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# NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

## DIVISION OF PRISONS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BULLETIN

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Theodis Beck, Secretary of Corrections  
Boyd Bennett, Director, Division of Prisons  
Bonnie Boyette, Chief of Program Services

Volume 8, Issue 5  
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Gloria M. Upperman, Director of Educational Services

### DIVISION OF PRISONS Director of Educational Services

#### “Letter of Appreciation” ... from Rosa True

As I enter this new phase of my life—**Retirement**—I must take time out to praise all of you that have made the North Carolina Division of Prisons Educational Program what it is today. During the last four years as Director of Educational Services, I have developed a sincere appreciation for the dedication, hard work and insight that has contributed to the educational programs provided to our students. It amazes me daily as I see what is being accomplished in our schools. We serve students from the non-reader level all the way up to students earning bachelor degrees. Our Youth Offender Program, Exceptional Student Program, and Title I Program are second to none. Our teachers, principals, guidance counselors, school psychologist and other school personnel prepare our students for a smooth transition upon release. I am touched as I see the excitement of staff as they share success stories.

I recognize that we are also blessed with the professionals from our community college and university systems. We are fortunate to have the cooperative efforts of Correction Enterprise, DOC Engineering, Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, and others in support of our educational program through jobs and apprenticeship programs. North Carolina is truly a leader in correctional education and it is due to these cooperative relationships and everyone working together. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support during my tenure as Director of Educational Services. I am sure that you offer Ms. Upperman the same support and North Carolina Correctional Education will continue to grow and improve. Take care and thank you for making my job so rewarding!



**Educational Services Staff**

### DIVISION OF PRISONS PROGRAM SERVICES RETREAT



#### Introduction and Welcome by Bonnie Boyette

On July 18, 2007 the Division of Prisons Program Services attended their second annual retreat at the L. R. Harrill Center Dining Hall at North Carolina State Fair Grounds. The theme for the retreat this year was, ‘Wellness’. The guest speaker was Elizabeth Zimmerman with the Division of Public Health. The presentation raised the awareness of developing healthy eating habits and a regular exercise routine. During the event all programs’ staff members were provided with healthy snacks and a healthy lunch. The staff also had time to network with each other and enjoyed the out-of-doors during the breaks. The finale was a presentation made by Gail McLamb at Correctional Enterprise on Humor in The Workplace and the effect it has on ones overall health.

During the programs retreat Mr. Bob Lewis expressed his thanks for a job well done by the program services. In jest, he felt the retreat should be renamed .....

#### “The Bonnie Boyette Retreat”



Mr. Bob Lewis

***Talk to the.....!***  
**JUST KIDDING**

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## Foothills Correctional Institution

FCI education staff has been busy with workshop presentations. Some of our teachers have presented on classroom instruction, styles, motivations, and successes in the correctional setting. We had four staff members to attend the CEA International Conference in Atlanta, Ga., July 2007. Michael Swink, Airlie Green, Ruth-Anne Beaver, and Ann Washington were presenters. Mrs. Washington was also chair for the CEA Teacher of the Year Awards Committee (TOY). She put forth a great effort in the preparations for the gala. Ruth-Anne has also been very busy with workshop presentations in Morganton and Goldsboro. She has presented to a group of community college instructors that work in the correctional environment.



**Mr. Ron Hicks and Ms. Airlie Green**

In May, Foothills held the annual service awards ceremony. Airlie Green received the Foothills Employee of the Year award for her dedication and services to the classroom, facility, and community. We are very fortunate to have her on our educational team. In addition, the first TOE Award, Teacher of Excellence, which is voted on among staff, was presented to Ron Hicks. Ron was presented a plaque and parking rights. Ron teaches Science at FCI and has a very high success rate with passing test scores as well as being popular with both students and staff. He is an asset to FCI.



FCI will begin a new vocation program beginning fall 2007, Computer Information Technology. Inmates must commit to the one-year program and to receive a diploma upon completion. This program is currently in progress, teaching remedial summer classes. The Horticulture program recently held a spring flower and vegetable plant sale which included a variety of plants such as cabbage (green and red), broccoli, cauliflower, and ornamental foliage. The sale was a huge success.



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Finally, FCI held a graduation ceremony on May 18. We presented 30 GED certificates and 15 vocation diplomas. Our guest speaker was our Western Region Director, Mr. Steve Bailey. The staff did an excellent job preparing for the event and received rave reviews from those that attended. Thanks to Educational Services for being well represented.

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## Morrison Correctional Institution

### COACH JOHNSON SPEAKS TO MCI STUDENTS

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a lucky day for the Morrison Correctional Institution's medium custody school inmates. On Friday, July 13, 2007 Don Johnson, Assistant Defensive Coach for the Oakland Raiders, National Football League, came to MCI and spoke to the students. As a previous coach with the Chicago Bears, he provided film from the Bears 2006 season.



**Asst. Defensive Coach Don Johnson, Oakland Raiders**

Mr. Johnson spoke about the importance of making good choices and cited instances where professional athletes had made good and bad choices and the cost to them both professionally and personally. He made points about proper goal setting, cooperation and the importance in "getting a good education." Mr. Johnson also cautioned the inmates to choose wisely when selecting persons they wanted as friends/associates. Also, he said you must know where you are and how to behave in unfamiliar situations. The students were able to ask questions later regarding Mr. Johnson's career and the NFL in general.

Marty Wase, Education Program Director, thanked Mr. Johnson for bringing inspirational and relevant information to the student population.



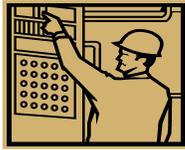
**Roberson Community College Office Practice Instructor, Bruce Holmes, Education Director, Marty Wase , Asst. Defensive Coach Don Johnson, Roberson Community College ESL Instructor, Jay Watson**

**Lumberton Correctional Institution**

On May 24, 2007, Lumberton Correctional in conjunction with Robeson Community College recognized those students who have reached milestones in their lives. At Lumberton Correctional, there are a variety of educational opportunities. The facility offers four vocational programs;



Carpentry

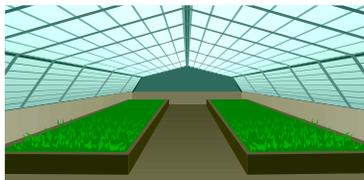


HVAC



Electrical Wiring

Horticulture Technology



Once a student has completed three of the four courses offered at the facility, they are presented a Vocational Training certificate from the Community College. This year, five students received certificates. The facility also offers basic skills education in the form of ABE, GED prep, and ESL. During the course of the year, twenty-nine students completed their GED. However, only sixteen were available for recognition. The guest speaker for the graduation ceremony was Reverend William C. Platt, a volunteer Chaplain at Lumberton Correctional, as well as a member of the Community Resource Council.

**Lumberton Correctional Institution Graduates**



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## Harnett Correctional Institution

On February 23, 2007 Harnett Correctional Institution held its commencement exercise. Nineteen students received their GED Certificates through Central Carolina Community College. Mr. Bill Tyson, CCCC Provost, Harnett County Campus, delivered the commencement address.

### Electronic Servicing Technology ( EST )



EST students hard at work on a malfunctioning computer. Troubleshooting is the main thrust of this program.



Students learning from each other's methods.



Asking for help when needed is always a good practice when troubleshooting.

### Carpentry



Students putting the final touches on a display cabinet for Central Carolina Community College.



Student starting construction for a Futon sofa bed for Central Carolina Foundation Auction.



Students cleaning up picnic tables recently constructed for a local church.



**“Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime”  
—Author unknown**

**Welding Technology**



Student completing a vertical position arc welding test.



Students put final touches on deluxe pig cooker for a local church.

**Automotive Systems Technology**



Students blueprinting a Chevy V-8 engine.



Students reassembling a crankcase.



Students preparing an engine for a test run.

**Electrical/Electronics Technology**



Student putting the finishing touches on a project that controls a reversible motor complete with indicator lights and safety interlocks.



Students learning the fundamentals of residential wiring.

**Masonry**



Students in all of our classes take great pride in their accomplishments.

**Quote**

***“Don’t let People, Problems, & Pain from your Past Pause your Present, Punish your Person, Prison your Potential, & Paralyze your Progress ...begin walking boldly into...your future...do not allow others to hold ...you back”***

***- Angela Davis***

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## Polk Correctional Institution

On April 12, 2007, Polk Correctional Institution held its Community Resource/Transition Day Program for students and staff. The purpose of this program was to expose students and staff to available programs and services within the community that would assist students in transitioning smoothly back into society.



**Ms. Pauletta Williams, Literature Instructor**

The program began at 9:00 a.m. with a welcome from Mrs. Rose True, Director of Educational Services for DOP and was concluded at 4:00 p.m... The moderator for the event was PCI Programs Supervisor Mrs. Jennifer Councilman.



**Director of Educational Services, Mrs. Rose True**

During the morning session, each presenter gave an overview of the various services his/her program provided, and the students jotted down questions to be asked at the afternoon session. In the afternoon session, the students rotated from booth to booth asking detailed questions of the individual presenters. Each student was given a Community Resource/Transition folder in which to place his materials. The resource materials gathered during the sessions would be very beneficial to the students' planning efforts prior to release as well as their post release.



### Participants Included

- Local Community Colleges – VGCC and DTCC
- EEOC-Work Opportunity Tax Credit
- Health and Human Resource Services (HIV Prevention) (Medical and Dental)
- Division of Prison Personnel Staff (TAN, Job Start, and Transition Staff)
- State Employees' Credit Union
- Employment Security Commission
- Community Outreach Programs
  - ~ Christian Faith Center Angel Food Ministry
  - ~ Lost Sheep Outreach Ministry
  - ~ Community Success Initiative
  - ~ JRUTH
  - ~ Lost Generation Task Force
  - ~ Durham Re-Entry Partnership Program

A significant highlight of the event was the presence of the North Carolina Mobile Job Link bus, which students and staff were given onsite demonstrations of internet access information related to job preparation and job availability within the state. Also, attached was information on how to determine the location of the roving bus.



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**Other Highlights of the Community  
Resource/Transition Day**



**Polk's Education Director John McKoy**



**Education Specialist Arthur Clark  
From Educational Services**



**Transition Teacher Sheila Scott  
From Educational Services**



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**Polk's Spring 2007 Graduation**

Polk Correctional Institution held its semi-annual graduation ceremony on June 6, 2007. The ceremony was attended by PCI teachers and administrators, DOC Central Office administrators, Vance-Granville Community College administrators, Butner community officials, members of various boards, along with parents and relatives of the graduates. The graduation theme was *"You are Marked for Excellence and Success with Your Endurance"*. The guest speaker, Mr. Dan Stieneke, Chief Deputy to the Secretary for the Department of Correction, offered many valuable insights to the graduates and encouraged positive strategies for future success. PCI certificates included 28 General Education Development (GED), 18 Commercial Cleaning, 17 Horticulture, and 25 Computer Applications. The graduation ceremony was followed by a reception.



**2007 Annual Inmate Creative Writing Contest**

A Creative Writing Contest was held at Polk Correctional Institution from April through June 2007. Numerous inmates participated and expressed themselves in written communication. The categories were essay, poetry, and short story. The administrators, principal, and teachers approved five poems, four essays, and three short stories. The poems were entitled;

- \* [Daughter](#)      \* [Precious Baby, Child of God](#)
- \* [Problems](#)      \* [I Reach](#)      \* [Eyes of a Queen](#)

The essays were entitled;

- \* [From Slavery to Freedom](#)      \* [They Said I Couldn't do It](#)
- \* [True is to Be Real](#)      \* [From Slavery to Freedom](#)

And finally the short stories were entitled:

- \* [Making a Difference through Life's Struggle](#)
- \* [Their #1 Dream](#)      \* [My Ups and Downs](#)

Polk's inmates were delighted to have an opportunity to showcase their skills on a statewide scale.

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## NORTH CAROLINA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN



*“Delay, doesn’t mean Denial”*

When you think of May and June, what normally comes to mind is, warm weather, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, and weddings. But a big time of the season is graduation. As most would agree, graduation is just a normal event celebrated most by the actual candidates and those awaiting a loved one crossing the stage. However, the graduation ceremony held for the Shaw University CAPE Program at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women (NCCIW) was anything but ordinary.

The celebration began with a dinner for the graduates on Wednesday evening, where Warden Harvey spoke to the graduates about having met a milestone in their educational journey, and her theme was “Turning Negative into a Positive.” The festivities continued with a ceremony held in the Chapel at NCCIW on, Thursday, June 7, 2007 at 1:00 pm.

The guest speaker for this unusually enthusiastic and spirited ceremony was none other than Forsyth County District Court Judge, The Honorable Denise Hartsfield. Her theme, *“Delay, doesn’t mean Denial”* was both inspiring and memorable. Her lively presentation captured both graduates and the listening audience as she gave meaning and validity to her point with real life anecdotes from her past. Particularly memorable was her recount of a conversation she’d held with her father about going back and finishing Law school. She recalls for us her hesitation about going back because she would be 35 by the time she’d finish. Her father’s response was, “Well, you can be 35 anywhere.” So, like the women who were graduating on this day, Ms. Hartsfield, the accomplished judge, did not allow a delay in her plan to stop her from achieving her goal.

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Her story continues as she discusses how many of the young people who stand in front of her enter into the correctional system. She adds, ‘Now you can let this sentence be an obstacle, or you can make this an opportunity to better yourself’. And as Judge Hartsfield reflects, she said, “I challenged those young people with that statement because of the words my grandmother used to say, ‘What the devil meant for Evil, God means for Good’. “I really didn’t understand what she meant at the time, but it makes plenty of sense to me now.”

Judge Hartsfield concluded with heart-warming words of inspiration and motivation to the graduates, telling them to not let this be their last graduation, and challenged each to inspire someone else to complete their education.

Final comments were made by our commanding official, Warden of NCCIW, Ms. Annie Harvey. She spoke to how fitting the theme and message were and reiterated to the graduates how proud and impressed she was of their accomplishments. She further encouraged the graduates to make learning a life long experience.

By the end of the commencement, fifteen women became alumnae of Shaw University: ten received an Associate of Arts Degrees and five were bestowed with a Bachelor of Arts.

BY: **Gretchen Harvey**

### *Humor in the Work Place*



**We** all get heavier as we get older because there’s a lot more information in our heads. So I’m not fat, I’m just really intelligent and my head couldn’t hold any more so it started filling up the rest of me!

**That’s my story and I’m sticking to it!**

*Editor’s Note: Please submit your articles, news, or quotes by November 2, 2007. Thanks*