



Governor Rowland, DAS Announce Millions In Savings

By Donna Micklus

Inside this Issue

Standing in front of a sea of turned-in vehicles, Governor John G. Rowland and Deputy Commissioner Alan Mazzola announced a dramatic reduction in the state fleet of cars, SUV's and small trucks, resulting in savings of close to \$20 million over the next five and a half years. The cuts being made in the fleet are the result of a comprehensive fleet study conducted by DAS.

According to Mazzola, a total of 521 vehicles have already been turned in to date.

"In these difficult economic times, every part of government needs to be reevaluated," Governor Rowland said.

"The state vehicle fleet is an area where we can cut close to 20 percent of the cars, reduce costs, and provide additional savings to Connecticut taxpayers."

"Generally, the cars eliminated from the state fleet will include those that have low mileage – the auditors have determined that vehicles are underutilized if they are driven less than 1,000 miles per month," explained Mazzola who is overseeing the entire Fleet Study.

On a case-by-case basis, DAS is in the process of determining whether or not:

- the vehicle is being used for business purposes or mostly for home-to-office commute
 - a smaller, less expensive vehicle should be substituted
 - mileage reimbursement would be more cost effective
 - the vehicle should be sold or redeployed
- Fifty-six commissioners and deputy



Governor Rowland and Deputy Commissioner Mazzola at the April news conference

commissioners have already turned in their state cars. Those vehicles alone represent a combined savings to taxpayers of \$1.9 million in operating costs, cancellation of a new car buy, and anticipated revenues generated by selling the cars at public auction.

DAS has also cancelled the purchase of new fleet vehicles for the current year for an additional projected savings of \$13 million. The total savings over the next five and a half years will approach \$20 million.

"I want to thank all the commissioners who have helped to identify vehicles that could be eliminated without impacting services to clients and taxpayers – and especially, Commissioner Waters and Deputy Commissioner Mazzola for their efforts in this fleet reduction study," the Governor said.

Mazzola added special recognition for Fleet's Steve Dygus, Tom Yuhas, Carol Biernacki, Dave Marsh, Ed Arusiewicz, Dave Tufano, Al Landry, Bill Soyka, Bill LaRose, Steve Phillips and Mike Lopez.



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Lt. Governor Rell Presents State Nurse Of The Year Award

In honor of National Nursing Week, DAS hosted the second annual State Nurse of the Year Awards ceremony on May 7 at the State Capitol.

Six Nurse of the Year finalists from various state agencies were nominated and recognized by the Lt. Governor. Rell said, "nurses are a vital part of the medical field. Anyone who's had an experience with a nurse knows how caring and dedicated they are and can remember how important their nurse was to them."

Debra Young, a Department of Children & Families' Registered Nurse from Middletown's Riverview Hospital, was the winner.



Heroes in the Family

By John McKay

Although the war in Iraq is winding down, there are still many members of our armed forces overseas continuing the fight for freedom.

Here are photos of loved ones that are related to DAS employees.

Corporal Chris Drueschler was deployed in Iraq but is now stateside. He is 22 years old and in the infantry or as he calls himself "a grunt".

He is to receive his discharge in June 2003. His father Bruce and FSC's Shirley Drueschler couldn't be more proud of their son and anxiously look forward to his homecoming.

Carlos Kebe sent in a photo of his two great-

nieces and their husbands who are all in the US Air Force.

Each niece went into the service upon graduating from high school.



Stephanie Bravo Hohenstein (second from right) and her husband Andrew are serving in Mildenhall and Lakenheath AFB's in England, and Margaret Bravo Merrill and her husband Mark are at Ramstein AFB in Germany.

"I am so proud of them!" Kebe says.

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Governor

Barbara A. Waters
Commissioner

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Paige Merrifield of Merrifield Paint Company sang the praises of **Paul Greco**. "I would like to express how pleased we are with the service, support and guidance we've received from Mr. Paul Greco. He was absolutely invaluable to us back in 2001 when we first attempted to have our paints added to the State's ABL and once again he has provided us contact names and crucial information necessary for us to continue doing business with the state on an upcoming bid. He has truly made a somewhat daunting task for us easy and enjoyable."

Barbara Moser thanked **Lydia Rosario** and **Paul Greco** for "applying their extensive contracting expertise to extending the services offered in the contract for Environmentally Preferred Disposal of Electronic Equipment to include municipal electronics collection events. By offering options that support proper disposal throughout the state, we're making Connecticut a better place to live. This effort is just one more example of the teamwork that makes DAS the best!"

From Susie Carlson at CHRO: "Over the past several months I've been working on several lengthy, complicated retro histories of positions and employees in preparation for the CoreCT conversion. Words are inadequate to describe the help I've been given by **Toni Alphonse** and **Juanita Woolfolk**... I wanted you to know how appreciative I have been and acknowledge their efforts and willingness to help me through the process."

Nancy Jones thanked **Pamela Anderson, Joyce Chin, William Hauschulz, Patsy McLaughlin, Nina Ritson, Linda Shackett-Blue, Kathleen Sullivan, Francisco Rivera, Marisol Rivera, Cheryl**

Sawina, Peter Varhol, Donna Camillone, Donna Micklus, Daniel Sears, John McKay, David Krayeski, Isabelle McKinney, and Mary Stubbs "for your help with the 2003 Take Our Kids to Work Day. The role you played in the planning of this day helped to make it the success that it was. The Kids Day Committee was the best ever. You worked so hard to raise the funds we needed and in the preparation of the event. I hope to see you all next year!"

Faith P. Arkin, Director, Judge Support Services for Superior Court Operations in the Judicial Branch, thanked **Suzanne Liquerman** "for doing an outstanding job at our ADA training program. Your knowledge, enthusiasm and instruction in leading this program is deeply appreciated."

Jim Passier lauded the success of **Tina Costanzo**. "This is an excellent example of the kind of improvement we can generate when we apply a little critical analysis and thought. Tina took an intelligent risk when we elected to let the existing contract lapse in order to work the pricing with the proposers. The results speak for themselves. And she improved the process and ease of use for our customers as well."

John McKay offered thanks "to everyone who helped make Governor Rowland's press conference on April 22 a huge success. Special recognition goes to **Steve Dygus, Tom Yugas** and the **employees at Fleet garage**, plus **Peter Varhol** for his extra efforts and quick thinking."

From Donna Micklus to **Steve Dygus and Tom Yugas**. "Thank you for the outstanding job you did for the Fleet news conference. Everything went flawlessly because of your efforts. I don't know if you had the

opportunity to see the TV coverage but the vehicles really looked impressive and made for a perfect 'visual.' Special thank you to **Peter Varhol** for all his help behind the scenes!"

Bryan Soltysik of Triumvirate Environmental complimented **Paul Greco**. "During my 8 years of experience in this industry I have never run across someone as dedicated to servicing customers as Paul Greco. Paul truly adds value and credible service to the Department of Administrative Services. I would like to formally thank Paul for his efforts in working with Triumvirate Environmental."

hats off

By **Donna Micklus**

Merrily Moynihan of the Military Department wrote the following to Commissioner Waters: "I know how customer service-orientated you are and want to let you know that **Kathleen Sullivan** is the epitome of your business philosophy. She is fabulous! She has helped me with CoreCT training which has not been easy. She is very pleasant to deal with and I cannot imagine having to deal with all the training issues. You have yourself a jewel."

Carol Carter of DRS was grateful for **Pauline Mahoney's** help in entering a retro package into the system. Without her help, "we would be straightening out the mess until Christmas! She was very helpful and very pleasant about the whole situation. She went above and beyond."

Heidi Jenkins of DPH thanked **Sue Thomas** in Procurement for helping to facilitate pharmaceutical purchases. "I just wanted to let you

Workers' Comp Summit: Focus on Costs, Prevention

By Donna Micklus and John McKay

Workers' Compensation costs are spiraling out of control. That was the message at the Workers' Comp Summit hosted by DAS on May 12 at DOT Headquarters in Newington.

"Workers' Comp costs are insidious," said Deputy Commissioner Alan Mazzola in his opening remarks. "They are a cancer to your budget."

OPM Secretary Marc Ryan requested all commissioners to attend the morning session and called upon them to take a more active role in their agencies.

"One of the goals is to get commissioners to understand exactly what workers' comp is," Ryan said. "Then they need to ask themselves a question, 'Would you rather spend your dollars on workers' comp costs or preserve agency programs and personnel?'"

Ryan said that workers' comp costs are running \$16 million over budget, with more than 178,000 equivalent days lost. He urged commissioners to take a personal role. "With every management and human resources meeting, reducing workers' compensation claims should be a consistent top priority," he said.

"Dedicate staff resources no matter how small the agency is. Getting an employee back to work in a timely manner can save us a lot of time and money," Ryan said.

Joe Prevuznak, DAS Workers' Compensation Manager, said Workers' Comp costs have seen a steady trend of spiraling upward since 1997.

"A small number of employees are causing big problems," he said.

But Prevuznak said the point of the Summit was not just to talk about the problems, but also to work toward some solutions.

Mazzola closed the morning session, which also featured speakers from Workers' Compensation Commission, DuPont, and third party administrator GABRobbins.

"We will be forming a state-wide group to develop standard procedures and best practices and to draft legislation to cut down on these costs," he announced.

After the speakers' presentations and quick break, the audience broke into smaller discussion groups to address specific problems and explore some solutions.

DAS will then take the information and devise a strategic plan for the workers' compensation program.

"DAS was asked to organize this meeting for several reasons," said DAS Commissioner Barbara Waters.

"Of course, we are the state's administrator of workers' compensation claims, but secondly, we wanted the leadership of these agencies to absorb some of the numbers we're dealing with. Hopefully, with greater input and commitment from all agencies, those numbers will change significantly for the better," Waters said.



Top: Deputy Commissioner delivers opening remarks Middle: Summit Committee of Martha Gallagher, Anil Antani, Carolyn Kolosseus, Diane Mazar Roberts, Sandra Sharr, Cheryl Sawina Below: Joe Prevuznak delivers a PowerPoint presentation.



NEWS *from Procurement Services* By Donna Micklus

Janice Snyder at DOT is one happy customer. And she gives all the credit to Procurement's Carol Wilson and Jill Belisle.

"I always receive the highest level of support from Carol and Jill, however, I am compelled to bring this specific instance to your attention," Snyder said in an email to Jim Passier.

It seems DOT needed to purchase an aerial platform truck.

A new one goes for about \$188,000. DOT located one in the midwest that was being refurbished and soon to go on sale for \$56,000...a significant cost savings to the state of \$132,000.

"As you can imagine, there were many, many other interested parties throughout the country since there were only two pre-owned units right

now in the entire U.S. The company said they would hold it for us for two days since so many others were vying for it," Snyder said.

Clearly, time was of the essence. Enter Wilson and Belisle.

Snyder called Wilson who said that under "special market conditions" DAS could process a Standardization Transaction fairly quickly. Wilson contacted Belisle.

"The necessary forms were hand carried to Jill, and she quickly went to work seeking approval. Twenty-four hours later approval was granted and DOT issued a purchase order securing the vehicle," Snyder said.

Wilson thought this was a perfect example of agencies working together.

"Whenever we can accommodate the customer and really help them get what they need (without added

bureaucracy), then I feel we're doing our jobs, and I get a tremendous feeling of satisfaction when that happens. Working with Janice Snyder at DOT made it easy. She's extremely conscientious and thorough, and provided us with all the information we needed to get the job done for her," Wilson said.

DOT got its truck. The state saved \$132,000.

It doesn't get much better.

"Understanding the urgency of DOT's request, I was able to accommodate their needs," Belisle said modestly.

But Snyder was effusive in her praise of both Belisle and Wilson.

"I want to personally thank Carol and Jill for their undivided attention to DOT, and as always, they help confirm DAS' commitment to customer service excellence," Snyder said.

know that it looks like things are working wonderfully with this new system with Cardinal. ...We are thrilled with how easily this can now be done and the information that we finally can retrieve on pricing. It's nice to know there are dedicated people still working out there for us..."

Mary Conway of the East Haddam School Lunch Program complimented **Mike Oswianko**. "I am

From Commissioner Waters to **Isabelle McKinney**: "Not only was today's Taste of DAS even better than last year.....it was truly elegant and classy. It totally reflected you, an elegant and classy lady. You are the best.....I cannot thank you enough for all you did for the spirit of DAS."

Isabelle McKinney appreciated the efforts of **John McKay**. "John, thanks so much for working with the Diversity Council to help make the Taste of DAS a success. I absolutely love all the documents that you created. Again, thanks for helping the Council look good!"

Jim Neil recognized the contributions of **Janet Knopf**. "The long awaited Affirmative Action Automation project is nearing completion and I

would like to take this opportunity to identify the outstanding work done by Janet Knopf. Janet has worked tirelessly on this project including both early and late hours here in Hartford as well as taking the project work home when she felt that there were, literally, 'not enough hours in the day.' Our progress to date is a result of her determination. She is without question the MVP of the team."

George Ziewacz had kudos for all those "who put in a lot of work and creativity, into the recent *DAS Top Hat Retiree Awards* celebration for me and my fellow retirees." Thanks to **Heddy Bogacki, Denise Della Ventura, Lee Ann Rosborg, Frankie & Marisol Rivera, Tanya Grant, Mayme Casady, Kevin Nodwell, Peter Pappas, Sue Kitchens, Peter Varhol and Donna Purcell.**

More Kudos. . . We Rock!

writing to you to say thank you for the improvements that have been made by your department regarding communication with the monthly order forms and the up-for-grabs offerings."

DAS Receives "Stamps of Approval"

By John McKay

Last month Commissioner Waters received special recognition from the U.S. Post Office for DAS' involvement in both Black History Month and Women's History Month at the State Office Building (SOB).

DAS was involved in the promotion of February's Black History month at the SOB where the Thurgood Marshall - the first African-American justice of the Supreme Court of the United States - postage stamp was unveiled. In March, DAS also helped with promotional activities when the SOB celebrated Women's History month recognizing Zora Neale



Commissioner Waters receives the commemorative stamps from Post Office representative Bill Zapor.

Hurston - novelist, folklorist and anthropologist.

Waters received a commemorative book of stamps on both Marshall and Hurston.

"I am always supportive of anything we do here that heightens the awareness of diversity and recognition of these giants in American history," said Waters.

DAS' ERP program celebrated its Spring Kick-Off on May 20 to the theme of "American Idol"



- Customer Service
- Innovation
- Going the Extra Mile
- Team Excellence

Send in your nominations by June 9.

Gotta Honored by Secretary of the State

By Nina Ritson

Gotta milk?? Or apples or corn? Connecticut farmers do, and Jim Gotta of DAS Procurement just received a very prestigious award for making sure more of us “got farm fresh goods grown in Connecticut!”

On May 5, Gotta was awarded the Secretary of State’s 2003 *Public Service Award* for his work on the Connecticut Food Policy Council.

Commissioner Waters was ecstatic, “This is sooo amazing...it couldn’t happen to a better guy!!”

The Connecticut Food Policy Council, created in 1997 by the state legislature, promotes the development of a food policy for the state and the coordination of state agencies that affect food security.

They address such concerns as farmland preservation, urban agriculture, emergency food supply, transportation, markets for locally-grown food, food education, child nutrition and inner-city supermarkets.

During this interview, coworker Carol Wilson passed by Gotta’s desk and enthusiastically piped in, “This is a true collaboration of state taxpayers and private organization. Everyone is winning – no one is losing!”

Gotta’s position on the council is that of a watchdog, keeping fair policies, and representing DAS, whose food contracts supply bakery products, dairy, produce and fresh and dry goods to ‘All Using State Agencies’ which include the Department of Correction, Veterans’ Home and Hospital, Department of Mental Health, Department of Children and Families, and Southbury Training

School. He has met with local growers and committed to purchasing corn, squash, tomatoes, and apples.

“Connecticut is losing 8,000 acres of farmland each year (approximately 90 farms). Since 1984 we have lost 21 percent of our farmland. Dairy farmers alone are disappearing at an alarming rate,” Gotta said.

Gotta recently brought a representative from New Britain’s Guida Dairy to speak with the Food Council. He

discussed milk gouging and brought awareness to the council on how difficult it really is to be in the dairy business in Connecticut.

Knowing that there is much more work to be done on this council, when asked what his plans were for the coming year, Gotta responded, “I would like to continue working with The Food Policy Council and continuing to develop our relationship with our food providers in the State.”

Race for the Cure ... From a Personal View

By John McKay

Last month’s Komen Race for the Cure had special and inspirational meaning to one DAS employee in particular.

DAS’ Sandra Sharr, who works in the Business Advisory Group, brought her mother - a 51-year cancer survivor – to the race.

“We had gone last year and it was truly an amazing experience,” said Sharr.

“When they noticed the number of ribbons on my mother’s hat, so many people approached her to ask how long she had been a survivor. And when they recognized her at the awards ceremony as being a 50-year survivor, she received a standing ovation. It was very emotional.”

Each survivor receives a ribbon for every year that they are a cancer survivor. People pin them to their hats or shirts. Kathryn Sharr, Sandee’s mother wrote, “It was such a positive experience for me. I was amazed. As I was putting the ribbons on my cap – 50 of them! – more and more people

approached me to ask me how many years it had been since I had beaten cancer. When I told them 50, they couldn’t believe it. I was hugged and kissed by strangers who felt a bond as I did. It allowed me to talk about something that I really hadn’t been able to talk about for most of my life, and just as important, to feel as though I could provide some measure of comfort and support to those who were just experiencing what I had gone through many years before.”

“Last year we fielded a small team,” Sharr said, “My cousin, her daughter and my brother’s girlfriend. This year my brother and Dad came and another cousin flew in from California to participate. Next year, we hope to add more family members and friends to the team.”

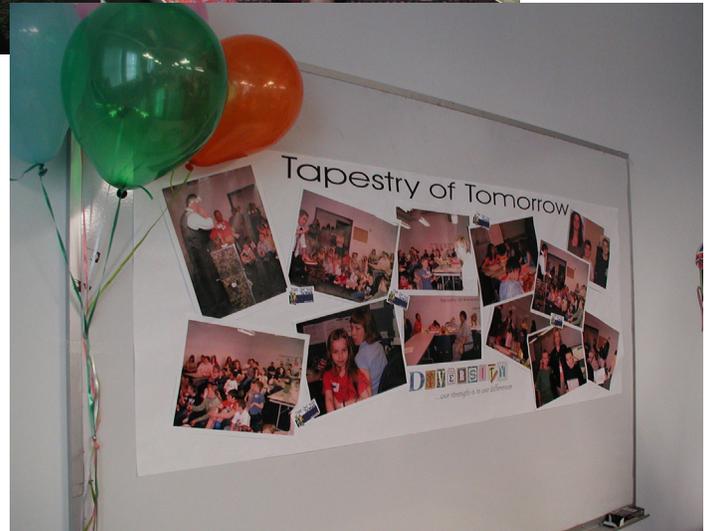
During this year’s event, Ford Motor Company, in recognition of Kathryn’s being the oldest cancer survivor entered in the event, donated a check to the Race for \$2000 in her name.

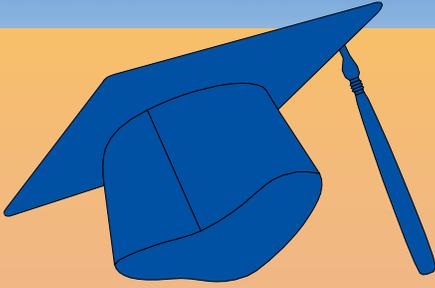
DIVERSITY

Happenings

...our strength is in our differences

Photos from A Taste of DAS





With June 1 rapidly approaching, the last of the “ERIPPERS” will leave DAS (and the rest of us!) behind. They are off to travel, pursue hobbies, just relax, or even start new careers. In all, 59 employees retired from DAS since April 1. There have been retirement celebrations galore, but we would like to remember them and thank them one more time as we bid farewell to

The Class of 2003

They are leaving not only their memories behind, but some are imparting wishes and words of wisdom as well.....



Congratulations... We'll Miss You



Robert Wallace



Roy Dion



Carl Fabbiaschi



Al Aeschlimann



Alyce Liptak



Rick Andisio



Janet Antani



Bettye Bishop



Joe Lefkowski



Kenn Stephenson



George Ziewacz



Donna Golas



Steve Bansavich



Lanette Barber



Mike Barletta



Barry Graugard



Bernie Blumenthal



Kathy Valone



James Bierylo



Ronald Marracino



Tom Delude



Loretta Bramanti



Cathy Butterworth



Christine Mansolf



Jimmy Civitello



David Swenson



Jean Bostrom



Phil McDermott



Janice Nichols



Gary Mounds



Nancy McPherson



Sue DeMauro



Dennis Heffernan



Dan Donahue



Joan Smith



Frederick Arndt



Larry Goulart



Elaine Pawlak



Warren Vilbrin



Rose Lamy



Christine Brunell



Jane Gore



John Kearney



Helen Wysocki



Albert Landry



Carolyn St. Paul



Dulcie Jensen



Larry King



Margaret Martin



Joan Donahue



Josephine Hedges



Peter Kerensky



Paul Sheltz



Betty Johnson



Ted Feliciano



Jon Hykes



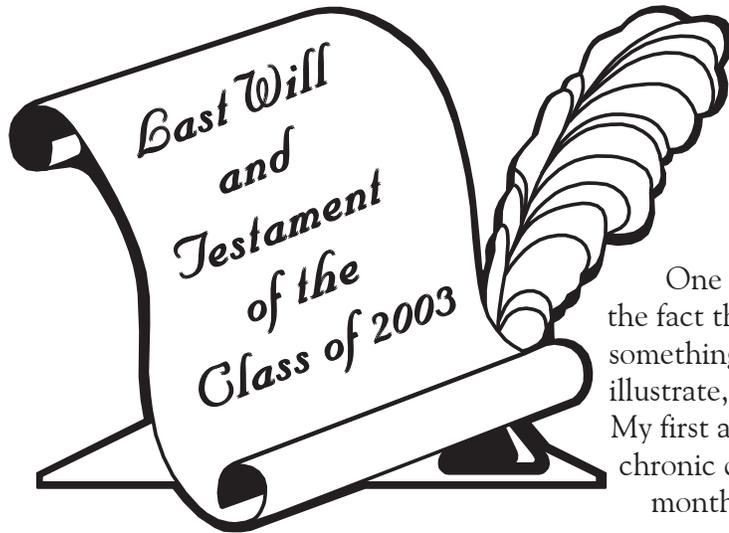
Gail Sangermano



Miriam Belise



Mary Ellen Vincent



Your Thoughts, Your Actions, Your Words, Your Self.....Your responsibility.
 "What you do today could last for 1000 years."

Kenn Stephenson

One of the most valuable things I have learned in my career is the fact that another person can be profoundly affected by something you do which may be very insignificant to you. To illustrate, I will share the following:

My first assignment was billing for the cost of care received by chronic disease patients who had been deceased a minimum of six months. In most cases, the surviving relative had no idea there was a monetary liability for the care received by the deceased. A

wet behind the ears twenty-something, I had to field many phone calls from angry, frustrated, and tearful fellow state residents.

One day a small elderly lady appeared at the office in response to my form letter request for information. My first live interview, I took her into our interview room and proceeded with the process. About midway through, a huge tear began to form in her eye. It was followed by a torrent. I didn't know what to do or say, so I reached for her hand and held it until she regained her composure. We completed the process, I explained the liability, she thanked me and left.

About two years later I received a phone notice from our receptionist that this same lady was in the office to discuss her husband's file. I quickly looked and saw that the account had been paid in full. When I went to reception and told the lady, she said I must be mistaken and requested a hearing. We went to the interview room. It was there that she told me that she had come not for her husband, but because her grandson had recently committed suicide. She told me she was unable to resolve her grief, just as she hadn't been able to after her husband's passing. She then told me that she never forgot my holding her hand and letting her cry, and that she had begun her healing then because I had not given her advice or made her feel guilty for crying- "You just held my hand and let me cry." "Would you do it again?" she asked. I did, and we both cried.

Laurence Soular

I started my career in 1966. I was a summer worker at the Labor Dept. For the summer of 1967 I worked in the Central Warehouse in Middletown, it was the Dept. of Finance & Control back then. I continued to work there every summer and Christmas vacation through college. I became a full-time employee in 1972. I have enjoyed the vast variety of tasks and the exposure to a myriad of different businesses, commodities and people. I have had titles ranging from truck driver to baker to Standards Engineer and Purchasing Officer to Assistant Chief of Procurement. I was here when DAS was formed, I have worked for every single DAS Commissioner. Since 1996 I have been in the DAS Business Office.

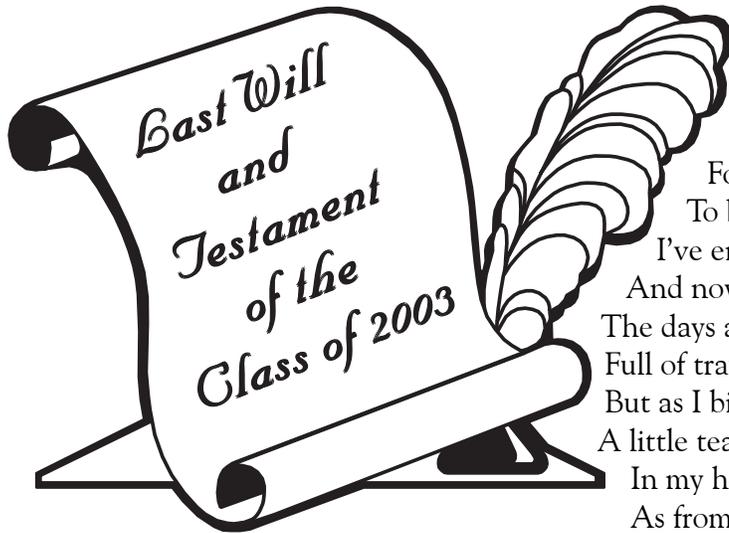
It is mind boggling to think that I am now actually retiring. The time has really flown. I am fortunate in that I have a second career to dive right into. Bernie Blumenthal and I own an insurance agency which we will now devote 100% of our time to. Our first week of retirement is already booked solid with client appointments.

We spend a vast amount of time on the job. The people are what it is all about, I will miss the people.
 Thank you all, thank you DAS.

Dan Donahue

Health, Happiness, and everyone off on Monday. Best Wishes to all.

Mike Barletta



Ode of Farewell

For many years you've seen your way
 To be my colleague, friend, per se
 I've enjoyed you all, each one of you
 And now it's time to say adieu
 The days ahead will be fun
 Full of travel and lots of sun
 But as I bid you all good bye
 A little tear slips from my eye
 In my heart you've left your mark
 As from DAS I now depart.

Thank you all for so many fond memories...

With love,

Joan Donahue

Many of my co-workers are surprised to learn that the date of my first State employment was in July, 1966. My first "job" was the summer of 1966 at Mansfield Training School. I had just graduated from high school and was on a work study grant from UCONN. I worked in Knight Hospital with severely retarded children. The first day was so upsetting, I had an accident with my father's car on the way home. Of course, later, I grew to love the kids I worked with. They profoundly changed my life. If you ever need a lesson in "accepting people for who they are," working with such children is a good choice.

Chris Brunell

I would like to wish everyone the very best and I thank you all for making my years at DAS so rewarding. Jean Michael I bequeath to you "the rose vase" and Karla Kushin I'll be leaving you a supply of voice tubes for your headset.

Kathy "Ma Bell" Valone

I just want to let everybody know that it has been a wonderful and sometimes challenging time working for the Department of Administrative Services for all these years.

I have made a lot of friends over all these years and will remember them all with wonderful memories.

Hope everybody continues to be healthy during this next stressful year.

Cathy Butterworth

I want to wish everyone at DAS continued success with their careers and hope everyone has a long and happy retirement.

Peter Kerensky

Best wishes to everyone and have a great life. *Margaret Martin*

After 27 years of service I leave my co-workers more parties, more non-related work activities, longer lunch hours and more walks in the park.

Josephine Hedges