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INSIDE

CORRECTIONS

Quality Assurance • DOC Audit • Chaplains, *Part II*



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Inside Corrections is an Oklahoma Department of Corrections monthly publication distributed to employees, retirees and friends of criminal justice, to enhance communications and provide information on the development and achievements of this agency.

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Quality Assurance

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OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MISSION:

TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC, THE EMPLOYEES,
AND THE OFFENDERS

All employees are encouraged to submit articles, letters, comments and ideas for future issues. Copy should be submitted to marcella.reed@doc.state.ok.us by e-mail, on diskette or typewritten and must be received no later than the 10th of the month. Statements contained in articles submitted to Inside Corrections are the personal views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions or policies of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. All articles are subject to editing, with every effort made to preserve the item's essential meaning.

This publication, printed by Oklahoma Correctional Industries, is issued by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections as authorized by the Executive Communications Administrator. The publication of this document consisted of 2,000 copies that were prepared and distributed at a cost of \$3.41. The costs of this publication have been paid by Oklahoma Correctional Industries in exchange for the advertising and marketing opportunities for Oklahoma Correctional Industries created by the distribution of this issue. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Department of Libraries.

Welcome to *Inside Corrections*



Quality, quality...and more quality. Everyday one should strive to add some form of quality to the world. Whether that is taking the time to teach or play with a child or for us older ones, spending more time with a grandchild, or just taking more pride in our daily work assignments.

You may have often heard about the quality of life. In fact, we are in most cases in control of our quality of life. Quality does not equate to how much money we earn, what position we hold in the organization or what awards we may have bestowed upon us. Quality is a frame of mind. Quality is the value we place on the intangibles of life...relationships, laughter, a sense of peacefulness, or simply a job well done.

As a publicly funded agency it is paramount that we are transparent in an effort to show the quality that we provide. Also, being a public agency it is imperative that we be able to measure that quality and provide indisputable data that what we do contributes to the quality of life for all Oklahomans. This is not just restricted to public safety by having no escapes but it is applicable to all we do. It is everything from answering the phone and being caring and pleasant when there is a member of the public on the other end or a stakeholder of some other sort. It is going a few extra steps to ensure all questions are accurately answered or referrals are made and when necessary, follow up occurs. Quality is something we must live and practice every day. Unlike non public agencies our agency will always be measured by the conduct and good will of our employees whether you are at work or just being a member of your community.

Quality is attitude and should become a part of our being. As you may know, in the Department of Corrections, we have added a Quality Assurance Unit. This was added not to look at individuals but to look at processes to ensure we are the best we can be. I know now it may seem like a broken record but the MGT audit validates our quality assurance process and in fact used much of its information and protocols to conduct their audit of us. As administrations come and go with their own priorities and corresponding policies it is even more important that we continually do a quality review of ourselves. First, because layers of bureaucratic policy unchallenged and unquestioned can in itself create a culture of indifference; and secondly the agency must see and experience a challenge of what we do...it must see transparency.

I challenge you to be able to identify on a daily basis quality that you have added to this world, whether that be through your personal life or through something you have done through the agency. Also, I encourage you to become involved when the time comes with our formal Quality Assurance Unit process, as this most certainly will enhance the overall quality of our agency. I guess in the finality of life we will all be measured by the quality that we added to each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin Jones
Director
Oklahoma Department of Corrections

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Correctional Officer/ Correctional Officer Supervisor Week April 6-12, 2008

In Other Words

Kendall Ballew,

I wanted to write and thank you again for your kindness on February 26, 2008 when you stopped to help my friend and me on the shoulder of the Muskogee Turnpike. You went out of your way to get air for my spare tire and helped to put the spare on. We were able to proceed to the Wal-Mart in Muskogee to purchase a new tire and then return back home to Arkansas.

In my anxiety, although I thanked you for your aide, it dawned on me later down the road that you were on your way somewhere when you stopped to help us. I hope we didn't make you too late for an appointment for work or for a family matter. I also didn't think to ask you if there was any charge for the tank of air you brought. I hope you will forgive my thoughtlessness.

If you were out any cost please advise me per my return address and I would be glad to reimburse you. Once again, thank you for being such a gentleman.

Cindy Jones
DYER, ARKANSAS

Inside Corrections welcomes the views of readers. Letters are subject to editing and must include name, address, and a daytime phone number. Send letters to Inside Corrections, Attn: Editor, 3400 Martin Luther King Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73111, or fax to (405) 425-2502. Address electronic mail to marcella.reed@doc.state.ok.us.

Quality Assurance in Corrections: *An Innovative Approach to Self-Examination*

"Promoting Quality Results-Driven Operations, Programs, and Services to Effectively Meet the Needs of the Public, the Employees, and the Offenders"



Organizational Reviews

VISION

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections will create a culture that Empowers Individuals, encourages

In a proactive approach to addressing constituent concerns related to department operations and in an effort to meet its obligation for efficient and effective operations to the taxpayers of the state of Oklahoma, the Department of Corrections established the Quality Assurance Unit on January 16, 2006. The unit is responsible for establishing a system for the con-

of the organization in an effort to: (1) Ensure better allocation of resources; (2) Provide more efficient and effective operations based on continuous improvement; and (3) Ensure creation and delivery of quality (best practice), results-driven programs and services to better fulfill the department's vision and mission.

One of the key components of the Quality Assurance System is

MISSION

***To Protect the
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Employees, and the
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VALUES

***Professionalism,
Rehabilitation,
Integrity, Diversity,
Excellence***

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cess provides an opportunity to examine work performed (WHAT are we doing?), reasons for the work performed (WHY are we doing it?), processes utilized to perform the work (HOW are we doing it?), how these processes can be improved (How can we IMPROVE?), and how these processes can be measured (How can we MEASURE?).

The cornerstone of the Organizational Review Process is a surveying component whereby input is gathered from: (1) Employees of the area under review; (2) Agency leadership; and (3) Other internal and external stakeholders for the area under review. Additionally, employees of the area under review are asked to complete an Employee Attitude Survey that seeks feedback on a variety of areas (i.e., Communication, Safety and Security, Supervision, etc.) and to

flow chart their primary work processes.

An environmental scan is also conducted. The purpose of the environmental scan is to look outward (Oklahoma state agencies, corrections departments nationally, Federal Bureau of Prisons, and private corporations) to find best practices with the potential for helping the Oklahoma Department of Corrections improve organizational performance.

Employees and key decision makers are also interviewed as part of the Organizational Review Process.

Organizational Review Panels utilize the information gathered to conduct a comprehensive examination of the area under review to determine if there are functions that are misplaced or duplicated within the department

or external to the department and to make recommendations for short-term and long-term improvements.

Additionally, the panels are responsible for identifying the “Desired State” or vision for areas under review as well as performance measurements, if such measurements do not currently exist. Written reports of panel findings are reviewed by the director and the Board of Corrections, as well as other stakeholders deemed appropriate.

Agency employees are kept informed about progress related to the agency’s Quality Assurance effort through agency-wide issuance of routine Communication Bulletins and newsletters as well as access to Organizational Review executive summaries and other information on the Quality Assurance web site.

<http://www.doc.state.ok.us/treatment/quality/index.html>

Councils & Teams

Quality Councils and Process Action Teams comprise the second component of the Quality Assurance System.

The **Executive Quality Council**, composed of executive-level leadership, is responsible for: (1) Identifying the department’s quality assurance philosophy or strategic goals; (2) Supporting, modeling, and promoting the quality assurance system; (3) Identifying and prioritizing critical issues with agency-wide impact and working with the Quality Assurance Unit to initiate Organizational Reviews or charter Process Action Teams to

address those issues; and (4) Providing guidance, support, and resources necessary to effect organizational changes resulting from Organizational Reviews and Process Action Teams.

Local Quality Councils, composed of upper management staff, are responsible for: (1) Supporting, modeling, and promoting the quality assurance system at their respective work locations; (2) Identifying and prioritizing issues with work-location specific impact and chartering local Process Action Teams to address those issues; (3) Submitting issues with agency-wide

impact to the Executive Quality Council for consideration; (4) Notifying Quality Assurance when Process Action Teams have been chartered; and (5) Providing guidance, support, and resources necessary to effect changes resulting from local Process Action Teams.

These councils develop written charter agreements that empower Process Action Teams to act.

Process Action Teams are chartered by the Executive Quality Council to examine issues with agency-wide impact or by Local Quality Councils to examine issues with work-location specific impact. Process Action Teams are organized around a problem, issue, or work process; guided by a written chartering agreement; typically composed of 5-10 members; and have a designated team leader, facilitator, and scribe. Process Action Teams utilize quality principles, practices, and techniques to analyze problems or

examine work processes as identified in the chartering agreement; make data-driven recommendations in accordance with the reporting requirements specified in the chartering agreement; and submit a written report summarizing the team's activities and recommendations, through the chain of command, to the chartering entity with a copy to Quality Assurance.

Quality Assurance supports these program components by providing training in "Quality Awareness, Teams, Tools, and Techniques" and "Facilitation Skills;" providing trained facilitators for teams; providing support and serving as process guides; and serving as the repository for team agreements and reports for reference as new teams are chartered and for archival purposes.

Of the 67 approved recommendations resulting from four completed organizational reviews, 41 have been implemented.

Quality Assurance at work in the Department of Corrections!

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM



Need Further Information?

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Quality Assurance Progress

- ✓ Business Plan was created and approved.
- ✓ Policy Statement P-010600 and Operations Memorandum OP-010601 were created and approved.
- ✓ Communications plan was created and approved.
- ✓ Quality Assurance web site was created.
- ✓ Four organizational reviews were completed: (1) Volunteer Services; (2) Employee Assistance; (3) Victim Services; and (4) Tulsa Correctional Emergency Response Team.
- ✓ Two organizational reviews are in progress. Interim reports have been submitted, and final reports are pending: (1) Classification audit process and (2) Financial and business services operations statewide.
- ✓ Six additional reviews have been initiated: (1) Maintenance operations; (2) Medical Services; (3) Procedures and Accreditation; (4) Offender Programs; (5) Offender Education; and (6) Sex Offender Treatment.
- ✓ Three training sessions have been provided in Quality Awareness, Teams, Tools, and Techniques. One training session has been provided in Facilitation Skills, and a second session is scheduled for March 11-12, 2008.
- ✓ Numerous Process Action Teams have been initiated on topics such as nurse recruitment and retention, affirmative action, sex offender treatment, case management, suicide prevention, etc.
- ✓ A list serve of Quality Assurance administrators nationwide is being created.
- ✓ The agency's Quality Assurance System was recognized with a Governor's Commendation and received the highest award presented during the state's Quality Oklahoma Team Day—the Quality Crown Award of Excellence.
- ✓ The Department of Corrections received a commendation for the Quality Assurance effort from MGT of America, the group that recently conducted a top-to-bottom legislatively mandated performance audit of the agency.

Organizational Review Progress

Employee Assistance: Eleven recommendations were approved; 9 have been implemented, and 2 are in progress. Highlights include:

- ✓ A contract was established with Integris Corporate Assistance to provide Employee Assistance services.
- ✓ The Employee Assistance office in Shawnee was closed, and staff were reassigned.
- ✓ The cost of services was reduced from \$38.41 per employee or \$3.20 per employee per month to \$9.95 per employee or 83 cents per employee per month. Satisfaction levels have remained consistent with those prior to contracting with Integris Corporate Assistance.

Tulsa Correctional Emergency Response Team: Nine recommendations were approved; 2 have been implemented and 7 are in progress. Highlights include:

- ✓ The Tulsa Correctional Emergency Response Team was eliminated at an estimated cost savings of over \$14,000.
- ✓ A Process Action Team has been established to develop a uniform escape protocol for Community Corrections.
- ✓ All halfway house contracts are being rewritten and standardized.
- ✓ A Process Action Team has been established to address transportation of community corrections offenders to ensure transports are being carried out in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Victim Services: Seventeen recommendations were approved; 5 have been completed; 6 are in progress; and 6 are pending. Highlights include:

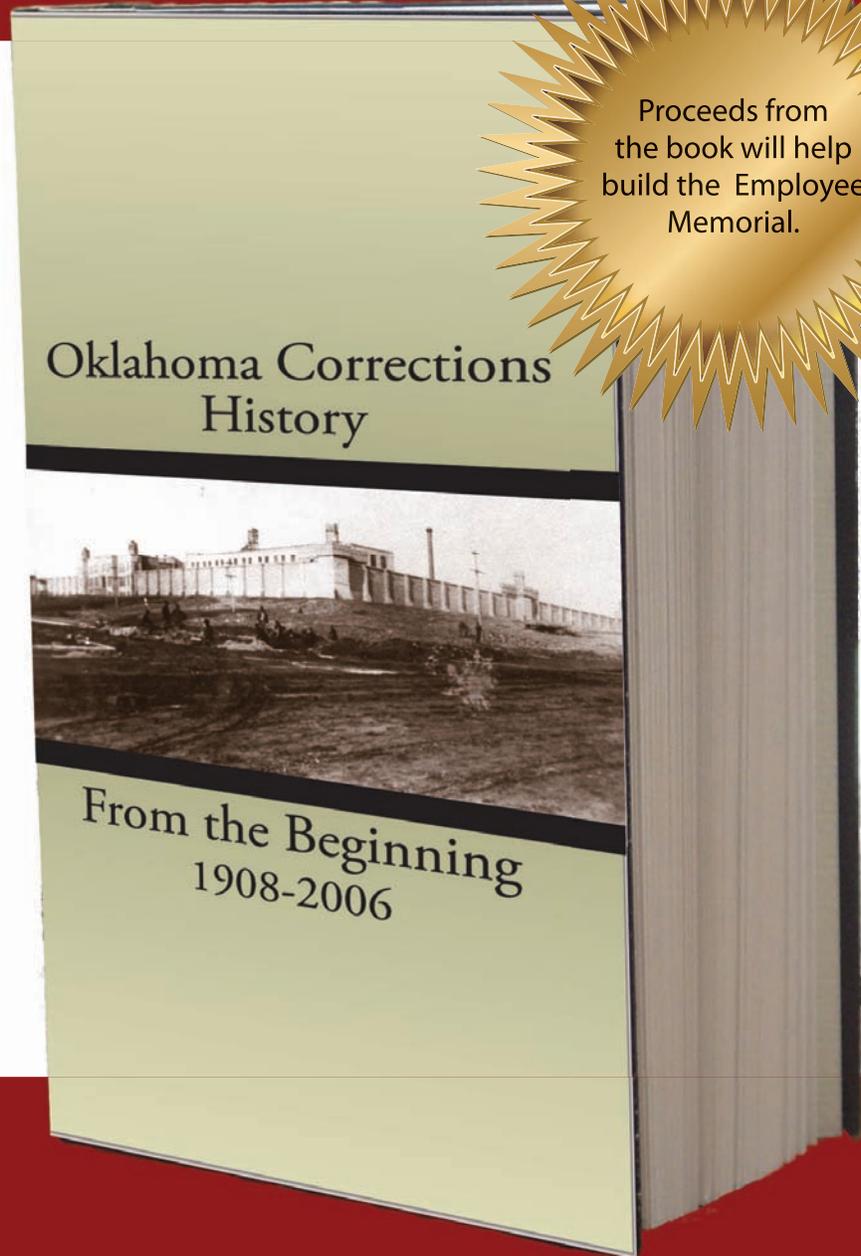
- ✓ A Victim Advisory Council has been established to serve as a resource in developing a strategic plan for Victim Services and provide ongoing guidance regarding program development.
- ✓ A Victim Satisfaction Survey has been developed.
- ✓ A toll free line for out-of-state callers has been established.

Volunteer Services: Thirty recommendations were approved; 25 have been completed, and 5 are in progress. Highlights include:

- ✓ A centralized volunteer database has been established including a method of collecting knowledge, skills, and abilities information on volunteers so they can be utilized for occupational purposes as well as programmatic purposes.
- ✓ An exit survey system has been established.
- ✓ A performance evaluation system has been established.
- ✓ A five year strategic plan is under development.

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In compiling *Oklahoma Corrections History*, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections has used departmental archives, research previously conducted by students and scholars, and the best recollection of current and past employees. While not necessarily absolute, this history is considered to be generally accurate.

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family connections, *Part I*

DICK CONNER CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Charlie Reeves and his two sons, Justin and Tony, have all worked at Dick Conner Correctional Center over the years. Tony was the first to hire on 17 years ago, starting to work on January 2, 1990. Tony worked his way up through the ranks, starting as a Correctional Officer Cadet and is now serving as the facility Lieutenant in charge of contraband and evidence. Tony has been married to Patricia for twenty-three years. They have three children; two boys and a girl. The oldest is Johnny who is 21. His daughter Bobbi is 19 and son Luke is 12.

Justin Reeves followed in the footsteps of his big brother, starting to work for the department 12 years ago on January 3, 1995, as a Correctional

Officer Cadet. Justin is currently working at the facility as a unit Sergeant in charge of 160 inmates daily. Justin received the Department of Corrections' award for Courage and Valor for 2006 for saving the life of an inmate being stabbed by another inmate. Justin is married to Jamie and has two girls; Megan is eight and Paige is six years old.

Charlie Reeves who is the father of the boys was the last to start working at Dick Conner Correctional Center, beginning in November of 1996 as a Correctional Officer Cadet. After working almost a year for Security, Charlie transferred to the Maintenance Department and took the job as facility garage mechanic, which was a field he had worked in before hiring on with the department. Charlie ran the garage, keeping all the facility vehicles clean and running until he

retired in 2003 to the family farm, where the boys check on him daily.

The Reeves family has been an asset to the facility and all have shown a dedication to excellence in their daily job duties, always striving to do their best and set an example for others to follow. They are respected among their peers, uniformed and non-uniformed staff, for their ability to perform their duties in a professional manner. The staff and administration at Dick Conner Correctional Center are proud to have the opportunity to recognize the Reeves family and to offer our gratitude to them for their dedicated service.

JIM E. HAMILTON CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Sgt. Jason Robertson has worked for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections for almost seven years. His



Justin and Tony Reeves

father Lt. Bill Robertson has worked for the department for approximately 18 years. He has 2 uncles, Sgt. Eddie Powers and Cpl. Clyde Naylor who also works for the department. Jason states they have had no problems working together. They respect each other's position within the department and follow orders as if they were not related. One thing that is hard on them is that a member of their family can not supervise them and they have to work different shifts or days which make seeing their family after work or on their days off difficult. Leaving work at work and home at home is their way of dealing with this. One thing that is



Jason Robertson

helpful to them is having someone to ask advice from with an unbiased opinion. The main thing that drives them as a family is a strong sense of duty to other officers, staff and their duty as professional peace officers. Overall working with family members presents challenges, but also provides for an enriched working environment.

HOWARD MCLEOD CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Husband and wife Robert and Debra Vaughan, along with Lee Vaughan have provided 72 combined years of service for the state of Oklahoma at the Howard McLeod Correctional Center (HMCC). Robert Vaughan graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture. He began his career with the Agri-Services Department as a Farm Supervisor in 1982 and later promoted to Farm Coordinator. He is currently a Farm Manager IV on the HMCC farm and has been employed with Agri-Services for 24 years. Wife Debra Vaughan began her career with the Department of Corrections as a Case Manager at HMCC in July of 1982. She then promoted to Records Officer in February of 1988 and has been the Case Manager Supervisor at HMCC since July of 1996. Debra has provided 24 years of service at HMCC. Lee Vaughan is currently a Correctional Counselor at HMCC and has been employed with the Department of Corrections since 1983. He began his career as a Correctional Officer Cadet. On October 1, 1986 he promoted to the HMCC facility as Investigator and was later promoted as an Internal Affairs



Robert Vaughan, Debra Vaughan, and Lee Vaughan

Investigator in November of 1999.

These individuals have provided excellent service to the Department of Corrections and the citizens of the State of Oklahoma. Seventy-four years of combined service is remarkable and irreplaceable. Their experience and knowledge has proven to be a great asset to HMCC and will continue to be.

JOSEPH HARP CORRECTIONAL CENTER

The following article will familiarize everyone with Beth Houston, JHCC Mail/Property Room Supervisor; her husband Andy Houston, Programs Officer in Classification at LARC; and her son, James Keese, DOC Security unit at Lindsay Hospital.

James never truly had a choice as far as career choices is concerned. As a second generation DOC employee, he heard a lot about DOC from his father Bruce who worked for DOC in the late '70s and early '80s, his step-mother, Stephanie Potvin, who worked 20 plus years for DOC, and of course his mother, Beth and step-father, Andy, both with 20 plus years. DOC was what he knew so that is what he turned to for a career and for the "money, benefits and retirement." He has now worked for DOC for 11 years, spending



James Keesee

the last 8-1/2 years as a sergeant.

Beth was led to DOC, as she puts it by, "believe it or not, the money." She had worked two part-time jobs and still couldn't afford her own place. DOC paid better than anything in the area. She stayed for the children and now for the retirement. She came to work 3 days after her 30th birthday, which will be 24 years in July of this year. She began her career as a Correctional Officer at LARC, then went to work as a Warehouse Worker II, transferred to JHCC and began working in the Canteen and is currently the Mail and Property Room Supervisor.

Andy says he needed a good, stable job, which is why he became a correctional officer so many years ago. He then left uniform to become a Counselor at LARC, promoted to Case Manager and is currently an Administrative Programs Officer in the Classification Unit.

James has enjoyed meeting new staff, learning about the differences in thinking and feelings, and the teamwork and comradery among coworkers. He has developed a great deal of lasting friendships through the years. Many staff, some retired now, took him

under their wings and taught him how to handle situations. Sgt. Danny Allspaugh (ret), Capt. Joe Gilleland, Unit Manager Brian Gantz, Capt. Loper (ret), Lt. Steve Hill (ret); Sgt. Gary Mock, and Terry Wedel, OCI (ex-unit manager at JHCC) are just a few of his mentors. James believes that one can learn from his mistakes and try to make him or herself a better person, no matter how hard life gets sometimes.

Beth's current job as supervisor of the mail and property room has been the most challenging of all her jobs. As an officer, "it was either total boredom, or total terror." The uncertainty of the job and shift work were things she most disliked. She had several coworkers who provided mentoring. Sgt. Bonna Dean Freeze (ret) at LARC, was kind-hearted, yet tough. Beth learned she could still be feminine in what had historically been a man's world. Retired Warehouse Supervisor Hank Ivester taught her to work through a problem and always take a suggestion for a solution to the boss. Glenda Herell, JHCC Canteen Supervisor helped her understand that personal feelings sometimes have to be put aside to get the job done and their integrity was number one.

The staff he works with are the best part of Andy's job. They care about what they do. He says he has been lucky to know so many good people. They are like family to him. He believes that everyone he works with is a mentor and those who can't learn from others are doomed to fail. Andy says he can use all the help he can get.

All three looked back on things that happened in life while working at

DOC, such as, marriages, divorces, birth of children or grandchildren, and high blood pressure. Beth and Andy married while working for DOC 23 years ago in November and they have a 20 year old son. James met his wife Kristy while working at Lindsay Hospital. Andy also lost his father, James, who worked at JHCC for many years. They have a blended family with six children and spouses and grandchildren. Beth likes to say, "the only steps in our house are the ones outside to get on the porch."

When asked about their concerns regarding family working in corrections, the following responses were given. James said the safety concerns are always there. Working with family in the same field is nice because they understand your feelings and frustrations. Andy advised about his concerns for his loved ones and said, "Working in prison can be dangerous but so can a lot of other jobs. I think we have all done a good job over the years of keeping our work places safe." Having someone to talk with that understands what you are speaking of is always good. Beth agrees that having someone to discuss a bad day with, without the extended explanations is nice.

At JHCC, Beth gets a sense of being a part of a team of hardworking men



Andy Houston and Beth Houston

and women. Her coworkers will help at the drop of a hat and follow through if they say they will. She does her part by getting the mail and property out in a timely manner and trying to keep the inmates content. In her area, she has had a great deal of good workers she loses to better paying positions. It's always about the money. Beth thinks about the day she will sign her final papers to retire; also realizing that when she goes, others will have to take over, taking them away from their own jobs.

In closing, Beth says she has tried to encourage herself, and her husband and son to get that better job. Earning respect and being acknowledged for your hard work and excellence in your

job is very important. She wanted to take this opportunity to express her gratitude for the opportunity to find her potential.

JACKIE BRANNON
CORRECTIONAL CENTER



Jackie Brannon

Jackie Brannon began his career in corrections in 1961 as a correctional officer for the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. His career expanded from officer to Deputy Associate Warden of the Oklahoma State Penitentiary Trusty Unit. Jackie Brannon died in April, 1984. His legacy to the department includes family members who are still at Jackie Brannon Correctional Center and William S. Key Correctional Center.

His brother, Johnny Brannon, started at JBCC in June, 1984, as a Linen Specialist, a title he still holds. Johnny stated that he never thought that he would come to work for the department, but he needed a job and stayed because he liked the job. He
(continued on page 19)



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- Kim Arthurs, Lexington Assessment and Reception

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- Anna Ashley, John Lilley Correctional Center

For more information contact: Jacki Herrel herrel@redlandsc.edu 405-422-1274 or Todd Hobson hobsonpt@redlandsc.edu 405-262-2552 ext. 2411

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Cinco de Mayo - May 5 is a date of great importance for the Mexican and Chicano communities. It marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, the "Batalla de Puebla" came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. With this victory, Mexico demonstrated to the world that Mexico and all of Latin America were willing to defend themselves of any foreign intervention. Especially those from imperialist states bent on world conquest.

Chaplains, *Part II*



Kathryn McCollum

Kathryn McCollum has been the Chaplain at Eddie Warrior Correctional Center for six (6) years. She has a Masters Degree in Biblical Studies and has been involved in ministry for 17 years. Prior to coming to Corrections she worked in radio ministry, served as an associate pastor and worked in the clerical field.

When asked what prompted Chaplain McCollum to apply for a job as a Prison Chaplain she provided the following story:

“The night before I was ordained (1994) I was praying and the Lord said, “you will go into a women’s prison and that will be your great harvest”. I had never set foot in a prison and thought maybe god had the wrong number. I shared this experience with a friend and she said she could show me how to get into the prisons. My reply to her was “just be sure you show me how to get

out of them – I don’t want to spend the night!” My husband was ill and it was not until eight years later, when he got well that God began to deal with me again about prison ministry. Someone told me about chaplains. To be honest I didn’t know prisons had chaplains. I knew I wasn’t qualified for the position but I felt led to quit my job and just volunteer to help the chaplain of EWCC, Leo Brown. Unknown to me, Leo Brown had been praying for God to send someone to replace him at Eddie Warrior so he could be chaplain at Jess Dunn. Two weeks later, I was the chaplain (part-time, temporary) at Eddie Warrior.”

“God supernaturally blessed me from day one as a chaplain. (He knew I would need lots of help.) He called me supernaturally, placed me supernaturally and enabled me supernaturally. I just quote the Word of God that says “He shall give me His ability, His efficiency and His might” Acts 1:8. I surely could not do it on my own.

The Bible College that Chaplain McCollum was enrolled to get her Masters’ Degree had just received their recognized accreditation a few months before she applied for chaplain. The college forgave her of thousands of dollars worth of tuition when they

found out she was a prison chaplain working on her degree.

When asked what Chaplain McCollum felt her greatest achievement has been as chaplain she stated: “Letting inmates know that God is not just “the big guy in the sky,” but someone who loves them and wants to help them to deal wisely in the affairs of every part of their life and give them a new beginning – and that this requires change and honesty on their part.”

Chaplain McCollum wanted to thank all the other chaplains throughout the state for accepting her, as she is the only female chaplain in Oklahoma. They have encouraged her and she says it is truly an honor to be mentored by these great men of God. She states, “They have touched my heart and I really admire them. They are capable, gifted men.”

James Remer has been employed as the chaplain at the Jess Dunn Correctional Center for a year and a half. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in Church Growth from Lincoln Christian College in Lincoln, Illinois and has been involved in ministry for over 10 years. Prior to becoming the chaplain at Jess Dunn he worked as a youth minister at a local church and also served as a youth minister in Illinois.



James Remer

When asked what prompted him to apply for a job as chaplain in a correctional center Chaplain Remer stated: “I was approached by a lady who attended church with me and knew of an opening at Jess Dunn. She asked me if I would be interested in applying and I politely told her I was not interested. She asked me to pray about it and to also talk to Leo Brown (then current JDCC Chaplain and now the agency’s Religious and Volunteer Services Coordinator). After praying about it I met with Leo Brown who explained what a chaplain does and how they fit into the overall mission of the Department of Corrections. It sounded challenging and I love a challenge. I got my name on the register, interviewed and the rest is history.”

Chaplain Remer recalls after his interview with then Warden Walter Dinwiddie he was offered the position as chaplain: “I was excited at the opportunity that was given to me and I started calling my friends and family. I called my parents to tell them I accepted the position as chaplain in a prison. I explained to them what I would actually

be doing and told my mother about my office and how the inmates would constantly be in contact with me. I told her about how I would facilitate services for Muslims, Christians, Wiccans and other groups. I told her about the gate I would have to pass through every day, just to get to my office and how the Religious Programs Building was located at the far end of the facility. There was a long pause from my mother. Her only response was, “What in the world are you thinking?” She thought I had lost all sense of reason and had gone insane. After working at the facility for a few weeks I realized, “I fit right in.”

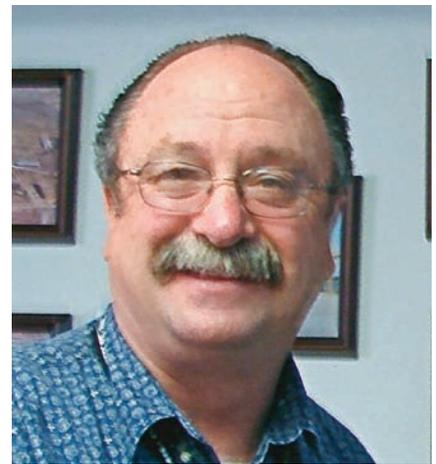
Chaplain Remer states that his biggest challenge has been gaining the respect of the other people on staff, especially correctional officers. “Some staff see chaplains as being only pro inmate and/or that we don’t stress security. I have tried very hard to balance the religious needs of inmates while maintaining the constant need of security. I strive to be a security-minded chaplain, while facilitating the religious needs of all inmates.”

Since Chaplain Remer has been at Jess Dunn he has expanded the religious library from 2,800 books to over 4,200. The religious library has become a place that inmates of various faiths come to find materials that meet their religious needs.

Don Perteet has been with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections for 24 years. He began his career at OSP as a case manager and transferred to Jackie Brannon Correctional Center a year later. He spent twelve years as a case manager before he became the chaplain

at JBCC.

Chaplain Perteet currently supervises facility volunteers. The programs he oversees include AA/NA Victorious, Quest for Authentic Manhood and New Life Behavior. He coordinates new arrival orientation for the inmates and also does the notification for family emergencies for the inmates. Chaplain Perteet has recently started assisting with re-integration by assisting inmates who are about to discharge with housing and family contacts.



Don Perteet

Jimmie Don Gibson started with the Jim E. Hamilton Correctional Center in February 2007. He worked for 23 years as pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Shawnee, Oklahoma, prior to obtaining employment with the Department of Corrections. Chaplain Gibson has a Bachelor’s Degree in Education and a Master’s Degree in Philosophy/Religious Education.

Chaplain Gibson has been married for 38 years and has three wonderful children. He is also serving as interim pastor at Loving Community Church in the Heavener, Oklahoma area.

Chaplain Gibson is working to



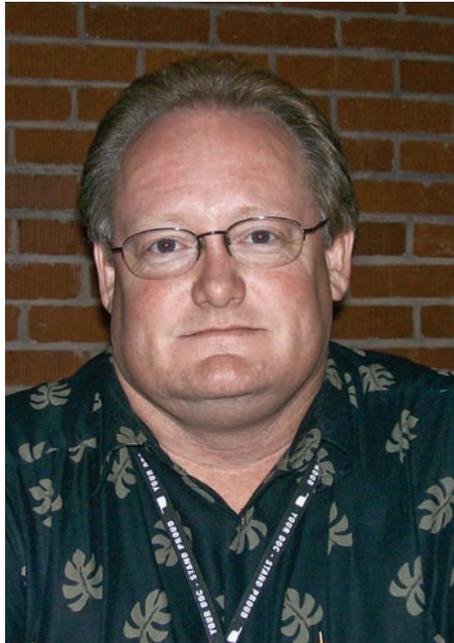
Jimmie Don Gibson

provide the men at the facility with the opportunity to better themselves and improve their relationships with the Lord. Chaplain Gibson firmly believes that by helping inmates to become better people, they can make our communities safer and break the cycle of self-destruction and criminal behavior.

Jay Drawbridge began volunteering for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and several private prisons in 1995. A church he was attending at the time had a prison fellowship that sparked his interest. In 1996 Jay became a Volunteer Chaplain at JCCC. For many years Jay would travel weekly to at Diamondback Correctional Facility, Bill Johnson Correctional Center and many other correctional facilities throughout the state to hold

classes and services.

Jay and his wife Jo saw that there was a need to help people who needed a second chance in life. They teamed up with a church that had been housing people that were coming out of prison and rehabilitation centers. The program would give them a place to live and would employ them long enough for them to re-integrate back in society. The program also helped inmates secure better paying jobs. That same year Jay began to see that the State of Oklahoma was going to have a real need for a program to help with people that were incarcerated. Jay began to work with victims rights groups, aftercare programs, law enforcement, district



Jay Drawbridge

attorneys, judges, legislators and as many people that would listen or give him assistance, to develop prison reform ideas, training programs and after care programs.

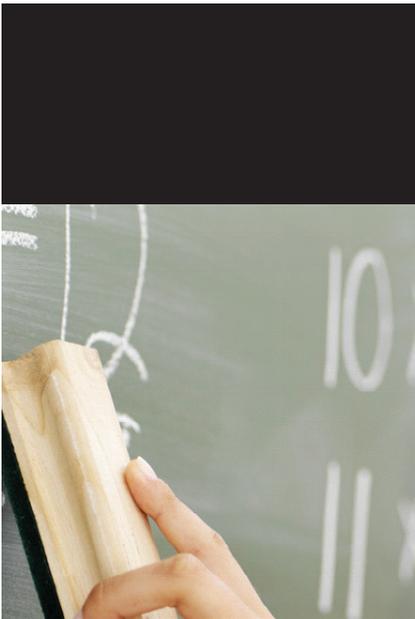
Jay also volunteered his time and resources to help families that had teens with substance abuse problems. All this was done with the hope that he could prevent people from entering the prison system for the first time or re-entering after being released.

In 2002 Jay became the pastor of the First Christian Church in Helena, Oklahoma, and still holds that position today as well as the temporary chaplain position. His church has developed a Food Pantry Program and also assists the JCCC Bridge Project with donations & distribution of their products.

In 2006 Jay became a Temporary Chaplain for James Crabtree Correctional Center. Jay's religious knowledge and security minded customs have been a welcomed addition to staff at JCCC. Ending this article is one of Jay's personal quotes which will give some idea of who Jay is: "Anyone can complain, very few are willing to put forth the effort into bringing change, so don't complain unless you are willing to bring an idea for a solution to a problem to the conversation." ■



Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run May 7, 2009



NATIONAL TEACHERS WEEK

MAY 4-10, 2008



(Family Connections cont. from page 15)
also said, “The equipment is better than it used to be. It used to be all steam.”

Leatha Brannon, daughter of Jackie Brannon, began her career with the department in December of 1985 in the Business Office. In July of 1986 she accepted the position of Correctional Teacher. Ms. Brannon stated that not everyone is cut out for this profession and stressed the importance of maintaining a



Leatha Brannon
to prison.

Leatha shared a story that her father, Jackie Brannon, shared with her. He had encouraged an inmate to learn to read and write so that he would not return to prison. The inmate returned to prison a few months after his discharge for writing bogus checks. Leatha said that her father told her that there was more to teaching than teaching how to read and write. You have to teach them how not to come back to prison.



Johnny Brannon

positive attitude in what is often a negative environment. She feels her role is fulfilling and is instrumental in keeping inmates from returning

Jackie Brannon also has a son, David Brannon, who works at William Key Correctional Center as a correctional counselor. He started with the department in 1982. ■

CELEBRATE Administrative Professionals Day April 23rd

my china journal

By Debbie Dorris, JHCC



Before I tell you about my trip to China, let me explain to you what the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg is about. The Final Leg tradition is for law enforcement officers representing their state, province or nation, to act as “Guardians of the Flame” and carry the Special Olympics “Flame of Hope” to the Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics World Games. This Torch Run event is called the Final Leg because it represents the culmination of Torch Run events that have occurred previous to a state, province, or nation’s games in over 90 Special Olympics programs worldwide.

The mission of the Final Leg is to:

- Create awareness and excitement for Special Olympics and World Games
- Involve, inspire, and motivate runners to increase their level of commitment to Special Olympics when they return to their local programs.
- Encourage support and attendance of World Games
- Proudly represent Law Enforcement and Torch Run Programs worldwide as a symbol of our deep commitment to the athletes of Special Olympics as we serve as ambassadors for Law Enforcement, Special Olympics, and the World Games.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is an international series of torch relays, run by law enforcement officers, and leading up to each state or nation’s Special Olympics Summer Games. In 2007, this international event raised \$30 million (U.S.) for Special Olympics programs. More than 85,000 law enforcement officers carried the “Flame of Hope” around 50 states and 38 nations raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics.





September 23: I flew out of Will Rogers to O'Hare in Chicago. This is where a great deal of the U.S. final leg runners would meet for the first time. Already this has been a long day. Finally, on the plane and "settled" in for the 13 hour flight to Beijing.

September 24: We arrived in Beijing and the shuttle from the airport was very interesting to say the least. I will never complain about OKC traffic again! Motorists drive on the shoulder with horns blaring, lines in the highway are only there for appearance and it doesn't matter if a semi-truck is in the way, merging will happen. Of course, it's bumper-to-bumper, but what was really different was on what we call service roads: along with cars and trucks bustling along are bicycles (loaded down with wood, cardboard or watermelons), mopeds, motorcycles, and occasionally a horse drawn wagon! There are no helmet laws and small children ride along on these motor scooters. Scary! We finally arrived at our hotel ready to check in and crash, only to find out we have to go pick up our Adidas bag full of running clothes (oh great - something else to haul around). I experienced jet lag for the first time in my life and it wasn't fun. Talk about being irritable and overly sensitive!

I learned two words in Chinese: Ni Hao (pronounced nee how) for Hello; and Xiexie ni (shi shi ni) for Thank You. I would come to say these repeatedly during my visit. I met the Chinese police officer assigned to be my roommate while in Beijing. Her name was Zhu Hua, don't ask me how to pronounce it. As

with many of the other Chinese police officers, she also goes by her English name, Laurel. Good thing.

There were 127 Final Leg members to include: 92 runners from various countries, 11 special Olympic athlete runners, 11 team leaders, 12 support team members, and 1 captain of this group. We were divided into 12 running teams and each team was assigned a Chinese police officer as an interpreter. We were fortunate enough to have a young gentleman by the name of Zhao (pronounced Jow) Lan as our interpreter. What a sweetie. His answer for anything we asked for was, "No problem!"

September 25: Met all of my running team members. We are officially known as Team Ten and even came up with our own hand gestures. One is from Austria, one from New Foundland, and one from Australia. Other than Zhao and Ronald Choi, the others are from the U.S. Everyone is excited about visiting the Great Wall. We arrive about 11:00 a.m. to prepare for a small torch lighting ceremony. At lunch time they brought us KFC, not what I expected at all! At dinner we ate Domino's pizza. You just can't make this stuff up! At the conclusion of the ceremony, we runners, with the torch in hand, jogged on the Great Wall. It was awesome, with fireworks galore. China is definitely sparing no expense for this.

September 26: It's time to fly to Shanghai so we repack, get on the plane and settle in for a 2 hour flight. All the running teams are going to a Host Town for the real action. Once off the plane, Team

Ten gets on a bus to Jiaxing. (Sent post cards out this morning, only for them to arrive at their destination almost 2 weeks after my trip!) The evening we arrive we attend a dinner with the Vice-Mayor and other dignitaries. There is a 10 course meal served, very small portions of things I am not accustomed to seeing on my plate. I am a meat and potatoes girl, after all. We were served exotic foods such as shark's tooth soup, eel, caterpillar fungus, etc. You realize the meal is over when watermelon is served. Don't even think about getting a fortune cookie. I guess that is a tradition created by foreigners. At the dinner there was a lot of toasting, and you must at least take a sip of your drink or you offend the host. I am now learning to eat with chopsticks. This is a good way to go on a diet.

September 27: Our first run was in the Muhu community. This will be the first of many events that include red carpet, flowers, fireworks, confetti, entertainment and gifts!! We will also be followed by the SWAT team who run behind us doing cadence. We become so familiar with them by the last run we are able to accompany them in their cadence. Next it's on to the Nanhu hotel for lunch, and then the Wenchang community for more running and more gifts (yea!) Our travels include a tour of the 110th Command

Center which is very impressive and very "Big Brotherish." Our dinner for the evening was hosted by the Jiaxing Public Security Bureau with the Chief of Police as the host. I was given this advice while attempting to eat with chopsticks, "don't cross your skis."

September 28: More running - this time it's the Meilan community, and Pinghu Sun Lake Hotel for lunch. I am mastering the use of chopsticks! As part of each ceremony, team members alternate giving a standard speech to a particular community. Then the dignitaries will speak and an exchange of gifts occurs. I gave my speech and received a beautiful hand painted china plate in a lovely and what looked like an expensive box. I could get used to this. Also, at this particular ceremony, precious local children put a ring of roses around our necks. The most interesting part of the ceremony were the line dancers who (I kid you not) danced to "Forever and Ever Amen" by Randy Travis. We were really tapping our toes to that. I guess they wanted us to feel at home. Later, on our tour of a retirement village we observed residents carving watermelons to make lanterns out of. We watched them do calligraphy and also play musical instruments for our entertainment. Awesome! We have been treated like rock stars since we came

to China. But we were warned about the "Hero to Zero" complex, not really understanding at the time what that meant. On to the next village, where the athlete and I exited the bus to meet the community dignitaries, each receiving a beautiful bouquet of mixed flowers. When I got back on the bus, I did my best pageant wave. After all Oklahoma has had back-to-back Miss America's. As anyone who participates in the Law Enforcement Torch Run will tell you, it is all about the athletes. Team Ten spoiled our Special Olympic athlete runner. As a Kansas volunteer firefighter, he loves anything to do with firefighting. He even has the international symbol for fire fighter tattooed on his upper left arm. He managed to get his picture with the firefighters that were at the Great Wall prior to a huge fireworks display that would take place. One of the many special things we did for Brian was to arrange a visit to a fire station in our host town of Jaixing. The look on his face when he realized where we were going was priceless. One of our remarkable Chinese officers (we called him Tommy Torch, as he assisted with the lighting of our torch) called ahead and they were all lined up in formation ready to greet Brian. When he got off the bus each fire fighter saluted him. I still get teary-eyed remembering it. He received a special tour of the fire

(continued on page 35)



As Elvis is the king of rock & roll...Robert is "Grey Elvis" to CTU.

Sgt. Robert Potvin

road to recovery

By James Kroth
Lexington Central Transportation Unit



Robert Potvin accepts Appreciation Award from Lt. Colonel Kelly Wilkey at retirement party.

Robert Potvin began his career with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC) at the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center (LARC) in 1992 after retiring from a 22 year stint in the Air Force. He was assigned to the Central Transportation Unit(CTU). His military background in transportation proved to be a good asset.

Robert's way of boosting morale was sharing a big pot of some food such as beans & rice, gumbo, jambalaya, or chili. Of course, he never told anyone how hot the food was and

the expression on their face as they ate the food was a sign if he needed to make it hotter next time. The hotter the better, but as always the pot was soon empty because no matter how hot it was it was always good to the last drop. Soon, in order to make sure everyone in the unit got a fair share he would make a soft batch for the weak stomachs (did not want anyone left out). You would think his last name was Zatarain and he had a cousin named Emeril. In reality Robert is a true Yankee from the New England states (far northeast corner). The Air Force transplanted Robert to Oklahoma. Robert became a true Okie by showing his love, care, and support for his family and friends. Robert has a strong work ethic and always busied himself with working at least two jobs to help provide for his family.

Robert is a good supervisor for CTU. He is a good carpenter (can build houses), great cook, professional bus driver, and has mastered the computer. As matter of fact, he can master about anything he sets his mind to. A few years ago Robert fell in love with Nurse Stephanie Keese from LARC. They soon married and began a new life together. They went on vacations and began playing golf together. Then a near tragic experience stuck Robert just a few months after their wedding.

In October of 2005, Robert started feeling tired and worn down, but that wouldn't stop Robert from working his evening route to Eddie Warrior Correctional Center(EWCC). On the way back to LARC he began to notice something wrong and upon arriving at LARC he could not move his fingers and did not have the strength to cut the engine off at

the switch. Somehow he got in his truck and drove home.

Robert's wife took him to the hospital and he ended up in intensive care. Originally it was thought that he had had a stroke. He became paralyzed from the neck down. He could not feel or move, but he could talk fine.

It took several days and many tests to determine what was wrong with Robert. It was confirmed he had Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a rare disorder

The disorder came to public attention briefly when it struck a number of people who received the 1976 Swine Flu vaccine. It continues to claim thousands of new victims each year, striking any person, at any age, regardless of gender or ethnic background. It typically begins with weakness and/or abnormal sensations of the legs and arms. It can also affect muscles of the chest, face and eyes. Although many cases are mild, some patients are virtually paralyzed. Breathing muscles may be so weakened that a machine is required to keep the patient alive. Many patients require an intensive care unit during the early course of their illness, especially if support of breathing with a machine is required. Although most people recover, the length of the illness is unpredictable and often months of hospital care are required. The majority of patients eventually return to a normal or near normal lifestyle, but many endure a protracted recovery and some remain wheelchair-bound indefinitely.

Robert spent several months in the hospital and went from not moving at all to slight movement of his limbs. He was in very serious condition and the odds were he would never come back to work. One

Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), also called acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy and Landry's ascending paralysis, is an inflammatory disorder of the peripheral nerves, those outside the brain and spinal cord. It is characterized by the rapid onset of weakness and, often, paralysis of the legs, arms, breathing muscles and face. GBS is the most common cause of rapidly acquired paralysis in the United States today, affecting one to two people in every 100,000.

What Causes GBS?

The cause is not known. Perhaps 50% of cases occur shortly after a microbial (viral or bacterial) infection such as a sore throat or diarrhea. Some theories suggest an autoimmune mechanism, in which the patient's defense system of antibodies and white blood cells are triggered into damaging the nerve covering or insulation, leading to weakness and abnormal sensation.

How is GBS Diagnosed?

Quite often, the patient's symptoms and physical exam are sufficient to indicate the diagnosis. The rapid onset of (ascending) weakness, frequently accompanied by abnormal sensations that affect both sides of the body similarly, is a common presenting picture. Loss of reflexes, such as the knee jerk, are usually found. To confirm the diagnosis, a lumbar puncture to find elevated fluid protein and electrical test of nerve and muscle function may be performed.

How is GBS Treated?

Because progression of the disease in its early stages is unpredictable, most newly diagnosed patients are hospitalized and usually placed in an intensive care unit to monitor breathing and other body functions. Care involves use of general supportive measures for the paralyzed patient, and also methods specifically designed to speed recovery, especially for those patients with major problems, such as the inability to walk. Plasma exchange (a blood "cleansing" procedure) and high dose intravenous immune globulins are often helpful to shorten the course of GBS.

Most patients, after their early hospital stay and when medically stable, are candidates for a rehabilitation program to help learn optimal use of muscles as nerve supply returns.

day when I visited him after work, he was in a wheelchair preparing for some more tests. I was very worried for him, but he reassured me he would come back to work.

For several months his wife helped take care of him and feed him. Eventually he learned to feed himself. He had to start all over again learning how to crawl before he could walk, but he was determined. At least he could pursue his hobby of watching movies. Eventually, Robert learned to walk and then he was able to drive. He would drive to the facility to visit and tell everyone he would be back to work soon. For a year and a half he continued his therapy and maintained a positive attitude about coming back to work.

Robert came back to work after being away nearly 1 1/2 years. On light duty, the staff were surprised and happy for him. He not only had to prove to himself, but to us as well, that he could carry his own weight.

The time came when he had to qualify for firearms to stay in CTU. We knew he was still on the weak side and not sure if he could pass. We all thought a little more time was all he needed; however, he wanted his route back. He knew he had to qualify or get out of CTU. To qualify at firearms you have to shoot 10 rounds from a shotgun and 20 rounds from a pistol making at least 70% standing and kneeling. I was told that every time he fired the shotgun it knocked him down, but he

kept going. While Robert was learning how to walk again, he had learned real well how to fall down and that was his secret weapon at the pistol range.

Gradually, he did get his old route back by proving he could drive, could carry up to 50 pounds of restraints and heavy buckets of files. He did all of these things and as the days went by he did them better and better. I think that was the best physical therapy he could get.

It's been over two years since Robert was diagnosed with GBS and he has about 85% recovered. Robert's sheer determination of never giving up has been an inspiration to us all. He had to virtually fight to get his life back. Without the support of his family and friends it would have been more difficult. I am proud of Robert and commend his wife Stephanie for putting up with him. Some might think GBS took some of his life away; but the way I see it, it gave us a better understanding of being humble, determination, inspiration, change our doubts, zest to live, love and respect for us all. Robert not only became a better man in his road to recovery, his outcome has affected us all.

Robert retired from DOC December 31, 2007, after 15 years of service. He is going to presume full time physical therapy for a goal of 100% recovery. He will do it. ■

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

May 12-18, 2008

| MGT AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS 62 – DOC Coordination | | DOC ACTION PLAN |
|--|---|--|
| 7-15 | Revise the annual audit plan to include the results of an annual risk assessment. | This will be accomplished by 7/1/08. |
| 7-16 | The administrator of Internal Affairs should report directly to the agency head. Direct access to the agency head is needed as one measure to ensure the integrity of the agency. | This language was in SB1670, authored by Senator Corn. Director has sent a letter to Senator Corn addressing this issue. |
| 7-17 | The DOC should develop a formal memorandum of agreement/contract with Oklahoma State Bureau Identification to process felony crime scenes. | The DOC and the OSBI currently work together to meet all requirements in the processing of felony crime scenes. No formal MOU is needed. |
| 7-19 | Internal investigations and final disposition of cases should be accelerated where possible especially in administrative cases. | Additional staff have been added and the policy has been revised which streamlines this process and should accelerate final disposition of investigations. |

(My China Journal, cont. from page 35)

station, tried on some their gear, and sat in their fire truck. We wondered after we left if a Chinese fire drill means the same to them. It's probably none existent like the fortune cookies I kept expecting after every meal!

Our next stop was a tour of a soy sauce millionaire's historical mansion. We strolled through the gardens watching old men play some type of board game looking similar to checkers. There were two dimpled cheeked little boys playing

what looked to be like some type of flute and there were the lovely elderly ladies in their pink "pajamas" with fans doing tai chi. As I walked by, one lady grabbed me and gave me her fans! Being the only girl in this group did have its advantages. (One disadvantage was my short legs had to struggle when running with long-legged guys) I was interviewed by a local TV station, but unlike the previous interviewer who asked me "what's it like to be the only female runner" this one

asked me what I thought about Jaixing. At the end of the day we were treated to a program sponsored by the Polish Special Olympic athlete delegation. Lots of singing and dancing. Some very interesting versions of American traditions such as line dancing, only with Asian cowgirls. A couple of us took a ride in the lead police car, the famous Lincoln Town car, complete with a light bar. I think the Ford Motor Company would love to see this!



September 29: We only had two ceremonies today (light day). We were given a farewell luncheon and said goodbye to our friends from the SWAT. I'm going to miss having them behind me every step of the way. Sure made me feel safe! Traveled to Shanghai to meet up with the other teams. Tonight was the flame reunification ceremony. At the end of the program the runners got on a riverboat and sailed the Huangpu River. The fireworks were incredible illuminating the river. We departed the boat and ran for about 3 miles to end the evening. It was quite an impressive run through downtown Shanghai. As a small town girl it was hard not to be impressed by the skyscrapers and lights.

September 30: We practiced for Opening Ceremonies in the 80,000 plus seating stadium hosting the games. As usual, you could tell no expense will be spared, even with all of the events tied to the rehearsal.

October 1: We had six ceremonies today, but that's ok – it meant more goodies, like silk scarves, china plates, etc. Some of the group went to a Karaoke bar, named "Melodies." Each group had a private room, so you can just sing around your pals. Rafael (Chinese police officer) sang his heart out to Frank Sinatra songs. Like I said earlier, you just can't make up some of this stuff! He was really, really good. One time in your life you should hear a Chinese person singing "New York, New York" in English. Can't describe it.

October 2: We reached our goal. The Opening Ceremonies (what we got to see

of them) were terrific. Again, no expense spared. The athlete delegates paraded in just like in the regular Olympics. There were celebrities escorting some of them to include: Bianca Jagger (ex-Mrs. Mick, for you gen-x'ers) walked in with the Great Britain team; Governor Schwarzenegger and wife, Maria with the U.S. team. For those who don't know, Maria's mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver started Special Olympics in 1968. Last but not least, the Chinese delegations (we gave them a standing ovation – the people have been so great to us) who were accompanied by Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets. To tell you what type of person he is. Just so he could participate in the Opening Ceremonies and attend games, he missed basketball camp and was fined \$20,000 per day. He has his priorities straight. Also part of the program was Colin Farrell, Quincy Jones, and Jackie Chan. Pretty impressive. Our part of the ceremony was to bring in the torch at which time an athlete would take it and run to the caldron, lighting it and officially beginning the Summer Games. More fireworks at the end!

October 3: We went to the U.S. Consulate and at this point began to see what the "Hero to Zero" complex was all about. No red carpet awaited us, no gifts were received and there was no Lincoln Town car "escort" vehicle. It wasn't all about us anymore. Oh well. However, we were thrilled to be greeted by such sports legends as Michelle Kwan, Ernie Banks and Bart Conner. As a fellow Okie, I thought it my duty to introduce myself and have a picture taken with him. Probably the best part of this visit

to the embassy was the food. They grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and served cole slaw, potato salad, chips, and cookies and brownies and iced down cokes. We had almost forgotten what an ice cold drink tasted like.

At an event early in the evening, each team and team member were introduced. We were all given these priceless plaques with one picture of the group in Shanghai and behind it a picture of everyone at the Great Wall. Each plaque had our name on it with the Final Leg logo and a miniature version of the torches we carried for the last 2 weeks. I packed mine in my carry-on when going home, afraid the airline might lose my checked luggage. I didn't want to chance that it might get lost! Our final dinner was hosted by the Shanghai Police Department. As usual we were mixed in with the Chinese police officers. I swear they were all just pups, like Zhao, our interpreter. We all wanted to pack him up and take him to the U.S. At the end of the program, we all ended up trading shirts, Shanghai police polos for Final Leg polos. It was great and what an incredible keepsake to remind us of all the new friends we made!

October 4: Going home time. It's been amazing and life changing. As everyone was getting on the bus for the airport, there were a lot of hugs and tears. Even our buddy Zhao was crying. When you spend two weeks together in these type of circumstances, you develop a special bond with people. I flew out of Shanghai at 3:45 p.m. on 10/4/07 and arrived at O'Hare in Chicago at 3:50 p.m. on the same day! I arrived in OKC about 10:30 p.m. and my first stop was Sonic for a
(continued on page 39)

the black history program

2008



1. Neville Massie, Legislative Liaison, and Ann Sierson, Carver Center
2. Theresa Taylor and Debbie Wilkerson, Central District Community Corrections
3. Stephanie Edwards, Pam Anderson and Samuel Terry
4. Deloris Milton and Justin Jones, Director, Oklahoma Department of Corrections
5. Etta Thomas with Honorary Guests Ernestine McClellon and Ida Burris (mother and aunt to the late Charlotte Forh)

the black history program

2008



1. Reginald Hines, Deputy Director, Community Corrections, with granddaughter, Nykiah Hines.
2. Shirley Cole, Information Technology, Oklahoma County Community Corrections/ Residential Services
3. Dr. Kevin McPherson, Keynote Speaker, Administrator, Marcus Garvey Leadership Charter School.
4. Don Brown, Sergeant, Jackie Brannon Correctional Center

(My China Journal, cont. from page 36)

cherry limeade! For the next few days I did not sleep at all. I mean I really did not close my eyes.

All in all, I am very proud to have

represented the State of Oklahoma as well as the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. What I just related was a brief narrative of the day-to-day events, and I can't begin

to describe how it affected me personally. One of the Torch Run team leaders said of the Final Leg, "If you can explain it, you haven't experienced it." So true. ■



INSIDE CORRECTIONS
Congratulates
Howard McLeod
Correctional Center
30 Year Anniversary
May, 1978



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 36 Years | Theodore Limke Priv Pris/Jls/Sty Admin | 21 Years | Jimmy Wilson OSP | James Haynes OSR | 14 Years | James Trenton WKCC |
| 35 Years | Curtis Gilley Personnel Unit | Larry Sutton OSP | Helen Greer EWCC | Helen Greer EWCC | Michael Shelite JCCC | |
| 34 Years | Shirley Eastwood JHCC | Rodney Redman JCCC | James Crafton NOCC | Clifton Carter NEDCC | Kathleen Phillips MBCC | |
| 33 Years | Joe Johnson JEHCC | Gary Reading Trans Unit/JBCC | Michael Carpenter LARC | Michael Carpenter LARC | Billy Howell JBCC | |
| 32 Years | Edra Carr MACC | Robert Oldham Oklahoma City CCC | Terry Branch Operational Services | Terry Branch Operational Services | Randy Harding BJCC | |
| 31 Years | Leonard Wright Agri-Svcs/JBCC | Shirley Newman SEDCC | James Bowers WKCC | James Bowers WKCC | Jeffrey Franks BJCC | |
| 30 Years | Wyatt Phillips OSP | James McNutt SWDCC | Mark Bears DCCC | Mark Bears DCCC | Raymond Evelyn MBCC | |
| 29 Years | Stormy Wilson NEDCC | Warren McDoulett SEDCC | 18 Years | David Thomas WKCC | Anita Donley BJCC | |
| 28 Years | Robert Howard JEHCC | Rex Lasater JCCC | Charles Shedd DCCC | Charles Shedd DCCC | Monte Blake Mental Health/JHCC | |
| 27 Years | Marty Sirmons OSP | Stanley Klutts JLCC | Terry Sawyer HMCC | Terry Sawyer HMCC | 13 Years | Sharron Shelton JHCC |
| 26 Years | Mary Leistner Treat/Rehab Svcs | Terry Jantz NWDCC | Charles Reeves DCCC | Charles Reeves DCCC | Justin Reeves DCCC | |
| 25 Years | Eva Thomas CDCC | Kevin Hurlbusch DCCC | Chris Payne JCCC | Chris Payne JCCC | Willa Newberry Medical/JBCC | |
| 24 Years | Cynthia Pate OSP | Randy Hicks Enid CCC | Leon Neal JLCC | Leon Neal JLCC | Carla King MBCC | |
| 23 Years | J'me Overstreet Admin Svcs | Roger Guinn JBCC | Martha Jones Hobart CWC | Martha Jones Hobart CWC | Fawnie Jones SEDCC | |
| 22 Years | Marian Calabretta TCDC | Donald Ford JCCC | Bruce Evans OSR | Bruce Evans OSR | James Harris Finance & Accounting | |
| 21 Years | Anthony Hunter CDCC | John Davis JCCC | Jearld Custar, Jr. NWDCC | Jearld Custar, Jr. NWDCC | Janet Cannaday NOCC | |
| 20 Years | Joe Harwick Hillside CCC | Arthur Cook JBCC | Ricky Cullins WKCC | Ricky Cullins WKCC | 12 Years | Anita Roten JHCC |
| 19 Years | Bessie Greenway OSP | Gregory Bull Mangum CWC | Rickey Caywood JBCC | Rickey Caywood JBCC | Kristi Olzawski NEDCC | |
| 18 Years | Tony Burleson OCI Mfg/MACC | Ben Beede NOCC | David Carman Elk City CWC | David Carman Elk City CWC | Jamie Means JEHCC | |
| 17 Years | Harold Brown NOCC | Avery Allen Mental Health/JEHCC | Sandra Burks JBCC | Sandra Burks JBCC | Mark Lester Enid CCC | |
| 16 Years | Eloise Brown CDCC | Janet Standridge SEDCC | Wayne Bowers JCCC | Wayne Bowers JCCC | Phyllis Hughes NOCC | |
| 15 Years | Clarence Bridgeford JHCC | Leslie Robinson Infor. Tech. JEHCC | David Wortham OSR | David Wortham OSR | Frank Harback OCI Mfg | |
| 14 Years | Alice Turner JLCC | William Robertson JEHCC | Denise Welker CDCC | Denise Welker CDCC | Buffy Guthrie JDCC | |
| 13 Years | Carl Sellers DCCC | Bobby Rector HMCC | Anthony Tribbey JCCC | Anthony Tribbey JCCC | Harold Brown JEHCC | |
| 12 Years | Patsy Lee Sent. Admin. JHCC | Raymon Ranells JHCC | Christina Sisto NEDCC | Christina Sisto NEDCC | Charles Brewer Operational Services | |
| 11 Years | John Ferguson Altus CWC | Monty Magruder SEDCC | James Shandy Trans. Unit/JBCC | James Shandy Trans. Unit/JBCC | Linda Wolf JBCC | |
| 10 Years | Edward Evans Field Operations | Ronnie Judd Training | Diana Pecha JCCC | Diana Pecha JCCC | Gerald Wilson, Jr. JBCC | |
| 9 Years | Ingrid Bennett Personnel Unit | Pamela Humphrey Education | Jeffrey Palmer, Sr. JEHCC | Jeffrey Palmer, Sr. JEHCC | Owen Vanorden EWCC | |
| 8 Years | Charles Rogez, Jr. JHCC | Bobby Hedrick Agri-Svcs/JBCC | Stacey Morey CDCC | Stacey Morey CDCC | Barbara Reinbold Personnel Unit | |
| 7 Years | David Brannon WKCC | James Hearrell SWDCC | Sherry Mooring JLCC | Sherry Mooring JLCC | Daniel Praytor MACC | |
| 6 Years | Richard Waldon DCCC | Joseph Gilleland JHCC | Gary McClary DCCC | Gary McClary DCCC | Kevin Nunnelee TCDC | |
| 5 Years | Terry Martin JDCC | John Gallagher, Jr. Priv Pris/Jls/Sty Adm | David Huffman DCCC | David Huffman DCCC | Deveshia Natt Idabel CWC | |
| 4 Years | Sharon Harrison Director's Office | Darrell Cole JHCC | Jimmy Harris, Jr. JBCC | Jimmy Harris, Jr. JBCC | Stacy Lovins Fac Class | |
| 3 Years | Jimmy Gray Sent. Admin. JCCC | Terry Brinkley OSP | Gil Gilbert Enid CCC | Gil Gilbert Enid CCC | Mary Hedrick Com Sen/Off Info Svcs | |
| 2 Years | Doug Byrd JCCC | Jacqueline Wooden EWCC | Sieglinde Elliott Com Sent/Off Info Svcs. | Sieglinde Elliott Com Sent/Off Info Svcs. | Patricia Ferrell JDCC | |
| 1 Year | Randall Workman LARC | Barbara Wilson LARC | Karen Calhoun OSR | Karen Calhoun OSR | Sherry Clickner DCCC | |
| | Danny Williams JBCC | Charles Whitefield JLCC | Randy Been JLCC | Randy Been JLCC | Brian Carpenter SWDCC | |
| | Gretchen Samuels CDCC | Randy Wham EWCC | Leland Allison OSR | Leland Allison OSR | Brenda Camp JBCC | |
| | Mary Morris BJCC | Maurice Warrior JDCC | Bob Tomlinson OCI Mfg/LARC | Bob Tomlinson OCI Mfg/LARC | Jimmie Allen Institutions | |
| | Alan McDonald Med. Admin./LARC | Brian Thomas SWDCC | John Rupert DCCC | John Rupert DCCC | 10 Years | Carmelita Dela Cruz CDCC |
| | Tommy Mariano Muskogee CCC | Richard Tate EWCC | Richard McLain OCI Mfg | Richard McLain OCI Mfg | Norma Wright JBCC | |
| | Jerry Johnson HMCC | Paula Stamper OCI Mfg | Adam Hutchison NWDCC | Adam Hutchison NWDCC | Jackie West TCDC | |
| | Jill Hinkston Div of Comm Corr | Jeff Spaulding Fin & Acctg NEDCC | Tom Hodge Medical Admin/JDCC | Tom Hodge Medical Admin/JDCC | Danyl Weaver TCDC | |
| | Thelmita Davis EWCC | Shellye Sourie NEDCC | Shonda Benedict Medical/MACC | Shonda Benedict Medical/MACC | Bradley Thomas MACC | |
| | Gregory Brooks OSR | Gregory Sheik BJCC | 15 Years | Jacquelyn Young OSP | Kristie Phillips CDCC | |
| | Carl Andrews LARC | Angela Reagan EWCC | James White Altus CWC | James White Altus CWC | Daryl Morgan MACC | |
| | | Vaughn Rader BJCC | Todd Welsh JBCC | Todd Welsh JBCC | Lewis Layton MACC | |
| | | Marjorie Phillips DCCC | James Stockton OSR | James Stockton OSR | Stephen Keeler MACC | |
| | | John Oldfield JDCC | Edmond Shropshire Agri-Svcs/JBCC | Edmond Shropshire Agri-Svcs/JBCC | Matthew Jarvis NOCC | |
| | | Johnny Nixon OK Corr. Trng Academy | Venson Landers SWDCC | Venson Landers SWDCC | Junika Hutchins Hillside CCC | |
| | | Marlon Moore OSP | Steven Jean JBCC | Steven Jean JBCC | Robert Hackney Treat/Rehab Svcs | |
| | | John Montgomery MACC | Jay Hodges Training | Jay Hodges Training | Darren Guthrie JCCC | |
| | | Rance McKee JCCC | Nancy Helms HMCC | Nancy Helms HMCC | Alphons Efom CDCC | |
| | | Wayne McClure NEDCC | Kenneth Goss Hobart CWC | Kenneth Goss Hobart CWC | Gerald David OCI Mfg/JCCC | |
| | | Lealynne Martinez JDCC | Sharon Givens MACC | Sharon Givens MACC | Cherie Collins EWCC | |
| | | Michael Lance EWCC | Billy Gilbert NEDCC | Billy Gilbert NEDCC | Jack Boling, Jr. CDCC | |
| | | Gail Jackson Comm.Sent/Off Info Svcs | Arden Espe JDCC | Arden Espe JDCC | Christopher Bartlett JHCC | |
| | | Nancy Howard Proc/Accred. | Richard Edminster Altus CWC | Richard Edminster Altus CWC | | |
| | | Jim Hoover JDCC | | | | |
| | | William Honaker LARC | | | | |
| | | Haskell Higgins HMCC | | | | |

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 38 Years | | 21 Years | | 17 Years | | Linda Eike WSKCC | |
| Doris Sheppard | MCCC | Millicent Newton-Embry | MBCC | Loren Wehrenberg | JCCC | Deborah Cox | Com Sent/Off Info Svcs |
| 33 Years | | 20 Years | | 16 Years | | 11 Years | |
| Connie Roberts | JCCC | Kathleen Pittman | SWDCC | Lea Klingler | Programs Unit | Jeanetta Wintersmith | KBCCC |
| Kathy Moore | CDCC | Daniel Pickett | CDCC | Tessie Jackson | Med/JBCC | James Williams | Med Admin/HMCC |
| George Jablonski | KBCCC | Daniel Orr | SEDCC | Thomas Gann | NOCC | Nakia Whetstone-Cox | SEDCC |
| Bobby Cooper | JLCC | Dora Leuty | HMCC | Glenn Franklin, Jr. | Enid CCC | Richard Walters | JDCC |
| 31 Years | | 19 Years | | 15 Years | | 10 Years | |
| Frank Mesarick | Div of Comm Corr | Terry Wills | WSKCC | Linda Satterfield | EWCC | Derrick Van Winkle | Trans Unit/JLCC |
| Becky Hart | NOCC | Jennifer Wells | JLCC | Cathy Pattison | DCCC | Fred Taylor | DCCC |
| 30 Years | | 18 Years | | 14 Years | | 9 Years | |
| Robert Vaughan | Agri-Svcs/HMCC | Esther Vaughn | EWCC | David Young | OSR | Michael Stout | Educ/WSKCC |
| Barbara Goff | HMCC | Norman Thomas, Jr. | Agri-Svcs/WSKCC | Sherry Graham | Waurika CWC | Billy Sommerfeld | NOCC |
| 28 Years | | 17 Years | | 13 Years | | 8 Years | |
| Danna Traylor | Sent Admin | Larry Swigart | WSKCC | Sherry Decamp | JHCC | Elizabeth Raines | Treat/Rehab Svc |
| Mance Morris | JHCC | John Somers | JHCC | Lela Combs-Hackelman | MBCC | Sherry Pickens | OSP |
| 27 Years | | 16 Years | | 12 Years | | 7 Years | |
| Shon Bruesch | JEHCC | Rita Salmon | WSKCC | Patricia Wytch | JDCC | Jami Page | Personnel Unit |
| 26 Years | | 15 Years | | 11 Years | | 6 Years | |
| Patricia Ridgway | Med Admin/MACC | Yvonne McMorris | MBCC | Patrick Wray | Operational Svcs | Freddie Mills | DCCC |
| James Rabon, III | Sent Admin | James Martin | OSP | Jeffery Weldon | Ardmore CWC | Shirley Mayhue | CDCC |
| Patricia Davis | Class & Pop | James Martin | OSP | Jason Ward | TCDC | Michael Lewis | NOCC |
| 25 Years | | 14 Years | | 10 Years | | 5 Years | |
| Mark Shipman | HMCC | Russell Littlejohn | JLCC | Glenna Frawner | Trans Unit/LARC | Karla Fowler | JLCC |
| Donna Burkhalter | Training | Jimmy Lane | MBCC | Ralph Crampton | JHCC | Ronald Davee | HMCC |
| 24 Years | | 13 Years | | 9 Years | | 4 Years | |
| John Lewis | WSKCC | Kenneth Keith | ECCC | Patricia Wytch | JDCC | Terry Crenshaw | OSP |
| Lori Evans-Wilson | Legal | Craig Graham | JDCC | Patrick Wray | Operational Svcs | Jane Brown | DCCC |
| Ted Durfey | BJCC | William George | WSKCC | Jeffery Weldon | Ardmore CWC | Carla Barto | TCDC |
| Dannie Blevins | OSR | Dave Fullbright | Agri-Svcs/JLCC | Jason Ward | TCDC | Cindy Allman | Med/NOCC |
| 23 Years | | 12 Years | | 8 Years | | 3 Years | |
| Phillip Wilson | DCCC | Denise Feltner | Div of Comm Corr | Jerry Seely | JCCC | | |
| Joel Sutton | DCCC | Sandra England | EWCC | Melissa Royal | LARC | | |
| Roger Ingram | JDCC | Christopher Crouch | JEHCC | Jack Romine | DCCC | | |
| Linda Haines | Med Admin/JCCC | John Croslin | JHCC | David Lewis | EWCC | | |
| Keith Baker | DCCC | Carrie Bridges | WSKCC | Josh Lee | MBCC | | |
| Ray Aldridge | SWDCC | 11 Years | | 7 Years | | 2 Years | |
| 22 Years | | Bret Tustin | SEDCC | 6 Years | | 1 Year | |
| Debra Elledge | Med/Admin | Ronald Shipman | NWDCC | 5 Years | | 0 Years | |
| | | Virlin Hearod | EWCC | 4 Years | | 0 Years | |
| | | Lynda Forrester | TCDC | 3 Years | | 0 Years | |
| | | Richetta Brown | CDCC | 2 Years | | 0 Years | |
| | | Carmelia Brossett | NEDCC | 1 Year | | 0 Years | |
| | | Herndon Aderhold | Mental Health/LARC | 0 Years | | 0 Years | |

APRIL is ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

There are approximately 75,000 deaths attributable to excessive alcohol use each year in the United States. This makes excessive alcohol use the 3rd leading lifestyle-related cause of death for the nation.

When many people think of alcohol abusers, they picture teenagers sneaking drinks before high school football games or at unsupervised parties. However, alcohol abuse is prevalent within many demographic groups in the United States. People who abuse alcohol can be:

- College students who binge drink at local bars.
- Pregnant women who drink and put their babies at risk for fetal alcohol syndrome.
- Professionals who drink after a long day of work.
- Senior citizens who drink out of loneliness.

Retirements

APRIL

Mark Aldridge, Oklahoma State Penitentiary

Jim Cearley, Oklahoma State Penitentiary

Stephanie Coldiron, Central District CC

Richard Johnston, Jr., John Lilley CC

Rosemary Lynch, Programs

Carolyn Nelson, Education

Daniel Orr, Southeast District CC

Wyatt Phillips, Oklahoma State Penitentiary

Kathryn Schoenecke, Personnel

Barbara Tittle, Muskogee CCC

MAY

Edward Bullard, John Lilley CC

Vickie Champion, Community Corrections

Maxie Ford, Jackie Brannon CC

Jerald Killian, Jackie Brannon CC

Jerry Seely, James Crabtree CC

JUNE

Gaetano Franzese, Oklahoma State Penitentiary

Wilbur Irving, Information Technology

JULY

Thomas Butler, Oklahoma State Penitentiary

Bobby Cooper, John Lilley CC

Edward Jewell, Jackie Brannon CC

NEXT ISSUE

Volunteer Services

Legal Services

Correctional Emergency
Response Team (CERT)

Calendar

April

- 13-19 Nat'l Crime Victims' Rights Week
- 19 Board of Corrections Meeting
Oklahoma State Capitol
- 22-25 Pardon & Parole Board Mtg.
Hillside CCC
- 23 Administrative Professionals Day

May

- 16 Board of Corrections Meeting
DOC Administration Bldg.
- 20-23 Pardon & Parole Board Mtg.
Hillside CCC
- 26 Memorial Day

June

- 13 Board of Corrections Meeting
Eddie Warrior CC
- 14 Flag Day
- 15 Father's Day
- 21 Summer Begins
- 24-27 Pardon & Parole Board Mtg.
Hillside CCC

Your ad could be here!!



Contact Angie Bell
405.425.7545

