
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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Foothills Correctional Institution

Hot off the Press!!

FCI education newsletter staff published the first edition entitled, *The Connection*, in January. The newsletter's format is similar to that of a typical newspaper including world news, U.S. news, local (FCI) news, editorial and opinion pieces, sports, and holiday information. In addition, inmates also address transition and parenting issues while incorporating reading skills with word searches and puzzles. The newsletter staff meets weekly and expects to publish every three months.



Airlie Green, an ESP/Reading teacher at FCI, traveled to China in November as an International Reading Association representative. She met with other IRA members to learn about reading practices and strategies in China and was featured in the recent January/February 2007 Correction News bulletin.

FCI is anticipating the addition of a new vocational program, Computer Information Technology, which will be offered beginning August 2007. Inmates will commit to the one-year program and receive a diploma.

Foothills Minimum Custody Unit has successfully graduated three groups of trained dogs in the New Leash on Life Program. To date, all nine dogs have been adopted by loving homes and the program continues to be beneficial for the dogs and the inmates that care and train them. This program is associated with the Friends for Animals in Burke County.

The **Horticulture** program recently held a vegetable plant sale which included a variety of plants, such as cabbage (green and red), broccoli, cauliflower, and ornamental foliage. The sale was such a huge success; the classes began planning a spring flower sale for April.

Finally, the FCI education department is anticipating a graduation ceremony on May 18. The staff does an excellent job preparing for the event and typically received rave reviews from those who have attended other graduation ceremonies.

Morrison Correctional Institution

Minimum Custody Graduation **December 15, 2006**

On Friday, December 15, 2006, Morrison Correctional Institution, Minimum Custody School celebrated its quarterly GED graduation. Thirty-six inmates were recognized for their achievement in the company of numerous family members and facility staff. **Kenneth Phillips**, Education Specialist III and Youthful Offender Coordinator, was the guest speaker at the event. Mr. Phillips congratulated the graduates for their accomplishments and encouraged them to continue post secondary studies. He cited many examples of opportunities that await them while incarcerated and upon release, including potential military service. Principal Martin J. Wase also acknowledged the family members for their support of the graduates.



Pictured: L to R, Asst. Superintendent Custody and Operations - Lynn Summers, SARGE Program Director - Kent McMillian, and School Guidance Counselor - Nancy Boling and Kenneth Phillips, Guest Speaker.

SWIMMING WITH BURT REYNOLDS

Judy Winston, math and language arts teacher at Morrison Correctional Institute, gave a stellar performance in making her acting debut Saturday, March 3, 2007 at the Sunrise Theater in Southern Pines, N. C. Judy was part of an ensemble cast in a benefit production of the Vagina Monologues. Judy's solo monologue is the source of the title of the article. To know more, ask Judy!! The money raised by the performances will benefit the women and girls of Moore County, N. C., who are victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and rape. The Friends of Moore County Guardian Ad Litem provide the services or resources for services to the women and/or girls that they may require. *Submitted by: Marilyn Richardson*

Fountain Correctional Center for Women

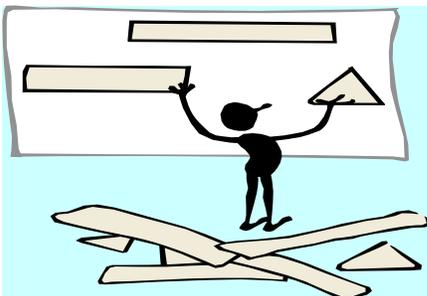
Fountain Correctional Center for Women held its spring GED graduation on Thursday, May 10, 2007. Fountain's Educational Department, in partnership with Edgecombe Community College, continues their mission to prepare students with educational/vocational opportunities that will enhance their future and career goals. Twenty-five burgundy caps and gowns were purchased and used for the first time in the Fall 2006 Graduation Ceremony with 20 inmates receiving their GED. A total of 62 have received a GED since July 2006.



Seven students enrolled in the ABE program have progressed to the GED curriculum this year. As of January 2006, the following classes have had students receive certificates: Horticulture (20 completed), Job Readiness (220 day/night students completed), Home Companion Aide (60 completed), Simple Computer (60 completed), Office Systems Technology (11 completed), and Customer Service (15 completed).



As DOC gears into "TRANSITIONING" inmates back into the community, FCCW has added a second Pre-Employment Job Readiness class to assist with the gainful employment upon release. This will allow over 360 inmates a year to participate in this class.



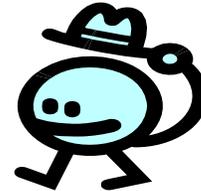
Fountain's Horticulture class has decorated the gym for various inmate functions, Christmas Dinner, GED/Vocational Graduation Ceremonies, and the Transition Expo. They have had several plant sales this spring to raise money to purchase new seedlings for their fall projects.

Orange Correctional Center

ACADEMIC ACCOLADES for INMATE AMERICO RODRIQUES

Inmate Americo Rodriques is assigned to the Study Release Program from Orange CC. He is a full time student at UNC – Chapel Hill. In March 2007 Rodriques was inducted into the Golden Key International Society at UNC-Chapel Hill. **Only the upper 15% of the junior and senior classes at UNC – Chapel Hill are inducted into the Golden Key.** Hats off to Mr. Rodriques!!

Submitted by: Larry Farrell



McCAIN CORRECTIONAL HOSPITAL RE-ENTRY GRADUATION

On Tuesday, November 14, 2006, McCain Correctional Hospital conducted their fifth graduation for the Chaplaincy Re-Entry Program with a banquet. Family and guests shared a wonderful meal with the inmate graduates, staff and volunteers. Mr. Michael Conwell, guest speaker for the event, followed the meal with an inspirational challenge to the graduates to continue to building upon their positive accomplishments.

During the program's 18 sessions, 21 volunteers from local community agencies answered questions and provided information on various community-based programs and benefits designed to reduce the stress of transitioning back into their community. Discussions included Relationships and Parenting, Medical Insurance, Job Interviews, Resumes, Credit, Budget, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Motor Vehicles, Employment Security Commission, Support Groups, and Spiritual Concerns. Inmates were encouraged to identify important realities which contributed to their incarceration and resolve issues that would prevent re-occurrence.



Participation in the program was voluntary with two requirements, a close release date and a desire for self-improvement. The program was a success with a graduation class of 19 inmates; recognition of three honor students and half of the class was recognized for perfect attendance.

McCain Correctional Hospital is committed to improving physical and mental health of the inmate population as well as social and spiritual well-being.

Submitted by: *Patsy L. Chavis*

North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women

“An Hour of Empowerment”

In honor of Women’s History Month, NCCIW hosted an “Hour of Empowerment” on March 24, 2007, to showcase the talents of the Cosmetology Program. The objectives of this event were primarily to enhance the knowledge of our program to potential cosmetology employers through the use of professional cosmetologist as judges, to increase the possibility of the offender being gainfully employed upon release, to encourage others to participate in the cosmetology program, to demonstrate examples of positive self-esteem, and ultimately to transition the inmate successfully back into society as a productive citizen.



The program began at 2:00 p.m., and the last showing ended at 7:00 p.m. Extra hours were held to allow for all who signed up from each dormitory to attend. The showcase included some 24 models and 12 stylist teams. Models were chosen from the entire population and all were given an equal opportunity to be selected. The stylists were students from the Cosmetology class.

Editor’s Note: Please submit any articles you would like to have published in the next newsletter by July 31, 2007.

The stylist teams were responsible for two models and they were judged in five categories;

- Creativity
- Originality
- Presentation
- Design
- Style

The judges for this program consisted of well qualified people: a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, cosmetology business owners in the area, current cosmetologists, a volunteer, and DOC’s own Ms. Cheryl Fellers. Also, showing support for both the “Hour of Empowerment” and the Cosmetology Program at large by attending the event was our own Director of Educational Services, Mrs. Rose True. Mrs. True gave both encouragement and praise to the participants and the Cosmetology teachers for their exceptional work.



As transition is fast becoming the ultimate key to the ex-offenders successfully reuniting with society, it is advantageous to already have in place programs that innately save money for the taxpayers. It is also extremely crucial that NCCIW, as the largest correctional facility for women, continue to improve its efforts in preparing its population for success. The overall philosophy of this institution is best stated by our Warden, Ms. Annie Harvey,

“It is more cost effective to educate inmates into becoming productive taxpaying citizens than to cut the programs and have a continually high recidivism rate.”

This event is one of many meeting those needs by educating our population and encouraging them to be productive citizens.

Submitted by: *Valerie Villines*