



Newslink



A Monthly Publication of CSOSA

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February 19, 2002

Special Points of Interest:

- CSOSA Celebrates Black History Month
- CSOSA Host Mentor Meeting with Faith Community Partners
- 2002 Conferences and Training Opportunities
- Tips on Improving Your Sleep Hygiene
- CSOSA Bulletin Board

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Voice of the Interim Director



Jasper Ormond

As some of you know, I am in the process of coming to each field unit to meet with members of our staff. No matter how many demands there are on my schedule, it is important for me to hear directly from you what you see as our strengths and challenges. When I did a series of meetings last summer, I heard loud and clear just how important it was to get a new case management system implemented. To date, I have heard that SMART is a success and has greatly improved your ability to manage your caseload. I have also heard that SMART is not perfect – yet. We will get there as we work with the system and develop the necessary enhancements and refinements in future releases. I want to again publicly thank David Stevenson, Chris Emery and the members of the SMART team who performed nothing short of a miracle in making SMART a reality so quickly.

On February 7th, we had over 350 participants for our Re-entry Mentor Orientation. The meeting was a resounding affirmation of the faith community's

enthusiasm for re-entry ministry and a powerful indicator of the willingness of the citizens of the District of Columbia to make a difference in the lives of returning offenders and the safety of our city. Our next major re-entry activity is a meeting of the Mentor Program Coordinators on Wednesday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Israel Baptist Church, 1250 Saratoga Avenue NE.

I have just recently returned from the American Probation and Parole Association's Winter Training Institute. It is important for you to know how highly the work of this Agency is regarded in the field of community corrections. Although I know at times we all feel overwhelmed working with new systems, implementing policies and building the infrastructure of this Agency, we are on the leading edge of innovations in the field. What we do matters and is being watched; not only by the appropriators in Congress, but by our colleagues throughout the Nation. Like me, they are impressed by what they see.

Keep up the amazing work. What we do is too important not to put forth the best we have been given.

CSOSA's Mission Statement

The mission of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia is to increase public safety, prevent crime, reduce recidivism, and support the fair administration of justice in close collaboration with the community. The Agency will enhance decision-making and provide effective community supervision, thereby ensuring public confidence in the criminal justice system.

CSOSA Events

February 2002 Newslink Calendar

National African American History Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 CSOSA / Faith Community Partnership  <i>Mentor Orientation</i>	8	9
10	11 American Parole and Probation Association Winter Training Institute - Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 02/10/02 - 02/13/02	12	13	14  Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18  President's Day (Observed)	19	20	21  Fresh Fields / Whole Foods Market Black History Month Celebration	22 Public Defender Service  BHM Observance 633 Indiana Ave. 9-5p	23 Children's Day MLK Library 
24	25 2002 Public Policy Conference on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Hyatt Regency - Washington, DC 02/24/02 - 02/26/02	26	27	28		

Citywide Events



Thursday, February 21, 2002
Fresh Fields / Whole Foods Market
will host an evening of poetry and music
as part of the
5th annual citywide Black History Month
Celebration
14th and P Street, NW
5-7 p.m.
For more info contact Chuck Hicks at
202-488-3404

Saturday, February 23, 2002
Children's Day at
Martin Luther King Library
"Sarafina!"

Black History Month
Film and Discussion
MLK Library
901 G Street, NW
11:00 a.m.



Wednesday, March 3, 2002
Mayor Anthony Williams'

State of the District Address

Dunbar Senior High School
1301 New Jersey Avenue, NW
6:00 p.m.

CSOSA Celebrates Black History Month
A PSA HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT: LEDROIT PARK
 By CSO Gladys Dorgett - Branch IIA, Team #10

In March 2000, when our agency first centralized into the PSA model of community supervision, I was transferred to the NWFU assigned to PSA 312. Captivated by the quaint architecture of the blocks of massive Victorian houses that were located in PSA 302, I began to do some historical research on the people that once lived there. I began a serious quest examining records in the Washingtonian Room at MLK Library, at the DC Historical Society, and reading books, articles and archival documents on Washington's neighborhoods. I started to share this information during group meetings with offenders on my caseload as a tool of heritage, pride and behavior modification. As we celebrate National Black History Month, I hope the information I found will be of interest to you too.

Located primarily in PSA 312, 311, and 303, north of Florida Avenue (formerly Boundary Road) and Rhode Island Avenue, and south of W Street between 2nd and 6th Streets, LeDroit Park (literally means *right* in French), one of the oldest Black middle class neighborhoods outside the original city of Washington, was named after the son of its developer, Amzi Barber, a white faculty member at Howard University. In dire need of funds after the 1873 depression, the university sold two parcels of land, one to the city for a reservoir, and the other to Barber and Partners.

My research also revealed that the original residents of this exclusive neighborhood were Caucasian, and orna-

mental gates fenced it in. In 1888 an angry Black mob, sick and tired of this divide, tore the fence down only to have it rebuilt days later. In 1901, the gates that blocked direct access to downtown for Howard University students, was finally demolished.

After World War I, LeDroit Park became one of the most fashionable black neighborhoods in the country, and was home to distinguished individuals who made significant contributions to every facet of our culture and struggle for equality such as, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Anna J. Cooper, Dr. Ernest Just, Robert and Mary Church Terrell, The Honorable Oscar DePriest, Dr. Garnet C. Wilkerson, John and Julia West Hamilton, Senator Edward Brooke, Former Mayor and Mrs. Walter Washington, Fountain Peyton, and Langston Hughes, just to name a few.



LeDroit Park, Photograph by Amahl Grant
 © 1998

The deterioration of this once prominent neighborhood began with desegregation in 1954 and accelerated into the 1990's when the middle class left for the allure of suburban neighborhoods, and drugs and urban plight

reigned supreme. As everything comes full circle, today recidivism is on the decline due to CSOSA's positive impact on the offender population, and a whole new generation of residents are coming back to help revitalize the grandeur of this historic neighborhood.

The Special Observances Committee
 invites all CSOSA & PSA Staff to join
 in celebrating the

75th Anniversary
of
Black History Month

with a program entitled:

**“Reflections from the past...
 Legacy for the future:
 A Salute to Black Washingtonians,
 Neighborhoods, Institutions and Culture”**

Tuesday, February 26, 2002
 633 Indiana Avenue, NW
 6th Floor, Rooms 4A/B
 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Featured Keynote Speaker:
Professor Edward C. Smith
 Director of American Studies
 American University

Refreshments will be served.

For more information:
<http://csosaweb>

CSOSA / FAITH COMMUNITY MENTOR ORIENTATION MEETING

During the weekend of January 11th through January 13th, CSOSA and its partners in the District of Columbia's faith community joined together in a Day of Re-Entry Worship to launch a ministry of support and assistance to the reported 2,500 offenders who will return to the community from prison this year. Mentor recruitment was named the first cooperative initiative of the CSOSA / Faith Community Partnership. On Thursday, February 7th, CSOSA hosted its' first mentor orientation meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to reinforce the re-entry program's principles and expected outcomes and to discuss the roles, responsibilities and expectations of those who choose to become mentors. The meeting was held at Israel Baptist Church in Northeast DC where potential mentors gathered in standing room only numbers to show their willingness to rise to the challenge.

During the meeting, CSOSA offered attendees a video presentation which provided additional information on the CSOSA / Faith Community Partnership as well as information on the importance of mentorship as it relates to offenders returning to their community. Associate Director of Community Supervision Services, Thomas H. Williams, was on hand to give a brief overview of the functions of Community Supervision Officers, the community supervision process and the role mentors will play in that process. Guest speaker and Mentor, Ms. Delores Q. McCarter, reinforced the significance of mentorship with her own personal testimony to the impact that community ties, especially those which are faith based, can have on offenders.

As the meeting came to a close, prospective mentors stood to offer praise of the CSOSA/Faith Based Initiative. The attendees were also equipped with several questions and concerns. One church representative asked how long the mentor/mentee relationship would be expected to last. Another asked what autonomy the individual churches would have in forming their individual mentoring programs. Some even had concerns about the recommended criteria sited for potential mentors. Reverend Donald Issac, Chairman of the Faith Based Advisory Board answered many of the audience's questions and assured supporters that through constructive thinking and collaboration, the faith community will inevitably succeed in helping those in need.

There is still much work to be done to create a broad-based support system to help re-integrate ex-offenders into the community. However, this month's mentor orientation meeting provides positive evidence that the CSOSA/ Faith Community Partnership is on the right path to a major breakthrough.



CJP Staff Facilitate Mentor Sign-up Sheets



Associate Director Tom Williams explains Community Supervision



Potential Mentors & Partners



Mentor Delores McCarter gives encouragement to prospective mentors



Members of the Faith Community locate their church on the PSA Map provided by CSOSA

Office Updates



2002 CONFERENCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Submitted by
Training Liaison Manager
Frances Washington

April 28 - May 1, 2002

Association of Paroling Authorities
Annual International Conference
Salt Lake City, Utah
www.apaintl.org

May 19-21, 2002

National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
2002 Annual Conference
Scottsdale, Arizona
www.naatp.org/index2.htm

June 12-15, 2002

National Drug Court Professionals
Annual Training Conference
Washington, D.C.
www.nadcp.org

August 19-25, 2002

National Black Police Association
30th Annual Education and Training Conference
Los Angeles, California
www.blackpolice.org

August 26-30, 2002

Blacks in Government
Atlanta, Georgia
www.bignet.org



All travel outside the local commuting area must be approved on a Travel Authorization Form at least **45 days prior to the training/conference's early registration deadline.** For

example: If the training class you want to attend has an early registration deadline of June 1st, you must have your travel request approved 45 day prior to June 1. The Authorization Form must be initialed by your immediate supervisor and forwarded to the Office of Financial Management (Except CSS staff must go through Patricia Cox's Division). **Travel done without prior approval can result in the traveler being responsible for the full travel expenses without reimbursement from the government.**

For more information, please contact Frances Washington at 585-7409 or Pereuna Johnson at 220-5435.

SAFEGUARDING YOUR AGENCY CELL PHONE

By Lisa Terry, Assistant General Counsel

For those of you who have been provided Agency cell phones to perform your duties here at CSOSA, it is not inconceivable that the phone could become lost or stolen. The Office of Procurement is responsible for deciding, in the case of a lost or stolen cell phone, whether the employee should be required to reimburse the Agency for the loss. The Office of the General Counsel (OGC) handles employee appeals of decisions requiring an employee to provide reimbursement. In the past two months, OGC handled two such appeals. Since the cases were not clear cut and in one case the employee was required to reimburse the Agency, we have decided to provide forewarning to those who carry Agency cell phones.

CSOSA's policy on the use of cell phones requires that employees take the necessary steps to care for and safeguard the phone (*see* Administrative Policy 001 located on CSOSA's Intranet site; for the community supervision staff, the policy is also located in the CSS Administrative Operating Procedures Manual). Sounds simple enough, but the concept of what constitutes proper safeguarding of a cell phone can elude the average



person and had many of us in OGC in heated debate. Is it enough to store your cell phone in an unlocked cabinet or to leave it in your purse in a locked office? What happens if you store it in an office area where offenders constantly trickle in and out?

The standard OGC has adopted to determine whether an employee should be required to reimburse the Agency is one of negligence or recklessness. In other words, if we find that your actions in caring for the cell phone rose to the level of negligence or recklessness, which led to it being lost or stolen, you will be required to reimburse the Agency in full for your phone (roughly \$76.00). This inquiry is very fact-specific and the results will vary. Thus, until CSOSA issues further guidance on the issue of storage, we *strongly* recommend that you keep your Agency cell phone *on your person at all times* while you are on duty. This will significantly decrease the chances of your cell phone being lost or stolen

CSOSA SUCCESS STORY : COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AT WORK

By Michael A. Scoloveno, Community Supervision Officer
Branch IIB, Team #14



The partnership with the Metropolitan Police Department is an extremely important aspect of my position as a Community Supervision Officer. With the assistance of my PSA Officer, Anthony Ruchak, we have reduced recidivism dramatically among the offenders that I supervise. On weekly occasions, Officer Ruchak, Lt. William Farr and I sit down for “information sharing sessions” to discuss various crime trends that are occurring in PSA 702. Lt. Farr explained that he would request my assistance during the evening hours because that is when most criminal activity occurs in the PSA 702 area. During these hours I would be able to make sure that offenders on parole or probation are in compliance with their conditions of community supervision. On 1/13/02, I was riding with members of the 7th District Surveillance Team to help identify suspects and make sure that offenders were not committing criminal activity. As soon as it began to get dark, we witnessed more and more criminal activity starting to occur. While I was riding with Officer Finkelman, a member of the surveillance team, I noticed one of the offenders under my co-worker's supervision walking down the street. I also remembered that this offender had outstanding warrants for felony escape and probation violations. As I pointed out the offender to the officer we turned around the block. As the officer and I approached the offender, he was ordered to place his hands on the fence and not to move. The officer searched the offender for safety and took him into custody. A .22 caliber loaded revolver was found in the offender's pants pocket. This arrest enabled us to get a loaded weapon as well as a violent individual off the street. This experience further proved that communication between the Metropolitan Police Department and CSOSA must occur on a regular basis. As two law enforcement entities, we can help reduce crime and make the streets safer for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

FENG SHUI:

DESIGNER'S UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF FACILITIES

By Joyce Bein, Space Management Specialist

Feng what? Feng shui! **Feng shui** is an ancient Chinese philosophy that has recently become very trendy in the western world. Literally translated, the term means “wind” and “water” and is pronounced “feng shway”. Its basic foundation relies on a belief that spiritual, natural, and manmade elements are linked, and that we can enhance our health, wealth and spirit by shaping their physical characteristics and placement. Although things like this can be taken to the extreme, the underlying feng shui principals are interesting from a facility planner's point of view...allow me to paraphrase:

There are three major concepts in feng shui:

- 1.) The flow of energy
- 2.) The balance of yin and yang (male/female)
- 3.) The interaction of the five elements in the universe:
Fire, earth, metal, water & wood



Another area of attention is regarding the shape and placement of architectural elements, such as stairs, doors, windows, and fireplaces. There is also an emphasis on the placement of freestanding items such as furniture, pictures and mirrors.

Other interesting tidbits found within this school of thought are:

- a.) Color selections can be strong space and spirit enhancers
- b.) Energy flows in wavy lines, like streams or breezes
- c.) Clutter elimination allows for the free flow of energy
- d.) Plants are life + they cleanse and oxygenate the air



This is a very broad look into the ancient Chinese custom of feng shui! It is thought that this approach can enhance the harmony and balance in our living and environment!

For more on feng shui, visit your local library or visit www.FengShuineews.com on the internet.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Voni Ross – Office of Security

Did you know that you can request a copy of the background investigation that was conducted on you by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)? All you have to do is send a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to OPM at the following address:

**Office of Personnel Management
P.O. Box 618
ATTN: FOIA
Boyers, PA 10618**

Within your request you must include your complete name, SSN, as well as the date and place of your birth, and include a statement that you are employed by the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency. The request must include your signature and complete mailing address (do not use a P.O. Box).

OPM will respond to you in writing and you should receive your copy of the background investigation within 4-6 weeks.



MORE UPDATED INFO ON LOCAL TRAVEL

Submitted by Danita Smith, Financial Specialist
Office of the Director

Effective January 21, 2002, the reimbursement rate for privately owned vehicles (POVs) has increased from **34.5 cents to 36.5 cents per mile**. The mileage rates for motorcycles was increased from **27.5 cents to 28.0 cents per mile**. The listing of the past year's POV rates are as follows:

Effective January 1, 1995.....	\$0.30
Effective June 7, 1996.....	\$0.31
Effective September 8, 1998.....	\$0.325
Effective April 1, 1999.....	\$0.31
Effective January 14, 2000.....	\$0.325
Effective January 22, 2001.....	\$0.345
Effective January 21, 2002.....	\$0.365

REMEMBERING CSOSA'S ANGEL TREE PARTY

By Aida Hasaballa, Program Analyst
Office of the Deputy Associate Director
Community Supervision Services

This past December, a group of CSS Staff took a journey to Walker Jones Elementary...a trip that truly touched the hearts of all of us. Armed with our Santa hats, gifts and goodies, we spent the afternoon with a group of 3rd graders, listening to music, sharing warm thoughts, opening gifts and watching the children's' faces glow with happiness, excitement and cheer (I think our faces glowed just as much). The celebration was the culmination of CSOSA Staff's generosity in adopting Walker Jones Elementary students as part of the *Angel Tree Program*. It is hoped that this is a first of several efforts to make a positive impact on the children at Walker Jones. CSOSA extends it's gratitude for all those who helped to make last year's event special.



Employee Focus



**MANAGING TO MAKE IT WORK:
BARBARA SPENCER**

By Erika Evans, Office of the Associate Director, CSS

One might wonder how Barbara Spencer keeps her cool...at least I did. When I first met Barbara, her first words to me were, "Excuse all this paper work". She then began to explain the significance of each stack of files on her desk. It became instantaneously clear how she kept her cool; she kept it all very organized!

Barbara Spencer is the Drug Testing Operations Manager at both the Taylor Street and South Capitol Street field units. As such, she is responsible for making sure drug testing protocol is followed at both sites. Primarily, she ensures that the sites are manned properly and that testing occurs from beginning to end without breaking the chain of custody.

Barbara was born in North Carolina, but she spent most of her young life in Lexington, Maryland. She attended Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland where she earned a degree in Criminal Psychology.

Barbara has been with CSOSA for two years now, and she has a wealth of experience in drug testing management, but she hasn't always worked in the criminal justice system. Prior to coming to CSOSA, she worked for the Air Force, where she managed two drug-testing units: one at Bolling Air Force Base and the other at the Pentagon. Barbara worked within the U.S. Department of Defense for 17 years before she began to seek other experiences in the criminal justice field.

Making the move to CSOSA has been very rewarding, she admits. Although there are still a lot of challenges to overcome, she believes in CSOSA's mission. Barbara believes that drug testing is a good deterrent for illegal substance abuse and she appreciates the Agency's efforts toward treatment. She says she has witnessed drug testing unit staff morale go up significantly as a result of employees becoming more aware of the significance their work has in the overall desired outcome. The work she and her staff members perform is hard work, but she says working with such a supportive, team-oriented group of professionals makes it much easier.

Meeting the demands of her busy schedule, sometimes traveling between sites 2 or 3 times a day, Barbara is working extremely hard in support of the Agency's goals. She is committed and focused on her tasks and deserves much praise.

Keep up the great work!

**ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH CSOSA
AS OF 01/31/02**



- Bonnie Andrews
- Calvin Brown
- Aida Hasaballa
- Cedric Hendricks
- Tanya Johnson
- Lawrence Jordan
- Charles Kirkland
- Sherron Mason
- Shawon Parker
- Sean Polk
- Yolanda Stokes
- John Young

NEW EMPLOYEES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY



Office of Community Justice Programs

Halle Williams, Jr.

Office of Facilities

Linda J. Ellis

Office of Community Supervision Services

- Carla Hodge
- Latisha Moore-Jones
- Ashley Sims

FIVE YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE



- Thomas Bateman
- Sharon Barnes-Durbin
- Danny Knight

TEN YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE



Nicole Robinson

TWENTY YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE



Rosalind Leggett



HEALTH & FITNESS

SLEEP HYGIENE : TIPS FOR BETTER SLEEP AND ALERTNESS



Did you know our health, happiness and ability to succeed in life are strongly dependent on how well we meet our bodies' needs for rest and quality sleep? Yes, sleep is vital! Yet and still, many people in our modern work-driven society have poor sleep habits and develop poor "sleep hygiene". Because of the demands of our personal and professional lives, sleep has been relegated to a dangerously low priority. Medical professionals warn; sleep is neither 'dispensable' nor an option! Going without sleep is not "macho" and it doesn't make you invincible either. Instead, it is a self-destructive BAD HABIT. According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, potential consequences of sleep deprivation and poor sleep include the following:

- *Shortened life spans and higher mortality rates.*
- *Increased risk of heart disease and stomach problems.*
- *Irritability, depression.*
- *In some cases, explosive outbursts and mood swings.*
- *Increased risk of high speed highway crashes.*
- *Decreased work performance and memory lapses.*
- *Marital, social and employment problems.*

What are the basics of good sleep hygiene?

○ **First and foremost, protect your need and right to sleep!**

Ensure adequate time in bed, free from interruptions and demands

Most adults require 7.5-8 hours of sleep.

○ **Keep regular sleep habits!**

Erratic sleep habits prevent training of the "biological clocks" in our brains that help control our alertness and ability to sleep.

○ **Go to bed prepared to sleep!**

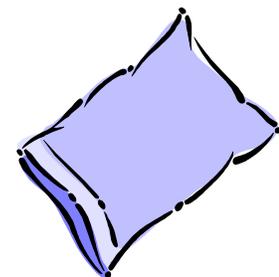
Don't allow yourself to lie in bed worrying about problems or challenges of the upcoming day. Avoid large meals and excessive fluid intake that may provoke poor sleep or indigestion.

○ **Make sure your bedroom is conducive to good sleep!**

Ensure a dark, comfortable, quiet environment.

○ **Don't sleep too long!**

Avoid oversleeping and lying in bed for prolonged periods after your sleep is completed (in the absence of illness, of course).



Finally -- if you still are excessively tired (or if you are accused by others as being too sleepy)--or, if your sleep is still poor and fragmented, despite all the above measures, be sure to find out whether you have a sleep disorder! Sleep disorders are extraordinarily common. They are often associated with serious complications. And they tend to be extremely treatable.

Remember...

WORKPLACE SLEEPINESS HURTS EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ALIKE.

Bad sleeping habits can cause decreased productivity, increased irritability, increased health concerns, and increased risk of accidents and injuries.

So, do yourself and your colleagues a favor...GET SOME SLEEP!

*All information adapted from the Columbus Community Health Regional Sleep Disorders Center
(Accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine)*

VARIETY PAGES



Carter G. Woodson

THE HISTORY BEHIND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied or even documented when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population - and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time. Woodson decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history.

A Harvard trained Ph.D., Dr. Woodson dropped out of mainstream academia to devote his life to the scientific study of the African experience in America, Africa and throughout the world. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. The week expanded to a month in 1976 through the efforts of the renamed Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History.

The month of February is significant and recognized in African American history for the birthdays of great African American pioneers and institutions. These include the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Eubie Blake, NAACP and the first Pan African Congress. Historians may also recall that the first African American Senator, Hiram Revels, took the oath of office in February 1870.

Today, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Black History Month is a nationally and internationally celebrated event in which we bear witness to the progress, richness and diversity of African American achievement. For more information on Dr. Woodson and how you can celebrate Black History Month in the DC Metro area, visit the *Black History Highlights* at <http://dc.about.com>.



BLACK HISTORY US POSTAGE STAMPS

Black Americans have made important inventions and discoveries, created great works of art, and excelled in science, music, medicine and sports. They have played important roles in America's history. All Americans need to know about these important people. The accomplishments of these black heroes can help us all realize how these Black Americans overcame obstacles in order to reach their goals.



Throughout the years, the United States Postal Service has tried to preserve America's rich history and culture through its commemorative stamp program. The Postal Service has issued Black History-related stamps to commemorate black men and women who have contributed to America's history and who have made a difference.

In 1940, Booker T. Washington became the first black American to be

honored on a U.S. postage stamp issue. Since then, other Black Americans have been honored as individuals and/or depicted as representatives of their race in different categories such as civil rights, sports, science, and music on U.S. stamps.



Submitted by **Michelle L. Gaskins**
Information Technology Trainer,
Office of Training and Career
Development Center

Bulletin Board



BABY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drug Testing Technician Keith Hook and his wife are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Alyssa Hook, born February 12, 2002 at 12:15 p.m. Alyssa weighed 8lbs 7oz and was 20 inches long.

Father, mother and baby are doing fine.

CSO Felissa M. Johnson gave birth to baby Daelin Bruce Johnson on February 9, 2002, at 2:52 p.m. Baby "J" weighed 7lbs 13oz and was 19 1/2 inches tall! Mom and baby are doing well. Felissa and her family send everyone warm wishes and thanks for your kind thoughts.

CSO Denetra Thompson Frye gave birth to baby Delia Arjay Frye on February 1, 2002 at 4:47 p.m. Little Miss Delia weighed in at 6lbs 11oz
Congratulations!

New Title for DC Superior Court Commissioners

Pursuant to a recent administrative order signed by the Chief Judge, all **DC Superior Court Commissioners** are henceforth to be referred to not as Hearing Commissioners, but as Magistrate Judges. Please be sure to make the appropriate title change in any listings of judicial employees that you currently keep.



CSOSA sends condolences to **FOIA Specialist Tina Clagett** in the Office of General Counsel. Tina lost her father this month and we send our deepest sympathy to her and her family.

CSS ANXIOUSLY AWAITS the RETURN

OF

Shelvy Davis
Thecla Gaines
Curtis Nelson
LaStell Minor-Creighton



OUR **heart felt** thoughts go out to the employees who are not with us due to illnesses/recuperation.

WELCOME BACK!!!

Executive Assistant Christine Keels

The Illegal Substance Collection Units extends congratulations to **Drug Testing Technician Rufus Parker**. On 12/21/01, Mr. Parker received his Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice Technology from Prince George's Community College. He is currently working toward his Bachelor's Degree at Bowie State University. *Keep up the great work!*



Birthday Wishes

Best Wishes to **Leon Johnson** (2/4), **Edna "Sue" Lawson** (2/7) and **Rochelle Toyer & Regina Scruggs** (both 2/8) .



OHR would like to wish **Jack Jackson** (2/6) and **Sherry Harrison** (2/28) a Happy Birthday!



A special birthday wish to **Stephanie Gray** who celebrated another 365-day trip around the sun on February 7th.

- Love from Michelle Pelzer

Happy Birthday to all!!!



Newslink Quote of the Month

*I was raised to believe that excellence is the best
deterrent to racism and sexism.
And that's how I operate my life.
- Oprah Winfrey*

Submitted by Michelle L. Gaskins

Do you have an interesting quote you
want to share? Contact the Newslink
and spread the word!

Note from the Editor:

This includes another edition of the CSOSA Newslink! Sincere thanks to all who continue to offer input and helpful suggestions to improve and develop our Agency's newsletter. A special "thank you" to all those who submitted articles this month. As we end the month of February, look forward to highlights of CSOSA's Women's History Month Celebration in March.

If you would like to contribute to the March edition, please contact me. An Agency-wide e-mail announcing the deadline for submissions is forthcoming.

With warmest regards,

Erika N. Evans

Office of the Associate Director, CSS

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**COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER
SUPERVISION AGENCY FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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