



# CORRECTIONS NEWS

*"Proudly Keeping Alabama Safe"*

*Professionalism - Integrity - Accountability*

Winter 2017

## U.S. Education Secretary John King Visits Limestone to Promote Correctional Education

In Sept. 2016, U.S. Education Sec. John King along with Governor Robert Bentley visited Limestone Correctional Facility in Harvest to recognize institutions in Alabama that were awarded the Second Chance Pell pilot grant. "Opportunity is providing second chances through education for a brighter future," said Sec. King. "Second chances benefit not just those who have repaid their debt to society, but families and communities as well."

The Second Chance Pell pilot program that began in 2015 offers inmates the opportunity to earn a higher education certificate or degree. Sixty-seven colleges and universities across the United States will participate in the program. There are three participating institutions in Ala-



*Larry Miller, Drafting Instructor and Division Chair for Limestone, speaking to Sec. King about the drafting program and the 3D printing lab.*

*(Education Continued on page 3)*

## ADOC Executive Leadership Conference: *Reaching Beyond Boundaries*

ADOC leaders gathered for the 11th Annual Executive Leadership Conference held at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort in Point Clear Aug. 31 - Sept. 2.

The conference was facilitated by subject matter experts who spoke on issues and challenges within Corrections and best practices for improving operational conditions through self-awareness and effective leadership development.

Don Mann, former Navy SEAL Team SIX Comman-

do, renowned World-Class Adventure Competitor and New York Times Best Selling Author, opened the conference as the keynote speaker. Mann's unique story and lessons he shared come from his colorful and action-packed life. He shared how his lifelong journey has prepared him to overcome life's barriers by striving for nothing less than greatness. He inspired the audience to reach beyond their own boundaries to achieve ultimate success.

Dr. Butch Beach, retired law enforcement officer with nearly 40 years of active experience, discussed the Servant Leader perspective and its application on contemporary public administration. Servant leadership focuses on enriching the lives of individuals and creating a more caring world. The characteristics, functions, and traits are examined from the views of Robert Greenleaf, James Hunter and Ken Blanchard, all

*(Leadership Conference Continued on page 3)*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

U.S. Education Secretary John King Visits Limestone to Promote Correctional Education	1
ADOC Executive Leadership Conference: Reaching Beyond Boundaries	1
From the Commissioner	4
ADOC First Sergeant Academy	5
ATEF Graduates Start New Chapter	5
Officer Saves Inmate from Choking	6
Honoring the Memory of Corrections Officer Kenneth Bettis	7
ADOC Host First Hostage Training	8
Alabama Prisons Adopt Propane, Establish Fuel Savings for Years to Come	8
Correctional Officers Rush to Help After Crash	9
DOC Recognizes Professional Development Course	9
The Birth of the Alabama Prison Birth Project	10
2016 ADOC Training Academy	10
Incarcerated Women are Reminded to Never Give Up	12
All ADOC Facilities are PREA Compliant	13
ADOC Awards Banquet Recipients	13
Donaldson Facility Gives Back to Their Community	14
ADOC Raises Over \$83,000 for Alabama Charities	15
ADOC Attends NICA Conference	15
2016 ADOC Annual Picnic	16
Lectures Behind Bars	16

Corrections News is a publication of the Alabama Department of Corrections. Article submissions are invited and should be sent to Bob Horton, Public Information Officer, via e-mail at [bob.horton@doc.alabama.gov](mailto:bob.horton@doc.alabama.gov), or mailed to: Alabama Department of Corrections ATTN: PIO 301 South Ripley Street, Montgomery, AL 36104



## *Mission Statement*

*The mission of the Alabama Department of Corrections is to provide for public safety through the safe, secure, humane confinement, and rehabilitation of offenders.*



### Education (Continued from page 1)

bama:

Auburn University, Calhoun Community College and J.F. Ingram Technical College.

Calhoun Community College has worked with Limestone for over 25 years. Calhoun currently offers 11 training programs including horticulture, welding and mechanical design. The college has 110 students from Limestone selected for the Second Chance Pell program.

Ingram State Technical College has over 400 students from Donaldson, Draper, Elmore, Staton, Frank Lee Work Center and Tutwiler Prison for Women.

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*“Particularly important is having programs that are closely linked to jobs that are available when they leave and that's what Limestone and Calhoun are doing.”*

**- U.S. Education Secretary King**

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Auburn University has been working with the ADOC since 2002 and was recently selected as a Second Chance Pell program site. They will offer 20 eligible students the chance to earn a bachelor's degree over the course of six years.

According to a 2013 RAND Corporation study, inmates who actively participated in correctional education were 43 percent less likely to return to prison in three years than those who did not receive any correctional education.

### Leadership Conference (Continued from page 1)



leading writers and theorist in the art and science of applied leadership. Butch explained the importance of servant leadership and the impact it would have on the department.

*Inspector General Mark Fassl discussing what an IG is and how IG Inspection, Investigation and Assistance Pro-*

ence of applied leadership. Butch explained the importance of servant leadership and the impact it would have on the department. Odie Washington, criminal justice consultant, shared an influential presentation on his personal experiences and the lessons he learned on leading in correctional environments amidst constant changes and challenges. His testimony provided examples when courage and strong leadership made a difference to those he worked with and in support of the agency's mission and values.

Terrence Davis, Director of Training for the Tennessee Department of Corrections, examined the impact the Millennial and i-Generation has on recruitment and retention in the correctional workplace.

The conference ended with attendees hearing from Dr. Hank Dasinger, President of Ingram State Technical College who challenged them to consider the way in which they lead their organization and how one's leadership approach impacts organizational effectiveness.



# From the Commissioner

*Jefferson S. Dunn*

As we begin a new year, the ADOC will have the opportunity to transform Alabama's prison system into a national model for corrections in the 21st century. The Alabama Prison Transformation Initiative (APTI) provides a fiscally sound solution to addressing Alabama's long neglected prison infrastructure; while providing the environment conducive to delivering the necessary programs to reduce recidivism.

We introduced APTI during last year's legislative session, and while not successfully passed, we educated many of the members as to the State's need to address systemic problems within the prison system. Governor Bentley has again made the Alabama Prison Transformation Initiative one of his top priorities in the 2017 Legislative Session. Prison transformation is more than constructing new prisons. It is about changing the ADOC into a highly functional prison system focused on excellence and service delivery.

In the last twelve months the ADOC reached a major milestone with all facilities passing the initial PREA audits. This achievement is indicative of the hard work our PREA staff, wardens, supervisors and correctional officers have given to meeting the required PREA standards. I encourage you to continue to follow our policy to ensure the department remains in compliance.

We also have made strides with our Training and Professional Development Program by conducting the first two classes of the newly implemented Sergeants Academy. In 2016, more than 40 sergeants graduated from the two-week academy that is designed to teach the principles of leadership and develop the skills required of jobs performed by our first-line leaders. Our objective is for all sergeants to attend the academy before advancing to the next leadership level.

Our ADOC Team should be proud of the work you do as public servants. From our support staff who provide the necessary resources that enables us to operate the department, to the correctional officers who model professionalism in even the most difficult conditions, and to program managers who have dedicated themselves to turning lives around for the better—we could not be successful in keeping our communities safe without your service.

As we move ahead in the new year, I look forward to seeing the outstanding work continue by our dedicated and committed corrections professionals. Thank you for all you do.



# ADOC First Sergeants Academy



On Oct. 27, 2016, the Alabama Department of Corrections graduated 29 correctional supervisors from the inaugural ADOC Sergeants Academy. In his remarks about class 2016-01, Deputy Commissioner for Training and Development Matthew Brand reminded our leaders of who they are and what they stand for.

“The Department of Corrections designed the academy to professionally develop the department’s next level leaders. Through their character, competence and commitment, these sergeants are the backbone of the ADOC and their leadership is essential to helping us transform the department.”

The Sergeants Academy is part of ADOC’s new professional development program that offers corrections officers and leaders at all levels enhanced skills-training, and to prepare them for increased responsibility and promotion opportunities while serving in the corrections profession.

## ATEF Graduates Start New Chapter

A graduation ceremony signaled a fresh start for a group of 21 graduates at the Alabama Therapeutic Education Facility on the morning of May 6, 2016.

“When I first got here, I was thinking this wasn’t for me,” graduate Trimez Usher said in his speech. “Being in this program wasn’t as hard as it seemed. It changed me in so many ways.”

Usher thanked the ATEF staff and said the program made him feel like he had another chance at life.

Graduate Reginald Ollie echoed Usher’s sentiments.

“I can truly say I am a survivor,” said Ollie, who received the Outstanding Leadership Award. “God bless you all and thank you for your time.”

Ollie, Usher and their fellow graduates completed the program at ATEF, a residential reentry facility at which rehabilitative services and cognitive-behavioral and vocational training are administered to help individual offenders prepare for reinte-

gration into the community.

Rep. Connie Rowe, who represents Blount and Walker counties in District 13 in the Alabama House of Representatives, spoke to the graduates about the difference choices can make, for better or for worse, in one’s life.

“It’s about choices. The choices that we make, in totality, is who we are,” Rowe said. “When you make a mistake, you have to pay a price. Once you pay that price, you have a grand opportunity to make good choices.”

As a proponent of prison con-

*(Continued on page 6)*



(ATEF Continued from page 5)

struction, Rowe said the ATEF is the “finest example” she has seen of a program aimed at helping people get out and stay out of prison.

“I’m very impressed with this facility,” Rowe said, noting its “positive vibe,” uplifting messages displayed throughout the building and supportive staff members ready to assist program participants.

Rowe emphasized the responsibility the graduates have to their successors of leading productive lives and applying what they learned at the ATEF after they leave.

“It is all about you,” Rowe said. “For the 24,000-plus prisoners in the state of Alabama, you carry a great responsibility. Your success is their success.”

Gary Hetzel commissioned the graduates to be “trailblazers,” and said he was proud of them.

“Know where you come from, but you have to look ahead and know where you’re going,” Hetzel said. “You have to get up every morning and decide if you’re going to be the man you’re supposed to be. You have the responsibility of the people that follow you. Don’t take it lightly.”



**State Rep. Connie Rowe speaks to graduates at the Alabama Therapeutic Education Facility on May 6. (Reporter Photo/Emily Sparacino)**

Each graduate was awarded a certificate.

Music at the ceremony was provided by the ATEF Band.

A reception was held for the graduates and their guests following the ceremony.

**Shelby County Reporter Emily Sparacino contributed this story**



**Pictured is Warden James Reynolds (left) presenting Correctional officer Douglas Mosley with a Letter of Commendation**

## Officer Saves Inmate from Choking

In September, Correctional Officer Douglas Mosley saved an inmate from choking at the Loxley Community Work Center.

Mosley was assigned as a camp rover working in the facilities laundry when he saw an inmate signaling he was choking.

In an attempt to dislodge the object, he gave him a few hard back pats.

The inmate was still strug-

gling and Mosley decided to perform the Heimlich Maneuver, saving the inmates life.

Mosley began his career as a corrections officer with the ADOC in 2006. He is assigned to Loxley Community Work Release.

In light of his heroic action, Lt. Riley presented Officer Mosley with a Letter of Commendation.

*“Had it not been for Officer Mosley’s quick thinking, the inmate may have not made it. We would like to give him our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for a job well done.”*

**- Warden James Reynolds**



## Honoring the Memory of Correctional Officer Kenneth Bettis

A memorial service was held at the Alabama Law Enforcement Memorial in Anniston on Oct. 4 to honor the life of Correctional Officer Kenneth Bettis who ended his watch on September 16, 2016, after succumbing to injuries sustained from an inmate attack at the William C. Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore on September 1.

Governor Robert Bentley, Attorney General Luther Strange and other governmental and law enforcement officials from across the state and country attended the memorial service to pay tribute to Officer Bettis.

During the solemn service, Officer Bettis' name was unveiled on the Alabama Law Enforcement Memorial Wall and roses were laid in his memory.

Officer Bettis began his with the Alabama Department of Corrections in 2009 and earned a great amount of respect from the correctional staff and inmates.

“Officer Bettis was known among his colleagues as a firm, but fair corrections officer who was highly respected for his work ethic and dedicated service to his profession,” said Corrections Commissioner Jeff Dunn.

In addition to working as a corrections officer, Bettis was a military veteran and had served on active duty in Iraq with the Alabama Army National Guard. His military awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Service Star.

“Officer Bettis was a dedicated civil servant taking on the difficult role of corrections officer.” Governor Bentley said. “I want to thank Officer Bettis and his family for his years of service to the people of Alabama, through his work at Holman Correctional Facility and his time serving in the Alabama Army National Guard. Officer Bettis will always be remembered with the upmost respect and honor.”



*A memorial service was held at the Alabama Fallen Officer's Memorial in Honor of Alabama Department of Corrections Officer Kenneth Bettis.*



## ADOC Host First Hostage Negotiations Training

In 2016, the Alabama Department of Corrections Investigation and Intelligence Division hosted its first Hostage Negotiations course with over 20 participants from ADOC, ALEA, Dothan and Dale County Sheriff's Offices.



At the completion of the course, 14 correctional officers were certified as ADOC's first Hostage Negotiation Team. The team will work closely with CERT teams and ADOC Operations Division in a collaborative effort to render peaceful resolution in critical situations.

"This is the first time in the history of the ADOC that we benefit from having an official Negotiations Team," Investigation and Intelligence Division Director Arnaldo Mercado said. "The training the team received will not only further each officer as they progress in the field of law enforcement, but the ADOC as a whole."

The 5-day class was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations Middle District of Alabama.

All negotiators will conduct quarterly training to enhance and further their skills.

## Alabama Prisons Adopt Propane, Establish Fuel Savings for Years to Come

**Published By: U.S. Depart. Of Energy**

Ever since Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition (ACFC) hosted its annual Propane Road Show in 2012, officials from the state's Department of Corrections (ADOC) were inspired to see if the fuel could work in their own fleet. Thanks to the Coalition, ADOC officials said they had the resources necessary—such as industry contacts, educational information, and bi-fuel conversion kit recommendations—to confidently propose to switch their fleets to propane. The idea immediately caught on at ADOC and officials teamed with ACFC shortly after to begin planning a two-year pilot project to convert 10 of their conventional gasoline vans to propane at the Loxley Work Release Center.

Fast-forward to today, and the ADOC has seen significant fuel cost savings from switching to propane—amounting to \$6,612 per year, per van converted from gasoline. Before launching the pilot project, the Department was spending more than \$1.3 million on gasoline a year to fuel a fleet of roughly 80 passenger vans. The vans, which can hold up to 15 passengers, are used daily to bring inmates to their job assignments. After seeing notable success from just 10 vans in two years, the Department has added 55 more propane vans to its fleet, built onsite propane fueling stations at ADOC facilities statewide, and contracted with propane marketers to serve the ADOC fleet in areas throughout Alabama.

### Assessing the Costs and Benefits

To get an idea of the requirements for the Corrections Department's vans, ACFC first conducted an assessment of the annual mileage traveled by each van to get to and from work release facilities. From there, the coalition was able to project that a switch to propane could bring significant savings, based on the cost of each vehicle conversion and the estimated miles per gallon (MPGs) for both gasoline and propane vans. ADOC developed a proposal to procure 10 bi-fuel vans which could run on propane or gasoline, as well as plans for the fueling infrastructure to support the fleet. The project was funded by a variety of resources, including private funding, the State of Alabama, and federal resources such as the U.S. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

"Over a couple of years, ACFC facilitated a number of workshops on alternative fuels that were attended by ADOC management," said Mark Bentley, Executive Director of ACFC. "Drawing on the industry contacts and ex-



pertise available at the workshops, ADOC management was able to weigh their options and decided to pursue propane as a viable alternative for their fleet."

#### A "Seamless" Installation

The fueling station and the first 10 Ford F-350 vans that were equipped with bi-fuel liquid propane conversion kits were secured through a bid solicitation process with the state's Department of Finance Purchasing Division. ADOC developed specifications for the vans and received assistance from the ACFC to develop specifications for the bi-fuel propane conversion kits. When Stivers Ford, a local dealership in Montgomery, won the bid, Stivers selected the ACFC member Precision Sales and Service to install conversion kits on each van. ADOC also received information on fueling station specifications from the Propane Education and Research Council, as well as recommendations on infrastructure contractors from ACFC. By January 2014, the 10 propane-fueled vans and 2,000 gallon fueling station at the Department's Loxley Work Release Center were ready for use.

"Because of the seamless installation experience, and the quality of propane conversion kits we used,

ADOC really saw no major challenges in equipment performance or operations," said Dr. Andy Farquhar, former Director of the Alabama Corrections Industries who led the pilot project at its inception. "Propane is a cleaner, inexpensive fuel that allows the Alabama Department of Corrections to reduce its dependence on imported oil. Additionally, the work release center staff and inmates like the convenience of having the propane fueling stations onsite, which reduces the amount of time that would be required to fuel vehicles at commercial gas stations."

Farquhar added that propane, used as an on-road fuel, qualifies for the federal Alternative Fuels Excise Tax Credit—and with this credit, there were several days in 2015 when the Loxley Work Release Center's propane fueling costs netted out to zero.

#### ADOC Locks Fuel savings, Cuts Emissions

Given the frequent use of the ADOC's vans and convenient access to propane, Farquhar said corrections officials agree that the project has been extremely successful. Since 2014, the vans have driven more than 1.4 million miles on propane with no equipment problems, and the two years' worth of performance data collected has provided valuable data to the ADOC beyond cost savings.

The only minor difference between the gasoline and propane-fueled vans, corrections officials noted, has been fuel economy (one gallon of propane has 73% of the energy of one gallon of gasoline). Despite this, and the recent decline in gasoline prices, Farquhar said the Department was able to achieve considerable cost savings—at an advantage of \$0.086 per mile—by operating the propane vans.

To top it all off, corrections officials said the use of the propane vans helped them to avert nearly 130 tons of greenhouse gas emissions during the two-year trial. Savings per van have exceeded \$6,600 each year, resulting in a payback period of 13.5 months for the vehicle conversions and an additional 16.4 months to cover the installation of the fueling station. With 55 propane vans recently added to the fleet—and all of the initial infrastructure costs accounted for—the ADOC is confident it will see continued cost benefits for years to come.

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*"We were happy to offer our technical guidance and expertise to Alabama's corrections facilities, but also to help bring the right people together for the project. When you have the right factual basis and the right people involved, you have a much greater chance of success."*

**-Gov. Robert Bentley**

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## Correctional Officers Rush to Help After Crash

In May 2016, five Alabama correctional officers rushed to the scene of an accident to help two men after a head on collision on Highway 22 near the entrance of the Alex City Work Release.

The officers heard the sound of impact and rushed to the scene to help. They found one man dead and one injured.

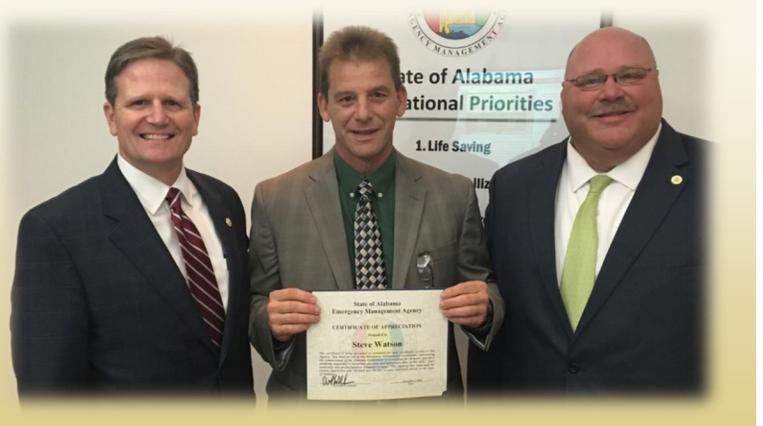
Sgt. William Thornton and Sgt. Johnny Leonard stopped on-coming traffic until paramedics arrived. Officers Timothy Smith, James Tucker and Justin Young accompanied the injured man until first aid was available.

Once the rescue team arrived, officers secured the scene and called family members of the injured.

*“They acted and performed as a well-trained team of professionals. They took charge and demonstrated that they cared and wanted to make a difference. Their training was evident by the way they responded to the emergency.”*

**- Warden Gary Williams**

**In November, Associate Commissioner for Plans and Programs Steve Watson was recognized for his 16 years of support to the Alabama Emergency Management Agency as the DOC Emergency Management Coordinator. Watson has been with the department for 30**



## DOC Recognizes Professional Development Course

In 2016, the Alabama Department of Corrections graduated 19 correctional supervisors from the department's leadership development course, FORWARD.

These officers were recommended by their superiors to participate in the program to advance their leadership skills.

“I take this opportunity to remind you that you are in a great place in your career,” said DOC Associate Commissioner for Operations Grantt Culliver. “You are the next group of leaders who will march the department forward. The foundation you’ve received in the past ten months is just that, it’s the building blocks to push you to the forefront of leadership in this department.”

The 10-month course, designed for senior cor-

rections supervisors who have attained the rank of lieutenant, incorporates DOC administrative and operational systems training with emphasis on leadership development, management strategies and best practices.

DOC will begin the next FORWARD class Feb. 2017.





## The Birth of the Alabama Prison Birth Project

Three women from Alabama flew to Minnesota. Why? What do we think we can do and learn from this trip? We have the support from our States' Department of Corrections. We know Childbirth Education and Doula-ing. But we need to know how to build and sustain a non-profit centered on caring for pregnant incarcerated women.

On paper, we will only serve 20-35 pregnant and post-partum mothers a year. That's not very many women. But it is also the babies, those mothers' other children, grandparents, fathers, and the community and climate in Alabama that will be impacted by our program. We have preliminary studies that show that women who receive education and doula care in prison have lower preterm birth rates, c-section rates, and recidivism. These women have a stronger bond with their babies by increasing breastfeeding rates, by continuing to have a connection with their baby and other children while they are behind bars, and increasing their self-efficacy as a mother.

Our mission with the Alabama Prison Birth Project is to meet mothers wherever they are: regardless of background. Every mother deserves a second chance and every baby and child deserves the chance to live a healthy, happy life. By helping mothers find the power within themselves to cope and overcome the circumstances they find themselves in and bond with their babies, the climate of a stressful environment can be altered.

But, what did we learn on day one? We need support. And not just "We are proud of you!" although we appreciate our friends and families' enthusiasm; but sustainable, streaming funds to bring this pro-

*(Birth Project Continued on page 12)*



## 2016 ADOC

### Training Academy

In 2016, the Alabama Corrections Academy graduated some 120 Correctional Officers who took one step closer to a career in corrections. In her commencement remarks to class 2016-03, Deputy Commissioner for Women's Services Dr. Wendy Williams reminded the officers of the responsibility that comes along with wearing the uniform.

"A degree of respect comes with the uniform and badge, but the true respect you must earn comes from the integrity you exude and the professionalism you role model on a daily basis."

Alabama correctional officers complete one of



the most rigorous and demanding corrections academies in the country. Graduates must pass all academic and physical training requirements of the 12-week course, and receive certification from the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission to serve as law enforcement officers in the Department of Corrections.



## Incarcerated Women are Reminded to Never Give Up



**Tonier Cain speaking to inmates from Tutwiler Prison for Women about overcoming trauma and abuse.**

*(Birth Project Continued from page 11)*

gram to Alabama is critical.

Today we will be sponges. We will soak up the experiences of two women who started a prison doula project in Minnesota 12 years ago. What challenges did they face? They had to convince their Department of Corrections that this programming was beneficial. Visit after visit, they listened to the women pregnant and alone behind bars. They developed a curriculum that met their needs and answered their questions. They wrapped their arms around these mothers in birth, showing the medical staff and officers that we can still find the human being within the bad choices and wrong paths taken. The culture surrounding these mothers on the inside has shifted. They are in greater contact with their families and home communities. They are using pumps to maintain lactation until they are reunited with their infants. Most importantly, these mothers are shown what a healthy, mothering relationship looks like when they themselves are mothered by doulas. Raelene Baker, the Minnesota Prison Doula Project Coordinator, shared a story about waiting at the Minnesota prison for several hours, kept outside the group room while a security issue was resolved. When she was allowed into group, the mothers were surprised. They thought she had certainly left and there would be no group meeting. Rae stayed for 30 minutes, and they had a short group. The Minnesota doulas built trust. Modeling trust and being available, these moms understand better what a mother does for her child.

Today we will sit in on this safe space. We will

In Oct. 2016, Tonier Cain of “Healing Neen” visited all three ADOC women’s facilities discussing the impact of trauma and Tonier’s powerful story as a recovering addict, former inmate and trauma survivor.

Award winning film “Healing Neen” uncovers Tonier Cain’s life long journey as she struggled with drug addiction, multiple incarcerations and 20 years of homelessness to become a spokeswoman for trauma victims.

Her eye opening story has inspired and uplifted women battling with their own insecurities and doubts.

ask the mothers, if they are willing to share, what we can do for the moms in Alabama who are giving birth without a doula. We will ask them how this experience has changed them and their family dynamic. We will listen. What they say is important.

Thanks for following along, and for your posi-

*“The Doula program is having a phenomenal impact on the incarcerated women who are pregnant and going through post-partum. We truly appreciate the partnership we have with the volunteers from the birth village.”*

### **- Deputy Commissioner for Women Services Wendy Williams**

tive support. If that support could be translated into a monetary donation, of any value, we’d be very grateful. Most importantly, these unborn babies would be grateful for their mother’s milk, for their mother’s desire to bond, to imprint, and to stay connected to them in a way that is more possible through our program.

Please visit [birthvillage.org/donate](http://birthvillage.org/donate) to see what your contributions can do for women in need.

**Birth Village reporters Erin Brown, Lexie Segrest, and Ashley Lovell contributed to this story**



*Commissioner Jeff Dunn, ADOC PREA Coordinator Christy Vincent and Gov. Robert Bentley.*

## All ADOC Facilities are PREA Compliant

In Dec. the ADOC celebrated the accomplishment of all 28 state correctional facilities becoming PREA compliant.

PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) became a federal law in September of 2003; with the Final Rule of PREA standards being released in August of 2012. The purpose of PREA is to ensure sexual safety of all inmates by establishing zero tolerance for incidences of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in all correctional facilities (including adult prisons and jails, juvenile facilities, lockups, and community confinement facilities).

ADOC has taken great strides over the past few years to adopt and implement the PREA standards throughout its 28 state correctional facilities. PREA has created opportunity for positive changes to occur within ADOC; such as the reconstructing of bathroom stalls and showers to provide privacy to inmates by preventing cross-gender viewing from staff as well as other inmates; hotline numbers have been established to provide the inmates with means of reporting sexual incidences; Memorandum of Understanding agreements have been established

*(PREA continued on page 14)*

## ADOC Awards Banquet Recipients

### Uniformed Officer Awards

#### **Correctional Senior Supervisor of the Year**

Captain Timothy Holcomb, Hamilton

#### **Correctional Supervisor of the Year-Northern Region**

Lieutenant Deandra Johnson, Donaldson

#### **Correctional Supervisor of the Year-Southern Region**

Sergeant Deveron Jackson, Holman

#### **Correctional Officer of the Year-Northern Region**

Theresa Widener, St. Clair

#### **Correctional Officer of the Year-Southern Region**

Samuel Johnson, Draper

### Institutional Awards

#### **Administrative Support Assistant of the Year**

Deloris Newberry, Camden

#### **Support Employee of the Year**

Charles Robitaille, Loxley

#### **Support Supervisor of the Year**

Chiteema Westry, Tutwiler

#### **Maintenance Employee of the Year**

Jeff Turner, Limestone

#### **Chaplain of the Year**

James Williams, Limestone

#### **Steward of the Year**

Wanda Hill, Red Eagle

#### **Health Services Employee of the Year**

Mary Collins, Bullock

#### **Assistant Warden of the Year**

Jimmy Patrick, Limestone

#### **Work Center Warden of the Year**

Joseph Womble, Red Eagle

#### **Warden III of the Year**

Karla Jones, Ventress

### ADOC Division Award

#### **Administrative Support Assistant of the Year**

Erica Stire, Supervised Release Program

#### **Staff Employee of the Year**

Laura Ferrell, Information Systems Division

#### **Staff Supervisor of the Year**

Carl Viars, Community Corrections Program

#### **Investigator of the Year**

Investigator Leroy Dale, I&I Division

#### **Division Director of the Year**

William Lawley, Personnel Division



## Donaldson Correctional Facility Gives Back to Their Community



**Warden Leon Bolling (left) and correctional staff giving Mr. Jeff Handley their Christmas donations.**

Warden Leon Bolling and staff at W.E. Donaldson Correctional Facility are proud to help those in the community each year that are in need.

This year Donaldson brought joy to several children in the surrounding areas. The staff donated several toys, clothes, and bicycles to the grandchildren of Mr. Jeff Handley.

Mr. Handley is the grandfather of two young granddaughters who lost their grandmother and mother. Mr. Handley is raising the granddaughters on his own.

This is just one family the W.E. Donaldson Correctional Facility is helping in the community.

*(PREA continued from page 13)*

with outside vendors to provide the inmates with confidential support services and to provide interpreters to the blind and hearing impaired during any sexual incidence. The ADOC has provided each facility with an Institutional PREA Compliance Manager (IPCM) as well as an IPCM back-up to oversee the day to day functions of PREA within their facilities. ADOC also created a new position that allowed them to hire a PREA Director to oversee the day to day functions of PREA from an agency standpoint. Lastly, Women Services within ADOC has led the way in changing the culture and making staff

more aware of gender differences and the affects that past and present trauma has on female inmates.

In March of 2016, the Alabama Department of Corrections contracted with three separate individual vendors for the sole purpose of completing PREA audits. In May 2016, the ADOC PREA audits began with 28 ADOC state correctional facilities audited between May and August; seven of which were found to be placed in a 30-90 day corrective action period (CAP). The remaining 21 facilities were found to be PREA compliant upon completion of their audit visit. As of October 14, 2016, the CAP for the seven facilities ended and all 28 ADOC

state facilities were found to be PREA compliant.

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*“Our efforts here in Alabama, although hard and difficult sometimes, have been overwhelmingly positive and rewarding. I am so happy you have taken the time to celebrate those positive results and I am so appreciative you have given us from the Moss Group the chance to celebrate with you.”*

**-Jeff Shorba**

National PREA Resource Center

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The next round of PREA audits are tentatively scheduled to begin in May of 2017 and continue throughout 2019.



## ADOC Raises over \$83,000 for Alabama Charities

The ADOC exceeded the 2016 State Combined Campaign goal by raising \$83,035 for Alabama charities.

Bullock Correctional Facility raised the most for the large facilities with \$7,658 in pledges. Hamilton Work Release had the highest facility goal percentage of 453% contributing \$4,424. And the Classification Division had the highest division goal percentage of 588%, raising \$2,205.

The Alabama State Combined Campaign started in 1991 and has raised over \$15 million for over 350 Alabama charities.

The 2016 total number of SSC pledges surpass \$790,000 statewide.



**In Sept., the ADOC Southern Region Dog Team competed in the 2016 Southeastern States Manhunt Field Trials. The team did a great job and placed fourth out of 29 teams in the Multiple Leash Division.**

## ADOC Attends NICA Conference

In Sept., the Alabama Department of Corrections attended the Gender Responsive Discipline and Sanitations Policy Improvement Program at the National Institute of Corrections Academy in Aurora, Colorado.

This program teaches the skills and tools necessary to more effectively manage women inmates and create safer facilities.

Other state teams participating include Colorado, Iowa, Maine, North Carolina and Illinois.



*From left to right: Sgt. Emily Abbot, Warden James Tucker, Warden Deidra Wright, Deputy Commissioner Wendy Williams, and Sgt. Sylvester Larkin on the final day of the conference.*



## 2016 ADOC Annual Picnic



The Annual ADOC Picnic was held at the Sheridan Heights Community Center in Montgomery attended by employees, family members and friends of the ADOC.

Henrietta Peters of the Engineering Division coordinated the picnic along with a committee consisting of employees from all facilities and divisions.

In addition to fine food, the picnic included competitive sports, games, door prizes and much more.

The Commissioner's Trophy went to Kilby Correctional Facility for winning the softball tournament and to Bullock Correctional Facility for placing first in the basketball tournament.



## Lectures Behind Bars

Few people normally go to Donaldson Correctional Facility, a state prison in far western Jefferson County. But twice a month UAB faculty travel to this maximum security prison to lecture to inmates. It's been happening for almost three decades.

Inside a large cinderblock hall, 36 men sit in quiet rows as UAB English Professor Nicole Lariscy begins this session of the Donaldson Prison lecture series.

"What I was hoping to try

tonight is just do some stories with you," Lariscy tells the class. "Are you willing to try that?"

All the men are in white uniforms stamped with Alabama Department of Corrections. Some have pens in their front pockets and thin notebooks on their laps.

Lariscy prompts a discussion with the question, "What's the difference between not true and made up?"

An inmate in the front row

answers that sometimes things that are made up have certain elements of truth in them.

It could almost be a college class, except three guards walk a quiet line around the inmates. And the classroom's doors stay locked.

Ronald McKeithen has been in prison for 31 years and is serving life without parole for various robbery charges. When

*(Behind Bars Continued on page 17)*



(Behind Bars Continued from page 16)

McKeithen first came to prison, he hadn't even finished high school. Now he attends every lecture he can.

"I just like learning new things," McKeithen said. "It makes me feel alive, like I am not dying in here."

The reason McKeithen's able to take in these lectures is because of an unfortunate turn of events 27 year ago.

Ada Long was the dean of the UAB Honors College at the time. She heard about a smart student who had been accepted into the Honors College. But the summer before, he had also been charged with murder. Instead of enrolling as a freshman, he went to Donaldson to begin a life sentence.



In response, Long started a lecture series, where UAB faculty and staff teach classes on whatever they want — for instance, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, exploring caves or HIV and sexual health. The lectures aren't for credit, but only inmates with good behavior are allowed to attend.

"We don't want to lock them up and have them forget how to behave and how to function as a person," explains Cheryl Price, the warden of Donaldson. Price is responsible for Donaldson's 1,600 inmates, and she says the lectures remind inmates what life is like outside, both the privileges and what will be expected of them. That's important, because 97 percent of inmates in the U.S. prisons are eventually released.

"It gives [the inmates] some dignity," Price said. "Education is the one thing that you can't lose, no one can take from you."

Libba Vaughn, who runs the program now, says UAB faculty constantly send her emails about how much they enjoyed the experience and how the lecture series reminded them of why they love teaching.

"Because they are speaking about what they are passionate about to a group of people who are, for the most part, very curious and willing to be there and listen and learn," says Vaughn. "And that doesn't always happen in the regular classroom."

Back in the prison classroom, UAB Professor Nicole Lariscy prompts the students to reflect on their own lives.

"Tell me a story," Lariscy says, "that shows me what motivates you to get out of bed in the morning."

Slowly, men start raising their hands. One man describes his mother's leaky roof and how he wants to get home to fix it.

Ronald McKeithen, the man serving a life sentence, tells a story about when he transferred to Donaldson. He was lying in the prison infirmary and saw a dead body being wheeled out on a stretcher. All he could see of the man was a toe tag identifying the body.

"And I am thinking, 'I don't want to be like that.' You don't know who he is or what he has done," said McKeithen. "So it motivates me to get up in the mornings...just don't be a number. Any opportunity I get to learn something new, a class come up, I want to take it. I don't want to be just a number that you barely even notice."

The lecture ends, but not in the way college classes normally do. The men applaud loudly and thank Lariscy.

Then they slowly file back to their cells. Lariscy says she'll be back.

**WBHM Reporter Ashley Cleek contributed this story**



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