



From left, **Alicia ROCHA**, **Miranda SCOTT** and **Misty BEATY**, coworkers who all mentor at area schools during their lunch breaks.

Mentoring local kids

1 lunch break a week makes a difference

They dedicate just 30 minutes a week, during lunch breaks, to listen and help young students navigate the twists and turns of life. Yet the rewards from those noontime talks keep growing, just like the kids they mentor.

Misty BEATY, **Alicia ROCHA** and **Miranda SCOTT** work for Judge **Johnny LEWIS**, Justice of the Peace Precinct 3-1, spending their work days tracking court settings and case files that pour into their office on East Park Boulevard in Plano.

But once a week during the school year, each of these women stops in at a nearby elementary school lunchroom to share some time with kids in need of an interested ear and occasionally, sound advice that they might not be able to get at home.

“They need mentors because they do not have that outlet in their lives,” says **Misty**

BEATY, Judge Lewis’ court administrator for the last five years.

“A mentor is the one person they can count on to be there when they say they’ll be there, listen when they just need to listen, and give constructive mentoring when it’s necessary.”

Misty was introduced to mentoring at the encouragement of Judge Lewis, and has worked with her young charge all the way through elementary school.

In those five years, the two have formed a trust that helped her “kiddo” balance grades and manage anger, as well as problems away from school.

“It took almost the whole first year to get more than a few words out of him during our short meeting times,” Misty says. “Now, it’s 90-to-nothing and I love every word that comes out of his mouth.”

Court Clerk **Alicia ROCHA** mentors a 2nd-grade girl who underwent some behavior problems as her parents separated.

“I initially rejected the idea of mentoring because I was afraid of getting too attached to someone else’s child,” Alicia says. But a 10-minute talk with the little girl changed her mind, Alicia said.

“On the first visit to the school, she saw me and gave me the biggest hug and smile; that right there was assurance that I had made the correct decision.”

For Alicia’s student, many a noon talk centers around improving classroom behavior but the real work seems to be letting the girl talk about her day and cementing their trust with what they call “pinky promise secrets.”

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Twenty-Fourth Successful Jail Inspection

June brought another record-setting jail inspection for Sheriff **Terry BOX** and his staff.

The annual inspection marked the 24th consecutive year for the Collin County Detention Facility & Minimum Security to pass all 600-plus requirements mandated by the *Texas Commission on Jail Standards*.

Inspectors **Fred St. AMANT** and **Mark WILSON** arrived unannounced on June 20, for the annual jail inspection.

Their three-day visit focused on compliance in over 600 areas of responsibility under Texas minimum jail standards.

The purpose of the inspection is to ensure that every Texas jail is in compliance with state and federal standards, thus providing a safe and secure environment for both inmates and jail staff.

Passing this annual inspection is a requirement to receive state certification. Sheriff Box offered his thanks for the hard work, commitment, and pride it



takes to carry on the tradition.

"For the 24th consecutive year, the dedication and professionalism of the Detention Staff and the efforts of the County's Maintenance personnel have resulted in another successful inspection," Sheriff Box said.

"I would personally like to thank the entire Detention Facility Staff and employees for their individual contribution toward the success of this recent inspection. Thanks for a great job done by everyone."

From the Facilities side of the matter, Director **Dan JAMES** described the inspection as a great feat, due to the rigorous preparation in maintenance of the facility to meet the state standards.

These are just a few of the areas that had to be met: Jail cells, intercoms for communication between the inmates and pod officers, lighting, security cameras, water temperatures, toilets, the fire and smoke evacuation system, life safety equipment, gen-

erators, documentation pertaining to fire extinguishers, grease trap cleaning, the fire hood suppression system in the jail kitchen, backflow and fire panel inspections, and elevators inspections.

James thanked Facilities Maintenance Technical Coordinator **Terry BABBITT** and his staff for their diligence throughout the year in overseeing the detention facility.

He also thanked Facilities Maintenance Technicians and Sheriff Box and his staff for their combined efforts in the accomplishment.

New kids on the block

Juvenile Probation and the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program have moved into their new building on the main county campus, across the parking lot from Juvenile Detention. The address for the new facility is 4690 Community Ave. While JJAEP shares the same building with Juvenile Probation, it has a separate entrance on the south end of the building. All phone numbers remain the same.



Beyond the Green Screen

New finance system will integrate with County's other major systems

By Greg ELLIOTT

Representatives from the Collin County Audit, Budget, Purchasing, and Treasury departments recently chose the SunGard *ONESolution* Finance system to replace the financial components of the existing HTE application.

The new system provides updated functionality for procurement, financial tracking and payment processing.

The application will integrate to the existing *PeopleSoft* and *Odyssey* systems to better automate processing between the major systems deployed within the county.

With *ONESolution*, the county will take advantage of "out of the box" integration to the systems which will remain on the HTE platform, such as Work Orders, in the short term.

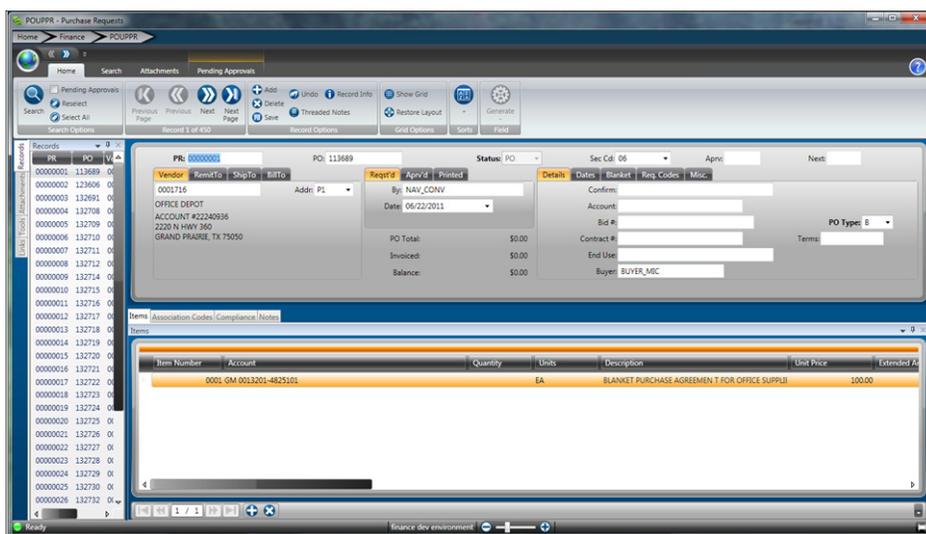
The project got underway in late April when SunGard implementation special-

ists arrived at the county to begin training representatives from the leading departments.

This core project team is working diligently to understand the intricacies of the new system while reviewing our existing business practices.

As the team delves further into the project, and the configuration of the *ONESolution* system takes shape, members of the team will begin to develop "sneak peeks" of the system screens, reports and workflow tools to give our county teammates a sampling of how life will look beyond the green screen.

Check out the accompanying screen shots below for a preview of how the new system will look.



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Their toughest conversation, Alicia says, seems to be saying goodbye for summer breaks.

Mentors can't solve their students' every problem and, as much as they might like to increase their contact and influence, the program's boundaries limit their influence to the noon sessions. As stunted as that sounds, these brief sessions can bring positive results for both student and mentor.

Miranda SCOTT, in her third year as a clerk in the court, was introduced to mentoring through Misty, and hasn't looked back since being assigned a little girl at the first of the year.

"They come from all sorts of backgrounds where someone – a parent, family member or guardian – has let them down, or even hurt them," she says.

"Over time, she has opened up to me and has let me in more and more each week. Now, when she sees me, she just starts talking and doesn't seem to hold back at all. She has become more confident in herself and what she can do."

Miranda notes that there is a reason these kids have been partnered with adult mentors: "They all need someone to just be there for them, that they know without a doubt they can trust with whatever is going on."

But for the obvious joy of being a positive influence in a young student's life, all three mentors say their lunchroom experiences have left them something they didn't bargain for.

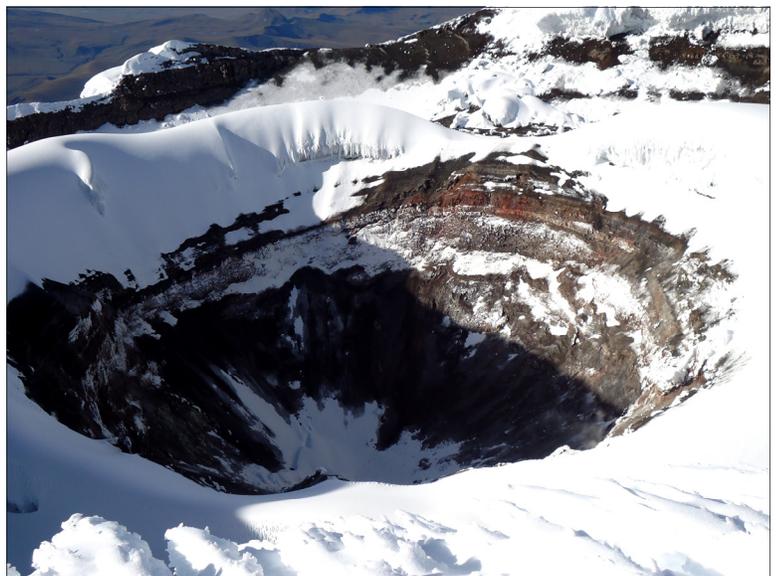
As Misty puts it: "I cannot explain the blessing my kiddo has been for me. He has touched my heart in so many ways and taught me so many things about myself. I can only hope that I have given him just a glimmer of what he has given me."

For those interested in mentoring young students, most school districts outline mentoring programs – with applications – on their websites, such as those in [Plano ISD](#), [Frisco ISD](#), and [McKinney ISD](#).



Slippery slope?

May be not, since Facilities Maintenance's **Greg SULLIVAN** packed his crampons and ice axe for a June climb of *Cotopaxi*, a 19,348-foot volcano in Ecuador. One of the tallest active volcanoes in the world, *Cotopaxi* is tucked into the Andes about 17 miles from Ecuador's capital, Quito. Greg's climbing group planned to scale another nearby volcano, *Cayambe* (at a mere 15,387 feet) but bad weather turned them back. While the *Cotopaxi* climb was certainly the highest elevation Greg has trekked so far, the electrician has made it to the top of almost two dozen 14,000-foot-plus peaks in the continental U.S. As is his custom above, he does a handstand at the summit. Top right, Greg takes a break on the ascent, which began a little after midnight. Right, is *Cotopaxi's* caldera, which last erupted in 1975.



County Clerk Anniversaries

10 Years: **Kara ADAMS** started her career in the jail, and then transferred to the County Clerk's office where her current position is Deputy Clerk II, Court Clerk, County court at Law 3.



5 years: **Jessica LIKNESS** is the Functional Analyst for the County Clerk's Office and has been a huge asset for getting Odyssey implemented in the County Courts.



CSCD Anniversaries

5 Years: **Nina BARRETT**, Supervision Officer in Plano;

5 Years: **Lori ADAMS**, Supervision Officer in Plano;

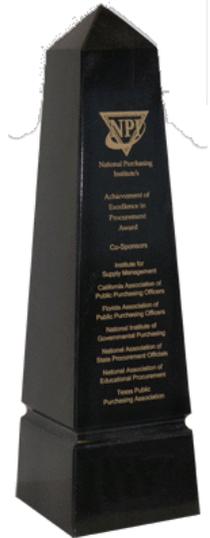
15 Years: **Robbin GILBERT**, Supervisor at UDCF.

Purchasing lauded for 9th time

Collin County's Purchasing Department has — again — received the *Achievement of Excellence in Procurement* award for 2011 from the National Purchasing Institute.

Purchasing Agent **Frank YBARBO** and his staff are only one of 35 government agencies in the state, and one out of 41 counties in the country, to receive this award. Collin County has received the award for 9 consecutive years.

The award recognizes organizational excellence in procurement by measuring innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity, and leadership attributes of the procurement function.



New Teen Court manager

Julieta MONGE is the county's new Teen Court coordinator, stepping into the position earlier this summer. Julie is a native of Frisco who earned her Bachelor's from University of Texas at Dallas and is working towards her Masters at Southern Methodist University.

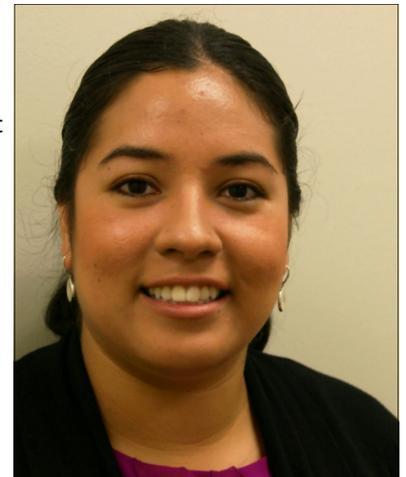
Julie and her husband love to travel, and she enjoys cooking and reading. She claims to make "killer Mexican food," and frequently brings samples to her coworkers in Administrative Services.

Julie manages two or three court sessions a week, recruits volunteers — both teenaged and adult — for the program, and monitors the progress of the kids placed in the post-adjudication program.

"I love my job because I get to work with at-risk youth, and then, on the other extreme I get to work with the high achievers who volunteer their time to be on the Teen Court team," she says.

The Teen Court program involves hundreds of local students who volunteer to serve as jurors, prosecutors and defense lawyers, as well as a large group of adults who give their time to oversee court sessions where young defendants are sentenced by their peers for committing various small crimes such as truancy, shoplifting, fighting, underage drinking and traffic violations.

If you'd like to volunteer to help Julie on court nights as an adult volunteer, or your kids need a place to carry out community service, call her at Ext. 4654.



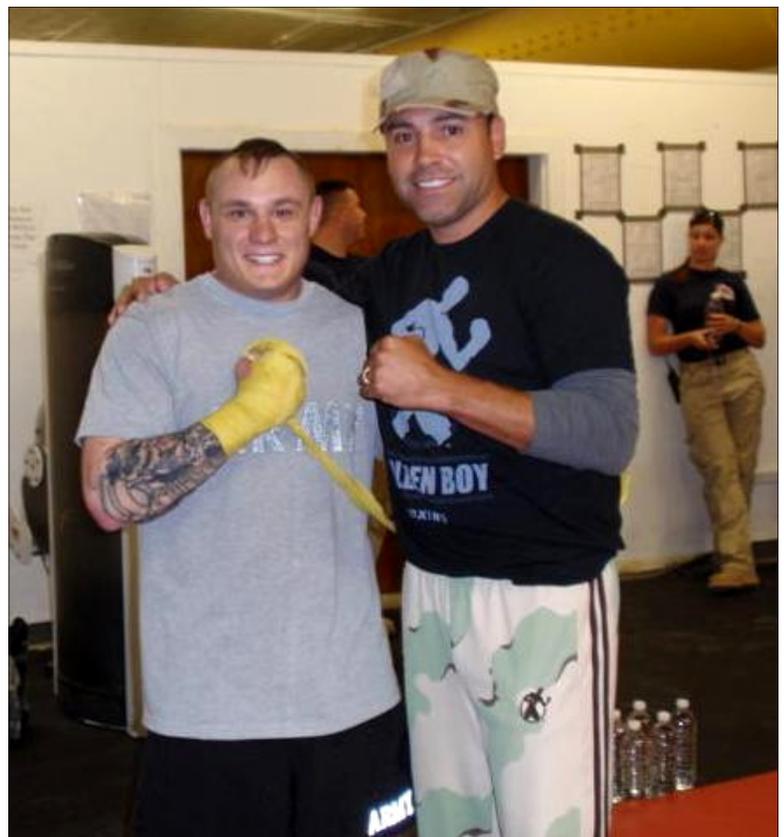
Sustained Excellence

County Historical Commission members are congratulated on their eighth straight distinguished service award from the state historical commission during Commissioners Court in late May. Presenting the award is County Judge **Keith SELF**.



A few punches at the Champ

Cody McCOLLUM, son of **Monette McCOLLUM** in the District Clerk's office, is serving his third deployment in Iraq with the 144th Infantry Division. Recently, while working out in the base gym, Cody drew a surprise sparring partner in the form of **Oscar De La HOYA**. Monette says Cody has boxed most of his life, winning several national championships. So when the retired 6-time world champ dropped in unexpectedly at the base gym, he put on the mitts and let Cody take a few shots.





Peace Officer Memorial Service

The Plano Police Department hosted the annual Peace Officer Memorial Service on May 19 at Haggard Park in Plano. Collin County law enforcement officers & families gathered to remember those who lost their lives in the line of duty. The Collin County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard had the honor of participating in the memorial service. Plano Assistant Chief of Police **Ed DRAIN** read the names of 19 Texas officers killed in the line of duty in 2010, along with local area officers who lost their lives. As each name was read, a Plano Police Officer filed past to place a rose in the memorial wreath. The ceremony ended with a 21-gun salute and taps by the Plano Police Honor Guard.



Swearing-In & Promotion Ceremonies for June

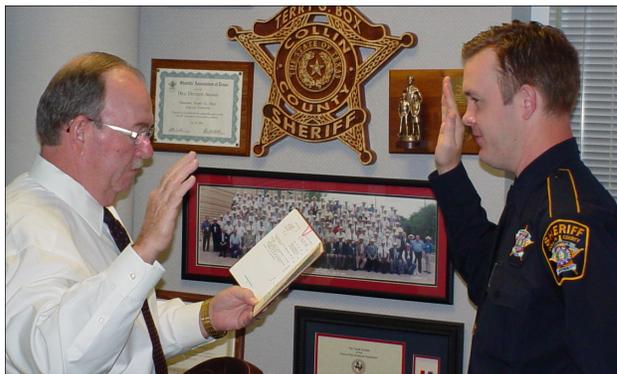
The month of June was a busy month with several ceremonies in Sheriff Box's office.

On June 7, 2011, Sheriff Box swore in new Detention Sergeant **David BARNETT** (right), whose promotion became effective on June 27th.

In a ceremony the following day, the sheriff congratulated the new Transfer Deputy **Jeremy CHANDLER** (lower left).

He will receive his law enforcement certification and be sworn in after completion of the Jail Academy.

On June 15th, Sheriff Box swore in two of the new Reserve Deputies, **Tyrone ACTKINSON** (upper right) and **Stefanie FOSTER**. Deputies Actkinson and Foster were each congratulated by Sheriff Box and presented their Deputy's badges.



Announcements/Classified

Kayleigh Brooke ROBERTS

was born Monday, June 13th, 2011, in Norman, Okla., weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and measuring 21 inches

long. Proud parents are **Chris and Amanda ROBERTS**; proud grandparents are **Paul and Cece LEGGIERI** (County Clerk's office).



Brooke BAILEY graduated May 13, 2011, from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Brooke is the daughter of **Brian and Gloria BAILEY** (CSCD).



Marcus BAXTER, son of **Sheryl BAXTER** (DA's Office), has been accepted into the *Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine*. After graduating from *Texas A&M University* last December. After passing the MCAT test, Marcus received his acceptance letter from OCPM on July 1. Sheryl and husband Allen are extremely proud.



Classified Ads

PUPPIES: AKC Registered English Bulldog puppies available. Call **Maureen METCALF**, Ext. 4232.

WANTED: Running and non-running riding mowers; call 214-726-5780.

CANDLES: Go wickless and enliven your senses with Scentsy! With no flame, smoke or soot the Scentsy wickless candle system is a safe way to enjoy over 80 fragrances. Host a home or basket party to earn free products! Contact **Dena FISCHER** at 972-415-1353.

TABLES: Oak coffee and two end tables; in great condition. \$75 for all 3. Call if you want dimensions; 214-578-6221.

CANDLES: Scentsy Wickless Candles are great gift ideas. This great product is also good for your office since there are no open flames. Go to my website at www.scentsy.com/jenniferbrooks and check out the Latest/Greatest thing. Order online or call me with an order. I will be happy to help you out. 469-323-4681.

TABLE: Contact 903-436-2928 for this table. It's less than a year old but too small for the new house. \$250 OBO.



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Please submit your articles, anniversaries, announcements, classified ads, good deeds and atta-boys (and girls) in plain text email to: publicrelations@collincountytx.gov.

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