



The

RESOURCE

A publication of the Mississippi Department of Corrections



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MDOC MISSION STATEMENT

To provide and promote public safety through efficient and effective offender custody, care, control and treatment consistent with sound correctional principles and constitutional practices.



Message from the Commissioner

Mississippi Department of Corrections Employees:

As I pledged to you, I worked aggressively and tirelessly this past legislative session to pursue a salary realignment. The approved \$374 million budget, however, falls short of what the agency originally requested. Nevertheless, this amount has not deterred me from finding money to provide a pay increase for employees. The current pay is abysmal for the job you are required to do. In the new budget year, hard decisions will have to be made. I intend to renew my request for better pay for you in the 2016 legislative session.

Many of you may have concerns about Senate Bill 2804 because it exempts the agency from the Mississippi State Personnel Board for one year. As I told lawmakers, I did not request the exemption for carte blanche to fire people. I requested the exemption for flexibility to reorganize and/or restructure the agency. The MDOC is moving more toward community-based supervision rather than incarceration, and resources will need to be shifted if this trend continues. Any adverse action MDOC takes regarding termination will follow the rules and regulations of the State Personnel Board. You are expected to do your job with professionalism and integrity, and you are to be treated with the respect you deserve.

In these past six months, the Executive Staff and I have worked together to effect many changes, including raising the minimum age to become a corrections officer and increasing firearms training and academy training. We are cracking down even more on contraband with massive shakedowns. We are no longer allowing inmates to assault staff or horde contraband without losing commissary or visitation privileges. We are ending the Joint State County Work Program starting Aug. 1. We are currently looking for an alternative to the RID program in light of legislation. We are negotiating contracts in the interest of saving money, and the list goes on.

In assessing the agency's needs, Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall and I have met with many of you already. I am also creating an advisory board of officers to meet with annually to hear from rank and file employees.

I look forward to us working together. Thank you for all you do.

Marshall Fisher
Commissioner

Officer Killed in the Line of Duty

Sgt. Iris Janet Smith

MDOC Office of Communications

JACKSON – “I got your back. Don’t worry.”

Those are the encouraging words Correctional Officer Iris Smith was known to tell her coworkers at South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Greene County.

She reportedly uttered a similar encouragement before her untimely death on May 25.

Smith, a Lucedale resident, was killed on Memorial Day in an accident on U.S. 49 in Hattiesburg as she was making a “hospital run,” helping to escort an inmate from Greene County Hospital to Forrest General Hospital. The last time an officer was killed in the line of duty was in 1999.

Smith, a sergeant, is being remembered not only because she is the first Mississippi Department of Corrections’ officer killed in the line of duty in more than two decades but also because she had worked for both Institutions (SMCI) and Community Corrections (George County Community Work Center) after being hired Oct. 2, 2000.



Sgt. Iris Smith [Photo provided by Smith’s family]

At both locations, her coworkers described her as warm, sincere, caring and supportive. If someone needed time off or had an emergency to crop up, she would volunteer to step in.

By all accounts, she was committed to the profession she chose

nearly 15 years ago. She was recognized with an Extra Effort award, which is given to an employee for not only having exemplary work attendance but also significantly contributing to morale and productivity and showing a willingness to enhance personal growth.

Smith, who was born in La Celia Honduras, is survived by her daughter, mother, a grandson, a brother and numerous aunts and uncles.

Several of Smith’s fellow officers served as pallbearers at her funeral on May 30 at the George County Funeral Home Chapel in Lucedale.

SMCI Superintendent Jacquelyn Banks said she appreciates the bonding, teamwork and unity of officers demonstrated during the tragic time. She urges Smith’s fellow officers to continue to show their love and support for Smith’s family.

“Her unexpected death shows how fragile life is,” Commissioner Marshall Fisher said. “It’s the kind of news we all dread hearing. Let’s always remember Sgt. Smith and her contribution to the mission of public safety.”

MDOC’s Top Cop

Cecil Lott: The “Go-To” Guy in Region II, Community Corrections

MDOC Office of Communications

JACKSON – He’s called the “go-to guy” in Hinds County Community Corrections. He’s Mississippi Department of Corrections’ 2015 Top Cop. He’s Cecil Lott.

Lott has upheld public safety in Mississippi for more than 20 years. He came to the MDOC in 1997 with more than 10 years of law enforcement experience from working part-time with the Hinds County Sheriff’s Office. He started out as a correctional officer in the Receiving & Classification Center & Transportation Division at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility and was recently promoted to probation/parole agent supervisor for Region II Area II.

He left MDOC in 1999 and spent the next 10 years working with the State Capitol Police and the University of Mississippi Medical Center Campus Police Department. He returned to MDOC as a field officer in Hinds County in 2009.

Lott’s willingness to do more than what is expected has distinguished him from his peers. He has done transports after hours, residence checks, court work and other tasks without hesitation. He has assisted with training new officers and is quick to share his knowledge about policy and procedures.

In nominating him as the 2012 MDOC Employee of the Year, the Community Corrections Nominating Committee noted that Lott “does not see any limits to his job duties, he is



Todd King, Region II Community Corrections director, Hinds County Youth Court Judge Bill Skinner, Cecil Lott, and Corrections Commissioner Marshall Fisher all share a lighthearted moment during the Police Memorial and Appreciation Day at the Mississippi State Trademart on May 14. Also, Fisher received the inaugural George Phillips Public Service Award. Skinner is founding chairman emeritus for the Mississippi Center for Police and Sheriffs, which organizes the program with Central Mississippi Crime Stoppers.

simply here to serve.” As an example, the committee cited how Lott stepped in and offered to work not only his caseload and other responsibilities but also those of a fellow officer who had suffered a serious medical illness.

Lott says he likes “helping people.” His goal, he says, is “to learn how to do my job better and move up within the agency.”

Lott has been a resident of

Rankin County for 19 years, and is a member of Eastside Baptist Church in Pearl. He has been married to Margaret (Carol) Southern for 21 years. Together they have raised one son, a niece and two nephews. Lott is an outdoorsman who enjoys camping, traveling, sightseeing, hunting and fishing in his leisure time.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Pelicia Hall, Chief of Staff



Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall

MDOC Office of Communications

JACKSON – Her face may be new to many at the Mississippi Department of Corrections, but she is not new to corrections.

Pelicia Hall, chief of staff, represented MDOC when she worked for the state Attorney General's Office several years ago as a special assistant attorney general.

She returned to corrections in March after Commissioner Marshall Fisher recruited her from the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, where she was lead counsel. The two worked together when Fisher headed the MBN.

"Pelicia is not a yes person," Fisher said. "I don't want yes people working for me. She is hard working, loyal and smart. She listens and thinks things through. I am honored to have her working for me."

Hall is reputed as tough, though congenial. She gets her tenacity from growing up with brothers in Wayne County.

Hall has practiced law for 14 years. She earned a law degree from Mississippi College School of Law after completing her undergraduate work at Alcorn State University.

"After I got my law degree and passed the bar, I couldn't wait to practice law," said Hall, who clerked for Hinds County Circuit Judge Tomie Green. "I find the law fascinating. We all should want to make a difference, to make the world better than how

we found it. I chose law as my way to make a difference."

Like Fisher, Hall said she has observed how hard MDOC employees work and appreciates the job they do. She agrees that the pay for correctional officers needs to be greatly improved, and worked side by side with the commissioner down the legislative stretch in appealing to lawmakers for better pay during the 2015 legislative session. The two will be back at the state Capitol in 2016 working on higher pay and other corrections-related issues.

"Working for the Department of Corrections is both challenging and enjoyable," Hall said. "It's never boring. One minute we may be talking about a personnel matter, the next it could be a court issue or a public safety matter."



Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall answers students' questions during a visit to a Criminal Justice class at Jackson State University. Hall and other staffers accompanied Commissioner Marshall Fisher.



MDOC's Cecil Lott is among 44 Top Cop 2015 recipients honored at the Mississippi Trademart during Peace Officer's Week on May 14, the day Gov. Phil Bryant proclaimed as Peace Officer's Memorial Day and May 11 - 15 as Police Week.



The Mississippi Highway Patrol Honor Guard is one of the starting features of the 2015 Top Cop program.



Eddie Barthel of the Mississippi State Parole Board is among the 13 state Top Cop recipients.

Re-entry Impacts Services Offered to Offenders



Youlanda Nelson speaks to the Chaplaincy Department on the new provisions under House Bill 585.
Youlanda Nelson
Then-Re-entry Division Director

JACKSON – House Bill 585 brought about sweeping prison reform to Mississippi’s criminal justice system. Two of the many provisions that require direct oversight by the Mississippi Department of Corrections are the development of a re-entry planning process and identification documentation. The goal of each is to equip/connect offenders with resources needed for the successful reintegration into society.

Re-entry does not begin when an offender leaves a correctional facility. It begins upon admission. The re-entry planning process involves pre-release assessments and considers services an offender will need post-incarceration – transitional housing, employment, transportation, state identification, health care, etc. Alleviating some of these barriers helps to decrease the recidivism rate thereby

decreasing operating costs for the agency.

The resources available to meet the needs of those offenders released to community supervision are limited, therefore, MDOC is collaborating with community partners and community-based organizations that will assist in achieving this goal. For quality assurance purposes, the agency provides more oversight to those agencies providing transitional services such as housing. MDOC continues to improve current services and we look forward to expanding future opportunities that will benefit both the agency and the offender.

MDOC also provides state identification documentation – driver’s license/state ID cards – to all eligible offenders being released. Where official identification is required, the offender will have access to those services more rapidly such as with employment searches.

Over the last several months the Re-entry Division has provided training for Institutions and Community Corrections staff. Future training will be conducted for case managers in the private and regional facilities. We want to not only ensure that employees understand the mandates of the law but also that they are carrying them out.



Case managers from the community work centers/restitution centers throughout the state attend the Re-entry Training at Central Office on June 4.

Inmate Population Drop Prompts Changes at Two Prisons

MDOC Office of Communications

JACKSON – The Mississippi Department of Corrections is saving \$1.4 million in its private prison program for fiscal 2015 thanks to a drop in the state inmate population.

The population decrease also has allowed the agency to address staffing shortages and overtime at one of the three state-operated prisons.

MDOC has amended its current contract with Management & Training Corp. (MTC) for operating the Walnut Grove Correctional Facility in Leake County primarily because of the declining inmate population. The change also helps to ensure the agency stays in compliance with a 2012 federal consent decree. The number of inmates has been reduced from 1,300 to 962, 338 fewer inmates.

“Failure to do so would have unnecessarily cost taxpayers money,” said Corrections Commissioner Marshall Fisher.

The inmate reduction at Walnut Grove occurred during the same week 186 inmates were moved from South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville. The change was made in response to the concerns from staff and the community about safety at the state prison.

“The inmates from both prisons have been distributed among other facilities throughout the state,” Fisher said. “Both moves are to provide effective security, custody and control of inmates and to ensure the safety of staff.”

SMCI, opened in 1989, is the newest of the three state-run prisons. It now houses 2,491 inmates.

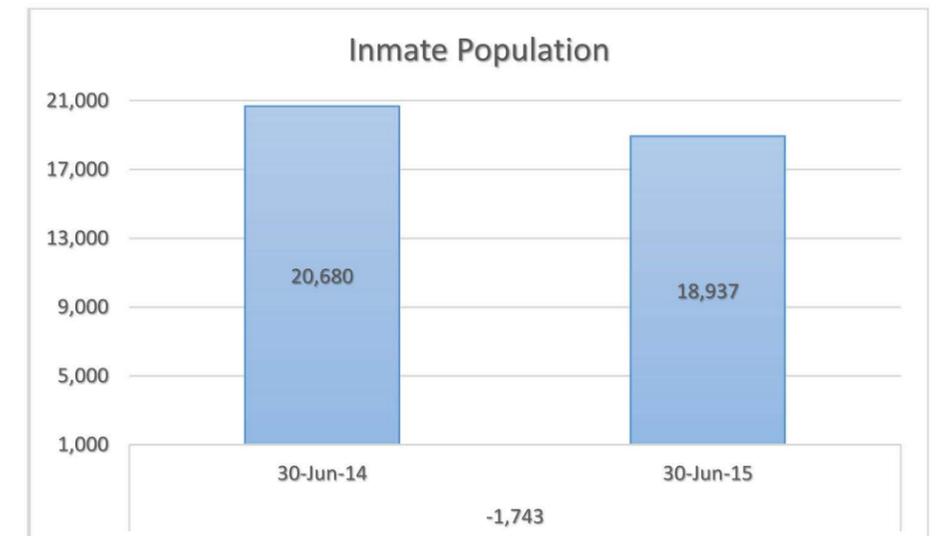
Walnut Grove is one of the four privately run prisons operated by Utah-based MTC.



South Mississippi Correctional Institution



Walnut Grove Correctional Facility



Massive Shakedowns are latest measures to reduce contraband

Prisons locked down, visitation canceled

MDOC Office of Communications

JACKSON – Random, sometimes massive, shakedowns are one of the latest measures the Mississippi Department of Correction is using to slow the proliferation of contraband for the safety of staff and inmates.

Eight prisons including state, private and regional, have been searched between Feb. 6 and June 30, with some facilities undergoing multiple searches at different locations.

Various sized shanks, tobacco, spice, marijuana, cellphones, cellphone chargers, and an assortment of other contraband have been found on inmates or in their cells.

“This is a public safety issue,” said Commissioner Marshall Fisher. “One shank or one cellphone is one too many. Officers routinely do periodic shakedowns unit by unit. But this is a show of force with a large number of officers searching units simultaneously.”

The seized contraband lessens the ability of prison gangs, also known as security threat groups, to threaten the safety of officers, fellow inmates and the public, Fisher said. Inmates have used shanks to harm officers and fellow inmates and used cellphones to harass and threaten crime victims.

Finding the contraband has resulted in lockdowns, canceled visitation and lost commissary privileges - actions which also are taken when inmates assault staff. “Visitation is a privilege,” Fisher said. “In order for that privilege to be applicable at our institutions, we expect our offender population to observe and respect MDOC rules. This is in no way meant to punish inmates’ families. However, we will not reward bad behavior. Until that is understood by our offender population, stiff sanctions will continue.”

[Continued on page 14]



[Continued from page 12]

The shakedowns confirm that a correctional officer's job is dangerous, Fisher said. "The risk undertaken by these officers on a daily basis certainly warrants a salary higher than \$22,000 a year starting pay," he said.

Other actions MDOC has taken to keep contraband from getting into inmates' hands include installing netting around perimeter fences and using body scanners, hand wand metal detectors and K-9 cell phone detector dogs.

"If we suspect someone has violated the law by bringing in contraband, we will refer the individual for prosecution," Fisher said.

Introduction of contraband into a correctional facility is punishable by three to 15 years in prison, a maximum \$25,000 fine, or both. Conspiracy to introduce contraband carries up to a \$5,000 fine, five years imprisonment, or both.

Fisher said he appreciates assistance from the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol in conducting some of the shakedowns.

The shakedowns and some of the items found include:

• **East Mississippi Correctional Facility** in Meridian in Lauderdale County; Feb. 6; more than 50 shanks, tobacco products, cellphone batteries, tobacco, SIM cards, a small amount of

cash, improvised metal and wooden clubs, a homemade crack pipe, a bag of white crystal substance, suspected pills, jewelry, and tattoo material.

• **Wilkinson County Correctional Facility** in Woodville in Wilkinson County; Feb. 13; more than 60 shanks, razors, watches, medication, a VHS tape and tattoo guns.

• **South Mississippi Correctional Institution** in Leakesville in Greene County; Feb. 20; 36 shanks, 13 cellphones, two cellphone chargers, a tattoo gun, an assortment of pills, two bags of a white powdery substance and two Bluetooth devices.

• **Mississippi State Penitentiary** at Parchman in Sunflower County; March 13; 25 shanks, 11 cellular phones, one MP3 player, nine cellular phone chargers, and a large amount of what appeared to be marijuana; March 31; Unit 29, E-Building, B-Zone, 18 packages of presorted tobacco, nine cell phones and nine cell phone chargers and one pair of dice; Unit 29 C Building, 10 gallons of homemade intoxicants; April 16, Unit 29, J Building, two cell phone chargers and three shanks; April 17, Unit 29 H Building, 11 pounds of tobacco, 19 cell phones, 22 cell phone charges, five shanks and one free-world knife.

• **Marshall County Correctional Facility** in Holly Springs in Marshall

County; March 25; 23 shanks, 25 pieces of shank material, 21 cell phones, five cell phone batteries, 15 cell phone chargers, one set of head phones, one set of speakers, 30 packages of tobacco, seven packages of marijuana, and two tattoo guns.

• **Yazoo County Regional Correctional Facility** in Yazoo City in Yazoo County; May 28; nine cell phones, tattoo paraphernalia, three knives, three shanks, two rolls of tobacco, and spice in four packs and 12 individual rolls.

• **Central Mississippi Correctional Facility** in Pearl in Rankin County; April 22-23; June 4; 7 cell phones, two cell phone chargers, two large bags of tobacco, five BIC lighters, 4.6 grams of spice, a digital scale, and a head phone accessory.

• **Walnut Grove Correctional Facility** in Walnut Grove in Leake County; June 3; 10 cellphones, 10 cellphone chargers, 22 grams of spice, 22 grams of marijuana and 89 grams of tobacco.

• **Issaquena Correctional Facility** in Mayersville in Sharkey County; June 5 and June 12, an array of cell phones, cellphone chargers, pills, and money.



Pictured above are contraband items found during March 13, shakedown at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. Pictured on the facing page are the various shanks confiscated during the shakedown at Wilkinson County Correctional Facility on Feb. 14. [Photos provided by MDOC staff]



PROGRAM SEEKS TO PUT CONTRABAND TO GOOD USE

MDOC Office of Communications



HopeLine

from Verizon

Help Prevent Domestic Violence:
Recycle Wireless Phones

verizon

www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline

HOPELINE

from Verizon

Help Prevent Domestic Violence:
Recycle Wireless Phones

verizon

www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline

MDOC has collected 1,500 cell phones for donation since March.

JACKSON – The Mississippi Department of Corrections has partnered with HopeLine from Verizon to donate contraband cell phones to help domestic violence victims.

The partnership with the cell phone provider to assist victims is a first for MDOC. The donation culminates planning that began in March, initiated by Mississippi SAVIN and the Division of Victim Services, in collaboration with the Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence (MCADV), the largest domestic violence assistance organization in the state.

Cell phones confiscated as contraband from MDOC facilities will be

collected and sent to the nonprofit program HopeLine. Refurbished phones are sold to generate proceeds, and to provide use of cell phones to local domestic violence efforts allowing for direct access to safe communication. All unsalvageable phones will be recycled.

HopeLine is a national organization, however the donations from MDOC will be distributed exclusively to domestic violence organizations in Mississippi.

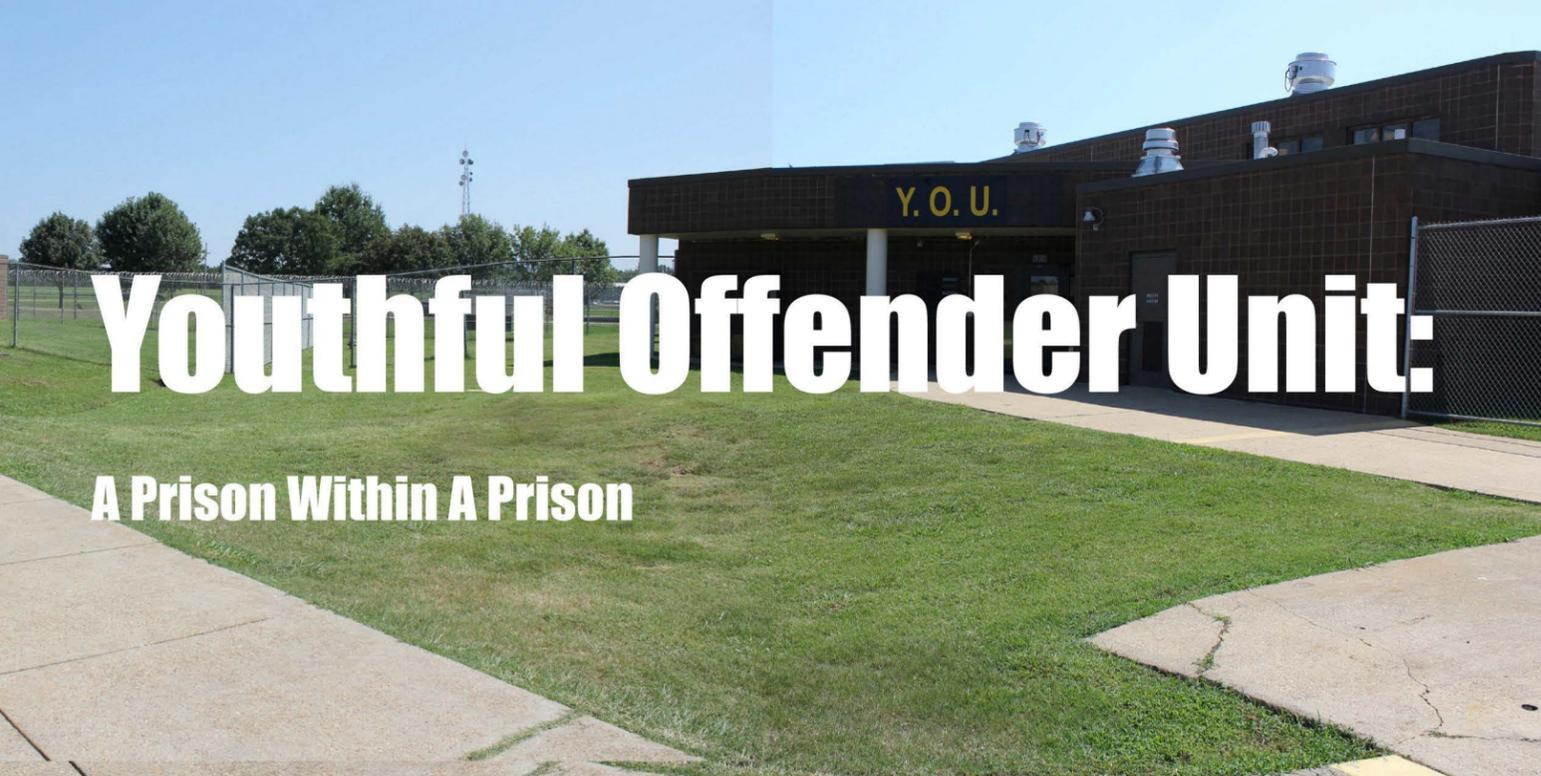
“Contraband, especially cell phones, are one of the biggest problems we face in corrections. It’s good to know that something positive can

come from such a negative: by removing an illegal item from criminal hands and being able to donate it to organizations that help those in need,” said MDOC Commissioner Marshall Fisher.

As of June 30, MDOC had collected 1,500 cell phones for donation since March and HopeLine had granted \$7,125 in donations to the MCADV.

For additional information about MCADV and Hope Line visit www.mcadv.org and www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline respectively.

Pictured on the facing page are some of the donated phones.



Youthful Offender Unit:

A Prison Within A Prison

YOU

PEARL - The Youthful Offender Unit opened at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Rankin County on Dec. 12, 2012. The Mississippi Department of Corrections established the facility under a federal court order dated March 26, 2012.

The YOU is separate from the adult population at CMCF and has its own staff. It can house a maximum of 42 offenders, and contains all males sentenced to MDOC ages 18 and under as well as offenders that are 18-19 years old determined vulnerable and appropriate for the facility.

The YOU is comprised of a housing unit, a vocational/recreational suite and a school. The housing unit is open bay with three dormitory style zones. Two of the open bay housing zones can hold a maximum 15 offenders and one can house 10. Additionally, the housing unit has two zones that are used for single-cell housing for offenders who need single rooms.

The vocational/recreational suite houses the recreational space including an indoor gym, video game room, a game table room, and a Point Store, where offenders can purchase items from points earned for good behavior. The Barbering School and Custodial Care and Grounds-keeping



Warden Leander Parker

Program are housed in opposite suites in the recreation building. This building is used daily for vocational instruction and recreation. There is a full sized basketball court outside of the recreational suite for competitive and pickup basketball games.

Each area of the YOU is bright and inviting. Print-rich informative posters provide offenders with constant motivation and hope for a bright future. Quotes of the day are found throughout the buildings. Offenders experience a clean and safe environment conducive to learning, thus providing a sense of normalcy many were not privy to before coming into the unit.

The YOU School is a modular building that has four large classrooms, a library, a computer lab and a conference room. The school is an

approved GED testing site. All eight YOU teachers are certified by the Mississippi Department of Education in their subject/vocational area. The State Board of Education accredited the school in May 2014. The school is managed by a principal, Roshel Bulie. She has been principal since August 2013. Both vocational and GED programs began in January 2014, and have made a tremendous impact on the behavior of students. Introduction to Culinary Arts and Bible College are elective classes. Offenders receive 330 minutes (5.5 hours) of instruction per day.

The staff also includes a full-time psychologist, a part-time psychiatrist who provides 10 hours of service weekly, a full-time mental health social worker and two master level social workers. The social workers' duties include conducting "groups" and individual sessions daily. There is also a full-time alcohol and drug counselor and a recreational coordinator on staff.

The security staff consists of up to 30 correctional officers, six correctional supervisors, a captain and a warden. Leander Parker has been warden since the YOU's inception.

CMCF Tours

CMCF Superintendent's Office

PEARL - Central Mississippi Correctional Facility conducts several tours each month largely for students and members of religious groups. Visitors get to see the academic and vocational programs, dining facilities, offender work sites, both general population offender housing and maximum security units. At the conclusion of a tour, they hear about life in prison from selected offenders who also talk about the mistakes they made that resulted in their incarceration. Participants can ask staff and offenders questions.

"Our goal is to show people what we do as corrections professionals and educate them on the consequences for unlawful behavior," Supt. Ron King said. "We opted away from the 'scared straight' tactics and chose a more informative format. Just entering the prison has an impact, and we want the visitors to try and remain fo-

cused in order to see the realities of being in prison.

"CMCF has some fine employees, and we are very proud of what we do to help preserve public safety," King said.

Groups who toured in the last six months include Shelby Youth Challenge, Eleve Mentoring Group, Port Gibson Academy, the Mississippi National Guard Challenge Academy, Port Gibson High School JROTC, Mississippi Job Corps, St. Luke COGIC, Mississippi State University-Meridian, West Lauderdale High School, Jackson State University Criminal Justice Class, and Quitman County Career & Tech Center.

If you are interested in touring CMCF, contact Supt. King at 601.932.2880. Pictures are allowed except with inmates.



Mississippi Job Corps



Port Gibson High School JROTC



Port Gibson HS JROTC



Eleve Mentoring Group



Mississippi National Guard Youth Challenge Academy



St Luke COGIC

MDOC Employees Learn on-the-job Spanish

MDOC Office of Communications

JACKSON - Mississippi Department of Corrections employees are learning on-the-job conversational Español to improve their communication with Spanish-speaking inmates and inmates' family members.

In March, Commissioner Marshall Fisher approved expanding MDOC's use of Spanish translator Andrew Arana, who has contracted with the agency for more than five years now through his Spanish translation company Synergistic Communications. The services previously were used at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility for classification and document translation.

"To have staff be able to communicate with (Spanish-speaking inmates) on the most basic level is very important," Arana said. "MDOC can use our services in other areas such as community corrections or victim services. We'll also be able to reach out to the Hispanic population to let them know about the services that MDOC actually offers."

Though the number of Hispanics hovers under 2 percent of the overall inmate population in the state prison system, Fisher said it's impor-

tant for corrections employees to be bilingual and prepared to deal with a diverse population.

Tori S. Orr, a case manager who works at Area II at Unit 26 at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, said she appreciates Commissioner Fisher and the department for giving her the opportunity to be among the nearly 50 employees statewide receiving the training sessions.

"Attending the Spanish Translation Services will help me in multiple ways," Orr said. "Not only would I have a leg up on becoming bilingual, but I will also be able to help the offenders whose first language isn't English. I understand that being immersed in an environment where 99 percent of the population speaks an entirely different language can be both scary and confusing. I would like to be able to ease some of that stress and fear if I can at all. I would be becoming more efficient at my job, and better able to help and understand our Spanish-speaking offenders."

Gwendolynn Santos, director of the Office of Mississippi Statewide Automated Victims Information...

[Continued on page 54]



Central Office staff Dilworth Ricks and Assistant Jayne Murphy listen as Arana gives instruction on how to have on-the-job conversations in Spanish.



Andrew Arana

Test your Spanish skills!

Do you know these words?

1. **Hola.**
2. **¿Cómo estás?**
3. **Estoy bien.**
4. **Gracias.**
5. **De nada.**

Answers on page 54

Inmate Book Club

Monique Bernard
Wilkinson County Correctional Center

WOODVILLE – Thomas McNeely Jr., a Natchez attorney, has been going to prison for 14 years, but not as a visitor or a lawyer helping a client.

Instead, he's been going as a volunteer leader of a book club for Wilkinson County Correctional Facility in Woodville.

Known as the Higher Learning Book Club, the reading program is associated with the Great Books Foundation out of Chicago, Ill., which provides books and other support for the club. The club reads and discusses literature that has stood the test of time, from ancient Greece to present day, from all countries. Current curriculum includes fiction, nonfiction, plays and poetry.

"The purpose of this club is to achieve 'shared inquiry' at each meeting," explained McNeely. "To do this members/offenders are obligated to each read a short selection, ideally twice, before coming to a meeting so that they will be able to discuss the selection with others."

McNeely is joined by Nell Stuard, a retired English teacher of Baker,

La. She joined the book club in 2014.

"As a middle school English teacher, the thinking of my students was best stimulated through books and literature," she said. "This book club offers the same opportunity to our members, who ably share their insights about the selections. I have enjoyed being a part of these 90 minute sessions and look forward to continuing."

WCCF recently honored the volunteers for their many years of service. Tira Jackson, deputy warden of programs, presented them with a special recognition plaque and certificates of appreciation on behalf of Warden Frank Shaw and WCCF.

"Mr. McNeely and Ms. Stuard are dedicated to this program, as can be seen by their years of service," said Jackson. "Their efforts are making a difference in the lives of the offenders. As volunteers, they are opening minds, giving insight, presenting challenges, and introducing the offenders to many of the important names in history."

The book club started in Sep-

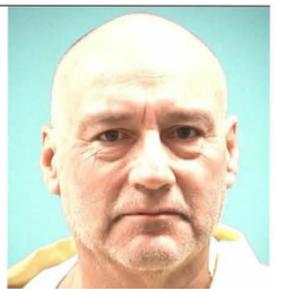
tember 1999 with only four members. It's now in its 15th year and its membership ranges from 10 to 20 offenders who meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month.

"The more the offenders put into this, the more they get out of this," said McNeely. "In other words, the more they share, the more they gain from each meeting. It is about sharing ideas based upon the text."

McNeely said that each meeting "is an experience of joining with other club members in opening our minds to the wide variety within man, nature, society, and spirit shown in literature."

In 2004, McNeely joined Red Dawn Press of Natchez to publish a collection of writings by the members/offenders of the Higher Learning Book Club at Wilkinson County Correctional Facility in the book *Beyond the Bars: An Anthology of Poetry and Prose from a Mississippi Prison*.

Fugitive Returned to Mississippi Prison 34 Years after His Escape



MDOC Office of Communications

JACKSON - A fugitive arrested in Utah 34 years after he escaped a Mississippi Department of Corrections facility is now back in the state serving his time at Wilkinson County Correctional Facility.

Sam Gene Harris, 62, was extradited from the Carbon County Jail in Price, Utah in February.

MDOC learned of Harris's whereabouts from the FBI. The FBI

contacted the agency in October, based on MDOC's escape warrant for Harris.

Harris, then 27, was discovered missing from the Forrest County Community Work Center during a count on Nov. 27, 1980. He was housed at the minimum security facility after being sentenced on Oct. 29, 1979 to four years for burglary and three years for possession of burglary

tools, with one year of the possession conviction to run concurrently. He was convicted in Jones County.

Harris will not face additional prison time for escape because leaving a community work center was considered a misdemeanor in 1980. However, he has forfeited any time earned before his escape. His sentence will end Jan. 17, 2018.

A Competitive Shooter with a Straight Shot

Courtesy of
State Attorney General's Office

JACKSON - When it comes to "shooting it straight," Special Assistant Attorney General Anthony Schmidt is hard to beat.

Shooting guns has been a part of Schmidt's life from a very early age. His father got him started shooting and taught him the basics, but it was when he started working at the Iowa Trap and Skeet Range that his competitive career began.

Schmidt began doing competitive trap shooting in high school while working at the gun range. Trap shooting is when the shooter uses a shotgun to shoot down clay targets that are being shot into the air. Schmidt trained throughout the year for these events and would shoot between 200 and 300 rounds of trap a week to practice.

All his hard work paid off when he competed at the state champion trap shoot in 1996 and placed second place. He then returned the next year in 1997 to take first place in trap shooting for his age division.

His training with guns throughout his childhood prepared him for when he attended the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy (MLEOTA). He graduated Basic Class 238 in 2012, and was ranked number two in his class for his shooting abilities.

Upon graduation, he accepted a job at the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) in the law enforcement division. During his time there, he shot in a few police competitions.



Then-Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections President Kevin Jackson presents Special Assistant Attorney General Anthony Schmidt with a MAPC shooting competition award.

Schmidt earned his law degree from Mississippi College in 2010 and joined the Attorney General's Office in 2013, assigned to the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC), where he currently works.

While at MDOC, Schmidt has been able to resume competitive shooting with his colleagues from all over the state. Once a year, he competes in the Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections (MAPC) annual shooting competition. For this competition he uses a Springfield Armory XD45 Tactical, which is a .45-caliber semi-automatic weapon with a five-inch barrel.

Schmidt's first year to com-

pete was in 2013 in Philadelphia, Miss., where he won first place. He returned in 2014 and won second place at the competition in Biloxi.

Schmidt says shooting straight comes naturally to him, which is good because his busy schedule does not allow him much time to practice, although he tries to get in at least one practice before any big competition.

Facts about Schmidt:

- Born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- Received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Mississippi
- Graduated Mississippi College School of Law in 2010
- Started his general law private practice
- Played on his high school tennis and golf teams
- Competed in slalom skiing and giant slalom
- Enjoys working on cars in his free time
- Graduated with an Expert Rank of 98% under NRA Law Enforcement Certification while at MLEOTA

Changes Witnessed at MSP

Kathryn McIntyre, Laura Hopson of
ILAP & Richard Pennington of ARP

PARCHMAN - Through our combined years as employees of the Mississippi Department of Corrections, we have seen many changes take place at Parchman. The Law Library began as a book filled library with inmate writ-writers and with most of the work being done by hand or typewriter. In 1997, MDOC came under a federal court order and created the Inmate Legal Assistance Program (ILAP). The new program did away with the book libraries and now all cases, statutes and court rules are being pulled from computer generated databases. The writ-writers were also done away with because many of them were taking advantage of the very ones they were supposed to be helping.

The Administrative Remedy Department (ARP) began as Part One of the Gates v. Collier court orders in 1994. The program's operating authority is given in state statute 47-5-801. ARP has had many policy and procedure changes throughout the years. The latest is having the statewide director answer all sensitive issue complaints. This enabled the agency to abolish PINs that were no longer being used to save money. Even though the inmate population has decreased at MSP, the ARP department handles the same amount of grievances from all inmate facilities in the state. There are time limits on answers obtained from staff as well as offenders (listed in Policy/SOP 20.08.01). If an offender is not satisfied with the answer he or she receives, the offender may then seek judicial review from the court.

We have also witnessed MSP go from having four security areas to two. Over the years, death row offenders have been housed at Unit 17, Unit 32 and now Unit 29. At one time, there were more than 15 active open units. We are now down to only seven operating units.

The Parchman Prison Rodeo used to be a Delta icon, drawing people from many, many miles and even from other states. The most anticipated event was Money the Hard Way. A bag of money would be tied between a bull's horns and the inmates would battle the bull to get the money. There was never a happy, docile bull by the way....

And who could forget the Lake Lodge? If you are reading this and don't have a clue what we are referring to, then you missed out on a great experience. There was nothing like going to the Lake Lodge for lunch and watching the water ripple under your feet through the floorboards. Or, The Place filled with inmate workers and some of the best food ever! Unfortunately, neither is here for our enjoyment anymore.

Also gone are some office buildings, camps and houses. Many have been torn down or were never rebuilt after being damaged by fire or the many tornadoes that have disturbed our peace over the years.

Some would jokingly say that

our salaries are about the only thing that hasn't changed over the years. Many fail to realize that this is a legislative issue, not an administrative one. Let's face it, the legislators could never really match what we are worth! Many times when law enforcement is mentioned in the general public, sheriffs, deputies or local police officers are the ones that come to mind. And they do extremely important work but somehow, those in corrections are often overlooked. But chin up, God has placed each of us here for a reason.

Change is inevitable. Some of these changes have been forced upon us and some we have even campaigned for. Some were for the better. Some have not worked as well as hoped or planned. And there are still more to come no matter how long we are here.

About the only thing that remains constant in our corrections world is contraband. The style or type of contraband may have changed through the years but it is still contraband and still here!



Thank You

For Your Service

Military - As of May 2015

Community Corrections/Central Office

NAME	TITLE	ACTIVATED
Young, Arthur	Corr-Field Officer III	12/15/2011
TOTAL 1		

MSP

NAME	TITLE	ACTIVATED
Coleman, Edward	CO-III	6/1/2007
Davis, Luzardy	CO-I	6/20/2013
Khon, Odiss	CO-II	3/1/2009
TOTAL 3		

SMCI

NAME	TITLE	ACTIVATED
Chestange, Maurice	CO T	4/1/2013
Crews Jr., Sidney T.	CO II	8/25/2008
Moody, Veonna	COT	11/3/2014
Musgrove, Kayla	COT	12/29/2014
TOTAL 4		

Agency Total: 8

Prepared by: A. White
Updated: June 9

Returned from Duty

CC/CO

Bailey, Otis
Booker, Tumarian
Erkhart, Vicky
Gallion, Williestine
Hill, Plez
Polk, Ricardo
Tucker, Samuel
Woods, Roy

CMCF

Cole, Larry
Evans, Byron
Harris, Katrina
Lyles, Marcus
Smith, Melvin
Thomas, Ronnie
Washington, Alvin
Willis, Joseph

MSP

Coleman, Edward
Davis, Clyde
Griffin, Kirby
Hicks, Carlester
Hilson, Melvin
Lee, Earnest
Lewis, Roger
Pruitt, Darron
Scott, Kenny

SMCI

Keys, Adrian

Graduations

Personnel



Personnel graduates at the Old Capitol Museum [Photo provided by the State Personnel Board]

Danielle Brown of Interstate Compact graduated the Administrative Support Certificate Program (ASCP) on June

4. The ceremony was at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson.



Academy

During the first half of the year, the Mississippi Department of Corrections graduated 248 people from academies at the three main prisons. The number of cadets added from Jan. 1 - June 30 is as follows:

- 76 at Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman;
- 105 at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility; and
- 106 at South Mississippi Correctional Institution.

*MSP Class 14-7M

Date:
Jan. 13

Guest Speaker:
Leonard Vincent, special assistant attorney general

Graduates:
23

Class Motto:
“Let us not fear what’s ahead, because what’s in our path is meant for our feet”

Vincent cautioned graduates not to accept any form of bribery. By becoming



[Photos provided by MSP]

a correctional officer, the trainees will have an opportunity to assist offenders in changing their behavior, he said. The trainees should be proud of their uniform and wear it with dignity and re-

spect, he said. He also told the class that Commissioner Fisher is making an effort to raise correctional officers’ pay. **This class was counted in 2014 academy.*

MSP Class 2015-1M



[Photo provided by MSP]

Date:
Feb. 27

Guest Speaker:
David Scott, then-special assistant attorney general

Graduates:
29

Class Motto:
Believing in each other makes a difference.

MSP Class 2015-2M

The MSP Training Department hosted the graduation ceremony for Academy Class 2015-2M on April 28, at MSP.

Associate Warden Flagg urged graduates to be professional at all times. Don’t discuss personal business around offenders, she said. Once they report to the areas, they are considered “new meat” and the offenders are going to be sizing them up, she said. Don’t bring anything in or take anything out. She told them the penalty for bringing in contraband.



[Photo provided by MSP]

Date:
April 28

Guest Speaker:
Associate Warden Verlena Flagg

Graduates:
24

Class Motto: Don’t let the fear of striking out keep you from finishing the game.

***CMCF Class 14-11C**



[Photo provided by CMCF]

Date:
Jan. 14

Graduates:
32

**This class was counted in 2014 academy.*

Guest Speaker:
Sean Smith, director of Corrections Investigation Division

Class Motto:
Born A Leader, dedicated to Greatness

CMCF Class 15-1C



Date:
Feb. 27

Guest Speaker:
Leonard Vincent, special assistant attorney general

Graduates:
25

Class Motto:
Dedication and Loyalty are Keys to Success



CMCF Class 15-2C



Date:
March 27

Guest Speaker:
David Scott, then-special assistant attorney general

Graduates:
18

Class Motto:
One Class, One Movement



[Photo provided by CMCF]

CMCF Class 15-3C



[Photo provided by CMCF]

Date:
April 28

Guest Speaker:
Jessie Kelly, CMCF director of chaplaincy

Graduates:
12

Class Motto:
In Order to Achieve...we have to believe... All in or nothing

Not pictured is the CMCF June 26 academy with 18 graduates.

SMCI Class 14-11S



[Photo provided by SMCI]

Date:
Jan. 8

Guest Speaker:
Raymond Byrd, then-SMCI
Superintendent

Graduates:
19

Class Motto:
"Speak ye every man the truth to his
neighbor," Zechariah 8:16"

SMCI Class 15-1S



[Photo provided by SMCI]

Date:
Feb. 26

Guest Speaker:
Marshal Turner, Warden Area II

Graduates:
26

Class Motto:
"We came divided but we leave
united!"

SMCI Class 15-2S



[Photo provided by SMCI]

Date:
March 26

Guest Speaker:
Maud Irby, then-MDOC director of
training

Graduates:
18

Class Motto:
"The wicked flee when no man pur-
sueth: but the righteous are bold as a
lion" Proverbs 28:1

SMCI Class 15-4S



[Photo provided by SMCI]

Date:
May 28

Guest Speaker:
Mike Hatten, MDOC Health Service
administrator

Graduates:
19

Class Motto:
Togetherness leads to greatness

Not pictured is the SMCI April class with 24 graduates.

Vocational, Youthful Offender Unit, Alcohol & Drug

SMCI A&D Treatment Program

Date:
Jan. 15

Guest Speaker:
Gary Miller, AA volunteer for the SMCI A&D Treatment program

Graduates:
28



Pike County CWC A&D treatment Program

Date:
Jan. 29

Guest Speakers: Corey Granger, and Joshua McSwain

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all," said Pike County Community Work Center Correctional Commander Lt. Dwight Robertson, while thanking Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz, CCD Todd King, RSAT Director Carolyn Banyard, guest speakers, A&D Counselor Mamie Kettle, and all of the offenders for participating in the January 2015 graduate ceremony.



Offenders say the serenity prayer & twelve steps of addiction during the A&D treatment Program ceremony [Photo provided by Pike County CWC]



CMCF April 2, Vocational School ceremony.

CMCF Vocational School



Date:
April 2

Guest Speaker:
Andrea Johnson Kelley

Graduates:
32



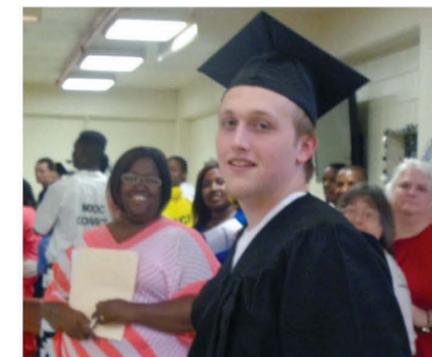
YOU School



GED and Barber School Date:
April 17

Guest Speakers:
De'Keither Stamps, president of the Jackson City Council

Graduates:
3 received their GED and 2 of the graduates also received a barber license



{Photos provided by the YOU at CMCF}

The YOU School now has 10 licensed barbers.

Thinking for a Change

Offenders Urged to 'Have the Plan to be the Best' at Thinking for a Change Graduation



Guest speaker Antonio Wright tells the graduates to have a plan and to be the best that they can be.

JACKSON – The 4th Thinking For a Change graduation in May brings the number of offenders to 64, who have graduated the Hinds County Probation and Parole program since its inception in November 2014.

Hinds County could see fewer repeat offenders because of this program, also known as T4C.

T4C is designed to help ex-offenders move into the workforce with new attitudes and communication skills. It uses cognitive behavior therapy and focuses on anti-social behaviors, job building skills, education, self-esteem and other topics to help participants stay on the right track and change their way of thinking.

"I was pleased to receive the encouragement I was given by the people who got me involved," said Deante Noble, one of the recent nine T4C graduates, speaking at the May 11 ceremony. "I know we learned to make changes for our process of thinking."

Encouraging the graduates was guest speaker Antonio Wright, president/founder of Metro Area Community Empowerment, an organization initially created to help individuals with spinal cord injuries reach their maximum potential.

"You have to have a plan," Wright said. "We're going to call this speech 'A Choice to Have Courage.'"

"Our name is all we have...in this world, Antonio Wright is all I can be," said Wright.



T4C graduates listen to Wright at the Agricultural and Forestry Museum on May 11.

Wright, a former football player, discussed the challenges he faced growing up, including being illiterate in the 5th grade and being left paralyzed later in life from a car accident.

Wright said, "Athletically, I was not the best but that will not excuse me from not being the best...Physically, now I'm not the best. Emotionally, I'm not the best. But does that excuse me from being the best husband I can be, the best father I can be, the best employee I can be, the best employer I can be?"

"The first tool you need to have the plan to be the best, first, you must be motivated. Second, you've got to put in maximum effort, and check this one out. Third, you have to fix your perspective," said Wright. "It's not what you go through; it's how you go through it... You can say 'Why me, why do I have to go through all this?'... Or, you can have a different perspective and say 'why not me!'"

Graduates also heard from Deputy Commissioner of Community Corrections Christy Gutherz. She told them, "Don't allow past behaviors to ever define who you are."

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life," Gutherz said. "So take everything that you've learned. Let the old person stay behind as a new person walks out of the door. Congratulations so very much. I wish you all the best."

The T4C is a 25-week program that usually has eight to 12 stu-

dents and can be individualized by each county. Lessons deal with social skills, problem solving and cognitive therapy activities that group members learn to apply to their daily life situations. Hinds County modified its program to address targets (problematic areas) for inner-city adolescents.

The 4th Thinking for a Change Class started with 22 participants and ended with nine graduates. Eleven participants were discharged from the program because of noncompliance with attendance and two were discharged after being charged with new crimes. Overall, there were four in the first class, 22 in the second class, and 29 in the third class.



Deante Noble, one of the recent nine T4C graduates, speaks to his fellow graduates about their journey and what they learned in the T4C Program.



Thinking for a Change graduates pose with Antonio Wright (center) and Shedrick Rogers (pictured far right), Hinds County Probation/Parole Program coordinator.

Employee Recognition

Each quarter, employees at the three main prisons - Mississippi State Penitentiary, Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, and South Mississippi Correctional Institution - the three regions of Community Corrections and Central Office are recognized with the following awards. The pictures are from quarterly meetings at MSP, April 28; CMCF, April 21; SMCI, April 9; and Central Office, April 20.

Award of Excellence

- An employee by his or her actions or deeds has contributed to the betterment of society or to the community

Heroism Award

- The saving of a life or the prevention of serious injury to a department employee, an offender under the supervision of the department, or a citizen
- Personally risking own safety to save a life or prevent serious injury or to protect or save state property from natural or man made disasters

Employee of the Month

- Professionalism and effectiveness in dealing with staff, inmates/offenders, or the public
- Significant contribution to operational productivity or efficiency
- Outstanding abilities, special skills or achievements in carrying out job assignments

Tenure

- An award presented every five years of an employee's term with the Mississippi Department of Corrections

Extra Effort

- Shows exemplary work attendance
- Significant contribution to work force cohesiveness, pride, morale, enthusiasm, & productivity
- Enhanced interpersonal, interagency or general public communication
- Willingness to enhance personal and professional education and growth

Safety Award

- An employee who has exhibited an exceptional effort towards safety by identifying and preventing a deficiency that could have caused significant bodily injury to employees and great loss

MSP/R1

Mississippi State Penitentiary / Region I



Safety Award: Lee McTeer, Frank Stockett, Barbara Allen, Everett Matheney, Allen Langdon, and Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz



Staff Officer of the Month - October: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Linda Smith, and Superintendent Earnest Lee



Extra Effort - October: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Leonard Young, Kelvin Taylor, Glenda Moody, and Superintendent Earnest Lee; [Front row] Lucinda Addison, Doris Tillman and Victoria Brown



Extra Effort - November: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Oradell Edwards, Dreyfus Smith, Jamill Henry, and Superintendent Earnest Lee; [front row] Lavetti Johnson, Sheree Sherrod, and Demetric Greer



Security Officer of the Month - November: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Fred Townsend, and Superintendent Earnest Lee



Award of Excellence - December: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Sonja Staniel, and Superintendent Earnest Lee



Extra Effort - December: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Yasmine Taylor, Anita Cobb, Lee Simon, and Superintendent Earnest Lee



Staff of the Month: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Victoria Brown (February), Mary Craft Cotton (January), and Superintendent Earnest Lee



Tenure - 25 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Glenda Moody, Eugene Cannon, Florence Kelly, and Superintendent Earnest Lee



Tenure - 20, 25 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Edgar Graham (20 yrs), Levain Matthews (25 yrs), and Superintendent Earnest Lee



Extra Effort - December, February: [Back row] Lee McTeer, Frank Stockett, Sonya Cooper, and Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz; [Front row] Allen Langdon, Laura Murray, and Temillia Phillips



Tenure - 10 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Mary M. Williams, and Superintendent Earnest Lee



Tenure - 30 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Earless Anderson, and Superintendent Earnest Lee



Security Officer of the Month - March: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Delois Roy, and Superintendent Earnest Lee



Tenure - 15 years: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Sonja Staniel, Caroline Fleming, Darlene Fair, and Superintendent Earnest Lee; [Front row] Mirinda Frison, Ella Hogan, and Demetric Greer



Tenure - 15 years: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Victoria Granderson, and Superintendent Earnest Lee; [Front row] Chiquita Jones, Brenda Johnson, and Marcine Foster



Tenure - 5, 10 years: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Randy Perkins, and Lee McTeer; [front row] Gary Welch (5 yrs), Patricia Benjamin (5 yrs), and Laura Murray



Tenure - 15 years: Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Scott Pannell, and Lee McTeer



Extra Effort - December, January, February: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Tenelia Grays, Demoria Shannon, Everett Matheney, and Lee McTeer; [Front row] Samantha Elder, Allen Langdon, and Beatrice Smith



Extra Effort - December, January, February: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Roger Parrott, Frank Stockett, and Lee McTeer; [Front row] Lawanda Mallett, and William Randle



Tenure - 20 years: Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Leroy Turner, and Lee McTeer



Extra Effort: Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Beatrice Smith, and Lee McTeer



Safety Award: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Steve Harris, Everett Matheney, and Lee McTeer; [Front row] Frank Stockett, Allen Langdon, and Lynn Dixon



Heroism Award: Kristine Chapman and Superintendent Earnest Lee

MSP



Lt. Eugene Cannon speaks at the Employees' Recognition Program on April 28 at the Spiritual Life Center at MSP. He was one of seven employees recognized for 25 years at MSP. "You must have the heart of a servant to work here," Cannon said during brief remarks about his longevity. "You got to be dedicated. When you put on that MDOC uniform have the heart of a servant."

Not Pictured

Heroism

February

Montrell Alexander (MSP)
Darien Gardner (MSP)
Angela Wells (MSP)

Tenure

5 Years

Gregory Bradley (MSP)
Brandon Childs (MSP)
Edward Cole (MSP)
Keir Davis (MSP)
Larry Grimes (MSP)
Cedric Minton (MSP)
Bernard Smith (MSP)

10 Years

Audrey Fields (MSP)
Teresa Gordon (MSP)
Earnest King (MSP)
Kathryn McIntyre (MSP)
Linda Price (MSP)
Keba Taylor (MSP)
Earnest Barnes (Region I)
Sonia Palmer (Region I)
Charles Mullins (Region I)
Barbara Robinson (Region I)

15 Years

Hilary Benson (MSP)
Rosemary Flowers (MSP)
Sherry Jones (MSP)
Jennifer King (MSP)
Mary Smiley-Jenkins (MSP)
Antionette Turner (MSP)

20 Years

Mary Rushing (MSP)
Catrina Williams (MSP)

25 Years

Tommy Blair (MSP)
Crystal Collins (MSP)
Chewanda Johnson (MSP)
Jacqueline Smith (Region I)

30 Years

Letitia Roach (MSP)

Employees of the Month

October

Stevie Anderson (MSP)

November

Blendean Washington (MSP)

December

Brenda Bradley (MSP)
Levain Matthews (MSP)
Jerry Pickens (MSP)

February

Derrick Love (MSP)

Extra Effort

October

Betty Bass (MSP)
Pearlie Brown (MSP)
Sierra Burroughs (MSP)
Billy Garnder (MSP)
Lawana Hoskins (MSP)
Shirley Miller (MSP)
Charles Robertson (MSP)
Jasmine Smith (MSP)
Keba Taylor (MSP)
Demariyea Williams (MSP)

November

Martha Benford (MSP)
Carlester Hicks (MSP)
Dorothy Jackson (MSP)
Mack Liddell (MSP)
Regina Outlaw (MSP)
Charles Robertson (MSP)
Willie Rutledge (MSP)
Sharon Scott (MSP)

December

Korey Clark (MSP)
Floyd Fedrick (MSP)
Garriet Griffin (MSP)
Tori Orr (MSP)
Shantel Pugh (MSP)
Melissa Brand (Region I)
Charlena Green (Region I)
Alonzo Johnson (Region I)
Clyde Johnson (Region I)
Roger Parrott (Region I)
Demoria Shannon (Region I)
Bradley Taylor (Region I)
James Taylor (Region I)
Jared Tucker (Region I)
Diane Wilson (Region I)

January

Pamela Clark (MSP)
Linda Franklin (MSP)
Jessica McGloson (MSP)
Laquinta Meeks (MSP)
Latansa Scott (MSP)
Thelma Thompson (MSP)

February

Garriet Griffin (MSP)
Quanderius Guilty (MSP)
Derrick Sanders (MSP)
Jamar West (MSP)
Leather Williams (MSP)
Sherrall Banks (Region I)
Melissa Brand (Region I)
Leonardis Cunningham (Region I)
Laura Milam (Region I)
James Taylor (Region I)

March

Matilda Brown (MSP)

Safety

October - December

Roy Simon (ACCF)
Lois Johnson (BCCWC)
Kenneth Fox (Probation & Parole)

January - March

Earnest Lee (MSP)
Roy Simon (ACCF)
Lois Johnson (BCCWC)
Lynn Dixon (QCCWC)
Kenneth Fox (Probation & Parole)

CMCF/R2

Central Mississippi Correctional Facility/ Region II



Staff Employee of the Month - October: Warden Leander Parker, Sonya Allen, and Superintendent Ron King



Tenure - 15 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Christiane Williams, Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz, and Todd King



Extra Effort - February: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Michael Showers, Joshua Hampton, Terry Jiles, and Superintendent Ron King; [Front row] Alicia Gatlin, Anjainta Hubbert, and Angela Peace



Safety Award: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Jerry Wilder, Grady McEntee, Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz, and Todd King; [Front row] Barbara Tyler, Lisa Spinks and Valerie Buie



Tenure - 20 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Dawn Bell, Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz, and Todd King



Tenure - 10 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Jarvis Connor, Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz, and Todd King



Extra Effort - February: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Emma Redd, Belita May, and Superintendent Ron King



Employee of the Month - October: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Gwendolyn Norwood, Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz, and Todd King



Tenure - 5 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Jo Ann Johnson, Cecil Lott, Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz, and Todd King



Extra Effort Award - October, November, January: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Frances Quist, Brian Ladner, and Superintendent Ron King; [Front row] Tanya Burks, Davion Johnson and Jacqueline Williams



Tenure - 20 Years: Superintendent Ron King and Taiwan Catchings



Extra Effort Award - December: Rosetta Young and Superintendent Ron King



Tenure - 20 years: Vernita Dampier and Superintendent Ron King



Vocational School staffers are mainstays at Employee Recognition programs



Human Resource Director Sharon Pepper congratulates Amy Brown, a correctional supervisor, for 20 years of service.

CMCF

Not Pictured

Tenure

5 Years

Beverly Bailey (CMCF)
 Kathy Freeman (CMCF)
 Joseph Giangrosso Jr. (CMCF)
 Anthwon Jackson (CMCF)
 Ricky Scott (Region II)

10 Years

Caprice Banks (CMCF)
 Latasha Brooks (CMCF)
 Maxine Horne (CMCF)
 Lykesia McLaurin (CMCF)
 Laura MmTay (Region II)

15 Years

Petrina Craig (CMCF)
 James Fillyaw (CMCF)
 Robert Garner (CMCF)
 Valerie Jackson (CMCF)
 Denequa Perryman (CMCF)
 Tomieka Ratliff (CMCF)
 Cynthia Smith (CMCF)

20 Years

Amy Brown (CMCF)
 Carlos Funchess (CMCF)

25 Years

Phoebe Dixon (CMCF)
 Eric Roberts (CMCF)

Employees of the Month

October

Anita Davis (CMCF)
 Aaron Spann (CMCF)
 DeKimi Gill (Region II)

Extra Effort

September

Vemard Allison (Region II)
 Bobbie Bogan (Region II)
 Samuel Tollible (Region II)
 Marina Wallace (Region II)
 Juan Wyatt (Region II)

October

Vivian Angrum (CMCF)
 Evera Bates (CMCF)
 Tonja Burks (CMCF)
 Mary Griffith (CMCF)
 Tracy Howell (CMCF)
 Marcus Lyles (CMCF)
 Sharde Mays (CMCF)



Deputy Commissioner of Institutions Jerry Williams provides closing remarks at the CMCF quarterly meeting. Williams reminded security staff of the need to follow the fundamental principles of corrections.

Moriah McElroy (CMCF)
 Michael Ross (CMCF)
 Drewlyndia Thompson (CMCF)
 Jamita Wilson (CMCF)

November

Beverly Bailey (CMCF)
 Stephen Bailey (CMCF)
 Vivian Frazer (CMCF)
 Hosea Hollis (CMCF)
 William Moody (CMCF)
 Leander Parker (CMCF)

December

Tonja Burks (CMCF)
 Sibley Christon (CMCF)
 Phyllis Ellington (CMCF)
 Vivian Frazer (CMCF)
 Linda Minor (CMCF)
 Kelvin Rhodes (CMCF)
 Latcha Swinney (CMCF)
 Ronnie Thomas (CMCF)

January

James Hollins (CMCF)

February

Bernice Harris (CMCF)
 Felicia Robinson (CMCF)

March

Ronnie Thomas (CMCF)

Safety

October - December

Jacqueline Banks (CMCF)
 Mary King (JCCWC)
 Dwight Robertson (PCCWC)
 Otis Bailey (YCCWC)
 Marlow Stewart (Probation & Parole Area 1)
 Priscilla Tenner (Probation & Parole Area 2)
 Rhonda Boyd (Probation & Parole Area 3)

January - March

Brian Ladner (CMCF)
 Leander Parker (YOU)
 Grady McEntee (HCRG)
 Mary King (JCCWC)
 Valerie Buie (MCCWC)
 Shenicka Jones (PCCWC)
 Barbara Tyler (WCCWC)
 Otis Bailey (YCCWC)
 Priscilla Tenner (Probation & Parole Area 2)
 Rhonda Boyd (Probation & Parole Area 3)

SMCI/R3

South Mississippi Correctional Institution/Region III



Tenure - 5 years: Ken Valentine, Meoshus Johnson, Monnicah Mullins, and Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz



Tenure - 15 years: Ken Valentine, Cammie Cook, and Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz



Extra Effort - October: [Back row] Ken Valentine, Cecelia Murphy, and Donald Winters; [Front row] Vicky Erkhart, Deputy Commissioner Christy Guthertz, and Richard Odoms



Award of Excellence - October: Then-Superintendent Raymond Byrd, Rongelia Powe, and Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams

SMCI

Not Pictured

Tenure

5 Years

Glenda Bolton (SMCI)
Ruth Dixon (SMCI)
Stanford Rouse (SMCI)
David "Gary" Finch (SMCI)
Sherry Green (SMCI)
Ceola McLeod (SMCI)
Marcus Pough (Region III)
Stephen Windham (Region III)

10 Years

Wallace Carpenter (SMCI)
Davy Ham (SMCI)
Larry Kennedy (Region III)

15 Years

Carmen Breland (SMCI)
Joshua Csaszar (SMCI)
William Harris (SMCI)
Sarah James (SMCI)
Joe Moore (SMCI)
Joy Ross (SMCI)
Jacqueline LaFontaine (Region III)
Robert Moulds (Region III)
Billy Newell (Region III)

20 Years

Kesha Dortch (SMCI)
Isom O'Banner (SMCI)
Martin McLendon (SMCI)
Gwendolyn Nix (SMCI)

25 Years

Billy Fred Smith (SMCI)

Employees of the Month

October

LaShawn Coleman (SMCI)
Acquanita Taylor (SMCI)
Austin Williams (SMCI)

November

Undra Loper (SMCI)
Eugene Tuggle (Region III)

December

Viruth "Lek" Phongam (Region III)

Extra Effort

October

Stanley Arrington (Region III)
Jeffrey Brawner (Region III)
Douglas Byers (Region III)
Troy Carpenter (Region III)
Christopher Colcord (Region III)
Kyle Cummings (Region III)
Angelica Francis (Region III)
Barbara Gill (Region III)
Ronnie Lambert (Region III)
Allison Long (Region III)
Randall Lundy (Region III)
Michael Mitchell (Region III)
Eric Moran (Region III)
Jonathan Murphy (Region III)
John Nabors (Region III)
Robert Olsen (Region III)
Ray Polk (Region III)
Marcus Pough (Region III)
Lyndon Romeo (Region III)
Allison Richardson (Region III)
Malika Rushing (Region III)
Kirby Shavers (Region III)
Christopher Swindle (Region III)
John Vanek (Region III)
Eric White (Region III)

November

Jennifer Jones (SMCI)
Diane Nix (SMCI)
William Billingsley (Region III)
Douglas Boutwell (Region III)
Claude Brumfield (Region III)
Christopher Colcord (Region III)
Darrell Cooley (Region III)
Bryan Davis (Region III)
Robert Edwards (Region III)
Richard Johnson (Region III)
Casey McInnis (Region III)
Alan Sutton (Region III)
Sarah Underwood (Region III)

December

Luretta Adams (SMCI)
Vickey Chapman (SMCI)
Ivy Jean McDonald (SMCI)
Annie Moore (SMCI)
Synthia Myers (SMCI)
Robert Reeves (SMCI)
Jana White (SMCI)
Brian Winter (SMCI)
Lisa Grayson (Region III)
Keith Adcock (Region III)



State Rep. Dennis DeBar, who represents Greene County and is a member of the House Corrections Committee, speaks during the April 9 quarterly meeting. DeBar told employees he supports Commissioner Marshall Fisher and the department. "I believe he got his heart in the right place," DeBar said of Fisher. "His intentions are in the right place." DeBar said he has heard from a lot of the employees regarding higher pay and more staffing.

Safety

October - December

Plez Hill (FCCWC)
Lekelia Underwood (JCCWC)
Arthur Smith (SCCWC)
Nathan Blevins (Probation & Parole Area 1)
Viruth Lek Phongam (Probation & Parole Area 2)
Jason Carney (Probation & Parole Area 3)
David Sullivan (Probation & Parole Area 4)

January - March

Hubert Davis (SMCI)
Plez Hill (FCCWC)
Judy Clawson (GCCWC)
Jacqueline LaFontaine (HCCWC)
Lekelia Underwood (JCCWC)
Latonya Thompson (PRC)
Arthur Smith (SCCWC)
Nathan Blevins (Probation & Parole Area 1)
Viruth Lek Phongam (Probation & Parole Area 2)
Jason Carney (Probation & Parole Area 3)
David Sullivan (Probation & Parole Area 4)



Tenure Award - 5 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Jaqueline Bush, Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall, and Deputy Commissioner Rick McCarty



Tenure Award - 10 years: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall, and Deputy Commissioner Rick McCarty; [Front row] Cassandra Morris, Gwendolynn Santos, and Irish Harris



Tenure - 10 years: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall, and Deputy Commissioner Rick McCarty; [Front row] Samuel Tucker, Nakia McLaurin, and Kendria O'Quinn



Tenure - 25 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Kay Washington, Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall, and Deputy Commissioner Rick McCarty



Tenure - 30 years: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Maud Irby, Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall, and Deputy Commissioner Rick McCarty



Extra Effort - October, November: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Maud Irby, Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall, and Deputy Commissioner Rick McCarty; [Front row] Willelan Hathorn and Reginald Johnson



Employee of the Month: Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Melanie Townsend, Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall, and Deputy Commissioner Rick McCarty



Safety Award: [Back row] Deputy Commissioner Christy Gutherz, Tjuana Carter, Jacqueline Bush, Patricia Sanders-Ford, and Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall; [Front row] Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams, Aungelia Williams, and Deputy Commissioner Rick McCarty



Then-Training Director Maud Irby hugs Deputy Commissioner Jerry Williams while examining a plaque she received, marking her 30 years with MDOC. Deputy Commissioner Rick McCarty and Chief of Staff Pelicia Hall look on while waiting their turn to congratulate Irby during the Employee Recognition Program for Central Office at the Ethnic Heritage Center of the Mississippi Agricultural & Forestry Museum on April 20.



Chaplain Eugene Wigelsworth gives the invocation at the Employee Recognition Program for Central Office at the Ethnic Heritage Center of the Mississippi Agricultural & Forestry Museum on April 20.

Not Pictured

Tenure

10 Years

Sylvia Kelly
Cynoria Pickens

15 Years

Beverley Walters

25 Years

Victor Cavett
Charles Crocker

Extra Effort

October

Emily Newsome

November

Cheryl Hall
Tracy Montgomery
Lisa Varnell

December

Audrey Gibson
Jeremy Hinton

Safety

October - December

Lynn Mullen (1st Floor)
Lynn Mullen (2nd Floor)
James Brown (4th Floor)

January - March

Lynn Mullen (1st Floor)
Lynn Mullen (2nd Floor)
James Brown (4th Floor)

Retirees & Appointments

2015 Retirements

Each year, MDOC says farewell and congratulations to a new group of retirees. The names with 20-plus years added to this year's list include:

Martez Giles	June	21 years	SMCI
Robert Tidwell	May	23 years 5 months	CO/CC
Richard Gipson	June	24 years & 10 months	MSP
Jessie Tyler	May	24 years & 10 months	MSP
Deneen Williams	May	24 years & 10 months	MSP
Deetrick Johnson	June	24 years & 11 months	MSP
Grady McEntee	June	24 years 6 months	CO/CC
Ronald Montgomery	June	24 years 6 months	CO/CC
Albert Hoeflich	May	24.75 years	SMCI
Jacqueline Smith	May	25 years 5 months	CO/CC
Lois Johnson	June	25 years 6 months	CO/CC
Patricia Lockett	June	25 years 6 months	CO/CC
Phoebe Dixon	June	25.5 years	CMCF
Jacqueline Miller	June	26.25 years	SMCI
Jeffery Robinson	June	29 years & 10 months	MSP
Letitia Roach	May	30 years & 6 months	MSP
Maud Irby	June	31 years	CO
Dorothy Johnson	June	32 years & 9 months	MSP
Gloria Gibbs	June	33 years & 11 months	MSP
Linda Holman	Jan.	33 years & 3 months	CO
Larry Harris	May	39 years	MSP



2015 Appointments & Promotions

Jerry Williams

Deputy commissioner of Institutions

Christy Guthertz

Deputy commissioner of Community Corrections

Todd King

Region II Community Corrections director

Rhonda Boyd

Community Corrections associate director, Region II, Area III

Cecil Lott

Supervisor, Region II, Area II

Dawn Bell

Supervisor, Region II, Area I

Lisa Spinks - O'Hara

Deputy warden, Flowood Restitution/CWC

Diane Porter

Lieutenant, Flowood Restitution/CWC

Kevin Jackson

Constituent Services director

Tracy Sanders

Quality Assurance Committee director

Jacqueline Banks

SMCI superintendent

John Haynes

Branch director II for Community Corrections

Brian Ladner

Central Mississippi Correctional Facility warden

Wendell Banks

Central Mississippi Correctional Facility warden

Rosetta Young

Deputy director of Records

Tony Harris

Community Corrections associate director, Region I, Area 3

Lynn Dixon

Correctional commander Quitman CWC

Dwight Robertson

Correctional commander Pike CWC

Donnie Turner

Correctional supervisor Alcorn CWC

William Randle

Correctional supervisor Leflore CWC

Linda Mitchell

Commander, Greenwood Restitution Center

Training

Schedule for July 2015

The July - December 2015 training schedules are available on Misnet. Select "Training" then the "Institutions Training Schedule" link.

Mississippi State Penitentiary

DATE	COURSE TITLE	TIME	HRS
July 1-3, 6	New Employee Orientation	7:00-5:30	40
July 7-23	Correctional Officer Academy	7:00-5:30	120
July 6-9	Pre-Supervisor Management Training	7:00-5:30	40
July 13-16	Supervisor Management Training	7:00-5:30	40
July 20-23	Annual Refresher Training	7:00-5:30	40
July 21	Chemical Agents	4:30-5:30	1
July 22	Rifle Qualification*	7:00-11:00	4
July 22	Handgun/Shotgun Recertification	8:00-5:00	8
July 23	Standard First Aid/CPR	9:00-3:00	6

South Mississippi Correctional Institution

DATE	COURSE TITLE	TIME	HRS
July 1-3, 6	New Employee Orientation	7:00-5:30	40
July 7-23	Correctional Officer Academy	7:00-5:30	120
July 6-9	Pre-Supervisor Management Training	7:00-5:30	40
July 13-16	Supervisor Management Training	7:00-5:30	40
July 20-23	Annual Refresher Training	7:00-5:30	40
July 21	Chemical Agents	4:30-5:30	1
July 22	Rifle Qualification*	7:00-11:00	4
July 22	Handgun/Shotgun Recertification	8:00-5:00	8
July 23	Standard First Aid/CPR	9:00-3:00	6

Central Mississippi Correctional Facility

DATE	COURSE TITLE	TIME	HRS
July 1-3	Supervisor Management Class (Newly Promoted Supervisors Only)	8:00-4:00	40
July 1-7	New Employee Orientation	8:00-4:00	40
July 6-10	Annual Refresher	8:00-4:00	40
July 9	First Aid/CPR Recertification	9:00-1:00	4
July 9-29	Correctional Officer Academy	8:00-4:00	120
July 20-22	Supervisor Management Class	8:00-4:00	40
July 20-24	Pre-Supervisory Management Class	8:00-4:00	40
July 22	Defensive Techniques	9:00-1:00	4
RANGE			
July 1, 7, 15, 23, 28	Rifle Qualification	8:00-12:00	4
July 1, 7, 15, 23, 28	Rifle Qualification	1:00-5:00	4
July 6, 13, 20, 27	Rifle Qualification – Refresher Makeup	8:00-12:00	4
July 9, 14, 22, 30	Shotgun Qualification	8:00-12:00	4
July 9, 14, 22, 30	Shotgun Qualification	1:00-5:00	4
July 16, 21, 29	Handgun Qualification	8:00-12:00	4
July 16, 21, 29	Handgun Qualification	1:00-5:00	4
July 17, 31	Remedial Training	8:00-5:00	8

Reevaluating Effective Offender Intervention

JACKSON - MDOC staffers received risk assessment training from the Crime and Justice Institute and Community Resources for Justice. Kristin Bechel (pictured right) covered topics including principles of effective intervention; House Bill 585 requirements related to risk assessment; the benefits and challenges of risk assessment; findings of MDOC's Community Corrections' risk assessment; findings of the Graduated Sanctions Data Sample; and the next steps to consider. More information about Community Resources for Justice, Crime & Justice Institute and its work can be found at www.crj.org/cji.



Kristin Bechel of the Crime and Justice Institute and Community Resources for Justice explains risk assessment factors during training for Community Corrections and Institutions at the Agriculture and Forestry Museum on March 12.

New Flex Classes Available

The training department announces two new two-hour courses:

Emergencies, Emergency Plans

This course was developed to ensure that employees know emergency policies, can identify the emergency chain of command, can list the first actions in an emergency situation and can recall emergency phone numbers for institutions.

Offender Visitation

In this course, you will learn the policy and procedure for visitation, a privilege for eligible offenders.

Chaplains Reminded of Their Role in Victim-Based Services



JACKSON - What is the role of a chaplain in victim notification? That question and others were answered by MDOC's two experts on servicing victims. On March 26, Dilworth Ricks, (pictured center) director of the Division of Victim Services, and Gwendolynn Santos, (pictured far left) director of Mississippi SAVIN,



discussed the services they provide and how chaplains can contribute to those services. When an offender with a registered victim dies, how soon a chaplain notifies that offender's family of the death affects how soon the victim is notified. During the MDOC State Chaplain's Meeting, Ricks and Santos also discussed victim offender dia-



logue, how to know if an offender has a registered victim, and rules of victim confidentiality.

Director of Chaplaincy Eugene Wigelsworth (pictured bottom right) reminded participants that sensitivity is a must when dealing with victims of crime.

Wellness

Wellness Program at Central Office



New Wellness Center at the MDOC Central Office

Bureau of Loss Prevention

JACKSON - Welcome to the Central Office Wellness Program Exercise Center! The center is opened 24 hours on the second floor of the 633 N. State St. Central Office building.

More than 100 Central Office employees have signed in at the center since it opened May 18 through June 30.

"While many of the signatures indicate that most employees are repetitively utilizing the exercise room (which is a good thing), interest and participation in the exercise room continues to grow," said Patricia Dean-Wilson, bureau director of Loss Prevention.

Inside you will find several types of exercise equipment and resources such as elliptical machines, stationary bikes, treadmills, a weight training area, blood pressure monitors, and several exercise videos (related to strength training, weight loss challenges and cardiovascular strengthening).

Before using the exercise center, employees must review, sign and return the "Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk" form to the Office of Loss Prevention at pdean-wilson@mdoc.state.ms.us or Room 423.

For policy and procedure information, go to MDOC policy 03.34 and 03-34-01 on the Misnet at <http://misnet/>.

Most employees experience some sort of health risk to varying degrees, whether it is unhealthy eating, lack of exercise or sleep, drinking, smoking, or even something genetic. Employee wellness programs assist in promoting a healthier lifestyle, which in turn supports staff in becoming more able to successfully complete daily job responsibilities. Additionally, staff should have more energy to enjoy family and friends after the workday is complete!

The Loss Prevention Program is working with an organization called Active Health to promote health and wellness on a more individualized basis.

"This collaboration will further support the MDOC Wellness Program by providing more meaningful information tailored to each person's own circumstances, goals and motivations," Dean-Wilson said.



The State Employee Wellness Program has partnered with several Anytime Fitness Center locations in the Jackson Metro Area and in Oxford to offer discounts for state employees. Please share this information with your staff and coworkers.

[Continued from page 20]

...and Notification system (SAVIN) is equally looking forward to putting to use what she learns during the classes.

"Both SAVIN and DVS (Division of Victim Services) staff receive calls from individuals who are not able to speak English," Santos said. "The language barrier hinders our obligation to provide them services. Participating in basic Spanish classes tailored to our divisions will allow us to engage with these callers."

Employees from the three different regions of Community Corrections, the three state prisons, and the MDOC headquarters are receiving six Spanish translation classes geared toward each group's particular job. The sessions include interactive speaking and listening.

Arana, whose company also works with Head Start agencies and school districts, said working with MDOC has been a pleasant experience the past five years. "I've always enjoyed the staff," he said. "They've been very cordial, very nice and very professional. I've only mostly worked with CMCF but that carries over also with the Central Office staff, they been very helpful. I look forward to our business relationship with MDOC."

Answers

Do you know these words? (From page 20)

1. Hello.
2. How are you?
3. I am good.
4. Thank you.
5. You're welcome.

Conferences

Scenes from the 2015 MAPC Mini Conference

TUNICA - The Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections held its mini conference April 15-17 at Sam's Town Tunica Hotel & Casino in Robinsonville, Tina Ladner (pictured top-center) is the current president. This year's theme was "Recipe for

Success." Guest speakers included Bev Johnson, a radio talk show host; Daniel D. Vassel, inspirational and motivational speaker; Gabriella Savelli, stress management speaker and Prison SMART director; David May, associate professor and Criminology

Program coordinator with the Department of Sociology at Mississippi State University; and Katie Powell, Program Fellow with the Foundation for the Mid South Mississippi. A cupcake decoration and "Strut your Apron" competition were among the activities.



MAPC Membership

Help continue the MAPC tradition. Join today!

The membership fee is \$20.00 annually. You can pay at once or use payroll deductions at \$1.67 per month. Lifetime membership is available.

Membership Benefits include:

- Two-yearly conference trainings

- Mini-Conference
- Annual Conference
- Training hours
- Network with others in the corrections field
- Golf Tournament, Pistol Match, Walkathon, and Fishing Rodeo competitions
- Four newsletters per year

For more information, contact:

Pam Wilson: Region IV chairperson, Central Office, 601-359-5786

Stacey Nicholas: Region IV 1st chairperson, Walnut Grove, 601-235-2348

Jackie Brunson: Region IV 2nd chairperson, Central Office, 601-359-5651

Highlights

2015 Legislation Impacting MDOC



Commissioner Fisher answers questions during his Senate confirmation hearing. Law makers asked about morale, House Bill 585, and private prisons, among other things.



Senate Corrections members, including Chairman Samson Jackson (center), and Vice-Chair Lydia Chassaniol (far right), listen as Fisher responds to committee members' questions.

In addition to the Senate confirmation of Marshall Fisher (SN 31) on April 1 as commissioner, other legislation impacting MDOC includes:

- House Bill 389 Prohibits texting while driving
- House Bill 400 Requires Inmate Welfare Fund to be a special fund in state treasury and revises the composition of the Inmate Welfare Fund Committee
- House Bill 703 Amends state law to comply with mandate to redistrict trial courts
- House Bill 825 Amends state law to revise membership of Personal Service Contract Review Board
- House Bill 828 Authorizes DFA to transfer property housing the Records Department at 421 W. Pascagoula St. to MDOC
- House Bill 906 Repeals Regimented Inmate Discipline (RID) programs
- House Bill 1052 Revises capital murder
- House Bill 1267 Revises power and duty of Parole Board
- House Bill 1414 Extends repeal of Bolivar County A&D Treatment Program
- House Bill 1415 Extends repeal of Community Services Revolving Fund
- HCR 53 Commends Louwill E. Davis on retirement
- Senate Bill 2022 Amends "Peeping Tom" and surreptitious photography
- Senate Bill 2117 Revises fondling a child under 18 years of age
- Senate Bill 2159 Renames state Crime Lab as Mississippi Forensics Laboratory
- Senate Bill 2282 Clarifies administrative leave for state employees
- Senate Bill 2400 Revises public purchasing law
- Senate Bill 2804 Grants one-year personnel actions exemption
- Senate Bill 2855 MDOC FY 2016 Appropriation
- SN 10 Susan Kathleen (Kathy) Henry, Parole Board
- SN 16 Lois Frances Cooper, MPIC Board
- SN 17 Herbert Randall Johnson, MPIC Board
- SN 18 Dr. William Ward (Bill) Canon, MPIC Board
- SN 19 Willie James Green, MPIC Board
- SN • 60 Robert Leonard (Bob) Baughn, MPIC Board

Other Commissioner Sightings

Commissioner & Staff Speak to Criminal Justice Students at Jackson State University



Commissioner as the guest speaker at the Hinds County Drug Court Graduation



DVS & SAVIN Nominees Honored at Attorney General's Victim Service Awards



Pictured left to right are Chaplain Eugene Wigelsworth, Nakia McLaurin of Victim Services, Victim Services Director Dilworth Ricks, Mississippi SAVIN Director Gwendolynn Santos, and Private Prison and Regionals Director Tony Compton.

MDOC Office of Communications

JACKSON - On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Corrections, the Division of Victim Services and the

Office of Mississippi SAVIN acknowledge Private and Regional Prisons Director Tony Compton and Director of

Religious Programs Chaplain Eugene Wigelsworth for excellence in providing services.

"Director Compton and Chaplain Wigelsworth respect what we do as service providers and hold such compassion for our victims and survivors. When assistance is needed, they jump into action without hesitation and see the request through to the end. Their dedication and character are very much appreciated by our entire staff, the victims and survivors alike," said Mississippi SAVIN Director Gwendolynn Santos.

Compton and Wigelsworth were each presented a certificate of appreciation at the 2015 Crime Victim's Rights Week Recognition Ceremony on April 21 at the Walter Sillers Building.

MSP Raises \$5,300 for Injured Officer

MSP Committee for Officer Andrew James

PARCHMAN - The Mississippi State Penitentiary staff raised \$5,300 to assist a new officer who was seriously injured in an automobile accident while en route to work on Jan. 21.

Officer Andrew James is now home with around-the-clock care providers as he recuperates.

James was hired on Dec. 16, 2014 and graduated the MSP Academy on Jan. 9, 2015.

During one of his daily commutes from Greenville to Parchman, where he works at Unit 29, his car was hit from behind. He suffered catastrophic injuries that left him without any movement or feeling from his mid-stomach down. He was airlifted from the accident scene to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, where he remained until May 22.

During a visit to the hospital, MSP supervisors presented James an

assistance check from the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation.

Warden Timothy Morris said James' wife told him and Warden Sonja Staniel that after the accident, James was concerned "about being cut out of his uniform because he concerned about it being damaged. She also stated to Warden Staniel and me that he was ready to return to work and wanted to know if the staff at MSP was all right," Morris said.

"Even though Officer James had a short work history with MDOC, he had developed a passion for his job," Morris said. "He displays true devotion, courage and dedication to being a part of the MDOC Team, and we at MSP are very proud and grateful to have Officer Andrew James on our team."

Raising funds to help James and James' family was Supt. Earnest



Wardens Sonja Staniel (pictured left, standing) and Timothy Morris (right) visit with Officer James and family.

Lee's suggestion, Morris said, "because he believes that as an institution we believe in taking care of our own."

The month of April was dedicated to James and several fundraising events were held. The funds raised were presented to James on June 30.

SMCI St. Jude Committee

As of May 21, SMCI St. Jude Committee raised \$1,852.61. This is the third year SMCI has raised funds for St. Jude. The motto again this year is: "It's Worth Your While to Help a Child...SMCI on the Move for St. Jude!!!"

Highlights

New Look for MDOC Website

A new redesign for the agency website (www.mdoc.state.ms.us) will launch

in July. MDOC contracted with Mississippi Interactive, LLC to make the

change. Stay tuned for the full reveal.



Message from MSP's CID & MIS

MSP CID Chief John Rogers,
MSP CID Staff and Dillon Moon MIS

PARCHMAN - The year 2015 is moving right along and the Corrections Investigation Division (CID) staff welcomes new Internal Affairs Coordinators Jimmie Gibbs and Jim Hunt to the team.

Evidence is received by CID on a regular basis due to the hard work of MSP staff and supervisors in the field. Their dedication to the agency makes the MDOC work environment a little safer for each of us.

CID maintains an open door policy to anyone who is willing to provide confidential information leading to the arrest/conviction of anyone who introduces contraband into the facility.

Contraband items received by CID staff include narcotics, cell phones, and shanks, just to name a few. Each of these items can contribute to a dangerous environment for staff and the offenders. Everyone at MDOC has the right to come to work and go home unscathed.

However, caution and aware-

ness should not stop when you leave the Institution. We live in a dangerous world.

Here are just a few reminders from MSP CID and MIS:

1. Plan ahead before you go places. Inform loved ones and associates where you are going.
2. Never assume that bad things only happen to other people.
3. Avoid secluded and poorly lit areas when traveling.
4. Keep up with what's happening in your community and where you intend to travel.
5. If you find yourself walking, always face oncoming traffic.
6. Consider taking a self-defense course or at least think about what you might do if you are found in a dangerous situation.

7. Think ahead for your loved ones, especially your children.

8. Be aware of where your children are and who they associate with. (We love and care for them, right?)

9. Monitor your children's activities on the Internet or social media. Sexual predators are checking out open profiles more than one would think. They will also send friend requests to closed profiles hoping to make friends with your children.

10. Current statistics indicate that one in four regular Internet users younger than 17 were exposed to unwanted sexually explicit pictures online last year and one in five youths received online sexual solicitation in 2014.

MSP CID and MIS hope and pray that everyone at MSP and beyond have a safe 2015, blessed in abundance.

YOU School



Sgt. Booker, Sgt. Burks, and Sgt. Caffey
[Photos provided by the YOU at CMCF]

PEARL - Three sergeants and an officer completed Field Trainer Officer, or FTO, training: Sgts. Cynthia Booker, Tonja Burks and Darlene Caffey, and Officer Gray. "We became a FTO so that we can help make a difference in the way the officers are being trained on how to perform their job duties correctly," Booker said. "Hopefully our training will give them the opportunity to become wonderful officers. And also have a successful and fulfilling career with MDOC."



The offenders listen to Jonathan Nason (pictured below) with members of the three churches

In January, the YOU students attended a three-day revival at Crossgates Baptist Church, Southside Assembly of God and Word of Life Ministry.

The speakers were Jonathan Nason and Devon Adams. Jonathan spoke on Isaiah 11- God has a plan for you and Devon spoke on the importance of staying out of gangs and staying out of trouble.



A Look Back at 2015 Correctional Officers & Employees Week

Correctional Peace Officers and Employees Appreciation Week was celebrated at MDOC facilities from May 3-9. Here are some highlights.

Central Office (pictured center)
• Staffers were treated to a full breakfast.

Mississippi State Penitentiary
• Events included men and women basketball games, a talent show, softball competition, a health fair, breakfast, lunch and dinner on one day, "An All White Affair" at Drew's National Guard Armory, fishing and Family Fun Day.

Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (pictured far right)
• From the opening ceremony to a volleyball game, a basketball tournament, a talent show, a "Best dressed" uniform fashion show, and a Run/Walk marathon, fun was had by all.



South Mississippi Correctional Institution
• Coffee and doughnuts, free blood pressure checks, goodie bags and a meal were among the choices.



East Mississippi Correctional Facility
• Food for staff and officers was provided all week, plus there was a "Jersey Walk" and Limbo contest one day, and a motivational guest speaker to cap the week.



The RESOURCE

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Jackson, MS 39202

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ACA Reaccreditations

MDOC ACA Audits in 2015 completed with 100% scores on Mandatory Standards

- Pascagoula Restitution Center
- George County Community Work Center
- Forrest County Community Work Center
- Simpson County Community Work Center
- Quitman County Community Work Center
- Bolivar County Community Work Center
- Wilkinson County Community Work Center