

# Correction News

May-June 2008

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The 2008 Probation/Parole and Community Corrections Officers of the Year are, from left, **Hal McNeely**, District 10; **Avery McKeithen**, District 19D; **Emmett Stroud**, District 4A; **Mary Hodges**, District 24; **Anita Brown**, District 26; **Audra Basaldu**, District 12; **Joseph Liberatos**, District 10; and **Denise Gaskill**, District 3B.

## 2008 Community Corrections officers of the year

Eight employees from throughout the state were honored as Department of Correction Probation/Parole and Community Supervision Officers of the Year during a ceremony July 15 at the Office of Staff Development and Training in Apex.

Gov. Michael Easley had proclaimed July 13-19 as Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers' Week for 2008, recognizing more than 2,000 community corrections officers who supervise more than 118,000

criminal offenders in North Carolina communities.

The officers were cited for various accomplishments, including their dedication to helping offenders, efforts in community policing, personal service to their communities, outstanding contributions to the department and service above and beyond the call of duty.

*Read why each was named an Officer of the Year on pages 4 and 5.*



**Boyd Bennett**  
director,  
Division  
of Prisons



**David Osborne**  
asst. director,  
Division of  
Prisons



**Paul Gross**  
accreditation  
manager



**Mary Beth  
Carroll**  
accreditation  
manager

## 10 prisons on brink of ACA accreditation

Affirming its belief in and commitment to excellence, the Division of Prisons has taken a huge step toward a goal of earning professional accreditation from the American Correctional Association for 10 institutions – Alexander, Bertie, Central Prison, Foothills, Lanesboro, Marion, Maury, NCCIW, Pasquotank and Scotland.

The Central Office earned its accreditation earlier this year, and the 10 prisons recently passed ACA accreditation field tests, which qualifies each of them to meet with ACA commissioners for hearings that will officially determine their certification. The hearings are set for Aug. 9 during the ACA's annual conference, to be held this year in New Orleans.

Under the leadership of Division of Prisons Director **Boyd Bennett**, the accreditation process has been led by **David Osborne**, assistant director, and **Mary Beth Carroll** and **Paul Gross**, accreditation managers.

Accreditation represents the satisfactory completion of a rigorous self-evaluation, followed by an outside review by a team of independent auditors, according to Robert Garvey, who chairs the Commission on Accredi-

See **Accreditation**, page 3

## Breaking the Cycle of Crime 'No new crimes, no new victims'

Sec. **Theodis Beck** has established a two-tier advisory and implementation system of top Department of Correction administrators, who will ensure management of offender treatment focuses on both public safety and successful offender transition to society.

The Offender Management and Transition Council will be a policy and advisory panel, which will oversee an Operations Committee that will carry out the council's directives.

Objectives of the council are:

- Provide strategies and direction for the agency's offender management and transition services.
- Foster collaboration across divisions, as well as with external partners.
- Formulate a seamless and unified direction for offender management and transition services by:
  - ▲ Establishing specific goals for achieving successful outcomes with offenders.
  - ▲ Communicating those goals to staff and external partners.

The Operations Committee can be viewed as the tactical planning group that translates ideas and theories about offender management and transition into plans of action.

DOC is working toward offender management and transition that is seamless, continuous, consistent, collaborated and cohesive. Key to accomplishing this will be a shift to evidence-based policies and practices.

An evidence-based approach is essentially the objective, balanced and responsible use of current scientific evidence to guide correctional strategies in a manner that will facilitate the most effective outcome.

As Secretary Beck has stated, "It is doing what is good and right because we have done our homework and know from measurable results what is good and right. We no longer have to go by 'gut-feeling' or intu-

See **Transition**, page 3





# Spotlight

## Community Corrections District 20A

Judicial District 20A has experienced important changes during the past year.

Barbara Orr, a 28-year veteran, became the judicial district manager in April 2007. She was succeeded by Jason Graham, a 14-year veteran, as a chief probation/parole officer.

Also, Stanly County joined District 20-A, bringing 14 new employees to the district. The combined district has 44 employees: the judicial district manager, an office assistant IV, four chief probation/parole officers, four office assistant IIIs, two community service coordinators, along with 12 probation/parole officer Is, 15 probation/parole officer IIs and IIIs and five surveillance officers, all of whom supervise 2,200 offenders with Richmond, Anson and Stanly counties.

Staff members have been training in and implementing the Sex Offender Management Program, involving the use of GPS (global positioning satellite) technology, to track the movements of certain eligible sex offenders as mandated by recent legislation. This program created a new challenge in setting up a new response team in each county in addition to the Electronic House Arrest Response Teams already in place.

Along with these changes, treatment is being emphasized on other special populations, including Community Threat Groups (gangs), domestic violence and offenders who are still in school.

Some of the district staff's highlights are:

- ▶ The Stanly County Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP) was honored with the Division III Program of Excellence award, tying with Iredell County this year. The honor is a recognition of the work of Allen Lawrence, sex offender program manager, who has been widely accredited locally for making the CJPP one of the most successful programs in the state.

- ▶ The Richmond County CJPP supports Path of Hope in Lexington and Samaritan Colony in Rockingham, as well as local meetings, which have demonstrated an astounding 82% success rate in addiction rehabilitation. The success resulted in a funding increase.

- ▶ The Richmond County unit has also averaged four absconder apprehensions per month, due to cooperation between DCC staff, local law enforcement and the local newspaper, which published absconder information and pictures in the newspaper.

- ▶ Two officers serve on the Richmond County Gang Task Force, which was organized to exchange information among law enforcement regarding the rising threat of street gangs. Chief Probation/Parole Officer Graham chairs the group, which is also served by **Danita McNeill**, probation/parole officer II. Also, spearheaded by DCC with the support of the community and local law enforcement, Anson County has started a Gang Task Force to combat the threat of gangs in that area. Chairing the task force is **Cathaleen Little**; also on the panel are **Robin Smith**, pro-



**Barbara Orr**, right, judicial district manager, with **Artis Sellers**, chief probation/parole officer, Stanly County; and **Karen Weatherford**, office assistant IV, District Office in Rockingham.



Left, **Jason Graham**, chief probation/parole officer, and **Denise Smith**, office assistant III, both in Richmond County. Lower left, **James Hadden**, chief probation/parole officer, and **Donna Grupe**, office assistant III, both in Richmond County. Lower right, Anson County Chief Probation Officer **Jim Boylin**, center, with **Sandra Ricketts**,



left, community service coordinator, Anson and Richmond counties; and **Christie Thuleen**, office assistant III, Anson County.

Probation/parole officer IIs, left photo, **Dennis Goins**, Richmond County. Right photo, from left, front, **Selene Almond**, (community threat group officer), Richmond County; middle, **Karen Wilson**, (domestic violence officer), and **Danita McNeill**, (community threat group officer), both in Richmond County; back, **Neil Parrisher**, (sex offender officer), and **Rhonda Sessions**, both in Richmond County.



District 20A probation/parole officer IIs: Upper left, **Wheeler Buckingham**, Anson County. Lower left, **Andria Lambert**, (domestic violence officer), Stanly County. Middle photo, **Tamra Gallimore**, (community threat group officer); **Wanda Sides**, (sex offender officer); and **Mike Mixon**, all of Stanly County. Right photo, **Cathaleen Little**, (community threat group officer), and **Robin Waisner**, (domestic violence officer), both in Anson County.



## Spotlight



District 20 surveillance officers: Left photo, **Jeff Hill**, Stanly County. Right photo, **Larry Blackwelder**, Stanly County; **Wayne Johnson**, Richmond County; and **Leroy Reid**, Anson County.



District 20A probation/parole officer Is: Left photo, all in Anson County, **Collier Burns**, **Robert Burr** and **Robin Smith**. Below, left, **Dolly McCormick**, Richmond County; and below right, **Chavis Everett**, probation/parole officer I, Richmond County.



Left photo, in Stanly County, **Karrie Heller**, **Benita McGuire** and **Duane Rowland**, each a probation/parole officer I.

Right, **Riquita Quick** and **Al Williams**, each a probation/parole officer I in Richmond County.



Standing, both in Stanly County, **Kashonda Cason**, community service coordinator; and **Amy Ford**, office assistant III. Seated, **Amanda Brigman**, intern, Stanly County.



### District 20A, from page 2

bation/parole I, and **Jim Boylin**, chief probation/parole officer.

- ▶ Richmond County DCC annually participates and supports through the local community college their Job Fair for county Middle School students, Truck Day for county First Graders, Summer Intern Program for Teachers, and the yearly student intern program.
- ▶ Surveillance Officer Jeff Hill and probation/parole officer II **Dennis Goins** during the past year have been away with military duties and have now return to their duties.
- ▶ Special Olympics Torch Run support.
- ▶ District Wellness Day.

### Accreditation, from page 1

tation for Corrections.

"Every profession strives to provide high quality service to society," he said. "To know that you, your staff, and other officials are complying with the requirements of the accreditation process is indeed a statement of a high level of commitment to the staff and persons under your care."

With accreditation involving every aspect of prison management, two accreditation manager positions were established to assist division, region and institution staff by coordinating policy development, researching and recommending revisions to policies and procedures, integrating professional correctional practices as recommended by the ACA, and ensuring policies and procedures comply with North Carolina laws and agency requirements.

Secretary Theodis Beck noted that ACA standards address services, programs and operations essential to effective correctional management.

"Through accreditation, an agency is able to maintain a balance between protecting the public and providing an environment that safeguards the life, health and safety of staff and offenders," he said.

Prisons Director Bennett, along with Secretary Beck, pointed out that the award will be a beginning rather than a conclusion to improvement.

"A three-year accreditation does not signal the end of our involvement in the accreditation process," Bennett said. "During the award period, our staff will work to improve any deficiencies identified during the audit and maintain continuous compliance with the standards."

Secretary Beck said that sustaining the achievement will be just as critical as reaching it.

"This is just the beginning of our journey, however, for the true test of excellence is the test of time."

### Transition, from page 1

ition alone or do things just because we've always done them that way."

With this approach, divisions within the agency will be able to work collaboratively from a common risk assessment tool and one transferable case management plan. Goals and objectives that are geared toward successful offender transition will be measurable and they can be tracked throughout the course of an offender's progression.

Members of the Offender Management and Transition Council are the secretary, chief deputy secretary (**Dan Stieneke**), deputies secretary (**Bill Stovall** and **Tracy Little**), the Parole Commission chair (**Charles Mann**) and the directors of the Division of Alcohol and Chemical Dependency Programs (**Virginia Price**), Correction Enterprises (**Karen Brown**), Division of Community Corrections (**Robert Lee Guy**) and Division of Prisons (**Boyd Bennett**).

Bennett said the council is an important step forward for DOC.

"This council to lay the foundation for a significant change in the way we manage offenders and transition inmates back into our communities," he said. "If successful, the work of this council will fundamentally change the way we all do our work, and will ultimately help offenders break the cycle of crime."

The Operations Committee will have 25 members: DOP's five regional directors and its programs chief; DCC's four divisional administrators and its programs chief; a district manager from DACDP; the DART-Cherry administrator; three staff members from the Office of Transition Services; two CE industry directors; a Parole Commission administrator; one Central Engineering inmate construction program manager; an Office of Staff Development and Training curriculum manager; the director of the Office of Victim Services; an application development manager from Management Information Services and the special assistant to secretary in the Secretary's Office.

**Nicole Sullivan**, who oversees the Office of Transition Services, foresees extraordinary results.

"We're already doing good work," she said. "But the new direction as set forth by the Council and strategies developed by the Operations Committee will push us forward to do great work!"

As the process continues, "local re-entry councils" may be formed with assistance from local agencies. These would provide outreach and advice to external partners regarding participation in offender management.

# Why they are Community Corrections officers of the year



**Anita Brown**  
*intensive probation/parole officer,  
District 26*

**Anita Brown** was recognized for her work in supervising offenders on electronic monitoring and electronic house arrest. She is known for her willingness to respond at any hour to electronic monitoring equipment alerts and malfunctions.

She has also served in other specialized probation roles, including supervising offenders with domestic violence convictions and offenders involved in the structured day program. She recently began a new assignment working with offenders sentenced in Mecklenburg County's mental health court.

Officer Brown often says that her job is not about what is best for her but what is best for the offenders she supervises.

## Mary Hodges

*probation/parole officer I,  
District 24*

If anyone needs an example as a reminder of what a "real go-getter" is like,

they need only look at **Mary Hodges**, a probation/parole officer I, in District 24.

She has been a superior performer in her work unit. Most significantly, Hodges is a tremendous asset in helping manage the district's heavy court schedule, intake assignments and other similar responsibilities. She also keeps judges up-to-date on such activities as domestic violence and interstate compact transfer cases. In fact, Hodges has become the unit's specialist on interstate compact.

She was instrumental in the development of a Division policy for deaf offender interpretation services.

Officer Hodges provides hours of valuable assistance to interns who work with the office through Appalachian State University's Criminal Justice Department.

She gave similar invaluable on-the-job training time to a new officer.

Officer Hodges, the district's only firearms-certified female officer, serves on the team for electronic house arrest and GPS-monitored offenders. She has used her writing skills to create useful communications.

She is described as always effective, flexible and pleasant.



## Audra Basaldu, intermediate probation officer, District 12

Intermediate Probation Parole Officer **Audra Basaldu** consistently displays her professionalism and selfless, caring attitude as she normally conducts her duties. But on two recent occasions, she showed why she is such a good ambassador for DCC's District 12 in Fayetteville.

In September 2007, as she and another officer were returning from a home contact, they came across a disabled vehicle belonging to an elderly gentleman. After helping move the car from the street, Officer Basaldu helped the man get roadside assistance and then gave him \$20 to help pay for gas.



Another time, she and another officer came across a domestic violence incident where a man was attacking a young female in the middle of the street.

With little regard for her own safety, Officer Basaldu assisted in breaking up the assault and provided comfort to the victim until police

arrived.

Fluent in Spanish, she serves as an interpreter in the district and translated the basic probation rules into Spanish. She also serves as assistant wellness coordinator, helps produce a wellness newsletter and helps planning activities to increase morale in the district.

## Denise Gaskill, sex offender officer, District 3B

Officer **Denise Gaskill** is known as the "go to" person in the Carteret County Clerk's Office because of her knowledge of the job and her willingness to assist her District 3B peers and supervisors.

She has volunteered to supervise the sex offender caseload upon the retirement of the current officer and has served as the county's Drug Treatment Court officer.

Her tireless, no-complaints assistance draws the respect of fellow officers, law enforcement, judicial officials and other county agencies. As one of two Carteret intermediate officers, she volunteered to become a mentor for a female offender who entered the Tarheel Challenge Program and continues to assist the offender in the program.

She was recognized for her work in creating a program services guide which includes all aspects of treatment for offenders on probation in the three district counties.

Officer Gaskill began her career in the District Attorney's Office, where she met her husband, James, a Morehead City police officer.

The day after she gave birth to her son, she reported directly from the hospital for a job interview for a PPO position in Carteret County. Obviously, she got the job.



## Joe Liberatos, community threat group coordinator, District 10

**Joe Liberatos** is recognized for his work in Wake County, where he served until recently as the county's community threat group coordinator.

A probation officer for seven years, Liberatos sought out work with young offenders involved in gang activity early in his career; it was an area where he believed he could make an impact. He volunteered to be one of the county's first community threat group officers and later became the



county's first CTG coordinator.

Along the way, he has developed excellent working relationships with local and federal law officers. Known as "Mr. Joe" to those he supervises, he has gained the respect of offenders, his fellow officers and supervisors.

Liberatos was recently promoted to a chief probation/parole officer in Durham County.

## Avery McKeithan, surveillance officer, District 19B

According to his nomination, Surveillance Officer **Avery McKeithan** "works to get the job done." Here's how does that.

First, he brings experience as a correctional officer and supervisor, not to mention multiple training disciplines as a certified correctional instructor. He even trains trainers in CRDT self-defense. McKeithan keeps intensive offenders under a careful watch, checking curfew compliance.

He works on a warrant team with chief probation officers to turn up absconders and other hard-to-find probationers, sometimes in the wee hours of the morning. He also took the initiative to schedule ride-alongs with other probation

officers, helping to serve warrants and find missing probationers.

You'll also find Officer McKeithan at the Day Reporting Center, keeping track of intensive probationers and sex offenders, conducting searches and random drug screens and ensuring the general safety of the Day Reporting Center.

Meanwhile, he delivers it all with a positive attitude with staff and offenders.





## Why they are Community Corrections officers of the year

### Emmett Stroud

*surveillance officer, District 4A*

**Emmett Stroud** maintains the department's mission of promoting public safety, and he does not shy away from helping his fellow citizen during the course of performing his duties.



In September 2007, while escorting an offender's mother from the Duplin County Jail to her car, the woman suddenly felt faint and grabbed his arm. Without warning, she fell backward and Officer Stroud acted quickly to prevent injury until medical personnel could arrive.

On another occasion earlier this year, he located a missing Alzheimer's patient who had wandered from a nursing facility in Beulaville. As he helped her from a ditch beside the road, the elderly woman said, "I've been looking for you!" Stroud responded: "I've been looking for you, too!"

He displays his courageous nature even in the face of personal struggles with pain from a cancerous illness which resulted in surgeries and treatment. Despite an option to apply for disability, his courage and determination led him to remain on the job, and he continues to be a vital part of District 4A's workforce.

### Hal McNeely

*surveillance officer, District 21*

Everybody wants someone like Hal McNeely in their district.

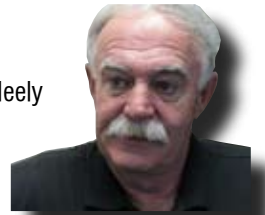
Known for his dependable "can-do" attitude, McNeely is a certified instructor in defense and firearms training, provides in-service training and, as an emergency medical technician, serves on the division's Emergency Response Team.

He provides logistics for the movement of furniture and other assets within the district.

Officer McNeely has established outstanding relationships between the district and local, state and federal law enforcement officials. He was assigned in June to work on a US Marshall Service fugitive search operation, helping to apprehend dangerous offenders.

McNeely goes beyond the call of duty to help offenders, as he did during an extreme cold period last winter. Officer McNeely helped an offender find a way to stay warm after his electricity was turned off.

He quickly identifies and responds to the needs of others. He is dependable and thorough. McNeely's attitude is positive, and his approach to a task is enthusiastic.



### New probation/parole officers

New probation/parole officers were sworn in at a ceremony on June 5 in Raleigh. From left, front row, **Tracy Twisdale**, District 9B, Vance; **Julie Thomas**, District 28, Buncombe; **Merrian Sanders**, District 8A, Lenoir; **Dennis Chapman**, District 28, Buncombe; **Stacey Miguel-Jordan**, District 21, Forsyth; **Michael Greene**, District 10, Wake; **Jaquetta Ingram**, District 26, Mecklenburg; and **Donald "Keith" Rummage**, District 20B, Union. Middle row, **Alyssa Marsh**, District 13, Brunswick; **Amy Clark**, District 3A, Pitt; **Karrie Heller**, District 20A, Stanly; **Kammeetrice Farrell**, District 18, Guilford; **Angela Reece**, District 28, Buncombe; **Laura Stracuzzi**, District 19C, Rowan; and **Brian Jones**, District 11, Lee. Back row, **Timothy Hopkins**, District 26, Mecklenburg; **Barry Threlkeld**, District 12, Cumberland; **Jason Gibson**, District 17A, Rockingham; **Jeffrey Saphara**, District 5, Pender; **Harry Raines**, District 4A, Duplin; **Jermaine Cromwell**, District 3A, Pitt; **Edward Hummel**, District 26, Mecklenburg; and **Frederick Reeves**, District 10, Wake.

### A sweet mountain of potatoes



Staff and inmates from Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women helped sort 20 tons of sweet potatoes for Manna Food Bank. The potatoes needed sorting and loading after having been dumped in the backyard of Black Mountain First Baptist Church. In a quick response to the unexpected call for help, the prison's programs department gathered three staff members and 10 inmates to help ensure that the food was distributed between Manna Food Bank and several local ministries which would give it to the needy. Staff members helping were case managers **Dana Bartlett** and **Cassandra Howell** and Social Worker **Marcus Wall**.

### Enterprises program turn out more welders

The Department of Correction has graduated nine more inmates as journeyman combination welders. In its five years of existence, the program has turned out 22 such welders, at a 75% graduation rate.

The nine inmates were welding apprentices at Correction Enterprises' Metal Products Plant at Brown Correctional Institution, where the graduation ceremony was held in April. Among the guests at the event was Cherie Berry, N.C. Commissioner of Labor.

Keynote speaker was **Karen Brown**, Correction Enterprises director. Using the acronym ADVICE – for attitude, direction, values, interest, commitment and encouragement – Brown urged the graduates to have hope and to remember that they are "the captains of their fates and the masters of their souls."

Also participating in the ceremony were **Bill Stovall**, deputy secretary; **Arthur Clark**, DOC extension education specialist; and Charles Bell, welding instructor at Central Carolina Community College and Harnett Correctional Institution.

The graduates also heard from a fellow student who spoke of a new direction and opportunities presented by programs such as the journeyman welder apprenticeship.

The Welding Apprenticeship Program is a partnership between Harnett Correctional Institution and the Enterprise Metal Products Plant, which is managed by **Clayton Wright**.

To become an inmate journeyman, the program requires the completion 320 hours of classroom instruction at Harnett Correctional Institution's Welding Technology program. Afterward is an on-the-job training phase at Metal Products Plant, under the instruction of Enterprise welding supervisor and apprentice sponsor **Richard "Nic" Nicholson**.



## First superintendent named at Swannanoa Correctional Center

ASHEVILLE | **Debbie M. Hughes** has been named the first superintendent for Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women, a new prison that has opened to replace the Black Mountain facility for women.



**Debbie Hughes**

Swannanoa Correctional, established to meet the growing population of female offenders, opened with 80 adult inmates, but is expected to accommodate more than 450 by 2010.

*Victoria Justice*, now retired, was the last superintendent for Black Mountain Correctional Institution.

Hughes began working with the Department of Correction as a correctional officer in 1993, was promoted to programs supervisor in 1995 and then to assistant superintendent in 1999. She has completed the National Institute of Corrections' Correctional Leadership for Women training and is enrolled in the N.C. Public Managers course.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in philosophy/religion at Appalachian State University, Hughes earned a master's degree in Christian education from Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Va. Before beginning her corrections career, she was a director of Christian education in Indiana and Florida and assistant director of a church child development center in Asheville.

Hughes' father, Marcus, is a retired Avery-Mitchell Correctional Institution administrator.

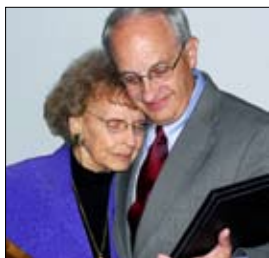
She is a member of Asheville's First Baptist Church, Buncombe County Democratic Women, the State Employees Association of North Carolina and the American Correctional Association. Hughes is also active in environmental advocacy, has been an organic gardener for 28 years and raises llamas for recreational hiking.

## Teacher, mentor honored

Millie Gordon, left, gives **Steve Bailey**,

Division of Prisons Western Region director, a heartfelt hug as he honors her 25 years of devotion as a volunteer music teacher and mentor for inmates. Bailey presented to the honoree the Old North State Award from Gov. Mike Easley. Friends, family and colleagues attended the surprise presentation. She does not plan to slow down.

Of her service she said, "I love every day that I go through those bars. I can make a difference in somebody's life."



**Robert Jones**

## New leader named at prison in Hyde County

SWANQUARTER | **Robert G. Jones** is the new superintendent at Hyde Correctional Institution.

The prison houses 750 minimum and medium custody male offenders and has 235 officers and administrative personnel. In addition to public safety, Hyde Correctional serves the public with two Community Work Crews and five Road Squad Units.

Jones began his career in 1981 as a correctional officer at Caledonia Correctional Institution, where he rose through the ranks to unit manager in 1992. He was promoted to captain at Pasquotank Correctional Institution in 1995, to superintendent at Gates Correctional Center in 2002 and to assistant superintendent for custody and operations at Bertie Correctional Institution in 2005.

While serving in the U.S. Army, Jones was a military police officer, and he attended the University of Texas.

The Roanoke Rapids native and his wife, Tammy, reside in Elizabeth City. They have a daughter, Brittany, and a son, Spencer. He enjoys hunting and golf.

## Officer has a 'Vision' for Craven youths



**Victor Taylor**

New Bern children and youths recently were exposed to a broad range of influences to point them in positive life directions with the help of a correctional officer and his non-profit organization, Vision Forward.

**Victor Taylor** of Craven Correctional Institution and Vision Forward in June presented career day at one of New Bern's housing projects, demonstrating to the young people examples of how they become successful professionals and sports stars. On hand to talk directly with the children were local elected officials, a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, law enforcement officials, correctional officials, a fireman and a professional football player, Guy Whimper Jr. of the New York Giants.

Additionally, an inmate spoke about prison life, and the youngsters experienced riding in a Department of Correction inmate transfer bus.

Other activities included information booths, free food, a skate-a-thon, a dance contest, a gospel concert and a basketball tournament.

Taylor said Vision Forward was created three years ago "to help prepare the youth of today



**John Sapper**

## John Sapper named to help manage DOP Eastern operations

GREENVILLE | **John Sapper** is the new Eastern Region operations manager for the Division of Prisons, making him responsible for the direct

supervision of the Carteret, Duplin and Gates correctional facilities. He had been assistant superintendent at Rowan Correctional Center since 2005.

Additionally, Sapper supervises the region's canine handlers and assists Region Director *Danny Safrit* with the overall operations of the Eastern District, which includes 14 prisons in 11 counties.

Beginning his career as a correctional officer in 1989 at the now-closed Yadkin Correctional Center, where he was promoted to sergeant before being transferred to Piedmont Correctional Institution in 1999. He was promoted to lieutenant at Piedmont Correctional in 2000 and then to assistant superintendent at Forsyth Correctional Center in 2003.

In addition to a bachelor's degree in business administration from High Point University, Sapper is also a graduate of the Correctional Leadership Development Program and has attended the National Institute of Corrections' senior level leadership training course. He also holds several certifications in correctional instruction.

Sapper and wife, Kris, have four children – Sean, Heather, Andrew, and Lukas – who are active in softball, soccer and basketball. Sapper is active in his church and Masonic lodge, and enjoys playing golf, playing guitar and assembling plastic models.

In his new position, Sapper succeeds *Darlyn White*, who was promoted to administrator at Maury



## DOP cites employees for service

At the Division of Prisons' annual Administration and Central Region employee appreciation luncheon in June, several employees were recognized for their years of service. DOP Director *Boyd Bennett*, right

in both photos above, presented 30-year certificates to **Carl Battle**, a disciplinary hearing officer at Tillery Correctional Center, and to **Mary Lu Rogers**, chief of Auxiliary Services. Others recognized were: For 25 years, **Phyllis Bass**, transfer coordinator; **Linda Cross**, clinical pharmacy specialist; **Susan Dunker**, nursing assistant SVCS Director, Health Services; **Donald Mobley**, classification coordinator; **Larry Ray**, dental director. For 30 years, **Connie Cagle**, outreach nurse; **Cordelia Clark**, special programs manager; and **Elaine Word**, administrative secretary, Central Region Office. For 35 years, **Fay Lassiter**, Program Services assistant chief; **Robert C. Lewis**, assistant director, Support Services.

## Hoke officer called for flood relief

Correctional Officer **Zina Manning** of Hoke Correctional Institution was activated by FEMA in June for a 30-day assignment assisting with flooding relief in Wisconsin.

## Correction News

is an employee newsletter published by the North Carolina Department of Correction's Public Affairs Office. If you have questions, comments or story ideas, please contact George Dudley at [dgh02@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:dgh02@doc.state.nc.us), or 919.716.3713.

### Administration

**Michael Easley**  
Governor

**Theodis Beck**  
Secretary of Correction

**Keith Aereo**  
Director of Public Affairs

### What you do just might be interesting

Corrections.com wants to know what you do in your "Time Off Corrections." Tell the editor, and your story may get published. Send up 400 words about your hobby, other job or such, by Aug. 13 in an e-mail or Word attachment to [editor@corrections.com](mailto:editor@corrections.com).