



# the Inside Scoop ...of OJJ

*Mission:*

*The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.*



*Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary*

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over already. It's hotter than ever and we are definitely not in the area of the country that is experiencing a serious drought – down here we are getting more than our fair share of thunderstorms. I almost wish we could send some of our rain to the Midwest where the crops are literally burning up in the fields.

But reading this month's *Inside Scoop...of OJJ* takes away any worry I might have about national or world affairs, because I can tell that all is well in OJJ's world. Our kids are doing great things, our staff is developing productive partnerships with other agencies and as ever, going the extra mile to provide the best possible services for the youth in their care. It always makes me smile – our staff is simply the best. You don't even have to think about it, you all just meet our mission as naturally as getting up in the morning.

I'm still on crutches, but back on my feet for the most part, so expect a visit in the foreseeable future. I can't wait to get back out in the world to visit all of you in all of our locations, so I can tell you in person, how proud I am to have you on our team, and to be a part of it myself.

OJJ is simply the best, and you, the staff, are what makes that so. Like we always say, OJJ, you rock!

*"Doc" Dr. Mary L. Livers*

## The Daily Motivator

### Make some progress

Don't let what you cannot do get in the way of what you can do. Just get busy, do your best at what you're able to do, and make a positive difference.

If you focus on all the negative factors that you cannot control, the only thing you'll get is frustration. Instead, put your thoughts, efforts and energy into the many good and valuable things you can do.

When you feel overwhelmed by your situation, the answer is not to give up. The answer is to get going. Make some decisions, do some work, and get some meaningful accomplishments completed. Experience how much better it feels to make some progress.

There will always be challenges and distractions. But you can always make the choice to make progress anyway.

Today is your opportunity to end up ahead of where you started. Use this moment, and every moment, to make some progress, and you'll be making life better and better for yourself and your world.

— Ralph Marston



*Swanson IT  
Tech  
Support  
Specialist  
Mike  
Verhonsky's  
teacup rose.*

## Staff Spotlight

### Spotlight on...

**PPO3  
Jo Ellen Frilot,  
Lafayette  
Regional Office**



**PPO3 Jo Ellen Frilot** has always had an interest in the legal system. While still young themselves, she and her sister realized that if kids can be helped while they are young, they can be kept out of the adult corrections system. "We had a passionate desire to work in the juvenile justice field," Jo Ellen said. They planned to attend law school together.

But when she got to college at ULL, Jo Ellen's passion to help young people really developed under the tutelage of one of her criminal justice professors. "Professor Cathy Cook really inspired me," Jo Ellen said. "I learned so much from her – and I knew that's what I wanted to do." Jo Ellen's degree in criminal justice (with minors in English, anthropology and sociology) landed her a spot with Faith House first, where she advocated for battered women and their minor children.

Jo Ellen began working with OJJ 19 years ago as a PPO1 assigned to the Lafayette and Vermilion Parishes court systems. Today she continues to serve the community where she grew up. Her sister went on to law school and today is an indigent defender for juveniles in St. Landry Parish.

"PPO Frilot has been an asset to the Lafayette region on many levels," said **RM Susan Miller**. "She is truly someone who serves as an excellent role model for both new and experienced officers. Her commitment to teamwork, positive attitude, and leadership skills are just some of the strengths she possesses."

"Jo Ellen is a Lead Officer under the supervision of **PPS Sharon Guillory**," Susan continued. "As with every extra duty

assigned to her, Jo Ellen accepted this responsibility without hesitation. As a Lead Officer, she not only supervises a full caseload, she is also responsible for assisting in training new staff, mentoring her co-workers, monitoring community based programs, facility audits and she arranges all video conferences for the Lafayette region.”

*“I do all that I can to ensure success for each case. I approach my job every day with the desire to see all the kids succeed.”*

“I treat every case as a success,” Jo Ellen said. “I advocate for our youth and try to provide any and all resources to allow them to remain in their homes with their families. Community-based resources are most beneficial to the youth and custody should be the last option. I do all that I can to ensure success of each case. I approach my job every day with the desire to see all the youth succeed in becoming productive, law abiding citizens.”

“We staff cases and provide recommendations to the court that we believe are in the best interest of the youth and family, and the court generally follows our recommendations,” Jo Ellen said. “We have a trusting relationship with the judge and the court system, which trusts and values our judgment.”

“Sometimes home visits are like reunions,” she continued. “Families that I have worked with will tell me how their kids are doing and where they are working. Some are still involved with the legal system and some have made it.”

“How you approach a parent and a child is important,” Jo Ellen noted. “You have to display a lot of respect and respect their dignity. Sometimes it takes extra effort. But I get to know the parents and they trust my judgment and they follow through. Very few do not. Even if it takes that extra effort, I

don’t give up on them. I’m here to do what is in the best interest of the child.”

On a personal note, Jo Ellen and her husband of 17 years have a four year old daughter. “We spend a lot of time together,” she said. “Family time is a priority and is very important to me. One of the activities we enjoy is horseback riding. We also enjoy taking vacations – our daughter really likes the beach. We enjoy all outdoor activities; my husband and daughter love fishing and gardening. We like growing cucumbers and hot peppers. We have a lot of fun together.”

“I was born and raised in the country and we live in the country now,” Jo Ellen went on. “We have four horses, three Quarter Horses and a Shetland pony. The barn is right behind the house, so we ride often. We have several dogs, too. We would have Noah’s Ark if my daughter had her way – we would have one of every kind of animal. I find that animals have a calming effect and also teach responsibility.”

“I’ve been on horses since I was a kid, and I still love to ride,” Jo Ellen said. “We grew up in God’s country – Grand Prairie. I had plenty of playmates, with two brothers and six sisters. We are a close family and still spend a lot of time together. All my siblings ride and we enjoy family trail rides in various areas. All of us are very family-oriented.”

*“Jo Ellen’s commitment to OJJ’s mission is evident every day in the work she does with the youth and families under her supervision.”*

“I find that the more time you spend with your horses, the better they handle, kind of like kids. Taking care of horses teaches responsibility, and it’s a blessing to instill that in a child at a very young age, and of course, I like being out with them. I am glad for the opportunity to spend time with family and the horses.”

Jo Ellen relates that she was born with a small physical handicap – she has a partial thumb and index finger on her right hand and partial thumb on her left hand “But I can do anything that anyone else does,” she said. “It’s just a difference; I don’t let it stop me. I think you can overcome any obstacle if you have the desire, and don’t think of a difference as a disability.”

“I am a very energetic, yet mild-mannered person,” Jo Ellen said. “I am very much honored that my regional manager recognized me for the spotlight, but I work better behind the scenes.”

“Jo Ellen’s commitment to OJJ’s mission is evident every day in the work she does with the youth and families under her supervision,” said **RM Susan Miller**. “She leaves no stone unturned when it comes to accessing services and working with the court to ensure that every youth she supervises has a chance at success. I am lucky as a regional manager to have such committed and hard working probation and parole officers in the Lafayette region. Jo Ellen is an excellent example of those officers.”

## CQIS POLICY UPDATES

### Policies approved in June:

A.1.8 Emergency Operations Plan 6/19/12

A.1.9 Public Records Management  
6/11/12

A.2.2 Pay Admin. and Mgt. 6/20/12

A.2.59 Salaries of Education Administrators  
and Instructors in Secure Facilities 6/27/12

C.1.6 Establishment of Secure Care Facility  
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)  
6/14/12

### Rescinded:

YS A.5.4 Quality Assurance Policy for  
Automated Information Systems 6/11/12

DYS 2.5 Drug-Free Workplace 6/1/12

DYS 10.2 Court Orders 6/1/12

## Alexandria Regional Office

### Welcome

We welcomed new **PPO1 Kristen Hebert**.

**PPS John Baker, PPO3 Heath Wallace, PPS Clay Dupuy and PPO3 Robert Harris** attended AMI’s Father’s Day Celebration, to fill in for fathers who were unable to attend.

We are pleased to report that our recent annual internal audit went well.

**PPO1 Kekensie Maxwell** attended the LAMOD trainers course in Baton Rouge.

**PPO2 Justin Guidry** went for his two week annual training with the Louisiana National Guard, in order to help protect our country.

### Congratulations

**Adm. Coordinator 3 Cassandra Conston’s son Cedric Conston**, below left, received his criminal justice degree from Southern University, recently graduated from the Adult Probation and Parole academy and is presently employed as a probation and parole officer in Alexandria.



Congratulations once again to **Cassandra Conston**, who is a proud grandmother. Her son is the proud father of a healthy baby boy, **Kayden Jonah Conston**, born June 22.

## Baton Rouge Regional Office

### Congratulations

#### Employee of the Month



**PPO Tina Roach** was elected by her fellow officers as employee of the month because of her willingness to help others, her bubbly personality, and her attention to detail. Tina brings joy and

humor into the room every time she enters! PPO Roach - congratulations and please keep on doing what you do!

#### Victory!

**PPO Elois Nelson**, as well as the Hammond Region, recently shared in a joint victory when one of her youth, J. Williams, originally from the Hammond region, received his GED from the Christa McAuliffe Adult Learning Center. Congratulations, everyone, for meeting the mission and all your hard work and dedication to this youth, in assisting him in becoming a success story.

#### We See You, and You're Looking Good

**Transport Officer Paul Kopan** went above and beyond the call of duty when he completed a Sunday transport from St. Bernard Parish Detention Center with a youth who was being released and did not have transportation home. Thanks, Mr. Paul, for taking time out of your day to assist us. We see you and you are looking good!

**PPO Patsy Adams** has been busy working with FEMA and Homeland Security to make sure that Baton Rouge OJJ is hurricane-ready. She has had radios checked and updated, maps of the various parishes sent to the office, and members of the emergency response teams bring in "go bags" to ensure that in the

event of an emergency, the Baton Rouge office is ready to weather the storm. Patsy, we see you and you are looking good!

#### Happy Birthday

We celebrated quite a few birthdays: **PPO Courtney Dickerson**, **Administrative Assistant Irma Gonzales**, **PPO Darla Hood**, **T.O Gerard Landry** and **PPO Yolonda Latimer**. Happy birthday, y'all - we are glad to have you on the team.



*Birthday people: Administrative Assistant Irma Gonzales, Transport Officer Gerard Landry, PPO Yolonda Latimer and PPO Courtney Dickerson.*

## Bridge City Center for Youth

### Congratulations to Recent Retirees

We said goodbye to several long-time employees who recently retired:

**Administrative Program Specialist Eddie Newsome**, with 23 years of service

**Juvenile Justice Specialist 3 Donald Joseph**, with 22 years of service.

**Facility Maintenance Manager Perry Bickham**, with 15 years of service.

We wish them well as they embark on a new chapter in their lives, with our thanks for their contributions to our youth and to Bridge City Center for Youth.

**Graduation and Ring Ceremonies were Spectacular**

**Special Thanks to Chef Sonnier**

Thanks to **Culinary Arts Instructor Chef Ron Sonnier** for all the efforts he and his students put in to make the Ring Ceremony and Graduation a grand success. From purchasing the decorations to preparing and serving the delicious food, Chef was at the top of his game. So, a very special thank you goes out to Chef Ronald Sonnier. The festivities would not have been so terrific without your hard work. We want to also thank **Ms. Darlene Anderson** for assisting Chef Sonnier.

Thank you, Chef, for all that you do every day. Your hard work is truly appreciated.



*The table setting for the Ceremonial Ring Brunch, ready for students and faculty to enjoy.*

BCCY held its annual GED graduation ceremony in June for our nine graduates. On graduation day, we held a Ceremonial Ring Brunch, where all the graduates from 2011 and 2012 received their graduation rings. Brunch started off with a fresh fruit and yogurt parfait, served alongside a big slice of sausage and pepperoni breakfast pizza with homemade biscuits, hash brown potatoes, sliced yellow watermelon, orange juice, milk and coffee.

After the graduation ceremony, graduates, their parents and lots of staff celebrated in the Culinary Arts classroom with a reception fit for the occasion. We had lots of food, cake and punch. Everyone had a great time!



*Above, the rings are displayed with decorations. Below, fruit display prepared by Culinary Arts class for the Graduation Reception.*



*Culinary Arts students Rondell S., left, and Elijah N. manned the punch and cake table at the reception following the Graduation Ceremony.*



*Teachers and office staff joining in the Ceremonial Ring Brunch included, from left, Ina Anderson, Jean Williams, Irma Flemings, Trenisha Stanislas and Troy Wilson.*



*Assistant Director Ricky Wright and Principal Sandra Frazier present graduate and Culinarian Joseph W. with his class ring.*

## Delgado Community College Pays a Visit

By Chef Ron Sonnier

In June **Dr. Mary P. Bartholomew**, CCE, FMP, ACE, Director of Culinary Arts and Hospitality, along with **Chef Jon Pitre**, CEPC from Delgado Community College in New Orleans, paid a visit to the BCCY Culinary Arts Class to meet with **Director of Education Kim Mims**, Title I Director **Ed Green**, Principal **Sandra Frazier**, Director **Namon Reid** and Assistant Director **Rickey Wright**. They met with us to discuss the possibility of BCCY's Culinary Arts program joining forces with Delgado Community College in an effort to offer our

students college credit hours while on our campus, with me proctoring the classes with their help. The meeting went very well, and we got a lot accomplished. The students and I prepared a wonderful lunch which included a fresh spring salad with a creamy Caesar dressing, crawfish-stuffed chicken roulade, steamed buttered asparagus, roasted new potatoes cut into the shape of mushrooms and bananas foster cheese cake for dessert.



*Everyone gathered in the kitchen at BCCY Culinary Arts Class - from left: Elijah N., Dr. Mary Bartholomew, Principal Sandra Frazier, Chef Jon Pitre, Chef Ronald Sonnier, Larry W., Rondell S., Christopher T. and Kim Mims. Photo by Ed Green.*



*As our guests were enjoying their lunch prepared by the Culinary Arts students and Chef Sonnier, there were some great discussions about the future of education at BCCY. Seated from left are Dr. Mary P. Bartholomew, Director of Culinary Arts and Hospitality at Delgado Community College; BCCY Principal Sandra Frazier; Chef Jon Pitre, Delgado Community College; Director Namon Reid; Assistant Director Rickey Wright; Ed Green, Title 1 Director and Kim Mims, Director of Education.*



*Dr. Mary P. Bartholomew, Director of Culinary Arts and Hospitality at Delgado Community College, visits with students Elijah N., Larry W. and Rondell S. in the kitchen at BCCY's Culinary Arts Class.*



*The special table setting for the Delgado Community College luncheon guests,*

### **Parent /Youth Conference Successful**

**By Angela Wiggins,  
BCCY Director of Treatment**

BCCY recently held its Parent/Youth Conference, bringing in guest speakers to meet with parents, with youth, and in sessions including both youth and their parents or guardians.

The parent session was facilitated by Mr. Arthur Reed (Silky Slim). Mr. Reed stressed the importance of parents remaining involved in their children's lives during their commitment to BCCY. In addition, he stressed the importance of their being

aggressive about having a structured plan in place once their children are released. He spoke of community programs that address the needs of this population. Mr. Reed shared his life story, including his years of incarceration. He told them that he couldn't read when he was initially incarcerated. However, while incarcerated he learned to read and do many other things. He discussed the program he started, which works to advocate for and assist incarcerated individuals.

Mr. Reed works throughout the state of Louisiana and has visited all of our facilities to share his story. He is often called on to speak at some of the most prestigious colleges and universities around the world.

Another part of the parent session consisted of youth inviting BCCY's administrative team - the director, deputy director and assistant director - to say hello to the parents and respond to some of their questions. Parents inquired about educational opportunities for youth who receive their GED while at BCCY, options for youth who express an interest in military service upon their release, visitation concerns, and communication with staff within the facility.



*Staff who attended Parent-Youth Conference Day included, back row from left Lance Daniels, Arthur Reed "Silky Slim," Bernard Robertson, James Evans, Eric Williams, Nathaniel Jackson, Deputy Director Darrell Foster, Assistant Director Rickey Wright. Front row from left, Director Namon Reid, Dr. Torin Sanders, Family Liaison Donna Bowie, Travis Johnson, and Jerome Temple, aka "DJ Jubilee."*



*At left, the administrative team – Director Namon Reid, Deputy Director Darrell Foster and Assistant Director Rickey Wright, visit with parents.*

While the parents attended their session, the youth attended various sessions with other presenters covering a variety of topics.

The event ended with a luncheon for the presenters, the parents and their children, and the entire youth of BCCY. The luncheon was catered by our own **Chef Ron Sonnier** and his culinary arts students. The meal, as always, was outstanding and delicious. The young men were dressed in their "chef" attire and served the meal in a professional manner, along with the assistance of our dining hall staff.

Many thanks to **Chaplain Dr. Torin Sanders**, who was instrumental in coordinating the volunteers for this event. The event was well received by the parents and the youth.

### **A Message from the Staff Development Office**

I want to give a word of appreciation to two staff who actually came to me and ASKED to be able to present to the Pre-Service Class, topics that they strongly felt the new staff would need in order to be more effective in their jobs.

**JJS3 Javand Duhon** spoke to the group regarding Daily Housekeeping Sheets, as well as other documentation. He brought a degree of credibility that only comes from someone "in the trenches" on a daily basis, and was

able to answer lots of questions from the new hires.

**Group Leader Walter Chisholm** conducted a very informative and enjoyable class on Substance Abuse and Addictive Disorders. I say enjoyable, but it was one of those events that leaves you with sore toes, because they've been stepped on a few times! Or as my strawberry-farmer father-in-law would say, "he was plowing a little close to the corn!" It was a wonderful session, and it made all of us really self-reflect and think about some of our own addictions.

I so value these gentlemen, who each identified a training need, and jumped in to do something about meeting that need! We are blessed to have the dedicated staff that we do at BCCY, and these are just two examples! My heartfelt thanks to each of them!

*Susan Taylor  
Staff Development Specialist*

## **Central Office**

### **A Thank You Note**

I would like to send special thanks to CQIS and the New Orleans regional office for their acts of kindness during my recent hospitalization for bilateral pulmonary embolus. I am also thankful for all the calls, text messages and visits from my OJJ family encouraging me to get well. Special thanks to my supervisor, **Angela Arabie**, who came from Baton Rouge to bring special get-well wishes. It is all remembered and appreciated.

In March, I collapsed at home and was taken to the hospital. A CT scan showed blood clots in my lungs. I was immediately placed in ICU, "stepped down" to a general floor, and released in early April.

The pulmonologist is amazed by my recovery.

The best news is that the clots have completely dissolved and the doctor expects my lungs will have a full recovery to normal. Prayer works!

I am sharing this story with you to give thanks to all my co-workers for your prayers and acts of kindness and to encourage all of you to always ask questions when it comes to your health. I am grateful to the ONE who saved me.

*Yezette White  
Program Specialist*

**Morale Committee Serves up Smiles**



*The Morale Committee keeps us smiling – we celebrated Independence Day with ice cream and cupcakes. Left, CQIS Program Coordinator Katie Justice and Dr. Livers’ assistant Nita*

*Franklin-Shanklin serve WAE/ Clerical Tammy Williams and Adm. Asst. Gwen Brinkley.*



*Administrative Assistant Brandy Franks’ pug, Sebastian, is growing up!*



*We bid long-time Administrative Assistant Phyllis Martello farewell, as she moved to DPS. Pictured are Chief of Operations Elynn Toney, Program Coordinator Katie Justice, Phyllis, Chief of Investigations Col. Louis Hyatt, Administrative Assistant Mitzi Sonnier and Administrative Program Director Lynne Geromini.*

**Hammond Regional Office**

**SUPERSTAR!**

**PPO2 Denise Wall** is the Hammond OJJ Superstar for June. She was recognized by **PPO2 Jonathan Varnado** for getting court paperwork.

**What’s Going On...**

**PPO3 Renee Barrois** reports that a youth on her caseload earned his GED while at Jetson, before being placed on parole. He is currently attending summer classes at Nunez Community College. Another youth on her caseload graduated from the Youth Challenge Program in June.

*Swanson Administrative Assistant Kristi Walker shares a picture of her Angel Trumpet “Purple People Eater.”*



## Jetson Center for Youth

### Graduation Ceremony Held for Students of Scenic Alternative School

By Instructor Gail Hargrove

A celebration was held in June to honor the 2012 graduating class of Scenic Alternative High School. The eleven graduates were honored with an elaborate ceremony to award their diplomas and to receive their class rings.

The class of 2012 chose class colors of blue and yellow; class flower was the sunflower, and the class motto was "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." These eleven students certainly took the first step and will continue on the path of success.

We were sad that some of grads who have been released were unable to attend, but for such good reasons! Some are enrolled in college and could not miss class, and some are employed. But the ones who were there certainly were acknowledged.

Graduates served as Master of Ceremonies, led the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed the guests, and introduced the speaker.

**Instructor Dwayne Nedie**, program coordinator and science teacher, presented the class rings to the graduates. Many thanks to Mr. Nedie for all his hard work to make this event such a success and memorable for our youth.



*Judge Kathleen Richey addresses the graduates.*

The **Honorable Judge Kathleen Richey** of the Baton Rouge Juvenile Court gave the keynote address to the graduates and audience. She was clear in her remarks and her comments were encouraging to other students. She was presented with a Speaker's Award by **Deputy Director Angela Sutton**.

**Principal Ronnie Knox** presented graduate **Bryan D.** with the Principal's Choice Award for outstanding work. Bryan earned both his GED AND his regular high school diploma. Great work, Bryan! You're our hero.

**Deputy Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton**, **Assistant Director Fouad Harb** and **Principal Ronnie Knox** presented the graduates with their diplomas.

**Director of Education Kim Mims** and **Director Daron Brown** had encouraging remarks to close the ceremony.

Family and friends of the graduates were pleased to be able to witness the culmination of their children's hard work - achieving the ultimate goal of earning a high school diploma/GED. They look forward to the success that their young adults will have in the future.



*Judge Kathleen Richey speaks to a full house.*

*"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."*

### JCY Staff Take the Graduates to Lunch

After Scenic Alternative High School's graduation ceremony, the graduates were taken to meet their families at Martha's Bistro in Zachary for a celebration luncheon. It was wonderful that the graduates could fellowship with their families.

Joining the families and graduates for lunch were **Director Daron Brown, Deputy Director Angela Sutton, Assistant Facility Director Fouad Harb, Director of Education Kim Mims, Director of Communications Jerel Giarrusso, Principal Ronnie Knox and JJS Larry Spears**. The meal was wonderful and the group enjoyed this opportunity to celebrate the positive accomplishments of OJJ youth. Each graduate was sponsored by a staff member, who treated them to lunch.



*Jetson graduates, their families and staff enjoy a luncheon at Martha's Bistro to honor the grads.*

### Graduates Tour LSU Campus

Transition Coordinator **Adrian Skipper** scheduled a tour of the LSU campus in June for two of our graduates, **Romero R.** and **Willie R.**

Staff who attended the tour included **Ms. Skipper, Director Daron Brown, JJS Jewel Veal and JJS Micon Gaines**. They left our campus and headed south to the bell tower on

the LSU campus. There they watched a video presentation of campus life.

An LSU student assistant escorted the group to several buildings where freshman classes are held. The youth had an opportunity to ask the student questions and were eager to learn about the college experience.

Once the tour was completed, the group stopped for take-out lunches at a local restaurant.

They enjoyed visiting LSU and were impressed with the classrooms and grounds.

This was the first time these youth had taken a guided tour of a college.

Ms. Skipper plans for the next tour to be Baton Rouge Community College.

### Knights of Columbus Visit Jetson



*St. Patrick Knights of Columbus Council 8601 served a jambalaya luncheon to youth and staff at Jetson in June. From left are Stephen Huggins; Myra Young; Claude Culross; Paul Geissler; Mark Sebring; the Very Reverend Philip Naameh, Archbishop of the Diocese of Tamale, Ghana, Africa; Kay Albert; Jetson Director Daron Brown; Lauren Brock and Katie Mercer.*

## Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

In June, the residents at the AMIKids-Acadiana group home were treated to a fun day by the staff of Lafayette OJJ.

**Chef PPS Joey Denais** grilled burgers, and chips, snacks and drinks were provided. The residents and the staff enjoyed games of volleyball and basketball, and were treated to a spectacular lunch.

Thanks to **PPOs Jamie Baronet, Justin Beasley** and **Denis Lacroix** for spearheading the event! Thanks to **Program Specialist Karli Pullard** for joining the Lafayette staff for the day's events.

The weather was a bit rainy, but Mother Nature cooperated enough to allow the fun to go on. Following are some photos of the activities we enjoyed with the kids.



## Welcome Aboard

Lafayette OJJ recently welcomed several new members to the family.

**PPOs Teresa Breaux, Monisha Fruge', Joan Smith, and Renia Smith and Transport Officer Christopher St. Julien** joined the team, and we are thrilled that they are ready to start working towards the mission so quickly!

Welcome also to **Christie Thomas, WAE Clerical**, in the Opelousas office.

## New PPOs Receive Intensive Training

The new probation officers have undergone a six week intensive training/orientation. **RM Susan Miller**, and supervisors **Courtney Holderman, Joey Denais, Robert Guirard, Sharon Guillory, Lynette Broussard, Tracy Flores, Ernest Bejeaux and Chris Potier** conducted the recent training for the four new PPOs.

This in-depth training covers everything that an officer needs to know from opening a case to closing a case – with all things that can happen in between; firearms training, criminal code/procedure and OJJ overview.

Thanks also go out to **PPO3s Nicholas Landry, Chase Cappel, Kristi Eames, Beth Broussard, Jody Osmer and Cassandra Gardiner** for conducting the training with the supervisors.

Special thanks go out to **PPO3 Stefanie Krygowski** of Lake Charles OJJ, for coming to the Lafayette office and conducting chemical weapon certification, and to **RM Susan Miller, PPS Chris Potier, PPS ?? Broussard, and PPO3 Mina Travis** for the 40 hour PPCT training.

## Staff Go the Extra Mile

**PPO Kevin Broussard** spent a day in June at Jetson, working with staff to get Jetson's

buses' state inspection up to date. Kevin has a Class B Commercial Drivers License, and driving the buses to the automotive shop in Baton Rouge was no problem. Now, if those driver's seat compartments were only air conditioned.....

**PPO3 Kristi Eames** purchased educational books, she had several new clients who were expelled from school and were not doing any type of school work. Kristi makes copies of assignments in each subject and has the parent pick up and drop off the schoolwork each week. She even purchased summer activity books for her clients who are not at their appropriate learning level.

**PPO Justin Beasley** purchased swim trunks for a youth placed at Children's Shelter. The staff were taking the youth to Blue Bayou Waterpark but this youth did not own swimming trunks and would not have been able to attend. When the staff told Justin the situation, he decided to purchase them himself so his client could have the opportunity to participate.

**PPO Jeff Edwards** participated in a two week military training at Camp H.B. Cook in Alexandria, LA. He successfully completed the Warrior Leader Course conducted by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 199<sup>th</sup> Regiment. PPO Edwards is a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve – National Guard.

**PPO Jason McCraney** has modeled the way by continuously supporting the youth and families he serves and encouraging the youth to attend the Youth Challenge Program. Several of his clients have graduated from the program, and he has three clients now in YCP, one of whom will soon graduate.

One of **PPO Jason McCraney's** youth was recently released from AMIkids. **Trey B.** successfully completed the AMI program, and attended both the summer and winter AMI Olympic games. He also gave a speech at the State Capitol and received a \$500 scholarship for college.

## Lake Charles Regional Office

### Congratulations

**PPO Angie Stevens** won the second month of the office's "biggest loser" competition.

### What's Going On....

**PPO Ronald Gilchrist** just closed the case of a young man, **Darius L.**, after FOUR years of OJJ supervision. Darius came a long way and Ronald invested great effort in this youth. The young man's behavior is greatly improved with help from his supervision by OJJ. We wish him the best - and what a good sense of closure!

In June **PPO Fred Fontenot** and **PPO Ronald Gilchrist** held another basketball game at Boys Village. The officers played on different teams and demonstrated to the boys how to disagree on "calls" without it being a huge fight. Ronald and Fred maintain (or challenge) their cardiovascular health by engaging in these activities regularly and they continue to build rapport with the boys. Model the Way!

In June, **PPO Hollie Comeaux** and **PPO Angie Stevens** took youth **Deven D.** to eat at Leonard's Restaurant to celebrate his progress and positive accomplishments in the Boys Village Program. The officers do this as an incentive to kids and to reward them.

**PPO Alexis Heflin** recently celebrated the accomplishments of one of her Boys Village youth.

**PPO Angie Stevens' youth Carl B.** recently graduated from the Youth Challenge Program at Camp Beauregard.

Generosity was displayed: the PPO assigned to **Joseph W.'s** case, as well as two other Lake Charles OJJ representatives, were willing to pool resources and personally pay \$60 for the sex offender registration of an

older juvenile, if the family could not gather the money. We truly and genuinely care about keeping our kids out of jail. And, this young man deserves his opportunity!

**PPO Jeff Haley's youth Stormy T.** recently graduated from the Youth Challenge Program. And, **PPO Garrick Chambers' youth Ashley M.** also graduated from YCP. Both struggled greatly prior to YCP enrollment and both made great progress through YCP participation. Stormy's achievements were endless. He truly excelled.

**PPO Hollie Comeaux, PPO Fred Fontenot,** and **PPO Angela Stevens** conducted curfew checks in Jefferson Davis Parish in June, putting in a 15 hour work day to get the job done.

**PPO Garrick Chambers** and **PPO Fred Fontenot** conducted curfew checks in Allen Parish in June. Both officers put in a 15 hour work day to get the job done. But the results were very successful. All kids were seen. Parents liked seeing the officers after hours and having that additional support. Drug screens were conducted. It was very successful and will be done routinely!

In June our office positively recognized **Transport Officer Ken Connell.** We had 60 scheduled transports; 40 completed, four cancelled and 16 scheduled until the end of the month. (Some more can always pop up.) Ten were to be done by PPOs. Ken Connell completed the other 46. Of those, a supervisor had to get involved in very few out of region transports.

Thanks to the Lake Charles staff for getting those transports into the system in a timely manner for planning, it makes the job much easier. Thanks also for cooperation in filling in to transport when needed. And last, we want to say "**good job**" to Ken Connell. Thank you for all that you do.

### Progress Seen in Sexual Offender Cases

A presentation was recently made to concerned grandparents affiliated with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization, to be proactive and share with them how we are responding to juvenile sex offenses. This was done as part of community education.

June was a month of landmark sexual offender cases in the Calcasieu Parish Court. The extent of DMV photo identification and sex offender registration requirements are being explored for 18-21 year olds who were adjudicated as juveniles and must register. Further, a youth who had received a disposition of juvenile life was given the benefit of a vacated adjudication and a new disposition to afford him the opportunity to transfer to an independent living setting. We are making history in Lake Charles.

During the June meeting of the Beauregard Planning Board, Sex Offender Treatment Therapist **Terry Lane** and **PPS Ken Vidrine** presented a collaborative overview the Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program (JSOTP) model for replication. Mr. Lane gave a thorough overview and the board was impressed by the model established here in Lake Charles.

### Modeling the Way

During the June Working Together for Families (WTF) meeting, staff from the Lafayette office of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) joined the team to observe, and they are showing great desire to replicate the collaboration. We are honored that they consider the process so beneficial, as it is one in which we believe. DCFS staff observed three detailed staffing, and the cases happened to be complicated ones that resulted in incredible collaboration and teamwork for best outcomes of the families. They left the meeting truly inspired. We were all uplifted by the outcome and were so glad they had an

opportunity to observe such a dynamic meeting day.

In June, **PPO Stefanie Krygowski** of Lake Charles OJJ assisted Lafayette OJJ by conducting a chemical weapons training.

In June Lake Charles OJJ participated in a day of training. Thank you to **Program Specialist Karli Pullard** for preparing the training and offering a concise, informative presentation. The same day we also held a baby shower in anticipation of Baby Haley, expected later in the month. Daddy-to-be (again) **PPO Jeff Haley** was very surprised by the celebration in his family's honor. Everyone in the office brought an item for the breakfast feast. Jeff was greatly appreciative of generosity shown.



On June 27 at 7:12 a.m. **PPO Jeff Haley** and his wife, **Laura Holland Haley**, and big brother (almost 5 year old) **Zachary Haley**, celebrated the BIRTH-day of **Jacob Tyler Haley**, weighing in at 8 lbs., 3 oz. He is healthy and appears to be a very calm baby. The new family of four enjoyed some time together. Friends at Lake Charles OJJ decorated his door, which awaited his return to work, to greet him positively upon his return.

In June **PPO Fred Fontenot**, his fellow Response Team Leader and fellow PPCT instructor, **PPO Jeff Haley** (Safety Officer) all completed a Hurricane Prep Table Top Exercise. They identified what Lake Charles OJJ needs to do to prepare, things we do already and will continue to do, things

mentioned we may want to consider adding, and things already done. They put a great deal of thought into the process and made detailed lists. *Good job, team!*

**PPO Monet Newman** recently celebrated the accomplishments of two drug court youth, **Benjamin B.** and **Stacy L.** Both were promoted in the Drug Court system for their positive accomplishments.

During an at-risk staffing, **PPS Ken Vidrine** received compliments for Lake Charles OJJ. The parish probation departments that benefit from grants by the Annie E. Casey and MacArthur Foundations met recently, and the parish probation officers were discussing the working relationships with respective OJJ offices. Lake Charles OJJ was cited favorably and **Jeff Vander** of OJJS repeated the compliments to Ken Vidrine. Lake Charles OJJ was recognized for the prompt removal of an increasingly violent youth in the local detention center. Kudos!

### Thanks

Our local State Police office has been helpful in maintaining safe operation of our fleet of State vehicles.

### We Said Goodbye...



On June 22 nearly the entire Lake Charles OJJ office attended an after-hours celebration at a local Mexican restaurant to honor the service of our co-worker who is near and dear to us: **Annette Stoddard, Administrative Coordinator 4.** Even staff who were on leave came after work hours to celebrate all that Annette has done for us in this office, and a few brought very special gifts.

Annette has served the state for 18 years, and the last 12 years have been with the Office of Juvenile Justice. Annette was asked to report to DPS on June 25. Annette has been an incredible asset to our team, and we consider her to be family. Annette possesses an incredible work ethic, and attention to detail is her strength. She truly desires to do the job well. Her daily presence in our office will be missed greatly.



*PPS Melissa Cross shared the message shown left. Thought it was worth passing along. – The Editor*

## Monroe Regional Office

### Numerous Trainings Completed

**Program Specialist Walteree Barnes** and **Administrative Coordinator Diann Dixon** recently completed web-based training on the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD).

**PPS Linda Williams** and **PPO3 Hannah Dozier** attended a SAVRY Instructor meeting in Lafayette.

At a recent Regional Manager's staff meeting, **PPS Gail Wilson** conducted a mandatory annual review of the following policies: OJJ Organizational Structure, Travel Policy, and the Employee Assistance Program.

**Regional Manager Patty Newman** and **PPO3 Willie Hunter, III** were invited to speak at the monthly Ouachita Parish Indigent

Defender board meeting and luncheon. Information was presented to board members on the PDI (pre-disposition investigation), the SAVRY, and how recommendations are made to the court. The IDB board members were very interested and asked pertinent questions.

**RM Patty Newman** and Monroe OJJ supervisors attended Supervisors Training held at Delta Community College. **PPS Linda Williams** presented on the Leadership Principles. OJJ **Attorney Steven Farber** covered OJJ Rules of Conduct and Chief of Investigative Services **Col. Louis Hyatt** presented on Report Writing. Supervisory staff from Swanson, Tallulah OJJ, Natchitoches OJJ and Shreveport OJJ also attended.

Representatives of Magellan Health Services and Wraparound Services recently met with Monroe OJJ staff to answer questions regarding CSoC referrals. **Curtis Ebert**, Executive Director of Wraparound Services of NELA, provided contact information for PPOs experiencing problems when referring clients.

**RM Patty Newman** and Monroe OJJ Supervisors have completed the mandatory training requirements approved by the Civil Service Commission that address the new Performance Evaluation System (PES). The three CPTP courses cover PES Basics, the PES Planning Process and PES Evaluation Process.

**POST Firearms Instructor PPO3 Jennifer Bible** recently took a group of officers to the Richland Parish Firing Range to re-qualify. Monroe OJJ would like to recognize **PPS Karl Wallace** who scored a perfect "120" when firing the POST re-qualification course. We are all very proud of Karl (even Jennifer). **GOOD JOB!** Following are some photos from the re-qualification course.



*PPS Karl Wallace with his perfect target.*



*From left, PPO3 Jackie Kindrix, PPO3 Gary Hunter, PPO2 Mark Miller and PPS Karl Wallace.*



*PPO3 David McMillan assists PPO2 Mark Miller put up his POST target.*

**PPS Gail Wilson** recently participated in a training webinar entitled “Game – Based Learning” provided by the National Institute of Corrections.

Monroe OJJ staff completed the 16 hour annual PPCT Refresher Course, taught by **PPO3 Gary Hunter** and **PPO3 Patrick Cooper**. All participants scored well on the written and practical exams. Good job!

*PPCT moves are pictured below.*



*Above left, PPO2 Garner Brass holds the pad for PPO2 Steve Pelfrey to practice an angle kick. Right, PPCT Instructors Gary Hunter and Patrick Cooper demonstrate a disarming technique.*



*PPO3 Willie Hunter practices the Forward Fluid Shock Wave Strike, with the assistance of PPS Orlando Davis.*

**PPS Karl Wallace** and **PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth** attended Loss Prevention Training held at Louisiana Tech University in June. Topics covered were Accident Investigation, Safety Meetings, Inspections, Supervisor Responsibilities, and Job Safety Analysis.

**RM Patty Newman** recently attended the “PREA Kick-Off” held in Baton Rouge.

**PPS Gail Wilson** recently conducted the Monroe OJJ 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Meeting of the Advisory Training Committee. Members who attended included **RM Patty Newman**, **PPS Karl Wallace**, **PPO3 Willie Hunter**, **PPO3 Jennifer Bible** and **PPO2 Jeremy Fox**.

**PPS Karl Wallace**, **PPS Gail Wilson** and **PPO3 Joel McNair** have renewed their NRA Membership and Instructor Status, which is valid through June, 2015.

**Congratulations on Retirement**



**Administrative Coordinator Shirley Price** has retired with 27 years of state service, including 18 years with OJJ.

**RM Patty Newman** and the staff gave Shirley a retirement party at our office. Shirley will be missed and we wish her all the best!



*Monroe OJJ says goodbye to AC3 Shirley Price.*

**Welcome to a new Member of the Family**



Monroe OJJ would like to welcome a new member to our family. **Daphne Isabelle Nordstrom** was born to **PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom** and her husband **Brian** on May 18. Everyone is doing well, and Baby Daphne is beautiful.

**Natchitoches Regional Office**

**Congratulations**

**Employee of the Month:**  
**PPO3 Chris Wyatt**

**Community Involvement**

**PPO2 Heather Christophe** and **PPO2 Brenda Sarpy** attended the DARE Program held in June at Clara Springs Camp in northwest Louisiana. They enjoyed basketball, rock climbing, simulated driving, mentoring, assisted with skits for the program, assisted with serving breakfast and lunch and also sat in on the task force instruction at camp. Heather's group of participants received the runner-up award for skits and won the poster program. **AC3 Wendy Crow's son, Collin Crow**, assisted in instructing the participants in diving activities.



*Rock climbing at the camp.*

**PPO Returns from Active Military Duty**

**PPO2 Ieasha Beasley, Captain in the US Army Reserves**, has returned to work after two consecutive one year tours in Kuwait. Ieasha has served her country for 12 years.



Everyone at Natchitoches OJJ is excited about her return to work. Ieasha is very determined and confronts any challenge head on. She says she was honored to serve her country but is happy to be home with her three beautiful girls.

**FROM EVERYONE AT OJJ, WELCOME HOME AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

**Training Attended**

**RM Randall Hill** attended the Youth Challenge program held in June.

**SSW5 Nelda Graham** attended the Social Services Statewide Quarterly Meeting and EAP training held in Baton Rouge in June.

**PPS Simon Sarpy** attended CPTP training in Lafayette in June.

**Congratulations**

**RM Randall Hill's daughter, Amy Hill**, is newly engaged to **Rob McGill**. The proposal was made on the LA Tech campus where she and her fiancé first met and attended college.

## New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

### Congratulations

#### Employee of the Month

**PPO3 Daria Melder** was chosen **Probation Officer of the Month** for doing something that comes quite naturally to her: going above and beyond the call of duty in rendering services to the youth on her caseload.

Daria's display of concern and sincerity for the youth she supervises is revealed through the effort she puts forth daily in addressing their needs, as well as through her constant encouragement to choose the right path and become successful in life. Daria's dedication and commitment are not only encouraging but exhilarating as well. Her stick-to-it-iveness has certainly benefitted the youth under her supervision. **Hats off to PPO Daria Melder for a job well done!**

### OJJ Builds Relationships with Our Youth

Thank you to **Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit** for coordinating a safe and rewarding activity for our youth during their summer break.

Roxann developed a partnership with the Audubon Institute of New Orleans to provide an enrichment activity in June for our kids, to broaden their educational views and social skills.

Thank you to **Program Specialist Joseph Powe** and **PPO3 Evalina Lestrick**, for assisting with this activity. A special thanks to **Glenis Scott, LMSW** for your support. A good time was had by all.

Our kids circled up to take the initiative to plan the next activity.



*Above and below, OJJ youth enjoy a program at the Audubon Institute's Aquarium of the Americas.*



### Youth Empowerment Project Holds Annual Event

The Youth Empowerment Project held its annual crawfish boil and barbecue in June. We had a blast. The event was held at our new youth center at 1529 O. C. Haley Blvd. YEP provided the food and entertainment for all participants of our programs, parents, funders, partners, and friends. Several members from the Office of Juvenile Justice were on hand to enjoy and fellowship as well.

Youth participated in healthy sports activities such as basketball, dodge ball, board games, a Steve Madden football tournament and card games, just to name a few. Both our **Director of Youth Advocacy August J. Collins, Sr.** and **YEP Administrative Assistant Donna Wolf**, are to be credited for the wonderful time folks had.

**Congratulations**

We are very proud of **PPO1 Douglas Black's** high academic achievement – he earned a 4.0 grade point average at Southern University at New Orleans. OJJ encourages him to continue to strive for excellence.



**Safety Check**



**PPS Ralph Jones** and family had the misfortune to deal with a house fire that consumed his family home in June. Please keep Ralph and his family in your thoughts and prayers as they work through this experience. Thank God everyone made it safely out of the house.

In the wake of several house fires experienced by OJJ staff, we offer the following information from the United States Fire Administration.

Electrical fires in our homes claim the lives of 280 Americans each year and injure 1,000 more. Some of these fires are caused by electrical system failures, but many more are caused by incorrectly installed wiring and overloaded circuits and extension cords. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) would like consumers to know that there are simple steps you can take to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from electrical fires.

**Safety Precautions:**

- Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring. Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately.

- Replace any electrical tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out, or gives off smoke or sparks.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Use safety closures to "child-proof" electrical outlets.
- Use electrical extension cords wisely; never overload extension cords or wall sockets.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire.
- And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.

**Families Learn New Skills**



Our own **PPO3 Stanley Schofield** was privileged to speak to our youth in June, at a Total

Community Action Head Start program. The purpose of the program was to help families acquire knowledge and skills and to enhance their own parenting skills, and to reinforce the concepts of family growth and development. Thank you, Stanley.

**Condolences**

**PPO3 Milton Crosby** recently lost his mother-in-law, Ms. Mary Holmes. Please keep Milton's family in your thoughts and prayers.

### OJJ Daughter Accepted for Prestigious Academic Program

**PPS Daphne Johnson's daughter, K. J.**, applied for and was accepted into the prestigious Breakthrough New Orleans Program, housed at Isidore Newman School. Breakthrough New Orleans is a multi-year college-preparatory program. K.J. has committed three full years, grades 6-8, to this intensive middle school program. The program entails a summer academy, and a year-round school year program, featuring weekly school-after-school and monthly Saturday school sessions. Her experience will also extend past the 8th grade, which will help her transition into high school. K.J. will receive academic support throughout her high school experience via tutoring, SAT and ACT test prep, and assistance in selecting the right four-year college to pursue her dreams. K.J. excitedly began the program in June. She is looking forward to continued academic success with the support of BTNOLA. **Congratulations, K.J.!**

### Shreveport Regional Office

#### Congratulations

#### Employee of the Month

**PPO3 Todd Carlisle** was chosen June Employee of the Month.

**RM Kristi Martin, PPS Kim Carlisle and PPS Terri Harber** attended the Wrap Around/Choices monthly meeting in Mansfield.

**RM Kristi Martin** attended the monthly Swanson staffing in Monroe.

**PPO3 Alan Glover** attended and participated in the football camp held by Word of Faith and sponsored by the Goodwill Program. Saints football player **Martez Wilson** was the guest speaker at this event.

Staff attended the My Life Shreveport Youth Rise meeting put on by Volunteers of America. Youth leaders from Arizona and Pennsylvania, and Magellan of Louisiana Youth Support Coordinator **Marvin Alexander**, attended this inspirational event. Attendees learned about the innovative youth group, MY LIFE, and explored the possibility of starting a MY LIFE group in Shreveport. This is a program by Magellan Youth Leaders to inspire future empowerment, including youth ages 13-23 who have experienced mental health, substance abuse, foster care and/or juvenile justice-related issues.

We celebrated two June birthdays - **PPO3 Fabrecia Roberson** and **PPO3 Kristen McKee**.

### Swanson Center for Youth

#### Graduation Ceremony Held

Southside Alternative High School held its annual Graduation Ceremony in June. **Dr. Curtis Sanders** from ULM was the guest speaker. This year Southside had 34 graduates. Of the 34, 21 of the graduates had already been released. **Quinton C.** received the Earnest Gaines Award and **Joshua B.** received the Ally Williams Award.



*Swanson's proud graduates*

### SCY Youth Enjoy a Special Guest Speaker

Our youth and staff enjoyed an afternoon in June enthralled by **Arthur Reed**, better known as **Silky Slim** to those in the rap industry. Mr. Reed grew up in New Orleans and prospered on both sides of the law. He showed both staff and youth the ugly, violent side of poverty and shared with them what it took to bring himself back to his roots in his grandfather's group, playing the drums. Many of the youth appeared touched by what they saw and heard.

### Congratulation on a Lovely Wedding

One of our own said his "I do's" during the month of June.

**JJS6 Irwin McCall** married his true love and former Swanson employee **Anitra Robinson**.

Best wishes go out to the newlyweds.



### Tallulah Regional Office

Tallulah OJJ has completed several training sessions and reviewed several policies.

Birthday wishes went out in June for **PPS Margo Corulla**, **PPO Jessica Southern** and **Administrative Coordinator 3 Martha Hattaway**.

Afternoon thunderstorms have been popping up all across Louisiana. This one in Madison Parish was caught coming across the field. **Administrative Coordinator 3 Martha Hattaway's daughter, Carrie Lindsey**, snapped the photo with her I-phone. Carrie is 23, and a college student at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. "We went for an afternoon walk along our country road and saw the approaching storm," Martha said. "She and I both love the outdoors and enjoy a spectacular photo opportunity when we see it. Also, as you can probably guess, we had to cut our walk short! I thought everyone could appreciate the picture, seeing that we have had more than our fair share of thunderstorms lately."



### Thibodaux Regional Office

#### Congratulations

#### Employee of the Month

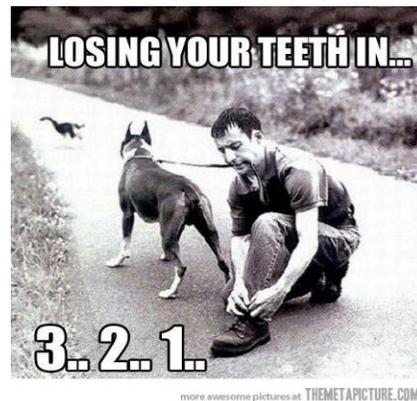
**PPO Lori Babin** is the July **Employee of the Month**. She is a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.

**PPOs Rachel Loupe** and **Allison Lirette** attended LAMOD Training for the Trainers at Central Office in June.

#### Farewell



We bid farewell to **PPO JaNisse Williams**, who has moved on to another career adventure. We wish her well in her future endeavors. JaNisse is pictured with **PPO James Percle**.



#### *A little something to make you smile....*



*Swanson IT Tech Support Specialist Mike Verhonsky's camellia bush in full bloom.*



## BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations



### Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC Recipe of the Month

Have we been busy, or what?! All of sudden it seems like we can't keep up, but what's really been happening is...four of my most talented students, have been released to go home and I've had to start training all over again. I'm always excited to see the students get released. Of the four youth that have gone home, one of them had been a part of my class for the past 3 ½ years. He was such a big helper in keeping me organized. He had me so spoiled, that I have to start training myself all over again, that's terrible. \*LOL\*

The recipes this month are two of our favorites and are both enjoyed when we have visitors to our campus. The Banana Foster Cheesecake can be made and freezes really well, if it is not completely consumed by your family and guests. The cookie recipe is one that we have been making for years because, not only is it a tasty treat, it is a beautiful addition to any platter of sweets. You will be amazed as I was, the first time I baked them when you bring them out of the oven. Remember to make them a little more fudgy, cook just a little less and they will have a more brownie texture and adding the nuts only makes them better!



### Bananas Foster Cheesecake

¾ cup all purpose flour	2 cups mashed very ripe banana (about 4 large)
¾ cup finely chopped pecans	1 16 oz. container sour cream, divided
3 tbsp. brown sugar	2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
2 tbsp. sugar	1 ½ tsp. ground cinnamon divided
¼ cup unsalted butter, melted	⅛ tsp. salt
2 ½ tbsp. vanilla extract, divided	½ tsp. sugar
2 8oz packages cream cheese, softened	2 very ripe bananas
1 ½ cups sugar, divided	1 12 oz. jar caramel sauce
2 tbsp. cornstarch	¼ cup dark rum
3 large eggs	

Combine first 5 ingredients in a bowl; stir well, press in bottom of a 10 inch spring form pan; set aside.

Beat cream cheese at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy. Gradually add 1¼ cups sugar and cornstarch, beating well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. Stir in mashed banana, half the sour cream, lemon juice, two teaspoons vanilla, one teaspoon cinnamon, and salt. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake at 350° for one hour or until center is set. Remove from oven and set aside.

Combine remaining sour cream, ¼ cup sugar and ½ teaspoon vanilla in a small bowl, stirring well. Spread over warm cheesecake; return to oven, and bake 10 more minutes. Turn the oven off; let cheesecake cool in the oven for two hours or until room temperature. Cover and chill 8 hours. Carefully remove sides of spring form pan. Combine ½ teaspoon sugar and remaining ½ teaspoon cinnamon in a small bowl; sprinkle over cheesecake. Peel and slice two bananas; arrange slices on top of cheesecake. Combine caramel sauce and rum in a small saucepan; cook over medium heat until warm. Drizzle some warm sauce over cheesecake, and serve with remaining sauce. Yield: 12 servings.



## Chocolate Crinkles

**Makes 2 dozen cookies**

This recipe is from "The King Arthur Flour Cookie Companion." This classic cookie is beautiful. With its Appaloosa coating of confectioners' sugar, the cracks that form in the surface as it bakes make it a miniature work of art. Nevertheless, the true reward comes in the eating. Just barely crisp at the edges, soft and almost brownie-like in the center, these cookies are sure to make a lasting impression. Chocolate crinkles, a seeming standard in the cookie baker's repertoire, actually don't appear to have a long history. Though it feels as if they've been around forever, the earliest mention we find of them in any cookbook is 1965. This cookie is quick and easy to put together, and forgiving in the oven. If you want a slightly crisper version, bake for a few extra minutes. For a fudgy center, go with the shorter baking time.

1 ½ cups (6 ¼ oz.) unbleached all-purpose flour

1 ½ cups (10 ½ oz.) sugar

1 ½ tsp. baking powder

¾ tsp. salt

6 tbsp. (¾ stick, 3 oz.) unsalted butter, melted

¾ cup (2 ¼ oz.) cocoa powder, natural or Dutch process

3 large eggs

½ tsp. vanilla extract

¾ cup (3 oz.) confectioners' sugar, for coating cookies

**Variation:** Add ½ cup chopped pecans to the dough.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease (or line with parchment) two baking sheets. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Set aside.

Combine the melted butter with the cocoa in a medium-sized bowl and stir until the mixture is smooth. Cool to lukewarm. Add the eggs and vanilla, stir to combine, then add this mixture to the dry ingredients. Mix thoroughly, until the flour is evenly moistened. The dough will seem too dry at first, but keep mixing and it will become the consistency of stiff brownie batter.

Scoop the dough into balls with a tablespoon cookie scoop or by the heaping tablespoon, and roll each ball of dough in confectioners' sugar to coat. Place the cookies on the prepared baking sheets.

Bake the cookies for 12 to 14 minutes. They'll spread out and form cracks, and the insides may look a little wet, but that's okay. For a crisper cookie, leave in the oven a few minutes longer. Remove the cookies from the oven and let them cool on the pan for 5 minutes before transferring them to a rack to cool completely.

Nutritional analysis per cookie: 35 grams, 126 calories, 4 grams fat, 2 grams protein, 7 grams complex carbohydrates, 14 grams sugar, 1 gram dietary fiber, 35 milligrams cholesterol, 113 milligrams sodium, 64 milligrams potassium, 40 RE vitamin A, 1 milligram iron, 25 milligrams calcium, 46 milligrams phosphorus and 7 milligrams caffeine.

# The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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