed to an historic 45 percent decline in crime across the state since he took office in 1995.

While that decline, coupled with alternative programs, has reduced the pool of Shock-eligible inmates, the program's success assures that it will remain a key component of the Department's offerings for years to come.

Shock is as selective as it is demanding

Even though Shock saves money and reduces recidivism, not all prisoners are eligible for Shock; not all of those statutorily eligible for it are accepted, and many of them "flunk out" or are removed because they cannot withstand its rigors.

Of the 85,948 inmates statutorily eligible for the program and screened through July 2004, only 46,763 of them – 54 percent – were allowed to enter the program. Reasons for disapproval include the unacceptable public risk posed by some eligibles, certain medical and mental health disqualifications, and inmates who opt not to participate in the program.

Once they enter the program, the real work toward earning early release begins: only 31,284 of those entering the program through July 2004, or 67 percent, actually completed the program.

The program subjects Shock inmates to a rigorous, comprehensive therapeutic community model that includes alcohol and substance abuse treatment, decision making and life skills, community service work, and academic education to the high school equivalency level. All that occurs within the context of a military model, which emphasizes self-discipline, pride, and behavioral growth.

Reveille sounds at 5:30 a.m. week days and, before breakfast, inmates have dressed, squared away their barracks and participated in an hour's worth of military-style calisthenics on the prison parade grounds.

Four week days are spent on outdoor projects performing manual labor for government entities or non-profit groups. The



First platoon of females arrive for Shock at Summit in 1988.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

fifth week day is spent in academic classrooms at the prison.

Evenings are spent in academic classrooms, counseling and drug treatment programs.

The weekend program includes peer support group sessions and organized activities directed by staff, religious services on both Saturday and Sundays, family visits twice a month and collect-only calls home to loved ones.

Weekend time is also spent on physical training, military drill and ceremony and taking care of such personal work as ironing prison-issue clothing while cleaning and “squaring away” personal property and quarters.

When the program first began, some critics wondered if all inmates eligible for the program would be “allowed” to complete the program regardless of their fitness, in order to inflate program “successes” to vacate precious and expensive prison beds and reduce the crowded conditions that then affected the system.

History has shown Shock eligibility and suitability are two different things. The rigorous demands and exacting evaluation standards of the program have resulted in a dropout or removal rate of more than 30 percent.

Shock saves tax dollars and inmate lives

Although the avoidance of hiring more staff and building new prisons generated \$1 billion in savings, Shock has done more than save money.

Commissioner Goord helped devise and implement the program in the 1980-90s, first as an Assistant and then as Deputy Commissioner for Correctional Facilities. He said, “I believe that Shock also saves lives. It provides a therapeutic environment designed to address a wide range of inmate problems. It should never be mistaken for the ‘boot camp’ programs around the country that are based upon aversion therapy.”

Offenders who remain in the program are motivated to make changes in their lives. For example, they are more likely to improve their reading and math scores and earn a GED and are also less likely to return to prison than similar offenders who did not complete the Shock program.

In terms of practical, measurable results, inmates who participate in Shock Incarceration are twice as likely to take and pass General Equivalency Degree (GED) tests as inmates in general confinement facilities – despite being in the program nine to 14 months less than inmates in comparison minimum- and medium-security facilities, respectively.

Shock inmates who entered prison with a high school diploma volunteer to participate as Literacy Volunteers, helping their peers to learn basic academic skills, including reading.

Of the inmates who are eligible to take the GED test while in the Shock program, an average of 82 percent pass it. Some platoons have had a 100 percent passing rate. Those are far better rates than the 56 percent “pass rates” among New Yorkers in general who took the exam on the outside last year, and the 62 percent “pass rate” among prison inmates statewide.

Shock stresses a highly-structured and regimented routine, physical work and exercise, and intensive substance abuse treatment. It seeks to build character, instill a sense of maturity and responsibility, and promote a positive self-image for offenders so they can return to society as law-abiding citizens. The program’s intention is to help instill positive, pro-social values by addressing the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional dimensions of everyone in the program, staff and inmates alike.



A Shock platoon graduates at Lakeview.

In addition to cost-avoidance measures used to determine how much the Shock Incarceration program has saved taxpayers, Shock Incarceration has also served the community through community service projects to local areas.

Community service work, so important to cash-strapped localities near prisons, has greatly benefitted local areas, providing services for which there is no budget. Local governments and non-profit groups can apply to use inmate labor for public work, as long as they certify they can provide tools and equipment but cannot afford to pay labor costs.

Those projects have included cleaning up of state parks or public cemeteries, working on state forestry and stream projects, cleaning up debris and litter along state and local highways, while also painting and renovating public structures. Among the most significant services provided to the community is in response to fire, flooding, ice storm and other natural disasters that strike communities surrounding the prison.

Shock continues upon release

Studies of Shock Incarceration’s therapeutic approach have shown that strategies for redirecting the lives of young offenders have been effective. It has helped a significant number of offenders to stay out of the criminal justice system once they have paid their debt to the community.

The post-prison phase of the Shock Incarceration program is called “AfterShock,” operated by the state Division of Parole. It continues the intensity of supervision begun during the incarceration phase, while providing opportunities and programs in the community to improve parolees’ chances for successful societal reintegration.

Many graduates have distinguished themselves in careers after being released from prison. Some have become well-known, though the majority have returned quietly to their

Continued on facing page

Continued from previous page

home communities – to live productive and crime-free lives, successfully caring for their children and other loved ones, holding down responsible jobs, and generally contributing positively to the quality of life in their communities.

It is important that New York graduates learn the program's behavioral model and apply it once they are back in their communities. Yolanda Johnson is one of the program's most successful graduates. She has continued to distinguish herself since her graduation in 1990 by successfully handling many challenges with dignity and style. (See related story on page 11.)

In 2002, Yolanda married Keith Peterkin, a 1989 Shock graduate who is today a well-respected counselor in the field of substance abuse treatment.

Daniel Lopez, who also graduated in 1989, overcame many obstacles, convincing employers and educators alike of his commitment and responsibility. He is now an Executive Chef for the United Nations and highly-regarded by his employees.

Cheryl Moran, a 1993 graduate, has become an advocate for the homeless as well as for women released from prison. She is a sought-after speaker on the issues that offenders face when they return home. She has spoken before the New York state Legislature as well as before the U.S. Congress.

There are hundreds of similar stories, as well as thousands of different ones, to be told by other, less well-known Shock graduates. They are "regular citizens" working in a wide variety of jobs, taking care of their children and living successful lives in the community.

The Shock Incarceration program seeks to have participants internalize a positive, pro-social system of values that is designed to raise self-esteem. The

program emphasizes helping inmates acknowledge how their old values and choices led to their exclusion from society and restriction of freedom. Inmate participants learn positive values produce positive results – an important step toward realizing that a system of values is the key to changing behavior.

Shock Incarceration in New York has become a credible correctional treatment alternative that affords early release to younger, nonviolent offenders, thereby allowing the State to save prison space for more violent and incorrigible offenders. Beyond this, Shock is a complex correctional treatment program that employs a wide variety of methods to change inmates' attitudes and behavior.

The *Corrections Yearbook*™ for 2002 lists 31 states and the federal Bureau of Prisons as offering "boot camp" programs.

They housed 6,169 inmates on January 1, 2002, including 1,206 in New York's programs. Of the 517 female inmates in such programs on that date, 92 of them – 18 percent – were in New York.

The National Institute of Justice issued a report last year that reviewed a decade of research on "boot camp" style programs operating around the nation. It concluded that, unlike New York's, many of the programs around the country failed to meet their objectives of public protection through reduced recidivism, and reducing the demand for prison beds.

Researchers documented that successful programs shared these four components found in New York's Shock Incarceration Program:

- Selection of participants by corrections officials once offenders enter the system.
- Commitment by the state to funding and offering a high-quality of treatment services.
- Longer program durations rather than the 30- to 60-day programs offered in some jurisdictions.
- Intensified post-release supervision of graduates.

Employee dedication fuels Shock success

Just as his predecessor Thomas Coughlin set the standard for what Shock should be, Commissioner Goord has shepherded the program through its first 17 years.

"Every study has shown that what we created has stood the test of time," the Commissioner said. "Governor Pataki has demonstrated his commitment to ensuring that Shock remains relevant and viable in the future – in terms of safeguarding the public, husbanding its tax dollars and offering deserving, nonviolent offenders a second chance.

"The success of this program speaks to the dedication and

professionalism of the employees who have worked in our Shock facilities. Without their on-going support and commitment, Shock would not have become the success and the national model that it is today.

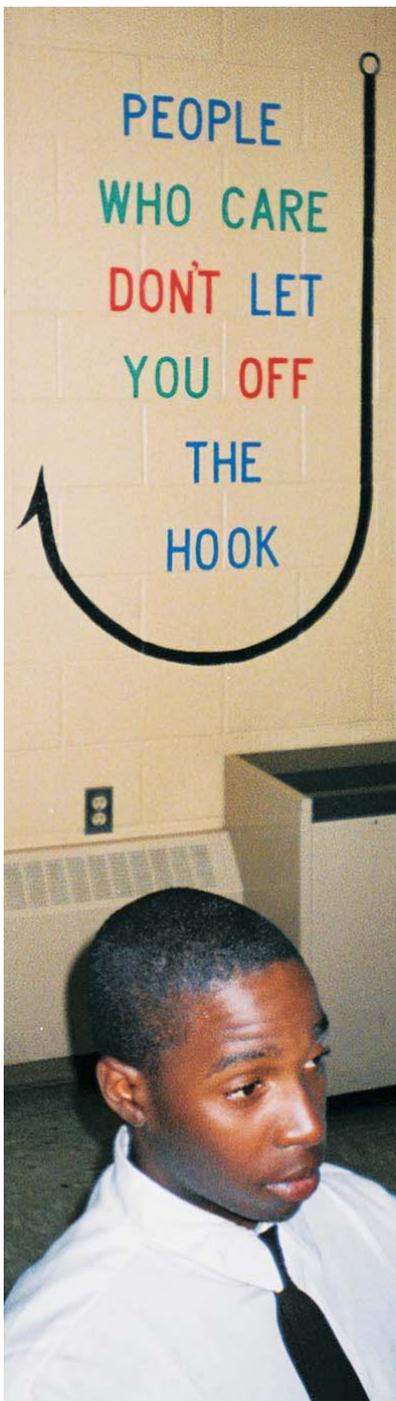
"Once again, the employees of this Department have shown they are equal to the challenge that we place before them," the Commissioner said of staff, who must undergo a four-week training regimen that is as physically rigorous as that undergone by inmates.

"Who dares, wins" is the motto of Lakeview Shock.

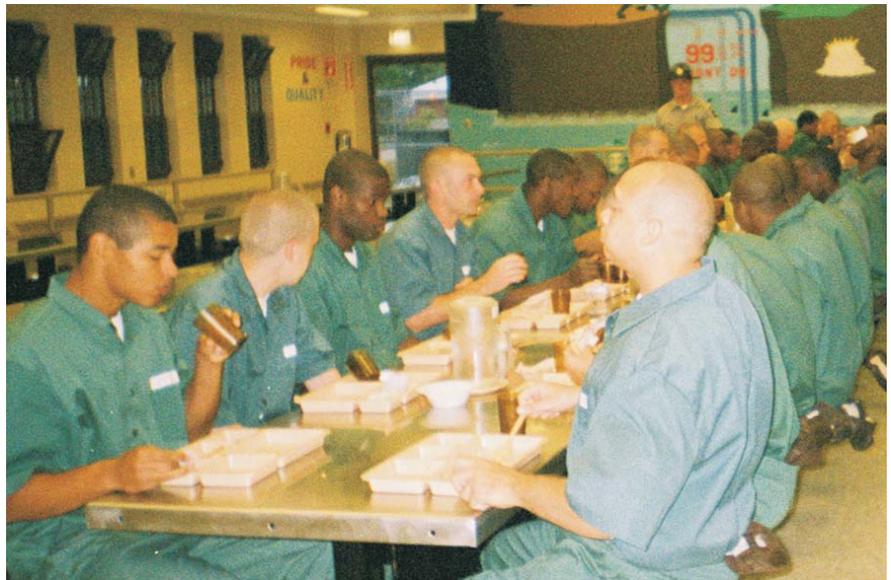
It may well be the motto of all who have worked to make New York's Shock Incarceration program the on-going success that it is. 



Classroom activity is a vital part of the Shock program.



Shock inmates participate in group counseling (above), while even their meals are timed and monitored by a Drill Instructor (below). Physical training begins shortly after dawn (bottom), and key slogans are written on walls as ever-present reminders for inmates (left).



Shock graduates say prison program saved their lives

Since she graduated from Shock in 1993, Cheryl Moran has become an advocate for the homeless and is sought after as a speaker addressing issues offenders face when they return home. She has spoken before the State Legislature as well as before Congress in Washington, D.C.

Now a successful businesswoman who links employers to public and private funds that can be used to hire low-income employees, she said she was “one of those last chances” when she entered Shock – even being dismissed from the program and working her way back in.

“Shock saved my life,” she told DOCS|TODAY.

“It really was the intensifying scrutiny that I was subject to. You really need to take a clean break and take a close look at yourself,” she said.

She credited the ‘AfterShock’ portion of the program, with its strict requirements and support system, with helping her succeed.

“We were shown in Shock what our capabilities were. It gives you the confidence to believe you can do it,” Ms. Moran said. “All these things I do now, before Shock would never have been possible.”

Daniel Lopez is a successful executive chef in New York City and graduate of the famed Culinary Institute of America, but he still remembers and speaks fondly of the staff who helped him at Monterey 15 years ago when he completed the program.

He said he believes the Shock program worked because of “the caring and support from the drill instructors, from everyone there. You can tell, you can feel the caring that went into what you did.”

Mr. Lopez described the program’s “reaffirmation of values and morals that your parents tried to teach you, but you were smarter than them. For me, a light bulb turned on. Thank God and thank Shock for redirecting me to a path I should have been on.”

“I think it’s a great program. Anybody who knows me, knows it’s been great for me,” he added. “It’s helped me reach milestones that would never have been possible.”

Approaching his fifteenth anniversary of his graduation from Shock, Keith Peterkin recalled the program as “the turning point in my life.”

He is now a respected counselor in the field of substance abuse treatment.

“I think it was an excellent program. It was significant in my life,” he said. “It allowed me to grow and accept responsibility for my life.”

Mr. Peterkin graduated from Shock at Moriah in November of 1989. “Remarkably, when I left



Shock graduates Keith Peterkin and Yolanda Johnson.

it hadn’t even snowed yet,” he remembered. He said he hopes to return to Moriah and share his experience with current inmates there.

Besides the intensity of Shock and the people he met while in it, he cited AfterShock follow up as a key to his success in re-making his life. “It gave me the motivation to keep doing well,” he said.

His wife, Yolanda Johnson, is a 1990 Shock graduate. She has returned to Shock facilities on several occasions to participate in commencement addresses. She often tells this story:

“One night shortly after graduation I was at a party. A guy I used to know that I ran into immediately started digging in his pocket.

“When he tried to pass me a joint I said, ‘No thank you, I don’t smoke no more.’ So he said, ‘Whoa! Baby! This used to be your s–t!’

“He tried passing it to me again two or three times so finally I said to him, real loud, ‘What part don’t you get? The ‘no thank you’ or the ‘I don’t smoke no more?’ He backed right up and said, ‘Uh-oh baby,’ and left.

“I got that from my drill instructor.”

Today, she continues to hold a full-time, responsible job and a part-time job assisting other Shock graduates with reentry.

She graduated cum laude from college, entered a Masters in Social Work program while raising her son, and is active in her church, her community and local politics. 📖



Daniel Lopez

Transitions

August-September 2004

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Facility</i>			
Promotions					
Jean M. Slawatycki	Dep Supt Security 3	Albion	Gary Terbush.	Asst Dep Superintendent.	Green Haven
Jean Fall	Cook	Altona	Cathleen L. Selber	Clerk 2	Green Haven
Chesney Elizabeth Penfield	Counselor (Spanish Lang)	Altona	Michelle M. Finnegan.	Clerk 2	Green Haven
Deborah A. Stoner	Commissary Clerk 3	Altona	Marie Puvogel	Videotape Monitor	Green Haven
Cathy L. Miller	Principal Clerk Personnel.	Altona	Philip D. Heath	Deputy Supt Prgm Svcs 3	Greene
Carole M. Dellostritto	Clerk 2	Auburn	Michael L. Graziano	Dep Supt Administration 3	Greene
Kevin G. Halpin.	Plant Utility Engineer 2	Auburn	Robert A. Fitch	Dep Supt Security 3	Greene
Randy L. Foley	Plant Utilities Engineer 1	Bare Hill	Michael J. Moore	Counselor Trainee 1	Greene
Brian J. Conto	Vocational Instructor 2	Bare Hill	Charlene Lincoln	Counselor Trainee 1	Greene
Robert P. Tyler	ASAT Counselor	Bare Hill	Richard A. Best, III	Commissary Clerk 3	Hale Creek
Dennis W. Tong	Motor Vehicle Operator.	Bayview	Daniel F. Woodrow	Maintenance Supervisor 3	Lakeview
Gwen E. Schneider.	Dep Supt Security 3	Bedford Hills	Brenda Gawronski	Clerk 2	Lakeview
Julietta Mitchel	Clerk 2	Bedford Hills	Gregory S. Saj	Dep Supt Security 3	Livingston
Richard Johnson	Plant Utility Engineer 1	Camp Pharsalia	Carisa A. Harding	Vocational Instructor 2	Livingston
Carol J. Sayles	Inmate Records Coord 1	Camp Pharsalia	Michele L. Blair	Secretary 1	Main Office
Mark Kinderman	Deputy Supt Prgm Svcs 3	Cape Vincent	Chad E. Powell.	Administrative Aide.	Main Office
Susan Reilly	Calculations Clerk 2	Cayuga	Sandra L. Downey	Institution Steward	Main Office
Michael P. Corcoran	Superintendent.	Cayuga	Cathy A. Keenan	Assoc Personnel Admin	Main Office
Marilyn D. Ebert	Principal Stores Clerk	Cayuga	Joyce T. D'Alberto	Personnel Admin Trainee 1	Main Office
Lisa M. Wright	Calculations Clerk 2	Chateaugay	Patricia Dallmann-Weaver	Admin Assistant Trainee 1	Main Office
Stanley M. Garman.	Asst Deputy Superintendent	Clinton	Karen S. Lemin.	Budgeting Analyst Trainee 1	Main Office
Frederick L. Belair	Commissary Clerk 3	Clinton	Andria N. Pilieri.	Secretary 1	Main Office
Phillip E. Howells.	Maintenance Assistant	Clinton	Susan Gleeson.	Personnel Admin Trainee 1	Main Office
Mary Ann E. Bathrick.	Calculations Clerk 2	Coxsackie	Lorraine Cohen.	Asst Director ASAT Prgms	Main Office
William T. Haggett	Deputy Supt Prgm Svcs 3	Coxsackie	Deborah L. Coons	CS Internal Auditor 5	Main Office
Tanny Fe Diaz	Dental Assistant	Downstate	Judy M. Palmer.	Asst Dir Financial Admin 2	Main Office
Catherine M. Jacobsen.	Deputy Supt Rec. & Class 3	Downstate	Patrick D. Reardon	Affirmative Action Admin 2	Main Office
Lois Pomerantz.	Sr. Mail & Supply Clerk.	Eastern	Susan B. Teneyck	Assoc Budgeting Analyst.	Main Office
Mary Woodard	Clerk 2	Elmira	Kelli Buczek	Commissary Clerk 4	Marcy
Jacquelyn S. Roupp	Keyboard Specialist 2	Elmira	Robert E. Pirie	Asst Deputy Superintendent	Marcy
Beth A. Lamonica	Health Info Mgmt Tech 1	Fishkill	Michael P. Hamblin.	Plant Utility Engineer 3	Mt. McGregor
Lawrence Singer	Ed Supr (Vocational)	Fishkill	Simonne Sidorski.	Head Cook	Mid-Orange
Angelene Stevenson	Counselor Trainee 1	Fishkill	Kerry C. Conley	Calculations Clerk 2	Mid-State
Roseann Merrill	Keyboard Specialist 2	Fishkill	Rosalie R. Dunn	Stores Clerk 2	Mohawk
Susan M. Close	Calculations Clerk 2	Five Points	Leo Payant	Superintendent.	Mohawk
Christopher R. Ellison	Supr Inmate Griev Prgm	Five Points	Peter C. Rubino	Head Cook	Mohawk
Gretchen E. Hayward	Commissary Clerk 3	Five Points	Marian S. Charlebois.	Dep Supt Pgm Svcs 2	Ogdensburg
Connie A. Walton.	Vocational Instructor 2	Franklin	Theresa L. Lopez.	Calculations Clerk 2	Oneida
Martin L. Tremblay	Vocational Instructor 2	Franklin	Mark S. Webb	Food Service Worker 2.	Oneida
Andrew H. George	Deputy Supt Prgm Svcs 3	Gouverneur	Joseph C. Haskell	Purchasing Officer 1	Oneida
Jennifer S. Terriah	Commissary Clerk 3	Gouverneur	Naomi L. Anna	Food Service Worker 2.	Oneida
Pamela Amabile	Recreation Prgm Leader 2	Gowanda	Michele L. Whittmann	Calculations Clerk 2	Oneida
Cristina Pelkey	Inmate Records Coord 1	Green Haven	Roxanne L. Lamartina	Cook	Orleans
			Eric J. Wells	Cook	Orleans
			Theresa Coca	Supr Inmate Griev Prog	Otisville

Continued on facing page

Continued from facing page

Robert F. Cunningham Deputy Supt Prgm Svcs 2 Otisville
Darrow Cunningham Sr. Correction Counselor Queensboro
Phyllis J. Wall Secretary 1 Riverview
John M. Crowley Deputy Supt Prgm Svcs 3 Riverview
James A. Mance Superintendent Rochester
William A. Lee Dep Supt Security 3 Sing Sing
Frances Geils Commissary Clerk 4 Sing Sing
Sabryna Mathurin Info Technical Assistant Sing Sing
Joseph P. Cieslak Supr Inmate Griev Prog Southport
Timothy G. Mootz Correction Counselor Southport
Harold Huggler Plant Utility Engineer 2 Sullivan
John L. Watson Ed Supr (General) Sullivan
Rose M. Bartow Clerk 2 Summit SICF
Patricia Otis ASAT Counselor Taconic
Karen Hansen Commissary Clerk 3 Taconic
Juan C. Herrera Commissary Clerk 3 Taconic
Nancy C. Bryden Inmate Records Coord 1 Taconic
Lori A. Vernooy Calculations Clerk 2 Ulster
Winifred J. McQuinn Secretary 2 Upstate
Jill Dunham Calculations Clerk 2 Walkkill
Barry Petteys Maintenance Supervisor 3 Washington
Richard D. Nolet Vocational Instructor 2 Washington
Epaenetus J. Kapadia Vocational Instructor 1 Washington
John J. Stewart General Mechanic Washington
Gregory G. Farrell, Jr. Commissary Clerk 4 Washington
Chad J. Troup, Jr. Electrician Wende
Robert J. Lukowski Plant Utility Engineer 1 Wende
Janet Zimmerman Clerk 2 Wende
Darlene J. Ahouse Clerk 2 Willard
Colleen M. Zink Secretary 2 Willard
Jean G. King Dep Supt for Corr Fac 3 Woodbourne
Jeffrey R. Hamill Maintenance Assistant Wyoming
Leroy A. Rubinas Plant Utilities Assistant Wyoming
Albert J. Zielonka Maintenance Asst Mechanic Wyoming
Alfred C. Robinson Correction Captain Chateaugay
Brandon Smith Correction Captain Main Office
Donald Uhler Correction Captain Upstate
Donald Premo Correction Lieutenant Arthur Kill
Joseph Sullivan Correction Lieutenant Arthur Kill
Louis Noto Correction Lieutenant Bare Hill
Robert Schroder Correction Lieutenant Bayview
Lawrence Siulc Correction Lieutenant Bayview
Edward J. Meyer Correction Lieutenant Bedford Hills
Raymond Shanley Correction Lieutenant Edgecombe
John Moore Correction Lieutenant Fulton
John Shauger Correction Lieutenant Green Haven
Robert Stella Correction Lieutenant Queensboro
Mark Royce Correction Lieutenant Queensboro

Derek Deegan Correction Lieutenant Shawangunk
William Martens Correction Lieutenant Sing Sing
Dwayne Hash Correction Lieutenant Taconic
Lynn Paul Correction Lieutenant Taconic
Ricky Perison Correction Lieutenant Taconic
Thomas Brown Correction Lieutenant Upstate
Brian Chuttey Correction Lieutenant Woodbourne
Dennis P. McKernan Correction Sergeant Arthur Kill
Michael Blaine Correction Sergeant Arthur Kill
Robert Koch Correction Sergeant Arthur Kill
Mark Giancola Correction Sergeant Bayview
John Brooks Correction Sergeant Bedford Hills
John McNamara Correction Sergeant Downstate
Kathleen Pollock Correction Sergeant Downstate
Brian Smith Correction Sergeant Downstate
David Hearn Correction Sergeant Edgecombe
Charles Bailey Correction Sergeant Fishkill
Bryan Doren Correction Sergeant Fishkill
Joseph Fuest Correction Sergeant Fishkill
Anthony Muccigrosso Correction Sergeant Fishkill
Dennis Sisler Correction Sergeant Green Haven
Jody Whitney Correction Sergeant Green Haven
Thomas Wood Correction Sergeant Green Haven
Raymond Abbott Correction Sergeant Hudson
Mark Wilson Correction Sergeant Lincoln
Kevin Coulombe Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Michael Greenwald Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Dwayne Perrine Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Eric Royce Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Thomas Graham Correction Sergeant Sullivan
Donald Holton Correction Sergeant Sullivan

Retirements

Milburn C. Parmerter General Mechanic Attica
Sierra J.A. Rodriguez Correction Counselor Auburn
Patricia A. Condes Keyboard Specialist 1 Auburn
Helene Rattiner Correction Counselor Bedford Hills
Edward Wade Teacher 4 Bedford Hills
Terrance McElroy Deputy Supt for Sec Svcs 3 Bedford Hills
Mary Lynne Duprey Keyboard Specialist 1 Camp Gabriels
Wayland F. Mullenax General Mechanic Georgetown
Bruce R. Robbins Vocational Instructor 4 Cayuga
Gary Hathaway Teacher 4 Clinton
Daniel V. Kogut Nurse 2 Collins
Hans H. Thiel Nurse 2 Collins
Barbara J. Desimone Clerk 2 Downstate
Dian S. Petrozak Head Account Clerk Eastern
R. C. Labarr Plant Superintendent B Eastern
Frank A. Briody Vocational Instructor 4 Eastern

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Eugene R. Frost Vocational Instructor 4 Elmira
Linda J. Harris Secretary 1 Elmira
Samuel R. Williamson Head Cook Fishkill
Penny L. Parrott Institution Steward Franklin
Taesoo Kim Clinical Physician 2 Franklin
Melanie L. Hughes Clerk 2 Great Meadow
William C. Auffarth Nurse 2 Green Haven
Joseph A. Caputo Plumber & Steamfitter Greene
Robert J. Winters Plant Utilities Engineer 2 Greene
William H. Birdsall Electrician Groveland
Michael T. Garraghan Cook Hudson
John B. Seiler Agency Labor Relations Rep 3 Main Office
Paul Lukasiewicz Correction Counselor Marcy
Howard Smith Vocational Instructor 4 Marcy
John A. Scheer Correction Counselor ASAT Mt. McGregor
Robert E. Fuller Cook Mt. McGregor
Juan H. Hodelin Senior Correction Counselor Mid-Orange
Virginia E. Becker Keyboard Specialist 1 Mid-Orange
Frances E. Farrar Principal Clerk Personnel Oneida
Janina Strife Senior Librarian Oneida
Catherine M. Anderson Correction Counselor Otisville
Donald Ethredge Plant Utilities Engineer 1 Otisville
Barbara Johnson Keyboard Specialist 1 Sing Sing
Nicholas R. Boulas Cook Southport
Janice R. Norton Payroll Clerk 3 Southport
Herman A. Kahn Correction Counselor Sullivan
Adam Trela General Mechanic Sullivan
Dennis E. Kortright General Mechanic Sullivan
Leonard Findling Sr Correction Counselor Sullivan
James K. O'Connell Superintendent Ulster
Mohammad B. Shahani Chaplain Upstate
Charles E. Layhee Maintenance Supervisor 3 Upstate
George P. McGrath Dep Supt Pgm Svcs 2 Wallkill
Judith A. Palmer Head Account Clerk Wende
Donald W. Seitz Correction Captain Cayuga
Michael G. Knowles Correction Captain Gowanda
Eduardo Nieves Correction Captain Greene
Barton Tarbox Correction Lieutenant Adirondack
Louis Loidice Correction Lieutenant Cayuga
Gregory A. Ransom Correction Lieutenant Clinton
Kenneth W. Rhodes Correction Lieutenant Mid-Orange
Willie Richbough Correction Sergeant Fishkill
James Vasile Correction Sergeant Groveland
Joseph M. Fields Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Alexander Churak Correction Sergeant Sullivan
John Bennis Correction Officer Attica
Gerald Cote Correction Officer Attica
Wayne Sheppard Correction Officer Auburn

Lorraine P. Burch Correction Officer Bayview
Ricky Reyor Correction Officer Gabriels
Edward J. Meyer Correction Officer Gabriels
William J. Field Correction Officer Cayuga
Philip J. Lavigne Correction Officer Clinton
David R. Lamora Correction Officer Clinton
Jeffrey Liberty Correction Officer Clinton
Mark Liberty Correction Officer Clinton
Marvin Rabideau Correction Officer Clinton
Larry T. Velie Correction Officer Clinton
Joseph Nappo Correction Officer Collins
Theodosia B. Graham Correction Officer Collins
William G. Carroll Correction Officer Downstate
William Hawver Correction Officer Downstate
Russell J. Pitts, III Correction Officer Downstate
Kevin A. Young Correction Officer Downstate
David L. Wynkoop Correction Officer Eastern
Winston StClair Correction Officer Edgecombe
Ted P. Mann Correction Officer Elmira
Gerald R. Brown Correction Officer Elmira
Calvin G. French Correction Officer Elmira
Christopher J. Degon Correction Officer Franklin
Craig Streit Correction Officer Gouverneur
Bret Burchetta Correction Officer Green Haven
Raymond Clark Correction Officer Green Haven
Larry W. Rivenburg Correction Officer Greene
Stephen J. George Correction Officer Greene
Michael P. Aggrippino Correction Officer Hudson
Allen W. Coar Correction Officer Marcy
Joseph J. Catalano Correction Officer Mid-Orange
Margaret B. Brennan Correction Officer Mid-Orange
Eugene Knowlton Correction Officer Mt. McGregor
Thomas F. Hood Correction Officer Mt. McGregor
Terry Wilhelm Correction Officer Mt. McGregor
William J. Morgan Correction Officer Orleans
James E. Newsome Correction Officer Otisville
Mark S. Hershkowitz Correction Officer Sing Sing
Robert Pritchard Correction Officer Southport
Charles L. Dunham, Jr. Correction Officer Southport
Floyd Weed Correction Officer Shawangunk
Kenneth W. Bivins, Sr. Correction Officer Sullivan
Donald R. Osterhoudt Correction Officer Sullivan
Thomas R. Hunt Correction Officer Taconic
Frank R. Straub Correction Officer Ulster
Daniel B. Curry Correction Officer Wallkill
Eugene Brimmer Correction Officer Watertown
Richard G. Coseo Correction Officer Watertown
Beamen E. Labare Correction Officer Watertown
Alexander S. Zentai Correction Officer Wende

Continued on facing page



A line of trees in front of the prison were cut down to make way for the fence perimeter. Tower (center) will be within the new fencing perimeter. Parking lot to left of tower will be relocated to make room for fencing project.

Perimeter fence at Elmira ...

Continued from page 5

monitors connected to the cameras along the new perimeter fence. The existing “ball park” camera and detection monitoring system will be relocated here, allowing it to be monitored around-the-clock as well.

The project will also provide space to improve key control by consolidating that operation to a single location.

Work is expected to start in November and be completed next May.

Hospitality center to serve inmate visitors

Around the state, 35 prisons have hospitality centers run by community volunteers. Like them, the one under construction since June at Elmira is located outside of the prison perimeter.

They are designed as a haven for inmate visitors who have often traveled by bus for many hours to visit loved ones. It gives visitors an opportunity to “freshen up,” as well as a place to change infant diapers or attend to other needs.

Continued from facing page

James L. Taylor	Correction Officer.	Wende
Grace A. Arena.	Correction Officer.	Willard
Stephen P. Melchick	Correction Officer.	Woodbourne
Laura Ladd	Correction Officer.	Wyoming

Deaths

Sheila M. O'Connor	Teacher 4	Collins
Craig Chillemi	Supr Installation & Repair	Main Office
Carol E. Gallagher	Stores Clerk 2	Oneida
Angel L.R. Lamberty	Chaplain	Ulster
Janice M. Burch	Teacher 4	Washington
C.J. Meciszewski	Correction Officer.	Eastern
Douglas P. Bradlinski.	Correction Officer.	Oneida
Leslie J. George	Correction Officer	Riverview 

The hospitality centers are single-story block and wood frame structures of 2,150 square feet built on a concrete slab. Heating and lighting for the building will be connected into the prison’s utility systems.

The center is being built south of the main entry road to the prison on Davis Street. It will contain men’s and women’s toilets, and a baby changing station as well as plenty of seating.

Construction is expected to be completed by December.

Land purchase under negotiation

The Department would like to purchase a maximum of 15 acres of land that abuts the south side of the prison.

Its needed in order to build an access road to the truck trap on the south side of the prison. The current access to the truck trap will be enclosed within the new fence. The parcel is also needed to comply with mandated regulations for storm water management.

While working to acquire the property, the state is also mindful of wetland concerns within the parcel, which will not be impacted by the road construction. The Department will observe any concerns raised by the state Department of Environmental Conservation or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The construction will be coordinated to minimize disturbance of a potential historical site that is being investigated by SUNY-Binghamton at the request of the State Education Department.

The parcel is owned by the City of Elmira. It is leased to the Woodlawn Cemetery. Discussions between the parties have been on-going for about 18 months concerning the state’s acquisition of the parcel.

Under state law, the Department may only pay for the property the value assigned to it by independent appraisers. That information is expected within the next few months.

In the meantime, the Department continues to discuss different configurations and sizes of the parcel with city and cemetery officials. 

Arthur Kill inmate GED program to appear on public television

Project required inmates hone their skills to research and document slavery issues

Inmates from Arthur Kill made television history recently when their General Educational Development (GED) class students were honored by being chosen to participate in the Public Broadcasting System's WNET-Channel 13 Human Rights Project.

The Arthur Kill class was one of 15 chosen from 36 entries in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut for the "Modern Day Slavery" project. The station had invited all high schools in the area to submit proposals.

Under the direction of teacher Betsy Wilson, who was assisted by inmate tutor Allan Bongiovanni in preparing the project application, the class examined and wrote about child slave labor, sex slaves and forced labor in foreign countries.

"I asked my students if they thought they could handle it. They wanted to do it, so we went with it," Ms. Wilson recalled. She stressed that her role in the project was minimal, mainly bringing in some supplies and extra sources of information. "It was a student-run operation," she said.

The inmates spent the September-June school year researching the issue of modern slavery and preparing their reports. They drew upon materials from television documentaries provided by PBS, periodicals, encyclopedias and *National Geographic* magazine.

Ms. Wilson said inmates worked on the project in both her morning and afternoon classes, with some also working on their own time as it neared completion.

"We read a lot of magazines. It was the hardest thing I ever did," said inmate Victor Ramirez, one of the leaders of the project, a fifth grade dropout and now a GED graduate.

The finished project consisted of poems, essays and pictures, all showcased in colorful displays. In addition to inmate Ramirez, inmates Spatine Vehap, Hugh Goulbourne, Dewan Gully, Michael Rivas, Jamie Ortiz and Eduardo Baker took part.

"It was a global project," said Ms. Wilson. "It wasn't just about being a citizen, but about being a global citizen."

After choosing this class project, the judges invited the students to the PBS headquarters in Manhattan to kick off the project. To their surprise, the judges learned the invitation could not be accepted because the students were prison inmates.

So the judges, impressed by the efforts of the inmates, asked if they could visit the inmates instead.

Four members of the station's educational staff were allowed to visit the Staten Island facility. Susan Guthrie, outreach producer, together with staff members Erin O'Brien, Anna Lisa Loessler and Deirdre McGuire spent an afternoon with the GED class in a lively discussion about their finished project.

"They came out because the guys couldn't go to Channel 13," said Ms. Wilson. She presented the inmates' work at WNET on their behalf, joining teachers and students from the other participating schools.

She said self-motivation, not the possibility of rewards, drove the inmates throughout the project.

"There were no incentives to do this. There was nothing in it for them," she said. "There was no reason to work on the project other than that they wanted to do it."

Ms. Wilson said WNET thought very highly of the quality of the inmates' poems and essays.

Arthur Kill GED students also experienced a particularly meaningful graduation ceremony in June, where the featured speaker was a former inmate.

"I once sat in those same seats as you do today," Louis Ventura of the Bronx told the graduates.

"I spent 17 years incarcerated and have been out for a year and a half," he said. "I want to give you a little sense of hope. It is not going to be easy, but never give up on yourself. You can always rise to the occasion, no matter what the obstacle."

Mr. Ventura served several years of his sentence at Arthur Kill and was released in 2002.

A dozen inmates complete with cap and gown were awarded their GED diplomas. Another seven were awarded academic excellence awards.

In addition, eight inmates also graduated with certificates from Rising Hope Inc., a human and spiritual service program sponsored through Beriquia College in Manhattan. Dr. George McClain, dean of the program, presented the certificates in Human Services which the inmates can convert into college credits when they are released. 

On the web ...

Readers with Internet access can obtain information on the world wide web from the offices of both Governor Pataki and Commissioner Goord. Their addresses:

Governor Pataki: www.state.ny.us

Commissioner Goord: www.docs.state.ny.us

Colorized editions of DOCS|TODAY, beginning with the January 2003 edition, now appear on the DOCS website. Editions are posted as PDFs when they are sent to the Elmira print shop for publication. 

DOCS Data

Program Services expenditures increased by 23 percent from \$156 million in Fiscal Year 1995 to \$191 million in Fiscal Year 2004, while the inmate population dropped by 2.3 percent.