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## Schools 'download' computers from DAS warehouse

By John McKay

Usually in a school library the occasional "shh!" is the only sound to break the silence.

But there was no silencing the group at the press conference held in the Timothy Edward Elementary School library in South Windsor on February 8 when DAS delivered 200 computers to its door.

Lieutenant Governor Jodi Rell, the state's champion of increased technology in the classroom, was there to celebrate the event along with Speaker of the House Moira Lyons. Lyons explained that Stamford-based USB Walburg, in conjunction with DOIT, made an arrangement to donate a number of computers and other technology equipment to schools across Connecticut.

"This is a big deal for Connecticut schools," Rell said. "Technology is ever-increasing and ever-changing. For Connecticut's children to keep up with the world, we need partnerships just like this one."



Deputy Commissioner Alan Mazzola and Lt. Governor Jodi Rell at the press conference on donated computers.

## Special Insert !

Rave reviews as the first ever "Taste of DAS" celebrates diversity

Please see Computers on p.2

**Computers**, *cont. from p. 1*

“Once again we see a triumphant public/private partnership formed for the benefit of Connecticut’s children,” Lyons said. A similar computer delivery was made later that day to the Sayles School in Baltic.

But how did the computers get there? “That’s where DAS comes in,” explained Deputy Commissioner Alan Mazzola. “DAS’ Property Distribution went above and beyond the call of duty by housing the computers in the DAS warehouse, packing and shrink-wrapping the computers onto loading pallets, and delivering them to the schools,” Mazzola said.

Jim Potyra and Dan Barrows from the Property Distribution Center, and Kevin Backman, Steve Phillips, and Bill Larose from the Fleet garage were the hard drivers that oversaw the storage of the computers at the DAS warehouse and delivered them to the schools.



**DAS’ Jim Potyra, Dan Barrows, and Kevin Backman (l) unload computers at the Timothy Edward Elementary School in South Windsor. Nice job, guys - you get an A+.**

**DAS Times**

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*Contributions are welcome but may be edited for space and clarity.*

Visit our website at [www.das.state.ct.us](http://www.das.state.ct.us)

**Management Update...the sequel**

By John McKay

A number of years ago, a newsletter called *Management Update* was circulated to state managers and supervisors.

Well, *Management Update* has been updated. Welcome *What’s News!*

*What’s News* will provide information about current developments in employment law for managers, supervisors, HR professionals, and Affirmative Action Officers.

It will also include recent court rulings on the ADA and FMLA, harassment and discrimination decisions, new federal regulations, and more. It will also cover upcoming HR Learning Center training and lectures.

“Managers, supervisors, and human resources personnel should know the most recent

information on employment law issues. It will help them better perform their jobs, protect themselves and their agencies from liability, and inform employees on the implications of the law,” said *News’* editor Sandra Sharr.

“However,” she cautioned, “the newsletter is not intended to be a substitute for individual professional legal advice on a specific case. Individual problems must always be reviewed by a professional.”

The first issue is due out in the spring of 2001. To be added to the distribution list, please e-mail your mailing information to [laura.breux@po.state.ct.us](mailto:laura.breux@po.state.ct.us).

“I hope that managers and supervisors will find the newsletter a helpful tool. I look forward to their feedback and to any suggestions for topics they would like to see covered in the future,” said Sharr.

Director Steven O. Fish from the Department of Environmental Protection praised **David Swenson** for his expertise in grant writing that resulted in an award to their agency of \$16,600 from the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving.

Sergeant E. Young from the Department of Motor Vehicles commended **Beverly Powers** from Fleet Operations for getting his vehicle in for service so quickly. "Beverly has a great attitude and was very pleasant and helpful to another state employee."

Chairman Arthur H. Diedrick of the Connecticut Development Authority congratulated the **Communications Office** for "the great job you all do on the *DAS Times*. It's always interesting to me to see the great breadth of activities with which you're involved."

Kudos from Stephen Dygus to the **Fleet employees** who put in extra hours during the winter storms cleaning vehicles and four parking lots so that customers were not inconvenienced.

Suzanne Liquerman commended **Jay Tulin** for working so closely with a hearing impaired individual and providing the extra time needed to assist her through the employment process.

Toni Alphonse praised **Linda Hubeny, Jose Baez, and Anna Tara** for making her APS training one of the best ever. "Thanks to you, we did not have any problems and I was able to complete my entire day of training."

Patti Kokonowski thanked **Peter Varhol** for setting up the rooms needed for the Service Awards ceremony. "It was very nice of you to lend a helping hand."

Sandra Sharr commended **John McKay** for the "outstanding job he did of converting a pencil sketch layout into a very creative, visually attractive newsletter. I particularly like the masthead, his graphic interpretation of the title is great!"

Thomas H. Marshall from the East Hartford School System praised **Lydia Rosario** for her assistance with advertising their cost proposal for computer services on the DAS website. "Your instructions were quite easy to use, and the response was terrific."

Head cook Ronna Capozzi from Kaynor Vocational Technical School applauded **Paul Greco** for his assistance with delivery problems of milk to their school. "Delivery has been on schedule, due to your call and letter to the company, I'm sure."

Kenn Stephenson commended **Jim Potyra, Dan Barrows, Kevin Backman, Steve Phillips, and Bill Larose** for "handling the South Windsor delivery of 170 complete computer units and 10 CPUs on time and flawlessly. A job well done!"

A special thank you from Doris Vieira to **Norm Townley, Paul Greco, and Kevin Backman** for assisting with the USDA inventory. "The warehouse freezers were super cold but with your hard work, cooperation, and good attitude, it was a success!"

CAU staff expressed their appreciation to **David Marsh** who performed such timely repair on the unit's shredder attachment, and to **Fred Ondevilla** for his assistance. "Good job!"

Fred Ondevilla applauded **Tom Yuhas** and **Kevin Backman** for assisting with a car request in February so quickly. "These guys are awesome!"

Attorney Edward Daly praised **Julie Ahlstrin** for handling a case file situation exceptionally well and for "performing her job above and beyond the call of duty."

## Hats Off

By Cindy Duberek

Congratulations to the **Financial Services Center** from Mayme Casady for the great trade show that was presented on February 27. "It was very creative, and it was great exposure and fun learning what our coworkers do."

Fred Ondevilla commended **Nina Ritson** for the poster she created for the FSC Trade Show, and also **Art Paulette** and **Patty Gallucci** for making the "wonderful prints."

Sonia Greenhagen commended **Pam Libby** and **Jeanne Gray** for always being there to help her when she has questions.

Dan Donahue extended his thanks to **Peter Varhol** for the "superlative job he did in obtaining door prizes for the FSC Trade Show."

Kudos from Dan Donahue to the FSC Trade Show Committee Chairs: "**Mike Felix** for publicity, **Karen Rakowski** for decorations, and **Peter Varhol** for the refreshments."

*Please see Kudos on pg.4*

# It's a natural

By **Donna Micklus**

**D**AS and OPM recently made history when they consummated a joint agreement for the purchase of natural gas on the Enermetrix.com Exchange, an e-commerce bidding system for energy products.

"This is really a significant achievement that represents months of planning, discussion, and legal review," said

Procurement's Carol Wilson.

Wilson, along with BAGS' Jim Neil, worked on the negotiations and said that this process re-

placed the traditional RFP that would normally be used.

"This innovative method to procure natural gas has enabled the State to lock into a fixed markup cost," she said.

"We achieve a cost savings over the traditional means by locking into a price quicker," Wilson added.

She explained that previous methods were time-consuming; proposers had to hold the commodity for a period of time, which ended up costing them more money and ultimately resulted in higher bid prices for the State.

Procurement Manager Jim Passier said that savings estimates are still being calculated.

"However, OPM is very confident that we achieved a much more aggressive price than we would have using the traditional method," he added.

The Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) acted as the agent to the Exchange for the State of Connecticut throughout the negotiating process.

"This is a prime example of what can be achieved through public/private partnerships," said Commissioner Barbara Waters.

"By working with both OPM and CBIA we were able to develop creative new procurement alternatives and save the State money. This kind of collaboration represents innovation and teamwork at its finest," Waters said.

## Victories

### **Kudos, cont. from p. 3**

Commissioner Barbara Waters sent the highest praise to **FSC** for their trade show on February 27. "We have the only business office in government that knows how to get the message out while still having fun. A job well done!"

The DAS Business Office Trade Show Publicity Committee expressed thanks to **Heather Cavanaugh** for her assistance with posters, print outs, and many schedule changes needed for unit photo shoots for their February trade show.

David Lynn and Debby Hearl thanked the people who have been instrumental in the success of their Workplace Violence Prevention Training; **Dixie**

**Larned, Peter Varhol, Fred Ondevilla, Cathy Bysiewicz-Cluen, Cheryl Sawina, Andrea Keilty, Dan Sadowski, and Dan Sears.**

Michelle Burns expressed her sincere thanks to **Dale Greenwood, Robin Riddlesworth, Shanta Kumar, Francis Pisarski, and Mary Jane O'Brien** who assisted her in getting the Correction Officer scheduling letters in the mail. "You are a prime example of teamwork!"

Jack Condlin from the Stamford Chamber of Commerce applauded **J. Carlos Velez and Don Casella** for their presentation at the Mayor's Initiative for Small Business. "I am very interested in setting up a model to be a conduit of information on state bids for all of the Chambers of Commerce throughout the state."

Assistant Legal Counsel Amy E. Carpino from the Governor's Office praised **Sandra Sharr, Diane Donato**, and the rest of the **Business Advisory Group** for helping her to complete the Governor's Affirmative Action plan on time. "I look forward to working with all of you next year!"

Deb Barry and Fran Caron from the Department of Correction thanked **Betty Johnson and Tina Costanzo** for getting them a copy of a missing pricelist for their fire alarm service contract. "We really appreciated this extra effort!"

Susan Pawloski-Burke commended the **Diversity Committee** for organizing the wonderful diversity luncheon. "The food was delicious (and more than plentiful) and I loved the music and decorations. Thanks to all!"

# The marvel of Mirek

By John McKay

**M**irek Golebiewski has been on the move for more years than he'd like to recount.

His first major move would have to be his three-month-long escape from communist Warsaw, Poland in the mid-80s.

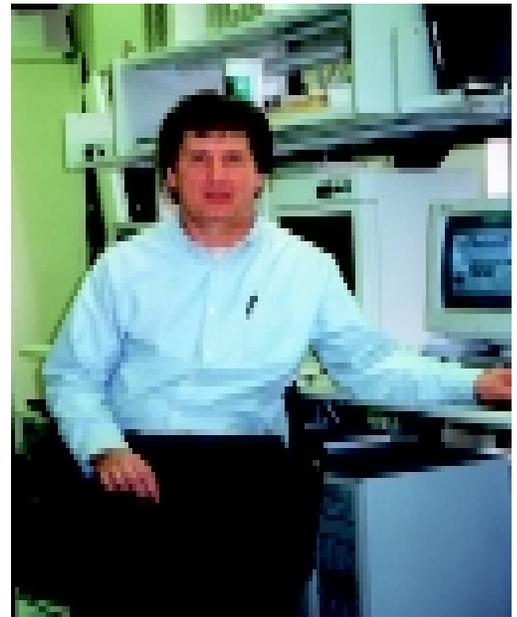
"I really liked the landscape of the Newington location," he said.

"It was very much like a park, and coming from Europe where everything is so over developed, it was nice. In Europe, to find that much space, you have to be at least 100 miles outside of a city for that kind of comfort."

Still on the move, Golebiewski has traveled back to Poland and likes what he sees.

"It's so different from when I left," he said. "I wouldn't trade it for living here in the United States, however."

He and his family are also beginning to travel around the U.S. as well. They have been to Florida, Colorado, and California.



**Mirek Golebiewski**

"I would really like to see Texas," he added.

Seems like the wide plains of the Lone Star State might be perfect for a guy who's always on the move.

## Up Close

"I had to get to Austria and then eventually to Connecticut where my parents were living," he said.

Golebiewski recalls the beauty of Vienna and how it was also a haven for those escaping communism.

"I was considered to be very lucky because I had my parents as sponsors in the United States. Others were going to Canada and Australia where as long as you have a skill or trade, they will accept you for citizenship."

Once in Connecticut, Golebiewski settled in New Britain with his parents.

"It wasn't easy to adopt a new language and culture right away, but after about two years you really start to feel comfortable and at ease with yourself," he said.

He then met his wife Eva, and they moved to Plainville and eventually to Berlin, where they now live with their two children, Ashley and Erik.

His education and career have gone through a number of moves as well. He enrolled in computer science and accounting courses from Central Connecticut State University and then received additional education from the Computer Processing Institute.

After his employer went out of business, he was able to find a job with the State of Connecticut in the Connecticut Administrative Technology Center (CATER) and then worked at FSC in Newington.

## Set-Aside directory on CD-ROM

By Heather Cavanaugh

**T**he DAS Set-Aside Vendor Directory is online and e-available.

For the first time, all Set-Aside businesses are available on CD-ROM and are updated on the Internet twice a day.

In the past, the Department of Economic and Community Development, which used to operate the program, would print 1,500 to 2,000 hard copies of the directory.

"The minute it's printed, it becomes obsolete," said Business CONNECTIONS Director Carlos Velez.

Procurement Services' Vinnie Musumeci came up with the idea to burn the directory onto a CD-ROM.

Now Business CONNECTIONS prints only 30 hard copies a month for businesses that don't have Internet access, and the CD-ROM is available upon request with the up-to-date listings.

The new way of maintaining this directory has cut down on printing cost, mailing cost, time, and has cut out obsolete information.

"In the past we sent out this large document via mail, and had to charge companies for the mailing. Now we're just sending a small disk," said Velez.

The directory contains roughly 2,300 certified Set-Aside business in Connecticut.

# 100 days ... and counting

By John McKay

**A**nd then there were 71. With the launch of DAS' one-hundred days Corre-CT campaign last month, the agency has focused on eliminating archaic and unnecessary guidelines and regulations, particularly Human Resources and Procurement.

"It's important to recognize the success we have already had," said Commissioner Waters.

"So when a major stride is made we'll be hosting celebratory pep rallies not only to recognize the employees that made it possible, but also to benchmark and get a visual picture of where we are."

Dr. Martin Anderson emceed such an event on March 1, just 29 working days into the project.

HRBC's Mickey Hickerson, Nick Visone, Pam Libby, Shari Grzyb, and Procurement's Carol

Wilson reported on their progress in reformatting class titles, modifying and updating the job class database, constructing a new classification database, investigating new tactics for re-employment, and looking at statutes that can be eliminated or modified to human resources functions easier.

"There has just been a flurry of excitement with this project," said Commissioner Barbara Waters.

"I can't remember the last time I saw so much activity with amazing results in such a short time."

For these teams to do their jobs more smoothly, SLC has been lending its facilitating services. Any Corre-CT team that needs help in organizing and facilitating meetings can use SLC as a resource.

"We've sharpened our skills and are willing to lend a hand to the project," said SLC's Cathy Daly.

Wilson couldn't help but be impressed with the activity and achievements already made.

"This meeting has given me a lot of ideas and motivation to think what else we can do in the procurement office to streamline some of our own functions."

Anderson encouraged attendees and their coworkers to use the DAS suggestion box, located on DAS Central to submit suggestions on how to streamline agency processes.

"This doesn't just involve a few employees," said Commissioner Barbara Waters.

"We're encouraging everyone to look at what they do on a daily basis, and ask, 'How can I make this better?'"



## DAS' Property Distribution is just all fired up!

**It's amazing what a fresh coat of paint and some elbow grease can do.**

**Patrick Flynn, a representative from the South Beach Fire and Rescue Department in Greenwich, sent in a photo of their hard work.**

**They had acquired this lean mean rescue machine from DAS' Property Distribution and wanted to share their accomplishments with everyone.**

**"We can't thank you enough for our 6 X 6. It has been repainted from top to bottom and is very very sharp looking. See for yourself!" wrote Flynn.**



# Balloon\$, bead\$, and buck\$

By Heather Cavanaugh

When the FSC Business Office says they're going to put on a trade show, they put their money where their mouth is.

On February 27, the North Mechanical room was packed to the hilt. Employees sampled goodies from the Goodwin Tech Culinary Arts School, tried their luck at a penny pitch, or thumbed through the plethora of information on the Master Insurance Program, Property Management, Grants Management, Purchasing, Accounts Payable/Receivable, Budget, Delinquent Accounts, and the Central Accounting Unit.

"I'm thrilled," said Business Office Director Jim McKenna. "Each area of the Business Office broke out and did their own thing, and they all did a spectacular job."

A contest was held among units to see who could come up with the best banner to promote their respective areas. The winner was the Accounting Services unit, who was rewarded with a \$25 gift certificate to a local restaurant.

"We wanted to try something different," said Dan Donahue.

Employees milled around the buzzing room for two hours. Attendees were bestowed with door prizes and Business Office trinkets throughout the morning.

"This is terrific," said Anne Pomeroy Dixon. "I think it's fun and interactive – a super idea."

"The Business Office continues to strive and succeed at making a learning experience enjoyable and entertaining," said Dave Lynn of Human Resources.

A fellow FSC employee, Devin Marquez commended the efforts by

saying, "This is wonderful. It's an innovative way to share what the Business Office does with the rest of DAS."

The kudos continue to pour in on what a resounding success the event was. The Business Office has proven to be a constant source of information - information made entertaining - for its DAS customers.



FSC Business Office Trade Show February 27



# Preventive medicine

By John McKay

“We’re simply trying to raise awareness,” was Dave Lynn’s overall message at the workplace violence prevention training hosted by HRBC.

“Experts in this field agree that without awareness, even clear warning signs can go unnoticed. Training programs have proven to reduce workplace violence for employers across the nation,” said Lynn.

“If we highlight some early warning signs to watch for, it really gets people thinking and they are more sensitive to possible cues,” he added.

Governor Rowland’s Executive Order No.16 mandates workplace violence prevention training for all state employees.

**“It really helps drive home the fact when I relate my own experiences with workplace violence, and remind people of the Oklahoma City bombing and the Connecticut Lottery incident.”**  
**Dave Lynn**

Every Thursday morning since January 18, Lynn and Deb Hearl have been raising the level of consciousness of workplace violence through their lectures, related experiences, and training videos.

“It really helps drive home the fact when I relate my own experiences with workplace violence, and remind people of certain

incidents including the Oklahoma City bombing and the Connecticut Lottery incident,” said Lynn.

Lynn and Hearl have already trained approximately 180 DAS employees, with 80 more signed up for future classes.



**Preventive measures: HRBC’s Dave Lynn and Deb Hearl.**

“That leaves about 100 employees who have *not* signed up for training,” said Hearl.

“We can’t emphasize enough how important this training is,” said Hearl.

“Also, a workplace violence prevention program will only be successful if *all* employees are trained and participate in the process.”

Other topics covered in the lecture include:

what to do if you witness or are exposed to a threatening or intimidating situation, reacting and responding to phoned-in threats, and how to identify suspicious packages or letters.

If you have not yet signed up for this mandatory training, please contact Deb Hearl at 713-5180, or Dave Lynn at 713-5107.

# Open house opens dialogue

By Heather Cavanaugh

Procurement Services once again successfully linked with its customers at an open house, held last month at the IIET Building in New Britain.

The forum offered information and welcomed feedback from users of CTGovCenter, the state’s e-commerce system, formally known as OrderLink.

“The reaction was very positive,” said Maureen Costigan, e-commerce team leader for Procurement. “People thought the open house was very helpful.”

Over 170 people attended from state agencies and municipalities. Workshops were held on topics such as interfacing with the SAAAS accounting system and CTGovCenter enhancements and features.

Roundtable discussions were also held among system users and Procurement and Digital Commerce Corporation staff.

The roundtable discussions were great,” said Costigan. “From these talks we’re able to make adjustments and improvements based on the needs of the customer.”

Costigan added that the reaction to the CTGovCenter system was more positive than ever. Procurement Services plans to hold more open houses in the future to keep an open dialogue with CTGovCenter users.