Dr. Timothy Rutz served his first 40 years in the medical profession and has since dedicated himself to providing spiritual guidance to more than 4,000 men at the Bexar County Adult Detention Center. Dr. Rutz provides countless hours of spirited services to the inmates of the Bexar County Adult Detention Center. The Bexar County Sheriff’s Office staff, inmates, and community are grateful for his dedication and volunteerism.

His life’s work was practicing medicine in the field of Anesthesiology and his passion is to help those in need. As a medical doctor, he worked with the TIME for Christ’s Medical Mission to set up a mobile operating room that he would take into Mexico. The TIME for Christ Mission, Inc. has a number of projects, including the TIME for Christ Jail Ministry which operates inside the Bexar County Adult Detention Center in San Antonio, Texas. Initially, Dr. Rutz became involved with jail ministry through the Touch Ministry that serves drug addicts. Dr. Rutz has financially supported the salaries of TIME for Christ Chaplains at the Bexar County Adult Detention Center for the past 30 years.

Dr. Rutz spends approximately 632 hours a year teaching spiritual classes and visiting inmates in Special Management units; he also spends more than 400 hours a year developing bible lessons for inmates. He begins his day at 7 a.m. dividing inmate request forms according to unit, and prepares his list for daily inmate visits. Dr. Rutz teaches discipleship classes, visits the inmates in one-on-one meetings, and provides literature to lift their spirits.

Dr. Rutz takes his volunteerism seriously and performs his job duties with precision and a caring heart.
Kathy Patterson
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
South West Detention Centre—
Ontario Ministry of Community
Safety & Correctional Services
Maidstone, Ontario Canada

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Kathy Patterson is the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, as well as the sole Administrative Assistant to the South West Detention Center (SWDC) Senior Administrative team consisting of five Deputy Superintendents, five Staff Sergeants, the Manager of Health Care Services, Security Manager, Food Services Manager, and a Maintenance Manager. A highly effective and professional administrative assistant, Ms. Patterson exudes an unsurpassed amount of energy, motivation, and sincerity with a genuine desire to support the needs of the organization she serves. She is AJA’s first international award recipient.

Ms. Patterson was part of the SWDC team when the centre was in its infancy—from design concept through construction—to the opening of its doors in July 2014. During the construction and development stage of the SWDC, she scheduled and organized planning meetings, ensured project team deadlines were met, and coordinated the often competing activities of the internal and external stakeholders. Prior to the SWDC opening, she administratively managed a very complex project plan, supporting several working groups consisting of security, rehabilitative programs, healthcare, maintenance, and finance. In her role, she ensured all of the necessary elements were in place to support the creation of a state-of-the-art, modern correctional facility.

In its first year of operation, the SWDC engaged in 17 staff events involving SWDC employees and several community agency partners. As of December 2015, the SWDC had raised over $6,500 to support several community causes including women’s shelters, youth special needs programs, local school programs, Alzheimer’s society, and food drives to name a few. Ms. Patterson is typically in a leadership role surrounding these fund raising & staff engagement events. When she’s not leading and organizing the event, she is behind the scenes baking, cooking, and supplying the elements to make events truly special and memorable.

The SWDC and Ontario Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services is fortunate to have Kathy Patterson as a civilian member of their correctional team.
Correctional Officer of the Year

Jay Rodacker
Jail Classification Officer
San Joaquin County Sheriff’s Office
French Camp, California

Sponsor:

Officer Jay Rodacker has been an exemplary employee of the San Joaquin County Sheriff’s Office for 13 years. He has nearly three years of experience working as a line staff Correctional Officer, two years working as a Custody Training Officer, three years working as a Custody Training Officer assigned to the STC Core Training Program, and is currently in his sixth year working as a Jail Classification Officer.

Ofc. Rodacker is a true example of what a Correctional Officer represents. His ability to skillfully communicate with others, handling all situations like a consummate professional, being consistently objective, and always striving to better himself, are the highlights of his career qualities. He is a team player, always making himself available to supervisors and continues to contribute to the Custody Division’s organizational goals. Recently, Ofc. Rodacker’s hard work and dedication were recognized in a Letter of Commendation.

Ofc. Rodacker’s desire to represent his profession in a positive and professional manner is above and beyond what is expected of him when he is on duty. He regularly volunteers to speak to and conduct tours for local high school and college students who are exploring careers in law enforcement. He consistently demonstrates that he genuinely cares about his career, his coworkers, the San Joaquin County Sheriff’s Office, and everyone who strives to make correctional facilities and communities safer. He displays initiative, resourcefulness, and outstanding professional ability in all aspects of assigned duties and/or projects that he participates in.

Officer Jay Rodacker is an invaluable source of information for the San Joaquin County Sheriff’s Office. His devotion, dependability, and ethical conduct set the example for Correctional Officers nationwide.
CORRECTIONAL TRAINING
OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Tyler Graham
Corrections Deputy
Thurston County Sheriff’s Office
Olympia, Washington

Sponsor:

Tyler Graham started his corrections career in 2005 when he attended the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Academy. He excelled in the academy, taking and passing every offered elective class. Elective classes are above and beyond the academy minimum standards and include topics such as gang identification and ground survival. Upon his return, Graham easily navigated his field training program. His trainers noted that Graham was “an exceptional deputy” and “a positive influence on others.”


In 2012, the agency opened a new $41 million facility the required the orientation and re-training of more than 116 employees. Ofc. Graham was selected to be part of that team, developing curriculum in Direct Supervision, Inmate Behavior Management, and new facility knowledge; he accomplished this in addition to his regular duty assignments.

Earning his State certification as a Level 1 Handgun Instructor and then earning his Level 2 in 2014, Ofc. Graham has instructed many employees and always receives positive evaluations. He joined the Field Training Program in 2015 and has already contributed towards the program’s improvement. He routinely reviews case law as it relates to his certifications, providing updates to the administration and incorporating those updates into his training material. He has developed curriculum and training metrics for a wide variety of skills including firearms, deadly force, cell entry, restraint chair, and pepper ball guns.

Ofc. Graham has a true passion for training. He puts everything into ensuring that the material and instruction are the best it can be. His dedicated commitment to professionalism and quality training are paramount to Thurston County Sheriff’s Office.
After graduating high school and attending basic training for the Illinois National Guard, Sgt. Pacha started his career as a Correctional Officer at 19 years of age with the Illinois Department of Corrections, working at the maximum security prison in Pontiac, Illinois. In 1985, he was hired on as a Correctional Officer with the McLean County Detention Facility (MCDF) and enrolled at Illinois State University earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice Sciences.

Sgt. Pacha has had a lasting impact with many accomplishments over the past 30 years at the MCDF. It is said by many at MCDF that you cannot perform daily routine activities without touching something Sgt. Pacha has created, changed, or been an integral part of at some point throughout his career. He created templates converting all handwritten forms to being completed via computer, including workbooks used by Shift Commanders to generate payroll, attendance records, and computerized scheduling of all three shift rosters and vacations. When developing the scheduling process, Sgt. Pacha suggested instrumental changes in the Transportation Units Schedule that resulted in the department saving thousands of dollars in overtime.

After assuming the role of the Jail Training Officer Supervisor and attending the Field Training Associates training program, Sgt. Pacha developed a training program customized for MCDF along with a comprehensive training manual and all associated documentation to support it. Being a major talent to MCDF, his greatest asset undoubtedly lies in his day-to-day operations accomplishing the department’s goals in his supervisory skills. He is a great role model, mentor, coach, and is always available and approachable. A firm believer in cross training, he gives everyone the opportunity for educational advancement within the facility.

Having developed the current policy and disciplines to adhere to the Illinois County Jail Standards, Sgt. Pacha continues to update the MCDF Jail Training Program, where he serves as the Supervisor of the department. He has foregone opportunities for promotion because he enjoys being a first line Supervisor—a position he has held longer than most in the profession spend working for an entire career—he is a great ambassador for the corrections profession.
CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE YEAR

Raul S. Banasco
Chief Deputy/Jail Administrator
Bexar County Sheriff’s Office
San Antonio, Texas

Sponsor:

Chief Deputy Raul Banasco was appointed to the position of Jail Administrator of the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office in San Antonio, Texas in June 2013. He is an accomplished senior level correctional leader with 30 years of experience in city, county and State government agencies as well as nonprofit corporations.

Chief Deputy Banasco has spent the past 30 years in the field of juvenile/corrections field as a public servant. He has been and continues to dedicate to the field of public safety. During these many years he has been involved both at the local and State level. In 2003, he was one of the founders of the National Organization of Hispanics in Criminal Justice, serving as President from 2006 to 2009.

In 2015, Chief Deputy Banasco became the Vice President of the Texas Criminal Justice Association. In addition to serving on various local, State and national boards, he always finds time to give back to his community by way of service projects or by mentoring others. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor with University of Texas at San Antonio and Texas A&M University at San Antonio with students who are obtaining a college education and career in the Corrections field. In addition to serving in the correctional/law enforcement field, Banasco is an active member of several national and local professional organizations including the American Jail Association and American Correctional Association Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force. He is the current chair of the American Correctional Association Affirmative Action Committee and serves on the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents Board of Directors.

Chief Deputy Banasco meets every challenge, and is reflective of a leader with vision for today’s operational requirements, as well as planning for the future. He provided the strategic and operational leadership to the Bexar County Commissioners Court, which resulted in approval of a $32 million project to reconfigure the entire jail complex. He is an agent of progressive change and his leadership is single-handedly changing the culture, and putting his agency in the national spotlight in a very positive way.
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