

DOCS TODAY

Autumn 2008

New York State Department of Correctional Services

Vol. 1, No. 5

DOCS Consolidates Dorms, Crews as Part of Savings Plan

The Department of Correctional Services is consolidating dormitories at 17 medium and minimum security correctional facilities and reducing the number of inmate community crews at nine facilities as part of a major effort to improve efficiency without compromising public safety or security.

Governor David A. Paterson has directed all State agencies to reduce their operating budgets in the face of significant projected drops in revenue resulting from the crisis in American financial markets. DOCS' dorm and crew consolidations are part of more than \$81.6 million in reductions to the agency's 2008-09 operating budget.

The consolidations will save taxpayers money by reducing the number of correction officer jobs by nearly 200, all through attrition. The total represents about 1 percent of the more than 19,600 correction officer positions throughout the agency.

A steady decline in the inmate population over most of the last decade resulting from a drop in crime and the success of legislatively-mandated early release programs for non-violent offenders with good behavior and program participation has led to an increase in the number of vacant beds at medium and minimum security facilities.

As a result, DOCS is vacating 27 dormitories and housing units, in all, at the men's medium security Adirondack, Collins, Gowanda, Hudson, Mid-Orange, Mohawk, Ogdensburg, Oneida, Otisville and Watertown Correctional Facilities; the annexes at Groveland and Washington Correctional Facilities; the men's minimum security Butler and Camp McGregor Correctional Facilities; a portion of the annex housing medium and minimum security general confinement inmates at Lakeview Correctional Facility; and the minimum security portion of Mid-State Correctional Facility. The agency is also

consolidating housing at the men's medium security Fishkill Correctional Facility by vacating 28 beds, or one floor, of an 84-bed Special Housing Unit (SHU) area.

About 1,000 inmates are leaving those housing units, with the vast majority moving to vacant beds within their current facility. The Department is also reopening the 24-bed SHU area at Groveland by reassigning security staff from the vacated Groveland annex dorms.

The 205 community crews across the system will be reduced by 36, with reductions at all four men's minimum security camps (McGregor, Gabriels, Georgetown and Pharsalia),



Groveland Correctional Facility Annex, where DOCS is vacating dormitories and reducing inmate community crews as part of its consolidation plan.

Mid-Orange, the minimum-security portion of Mid-State and the annex at Groveland. Inmate community crews are being eliminated at Otisville and Gowanda

Correctional Facility, though crews from nearby facilities may still help in those communities.

Due to a constantly fluctuating inmate population and in accordance with attrition and staffing patterns, DOCS may alter the plan going forward.

"These actions will allow the Department to respond to Governor Paterson's call to reduce State operations spending while still delivering costly, mandated services for sex offenders and the growing number of inmates with mental illness and preparing offenders for their return to the community while protecting our agency's top priority: safety and security in and around our correctional facilities," said Commissioner Brian Fischer.

The Department is achieving other savings by deferring the anticipated opening of the 99-bed Intermediate Care Program (ICP) unit at Green Haven Correctional Facility and the 100-bed Marcy Residential Mental Health Unit (RMHU) until after April 2009, and delaying central pharmacy automation and updating of GED software for the English as a Second Language and bi-

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Message from the Commissioner

In the last issue, I spoke to you about New York's fiscal difficulties and the need for the Department of Correctional Services to economize. That was before the financial collapse on Wall Street. Now, it is difficult to underestimate the urgency for our agency, and all others in government, to find ways to reduce costs for our taxpayers.

Because New York State government relies on Wall Street for one fifth of its revenues, the financial crisis is hitting us particularly hard. Governor Paterson has asked all agencies to reduce their operating budgets by 10 percent. As outlined on this issue's front page, we have begun to do so in ways that do not compromise the core mission of the agency: operating our facilities in a safe and secure manner while preparing inmates for their return to society. We will continue to do so well into next year.

But for our efforts to be successful, each employee must contribute, and inmates must do their part. Economizing must become a mindset, a part of the culture of this Department. Every employee must begin to think

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lingual education programs. DOCS will also postpone filling technology positions and will delay some promotions to facility deputy superintendent positions. The purchase of upgraded personal alarms for facility-based civilian staff will be spread over four years, rather than three.

DOCS also reduced the Summer School program to 28 days, from 35, and terminated contracts with The New York Therapeutic Community, whose "Stay'n Out" program provided substance abuse treatment at Arthur Kill and Bayview Correctional Facilities (Oct. 3), the Osborne Association for its Faith-Based Initiative (Sept. 15) and America Works of New York for its job development and placement program (effective Nov. 14). Beginning with this issue, DOCS/TODAY goes to eight pages, from 16, with a 14,000-copy reduction to 27,000 and the elimination of "Transitions," which is being disseminated electronically and posted for employees who lack electronic access.

Commissioner Fischer will identify additional efficiencies to achieve further savings (see the Commissioner's Message above) going forward.



Commissioner Brian Fischer

every day of ways to carry out our important mission in a more cost-efficient manner; inmates must be mindful of resources.

The Budget Division asked agencies to identify each of their functions as high, medium or low priority in relation to the agency's core mission. As I made clear to budget officials, our low priority designations are meant only to identify places where we should explore downsizing and saving by restructuring – not to target needed services for elimination. I believe the best course for creating savings is to find ways to reduce and restructure the entire system over time.

Although we must consolidate and restructure the system, we will continue to move forward on critical components such as civilian personal alarm upgrades, capital construction and minor rehabilitation, and enhanced treatment for inmates with mental illness.

We have no choice but to achieve additional savings. While some decisions may be unpopular, I assure you that I will make each and every one keeping in mind the goal of minimizing impact on staff and ensuring inmates continue to receive structure and programs.

McKay Joins DOCS, Exec Team

Osbourne A. McKay has joined the Department's Executive Team as Deputy Commissioner for Correctional Industries and Accreditation, responsible for the Bureau of Internal Controls, Audit and Corcraft. A native of Jamaica, West Indies who attended public schools in Albany, Mr. McKay came to DOCS in August 2008 from the Workers' Compensation Board, where he managed quality assurance and vendor performance standards as project director of the agency's paper to image conversion initiative.



Mr. McKay has also worked for the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Transportation, the Division of the Budget, and Industrial Medicine Associates. He holds degrees from the Rochester Institute of Technology and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, and has advocated for more than 20 years for business process improvement.

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ON THE COVER: The masthead brings DOCS/TODAY together with its past via "Copper John," the Colonial soldier who has stood watch atop the front gate of Auburn, the state's oldest prison, since 1821.

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Livingston Inmates Live Phase II Transitional Services Program

When asked how many hours a day he practiced his instrument, legendary blues musician B.B. King is said to have replied, "I don't practice guitar. I play guitar." His answer summed up the notion that people succeed when they live what they learn.

Livingston Correctional Facility has taken the lead in applying that notion to the Transitional Services Phase II program, moving the course from the classroom into the housing unit. Faced with a growing required program list and a shortage of program space, Superintendent Malcolm Cully suggested running Phase II as a residential program. Now, participants there live the experiential learning concepts presented, rather than practice the ideas for a morning or afternoon.

Transitional Services is a three-phase program designed to assist inmates in preparing for their return to the community through securing legal documents such as social security cards and birth certificates, developing life action and concrete release plans and assembling employment portfolios with resumes, cover letters and letters of reference. Phase I occurs early in an inmate's term, Phase III near release. At three months, Phase II is the longest. In it, participants focus on Change in Circumstances, Social Living Skills, Communication Processes and Aggression/Conflict Management.

One dorm-style housing unit served at the start of residential Phase II programming at Livingston. Two classes of 25 participants each—one morning, one afternoon—began the first 12-week residential therapy cycle in April 2007. After a 90-percent graduation rate from the first two cycles, Livingston devoted a second housing unit to residential programming. Today, Livingston facilitates four classes with 100 participants.

"They can talk the talk throughout the day, instead of ending in a classroom with guys leaving to go every which way," said Donna Pitt-Hickman, Phase II program counselor.

At Livingston, what participants learn is less from books than from one another's life stories, applied to the broad teaching concepts presented, Ms. Pitt-Hickman said. "It's not 'How to do this or that.' It's what to do in a given situation. It's about recognizing patterns of thought and behavior that lead to good or bad decisions."

Role-playing, shared disclosure and other intensely personal interactions form a core element of the Phase II program. "Experiential learning is always a plus," said Deputy Superintendent of Program Services Valerie Sullivan. A residential setting for Phase II participants is

meant to challenge ingrained inhibitions common to an inmate population.

"In sharing my insights, I am held accountable for what I say and do," said inmate Shawn R. DuBois. "I just can't talk the talk; I have to walk the walk." Added inmate James A. Johnson: "Issues that were brought up in group were brought up during non-program hours. As we lived with each other for a period of time, our trust for one another grew. All those guys I was with, we now are on very good friendly terms."



Inmate facilitator Richard Ng leads discussion in Livingston's residential Phase II program. Livingston devotes two dorm-style housing units to program operations, with 100 inmates living Phase II concepts.

"Our participants become more involved in the program because they feel safe in a closed environment," Ms. Pitt-Hickman said. "They don't just see other participants for a few hours each day and then wonder if those participants go out to talk to others. Their defense mechanism

becomes more relaxed; they feel less inhibited. They are better able to share life experiences more openly and, because they can do this, each student becomes better able to identify and address their own personal issues."

"Our inmate facilitators report participants are so much more into the program," DSP Sullivan said. "These groups far exceed the required 160 contact hours mandated in the program. Having seen the successful results of our switch to a residential program, I'm convinced we'll not revert back to the classroom."

Queensboro Hosts 'The Castle'



About 150 inmates along with staff watched an Oct. 3 performance at Queensboro Correctional Facility of "The Castle," the off-Broadway play conceived and directed by Fortune Society founder David Rothenberg about a 60-bed residence in Harlem for potentially homeless parolees with histories of substance abuse. Performing are (above, L-R) Angel Ramos, Vilma Ortiz Donovan, Kenneth Harrigan and Casimiro Torres, all ex-inmates who overcame sometimes daunting disadvantages to become self-sufficient, productive, taxpaying members of society. They stayed afterward to answer current inmates' questions.

DOCS Staff: Courage, Compassion, Valor, Achievement



When Correction Officer **Dale Jackson** (far left) went into cardiac arrest while frisking the gym area at Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility July 12, fellow Officers **Ray Abbott**, **Bob Rose**, **Curtis Cole** and **Scott Squires** (L-R, below) immediately carried him on a stretcher to the facility Infirmary. There, Officer Abbott and Registered Nurses **Scott Garnsey** and **Nancy McNally** administered medical help. Officer Jackson underwent successful bypass surgery at Albany Medical Center July 22. He was presented with a check from The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation by Officer **Richard Thomas** (top, at right), Mt. McGregor CPO representative.



At Franklin Correctional Facility Aug. 20, Correction Officer **Kevin Grant** (below left) successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge food from inmate **William Candelario's** throat. A member of the Potsdam Volunteer Fire Department for almost 30 years, Officer Grant had never before performed the maneuver. "I will never forget what Officer Grant has done," inmate Candelario said. "I thought I was going to die."



Hale Creek Correctional Facility's maintenance supervisor, **Daniel M. Crossway** (below, left), received this year's Volunteer of Valor award from **State Senator Joseph A. Griffo** of Oneida County (below, right). Mr. Crossway nearly died after a Sept. 3, 1988 accident in which he was burned over 88 percent of his body during a training exercise for the Maynard Fire Department, where he has served as a volunteer firefighter for more than 25 years and an emergency medical technician for four. Given only a two to four percent chance of survival, he summoned strength, courage and perseverance to overcome all physical challenges and is now President of the Oneida County Fire Chiefs Association.



Albion Correctional Facility's team of Correction Officers **Dennis Piechowski** and **Richard Queeno** and Plant Superintendent **Tom Caza** won the men's over 40 age group at the annual Boilermaker Road Race in Utica July 13. The trio, (L-R above) with Superintendent **William Powers** (second to right), finished the 15 k (9.3-mile) course with an average time of 1:04:16. The race featured 25 men's over-40 teams this year from across the Northeast.



Cornell Expands College Courses to Cayuga C.F.

Cornell University, which has sent its professors and graduate students into Auburn Correctional Facility to teach inmates there for 15 years, has expanded to Cayuga Correctional Facility, introducing college-level courses at the men's medium security facility this summer and fall.

Summer 2008's "Introduction to International Relations" and this fall's introductory biology course, "What is Life," are funded entirely through the private Sunshine Lady Foundation. The organization, aimed at ending domestic violence, was founded in 1996 by Doris Buffett, who for many years has advocated and raised money for battered women and their children. The Foundation has pledged to underwrite the college program at Cayuga for two years at no cost to State taxpayers.

Along with Cornell, the Foundation will support seven courses split between Auburn and Cayuga. Participating Cayuga inmates earn credits toward associate de-

grees from Cayuga Community College. All course applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalency GED (General Educational Development).

Of more than 50 applicants, 16 inmates were chosen to take the summer political science course; all passed, with most earning an A or B. Of more than 40 applicants for this fall's biology course, 17 were selected.

"We have found students in our classes at both Auburn and Cayuga to be serious, committed, and often exceptionally capable," said Cornell Professor of American Studies Mary Katzenstein, a major force behind the College Prison Program. "Even without the amenities of a regular college environment, there is no underestimating the astonishing intellectual and personal growth that can happen in a prison classroom."

Continuation of the Cornell program at Cayuga after the second year will depend on replenishment of foundation funding and private donations.

Orleans Opens Reentry Unit for Monroe County, DOCS' Second

Orleans Correctional Facility opened a reentry unit in October 2008 for inmates due to be released to nearby Monroe County.

The 60-bed unit supplements an identically sized reentry unit in an adjacent dormitory that opened in August 2007 for inmates scheduled to be released to Erie County. That one was the first specialized reentry unit in the Department.

The new unit, DOCS' second, will require no additional staff or costs. It will share the five employees who had been assigned to the Erie County unit, including a Supervising Correction Counselor, Correction Counselors for ASAT (Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment) and Transitional Services, a Keyboard Specialist and a Supervisor of Volunteer Services. The new unit will also use other existing staff at the men's medium security facility located about midway between Buffalo and Rochester.

Orleans' reentry units offer a 90-day program aimed at readying inmates scheduled to be released within three to four months for their return to the community. Offenders meet in person with the parole officers, potential employers and others from their nearby home county who will form their key support network after release. A team of DOCS and Division of Parole officials, community agencies and the offender himself assesses each inmate's needs, ranging from possession of necessary documents to employment, housing and family reunification. Prior to release, participants are matched with programs such as job training, anger management or substance abuse counseling. They're also given help applying for public benefits.

Lorraine Cohen, Assistant Director of the ASAT Program, said DOCS and its partners in the reentry units - the Division of Parole and the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services - are adjusting reentry curriculums based on the first year of the Orleans program.

"We're also looking at more inclusion of inmates in the process from the beginning, to develop the Individual Service Plan and determine the inmate's need for employment, housing, Medicaid coverage and substance abuse treatment and other individual needs.

"As a collective body, we are taking what we learned with Erie and revising it based on what's gone on in the last year," Ms. Cohen said.

State officials are also working with the State-funded Monroe County Reentry Task Force, a collaboration of more than 50 agencies including treatment providers, faith-based groups, community organizations and human services agencies that help ex-offenders with employment, training, education, mental health counseling, mentoring, family reunification, substance abuse

treatment, health care and housing needs.

In the reentry units, inmates participate in role-playing, practicing behavioral responses to issues of employment and family reunification, including mock interviews. Participants also practice cover letter-writing and use the Department of Labor's Career Zone software. Staff emphasize the inmate's personal responsibilities once back in the community, and the process is to continue upon the inmate's release.

Washington's Olympic Winners



Commissioner Brian Fischer presented the 2008 Commissioner's Trophy at Washington Correctional Facility on Sept. 10 to Washington's participants in the 24th annual DOCS Olympics. With Olympic Director David Barringer (far left), are (L-R) Chris Corlew, Tamara Williams, Barb McWhorter, Dane Clark, James Paige, Todd Terrio, the Commissioner, John Whittaker, Kevin Belden, Zoe Kingsley, Richard Scouten, Kelly LeClaire, Bernie Wylie, Daniel Paige, Kathy Putorti and James Caprood.

Mid-Orange Converts 'Old Stairwell' to Veterans' Wall



Commissioner Brian Fischer speaks to Mid-Orange staff at the Sept. 4 dedication of the correctional facility's new Veterans' Memorial Wall. Deputy Superintendent for Programs Cathy Jacobsen helped acquire placards for the wall from the six uniformed services: U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. Employees and inmates at Mid-Orange's Masonry, Horticulture, Modulars and Electrical Trades helped make the project a reality, converting the facility's "old stairwell" into a cascading memorial wall with flowers, trees and benches to honor all those who serve and protect, and especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Eastern Reopens Bigger, Modernized Braille Program

DOCS/TODAY Correspondents

Adirondack
David Hachey
Inmate Grievance Supvr

Albion
Diane Czarnicki
Teacher

Altona
John Zurlo
Education Supvr

Attica
William Stranahan
Correction Officer

Auburn
Deborah Clinch
Production Control

Bare Hill
Lynne Kelley
Clerk

Bayview
Julia Jenkins
Vocational Instructor

Bedford Hills
Tara Byrnes
Keyboard Specialist

Beacon
Heidi Hunsberger
Correction Officer

Buffalo
Janice Kruzicki
Secretary

C. Gabriels
Debbie Lagree
Secretary II

C. Georgetown
Renee Buddie
Counselor

C. Pharsalia
John Koopman
Chaplain

Cape Vincent
Larry Frank
Program Dep

Cayuga
Lynn Olcott
Teacher

Clinton
Diane Akey
Secretary

Collins
Stacey Deuschle
Counselor

Coxsackie
Linda Norton
Vocational Supervisor

Downstate
Ann Raimondo
Assistant Dep

Eastern
Theresa Hyatt
Volunteer Svcs Supvr

Eastern Correctional Facility reopened its 12-year-old Braille and Large Print program Sept. 19 in larger, renovated space with new computer equipment and a modern network that provides for increased security and productivity.

The Braille and Large Print operation, run as a Vocational General Business program, involves 30 inmates, 15 each assigned to morning and afternoon programs based on interest and vocational requirements. Participants produce Braille and Large Print textbooks for visually impaired students in the community, as well as visually impaired inmates at Eastern and other correctional facilities. The Inmate Rule book (in both English and Spanish), the facility's Orientation Guide and academic materials for sensorially impaired inmates are among the program's products.

Vocational Instructor 4 Stan Drewnowski supervises the inmates'



training in computer skills. Participants concentrate on Microsoft Office 2003, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher using the DOCS General Business course curriculum and Employment Profile, a course syllabus that details each required task.

Above, inmate Anthony Panlall, a teacher's aide in the Braille and Large Print program, helps inmate Jazzmin Williams work a Perkins Braille machine as inmate Christopher Buniek looks on. Inmate Panlall earned his Library of Congress certificate in Literary Braille Transcribing in May 2007 and is working to complete his Nemeth Braille mathematics certificate. At right, Vocational Instructors David Carbary of Auburn (seated left) and John Morano of Gowanda work the computers in the renovated Braille and Large Print program area at Eastern as (standing, L-R) Vocational Instructors Stan Drewnowski of Eastern - who has run the program for more than five years - Jim Holvey of Fishkill, Central Office ITS IV Susan Virgilio and Rob Giordano of Washington look on.

Participants use desktop publishing skills to produce the Large Print textbooks and employ word processing skills to produce the Braille textbooks. Those are made by running original books into Microsoft Word, proofreading them and copying the document to the Megadots computer program, which converts the text to Braille and prints the Braille dots with an embosser.

The reopened shop's modern network, installed by Central Office's education technology team, upgraded computer programs with faster processing time to increase productivity.

Through a correspondence course with the National Federation of the Blind, inmates can learn to read and write Braille using the manual Perkins Braille, which types Braille dots on special paper. Participants who achieve certain milestones receive the Library of Congress certificate in Literary Braille Transcribing. So far, 12 inmates have earned certificates and two more have achieved the Nemeth Code Science Certification in mathematics.

The Braille program at Eastern began in June 1996, and Large Print production was added in early 2002. Since its inception, the program has produced more than 200 Braille and 45 Large Print books. Eastern's listing of books is available to all school districts in the United States via the American Printing House for the Blind's website database at www.aph.org.



Edgecombe
Nancy Rivera
Clerk

Elmira
James Mahunik
Vocational Supvr

Five Points
Sheryl Zenzen
Program Dep

Franklin
Theresa White
Secretary II

Gouverneur
Robert Pirie
Program Dep

Gowanda
Leslie McNamara
Program Dep

Great Meadow
Susan Hart
Secretary

Green Haven
Ray Wilk
Lieutenant

Hale Creek
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Education Supvr

Hudson
Pam Kuluniak
Principal Acct Clerk

Lakeview
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Program Dep

Lincoln
Luis Moret
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Livingston
Dave Caryl
Inmate Grievance

Marcy
Christine Darby
Sr. Librarian

Mid-Orange
James Hunt
Correction Officer

Mid-State
Daniel Abbis
Vocational Supvr

Mohawk
Candy Vail
Voc Instructor

Monterey
Margaret Keller
Teacher

Moriam
Karyn Langlais
ASAT Counselor

Mt. McGregor
Sally Reams
Inmate Grievance

Ogdensburg
Tom Lawrence
Sr. Librarian

Lincoln C.F. Back to Being Progressive School for a Day

Oneida

Carol Ayers
Secretary

Orleans

Krista Vasile
Counselor

Otisville

Christopher Andre
Rec. Program Leader

Queensboro

Karen Winfield
Correction Officer

Riverview

Barbara McDonough
Teacher

Rochester

Timothy Tracz
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Shawangunk

Frank Chiapperino
Correction Cnslr

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Sullivan

Lori Brown
Correction Officer

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Kathleen Johnson
Principal Acct Clerk

Taconic

Darrow Cunningham
Sr. Correction Cnslr

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Education Supvr

Washington

Nicole Echeandia
Keyboard Specialist

Watertown

Kathleen Beattie
Counselor

Wende

Steve Furlani
Education Supvr

Willard

Helen Hart
Sr. Librarian

Woodbourne

Charles Davis
Counselor

Wyoming

John Zak
Special Subjects

Lincoln Correctional Facility took on a new – and old – look earlier this year when the building on the northern edge of Manhattan’s Central Park opened its doors for a 40th anniversary high school reunion, welcoming graduates of what was once the New Lincoln School.

More than 125 New Lincoln graduates, teachers, and friends converged on their former school June 7 to celebrate the building’s past and present, coming from as far as China, Guam and London, as well as California, Oregon, Texas, Washington State and Washington, D.C., Massachusetts, Florida, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Mexico.

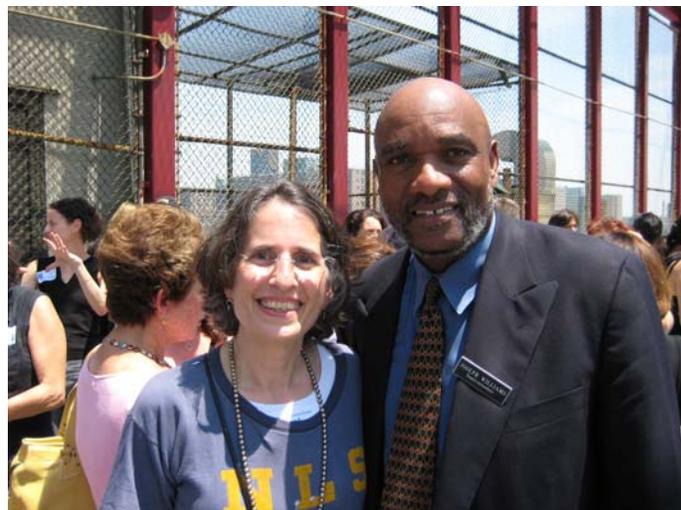
Lincoln Superintendent Joseph V. Williams surprised the reunion’s organizer by moving without hesitation to open the work release facility’s doors for the unusual event.

“It’s a correctional facility and they would never let a group like us inside,” organizer Peggy Liss said friends told her. “But I decided to take on the challenge and call Superintendent Williams. We were taught to always try.”

Lincoln staff volunteered their services for the Saturday event, offering a welcoming committee in the lobby, tour guides at the ready and food preparation headed by Food Service Administrator Maude McDonald. Deputy Superintendent for Programs Rudolph Jeffrey opened the ceremonies.

The eight-story building at 31-33 West 110th Street has a long and storied history of education and social services dating back nearly a century. Virtually indistinguishable from the other elegant residential buildings along Central Park North, it opened in 1914 as a Young Women’s Hebrew Association (YWHA) facility to help assimilate newly-arrived Jewish immigrant women. At the start of World War II, the U.S. Army bought the building as a rest and relaxation center for soldiers.

After the war, the leadership of the experimental New Lincoln School, founded in 1917 through a grant from John D. Rockefeller and operated under



Superintendent Joseph V. Williams on the roof of Lincoln Correctional Facility with event organizer Peggy Liss during the New Lincoln School Class of 1968 Reunion.

Columbia University’s Teacher’s College, bought the building and ran it from 1948 to the mid-1970s as a bastion of progressive education.

Students’ parents “came from the arts and politics, they were teachers and writers, and some were home-makers,” Ms. Liss recalled. “Many were radical thinkers who chose to have their children learn by experience.” Graduate Marc Aronson, Ph.D., said the school “left us addicted to racial integration, to the act of speaking out and testing ideas. Going to school here, we became addicted to a kind of hope for a better way to live.”

By 1976, the New Lincoln School had closed and Lincoln Correctional Facility took over. The day of the reunion – themed “Connecting Our Past to Our Present ... the Continuum” - graduates and guests ate a sumptuous lunch in the 8th Floor mess hall, heard a round of speeches, including a humorous delivery by State Senator Bill Perkins of Manhattan, then went up to the roof for more festivities and group photos.

“The Lincoln staff was warm and welcoming and everyone got into a celebratory mood,” Ms. Liss said. “We were so excited to be back on 110th Street and back inside the building, and we were kids in high school again.”

After the event, Superintendent Williams was inundated with phone calls, letters and e-mails thanking him for his and his staff’s hospitality and for making the get together such a memorable experience. “We feel that Lincoln, as a correctional facility, is continuing the legacy of human services and education that we inherited from the New Lincoln School when it occupied the same building from the 1950’s to the 1970’s,” said Superintendent Williams, who paid for the lunch personally with the help of attendees’ donations. “In one way or another, we’re all connected - - past, present and future.”

New Laws Affect Licensing, Criminal Record Summaries, PRS

Governor David A. Paterson signed new laws this year aimed at easing the workload on facility inmate records coordinators, helping qualified ex-offenders obtain barbering and cosmetology licenses, and speeding the process for re-sentencing inmates whose original commitment was silent on post-release supervision.

The first law eliminated the requirement that the Department of Correctional Services provide summaries of criminal records of inmates when notifying local police chiefs, sheriffs, and district attorneys of those inmates' release. Instead, the new law gives local law enforcement agencies the authority to request the released inmate's criminal history record from the Division of Criminal Justice Services. For other information that DOCS will continue to provide local law enforcement, the new law allows willing local agencies to accept the data electronically.

DOCS has provided as many as 30,000 notifications of release per year, in many cases mailing them to two separate local law enforcement jurisdictions. Because DOCS is not required to update criminal records after an inmate enters prison, the summaries can be outdated and of little use to local law enforcement.

The law's sponsors, Senator Michael Nozzolio of Seneca County and Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry of Queens, the respective chairs of the legislative corrections committees, noted the measure should save DOCS numerous man-hours.

The barber/cosmetology law prohibits the New York Secretary of State from automatically disqualifying license applicants because of a criminal record. It directs the secretary to review ex-offenders in accordance with article 23A of the Correction Law, which requires consideration of the State's policy to encourage licensure and employment of ex-offenders and other factors such as the seriousness of the crime and the amount of time since its commission.

That law, sponsored by Senator Velmanette Montgomery of Brooklyn and Assemblyman Michael Benjamin of the Bronx and vetoed last year by former Governor Eliot Spitzer, requires ex-offenders to provide evidence of "good moral character."

DOCS vocational instructors teach barbering to eligible inmates at the men's Green Haven, Hudson and Mid-State Correctional Facilities and cosmetology at the women's Albion, Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities.

The post-release supervision (PRS) law was triggered by an April 29 Court of Appeals ruling that PRS can only be imposed by the sentencing judge, orally, at the time of sentencing. Many judges did not do so since the PRS provision took effect Sept. 1, 1998, leaving DOCS to add PRS calculations to numerous sentences.

The new law sets deadlines for the courts and streamlines the process for the scheduling of affected inmates for resentencing. DOCS has so far sent 608 letters to courts for technical PRS violators in its custody for whom the commitments were silent for PRS. The Department is now sending letters for inmates scheduled to be released after completing their original sentences in September, October and November. The law also allows courts, with the consent of the appropriate district attorney, to resentence affected inmates to a new determinate term without PRS.

DVD: College After Prison

Inmates in Academic and Transitional Services programs throughout the Department will see an inspirational DVD, "Re-Imagine the Future/The Journey from Prison to College," which illustrates the advantages of continuing a college education after release.

DOCS paid \$10,000 for production of the DVD through Ibis Productions Inc. and The College Initiative, a reentry program aimed at encouraging inmates released to the New York City area to begin or continue their college education after prison. The DVD includes first-person accounts of formerly incarcerated offenders who transformed their lives through higher education to become productive members of society. It also serves as a teaching tool, offering objectives and discussion points. Each facility deputy superintendent for programs has received a copy.

New Dental X-Ray Machine Saves Money, Chemicals



Dental Assistant Tanny Fe Diaz prepares inmate Sandford Horlback for dental x-rays at Downstate Correctional Facility using a new digital panoramic unit, which will save taxpayers over \$30,000 a year through more efficient technology while reducing the use of toxic chemicals. The Planmeca Pro Max was installed Aug. 19 at Downstate, a men's reception facility, and is planned for Ulster and Elmira Correctional Facilities, other men's reception centers. By printing on paper rather than film while reducing the use of chemicals and radiation, the new machine, installed by winning bidder Patterson Dental, cut the cost per x-ray to about \$1, from \$3. With each new inmate and returning parole violator receiving panoramic exams at reception, Downstate averages about 1,000 "pans" per month.