



# Impact Georgia

February 2013 Newsletter

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Have a great story idea?



Please submit articles and photos to Gwendolyn Hogan by **February 21st.**

**Email:** hogang00@dcor.state.ga.us

## Commissioner's Message



The 2013 Legislative Session is in full swing and Governor Nathan Deal looks to continue his efforts with Criminal Justice Reform.

Great strides were made during the 2012 session, and we look forward to what this year will bring.

Two of the great successes from last year's session were the implementa-

tion of electronic submission of records and a cap on the sentence at Probation Detention Centers.

Submitting offender records electronically has been a great benefit to the Department. This has cut down on our operating costs and time in jail for offenders waiting to enter the system. It has made the logistics of an offender to enter prison more simple and less costly.

We also saw a cap placed on the sentence time spent in a Probation Detention Center. Offenders were being sentenced to these facilities for two to three years. They were not designed for that length of stay. With a cap of 180 days, the waiting list at local jails dropped from 700 in July to about 200 as of January 2013.

Additionally, we are working on a pre-sentence assessment tool to provide to judges, early in the pre-sentence process, with offenders' needs, risks and likelihood of recidivism. This will assist the judges with their assessment to more accurately sentence offenders.

As you can see, we took great steps

and made significant process in 2012 towards reserving bed space for our more violent offenders and providing alternative sentencing options for the less violent offenders.

Through Governor Deal's lead on Criminal Justice Reform, the Department of Corrections is able to be national trendsetters in criminal justice.

I encourage you to review the Department's fact sheets on our Budget and Justice Reinvestment. They offer much more information on these topics.



## HAVE AN IDEA FOR A FACT SHEET?



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## Turner RSAT Holds First Graduation

Contributed by Gwendolyn Meriweather, Superintendent



NFL veteran Roger Jackson encourages the graduates and thanks DOC staff for helping get his life back on track.

Turner Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Center held its first graduation ceremony on Jan. 17. The 36 offenders graduated from a six month substance abuse program taught by Spectrum staff.

The graduation ceremony featured former NFL veteran Roger Jackson.

He spoke about how his life took a dramatic turn when he served six years in the state's prison system.

Jackson said it was not until he was assigned to a six month treatment program that his life began to change. Jackson also acknowledged Superintendent Moses James, the facility's



Turner RSAT first graduation held at the facility on Jan. 17

staff and Spectrum staff and thanked them for helping him to get his life back on track and advocated that treatment programs work. He encouraged the graduating class by telling them, "This program saved my life."

Remarks were also delivered by Superintendent Gwen Meriweather,

Deputy Director of Probation Operations Mark Morris and Spectrum State Director Dawn Collinge. Program Director Gloria Moreland and Spectrum Clinical supervisor presented the graduates their certificates of completion.

Turner RSAT was remissioned from a Pre-release Center in July.

## 10 Step Framework Presentation at APPA

Contributed by Jay Sanders, Asst. to the Director of Probation Operations



Jay Sanders, Marcia McIntyre (left) and Sandra Thomas deliver a presentation on the Department's "10 Step Framework" to attendees of the American Probation and Parole Association's Winter Training Session.

The American Probation and Parole Association invited the Probation Operations division to present its "10 Step Framework" program at the group's Winter Training Institute in Phoenix. Assistant to the Director Jay Sanders, Conasauga Judicial Circuit Chief Probation Officer Cory Beggs and Field Operations Managers Marcia McIntyre and Sandra Thomas spoke on behalf of the Department.

Representatives from around the country attended the presentation, asked thought provoking questions and were impressed with the strides that have been made in Georgia.

## Whitworth Opens Doors to Female Offenders



Offender in-take process

Whitworth Parole Revocation Center and Washington State Prison Annex have been remissioned to house female offenders. The offenders began arriving at Washington on Dec. 19 and Whitworth Jan. 22.

The Department found that by realigning their original missions, the facilities can be utilized to help reduce the number of female offenders currently awaiting placement while in county jails.

"We continue to work hard at achieving efficient ways of managing and supervising our offenders while keeping public safety our number one priority," said Commissioner Brian Owens. "The newly remissioned facility will continue to enhance our rehabilitation efforts for these female offenders."

In addition to new names, Whitworth Women's Facility and Washington Parole Center, the facilities have received renovations to accommodate the female offenders and gender specific training for staff.

Whitworth has an operating capacity of 436 and new Washington Parole Center has an operational capacity of 200.



Female offenders arriving at Whitworth Female Facility



## Calendar Events

**Thursday, February 7**  
Board of Corrections Meeting

**Thursday, February 14**  
Valentine's Day

**Monday, February 25**  
Red Cross Blood Drive at SOS Tift College

**Wednesday-Thursday**  
**February 27-28**  
GPA Mid-Winter Conference



POSS Jennifer Cannon of the Brunswick Office (right) with Superior Court Judge Roger B. Lane



POSS Officer Josh Parker-Rome Judicial Circuit (right) meeting with Floyd County Clerk of Court, Barbara Penson



POSS Officer Xochamillica Calton of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit (right) & Superior Court Judge Walter Lovett



L to R: Luke Coleman, SPS/IPS Woodbine Probation Office; Sheriff of Camden County Jim Proctor; Georg Trexler, CPO Brunswick Judicial Circuit; Stacy Westberry, POIII Brunswick Probation Office; Jennifer Cannon, Drug Court/MHPO/POSS Brunswick Probation Office; Denise Head, Secretary II, Woodbine Probation Office.



POSS Officer Robert Parsons with Dublin Circuit Superior Court Judge Jon F. Helton and Dublin Circuit District Attorney Craig Fraser



POSS Officer Melissa Cole of the Towaliga Judicial Circuit reviewing E-filing with Butts County Clerk of the Towaliga Judicial Circuit

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On Feb. 5, the Department held the first Quarterly Awards Ceremony of 2013 in Roberts Chapel at State Offices South at Tift College.

The Award recipients are as follows:

**CORRECTIONS**

**PO of the Quarter**

Bridget Graham  
Northern Judicial Circuit

**CO of the Quarter**

Lisa Huff  
Whitworth Women's Facility

**Customer Service Champion**

Miriam Dyson  
Interstate Compact

**Unsung Hero**

Gloria Davis  
Burrus CTC

**OPERATIONS, PLANNING & TRAINING**

**Customer Service Champion**

Leslie Nan Winge  
Office of Information & Technology

**Unsung Hero**

Madia West  
MHM

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Customer Service Champion**

Carla Woodham, Marcia Luckett, Della Grubbs, Janet Clark, Lauralene Williamson  
Business Management Unit

**Unsung Hero**

Dave Hess  
Georgia Correctional Industries

**EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS**

**Customer Service Champion**

Annette Anderson, Sheandra Calhoun, Diane Hanson, Chester Hofer, Kimberly Luzier, Shevondah Fields  
Ombudsman Unit

**Unsung Hero**

Lyle Wilkes  
Apprehension Unit

**FAITHFUL SERVICE AWARDS**

**5 Years**

Joseph Burnette, Alicia Martinez, Valeria Brown, Sherryl Johnson, Albert Smith, James Mathis, Richard Summers, Latoya Arnold, Danny Horne, Fredrick Mullis, Barry Wilborn

**10 Years**

Sylvie Bogui Parks, Martavius Wesley,



Commissioner Brian Owens, Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward and Gregory C. Dozier with the Ombudsman's Unit

Marcia Williams, Jennifer Walker, Birdie Peoples, Christina Pittman, Wanda Pierce, Teresa Watkins

**15 Years**

Robert Kiedinger, Barbara Burns, Nancy A. Jackson, Steffin Fest, Tony Neesmith, Clara Rowsey, Erich Williams

**20 Years**

Douglas Bell, James Bowen, David Hightower, Ricky Jacobs, Jimmy Nichols, Glynn Pittman, Gregory Slocumb, Sandra Smith,

Mark Wingate, Cheryl Frazier, Katrinka Glass, James Smith, Marionette Stancil

**25 Years**

Stephanie Fogarty, Anthony George, Stuart Holt, Linda Craig, Marsha Phillips

**30 Years**

Emory Burgamy, Oscar Crumbley, Beverly New, Delphine Reese, Princess Talley

**35 Years**

William 'Cliff' Hartley

## David Taylor Completes Chief Executive Training

Contributed by Earnestine McCrary, Clerk II



Chief Investigator David Taylor

Office of Investigations and Compliance Chief Investigator David Taylor attended the Chief Executive Training Class for newly appointed chiefs of police and heads of law enforcement

agencies at the Dr. Curtis E. McClung Training Center in Duluth, GA. last Fall.

The 60-hour course, administered and provided by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP), is required by state law for all newly appointed heads of law enforcement agencies.

Chief Taylor, who was appointed to his position on August 16, 2011, will also be required to attend 20 hours of management/executive level training each year.

The curriculum is designed to give newly appointed law enforcement administrators training on police management, as well as inform them of laws and policies affecting their departments. Topics covered in the course include: Managerial Liability and E.E.O.C.

Laws, Police Manpower Allocation & Staffing, Budget Administration, Political & Practical Realities, Office & Role of the Police Chief, Evolution of Ethics, Media Relations, Departmental Organization, Employee Selection Process, Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Overview, Below 100 Initiative, Promotional Systems, United States Department of Justice Programs, Developing Policies, Leadership/Management Role of the Chief, Employee Performance & Employee Discipline, Legislative Process along with other timely topics.

"It is our mission to offer exceptional training that provides professional executive and leadership development which will prepare the newly appointed agency head for the difficult, but rewarding position they have accepted,"

said GACP President J. Frank Waits of the Vidalia Police Department.

Chief Taylor was among 49 law enforcement administrators attending the course.

The GACP provides this executive training course twice a year, along with several other training programs throughout the state. It is the largest professional association for law enforcement administrators in Georgia, and one of the largest in the country. The membership of over 1,700 includes executives representing municipal and county law enforcement agencies, college and university police departments, corporate and private security firms and numerous state and federal agencies.



**MISSION**

The Department of Corrections creates a safer Georgia by effectively managing offenders and providing opportunities for positive change

**VISION**

To be recognized as the best corrections organization in the nation.

**BRIAN OWENS**

Commissioner

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