



DAS Kicks Off New Manager Orientation Program

By Donna Micklus

Some were a little shy at first. Others exuded enthusiasm. But by the end of the day, the 31 participants from 20 state agencies attending the New Managers' Orientation Program, seemed more like old friends than total strangers.

Dr. Martin Anderson opened the session with some anecdotes of his own introduction to state government. "As an Oklahoma native, one of my biggest challenges was getting oriented to Yankees," Anderson quipped.

The 11-module program is designed to give new managers a broad overview of state government, touching on everything from human resources systems, ethics and FOI, to how the budget works and FMLA leave.

"We're giving them the big picture of what the world of government is like and helping them get their feet on the ground," Anderson said.

After introducing staff participants Diane Roberts, Steve Soklow and Nancy Jones, Anderson made another special introduction...Governor M. Jodi Rell.

The Governor welcomed the new manag-



Commissioner Linda Yelmini gives welcoming remarks at the January 12 kickoff of the New Managers' Orientation Program. Above: Dr. Martin Anderson opens the session.

ers via a video message. She thanked them for choosing a career in public service, which she described as a "noble calling," and emphasized that she hoped this program, will give them the tools they need to do their jobs. "You are the future of our state government, and you'll be held to a higher standard because public service deserves no less," Governor Rell added.

Anderson then introduced Commissioner Linda Yelmini, noting, "We would not have this program without her."

Yelmini spoke of the different perspectives employees acquire when coming to

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state government at age 18 versus coming after experience in the private sector.

"I've worked in the private sector, I've worked in law firms, and believe me, the state is a very good employer," she said. She added that she hoped new managers find the program both interesting and valuable.

"I don't know how you can do the job without training," she stated.

Yelmini concluded with some words of wisdom: "Live your life in the light...there are no secrets in state government."

Richard Cosgrove, Chief Administrative Officer of the Department of Motor Vehicles and formerly of DAS, delivered the keynote address.

"I have a confession to make," he said as he began his remarks. "I'm proud to be a state manager, and I hold my head up high with I tell my occupation and employer."

Cosgrove drew on his 31 years of experience in state service in describing both challenges and opportunities.

"Our actions are always

subject to public scrutiny. Yet, despite that, we have a unique opportunity to shape public policy and make a difference. As a manager, you are privileged to have a seat at the table. You must love what you do and commit yourself to it," Cosgrove said.

He concluded with two words of advice: "Be champions."

Anderson said the next iteration of the New Managers' Orientation Program is already scheduled for April and added that he hopes to run it on an ongoing basis.



Program Coordinator Diane Roberts describes a creative, interactive introduction of participants.



Richard Cosgrove, Chief Administrator Officer for the Department of Motor Vehicles, and formerly of DAS, gives the keynote address, "Words of Wisdom from a State Manager."



Commissioner Yelmini chats with Dennis Schain, Director of Communications for the Department of Environmental Protection.

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M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Linda J. Yelmini
Commissioner

Donna J. Micklus
Editor

Visit our website at
www.das.state.ct.us

Governor Rell Announces DAS On-Line Application Form for Small and Minority Business Owners (Governor's News Release 1/23/06)

To make it easier for small and minority business owners to register and apply for State of Connecticut contracts, Governor M. Jodi Rell announced the launch of a new online application form for business certification. The application went live on January 23 and is available at www.biznet.ct.gov/dasibi.

"Small businesses and minority-owned businesses continue to be the job creators in our economy and I continue to focus on nurturing their growth," Governor Rell said.

"That requires removing unnecessary obstacles that stand in their way. By putting this business application online, we are hoping to make it easier for them to do business with the state of Connecticut."

"This initiative came about because we listened to our customers. They wanted 24/7 access and they wanted to see a reduction in paperwork and data entry. Simply put, they wanted us to create a convenient, straightforward system that is easy to use, and that is just what we are providing them."

Businesses that want to participate in the state procurement system should get certified through DAS' Supplier Diversity certification program.

The online service handles initial certifications and allows businesses to view and edit previously submitted information as part of their recertification process. The system has also been designed to recognize paper-

work filed with other state agencies, reducing redundancy for applicants.

Through a series of questions, the applicant fills out all relevant information online. Businesses may need to provide supporting documentation before completing the certification process.

DAS Commissioner Linda Yelmini emphasized that DAS is about serving the public interest, while at the same time, incorporating technology to streamline applications for small businesses.

"Small- and minority business owners have to juggle many priorities during the day and this allows them to begin the application process at a time and place convenient for them," Yelmini said.



By Donna Micklus

Gina Greer of AHC Co. wrote to **Anna Ficeto** in praise of **DAS Procurement Services**. "Just a note to thank you for making this bid system available. I find it one of the best I work with."

Procurement Director Carol Wilson lauded the efforts of **Julie Bernosky**, **Joe Giliberto**, and **Devin Marquez**. "It's been a long time coming, but we just received word that the Attorney General's office successfully won our court case on the disqualification of AAIS due to past criminal convictions. Julie, Joe, Devin and all others involved, thanks for your diligence in this matter and for your efforts to do the right thing."

Nina Ritson thanks **Brian Saczawa** for his great business sense and arsenal of knowledge in handling an issue with XEROX. "He knows the

vendors, he knows the contracts, and he knows the laws we abide by. If he is unsure he researches it immediately. I cannot tell you how many times Brian has been right there with the information needed - he is the best!"

A grateful John McKay praised **Sue Turko** for her efforts in re-scheduling him for Access training classes. "They offer free refresher courses, and Sue was able to schedule me for Access I, II, and III right away - at no cost. Thanks Sue!"

Madeleine Diker, Director of Food Service for the Cheshire Public Schools, had only four words for **Linda Hubeny** after she was able to provide a much sought-after commodity: "You are the greatest!!!"

Isabelle McKinney thanked **Nina Ritson** for the "fabulous job on the *Dr. Jefferson Wiggins Visits DAS* article! Thanks for covering the lecture. Well done!!"

Kudos from George Babey of the Department of Environmental Protection for **Mike Guimond**, **Alex Caceres** and **Roy Wynne** in the Print Shop. "My whole experience printing and mailing our newsletter "Perch Tales" every month has gotten better and better. Thanks for the prompt and courteous experience - this makes life a lot easier for me."

ConnectiFit... Here's to Your Health! By Nina Ritson

How would you like to walk to the Grand Canyon and back during your workday?

It can be done right here at your office if you join the many DAS folks that are pledging to shed those holiday pounds and get fit.

At an early January meeting, Dr. Martin Anderson, group chair, introduced Dr. Pauran Faghri of University of Connecticut and Principal Investigator for ConnectiFIT, and Christine Parker and Eugene Nichols of the Department of Public Health to the DAS Advisory Committee members Deputy Commissioner Anna Ficeto, Rose Flynn, Will Haushultz, Franky Rivera, Nina Ritson, Kathy Bruni, Brenda Minter, Jim Gotta, Maureen Friedman (sitting in for Ann Simeone), John McKay, Christine Sisbarro, Nancy Bryant, and Lorraine Thibeault.

"We are training the trainees," Dr. Faghri said.

"We begin by increasing activity at work and changing behaviors. Then people begin to take these new behaviors home with them and there is greater likelihood for families to change, too. When you can continue these healthy behaviors, you will definitely see a difference in your life."

Parker discussed the role of the DAS Advisory Group, and their task of helping DAS folks get healthier. "We need to identify possibilities," Parker said.

Right now, the Advisory Committee is beginning to plan the next step or the Needs Assessment Phase.

"This is a critical step – we are tasked with finding what the employee needs are," Parker explained.

ConnectFIT is about awareness – awareness of one's own health and one's potential to be healthier.

Did you know that 56% of Connecticut residents are overweight or obese and 85% already have risk factors for diabetes and cardiovascular disease?

With ConnectiFIT, teams of four to five people walk every day – on their breaks, on their lunches, from office to office – whatever it takes to get the steps in. Armed with pedometers, they build their endurance and learn new behaviors as they walk for a ten-week duration. Steps are measured and recorded as are changes in

blood pressure and weight.

"We are not competing here – the only one you need to compete with is yourself. This is for *you!*" Parker emphasized.

The pilot program was so successful at DPH that in the beginning they anticipated 60 participants – but when enrollment kept growing and exceeded 120 participants, they had to schedule a second session.

One of their goals was to 'walk to the Grand Canyon.' Not only did they get to the Grand Canyon but they walked home and back again!

DAS is already in the planning stages for a major kickoff event - what a great way to ring in a new year with a new healthy behavior.

Remember, this is entirely voluntary and absolutely confidential! So dust off your sneakers, shrug those winter blahs, and get ready to GET FIT!

DAS Blood Drive a Success!

Friday the 13th is usually associated with bad luck. But this January 13, DAS employees reversed the curse and donated 37 productive units of blood at our DAS blood drive.

Considering each unit has the potential to save three lives, that's 111 patients' lives that will be touched by our efforts. DAS' next blood drive has been scheduled for May 9, 2006.

Special thanks goes out to everyone who participated, especially Michelle Burns for her extra effort to coordinate the event.



Here They Are Now!

Tim Geary

Screaming, kicking and looking for a bottle – sound like a good way to start a new year? It was for Daniel Geary, newborn son of Timothy and Erin Geary, when he entered this world on January 9 – an entire month early – weighing in at 7 lbs. 1oz.!

“He was a surprise! I must have a hundred pictures of him on my computer already.”

It’s a different world for Geary, now that he has become a Dad. “He really is a good baby, but that’s because he eats every two hours – life is pretty good for him!” And life is good for Geary, too, since he joined DAS as a SMART employee this year. “I came from Consumer Protection, but prior to that I spent five years in the Governor’s Office. DAS is great – people are eager to help – the pace is good and it has been so less stressful.”

A Marist College graduate, Geary grew up in Kingston, NY and recalls his youth and college years - and his high school weekend at Woodstock 94 or “Mudstock” as he called it. “I stood in two feet of mud – frozen – even though it was August – waiting for Bob Dylan. I thought I liked Bob Dylan, but when he came out I couldn’t understand a thing he said. Oh well, at least I can say I went.”

So how does an upstate NY Woodstocker end up as a player on the Governor’s team? “I was a political science major in college and upon graduation, joined the Rowland campaign for re-election. I learned more on the campaign in seven months than I did in four years of college. I learned about diversity, how to deal with people, discretion and how to balance competing interests!” He expresses his gratitude for having had the job opportunities he has had at such an early stage of his career.

“I was a serious news junkie then. My day began between 6:30 and 7:00 a.m., and I would begin scanning all the media to fax articles to the Governor’s residence. CNN was running constantly in the background.”

He is delighted to say since coming to DAS he can go all the way till noon without checking for news updates. But all that training in multitasking and handling multiple projects will come in handy as a new Dad.

“He is the first grandson for either side of the family so needless to say, he will be spoiled. And even though he does not have my red hair, my folks are planning a huge St. Patty’s Day party – Daniel’s first!” Not yet feeling the long term effects of sleep deprivation, a very content Tim Geary just smiled and summed up the experience of fatherhood, “We are very fortunate with Daniel – he is a good baby. I am just looking forward to coaching Little League at this point!”



By Nina Ritson

Where Are They Now?

Kenn Stephenson

You awake before dawn and venture outside to sprawling acres with gardens to tend, dotted with grazing goats and chickens pecking at the feed you spread. When the plants are watered, you sit back and drink your coffee and watch the sun rise. Refreshed after a pancake breakfast, you slide your canoe into the river to explore unfamiliar waters, photographing wildlife at its best and savoring the day.

No phone, no TV, no faxes, no blackberries, no Internet.

Sound like an ad for a B & B getaway in *Anywhere*, New England? Maybe – but for Kenn Stephenson, formerly of DAS’ Property Management, this is life every day!

“Wonderful. Absolutely marvelous. I am totally enjoying life!” Words come without hesitation as he begins to describe his daily routine. “It is just like a five-day continuation of your weekend!”

“If you can retire at an early age comfortably.....DO IT! Enjoy Life!”

“I get to watch my grandchildren on Tuesdays and Saturdays.”

On Saturdays he has a routine and Christina, 7, Catherine, 6, and Cynthia, 4, love to tag along. It begins with a trip to the dump, then on to the bank, next, off to the library for awhile, and then up to UConn to feed the horses and lunch off the tailgate of his truck.

On the adventurous side, he went on in detail about a one-man canoe camping trip he has planned for September. He will canoe the entire Connecticut River from New Hampshire to the mouth in Long Island Sound. “Just me, my gear, my cameras and my chocolate lab, Emma.” Emma has been in canoe training for some time now and is ready to go. “It’s not about getting to your destination quickly – it’s about the adventure getting there!”

“I am not working anywhere right now – well, other than on my home!” Stephenson describes the major renovations that he just did on his home in Andover. “I totally gutted this house – new roof, built a peak on the garage, new well, septic and furnace, new bathroom, new porch, new floors and beginning last week – a new kitchen.”

Some of the work Stephenson admits to restoring himself, but he is a wise enough man to know when to call in the contractors.

Oh, and did I mention there will soon be a Mrs. Stephenson? Engaged in August, Kenn and his fiancé, Wannetta, are currently planning a very extravagant ‘grand finale’ as Kenn puts in – “doing the ‘M’ thing.”

“I am living and loving every minute – I really want to grow very old so I can be a burden to my children!”

Customer Service is Focus in Procurement Reorg... Here's a Look at the Teams

Recently, DAS Procurement Services has made organizational changes in an effort to improve customer service and better respond to rapidly changing procurement requirements. In order to provide you with up-to-date information on whom to contact, and team responsibilities, the following depicts Procurement's current organization and responsibilities.

DAS Procurement wishes all of our customers a healthy and prosperous new year. Please do not hesitate to contact us!

Carol Wilson, Director of Procurement, 860-713-5093
Administrative Assistant, Maureen Blackburn, 860-713-5066
Devin Marquez, Procurement Attorney, 860-713-5381

Contracting Teams

Tony Deluca, Manager, 860-713-5070

Contracting Team 1

Don Casella, Team Leader
860-713-5150

Jill Belisle, Jim Gotta, Paul Greco, Cynthia Shea

Maintenance, Repair and Operational Supplies & Equipment, Food, Industrial Equip., Fuel, Environmental Services, Cleaning Supplies, Scrap, Lawn/Power Equip., Printing Services

Contracting Team 3

Maureen Friedman, Team Leader
860-713-5069

Mark Carroza, Ann Simeone, Susan Thomas

Pharmaceuticals, Building Mgmt. Services, Medical Services, Pest Services & Removal, Portable Toilets, Lab Equip., Lab Supplies, Metals, Medical Supplies, Services for the Deceased, Medical Equip., Custodial Services

Contracting Team 5

Cindy Milardo, Team Leader
860-713-5084

Janel DelGreco, Teresa Dupont, Susanne Hawkins

Office Supplies, Furniture, Floor/Window treatments, Mail & Courier Services, Athletic Supplies, Miscellaneous Equip., Preprinted publications, Advertising, Promotional Supplies, Lumber, Audio Visual Equip./Supplies, Photographic Equip., Feed & Forage, Agricultural Supplies, Runway Maintenance, Building/Roadway Materials and Maintenance, Computer Supplies

Contracting Team 2

Tina Costanzo, Team Leader
860-713-5068

Pam Anderson, Theresa Anderson, Celeste Cashman, Pat DeConti

Vehicles, Professional Services, Kitchen Equip., Roadway Markings, Transportation, Refrigeration, Conference/Travel, Landscaping & Snow Removal

Contracting Team 4

Joe Giliberto, Team Leader
860-713-5096

Linda LoSchiavo, Ada Rivera, Rob Zalucki

Office Equip, Security Services, Communications, Signals, etc., Police/Emergency Supplies and Equip., Paint, Printing Equip., Clothing, Textiles, Music, Rubbish Removal, State Contracting Portal

Supplier Diversity Team

Meg Yetishefsky, Manager,
860-713-5228

Supplier Diversity Team Members (860-713-5236)

Supplier Diversity Team Members (860-713-5236)

Debby Hearl
Reuben Jonathan-Lusack
Gregg Nome
Charlene Lindee

New Procurement Teams, Cont.

Other Procurement Programs:

Carlos Velez, Manager, 860-713-5092

**Contractor
Prequalification
Program**
860-713-5280

Peter Hunter
Lynn Peccerillo

P-Card Program
860-713-5072

Kerry DiMatteo

**Master Insurance
Program & Financial -
Insurance Commodities**
860-713-5250

Aimee Gagnon

**State & Federal Surplus
Program**
860-571-7445

Jim Potyra, Supervisor

Kevin Backman
Holly Crandall

**Catalog Management
Program**

John Pacholski,
Team Leader

Julie Bernosky
Laurie Melesko
Mike Owsianko

CoreCT Supply Chain Management Team

Joann Bellamo, Manager, 860-622-2511

CoreCT Supply Chain

Management Team Members

Purchasing Team

Noreen Camara
Module Lead

Amanda Starbala

Catalog Management & E-Procurement Team

Kathleen M. Anderson
Module Lead

John Winschel

Inventory Team

Steve Beaulieu
Module Lead

What's New on the Contracting Portal?

By John McKay

DAS Procurement will begin beta testing a new process on the State's Contracting Portal.

Once finished, users will be able to upload their bid and contract contact documents onto the portal.

"This will reduce a lot of administrative work on our end," said Contracting Portal team leader Joe Giliberto. Information will also be marked for administrators of the portal to note when contracts need some TLC. Administrators will be prompted for bid results; when it was awarded and to whom, and if not awarded, why.

Some impressive numbers from 2005 regarding the portal include:

- Over 1100 bids posted to the portal site by state agencies.
- 1000 bids posted by cities and towns.
- Over 20 percent of agency bids were to small and minority business.

DAS has also established a dedicated Portal hotline at 860-713-5430.

"We're continually trying to improve our portal both technically and by listening to our customers," said Giliberto. Keep visiting the site to see updates."

Administrative Support Team:

Procurement Main Phone Number: 860-713-5095
Procurement Fax Number: 860-713-7484

Lori Coleman
Ruthie Hatten
Eva Merriman
Arlene Watson



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968*

Chronology of the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1929 Born on January 15, 1929 to the Rev. and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr., Atlanta, Georgia.

1944 Graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and was admitted to Morehouse College at the age of 15.

1948 Graduated from Morehouse College and entered Crozer Theological Seminary. Ordained to the Baptist ministry, February 25, 1948, at the age 19.

1951 Entered Boston University for graduate studies.

1953 Married Coretta Scott and settled in Montgomery, Alabama.

1955 Received Doctorate of Philosophy in Systematic Theology from Boston University, June 5. **Joined** the bus boycott after Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1. On December 5, he is elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, making him the official spokesman for the boycott.

1956 On November 13, the Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation is illegal, ensuring victory for the boycott.

1957 King formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to fight segregation and achieve civil rights. On May 17, Dr. King spoke to a crowd of 15,000 in Washington, D.C.

1958 The U.S. Congress passed the first Civil Rights Act since reconstruction. King's first book, *Stride Toward Freedom*, is published. **On** a speaking tour, Martin Luther King, Jr. is nearly killed when stabbed by an assailant in Harlem. Met with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, along with Roy Wilkins, A. Philip Randolph, and Lester Grange on problems affecting black Americans.

1959 Visited India to study Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence. **Resigned** from pastoring at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church to concentrate on civil rights full time. He moved to Atlanta to direct the activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

1960 Became co-pastor with his father at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. **Lunch** counter sit-ins began in Greensboro, North Carolina. In Atlanta, King was arrested during a sit-in waiting to be served at a restaurant. He was sentenced to four months in jail, but after intervention by John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, he was released.

1961 In November, the Interstate Commerce Commission banned segregation in interstate travel due to work of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Riders. **Congress on Racial Equality (CORE)** began first *Freedom Ride* through the South, in a Greyhound bus, after the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation in interstate transportation.

1962 During the unsuccessful Albany, Georgia movement, King was arrested on July 27 and jailed.

1963 On Good Friday, April 12, King was arrested with Ralph Abernathy for demonstrating without a permit. **On** April 13, the Birmingham campaign was launched. This would prove to be the turning point in the war to end desegregation in the South. **During** the eleven days he spent in jail, King wrote his famous *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. **On** May 10, the Birmingham agreement is announced. The stores, restaurants, and schools are desegregated, hiring of blacks implemented, and charges dropped. **On** June 23, King lead 125,000 people on a Freedom Walk in Detroit. **The** March on Washington held on August 28 was the largest civil rights demonstration in history with nearly 250,000 people in attendance. **At** the march, King made his famous *I Have a Dream* speech.

1964 On January 3, King appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine as its Man of the Year. **King** attended the signing ceremony of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 at White House on July 2. **During** the summer, King experienced his first hurtful rejection by black people when he is stoned by Black Muslims in Harlem. **At** 35, King is youngest person to be awarded Nobel Prize for Peace.

1965 On February 2, King was arrested in Selma, Alabama during a voting rights demonstration. **After** President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act into law, Martin Luther King, Jr. turned to socioeconomic problems.

1966 On January 22, King moved into a Chicago slum tenement to attract attention to the living conditions of the poor. **In** June, King and others began the March Against Fear through the South. **On** July 10, King initiated a campaign to end discrimination in housing, employment, and schools in Chicago.

1967 Supreme Court upheld a conviction of King by a Birmingham court for demonstrating without a permit. King spent four days in Birmingham jail. **On** November 27, King announced the inception of the Poor People's Campaign focusing on jobs and freedom for the poor of all races.

1968 King announced that the Poor People's Campaign will culminate in a March on Washington demanding a \$12 billion Economic Bill of Rights guaranteeing employment to the able-bodied, incomes to those unable to work, and an end to housing discrimination. Dr. King marched in support of sanitation workers on strike in Memphis, Tennessee. **On** March 28, King led a march that turned violent. This was the first time one of his events had turned violent. **Delivered** *I've Been to the Mountaintop* speech. **At** sunset on April 4, Martin Luther King, Jr. was fatally shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. **There** were riots and disturbances in 130 American cities. There were twenty thousand arrests. **King's** funeral on April 9 was an international event. **Within** a week of the assassination, the Open Housing Act is passed by Congress.

1986 On November 2, a national holiday is proclaimed in King's honor.

- Maureen Friedman

"The time is always right to do what is right."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Thank you to the following websites
for the information
contained in this article:
www.infoplease.com & www.lib.lsu.edu