

# PI Events

A monthly publication of news and views at Person Industries  
www.personindustries.com

January 2012



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## Christmas Party Brings Merriment to PI Employees



**SANTA GIVES OUT GIFTS**



**BRADLEY PERFORMS IN TALENT SHOW**

Employees from all worksites and community employment were invited as well as special friends of PI such as counselors, case managers and former staff members.

PI thanks everyone who assisted with the party both in actual planning and through monetary contributions.

The 2011 Christmas Party was held on Friday, December 23, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This means the party began as soon as employees arrived and they did not leave until it was over!

The Employee Christmas Party is an annual favorite for the PI family. Always ready for a party, the employees wholeheartedly participate in each part of the party program. This year's event included some of the usual activities like dancing, exchanging of gifts and a visit from Santa. But back by popular demand was the talent show that allowed any participant to showcase their performance abilities. And showcase they did, with uninhibited singing, dancing and poetic recitations.



**L TO R - TARSHA, WENDY, EMILY AND ASHLEY PERFORM A DANCE ROUTINE IN TALENT SHOW WHILE TALENT SHOW ORGANIZER JUDITH CASSEDAY AND DJ JOHN WILLIFORD LOOK ON.**

## Ozell's Work Days End With Retirement

After 26 years at PI as a work floor instructor and then habilitation assistant, Ozell Barnett retired from PI effectively on December 30, 2011. However, because of the holiday, her last day of actual work was December 23, 2011. As per the usual when a member of the PI family retires, they are not allowed to go quiet-



**OZELL BARNETT**

ly. And because of what she means to us, Ozell had to spend a portion of her last two workdays in retirement/farewell ceremonies in her honor.

On Thursday, December 22, PI staff held a retirement lunch in her honor where Ozell was presented

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ January 7, 2012 marks 27 years since PI opened to the public.
- ◆ PI netted \$1,111.49 on stew sales.
- ◆ PI thanks everyone who contributed to the 2011 employee satisfaction activities.



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## Karen Strum Ends 30 Years of Service with OPC



**KAREN STRUM, OPC BILLING SPECIALIST**

The end of 2011 saw an end of work life for Karen Strum, Billing Specialist for OPC LME.

Karen has been a friend of PI since our program opened in 1985. At the time, she was employed as Office Manager for Orange Industries, a program similar to PI but located in Orange County (Hillsborough). At the time, both Person Industries and Orange Industries were operated by Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Substance Abuse Authority (now OPC LME) and located in Chapel Hill.

Karen, who had been with OPC since 1981, was instrumental in helping train the PI office managers. We say “office managers” because during the first year of operations, PI went through three office manag-

ers until Veronica Wilkerson was hired in October 1985.

Veronica Wilkerson, now PI Business Officer had this to say of Karen, “When I started to work at Person Industries in 1985, I was new also to OPC therefore did not understand the reports or reporting structure. Since my position was the only one of its kind at PI, I was sent to Orange Industries to meet with Karen Strum as a part of my orientation process. I found her to be the most knowledgeable and kindest person as well as an excellent professional resource.” Since that time, Karen never wavered in her willingness to help PI and any other program.

Through the years, Karen changed jobs as a result of changes at OPC. After Orange Industries became a private enterprise and left OPC, Karen moved to the Family Counseling Center in Hillsborough and from there to the OPC administrative offices. She also kept in contact with PI and continued to

be there whenever we needed her.

To show appreciation of this stalwart employee, OPC hosted a retirement celebration for her on December 15, 2011 at the OPC Administrative Offices in Chapel Hill. Wanda Rogers, Director of PI and also friend to Karen Strum, was one of the



**KAREN STRUM (CENTER) FLANKED BY PI STAFFERS YUVETTE FARMER AND WANDA ROGERS AT HER RETIREMENT CELEBRATION.**

featured speakers. Wanda spoke about what Karen means to PI and read quotes from other PI staff who knew and worked with her.

We congratulate Karen and lament over the loss of her and the tremendous knowledge that goes with her.

### Contributors to the 2011 Employee Appreciation Activities

- Arc/Person County
- Becky Rogers
- Carol Rockwell
- Charles Barden
- Cheryl Clayton
- Daniel & Jean Featherston
- Donald Bowes
- Effie Solomon
- Harold Kelly
- Howard Whitfield
- Paul & Ruth Adams
- Radford & Nancy Garrett
- Rita Allen Satterfield
- Roxboro Civitan Club
- Roxboro Savings Bank
- Thursher Winstead

**Thank You!**

## Ozell's Work Days End With Retirement

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with gifts and words of appreciation for her enormous contribution. Ozell is the ONE person at PI who can quote the mission statement on demand. For that distinction, she was presented with gifts bearing the PI mission statement. She was also asked to appoint a successor to the role of “mission quoter”, to which she chose Yvette Farmer.

Ozell was also honored by participants in the PI programs of service on that same afternoon. There she received a plaque

noting her years of outstanding service and of course, the PI Mission Statement. She was also presented with flowers.

Ozell will now enjoy a life of semi-leisure as she will work on a part-time basis at Person County Group Homes.

Congratulations Ozell!

For more on Ozell Barnett, see the November 2011 issue of PI Events.



**OZELL RECEIVES FAREWELL HUGS FROM THOSE WITH WHOM SHE HAS WORKED FOR MANY YEARS WHILE HER SUPERVISOR, JUDITH CASSEDAY LOOKS ON.**

## Yvette Farmer Sounds Off About Safe Practices for the Warehouse



YUVETTE POINTS OUT PROPER HEIGHT FOR WAREHOUSE STORAGE

### Know How to Stay Safe

All warehouses need good housekeeping to be safe. Aisles should always be unobstructed—if not, they may block evacuation and cause falls. Likewise, slippery, wet, or icy floors frequently cause falls. Unstable or uneven

walking surfaces need to be repaired, and all areas should have adequate lighting.

Storage areas should have stable, sturdy shelving to prevent injuries from falling items or shelving collapse. Furthermore:

- All storage should be appropriate for the types of materials to be stored.
- To prevent injuries, where possible, common items should be stored at heights that do not require excess stretching or bending by workers.
- Some hazardous materials may require special storage

conditions.

- All containers must be clearly labeled, including any necessary warnings.

Powered equipment reduces worker injuries, but it presents its own hazards, such as these:

- Workers can get caught in conveyors or run down by forklifts.
- Operators of powered equipment need special training to operate it safely.
- Never try to operate powered equipment without proper training.
- If your workplace has a conveyor, everyone needs to know how to shut off the equipment in an emergency.
- Don't even think of riding on a conveyor—it's never safe!

*Excerpted from the NC Industrial Commission Safety Bulletin*

## Robbie Loftis Named Employee of the Month

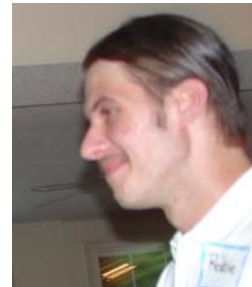
Keen eyes are very necessary in the role of inspector and Robbie Loftis has demonstrated that his are keener than most.

Robbie, an employee of PI working at the Eaton Roxboro Plant, was hailed by Eaton for picking up on a very small crack in a part he was inspecting. Although the crack was small, the consequenc-

es of letting the problem go unnoticed was enormous. To show that this ability was not an incidental ruse, Robbie found a similar problem with a part the very next day! For Eaton, this was enough to call a halt to the line until they could figure out where the problem originated. So it was with great appreciation that

Eaton looks upon Robbie Loftis, even calling PI to recommend he receive recognition for his excellent work.

PI is very proud of Robbie's achievements at Eaton and has chosen him as the Person Industries Employee of the Month!



ROBBIE LOFTIS  
PI EMPLOYEE OF THE  
MONTH

## PI Moves to LED Lighting

Thanks are in order for the new lighting at Person Industries. Through several weeks in December, Person County General Services transitioned PI from fluorescent lights to the new LED lighting. LED lighting is considered more energy efficient and therefore more cost effective. The building has also moved to motion sensors to activate lights in rooms used infrequently.

Person County, according to General Services Director Ray Foushee, has received a grant to transition to LED lighting and PI was one of the first sites to be upfitted.

PI staff are now enjoying brighter workspaces which according to some reports also contributes positively to work moods. The lighting also promotes a more safe work environment.

## It's Not Too Late to Take the Flu Shot

Although flu season lasts from October to May with most cases occurring between late December and early March, the flu vaccine is usually offered between September and mid-November. Getting the shot before the flu season is in full force gives the body a chance to build up immunity to, or protection from, the virus.

Even though it's ideal to get vaccinated early, the flu shot can still be helpful later. Even as late as January, there are still two or three months left in the flu season so it's still a good idea to get vaccinated.

The shot is recommended for those who risk developing serious complications from the flu and those who care for them. This recommendation therefore includes PI program participants and staff.



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# TRAINING DAY AGENDA

Presenter	Topic	Time
	Breakfast	8:00 – 8:30
Wanda Rogers	General Business & Risk Management	8:30 – 9:15
Becky Clayton	Client Rights, Confidentiality & HIPAA Grievance, Person Centered Thinking	9:15 – 10:30
	Break	10:30 – 10:45
Gregg Ingram, NCHP	Safe Driving	10:45 – 11:45
	Lunch (on your own)	11:45 – 1:00
Roxboro Fire Department	Fire Suppression & Hazard Recognition	1:00 – 1:45
Lisa Jeffreys	Workplace Violence	1:45 – 2:15
	Break	2:15 – 2:30
Tonya Hamm, PT	Back Safety	2:30 – 3:00
Becky Clayton	Employee Wellness	3:00 – 3:15
Veronica Wilkerson	Customer Service	3:15 – 3:30
Veronica Wilkerson	S & H Competency Test	3:30 – 4:00

## PI Closed for Staff Training Day

Person Industries will be closed on Friday, January 13, 2012 for a day of training for Staff. The training will be held at Piedmont Community College in Room S100 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## CARF Survey Scheduled

PI will undergo an accreditation review on February 13 - 15, 2012. The accreditation is a process that demonstrates that PI has met standards for the quality of its services. CARF International establishes these standards to evaluate how well PI is serving people and how we can improve.

# JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 PI closed for New Year's Holiday	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 County Commissioner's recognize Ozell Barnett	10	11	12	13 PI closed for Staff Training Day	14
15	16 MLK Day PI & PCRC closed	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				