

DOCS TODAY

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New York State Department of Correctional Services

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Sing Sing CO earns top international award



Commissioner Goord congratulates Sing Sing Correction Officer Erec B. Burgess for earning the 2002 Correction Officer of the Year Award from the International Association of Correctional Officers. "I was just doing my job," CO Burgess said of the actions that led to the award: his notable career in Correctional Services highlighted by his attempt to save an inmate's life.

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ON THE COVER: The masthead brings DOCS|TODAY together with its past via "Copper John," the Colonial soldier who has stood watch 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.

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Governor honors actions to end domestic violence

Governor Pataki and First Lady Libby Pataki have announced the recipients of the “Governor’s 2002 Justice, Freedom and Courage Awards to End Domestic Violence.”

Governor Pataki said, “The Justice, Freedom and Courage Awards recognize the dedication of exceptional individuals and organizations committed to ending domestic violence. Last year’s award winners have demonstrated how one person, one organization, or one judge can make an enormous difference in the fight against domestic violence.”

First Lady Pataki, who presented the awards during October’s Domestic Violence Month, said: “I have been an advocate in the struggle to end domestic violence for over two decades. In the last eight years we have made remarkable progress because we have been very clear that New York state is a zero tolerance state when it comes to domestic violence.”

Last year was the second year of the Justice, Freedom and Courage Awards initiative, which was created by Governor Pataki. The awards recognize those whose exemplary actions are particularly innovative and demonstrate a long-term commitment to ending domestic violence.

Last year’s recipients included four “Justice and Freedom Award” winners, two “Courage Award” winners and the “Lifetime Visionary Award,” which was given to Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye.

Throughout her distinguished career, Chief Judge Kaye has demonstrated a firm commitment to improving the response of the legal system to the complex issues posed by domestic violence. A groundbreaking example is the establishment of domestic violence courts, a “one family, one judge” approach, in which one judge handles all criminal, family and matrimonial issues a particular case may present, placing a new emphasis on victim safety and offender accountability.

Chief Judge Kaye said, “It is an honor to receive this lifetime achievement award and to be recognized alongside individuals and organizations that strive daily to provide refuge for battered women and their children. We can be proud of what we have achieved so far in the battle against domestic violence in New York state, but the battle is far from over. The Domestic Violence Courts around the state, along with the new Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, are a critical piece of what must be a concentrated effort to end the violence in the lives of so many women and children. For our part, the courts will continue to seek new and better ways to respond to the unique and urgent needs of domestic violence victims throughout the state.”

Award winners listed

In addition to the “Lifetime Visionary Award” presented to Chief Judge Kaye, six other leaders in the battle to combat domestic violence were honored.

Two awards were presented in the Justice category, which encompasses the criminal justice and legal systems, including



Governor George E. Pataki

law enforcement, probation, parole, district attorneys, legal practitioners or the judiciary. The recipients were the Capital District Women’s Bar Association, Legal Project Inc. of Albany, and Catherine Cerulli of Rochester.

Awards were also presented in the Freedom category, which encompasses: 1) residential and non-residential domestic violence service providers; 2) businesses or organizations from the private sector, and, 3) others in the community comprising the domestic violence response system including: health and human services, the faith community, education or the media.

There were two recipients in the Freedom category: People Against Domestic Violence (PADV) of Carmel and the New York Asian Women’s Center of New York City.

Two Courage Awards were presented to survivors of domestic violence who have helped victims and other survivors overcome the many difficult problems and challenges associated with domestic violence. These activities have included raising community awareness, participating on a local task force or working with a local domestic violence program.

Courage Award winners receive free tuition to any New York state community college in recognition of their efforts to help others and to help victims rebuild their lives. The recipients of the Courage Awards were Melissa Mahar of Troy and Margarita Torres of the Bronx.

Late last year, Governor Pataki also signed into law legislation to further combat domestic violence by allowing for the sale of custom license plates bearing the message, “Peace at Home.” The revenue generated from the sale of the plates will be used to support a newly-established Domestic Violence Awareness Fund. 

New gloves provide Officers with added protection

Barring any unforeseen delays, all security staff in prisons throughout the state should have a new pair of cut-resistant frisking gloves by the end of this month.

The gloves are to be used when staff search inmate property, frisk inmates for weapons and other contraband and perform other related Department-approved duties inside the facility. The gloves also can be worn by Officers assigned to an outside post during cold weather.

The state budget for the current fiscal year included an appropriation of \$642,000 to provide for the purchase of the new security-enhancing gloves. An initiative spearheaded by NYSCOPBA, it permitted us to buy 40,000 pair of state-of-the-art, cut-resistant gloves for approximately 22,000 Officers.

That means we will have sufficient gloves on hand to provide replacements to existing staff and to outfit new recruits at the Training Academy in Albany. However, it should also be noted we do not expect any such funding next year and the gloves on-hand will have to meet our needs for several years.

The distribution schedule is maximum-security prisons first, then medium- and finally minimum-security prisons. The gloves will be shipped to prisons in the various security levels in alphabetical order.

The state Legislature appropriated \$26,000 in 1999 so the Department could buy some cut-resistant gloves. In an agreement with NYSCOPBA, we distributed the gloves to Correction Officers at both Upstate and Southport, with the remaining gloves allocated to Officers at SHUs.

Those cut-resistant gloves proved to be an effective tool when it came to providing further protections for security staff. It was that experience that led to the current appropriation.

A contract for the sturdy leather gloves was awarded to Warwick Mills, Inc., of New Hampshire. Known in the industry as TurtleSkin Gloves, these gloves cost less than gloves that were purchased in 1999. Hence, the Department is able to purchase additional gloves.

Like the gloves that were purchased four years ago, the new gloves meet a variety of stringent Department and National Institute of Justice (NIJ) protocols.

The leather outer shell is top-quality naked hair-sheep leather treated to repel water.

The new cut-resistant gloves are Navy blue and match the Officers' current blue uniforms. No other color cut-resistant glove is permitted to be worn by Officers.

This is just a natural extension of a positive enhancement that we put into place at Upstate, Southport and our SHUs in 1999. We are always looking at ways of enhancing safety inside all of our facilities and these cut-resistant gloves certainly help us attain that objective.

Correction Officers should not have to worry about sustaining an unnecessary injury when they are frisking inmates and performing other Department-approved duties. These new gloves will go a long way in ensuring that that will not happen here in New York state.

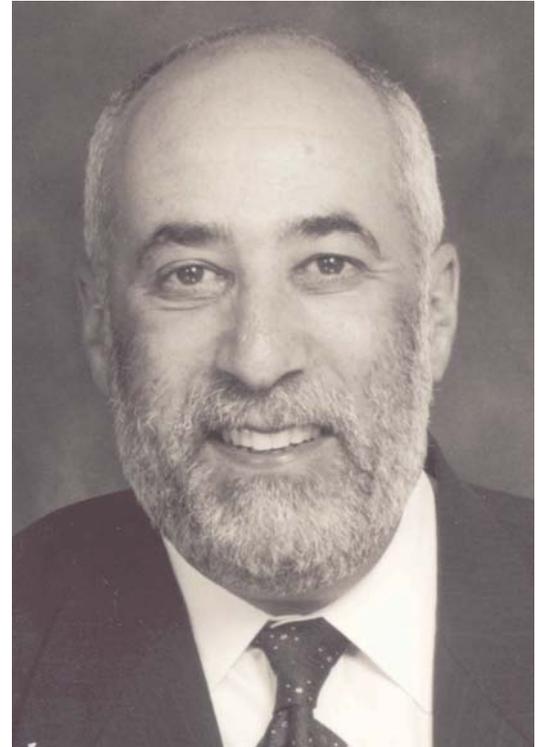
The gloves are only to be used by Officers when they are:

- Conducting cell/area frisks.
- Performing personal searches of inmates (such as pat frisks, strip frisks or strip searches).
- Packing inmate property.
- Searching inmate clothing during an exchange.
- In outside recreation areas during cold weather only.

When not directly involved in any of the above activities, the gloves must be carried, tucked neatly under the uniform belt or in the rear pants pocket.

The gloves are to be inspected as part of the semi-annual uniform inspection process as outlined in Directive #3083. If an employee's gloves are damaged or destroyed, the gloves must be turned in prior to a new pair being issued.

As with any issued uniform equipment, if an employee loses their gloves they will be responsible for reimbursement. 



Commissioner Goord

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: <http://www.state.ny.us>

Commissioner Goord: <http://www.docs.state.ny.us/>

Upstate Correctional officers etched in granite

From the Plattsburgh Press-Republican of October 23

Four men who worked at Upstate Correctional Facility were remembered by loved ones, co-workers and friends in a moving ceremony Tuesday.

A granite monument in front of the main entrance to the maximum-security state prison was dedicated in memory of Jeffrey LaVoie, John Bradley, Don Garrow and Michael Warner.

All of them have died since the facility opened in 1999: Lavoie in September 1999, Bradley in 2000, Garrow in 2001 and Warner last week.

Because his death was so sudden and unexpected, the placard with Warner's name on it was not ready in time for the ceremony and will be added later.

"It was one year in the planning," said Patricia Lee, a teacher at the facility and chair of the Employee Benefit Fund, which raised the money for the memorial.

In-house fund-raisers were held, she said, and the money trickled in "a nickel at a time."

Lee said that both the civilian and security employees "really supported everything we did" to make the memorial possible.

A chilly breeze stirred the American and state flags held by the Color Guard as more than 50 people huddled together to hear remarks from several prison representatives, including State Department of Corrections Assistant Commissioner Clair Bee.

Speaking on behalf of DOC Commissioner Glenn Goord, Bee compared the employees to the granite slab used to create the memorial.

"I'm very proud of you and the job you do at the facility, one of the toughest jobs in the state of New York," he said.

"Granite comes from the ground. It is rough and strong

and (proud), much like the people of the state of New York, especially upstate in the North Country family."

Like a correction officer, the granite, he said, can be smoothed but remains rough, strong and powerful and can reflect a joyful memory of the men who died.

Upstate Superintendent Roy Girdich also referred to the granite, saying the monument shows that what these men represented "will not be set aside and forgotten.

"It will withstand ice, snow, rain and sun and will remain steadfast for decades."

Girdich called the memorial "an everlasting pledge of remembrance," vowing that facility employees from now on will be entrusted with its stewardship.

"The memories will not dissolve over time. They will remain strong and resolute."

As the Color Guard exited, "Taps" was heard, followed by "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes. 📖



Upstate Color Guard leads ceremony honoring lost employees. Guard includes COs Daniel Peer, Guy Soucia, Michael Sisto and William Hungerford.

CO Erec Burgess earns top international honor ...

Sing Sing Correction Officer Erec B. Burgess recently received the 2002 Correctional Officer of the Year Award from the International Association of Correctional Officers (IACO).

Officer Burgess, one of just five national finalists for the coveted award, was honored by the association for spending a full and grueling 90 minutes late in 2000 performing CPR while trying to resuscitate an inmate who was found hanging in an infirmary shower. He raced up eight flights of stairs from his work station in the discipline office when code red was sounded and had to break down a door leading to the shower to get to the inmate. Although medical staff at a local hospital were unsuccessful in their efforts to revive the inmate, IACO officials lauded the tireless and dedicated efforts of Officer Burgess. He ignored repeated requests by his coworkers to give up what appeared to be a losing battle, and his very notable career in corrections.

“There was no way that I was going to stop,” said CO Burgess, who began working for DOCS in February of 1990. “I was just doing my job. I just wanted to try to get him to survive.

“I was in a groove. I was in a zone. I wasn’t tired and there was no way I was going to stop. I was exhausted afterward, though.”

CO Burgess boarded the ambulance along with the inmate and medical personnel and relentlessly continued his resuscitation efforts until the rig arrived at the hospital and medical staff took over.

“Once they took over, I just sat down and tried to calm down,” he said.

Officer Burgess seemed somewhat taken aback by the award, which he received during a well-attended ceremony in Washington, D.C., that he attended along with his wife Ann. The couple has one son, four-year-old Sullivan.

“I can honestly tell you I was very, very honored,” said Officer Burgess. “I felt real good about it. I’m not going to lie, I was

extremely honored.”

The four other finalists for the national award were Correctional Officer Dazell D. Green from the Dutchess County Jail in Poughkeepsie; Deputy Sheriff II Terry Leland Bowers from the Orange County Sheriff’s Department/Jail in Santa Anna, CA.; Correctional Officer Christina C. Matthews from the Marion Correctional Institution in Marion, OH, and Resident Unit Officer Joseph John Stephan from the Boyer Road Correctional Facility in Carson City, MI.

Officer Burgess was nominated for the national award by now-retired Sing Sing Sgt. Marilyn Cooper.

“He is Corrections personified,” says retired Sgt. Marilyn Cooper, who nominated CO Burgess for the award.

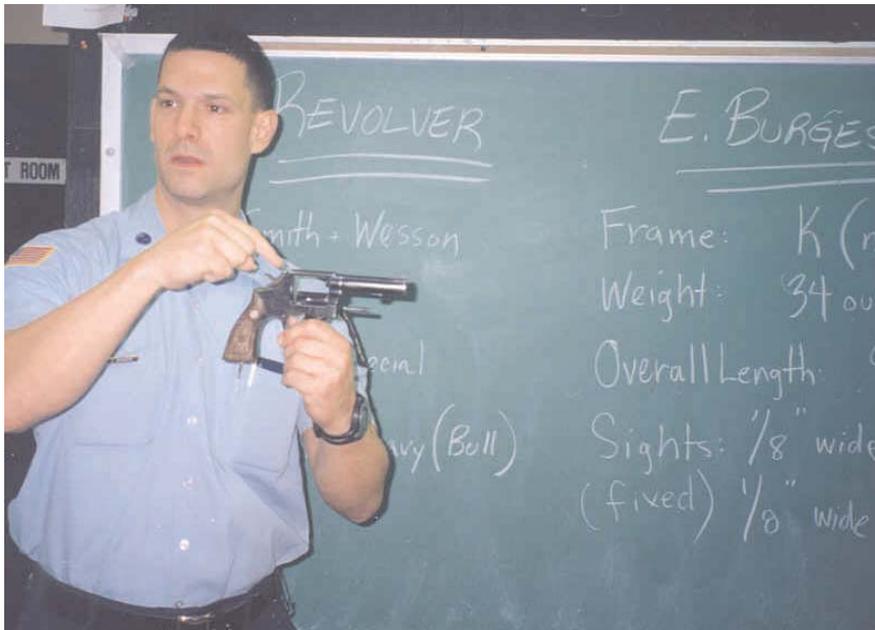
“On behalf of the entire Department, I would like to congratulate Correction Officer Burgess for receiving this prestigious award and bringing a high degree of honor and respect to this Department and the state of New York,” said Commissioner Goord. “Leading by example, his heroism and dedicated and selfless actions aptly reflect the true spirit that is this Department and the family that is corrections.”

Sing Sing Superintendent Brian Fischer said: “CO Burgess is a true professional who has earned the unequivocal respect of his peers. We are very proud of him and the leadership that he brings to this Department and our facility day in and day out.”

Colleagues say Officer Burgess’ attitude toward training and professionalism is second to none as he strives to grow in his career. He is a certified instructor on general police topics, the use of firearms and batons, chemical agents, tuberculosis and blood-borne pathogens, drug awareness, sexual harassment and leadership through quality and Officer trainee instruction. He is also a certified master trainer in suicide prevention and intervention and NIK systems of narcotics identification. Beneficiaries of his outstanding training expertise are more than 1,000 DOCS employees and when he is teaching in the classroom his peers know that a true professional stands before them.

Officer Burgess consistently supports growth in corrections, playing an integral part in the recruitment of new Officers by

Continued on facing page



CO Burgess on duty at Sing Sing.

... accepts award for Correction Officers everywhere

Following is a transcript of portions of Sing Sing Correction Officer Erec B. Burgess' acceptance speech when he was recently honored in Washington, D.C., by the International Association of Correctional Officers (IACO) as the organization's 2002 Correctional Officer of the Year.

"It is with great honor and sincerity that I receive the honor of 'Officer of the Year 2002.' I thank the International Association of Correctional Officers for such a prestigious title, to allow my personal hourglass to fill with sands of accomplishments and make this day a treasured one.

"To my fellow honorees, my brothers and sisters who share with me a life behind the walls, that only a few can imagine. My respect goes to you, and I share this honor with all of you.

"To Sergeant Marilyn Cooper, who epitomizes the true meaning of a supervisor. Her leadership stands tall and her friendship is endless. Thank you for making our dream come true.

"To Lieutenant Jeff Sarett, the confidence with which you trusted me is a big part of why I am standing here. I thank you.

"To Lieutenant Ed Wilkin, your friendship is and always will be, first and foremost with us. Thank you for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to instruct and educate my fellow Officers.

"To my family: My Mother, you have always been there for

CO Burgess ...

Continued from previous page

speaking at local and tri-state area colleges as well as at job fairs. Beyond that level of effort, he is a senior member of the Sing Sing Honor and Color Guard. In that role, he has been instrumental in training the Guard members in preparation for parades that has resulted in many trophies and other kudos and in honoring former and on-duty Officers and others for burial services. Burials are referred to as an Officer's Final Inspection and it is with dignity and a show of respect that Officer Burgess is called upon to select pallbearers when the occasion arises.

Officer Burgess also recently ranked in the top 10 percent statewide on the Sergeant's promotional examination.

In summing up his career accomplishments and actions on that day late in 2000, Sgt. Cooper wrote:

"Working in corrections is mentally draining but it is Officers of Erec Burgess' caliber who prove that we can, we should do. He gives us the respectability we know we have and we have often proven. He is corrections personified and I have been, and always will be, proud to have been one of his supervisors." 📖



IACO President Denny Somers congratulates CO Burgess.

me, no matter what, my continuance to count on you is never forgotten. A piece of this award is for you. A piece of you is in me. Thank you. I love you.

"My Father, your wisdom and our unique relationship has given me presence and security, your advice is priceless. It's not the NFL, but ... this is our Super Bowl. I love you.

"My Brother Ari, I am proud to be your brother, you gave me several roads to travel, and will always be valued in my heart. I thank you and love you.

"My Sister Lorinda, thank you for always saying I was good. It gives me strength and allows for achievement always.

"To my Son Sullivan, your little feet, which pitter pat across the kitchen floor. Your big smile, and hugs and kisses at the door, have allowed me to continue to realize that my work stays at work and my family stays with me ... and yes, Daddy will give you a treat. I love you. Thank you.

"And naturally, to the one person who has made all the difference in the world, who has defined love, friendship, loyalty and true happiness for me. I can't begin to thank you for being there, to help me and allow me to be a professional, a husband and a friend ... Ann ... I thank you with all of me. I love you.

"Today is a day which many feelings have been felt. Happiness, sadness, laughter and sorrow. Many emotions all rolled up in a 24-hour time period. Friendships were made, stories were told and lives were touched. A day like today should last in everyone's mind and heart, and give us the strength to continue being the very best, the true professionals that we are." 📖

Cardinal Egan visits Green Haven, celebrates Mass

It was an uplifting and memorable day of thanksgiving, prayer and reflection at Green Haven's St. Paul's Chapel on November 21.

The occasionally festive but primarily solemn occasion marked the chapel's 35th anniversary, highlighted with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Edward Cardinal Egan, who heads the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York.

"I am very pleased to be here today," Cardinal Egan told the hundreds of people who packed the chapel to celebrate the occasion. "I try to get to a prison or a jail every six months or so. I think it's important for me to do that."

Appreciative staff and inmates weren't the only ones to attend the long-anticipated event. About 70 members of communities throughout the area also came to hear Cardinal Egan celebrate Mass, an impressive contingent that included dozens of men of the cloth, including no less than five Reverend Monsignors. Also attending were members of the Knights of Columbus dressed in full and splendid regalia and other local officials.

The chapel was beautifully decorated with large and colorful bouquets of flowers gracing the base of the altar. Accomplished inmates sang hymns and psalms while other inmate musicians filled the chapel with folk music played on guitars and a low-decibel electronic synthesizer.

The themes of the day were varied and intertwined: forgiveness, repentance, acceptance of responsibility for one's actions, doing the right thing in the future by learning from one's past mistakes, not hurting others. At times, humor served as a way of getting a point across; at other times, it appeared that grand fatherly advice was being dispensed to the captive and sometimes mesmerized audience.

The short but powerful Gospel seemed highly appropriate for the occasion, given the setting. It related the tale of Jesus Christ on the Cross, flanked by two murderers being crucified with him – The Good Thief Dismas on his right and The Bad Thief Gestas to his left.

Gestas implored Jesus that, if he was really the Son of God whom he claimed to be, he should save himself as well as both he and Dismas. To which Dismas replied:



Procession precedes Cardinal through rear gate.



Cardinal celebrates Mass in chapel.

"We deserve it, after all. We are the ones paying the price for what we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Dismas then turned toward Jesus and said:

"Jesus, remember me when you enter paradise."

Jesus looked at Dismas and responded:

"I assure you, this day you will be with me in paradise."

Declared a saint by the Catholic Church, St. Dismas is often-times cited by prison ministries as their patron.

During his moving homily, Cardinal Egan touched on many subjects, and seemed to strike a genuine chord with inmates, staff and others.

"First of all, I want to tell you once again what a pleasure it is to be here with you today," Cardinal Egan said. "And I want to tell you that our first reading today is the greatest story you're ever going to hear."

The first reading, not surprisingly, relayed the trials and tribulations of St. Paul.

St. Paul had not led the purist of lives until he met Jesus Christ on a cloudless

day when he was startled by a vicious bolt of lightning. St. Paul immediately changed his ways and traveled the region spreading the word of God. His missionaries resulted in his being arrested and jailed on several occasions by those less-tolerant sorts.

The Cardinal told the story of the time St. Paul was picked up and placed under house arrest in a room in Rome, which meant he had to be shackled to a soldier 24 hours a day. Despite the Spartan conditions, St. Paul was permitted visitors. One day a man who'd stolen from his employer, an individual who happened to be a good friend of St. Paul's, visited the prisoner. The man, also a friend of St. Paul, asked him to intercede on his behalf and write the employer a letter seeking forgiveness. The man on the lam was very fearful of being arrested for his misdeeds and being sent to dig in the dreaded mines, where convicts didn't last all that long.

"Think about him the way Jesus Christ would think about him," St. Paul wrote his employer friend. "He's sorry for what he did."

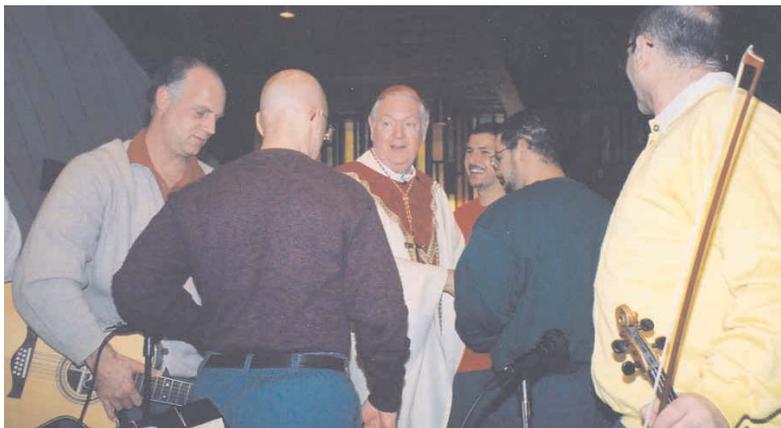
St. Paul said the repentant wrongdoer wanted to return to work for the man once again, but with a change in circumstances.

"He'd like to go back ... but he doesn't want to be your servant any longer," wrote St. Paul, who subtly inferred in his letter that his employer friend owed him at least one favor. "He wants to be your son and your friend. I want you to take him back and I want you to treat him as a brother in Jesus Christ and I want you to do it for me."

Despite being a prisoner and having his own problems, St. Paul's compassion and eloquent missive achieved its intended objective.

"He goes back and he's treated as a brother and friend ... and everything works out just fine," Cardinal Egan said.

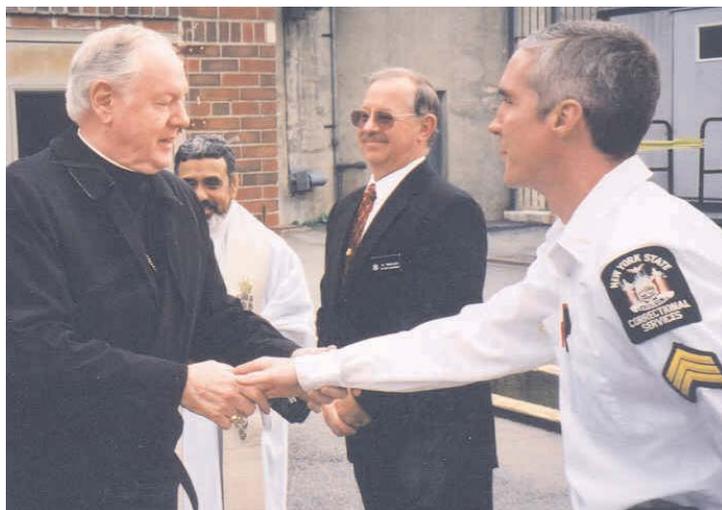
One aspect of the powerful Epistle, Cardinal Egan said,



Cardinal meets after Mass to thank musicians who performed.



Cardinal distributes Holy Communion to staff and inmates alike.



Sgt. Daniel Carey greets the Cardinal as Acting Superintendent William Phillips and Chaplain Gamini Fernando observe.

bears deep and lasting consideration.

"Paul is a prisoner. He's a prisoner shackled to a soldier," Cardinal Egan said. "I'm not removed from reality. A lot of you have had a lot of hurt in your lives, a lot of you have had a lot of deep hurt ... (like) this current situation. For you to reach out with anger, with hopes of retaliation, with feelings of vengeance ... I say that it would be humanly understandable.

"But it would not be," the Cardinal stressed, "spiritually acceptable.

"The way to handle this is the way Paul handled it," Cardinal Egan said. Given his own dire predicament, St. Paul could have easily told the friend seeking his intervention, 'get lost, I

have my own problems.'

"But he didn't. He was a man of compassion. Paul was filled with the grace of Jesus Christ. Paul didn't let hate or anger or retaliation or vengeance creep into his heart. Instead, he got very smart."

Just before the conclusion of the ceremony, Cardinal Egan eagerly worked the rows of sleek wooden pews like a polished politician. He firmly shook hands with each and every inmate, patted them on the back, offered them blessings and brief words of encouragement and promised they'd be in his prayers. Several inmates knelt and kissed the Cardinal's ring, a scene that would be repeated by staff later.

Following the service, a brief reception for the Cardinal and staff was held in the facility's gymnasium. He posed for photos with many staff members and the eight inmate altar servers; the Cardinal even autographed dozens of copies of the Thanksgiving Mass program for staff and inmates alike. 📖

Non-religious drug treatment remains successful

Over the past six years, close to 1,500 inmates who refused to participate in AA or NA programming on religious grounds have nonetheless been able to obtain the tools they need to help control their drug and alcohol addictions.

And more and more inmates continue to receive similar assistance on a daily basis in the hopes they will lead crime-free lives on their eventual release from prison.

In order to comply with a federal judicial requirement that substance abuse treatment programs steer clear of a religious component, DOCS programming officials crafted the multi-disciplined Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) program.

Created by Livingston Senior Counselor Jamie Parry and Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment (ASAT) Program Assistants Steven Klippert and Elaine Walters, the program operates similar to ASAT programs that incorporate AA/NA support groups. However, the religious component used for the self-help groups has been eliminated in the CBT program.

That means inmates who previously would not enroll in AA or NA programs because of conflicts with their religious beliefs now have an alternative and effective treatment program to get the help and support they need.

At the same time, the Department is meeting its legal requirements by offering a non-religion-based treatment plan for those with alcohol and substance abuse problems.

The CBT program also is being offered to female inmates at Albion.

“It’s important that inmates get the treatment that they need to address alcohol and substance abuse addictions and to help them lead clean and sober lives,” said Commissioner Goord.

“Our CBT program is proving to be a highly effective alter-

native for those inmates who in the past have avoided the treatment that they need because of their religious beliefs,” continued Commissioner Goord. “The more tools that we can provide inmates when they’re in custody – be it substance abuse treatment, education or vocational skills – the better their chances of becoming productive and law-abiding citizens upon their eventual release from custody and return to our communities.”

While the CBT and other treatment programs have much in common and can be very supportive of each other, the major difference is in the concept of spirituality. AA’s emphasis on living a spiritual life with a reliance on a “higher power” has resulted in lawsuits for mandating “religion” with treatment. In spite of AA literature that states that one does not need to believe in a particular God and that the treatment group itself can be perceived as the higher power, the courts have ruled that for inmates objecting to the 12-step AA program, a treatment alternative must be made available.

That led to the Department’s creation of the CBT program.

It should be pointed out that the vast majority of those enrolled in the CBT program have no problems attending AA or NA classes. Many of those who are enrolled in the CBT program have been through other conventional treatment programs with varying degrees of success and officials feel that this new program might provide them with the tools they need to lead clean and sober lives.

Shortly after implementing its CBT program to comply with the court decision, the Department revamped its ASAT program. It molded it into a competency-based program that supports, but no longer mandates, regular attendance at AA and NA meetings. Also, the ASAT program still embraces the concept of spirituality, which is not a component of the CBT program, and the treatment methods and philosophies in each program are different.



ASAT Program Assistant Elaine Walters leads a Cognitive Behavior Therapy class at Livingston.

Under a competency-based treatment program, inmates must attain nine competencies – in such topics as understanding addiction, relapse and abuse – to get a full understanding of the dynamics of addiction. Individuals who chose to do so still may attend AA or NA meetings, many of

which are run by outside volunteers, on their own, but it is no longer a requirement of substance abuse treatment programs run by DOCS.

The CBT program is made available to any requesting inmate upon confirmation from the chaplain that a religious conflict indeed does exist when it comes to either AA or NA programming. An inmate need not have a specific religious affiliation.

The CBT program began modestly at Livingston in 1997. Originally starting in a dorm with 60 inmates, it has grown and expanded to two dormitories with a total of 120 inmates at any given time participating in the CBT program as part of the ASAT program. As of late last year, more than 1,000 inmates have completed the comprehensive CBT program at Livingston; more than 270 inmates also had completed the course at Albion, where the program began in October of 1998.

The program was expanded to Cape Vincent in August of 1999. A total of 170 inmates completed the CBT program at Cape Vincent prior to its being phased out at that facility last February. ASAT officials determined that there was enough space and staff at Livingston to handle those inmates wishing to participate in the CBT program and that ASAT staff at Cape Vincent who had been assigned to the CBT program there could be freed up for other ASAT treatment duties.

The CBT program is comprised of the works of three separate schools of therapy: Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT), Cognitive Therapy and Criminal Thinking. One focuses in part on the way an individual responds to life situations, the second deals with an individual's belief system and the third deals with so-called "errors in thinking" in the minds of criminals.

REBT was started by Robert Ellis in the late 1950's. Mr. Ellis writes that the way individuals respond to situations in life, emotionally and behaviorally, is a result of an individual's belief system. Irrational beliefs can cause dysfunctional or inappropriate emotional and behavioral reactions. The role of treatment is to confront or challenge these irrational beliefs.

Cognitive Therapy was developed in the early 1960's by Aaron Beck. Independent of Mr. Ellis, he came to similar conclusions, that an individual's belief about reality structured how that individual thought and felt about the events in his life. Mr. Beck called these basic belief structures "cognitive schemes"

which lead to "automatic thoughts." Those thoughts are the conscious manifestations of these schemes, and by paying attention to them, confronting them with reality, the basic beliefs of a person's life can be altered.

Criminal Thinking is a variation of cognitive therapy that was developed by Youkelson and Samenow. In their three-volume work "The Criminal Personality," and later works by them, they argue that "criminals" have a shared belief system, or "errors in thinking." They claim that these thinking errors can be addressed through a program of self examination, confrontation, honesty and behavioral change.

The CBT program supports the rationale behind AA. Ellis and Beck have both written that AA and self-help groups can be a valuable addition to therapy, providing support for the changes that therapy encourages. Both the CBT and AA programs emphasize an approach to life that is based in honesty, responsibility and change.

Once an inmate is approved for placement in Livingston's CBT program, he is initially placed in Phase I, where he is taught the basic principles of CBT.

After approximately three months he graduates to Phase II group treatment where he is expected to practice the basic principles and learn to confront himself and others in a small group setting.

CBT techniques such as "thought stopping" (becoming aware of your thinking) and "thinking reports" (writing down how your thoughts become actions or behaviors in an individual situation) are practiced throughout the treatment phase. The inmate also is introduced to "thinking errors" that are common and is expected to present a review of his life with an emphasis on his pattern of behavior.

The program is punctuated by community meetings that are held three days a week from 3:10 to 3:50 p.m. It is at this time that issues of general interest and inmate concerns are discussed among the program participants.

Besides receiving instruction from ASAT staff at Livingston, inmates enrolled in the CBT program are assisted by inmate aides who operate under the direct supervision of program staff. These are individuals who themselves have graduated from the CBT program. They live in the dorms alongside the CBT participants and can offer suggestions, advice and counsel on an as-needed basis. 

10 steps of the CBT program

Here are the 10 Steps for Personal Change included in the innovative Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) program at Livingston and Albion.

- 1) My behavior is a result of how I think or feel.
 - 2) I need to consider the consequences of my behavior before I respond to people, places and things.
 - 3) If I change either my thinking, my feelings or my behavior, the other two will follow.
 - 4) I need to think before I act.
 - 5) Having thought out my actions, I recognize the need to change my behavior.
 - 6) I begin to place values in others, not just my own self interests.
 - 7) I agree that my life and my current circumstances are my responsibility, and that it is up to me to get out of prison and not come back.
 - 8) I begin to realize the impact of my behavior upon others and begin to develop a plan for making restitution.
 - 9) I accept that the only way to stay away from prison is to either change or die. I choose to change.
 - 10) I make a decision to continue those efforts which maintain and promote a lifestyle that will not lead me back to prison.
-



Myriad of innovative programs

Collins

Situated on the grounds of the former Gowanda Psychiatric Center, which opened in 1898, Collins is located in an area of New York that is rich with long-time and diverse historical roots. This is an area where, many years ago, Indians roamed the terrain, as did Quakers looking to make a better life for themselves and others. But despite its pristine beginnings, it has its dark side; many are convinced spirits, former residents of the psychiatric center, are about. It is that kind of intriguing lore that continually drives Collins employees and other local residents to learn more about the place they call home.

Indeed, the history of the region is something in which employees and many local residents take great pride. They can be seen spending hours in area libraries and other places through-

out the community poring over old books, ledgers, maps and other historical documents to get a glimpse of what life was like in this western part of the Empire State many generations ago.

Reservations and the altruistic go hand in hand

This area of the town of Collins has been occupied since 1660 by the Seneca Indians, who succeeded the Kahquah and Erie tribes in western New York. By terms of the Canandaigua Treaty of 1794, the Senecas settled on reservations, including the Cattaraugus Reservation.

In 1808, the Society of Friends (Quakers) purchased 700 acres of land next to the Cattaraugus Reservation for settlement by people who came to the region with the sole purpose of helping the Indians. That same year the noted Quaker missionary, Jacob Taylor, arrived in the area by means of an old Indian trail. He built a home near the reservation in an area that became known as Taylor Hollow. By 1810, 14 other families had joined him in Taylor Hollow and by 1821, with 92 families now living there, the area was officially organized as Collins. (What is now known as North Collins officially separated from Collins in 1852).

Settlers were continually attracted to Collins by the selfless motive of aiding the Indians; the fact that there were a lot of agricultural opportunities in the region also served as a big draw. Before farms could be established in the area, however, the landscape had to be cleared of very thick woods. Literally thousands of trees were cut and burned by the local residents. The resulting impressive mounds of tree ash were then sold to be converted to pearl ash for use in 19th century industry.

The picturesque creeks that flow through the Collins area also provided the early settlers with power for gristmills. The creeks also powered the sawmills that were built by the early settlers to produce the lumber that would be needed to build the houses, barns, furniture, prisons and planks used for roads to accommodate the needs of a growing population (Versailles Plank Road, which runs through the Cattaraugus Reservation, was, itself, once a plank road).

From its long-ago and humble beginnings, Collins also has had tanners who have made leather goods such as shoes and harnesses. And not surprisingly, years ago there were also a bevy of blacksmiths who made and repaired the tools and wagons that were so vital to the survival of the local residents.

From early times right up to the present, people in the Collins area have engaged in fruit, vegetable and dairy farming, successful ventures due to the rich nature of the soil in the region.

It's also interesting to note that members of Jacob Taylor's family maintained a herd of Holstein cattle that in a bygone era roamed the grounds of what now is Collins and the adjacent Gowanda Correctional Facility. Additionally, production of maple syrup and sugar was started by the early settlers, productive and profitable ventures that continue today in the region, even at Collins.

The first school was established in Collins in 1811 to teach reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic to children. Five schools functioned by 1815 in the Collins area, an indicator of the continued pilgrimage of residents to the region. Over the years there were more schools developed with an expanding curricula typical of the modern schools of today. A Collins Center training building constructed in 1925 originally served as a school, replacing a school constructed in the early 1880's.

A new mission in a changing era

New York state set its sights on building a sprawling psychiatric center in the early 1890's and its gaze turned west toward Collins. After some preliminary discussions and negotiations, the state in 1894 took title to the 500-acre Taylor Farm that had been developed on land that Jacob Taylor had bequeathed to his many nieces and nephews. The first building of the Gowanda Osteopathic Hospital was completed in 1898; it is still in use today, with Collins using it to house administrative offices, inmate housing units, various programming areas and an infirmary.

Over the years, nearly 100 more buildings were built on the site, many of which are still in use today. They were needed to care for the burgeoning patient population. In its heyday, the Gowanda Psychiatric Center cared for over 4,000 patients at a time.

For almost a century, the Gowanda Psychiatric Center had a relatively uneventful existence. Society, however, was changing. In the late 1970's and early 1980's, it entered an era when new psychotropic medicines were being developed. At the same time, more and more psychiatric patients were being moved to community-based treatment residences.

The once-bustling psychiatric centers of years ago were downsizing at a rapid rate; conversely, DOCS was in need of bed space. The crack epidemic that was gripping not only New York state but the entire nation prompted the need for more new



Collins is home to one of nine maximum-security S-Blocks constructed around the state.

beds to handle an increasing inmate population, and the Department needed the beds quickly. In 1982, the state took over 40 percent of the Gowanda Psychiatric Hospital and began the gradual conversion of the psychiatric center into a medium-security prison. It wasn't too long after that that the first inmates arrived.

An anecdote that long has circulated about the opening of Collins involves temporary staff housing for the facility's employees. The staff housing was in a dorm-style setting in the old morgue of the psychiatric center. Many employees did not want to sleep there because there were daunting tales of ghosts haunting the area. The building today is used for the storage of records.

Because many of the old buildings that once housed psychiatric patients are still in use today, Collins is somewhat of a hodgepodge, and an unusual one at that.

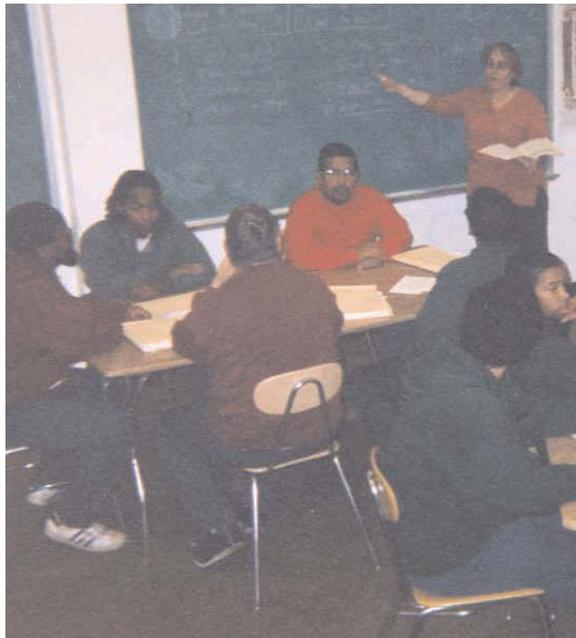
Collins has the capacity to house 1,280 inmates in a combination of dormitories, multiple-occupancy rooms, single cells and double cells. It's also divided into two separate compounds, each with their own secured perimeter fencing, known as Collins I and Collins II. Each compound has its own mess hall, law library, visiting room and processing area, chapel, health services unit, commissary area, counseling units and recreation areas.

Unique programs and services meet varied needs

Collins features a 110-bed Protective Custody Unit (PCU) which opened in 1995. The PCU segregates those inmates who might be vulnerable in general population in a secured environment away from that population while still providing them with access to various services. These inmates are afforded education, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment (ASAT), volunteer service programming and counseling and most of all, a safe and secure environment to serve their sentences. Prior to the opening eight years ago of the Collins PCU, there was only one medium-security PCU in the state, a 22-bed unit at Oneida.

Collins also is the site of one of the state's nine maximum-security S-Blocks. These 100-cell, double-occupancy units are designed to segregate from the general population those inmates who chose to assault staff and others and disobey prison rules. These units are partially responsible for fewer assaults at Collins and at other prisons throughout New York state.

Collins also offers a Family Reunion Program. This program affords approved inmates and their families the opportunity to meet overnight for a 44-hour period in a private home-like setting. The families spend time together in one of four units that were constructed by vocational inmates and Maintenance Department staff. The goal of the program is to preserve and strengthen family ties. Research has shown that inmates who maintain strong family ties are less likely to re-offend upon re-



Teacher Sandra Fine and her ABE class.

lease from prison than those inmates who do not maintain family ties. The program contributes to safer prisons, as participating inmates are less likely to misbehave and run the risk of not being able to spend time with their families.

Collins also features a Visitors Hospitality Center staffed during weekend visiting by local volunteers. The majority of the visitors to Collins and Gowanda, also serviced at the hospitality center, take long bus rides from New York City to visit their loved ones. The center gives them a chance to freshen up and take care of other needs before entering the prison visiting room.

Another unusual program offered at Collins is the production of maple syrup. The process typically begins each year in early February and runs

with the sap until the beginning of April. The procedure begins when the sap is collected using milk bags. It is then filtered and cooked down. Afterward, it is filtered again before it becomes maple syrup. Once the process is complete, the maple syrup is packaged in containers ranging from a quart to a gallon. The production of maple syrup is a favorite chore among many of the inmates assigned to the lawns and grounds crew. This is especially true of the inmates who come from cities and have never had an experience like this before. The syrup then is served to the inmate population during the breakfast mess hall meals atop pancakes or waffles.

The old buildings and the varied distinct inmate populations aren't the only things that separate Collins from other prisons throughout the state. There's a lot happening on the facility grounds, albeit outside the secured perimeters of Collins I and Collins II.

For instance, there are four separate cemeteries that date back to the beginning of the 20th century. More than 1,800 men and women, patients of the psychiatric center, were interred in state ground between 1898 and 1991.

Also located outside the fences is the Helmuth Daycare Center, in operation since the mid-1960's. The center is open to all members of the community.

State Office of Mental Health (OMH) officials still have a presence on the grounds, providing residential and outpatient psychiatric services to many of its clients in western New York. One of the services is a patient-run car wash. And finally, the Gowanda Area Federal Credit Union also is located on the grounds.

A wealth of programming options

Collins offers a variety of self-help and motivational programming to its inmates in the hopes that they can become law-abiding members of society upon their eventual release from prison and their return into the community.

In addition to its 12 vocational shops and standard academic classes, Collins offers the Department's successful ASAT program as well as the Aggression Replacement Training (ART) to inmates when they first enter the facility. This provides them with the tools to understand and appropriately handle their anger and frustration while they're incarcerated. Indeed, since the program was established six years ago, there has been a noticeable decline in the number of misbehavior reports and unusual incidents for fighting and violent conduct.

For instance, Collins has seen the number of inmate-on-inmate assaults decline 78 percent between 1996 and 2001, from 41 to nine. The facility also had a 64 percent decline in the number of unusual incidents since 1996, down from 159 to 57, and inmate-on-staff assaults had fallen 83 percent, from 12 in 1996 to just two in 2001. No inmate escapes from the secured perimeter of the facility have occurred since it opened.

All the Correction Counselors at Collins facilitate counseling groups. From the beginning, Collins has been distinguished by its commitment to therapeutic counseling groups providing sex offender counseling for 18 years. It also offers other groups addressing effective parenting, violence, gambling, criminal thinking and, for several years, a major work release ASAT Relapse program.

Until August of 2000 Collins also offered a limited number of college courses funded by outside sources. The Consortium of the Niagara Frontier began offering Collins' inmates courses to obtain either an associate's or bachelor's degree in 1985, piggybacking on a successful program that it began at Attica in the mid 1970's. The program, which is now offered at Wyoming, uses private donations for course instructors.

Collins also is one of several facilities throughout the state to offer at-risk youth in the local community a Youth Assistance Program (YAP). This program involves volunteers from the inmate population who tell children how they wound up in prison and the pain it has caused them and others. The program is designed to provide positive guidance and direction to at-risk youth who display a tendency toward becoming involved with the criminal justice system. It's intended to help young people realize that they can make changes in their lifestyle and choices to avoid incarceration.

Working hand in hand with each other

As with many other prisons across the state, Collins enjoys a positive and mutually beneficial relationship with local community residents and leaders.

There currently are a total of 344 members of the region's communities who are registered volunteers and come into Collins on a regular basis. They consistently provide a wealth of knowledge and assistance to members of the inmate population, their unified goal being to provide them with the skills, knowledge and other tools they need to succeed upon their eventual reintegration into society. The varied services that

the community volunteers provide include religious counseling and services geared exclusively toward incarcerated veterans, many of whom have special needs. Volunteers from NA and AA chapters in the community also are regular visitors to the prison to provide assistance and support to those inmates with substance abuse problems.

Late last year, Collins completed its 39th Kairos weekend. Kairos is a Greek word meaning "God's special time." It is an ecumenical non-denominational ministry that is conducted over a weekend twice a year involving 50 registered volunteers. The volunteers share with inmates the role Christ has played in their lives and provide discussion, role playing and testimony in an attempt to give the inmates the opportunity to change their lives through spirituality. The volunteers, along with Department Chaplains, also meet weekly with the men to continue their spiritual growth.

Like the volunteers who are a key component of the Collins program, the employees and inmates at the facility have long played a key role in communities throughout western New York.

Collins' employees are involved in a host of community endeavors, serving as local volunteer firefighters, school board members and coaches for both school, after school and local youth recreation programs. They also give back to the community in October of every year during Make a Difference Day activities designed to assist the needy. In the past, Collins employees raised \$725 in donations by participating in a bike run to benefit the Roswell Park Memorial Hospital and in the Special Olympics Torch Run. Inmates also made wooden puzzles that were distributed to children serviced by four area community agencies.

Inmates also get involved in the community as well, and for that local residents are extremely thankful. Program assignments include outdoor work assignments in supervised community service crews working for local governments and non-profit groups. Projects include snow and debris removal, church repairs and fighting floods, ice storms and forest fires. If not for DOCS, many of those projects would not otherwise be completed. Since 1995, crews from Collins have logged more than 220,000 work hours with close to 50,000 hours of security supervision on projects of service to western New York communities. 📖



Inmates in the building maintenance program working on a new pavilion.

Stringers

Listed below are the individuals designated as "stringers" — employees who have volunteered to be your contact with DOCS/TODAY.

Adirondack

William S. Burke
Program Dep

Albion

Michael Morse
Program Dep

Altona

Lawrence Stearns
Program Dep

Arthur Kill

Valerie Sullivan
Program Dep

Attica

Ronald Pikula
Lieutenant

Auburn

Debbie Clinch
Industries

Bare Hill

Emily Bessette
Teacher IV

Bayview

Elnora Porter
Program Dep

Beacon

David Michael
Lieutenant

Bedford Hills

Joe Greenfield
Correction Counselor

Buffalo

Sandy Janes
Head Account Clerk

Butler

Brian O'Hora
ASAT PA

Cape Vincent

Donna Pirie
Administration Dep

Cayuga

Mary Regan
Volunteer Services

Central Office

Mike Houston
Public Relations

Chateaugay

William Spellman
Asst. Program Dep.

Facility Highlights

Improved transit also increases security

The Department's enhanced and efficient transportation system implemented four years ago has meant not only a substantial annual savings for New York state taxpayers but enhanced security and safety for staff and inmates.

"We have a much safer and secure transportation system now than we did in the past and that's obviously a big plus for everybody on a daily basis," said Ulster Lt. Thomas Malnic. Mr. Malnic coordinates the daily transportation schedules from his bustling medium-security reception center in the Hudson Valley to various points throughout the state.

"This new arrangement between the Department and the private sector has proven to be a very successful venture," said Commissioner Goord. "As compared to the previous transportation arrangement, where we had to maintain our own fleet of vehicles and hire charters when needed, we now have a reliable fleet of vehicles that we can count on on a daily basis. At the same time, we've implemented several security enhancements that have resulted in safer trips for

staff and inmates."

In September of 1998, the Department entered into a contract with a private vendor to lease 18 full-sized motor coaches, each with a capacity to carry up to 40 inmates plus five Officers at any one time. The Department also contracted with that vendor, Progressive Transportation Services of Horseheads, for 18 mini-coaches capable of transporting up to 20 inmates supervised by two Officers.

The security enhancements provided by the new system are indeed varied. But by far the biggest benefit stems from the coordinated transportation schedules. That includes a system of strategic drop-off and pick-up points throughout the state, ensuring that buses are being driven at near-capacity levels and significantly reducing the number and length of trips.

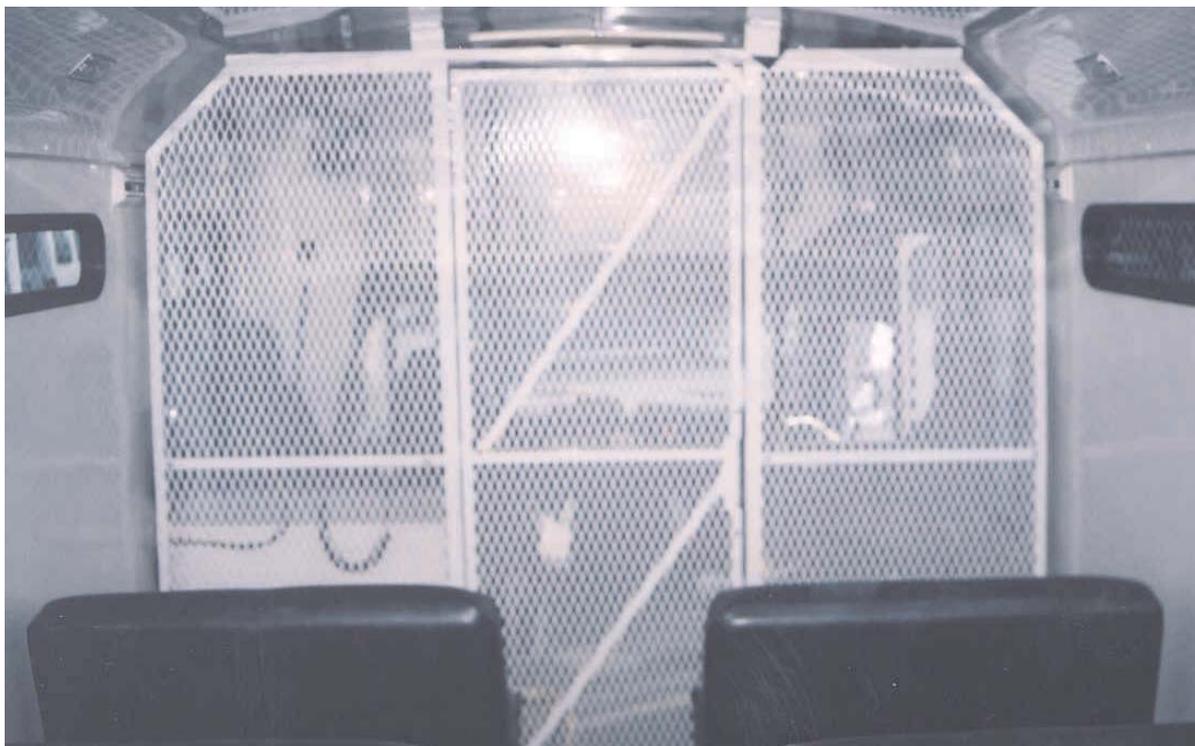
Previously, there were no coordinated drop-off transportation transfer points. That meant that many trips were door-to-door; the trips thus could be of considerable distances and time lengths.

"Some of the trips in the past could be from two to three days and mean 20 or so hours of driving a day," said Mr. Malnic.

That arrangement created several problems from a security standpoint. For one thing, the long hours meant both driver and security staff would get tired; they might not have always been at their sharpest, which could cause problems in a variety of ways. The long trips also meant that some inmates could tend to grow restless. Additionally, the long dis-



Smaller bus windows are designed to help prevent escapes.



Sturdy security partitions separate staff from inmates.

tances that were being driven led to breakdowns of some of the fleet's older vehicles, another security impediment as staff and inmates would have to wait on the side of the road for replacement vehicles to arrive.

Another problem: the portable toilets on the buses would fill to capacity after a day or two. That meant security staff would have to stop frequently to escort inmates from the secured bus to public restrooms.

It's far from that way today.

Thanks to the coordinated transportation system, Mr. Malnic said that now almost all trips can be efficiently completed in an eight-hour shift, meaning Officers and drivers are not fatigued. Stops also are infrequent and breakdowns not nearly as common. That's because Progressive's buses are much newer than the buses the Department used and the company is responsible for providing regular maintenance. And in the event there is a breakdown, improved cellular and other communications methods, coupled with the fact that Progressive has garages throughout the state, means down time is far less than in the past. That's another important security enhancement, especially on a hot summer's day on the shoulder of the Thruway.

There's other security enhancements as well. Progressive tailored an entire fleet of buses to the Department's specifications, which include a secured area that separates the driver from the inmates he is transporting. The windows are tinted, affording inmates some relief on a hot summer's

day and a reason not to act up. And on some of the newer buses, the windows themselves have been modified. They're thin and rectangular and not large enough to permit an inmate to escape. Additionally, the smaller sealed windows, unlike the two-pane slidable school bus-type windows in the past, are located high on the walls of the Progressive buses, making accessibility extremely difficult. 📖



Ulster Lt. Thomas Malnic plots the following day's inmate transportation needs.

Clinton
Kathy Leary
Secretary

Collins
Stacey Nagel
Counselor

Coxsackie
David Douglas
Correction Officer

Downstate
William Carmichael
Correction Counselor

Eastern
Robert Posner
Correction Counselor

Edgecombe
Loretta Mealy
Corr. Counselor

Elmira
Sheryl Graubard
Inmate Griev. Supr.

Fishkill
Marcia Tavano
Administrative Aide

Five Points
Denise Butler
Academic Supervisor

Franklin
Larry Sears
Administration Dep

Fulton
William Sanchez
Correction Counselor

Gabriels
Debbie LaGree
Secretary II

Georgetown
Renee Buddie
Correction Counselor

Gouverneur
Carl Hunt
Program Dep

Gowanda
Jim Galati
Volunteer Services

Great Meadow
Susan Hart
Secretary

Greene
Peter Chmura
Education Supervisor

Green Haven
Tom Levanduski
Senior Counselor

Groveland
Robert Blair
Recreation Leader

Hale Creek
Theresa Young
Calculations Clerk 2

Hudson
Peter Tenerowicz
Correction Officer

Lakeview
Michael Mosher
Program Dep

Lincoln
Joan Taylor
Senior Counselor

Livingston
Donna Pitt-Hickman
Correction Counselor

Lyon Mountain
Angie Petrashune
Counselor Aide

Marcy
Robert Cunningham
Asst Program Dep

Mid-Orange
Dolores Barnes
Secretary

Mid-State
Linda Bloser
Keyboard Specialist

Mohawk
James Mance
Program Dep

Monterey
Carolyn Colunio
Secretary II

Moriah
Steven Gagnon
Correction Officer

Mt. McGregor
Gwen Duncan
Grievance Supervisor

Ogdensburg
John Crowley
Program Dep

Oneida
Anthony Labriola
Correction Captain

Orleans
Jose Reyes
Correction Counselor

Otisville
Chris Andre
Recreation Leader

Pharsalia
Cheryl Daughtrey
Administrative Aide

Queensboro
Carmen Johnson
Program Dep

Crew rebuilds razed cabin for kid campers

Supervised community service crews from Orleans are continuing to provide some big benefits in local communities throughout western New York state.

And their efforts recently drew high kudos from officials with the Association for Retarded Children (ARC) of Orleans County.

Among other duties, ARC officials run Camp Rainbow in Orleans County, which caters each summer to young developmentally disabled and mentally retarded clients.

Several years ago, an arsonist laid waste to one of the camp's popular focal points – Daly Cabin, the site of many indoor arts and crafts programs and assorted games and other activities. The site then remained vacant.

The cabin was rebuilt and operational for the 2002 camping season, thanks in part to the efforts of Orleans CO Doug Granger and six community service crew inmates.

Daly Cabin was named in the memory of the late John Daly, a former state senator who fought hard for his western New York constituents and was quite a supporter of ARC organizations and Camp Rainbow.

The renaissance of Daly Cabin was indeed a collaborative effort.

First, several dedicated volunteers and students from the local BOCES put up a new structure to replace the burned cabin. CO Granger and his six community service crew inmates then installed molding and sided the building, affixed the doors, did some electrical work and installed vents.

In all, a total of 619 work hours were put in by CO Granger and the six inmates in the 17 days it took them to complete the job.

In a letter to Orleans Superintendent John Beaver, Donald G. Colquhoun, executive director of the ARC of Orleans County, wrote: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and Officer Doug Granger for your assistance and support in helping complete the construction on the Daly Cabin at our Camp Rainbow facility ... Without the assistance of Officer Granger and the inmates who helped complete the reconstruction work, the Daly Cabin would not have been ready on time to accept our campers ...

"Officer Granger and the inmates truly did an outstanding job and you should be extremely proud of the work they accomplished in the community project program," Mr. Colquhoun wrote. "We are very appreciative of their efforts and wish to congratulate you and Officer Granger for your commitment to community enhancement projects here in Orleans County."

Mr. Beaver said it's not the first or last time that community service crews from his facility worked at Camp Rainbow.

"We've always done a lot of work for Camp Rainbow and the ARC," said Mr. Beaver, pointing out that a supervised community service crew was at the site again after the cabin was rebuilt, readying the grounds for the eager campers who were to arrive for the summer season.

Mr. Beaver said, "Being a good neighbor is one of the things that we take pride in out here in western New York and our crews will continue to be available for jobs that benefit the community. At the same time, the inmates are giving something back to the community and learning valuable job skills and a work ethic which hopefully will allow them to become law-abiding citizens on their eventual release from prison and return to society." 



Rebuilt Daly Cabin at Camp Rainbow.



This dairy herd at Greene is one of many in the system.

'01 difficult, productive for agri-business

Last year was not the greatest of years for the Department's burgeoning agri-business program but it still was able to point to numerous successes.

During the first six months of the current fiscal year, the program was severely challenged by Mother Nature in the form of a one-two-three-four punch of snow, rain, drought and fire.

The spring planting season was delayed up to six weeks at several facilities as a result of late spring snowfalls and heavy and sustained rains. Some facilities did not get corn for silage planted until July when it is usually in the ground by May 15.

And it went downhill from there. It got so hot and extremely dry that the second and third cuttings of hay and corn were stressed and stunted. Additionally, Greene lost its entire late-planted corn crop to drought and Washington experienced an unusually low yield due to the drought, a short-fall that had to be made up with purchased silage.

Then there was the unfortunate event of June 24, when a fire consumed the massive dairy barn at Clinton. But thanks to the quick actions of staff and inmates, no animals were lost in the devastating blaze. The herd is currently being cared for at another local dairy farm on a temporary basis while a new state-of-the-art barn is being built on the grounds at Clinton.

Not surprisingly, it wasn't a good year for the Department's dairy operations. Through the first six months of the current fiscal year, production was off about 20 percent when compared with the same time period in 2001. That can be directly attributed to two factors: the loss of the production output from the Clinton farm and lower wholesale prices in general.

Nonetheless, there were some Pyrrhic victories of sorts. Amazingly, the fall crop harvests, despite the lack of cooperation from Mother Nature, were not too far from normal yields.

Other highlights of the Department's agri-business performance in 2002:

The renovations to the milk plant at Greene

were completed as scheduled. The Greene plant can now produce 1% milk and the new plant will allow for expansion of the herd to serve even more facilities in the central New York region.

Beef shipments and deliveries increased by 20 percent when compared with output in 2001. That can be attributed to increased inventories at the Beacon farm and strong beef prices on the open market. DOCS farms produced 77,000 more pounds of beef during the first two quarters of the current fiscal year than it did during the first two quarters of the 2001 fiscal year.

Overall farm production value stood at 48 percent of projections for the first two quarters of the current fiscal year. Product values were off 6 percent when compared with the corresponding period in 2001 which is somewhat remarkable given the three months of no production output at Clinton, by far the Department's largest dairy operation.

Agri-business farm units last year began composting the carcasses of animals to inhibit the spread of disease in a unique cooperative venture with Cornell University and officials from Dutchess County. The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) chose the farm at Green Haven for a pilot road-killed deer composting trial. Studies are being conducted to determine pathogen destruction in the composting process.

A pilot Farm Employment Program for parolees was developed by DOCS in collaboration with the Division of Parole and the state departments of Labor and Agriculture and Markets. The program is scheduled to be implemented at the Wyoming farm early this year.

Elmira had a very successful year with its new corn silage cropping program that entails the use of deep tillage and custom planting and harvesting. Over 1,400 tons of silage were harvested and stored in a new bunker silo in less than 24 hours.

The DOCS agri-business program continued to reach out to the community as well last year. Staff members from Sullivan, Elmira and Green Haven exhibited their cattle at several county and local fairs during the summer. 

Riverview

Rebecca Fiacco
Administrative Dep

Rochester

Benjamin Taylor
Assistant Director

Shawangunk

John Tumminia
Recreation Leader

Sing Sing

James Farrell
Asst. Prgrm. Dep.

Southport

Paul Sweeney
Teacher

Sullivan

Leonard Findling
Correction Counselor

Summit

Kathleen Johnson
Clerk II

Taconic

Patricia Ennis
Vocational Instructor

Training Academy

Charles Koemmer
Sergeant

Ulster

Robert Krom
Psychometrist

Upstate

Kathy DeCelle
Secretary II

Wallkill

Michelle Reale
Inmate Grievance

Washington

Duff Hildreth
Volunteer Supervisor

Watertown

Sarah Campbell
Volunteer Services

Wende

Diane Catalfu
Senior Counselor

Willard

Helen Bunting
Librarian

Woodbourne

Elias Carrillo
Program Dep

Wyoming

Barbara Myer
Counselor

Employees can contact your "stringer" with ideas for stories and photos for DOCS/TODAY.

Chateaugay opens room for parental interaction

Chateaugay inmate-fathers can now spend more quality time with their families than they could in the past, thanks in no small part to their efforts as well as those of fellow inmates and staff at this medium-security facility.

While weekend family visits have been a staple at this North Country facility since it opened in 1990, staff and inmates felt something was missing. Recently, inmates suggested to staff that some enhancements to the facility's visiting area might be the cure. What resulted was a massive improvement project and overhaul of the visiting area.

A new children's area is in full swing in the visiting area, part of which is due to the efforts of some inmate artists, several of whom don't even have any children of their own. The inmates and staff at this Franklin County facility have transformed a large area of the visiting room into a vibrant, cheery and colorful recreation area. It's become a warm place where children can be children, playing with a variety of toys on a newly-carpeted floor and watching videos of their choice while spending some quality time with Dad.

One of the highlights of the new children's area is a large wall mural depicting the timeless theme of Winnie the Pooh, complete with all his little friends. There also is a new assortment of toys and games that wasn't available in the past, fresh paint and a new brightness that seems to add a special something to those all-too-infrequent family visits.

"What we've been able to do here is really transform the entire visiting area and that's been real positive for the inmates as well as their families," said Chateaugay Superintendent Alan Roberts.

"It rejuvenated the whole concept of having families visit here," Ms. Roberts said. "It also gives the inmates a better ability to foster important ties with their children in an atmosphere that's less stressful than in the past. And that's important because studies have shown that those inmates who maintain strong family ties are less likely to return to prison than those who do not."

The project began with the mural, which was painted by inmate volunteers, and then took off from there.

"Some of the painters don't even have children of their own. But they felt that if by using their talents they could make this place more enjoy-



Beneficiaries of the project officially mark its opening.

able for the children who come here to visit their dads, they wanted to be able to lend a hand," said Ms. Roberts.

Once the mural was completed, staff and inmates installed carpeting in the renovated children's area. Chateaugay's ILC donated money to buy a combination TV/VCR and provided funds to buy new toys and games for the children. Ms. Roberts also personally provided some of the furniture that adorns the new children's area.

"It was a real joint effort that worked out very well, and one that will provide benefits to inmates and their families for years to come," said Ms. Roberts. "And the children who come here now to visit their fathers really seem to be happier and have more fun than they did before this work was done." 



Pooh characters are prominent in the new room.

PEF grant helps DOCS instructors earn promotions

Through a grant financed by the Public Employees Federation (PEF), it will now be easier for some of its members – academic teachers and vocational instructors – to be promoted to higher-paying, supervisory positions throughout the Department.

The Department's Division of Education was awarded a PEF Continuing Education Grant this year for \$81,919. The Continuing Education Grant Program is a collaborative project which involves DOCS, PEF, the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER) and the Professional Development Committee.

These funds will be made available for academic teachers and vocational instructors throughout the Department to take undergraduate and graduate courses in Education Administration in the upcoming Spring 2003 academic semester. These courses are needed for employees to be promoted to the positions of Education Supervisor General and Vocational Supervisor within the Department.

Additionally, vocational instructors who are seeking permanent instructor certification can use the funds to take elective courses in Supervision toward meeting certification requirements.

As of mid-October, more than 150 Department academic and vocational instructors throughout the state had indicated a desire to participate in this new and innovative program and had contacted the appropriate individuals.

Commissioner Goord said, "This is indeed an exceptional opportunity for staff to further their education and careers and, along with several other in-service training initiatives, will greatly enhance the delivery of educational and vocational services to the inmate population."

In order to be eligible for these new funds, applicants must be members of the PS&T Bargaining Unit, meet the admission requirements of the applicable institution of higher learning where the course or courses will be taught and be employed in the academic or vocational programs.

PEF represents 54,000 professional, scientific and technical state employees.

The program is the direct result of a PEF initiative that was spearheaded by David Stallone, PEF's statewide labor/management chairperson. Its goal is to encourage staff to participate in courses to advance their professional career potential. It was developed with DOCS in order to maximize the number of Department employees who likely will benefit from participation.

The Continuing Education Grant Program will be operated in a manner similar to the current Voucher Program. The Regional Training Lieutenants will be responsible for the daily operation of the program, application and selection process, reporting and tracking.

Upon completion of the program, an evaluation will be conducted to gauge its success; that will in turn be handed over by the project coordinator to the Governor's Office of Employee Relations for review. DOC Education Director Linda Hollmen is the Department's project coordinator and will respond to any inquiries regarding the program.

"Dave Stallone and Linda Hollmen deserve credit for making this grant program work for our employees," said Commissioner Goord, adding that "This is an extremely worthy initiative that will benefit many, as seen by the high level of interest, and one that will provide various dividends for many years to come." 

'Trees, trees and more trees'

The participants called it, "Trees, trees and more trees – a combined effort."

And that synopsis accurately portrayed a recent and novel arrangement this past growing season between Ulster and the Watershed Agricultural Council.

Brian Fisher, who manages the Watershed Agricultural Council, approached James Marion, this Department's resource management director, to inquire about the prospects of the two groups joining forces to benefit the environment. And join forces they did.

The two sides jointly developed a Bare Root Stock Planting Project. The program involves Ulster inmates, under the supervision of staff, providing daily watering, composting, and maintaining 3,000 trees and 3,000 shrub stems that were delivered to the facility. In the late fall, those trees and shrubs were planted by private contractors along rivers and streams in the sprawling New York City watershed area. Besides be-

ing a thing a beauty, the trees and shrubs will provide for water conservation and help prevent pollution of the state's numerous and pristine waterways.



Ulster staff and inmates caring for seedlings.

Ulster Superintendent Joseph Smith noted the project was "a rare opportunity for Ulster, a reception center, to get staff and inmates involved in a project that services the community. We're always ready to assist, and firmly believe in the concept of our facilities being good neighbors." 

Transitions

November 2002

Name Title Location

Promotions

Stanley Kowalczyk Plant Utilities Assistant Albion
 James J. O'Neill Plant Utilities Assistant Albion
 Judith Rosenberg Senior Correction Counselor Arthur Kill
 Vladimir Royter Plant Utilities Engineer 2 Arthur Kill
 Gia H. Demarais Calculations Clerk 2 Camp Gabriels
 Cynthia Ervolina Inmate Records Coordinator 2 Cayuga
 Peggy S. Lotz Institution Steward Coxsackie
 Peter Berbiglia Production Control Supervisor Coxsackie
 Terry Chamberlain Production Control Supervisor Elmira
 Angela T. Maume Nursing Director Fishkill
 Christopher R. Ellison Commissary Clerk 3 Five Points
 Sandra S. Meszaros Head Laundry Supervisor Five Points
 Lauren Gillis ASAT Counselor Great Meadow
 Jason Poore Principal Account Clerk Green Haven
 Margaret E. Vinson Medical Lab Technician 2 Green Haven
 Michele J. O'Gorman Institution Steward Greene
 Maryellen Yurek Clerk 2 Greene
 Karen F. Slonina Clerk 2 Greene
 Robert A. Fitch Dep Supt Security 2 Hale Creek
 Cynthia R. Stephens Commissary Clerk 3 Hudson
 Kenneth E. Shelton Head Cook Livingston
 Karen M. Wameling Director Central Pharmacy Main Office
 Susan Gleeson Secretary 1 Main Office
 Curtis Manley Staff Deployment Specialist Main Office
 Kathleen Belmonte Calculations Clerk 2 Main Office
 David Martin Senior Filter Plant Operator Mt. McGregor
 Gerard Jones Plant Superintendent C. Ogdensburg
 Kimberly A. Niehaus Payroll Clerk 3 Orleans
 Robert G. Koehler General Mechanic Rochester
 Olga D. Marchese Ed Supr (General) Sing Sing
 Adegboyega Thompson Supr Volunteer Services Sing Sing
 Mary Simms Food Administrator 1 Sing Sing
 Janet K. Giannini Institution Steward Southport
 Gregory G. Farrell, Jr. Commissary Clerk 4 Washington
 Michelle R. Thiebeau Clerk 2 Watertown
 Cherri L. Thompson Clerk 2 Watertown
 Lynnette L. Pastwik Clerk 2 Wende
 William Dolch Plant Utilities Engineer 3 Willard
 James Hillriegel Plant Superintendent Woodbourne
 David Hotaling Correction Lieutenant Bayview
 Wayne Hirsch Correction Lieutenant Bedford Hills
 John O'Brien Correction Lieutenant Edgecombe
 Dale Long Correction Lieutenant Sing Sing
 Sheridan LaDuke Correction Sergeant Edgecombe
 Stephen Lockwood Correction Sergeant Edgecombe
 Philip Kogut Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
 John Telisky Correction Sergeant Sing Sing

George Acker Correction Sergeant Taconic

Retirements

Mary Ann Penna Teacher 4 Arthur Kill
 Martin Arum Ed Supr (General) Arthur Kill
 Victor T. Herbert Superintendent Attica
 Donald B. Assmann Teacher 4 Auburn
 Fredrick Gilleo General Mechanic Bedford Hills
 Joseph F. Dursi Clinical Physician 2 Bedford Hills
 Harry W. Morgan Keyboard Specialist 1 Georgetown
 Kenneth E. Weaver Senior Correction Counselor Cayuga
 Neil E. Bushen Asbestos Control Supervisor Collins
 Martin Korfman Dentist 4 Fishkill
 Josephine A. Lavacca Head Account Clerk Fulton
 Blanche Fragnoli Calculations Clerk 1 Great Meadow
 Robert J. Mattson Vocational Instructor 2 Green Haven
 Philip Kerschenbaum Dentist 2 Green Haven
 James A. Amuso, Sr. Motor Vehicle Operator Marcy
 Frank Headley Deputy Commissioner Main Office
 Yolanda Dischiavo Keyboard Specialist 1 Mid-State
 Doris Clark Nursing Assistant 2 Mohawk
 Richard T. Baker Dep Supt Security 3 Mt. McGregor
 Brenda Smith Correction Counselor NYC Central
 David G. Hughes Plant Superintendent B. Oneida
 Lyle B. Starkweather Superintendent Rochester
 Linda M. Stopard Senior Librarian Shawangunk
 Lucille Zeilman Keyboard Specialist 1 Wende
 Gerald Hrusa Vocational Instructor 4 Wende
 Terry L. Rosesmith Clerk 2 Willard
 Robert D. Dun Vocational Instructor 4 Wyoming
 Floyd J. Wise Correction Captain Collins
 William F. Belin Correction Lieutenant Edgecombe
 Gerald E. Frawley Correction Lieutenant Greene
 Glenn R. Miller Correction Lieutenant Groveland
 John H. Simmons Correction Lieutenant NYC Central
 John C. Parcell Correction Lieutenant Ogdensburg
 Lawrence R. McKinney Correction Sergeant Mohawk
 Donald Leddick Correction Sergeant Oneida
 Michael K. Estes Correction Sergeant Riverview
 Roger A. Robinson Correction Officer Altona
 Dennis Staubitz Correction Officer Arthur Kill
 Barbara A. Miller Correction Officer Clinton
 Melvin P. Barr Correction Officer Clinton
 Real A. Bouffard Correction Officer Downstate
 F. Edwards, Jr. Correction Officer Eastern
 Carlos Mato Correction Officer Franklin
 Jimmy Mackey Correction Officer Hale Creek
 John F. Trentini Correction Officer Mid-Orange
 William Webb Correction Officer Mid-State
 Michael J. Pfohl Correction Officer Mid-State

Retired musician, 80, volunteers to help inmates lead

For registered Eastern senior volunteer Vincent Basilicato, who previously worked as a facility employee until his retirement in 1999, “music is my life. It’s everything to me.”

And that’s music to the ears of staff and inmates at Eastern.

Earlier this year, tired of not doing much of anything, Mr. Basilicato approached officials with the Ulster County chapter of the Green Thumb Program, which operates under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Labor and is now known as the Experience Works Program. The group finds federally-funded minimum-wage employment for seniors aged 55 and over that utilizes their talents and life experiences.

“I just needed something to do after three years of doing nothing,” said Mr. Basilicato.

After assessing the situation and talking with Eastern officials, program officials landed Mr. Basilicato a job at his old stomping ground, teaching music to inmates on a regular basis. Since that time, Mr. Basilicato has been putting in 20 hours a week, a formidable undertaking for someone who’s 80 years old, and he’s loving every minute of it.

“Without him there is no music program at Eastern,” said Superintendent David Miller. “The inmates realize that. They make Vinny feel like the most important person in the world.”

On a recent dreary October day outside, more than a dozen energized students from all backgrounds were singing and playing Latin music loudly on a variety of instruments in the auditorium under the tutelage of Mr. Basilicato. The mood was



Vinny Basilicato

anything but dreary inside. Dressed sharply in a buttoned suit with a tie fashioned into a picture-perfect Windsor knot, Mr. Basilicato got into the swing of things as well, smiling broadly while traversing across the stage playing a pair of maracas.

Mr. Basilicato, who says “music is more important than anything, including money,” said he’s been playing all types of music since he was about seven years old.

“I used to play on old shows and win little prizes,” he said. He also proudly volunteers that he’s played with several good orchestras

over the years and “I’ve been through all the wars, from Omaha Beach to the Battle of the Bulge.”

Mr. Basilicato’s musical resume is indeed impressive. He played during the Big Band era in popular venues like the Paramount Theater in New York City. And after moving to Ellenville, he played in bands at the nearby Nevele and other Catskill resorts when they were in their heyday. He smiles as he recalls meeting and having his picture taken with a host of celebrities who used to headline at the resorts, ranging from Buddy Hackett to Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis.

Mr. Basilicato, who said the inmates “treat me royally here,” said he teaches many of his student inmates from scratch and verses them in a variety of instruments and musical styles. He said he’s developed a number of successful guitarists and music teachers and has the written testimony of their families to bolster his claims.

“Some of them are just amazed at how their boys have changed,” said Mr. Basilicato.

Mr. Basilicato recalled a number of instances where there were music festivals on the grounds during weekend family visiting, when mothers and fathers would see their transformed sons playing the role of talented musicians.

The frequent music festivals also seem to have a soothing impact on the inmate population.

“It’s like after every festival it’s quiet around here for three or four days,” said Mr. Basilicato.

“Music is definitely a wonderful therapy,” he continued. “And to be able to enjoy this therapy several times a week is just a wonderful thing.”

For Mr. Basilicato, it’s about more than just music. He believes the inmates respect him and heed his grandfatherly counsel. He uses that bond to help ensure that once they’re released they never come back. He also hopes that by honing their musical talents, the inmates will achieve a degree of worth, independence, commitment and self-respect that they never had before, and do the right thing for themselves and their families.

“Forget the big boys on the corner when you get out,” Mr. Basilicato said he tells his inmate students. “Be a leader.”

John W. Baisley	Correction Officer.	Mohawk
Carol Dippolito	Correction Officer.	Mohawk
Joseph R. Prefontaine	Correction Officer.	Mt. McGregor
Martin F. Grey	Correction Officer.	Mt. McGregor
Robert O’Malley	Correction Officer.	Mt. McGregor
Lewis W. Brander, Jr.	Correction Officer.	Ogdensburg
Guido A. Deluisi	Correction Officer.	Oneida
William Alston	Correction Officer.	Queensboro
Richard J. Williamson	Correction Officer.	Sing Sing
Simmie Maeshack	Correction Officer.	Sing Sing
G. H. Hicks	Correction Officer.	Washington
Brian Austin	Correction Officer.	Washington
Robert Carswell	Correction Officer.	Washington
Paul D. MacNeil	Correction Officer.	Wende
Frederick VanWagner	Correction Officer.	Woodbourne
Donald Donnelly	Correction Officer.	Wyoming

Deaths

Linda Scott	Keyboard Specialist 1	Downstate
Beverly A. Kerr	Correction Officer.	Wende

Inmates convert old mailboxes to collect ‘Old Glory’

The U.S. Postal Services’ trash has been transformed into a patriotic treasure for two Hudson Valley American Legion posts, thanks to the creativity and artistic talents of staff and inmates at Ulster.

The postal service is revamping its mailboxes from a pull-door, open-chute system to a more restrictive slot-drop system to enhance security. As a result, the older mailboxes are being phased out and the federal agency has no use for them.

Officials at the American Legion posts in Ellenville and Otisville thought the obsolete mailboxes could easily be converted into drop boxes for retired flags, ensuring that weathered and tattered versions of Old Glory are disposed of in a proper fashion.

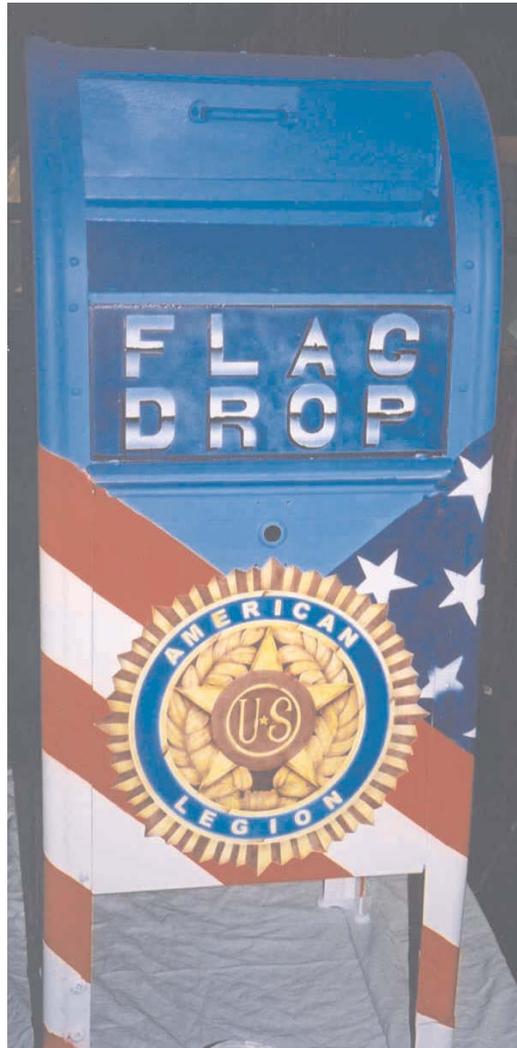
The postal service was more than happy to oblige and provided each post with an old mailbox.

Mailboxes in tow, the legion officials then approached their neighbors at Ulster, who have helped them out on many assorted projects in the past. The Legionnaires asked if the mailboxes, which were in pretty rough shape due to many years of exposure to sun and the harsh elements, could be transformed into items worthy of their contents.

And the mission was accomplished, with the help of Ulster Maintenance Supervisor Roy Brighton and the five inmates who are assigned to the facility’s maintenance department, mission accomplished.

In November, the boxes were delivered to each appreciative legion and now grace the fronts of the respective halls.

“At a time when the American spirit has swelled to a measure of true pride in our country, I wanted to give people an opportunity to properly dispose of flags,” said third Vice Commander Joseph Demskie of the Ellenville post, Post 111. “It’s nice to see this project come together with so much support.”



Inmates working on mailboxes at Ulster.



Mr. Brighton marveled at how the inmates, several of whom had no artistic experience whatsoever before they started working on the project, melded as one. Splitting the scraping, priming and painting tasks, they worked long hours to create something that they, the facility and the local communities could be very proud of for now and for years to come.

“They got an awful lot of satisfaction out of this project, which was very, very time consuming,” said Mr. Brighton. “Being incarcerated, many of them are not able to provide post-9-11 assistance in the community as their families, friends and neighbors have done. But by doing this project, they were able to give something back, and that was extremely rewarding and satisfying for all of them.”

One of the boxes, which dates back to 1980, was encased in no less than 10 coats of thick, lead paint. The other mailbox, which dates back to 1965, had surprisingly fewer coats of paint than its youthful counterpart.

The mailboxes had to be scraped down to the bare metal, and that took a lot of time; additional air precautions also had to be put in place because of the lead paint. After the mailboxes were primed, an inmate with an artistic background compiled two designs. And although that inmate did the bulk of the fine painting, the rest of the inmates took their turns as well, honing artistic skills they never knew they had.

The final products are colorful and indeed impressive. One of mailboxes is enveloped in an American flag. The front of the mailbox features an exact replica of the American Legion seal and its left side features a U.S. Army soldier armed and on the battlefield defending his country. There also are several small U.S. Air Force fighter jets sprinkled about.

“They were very excited about it and very enthusiastic. And you can see that in the final products,” Mr. Brighton said. 