



## Passier, Kokonowski, Smith take home the honors

By Donna Micklus

It has become one of the most popular events among state employees as Governor John G. Rowland hosted the 32<sup>nd</sup> Governor's Service Award Ceremony.

As friends and families waited for their loved ones' day in the sun, leave it to Alan Mazzola to inject a little baseball humor in his introduction of the Governor. It was October 17, the morning after THE SEVENTH game. The Red Sox lost the championship series (again). And DAS' Deputy Commissioner decided to capitalize on the Governor's partisan Red Sox sentiments.

"Now we all know that the Governor is a winner," Mazzola told a packed house. "And even though he and I didn't root for the same teams, we want him to be associated with last night's winners," Mazzola said.

With that he reached under the podium and handed the Governor a Yankee cap.

"I'm a believer in the curse of the Bambino," Governor Rowland said. "As a matter of fact, sometimes I think I've got it," he joked with the crowd.

A few more humorous anecdotes that the Governor is known for, and it was time to celebrate the achievements of the awardees. Among the 28 honored in the grandeur of the Capitol's Old Judiciary Room were DAS' Jim Passier, Patti Kokonowski, and Tony Smith.

Passier developed CtGov Center, an e-procurement service enabling online procurement of goods and services for agencies, towns, schools and not for



**Governor John Rowland, Deputy Commissioner Alan Mazzola and Commissioner Barbara Waters with Patti Kokonowski (above) and Jim and Nora Passier (below) at the awards ceremony.**



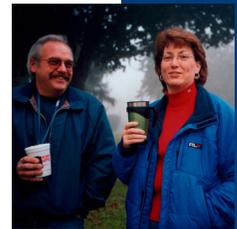
profits. In the last twelve months alone, an ever-growing list of local entities have purchased over \$20 million worth of goods and services from CtGov Center.

"Jim's contributions to the success of our procurement program are monumental," DAS Commissioner Barbara Waters said. "He has

### Inside this Issue



Top Honors  
2



Son of Got Stuff  
4-5

### Also Inside...

e-Mentoring  
2

Farewell to Lydia Rosario  
6

e-Pub on the move  
7

CoreCT Update  
7

Diversity Happenings  
8

## Awards, *cont.*

made it one of the most progressive in the country.”

Passier said he was absolutely thrilled and impressed with the Governor’s obvious affinity for the program. “The presence of the Governor at 30 of the 32 award ceremonies was remarkable given his schedule and clearly shows his commitment to the program,” Passier said.

“I was pleased that just about everyone in Procurement took time to attend and they all went out of their way to congratulate me. Our accomplishments in Procurement are due mainly to the ability of everyone to work as a team and help each other whenever necessary. The improvements in our operation occurred through the efforts of all the people and are not the result of the work of any one individual,” he said in typically modest fashion.

Personnel Officer Patti Kokonowski and Skilled Maintainer Anthony Smith both reacted quickly to the smell of smoke in an apartment building on Buckingham Street. They quickly assessed the situation, called 911 and then proceeded to alert all the residents in the building of the danger. “Their action averted what could have been a life-threatening situation and I couldn’t be more proud of their quick thinking and heroic deed,” said Waters. Smith was vacationing in the Caribbean when the ceremony was held, but Kokonowski had enough enthusiasm for both.

“Receiving the Governor’s Service Award was truly a wonderful experience. I am still stunned that David Krayski submitted my name



**Commissioner Waters with Tony Smith and Patti Kokonowski**

for the award! The Governor made the whole ceremony very easy, and I really like his sense of humor. I also wanted to thank Barbara and Al for their support. I just feel so honored,” Kokonowski said.

Following the presentations, the Governor added his own personal congratulatory gesture and gave all the winners the rest of the day off! Well done, Jim, Patti and Tony!

## DAS in the Forefront of E-Mentoring



**Pictured from left to right at the announcement in Lt. Governor Rell’s office are: Director of the Governor’s Southwestern Connecticut Office Fred Biebel; Department of Labor Commissioner Shaun Cashman; Lt. Governor Rell; behind the Lt. Governor is Matt Shea; Dan Sears; Tina Costanzo; Diane Fitzpatrick; Suzanne Liqerman; Audrey Pinette; Cheryl Sawina; Aimee Gagnon; Donna Camillone; Adam Liegeot**

**On October 10, Lt. Governor Jodi Rell announced that Connecticut’s Department of Administrative Services has become a national leader in a new mentoring program for young people with disabilities, called e-Mentoring. DAS mentors will now communicate with young people via weekly e-mail messages.**

The DAS Times is published monthly by the Department of Administrative Services Communications Office  
165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**John G. Rowland**  
Governor

**Barbara A. Waters**  
Commissioner

**Donna J. Micklus**  
Editor

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

Commissioner Linda Schwartz, from the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs, thanked **Deb Atkinson** for assisting in several human resources issues. "Ms. Atkinson took the time to meet with Noreen Sinclair, our new Agency Personnel Administrator, and myself to resolve these issues. Ms. Atkinson is a pleasure to work with and she is truly committed to providing excellent customer service and is to be highly commended."

Commissioner Schwartz also commended **Jay Tulin** and **Carla Kushin** for "assisting our office with human resources issues due to several retirements. They were both more than willing to explain the certification process to my staff and answer questions regarding this process. They are outstanding representatives of DAS."

Ruthie Hatten thanked all those who donated their funds and time and walked for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on Sunday, October 19 (rain or shine, and it did rain). Special thanks to **Tina Costanzo**, **Carlos Velez** and **Aimee Gagnon**; they took the lead in this event! Together they raised \$330.

Diane Mazar Roberts and Cheryl Sawina thanked **Carolyn Koloseus**, **Heather Tweeddale**, **Shari Grzyb**, **Lina Simonu**, **Linda Shackett-Blue**, **Kathleen Kabara**, **Nancy Jones**, **John McKay**, **Patsy McLaughlin**, **Steve Soklow**, and **Bill Skyrme** "for the role you played in our successful HR Symposium on September 24. Whether it was behind the scenes or on the stage, you contributed your time and talents to make our vision become a reality." Martin Anderson added, "A special 'Thank You' from me to **Diane** and **Cheryl** and the rest of the **team** for making us all look so good!"

Donald Poulin from the Town of Wolcott had words of praise for **Linda Hubeny** and "**Got Stuff?**" "Thanks for all your help regarding the Jersey barriers. The Town of Wolcott removed these from the State Office Building parking lot last Saturday. This was a win, win, win situation. Wolcott won by receiving 54 Jersey barriers for a relatively low price, DPW won by having the barriers removed at no cost to the State, and finally the taxpayers of Connecticut won by having the income generated by the sale of these barriers returned to the State Treasury."

Carol Wilson extended a "huge thank you to **Jose Baez**, **Chris Smith**, **Dan Sadowski**, **Scott Benson**, **Dan Sears**, and the 'phone guy' for reacting quickly and proficiently in setting up our Spend Management team in G-17. The customer service was terrific."

Jeanne Gray thanked **John McKay** for "the great job you did on the article about me and Ray Bailey. It was important for us to let everyone know just how much we appreciated all the support. Your choice of wording was just what we wanted to convey and we appreciate the time and effort you put into the article. Thanks again."

Congratulations to **Diane Mazar Roberts** who has met the criteria to renew her designation as an IPMA-HR Certified Professional.

Don Goranson from the State Department of Education applauded **Alex Caceres** for "always being so great to our agency. Alex always keeps the customer informed of the status of their print job and is just great to work with."

"A great big **THANKS** goes out to **ALL**" from Isabelle McKinney for "all

of you who willingly shared your expertise and energy to help make the Diversity Council's goal a success."

Carol Wilson commended **Meg Yetishefsky** for "coordinating with Tim Shea and Ben Seidel about contract opportunities for the Connecticut Convention Center. Not only did they propose that they would use the State contracts as the first step in the buying process for the Convention Center, but I'm convinced that we

## *hats off*

By **Cindy Rusczyk**

can further leverage our State's spending by including their needs in our spend management efforts. They provided us with their furniture, fixtures and expense budget for the project and there's about \$5.6 million in known needs."

A word of thanks from Susan D. Pawloski-Burke to the trainers for the HR Sessions for Core-CT, **Michelle Burns**, **Patti Kokonowski**, **Edra Osgood** and **Nick Visone**. "They were great—patient and thorough. I also want to send a special thanks to **Lina Simonu**. Somehow, Lina found time on the first day CoreCT went live to help me resolve a situation at BESB. We are so lucky to have her—she is the BEST!!!"

The SEBAC Unit received a very grateful letter from Mike Beringer who wrote, "Dear **Susan Pawloski-Burke**, **Jeannette Rheaume**, **Mary Jane O'Brien**, **Keith Anderson**, **Jay Tulin** and **Pam Libby**. Many thanks for all your assistance over this difficult time. I'll be starting a new job soon with much credit due to your professional help. Again many thanks."

# got stuff? barnstorms state

## Auction caps off four-month campaign

By Donna Micklus

It started with Governor Rowland at the podium on July 17.

It made its way into every state agency.

And finally the 9,000 pieces of "stuff" made their way to the auction block.

"I have to say that "Got Stuff" is one of the most successful and high profile projects DAS has undertaken," said DAS Commissioner Barbara Waters.



**Linda Hubeny and Jim Potyra in the early morning fog prepare for the auction of lots of stuff**

**An antique tractor was one of the biggest ticket items of the day**

**Aimee Gagnon, looking for a good deal, joins Commissioner Waters and Linda Hubeny**



benefits of "Got Stuff", but some municipalities did some smart shopping as well," said Waters.

For just \$95, the town of Wolcott bought 54 jersey barriers that had been put into surplus by the Department of Public Works. The barriers usually cost \$200 to \$300 apiece.

For just \$50, Bridgeport's Bridge Academy charter school picked up a fully-functioning 70-unit phone system with caller ID, voice mail, and intercom options. The phone system had been put into surplus by the Department of Special Revenue.

The Groton Police Department purchased \$1,000 worth of exercise equipment for just \$110.

"The media coverage was really extensive, and that certainly helped to generate a ton of interest among the public. Also, we hope that when town governments and schools who haven't been using our program see the bargains their counterparts got, they will take advantage of the great buys that await them in DAS' property distribution program," Waters said.

In addition to helping state agencies defer costs of purchases, Got Stuff auctions have brought in nearly \$75,000 to the state's general fund.

"And no one had to fight the crowds at the malls!" Waters added.



Items up for bid were collected from "Got Stuff" and from the Long Lane School which closed its doors in February. There was kitchen equipment, farm equipment, theater lighting, a full dental office as well as the organ and pews from the school's chapel. Then there was the usual stuff like tables, chairs, book-cases and desks.

An antique tractor pulled down \$3050 while a Hobart slicer went for \$425.

Bargain hunter Adam Liegeot from DAS Communications got the winning bid on an oak table for \$15.

"Not only did the public reap the

"Once the Governor asked us to carry out the program statewide, Linda Hubeny and her team really ran with it. It was such a whirlwind that we started referring to it as 'Got Stuff Gone Wild,' Waters joked.

# got stuff? The Sequel

By Donna Micklus

They came. They saw. They carted. October 23 was Non-Profit Day at Long Lane, as hundreds came for free “stuff” that didn’t get sold at auction. Pickup trucks and vans were everywhere and were soon piled high with office furniture, fans, milk cartons, records, projectors, office supplies, clocks, lights, hair dryer, refrigerators, TV’s; VCR’s, typewriters, telephone equipment, rocking chairs, ping pong table, answering machines, tables, beauty products, and you name it!

It was a varied group that showed up at 9:00 a.m. sharp to present their 501-C3’s (IRS non-profit designation) before the watchful eyes of Linda Hubeny and Lynn Peccerillo. There were a number of religious organizations, community health centers, and community action groups looking for stuff as well as some rather unusual shoppers from a cemetery association, a vintage radio museum, a conservancy society and the Montessori Society.

In addition to Hubeny and Peccerillo, the DAS Got Stuff crew was in full force: Jim Potyra, Peter Varhol, Fred Ondevilla, Dan Sadowski and Kevin Backman, equipped with walkie talkies, made sure the operation moved along like a well-oiled machine.

According to Lynn Peccerillo, “Everything went great!! There was a good turn out and all the non-profits were very appreciative. It makes your job worth it when you see that you are helping others. I think that we should have more events like this whenever possible.”

## 2 Mill and Counting

What’s blue and yellow and can take 2 million hits? The DAS website! Recently the DAS website had it’s 2 millionth visitor. And the hits just keep on coming.

“It’s interesting to note that it took three years to hit one million with the old website design, but it only took one year to get the second million,” said DAS webmaster Bill Skyrme. He attributes the succession of hits to the new website design launched in January.

“We have a lot more information on our homepage, it’s easier to navigate and makes our products more accessible,” he added.

DAS can also attribute some hits to reaching out to towns and municipalities as new customers.

“It’s such a great tool for our agency,” said Commissioner Waters. “Our services are out in plain sight and customers and employees can use the website to accomplish any number of tasks. It’s serving it’s purpose and continuing to grow and change to meet everyone’s needs.”

-John McKay

## The bird’s the word!

**DAS Turkey Drive  
11/21 and 11/24  
7:00am-9:00am**



**Please donate a frozen turkey and brighten someone’s holiday.**

## Good News for BizCONN

Meg Yetishefsky, Director of DAS’ Supplier Diversity Program, got her Business CONNECTIONS unit featured in the Hartford Inquirer. She wrote a great overview of the program highlighting the benefits of the DAS Supplier Diversity Program.

“They approached me and asked for a synopsis of the program, and I weaved a little sales pitch into it to get readers attention,” said Yetishefsky. The two-column article generated some phone calls and questions to Business CONNECTIONS team and even resulted in a few new clients.

-John McKay

# Lydia Rosario leaves DAS for Procurement Position with City of Hartford

By Nina Ritson

It's Friday, October 31, and as the last of the crimson and amber leaves whirl crisply through the air— a flurry of change is stirring in Procurement - it is Lydia Rosario's last day!

With the City of Hartford going into a new Charter, new procurement laws will take effect on January 1, 2004. This will translate into a very challenging time for Rosario as she begins her new position in City Hall as Assistant to the City Manager in charge of Procurement.

Rosario is leaving DAS after seven years in Procurement Services.

"I am able to advance because of

tracts.

On the personal side, Rosario wants to remain in the greater Hartford area (she lives in Wethersfield) for the foreseeable future as she plans ahead for her teenage son who is currently in high school. He hopes to attend college locally, which Rosario is very happy about.

Rosario holds a bachelors degree in Human Services Administration which she earned through New Hampshire College's campus in New Haven (now part of the University of New Hampshire).



Lydia Rosario

*up close*

the opportunities given to me here. DAS has exposed me to many new things – now I want to share this information," Rosario says as she describes her desire to continue moving forward and face new challenges.

When asked what she will miss about working at DAS, she praised her Procurement colleagues' ability to come together as a team, despite differences, and deliver on time - as promised.

Rosario was one of DAS' first "e-partners", travelling the state encouraging towns and schools to save money by purchasing off state con-

**Rosario was one of DAS' first "e-partners," travelling the state encouraging towns and schools to save money by purchasing off state contracts.**

tracts. She spends her few free moments at home writing poetry – in Spanish only. She also loves to sing – something few people know about her. She shyly speaks about her high school and college years singing in a nightclub on weekends to afford books for school.

As she pondered her final days at DAS, she wanted to share certain sentiments.

"At DAS, I think we have the best boss in the world. Barbara Waters is appreciative, a great leader, and a wonderful human being. I have been very fortunate to work for her."

She also praised the Commissioner because of her human qualities, "She knows how to bring people together – how to create team effort."

She cites CT \$hops as an example of great teamwork. Rosario said she wishes CT \$hops 2003 great success again this year.

"It is a lot of work but it is good for the municipalities! Again, I see everyone here set aside their differences, pull together, work hard, and make it happen – on time!"

Then Lydia chuckled and said, "I've already told Jim Passier, I'm not really going away – I am becoming a DAS customer, a **very demanding** customer."

# DAS Guides Move Toward e-Publishing

By Adam Liegeot

Did you print out this edition of the *DAS Times*?

And make copies of it for all your friends and family?

Did you not know that the term “sacrificial arborea” is a fancy way of referring to the many trees you have just killed due to unnecessary printing at the office?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then read on. And that’s an order.

In early October, Governor John G. Rowland issued an Executive Order urging state agencies to do all they can to reduce the amount of material they print and to continue to increase the amount of work they publish online.

“We have come so far since 1995 in terms of e-publishing and state agencies have come up with many

creative and cost-effective ways to get public information online,” Governor Rowland said.

“We’ve seen a shift in the way we do business and state employees deserve a lot of credit for evolving with the times. But we can still become more efficient. We can push digital government farther. By eliminating paper from state government in every way we can, we can continue to save money for taxpayers.”

And guess which agency has been given the role of carrying out the Governor’s Order to ‘Think Digital Ink?’

You guessed it. DAS will track savings and best practices among state agencies that are reducing paper and moving documents online. Progress reports will be issued monthly to the Governor.

Whether the savings are big or small, any reduced cost is a sign of progress. Increased efficiencies will benefit both state workers and the public they serve.



As for those who remain not in compliance, DAS will be offering training, advice, and stern warnings to agencies in the months ahead in order to change the culture of “sacrificial arborea.”

So spread the word to your “e-pub”-challenged friends in state government: DAS is on a cost-cutting, tree-saving mission.

And you can print that.

## Live from CoreCT : HRMS!

By Bob King

Start your computers! The Core-CT HRMS (Human Resources Management System) application went live October 27, starting payroll processing for the first biweekly and semi-monthly check date of November 14.

After three years of planning, development, and testing, Core-CT HRMS will automate many formerly manual functions and integrate state government’s human resources functions to a greater degree than ever before. Separate personnel and payroll systems, and the need for time-consuming data reconciliation, will finally be a thing of the past.

Enhanced productivity, streamlined business practices and elimination of redundant systems are among the

goals of Core-CT (see “How Will Core-CT Improve How the State Works?” at <http://www.core-ct.state.ct.us/coreuser/improve.htm>). The Core-CT team and some 1,350 HRMS users are working to make these goals a reality.

Via payroll, time and labor, human resources, and benefits administration, Core-CT HRMS modules will have a direct impact on all state employees.

The Core-CT Financials application (which went live this past summer) has been in use by business-office personnel and senior management for over three months.

By HRMS go-live, all users will have received significant classroom training and many will have practiced transactions in the Core-CT sandbox.

Here are some highlights of changes that are taking effect:

- From the time a person applies for work, to the time he is hired, to the time he leaves state service, a single set of data will follow

him through payroll, time and labor and benefits, with changes made to the same set of data along the way.

- Salary plans, step progressions, and other mass changes will be done automatically, updating thousands of records.

- Automated calculations within the payroll cycle will allow for easier error processing before checks are printed.

- Garnishments will be processed centrally with much greater automation and increased functionality.

- Leave balances will be shown on employee check stubs and direct deposit statements.

- Employees in five agencies will be entering their hours directly into Core-CT.

- Benefits functions will be handled in an automated way for the first time, with benefits elections to be made electronically.

*Bob King is Communications Coordinator for the CoreCT Project Team*

# DIVERSITY

## Happenings

By Deb Atkinson

...our strength is in our differences

In its efforts to keep the topic of diversity alive and in the forefront at DAS, the Diversity Council premiered another film on October 22 entitled, "A Tale of O".

Attendees at the event can attest to the fact that while the film itself is very short, it doesn't fail to impact the viewer. The film delves into the group dynamics that can occur when one person is seen as "different" from the others in a group.

The use of symbols to depict these interactions provides a nonthreatening way to look at

what can sometimes be a difficult topic.

About 30 people attended the premiere and then took part in a thoughtful discussion led by Sandra Sharr.

The responses were positive: "It's always an enlightening experience", "Excellent presentation", "This is a very good effort on the part of our diversity group in keeping us aware of our environment". And last, but not least, "Do more films" – And that we will.

Stay tuned for the next premiere! Currently under construction...

The Diversity Council is working on

a bulletin board devoted to the topic of diversity. The board is located on the ground floor, right past the main elevators. It will feature a rotating theme, the first being, "The Many Faces of DAS."

Find out about the latest happenings, find a new recipe to try and follow the theme changes as they occur!

Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming information on the next diversity event, "The Sweet Taste of DAS" - a dessert extravaganza you won't want to miss!

### The DAS Diversity Bulletin Board is under construction, but lookin' great!

