



Anil F. Antani



Eric Bengston



Carol K. Biernacki



Jadwiga M. Bogacki



Robert J. Chausse



Juliet Colebrook



Lionel L. Corbin



Catherine M. Daly



LeRoy L. Davis



Kathleen D. Bruni



Mary J. Campbell



Susan Carlson



Celeste Cashman



Ann Galbert



James A. Gotta



Calvin L. Halliday



Rachelle M. Harris



Ruthie B. Hatten



Joseph M. Hickerson



Lois E. Johnson



Henry I. Jovanelly



Carlos Kebe



Gail R. Kenney



Ricki Miarecki



Carla Kushin



Mary Jane O'Brien



Beverly Powers



Victoria A. Rasmussen



Norman G. Townley, Jr.



Albert D. VanLeuvan



Nicholas J. Visono



Rosemary T. Woods

We Wish You All Good Health and Happiness as You Begin this Next Phase of Life!

We dedicate this issue to the retiring members of the DAS family - the Class of 2009.

Anil F. Antani	7/1/2009	Over 34 years	Collection Services
Eric Bengston	7/1/2009	Over 23 years	Fleet Operations
Carol K. Biernacki	6/1/2009	Over 28 years	Fleet Operations
Jadwiga M. Bogacki	7/1/2009	Over 28 years	Collection Services
Kathleen D. Bruni	7/1/2009	Over 32 years	SmART
Mary J. Campbell	7/1/2009	Over 23 years	SmART
Susan Carlson	4/1/2009	Over 22 years	SmART
Celeste Cashman	7/1/2009	Over 29 years	Procurement Services
Robert J. Chausse	6/1/2009	Over 29 years	Fleet Operations
Juliet Colebrook	7/1/2009	Over 23 years	Business Office
Lionel L. Corbin	7/1/2009	Over 34 years	Statewide HR Mgmt
Catherine M. Daly	7/1/2009	Over 28 years	Core-CT
LeRoy L. Davis	7/1/2009	Over 23 years	Fleet Operations
William S. Donnelly	7/1/2009	Over 33 years	Workers' Comp
Robert J. Dworak	7/1/2009	Over 35 years	Collection Services
Ann Galbert	7/1/2009	Over 35 years	Statewide HR Mgmt
James A. Gotta	6/1/2009	Over 28 years	Procurement Services
Calvin L. Halliday	7/1/2009	Over 20 years	Fleet Operations
Rachelle M. Harris	7/1/2009	Over 35 years	Collection Services
Ruthie B. Hatten	7/1/2009	Over 19 years	Procurement Services
Joseph M. Hickerson	6/1/2009	Over 32 years	Statewide HR Mgmt
Lois E. Johnson	7/1/2009	Over 17 years	Statewide HR Mgmt
Henry I. Jovanelly	7/1/2009	Over 35 years	Collection Services
Carlos Kebe	7/1/2009	Over 29 years	Collection Services
Gail R. Kenney	7/1/2009	Over 23 years	Collection Services
Carla Kushin	7/1/2009	Over 30 years	Statewide HR Mgmt
Ricki Miarecki	7/1/2009	Over 22 years	MIS
Mary Jane O'Brien	7/1/2009	Over 20 years	Statewide HR Mgmt
Beverly Powers	4/1/2009	23 years	Fleet Operations
Victoria A. Rasmussen	7/1/2009	31 years	Collection Services
Norman G. Townley, Jr.	6/1/2009	Over 34 years	Fleet Operations
Albert D. VanLeuvan	7/1/2009	Over 38 years	Business Office
Ronald Vietts	6/1/2009	34 years	Business Office
Nicholas J. Visone	7/1/2009	Over 34 years	Core-CT
Rosemary T. Woods	6/1/2009	Over 18 years	SmART

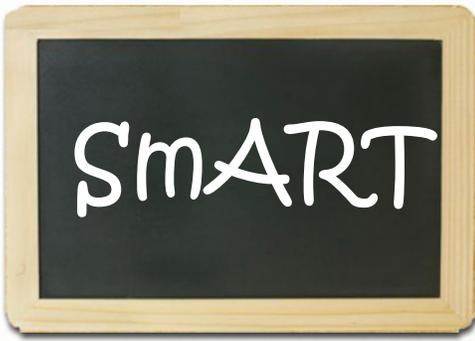
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The past four years at DAS have been the highlight of my state career. Here I have been offered opportunities and challenges that sometimes put me outside of my comfort zone, but that provided professional growth and instilled in me recognition that I was capable of so much more than I would have expected. I will always treasure the friendships I have developed at DAS. In addition to being the most professional state agency I have worked at, DAS also houses some of the most entertaining staff and stories. This really has been the best place in the world to work!
Kathy Bruni

To Kathy Bruni -

It seems like only yesterday when Kathy transferred to DAS from DPUC and now she's retiring. Kathy's wealth of knowledge, experience, as well as her positive attitude and constant smile will be missed greatly by all her colleagues in DAS's SmART unit. Well, now it's onto another chapter in her life for which we all wish her good health and much happiness.

Dave Lynn

Hi SmART Unit,

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you the past four years. Thanks for all your support. I will truly miss all of you. Last but not least, thanks to each of you for being you!!!

Mary J. Campbell



Workers' Compensation

Bill Donnelly has consistently demonstrated a work ethic that all state employees should strive to achieve. His ability to work with others and adapt to changing environments has certainly been an asset to DAS over the years. Bill clearly understands that success is achieved by both tangible and intangible measures.

Although I have only known Bill for a relatively short period of time, I am proud to have worked with him and most importantly to be able to call him my friend. Thank you for your hard work and friendship.

Doug Rinaldi
 Director
 Workers' Compensation

I would have to say that if you have ANY question about fishing or camping, Bill Donnelly is most definitely your answer man.

Kelly Dillon

Bill Donnelly missed his calling as a politician. He had all the right connections, and you never knew what he was really thinking. He took me under his wing and kept me out of trouble.

Bill was a great influence and always made servicing the agencies our priority. We wish him the best and are happy for him, although he was a valuable asset and a wealth of knowledge - he will be truly missed. I am sure this is true for many of our retirees; losing them will be a ripple felt throughout the agencies and state government.

Robert Giuditta



This month I'll be attending my 40th high school reunion, so as I mark this milestone, it seems appropriate to be experiencing another 'graduation' of sorts. My career breaks down into discrete segments marked by decade changes, loves found and lost, life events of loved ones and many work friends. I find myself feeling nostalgic for old friends at the Office of Protection and Advocacy, Department of Developmental Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, DAS and Core-CT. I've called a few of them over the past few weeks and reminisced about the good times and life's challenges – kind of like what I'll be doing with old friends at my high-school reunion.

The memories are too numerous to write in this small space, but they will surely live on in my heart and mind (as long as both are still functioning). If I were to pick some favorite memories or accomplishments, they would include playing a role in the closure of Mansfield Training School; helping to set up the fledgling Office of Protection & Advocacy over 30 years ago and implementing the State of Connecticut's first integrated human resource, payroll and financial management system: Core-CT. Of course, the very best gift of my career was coming to DAS and meeting the love of my life. For all of it, I will always be grateful!

Cathy Daly



Core-CT

The first thing I believe I can say, on the whole, is that Cathy is extremely effective in working with all types of people across the organization and has a lot of integrity as a person. It will be even more difficult for me to say goodbye to her, as my manager, because she has always been completely reliable and supportive of me. Not once do I recall her not listening (except for a really boring workshop we were in together, but that's another story). Not once do I recall her not putting the organization first (except for when she had to go and get married – the nerve). Seriously, Cathy is the greatest. I will miss her daily friendship and laughter, dearly.

Nick is just one of the nicest men I have ever met. Words that immediately come to my mind where he is concerned are thorough, analytical, methodical and practical. Nick has always been very insightful and helpful to me. I don't know what else to say, but wish him the very best.

Mary Yabrosky

To Nick - Years ago I remember dealing with Nick when I was employed at DMR/DDS on a classification issue and I remember how he had explained thoroughly each and every question I had and he was so, patient in his explanations. I remember thinking that I would like to meet him someday. Little did I know that I would not only meet him but have the great pleasure of working with him! Nick works everyday like that day I had first spoken to him. He is one of the most helpful individuals I know and I will sincerely miss him and wish him the very best!!!

To Cathy – Cathy is the person I go to commiserate with, confide in, and get great solid advice from. She is my rock!!!! Cathy has the best sense of humor and wit. There is no finer a person and it is with great sadness to me (and I am sure all of us) that she is leaving.

Lina Simonou



DAS Communications wishes Cathy Daly all the best in her upcoming retirement.

Over the years, Cathy has impressed us on so many different levels. Her advice, management style, direction, knowledge, savvy and instincts have always been dead-on. Even more importantly, she has been a wonderful friend, colleague and confidant. We will dearly miss both her professionalism and her personality...not to mention her Irish Soda Bread!

Congratulations, Cath! May you and “Mr. Roy” enjoy a wonderful Tier1 retirement!

Donna, John, Nina, Cindy

BUSINESS OFFICE

Al VanLeuvan came to work in the Business Office a few years ago, and we became instant friends. I used to go to his desk every day just to say hi and make him feel welcome. I then invited him to the lunch room, and we have been lunch buddies ever since. Everyone thought Al was just a nice, quiet, friendly older man, but I knew there was more to him. I knew I could get him out of his shell. Al is now a fashion plate who loves wearing his jeans on Fridays with his unique t-shirts. Who would think Al would be the biggest Karaoke fan! He has become the star of our Christmas parties with his “unforgettable” voice. Look out Michael Jackson! Al also knows how to tear it up on the dance floor as well. And who could forget when Al surprised everyone and dressed up as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz for Halloween. He even sang “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” in his wig and plus-size Dorothy dress. Al has made me laugh and smile every day since I met him. I have never had a friend like him, and I don’t think I ever will. I will truly miss him.

Karen Rakowski

Al VanLeuvan is a bright, funny, person who I enjoyed knowing and working with. I will especially miss our lunch hour; he always has something interesting to say. I will truly miss him and wish him all the health and happiness, life can give. He deserves it! It’s time to enjoy life.....Take care and keep in touch.

Lisa O’Connor

Hey Sweet Cheeks,

Here are a few words for the lucky - - - - - .

Al – Enjoy your time with your family and all your interests. You will be missed; our Business Office parties will not be the same without you.

Juliet – Enjoy that family of yours, you deserve it. The Business Office will not be the same. I will really miss you.

Alina Kalisz



Juliet

Juliet and I have worked together since she came to DAS in 1986. We have shared so many laughs over the years. I don't think that there has ever been a day that Juliet and I have not found something to laugh about. One of my fondest memories that I share with Juliet happened about 21 years ago when she went to the Motor Vehicle Department in Enfield with a relative so that the relative could get his license. At the DMV, she was told that she could not use her vehicle for whatever reason. Did Juliet turn around and go home? Absolutely not! She knew that I lived in Enfield and called me and said, "I need your car" (in Juliet fashion). My husband had just left for the barber shop and we only had one car at the time. I gave her directions to the barber shop and told her to ask him to use the car. Now, Juliet had never met my husband and he did not know anything about her. She just walked into the barber shop and called his name. As a man responded, she walked over and told him that she was a friend of Jean's and needed to use his car. He said OK and handed her the keys. I still find it hard to believe that Juliet would approach someone that she had never met and ask for his car...and also that my husband would hand over his keys to a complete stranger! We have laughed about this for many years. I will miss Juliet but wish her the very best!

Al

Al came to the Business office with the Small Agency consolidation in October 2005. He brought along his great sense of humor and musical ability which we all love. He loved to participate in our many "occasions." He made a great Dorothy at our Wizard of Oz Halloween Party as well as a cool hippie at our last retro theme party. Al was such a good sport and was always willing to participate in all of our "craziness." I will miss Al and his laughter. I wish him much happiness in his retirement.

V. Jean Michael
Director of the DAS Business Office



Al was a nice guy with a good sense of humor. He always provided interesting conversation. I wish him happiness in his retirement and best of luck in his musical career.

Juliet,

Enjoy your retirement with good health and family. I'm going to miss that cheerful attitude!
Felix, Paul

Juliet has sat on the other side of the wall from me for years, and has been a GREAT neighbor. It has been very enjoyable working with her. Al has brought good humor and valuable knowledge to us.
Felix, Michael

Juliet

Great sense of style and a kind heart

AL

Great sense of humor and musically talented

Juanita Hartfield

Juliet-

I will miss your sassy ways, your song, your sense of humor and your attitude!! Most of all I will miss you! We've had 20 plus years together, shared a lot of laughs, together we have welcomed life into the world and together said good bye to ones we loved. You will always hold a very special place in my life Juliet. Enjoy the new adventure you are about to start. With lots of love,
 Your middle daughter,
Tracie k



Juliet

It has been a pleasure to work alongside Juliet Colebrook ever since I started with DAS. We have worked together a long time, through countless situations and changes over the years. She has the admirable quality of keeping her composure under even the most extreme circumstances, and on many occasions she has been a calming influence. Juliet is a good person, a good worker, and quite a personality! Juliet will be missed.

Al

For most people, it takes a bit of time for them to grow comfortable in a new setting, and with new people – with Al, it took NO time at all. Al is a great guy, with a great sense of humor, and a heart as big as he is! No wonder he is known as, “BIG AL!” Although we have worked together for only a few years, Al is one of those people that I have truly enjoyed working with and enjoyed seeing each day. When Al is out for a day off, the Business Office is clearly not the same, and we all will miss his “Magnum P.I.” shirt!!

Jerry Lynn

Al-

The best neighbor I ever had! You always made me laugh!! You have been my little song bird...I will miss your singing!! I will also miss your really GRUMPY days!! Al, I must say you are one of the most incredible people I have ever met. Truly kind, generous and a heart only filled with good intentions. I am really looking forward to our days out at sea, Captain!!

*Your skipper,
Tracie k*

I particularly loved Jules’ stories about growing up in Guyana, and the different social customs she experienced there. The rules about table manners were especially hilarious. You wouldn’t want to fool around or make any unseemly noises at the dinner table, unless you were willing to go hungry that night! And I always sympathized with how cold she felt when she first moved north, and how traumatic the adjustment was to our climate. I’m so proud of her for sticking around through all that discomfort, and I hope she has grown accustomed to winter after all these years!

As everyone knows, Al lives and breathes music. How wonderful that he has found something in his life that is so engrossing and enchanting, and all encompassing! What a wonderful form of expression he has found, which he so generously shares with everyone. He has learned the universal language of life, and he certainly has a lot to say! I hope his retirement brings him more time to do what he seems to love best: making music.

Melissa Colonese-Scutt



Juliet Colebrook – very nice person

Albert Vanlovin' – nice person, Groovin' Vanleuvan, neat mosquito, far out, hip, funny, delightful, resourceful, courteous, thrifty, kind, musically inclined, swell, happy, Albert is my friend.

Jay Yasensky

Favorite DAS Memories--Just talking and joking with co-workers in the best attempt possible to avoid any resemblance of creating a hostile work environment. Specifically when I dressed up as Dorothy of the Wizard of OZ in seeing people's reactions. I enjoyed singing at the Christmas party Shiloh when Brenda provided the backup dancing.

Parting words-- Keep plugging away at the work but take time out to enjoy and smile at your co-workers.

Anything Else--Don't be inhibited in sharing your talents when circumstance allow to entertain. It is good always to take advantage of the captive audience.

Al Van Leuvan

I have enjoyed getting to know Al over the last few years. When I first met Al he did not say much, he seemed to be very shy and kept to himself. Boy, was I fooled! He is a funny man with a great sense of humor. After a few months of really getting to know Al, I gave him the nickname Smiley. We both laugh every time I say it to him. It brings a big smile to his face. The last few months I have been Al's personal assistant with the Commission on Deaf & Hearing's billing process. Al has been a great teacher and very patient with me. I will truly miss seeing Smiley everyday, for sure. I wish him and his wife Judy a very happy future! It will not be the same at the DAS Business Office without all of

Ten years ago in July of 1999, I came to Hartford from DAS in Newington, and I was amazed at how welcoming and nice everyone was. When I think back to that time, Juliet Colebrook is one that stands out in my mind. Whenever I had to go to the Business Office, Juliet was always warm and friendly and a pleasure to work with. I know she will be truly missed.

Laura Guilmartin



My first introduction to Juliet Colebrook was in 1997 when DAS decided to merge the Revolving Fund Business Office with the General Fund Business Office. It would be several weeks after getting settled in this new environment before I was to meet Juliet, for she was out of the office attending a family emergency.

When introductions were made and Juliet first said hello, two things caught my attention. First, was what a beautiful woman she was with such a delightful accent. Second, was how she just reached over and gave a sincere hug and said to me “we are family here and you will be just fine” – and right she was.

Almost twelve years have passed since I met Juliet. We’ve been through some exciting times as well as some difficult times together, but through thick or thin, in happy times or grim times, Juliet was always there to give me a hug and to make my day a little less gray and a bit brighter.

Although I end this with a little sadness knowing Juliet’s working days are now being counted on less than 10 fingers, I do have to smile a bit knowing that what DAS is losing the entire world is gaining. Gaining a person who is sincere, honest, caring and willing to open her arms to those who come into her life as she did to me those twelve years ago.

I wish you a happy, healthful and adventurous retirement, my good friend. I will not say goodbye because I know you and I will still chat and get together after your days at DAS are finished.

Janet DelGreco Olson



Whenever you look back over your working years, do so with God's perspective – no remorse, no regrets. Otherwise you wouldn't have this great word called 'retirement'. – *Madeline Vargas*

Welcome to the golden years. Now is the time to really live your lives. Nothing to hold you back, live, lavish and forever be happy. – *Mary Scotti*

Wish you the best of luck. Enjoy. – *Barbara Jenec*

A person I will miss is Henry Jovanelly, who always took the time to say hello to me in my first two years in Newington when I was new and didn't know anyone. Since then I have had the pleasure of getting to know him better, and I will miss his upbeat smile and sense of humor.

Laura Guilmartin



COLLECTION SERVICES

Farewell to Collection Services retirees Henry Jovanelly, Anil Antani, Rachelle Harris, Gail Kenney, Robert Dworak, Victoria Rasmussen, Jadwiga Bogacki.

The red EXIT signs have been turned on, speed limits still apply. Enjoy your future paths.

Mayme Casady

No more checking to see if the office has been closed for bad weather...who cares?!

Sue Lopes

For you: long lunches and afternoon naps – fiesta and siesta time.

Brenda Hall

No more alarm clocks, bagged lunches, TPS slips, etc. Just time off to enjoy your future!

Reyne Maturo

For the DAS - Collections Retiring Class of 2009:

You're retired
Goodbye tension,
Hello pension!

Enjoy your retirement years!

May you always have work for your hands to do.
May your pockets hold always a coin or two.
May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.
May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near you.
And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Lilka Valle

For many it has been a long journey with DAS. Enjoy every step of your new journey. A relaxing and exciting time of your life awaits you!

Donna Wadhams

Live long and prosper! *Robin Dawkins-Khan*

Have fun and enjoy! – *Sue Orszulak*

Enjoy! More time at the beach! – *Jennifer Reid-Williams*

Wishing you the best of health and enjoy your new journey ahead! – *Rose Flynn*

Enjoy because you have earned it! – *Chanel Johnson*

Remember, your breaks will still be at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.! – *Chris Fons*

Good health, good luck and you certainly will be missed, thanks for all your help.

– *Chris Roberts*

Remember the good ole days – we have come a long way baby! – *Brenda Minter*

Enjoy every day of your new adventure! Best of luck to you. – *Olga Shicko*

Life begins at retirement – enjoy! – *Katie McCabe*

Break all the rules. Buy a 100 inch plasma, get a fast car and travel. You're the boss of you now! Unless you're still married! Ha! Enjoy and congrats! – *Frankie Rivera*

A smile is a light in the window of the soul indicating that the heart is at home. – *Anonymous*

I have spent almost half my life with many of these retirees. I've really grown-up with them! They will be missed. – *Susan Kitchens*

Have fun and enjoy every minute. – *Linda Canalia*

If you get bored come back and help us out. Just kidding – have fun. – *Mike Holroyd*

I have 34 years of state service. I started my state career at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. After UConn, I went to the then State Tax Department (now Revenue Services).

I started at the Collections Division of the then Department of Finance Control on March 25, 1977. On October 1, 1977, the Collections Division became Bureau of Collection Services as part of the newly created 'super' agency called the Department of Administrative Services.

Despite a 'tough' period between 1997 and 2004, I have enjoyed my years at DAS. I never thought that the work was supposed to be fun, but we get back from work what we put in it.

After retirement, I would like to be involved with consumer protection issues, especially those affecting senior citizens (like myself!). Be a lunch monitor at one of those 'free' lunches arranged by some of the financial and investment firms!

I would love to travel within United States and abroad. My dream is to rent a motor home and go to every single Major League baseball park to see a game!

During the last few days I have realized, more so than ever, that health is paramount for 'happiness'. The human body is an amazing 'machine' and even when we take care of ourselves, it will act up from time to time. It is my sincere hope that all of you will retire from state service with the best of health and much happiness.

Anil F. Antani





Farewell Remarks from Collections Retirees



Robert Dworak – “Enjoy life!”

Anil Antani – “I wish you the best!”

Henry Jovanelly – “It will all be OK, have faith.”

Victoria Rasmussen – “I would enjoy hearing from and keeping in touch with coworkers. I wish everyone and their family good luck and good health.”

Gail Kenney – “Wishing all of you health and happiness in your life’s journey.”

Rachelle Harris – “I want to thank the Governor for pardoning me on my second life sentence. Seriously, I will really miss everyone.”

I can say that I have truly been blessed to have worked for the State of Connecticut for 35+ years, all of which have been in the Department of Administrative Services. I have had good experiences, and I have also had some not so good experiences, but when I add it all up my good experiences outweigh the bad ones.

I will miss all of you whom I have had the pleasure of working with for so many years and those of you whom I have been working with for a short period of time. I will also miss the different faces I have seen over the years in this building and the conversations I have had with others in the ladies room, hallway, elevator, cafeteria, etc.

I don't have any solid plans at the present time except to finish a lot of projects I started in the home and spend more time with my three youngest grandchildren (Shayna, Brook and Bre Riley). I am asking Father God to guide me and to put in my heart as to what his will is for my life for the remaining time I have here on earth.

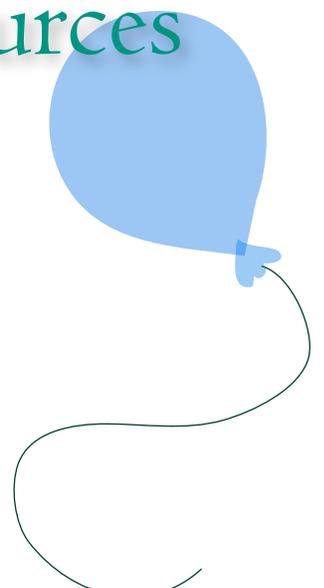
For those of you who have been in DAS for many years and those of you who have just begun your journey, **REMEMBER:** Treat one another with respect, assist one another, be kind to one another, encourage one another, and most of all do your job to the best of your ability.

May God heal, deliver, guide, bless and keep all of you.

Ann Galbert



Statewide Human Resources



Three people in the exam unit are retiring and I would like to share a little about each of them. Mary Jane O'Brien is the "freshman" of the group. Mary Jane started with the State in 1988 when she worked in the certification unit. That was during the time of exam ranking and the agencies were only able to hire from the top five ranks. Certification really had to be on their A game at all times and that's why Mary Jane was such a key player. As she has demonstrated from her start with DAS until now, Mary Jane is an incredibly detailed person, making sure that accurate records are kept and all procedures are adhered to. Mary Jane came to the Assessment Unit in 1996. Her attention to detail provided a critical skill to our unit which soon earned her the assignment of overseeing the appeal process. In addition to her technical skill, Mary Jane handled the constant influx of telephone calls from applicants who had not been admitted to exams (and as you can imagine, were not always happy) in a professional manner. I have never heard her raise her voice or lose her cool. Applicants always said that she was so helpful explaining how to navigate the appeal process.

Mary Jane is also the go-to person if you have a question about gardening, landscaping or home improvement projects. She is very knowledgeable about all things related to these types of projects and is always eager to share her expertise!

Ann Galbert and Lionel Corbin have both had over 30 years with the State. Ann started in with the State at DAS in 1973 and Lionel began his state career with the Labor Department in 1975 and came to DAS in 1984. Ann and Lionel were among the first people I met when I started working at DAS in 1988. We all worked together in Unit 4 with Joe Lefkowski as the unit leader. During that time, the units were structured more on the basis of bargaining unit instead of work function. Ann and Lionel provided a wealth of information about the Clerical and Protective Service classes. They also provided me with an excellent example of how to deal with people, both from agency personnel shops and exam candidates. In the course of our jobs, we are sometimes required to reject applicants who have applied for an examination. Both Ann and Lionel are masters of explaining to a candidate why they didn't qualify and what other alternatives may be available to them. I have seen them turn angry and/or upset people back into reasonable, rational people who end up

thanking them for their counsel. This skill is huge both on an interpersonal level but also from a public relations standpoint. Many people have a lot to offer the State but just don't know how to work through the process. Some people may not know this, but at one time Ann Galbert oversaw the entire examination appeal process. This meant anyone who filed an examination appeal had their materials reviewed by Ann in order to determine if they were qualified to take an examination. And she did an excellent job. People have continuously commented through the years about how knowledgeable and helpful Ann and Lionel have been, explaining how to navigate the state examination process.

And let's not forget about Ann and Lionel's fabulous culinary talents. Need I say more than Ann's [world's best] macaroni and cheese and Lionel's Hawaiian Dream Cake? When Ann brings in her macaroni and cheese, we all offer to put it away for her, with the secret plan being that we can get first dibs at it (there was also a few times that she brought it in and it never made it to the actual event because we ate the whole thing in the unit, but we won't discuss that !!) And Lionel's Dream Cake—whoa!! There were times when we would take up a collection to buy the ingredients for Lionel if he would only make it for us. (Which he always graciously did!) Let's just say that neither dish would fit in on a "cleanse" [sorry, James the trainer], but both are darn good and definitely something to enjoy every once and awhile!

Another thing I want to mention about Lionel was he always had an ear to listen to anyone or help out anyone in the office. He is the ultimate utility player and I will truly miss him for that. I think EAP is probably going to see an increase in business because we won't have our in house "Counselor" anymore.

Ann, Lionel and Mary Jane are retiring and we wish them all the best in their retirements—they deserve it. I think I speak for every one of us in the assessment unit when I say that we will miss them all terribly but are grateful that we were able to work with them and get to know them for the truly special people that they are.

Susan D. Pawloski-Burke

Joseph (aka Mickey) Hickerson is a colleague who maintained a work standard that can be described in two words “detailed” and “consistent”. When it came to getting the consistent and right answer, not necessarily the most comforting answer, we knew to go to Mickey. And Mick did not just give us the answer, he made sure we understood it—it was the teacher in him. Even Mickey’s lunch was consistent; it began 11:20 a.m. daily; in 2008 - soup from the cafeteria - switching to a homemade tuna sandwich rapped in a white shopping bag in 2009, ending with a warm cup of tea made from his desk. Mickey kept a minimum of two large oranges on his desk to guarantee he maintains the appropriate natural dosage of vitamin C. Let it also be known, that Mickey maintained a healthy sense of humor: on one occasion during a very serious meeting between union and management, he passed his materials out, and made the request “we’re short on supplies, so if you all could pass the paperclips and rubber bands back to me. . .that’d be great.”

Needless to say that broke the anxiety in the room, and caused chuckling on both sides of the table. And let’s not forget his infamous line for the last year, “I’m semi-retired.” He is truly a colleague, a mentor, a gentleman and a friend that will sincerely be missed.

Lois Johnson will be remembered for her spirited personality, beginning every conversation with a smile. Lois always maintained a very calm and collective composure when approaching even the most confrontational of work situations. Lois could lull a room. Her pleasant and welcoming personality made it easy to enjoy sharing her fresh fruit with the occasional bag of microwave popcorn. Lois always offered what she had from food, tea or yoga tapes to advice on a New Haven restaurant or how to vacation on the Vineyard. May her retirement bring her happiness.

Michelle Fournier





PROCUREMENT

Working with Ruthie Hatten over the past seven years has been a joy. During that time, I cannot count the number of vendors who she transferred to my extension with comments on how delightful, helpful and joyful Ruthie was to them. And I have to agree...Ruthie is all those things and more! I was so excited to have Ruthie back on the Fifth Floor when Room 110 was closed! My day-to-day contact with Ruthie always revolved around work first, then would go to topics ranging from her grandchildren to my husband to when we both were growing up!

Ruthie, I will miss your smile, your cheerfulness and the little talks we would have. You are a wonderful person that I am so happy to have met and been able to work these seven years. I wish you much happiness and good health in your new adventures of retirement!

Janet DelGreco Olson



Celeste Cashman was one of the first people I met when I came to DAS back in 1997. Coming from private industry, some of the government practices were new and different for me. When questioning her one day about a policy matter, Celeste said “I can’t explain it now, but someday you’ll understand.” I laughed as she was right on. Not long thereafter, after learning some of the Procurement and HR policies and being introduced to some of the obscure state laws, my questions were answered, and I then totally understood Celeste’s original response to me. Celeste always had a cheery word and a smile for everyone. She has served DAS diligently over the years and was always willing to help out her peers with their work. Celeste will be missed.

Ruthie Hatten is the epitome of customer service! There was never a customer or vendor who walked into DAS/Procurement who didn’t get greeted by Ruthie with a smile and a helpful action. Ruthie earned the respect of all of us here in Procurement with her willingness to go the extra mile and take care of the customer first. Just recently when we brought Ruthie back up to the fifth floor from her location on the 1st floor at DCP, the Director of DCP was extremely saddened by our actions as they adopted her as one of their own, and were giving up the shared resource of one of the best customer service representatives in the building. Ruthie’s void will be difficult to fill.

Jim Gotta was an enthusiastic, energetic worker who had a keen way of mixing fun with the business, and getting the job done right! Jim was infamous for winning over tough customers and prided himself in establishing working partnerships with his customers and vendors. Jim was always the first to sense my tough days and was always willing to lend me his help, no matter what I asked him to do. Jim’s legend in DAS will be a big part of our reminiscing, and always with a laugh.

**Carol S. Wilson, C.P.M.,
Director of Procurement**

As I started my career with the State, I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know and work with Celeste Cashman for the past five years. It has been such a pleasure to work with such a caring woman who has brought much laughter and joy into my work life. Because of her life experiences, she always puts things in perspective for me on what the most important things in life are -Family and Good Friendseven on those really bad days that we may all have from time to time. I wish you all the best in your retirement and I know that you will be doing something special with your free time because you are such a caring and giving person.

I'm going to miss you when you leave but I know we will keep in touch. Thank you for being part of my life.
Susanne Hawkins

For Jim Gotta

The memory I have etched in my brain of Jim is from about a month ago. Jim and I, along with Carol Wilson, were meeting with DMR to attempt to save them some money on their food purchases. As we neared the end of the meeting, Jim got up on a chair to turn off the A/C. As he stepped down, his foot somehow got stuck on the armrest and he stumbled right across the room and landed on the floor at the edge of the table. Once we realized Jim was OK, the three of us could not restrain our laughter as we attempted to wrap up the meeting in a professional manner.

Don Casella

Ms. Ruthie Hatten has always been the first line of communication for the small business owner for many years. It is with her grace and kindness that many small businesses owners have navigated the Small/Minority certification application process. She will be missed by many.

Meg Yetishfsky

Ruthie - You will be missed, not only for the warm smile that greeted me every morning, but for being an exemplary employee. Your work ethic, dedication and willingness to assist our customers will be missed. I wish you continued happiness, health and love as you continue through your life's journey.

Carlos Velez

Once you meet Celeste, you know what a pleasure she is to be around. She finds something to laugh about every day. I love her not only for her sense of humor, but for her honesty and her down-to-earth view of life. She will be missed by many, and I wish her much happiness in her retirement. She has earned it.

Cindy Milardo

Celeste has been such a pleasure to sit next to all these years. She's thoughtful, kind, caring and really knows how to spoil us with all the goodies she brought in weekly. Breads, cheese, cracker, chips, dips, fruit, candy, pastry from Elmwood bakery and on and on and on. We will all miss that smile and laughter. Thanks to Celeste I have officially joined the gym!

Pamela Anderson

Ruthie Hatten has been Procurement's "first impression" and she has handled that role with such dedication. Her patience and words of wisdom will be greatly missed.

Celeste Cashman has a number of years in all aspects of Procurement. She has established solid relationships with her customers and co-workers. She finds the good in everyone and she will be sorely missed.

Tina Costanzo



To Our Fleet Retirees

We've all heard of the swine flu, but until now most of you may not be aware that a severe case of the "It's time" flu has hit Fleet Operations.

The outbreak began innocently enough when in September of 2008 Mike Heneghan, our Vehicle Safety Coordinator, decided that 31 years of state service was enough, and that it was time to move on. Mike was our resident expert in handling motor vehicle accident reporting, insurance claims, and driver training. The latest word on Mike is that he is enjoying his retirement while continuing to referee for various high school sports in his hometown of Windsor Locks.

Then in March Beverly Powers a Processing Technician in our administrative office decided that she wanted to spend more time relaxing and less time at work, so she too retired.

But the fever really took hold in June and July when we lost six people bringing our total loss of staff to a staggering 20%! All in just a few short months.

In June we lost our Vehicle Control Supervisor, Carol Biernacki, and two supervisors from Wethersfield - Bob Chausse and Norm Townley. A combined 90+ years of service to DAS, gone at once. Besides being experienced and knowledgeable, they all served in leadership roles and will be greatly missed. Bob and Norm are both spending lots of time on the golf course and Carol, when not doting on her grandchildren, is enjoying the Red Sox more than ever. Also effective June 1st, Eric Bengston, a 23 year QCW at our Wethersfield location decided to put down the wrenches to take advantage of the RIP.

And last but not least, effective July 1st two more Wethersfield staff members joined on to the RIP parade. Leroy Davis a QCW with 23 years of service and Calvin Halliday a maintainer who has worked in DAS and Fleet for 20 years have packed up and moved on. Besides leaving at the same time, both have similar interests, family and travel. They are looking forward to many trips to visit relatives both within and out of the United States.

In total, the eight recent retirees have served DAS for over 210 years! That's a lot of knowledge out the door. We wish them all well and in their absence will do our best to continue on with the excellent tradition of service that they helped to establish.

Jim Palmer, Assistant Director Fleet Operations

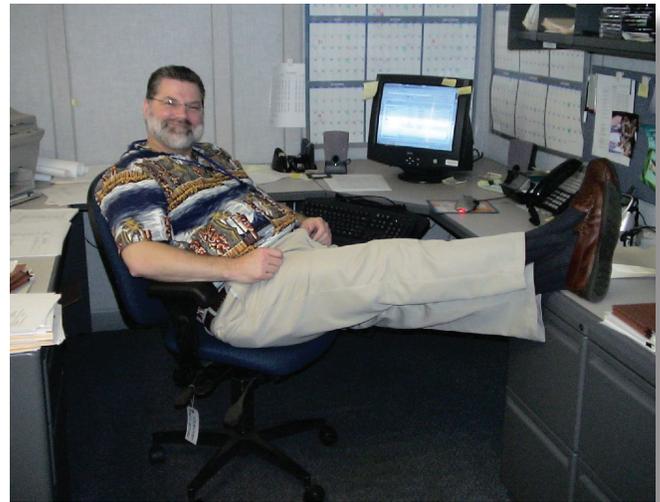




*Top Twelve Reasons We Know
He's Going to Go*

- 12 **R**unning around with a SMILE on his face,
- 11 **I**magining life at a slower pace.
- 10 **C**onsidering doing some volunteer work,
- 9 **K**ung fu dancing with an obnoxious smirk.
- 8 **M**acramé may be his new found profession,
- 7 **"I**t's all good, man" is now his favorite expression!
- 6 **A**lready giving his work things away!
- 5 **R**idiculous gloating about retirement pay,
- 4 **E**ven preparing his speeches and toasts,
- 3 **C**utting out pictures of the Florida coasts.
- 2 **K**icking his heels as he skips down the hall,
- 1 **I**nsisting on practicing walking the mall!

M.I.S.



Thank you for being the kind of boss who made us laugh (donning a pink flamingo costume at Marilyn's going away party), taking one for the team (injuring your foot at the softball game), listening patiently to our whining, pushing us to do our best, watching our backs (keeping evil at bay), and giving us the support and guidance we have come to know and rely upon. (Until, now, of course.)

We'll miss you, but we're truly happy for you (and incredibly jealous)!
We wish you nothing but the BEST in the next BEST phase of your life!!

From the bottom of our hearts,
Your friends and admirers at MIS!



**WHO LEAVES DAS WITH THE
MOST YEARS OF SERVICE?**



AL VANLEUVAN
Over 38 Years of Service!!