



THE WESTERN CRIMINOLOGIST

Fall 2003

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

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From the President

Angel Ilarraza Fuentes

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I sit down to address the membership of the Western Society of Criminology via this edition of *The Western Criminologist*. I consider it an honor and I thank the WSC membership and the Executive Board for granting me the opportunity to share some news about our organization, its current Executive Officers, the upcoming annual conference and some of my personal thoughts regarding the uniqueness of the WSC.

The 30th Annual Conference of the Western Society of Criminology held in Vancouver, Canada was an unequivocal success. Informal feedback gathered by the Executive Board suggests that the conference location, hotel accommodations and food were all significantly well beyond expectations. It was a true pleasure to be in Vancouver and I cannot wait for the WSC to return. Cheers to both Paul Brantingham, former past president of the WSC and Neil Boyd, current Executive Board Officer for facilitating such wonderful accommodations in Vancouver. With regard to the conference program, once again it accurately reflected the unique constituency of the WSC membership. The theme of the conference was *Pathways to Partnerships*. The Keynote address was given by Jamie Graham, Chief of the Vancouver Police Department. He reminded us that often times the very process of achieving successful partnerships is met with resistance. This is particularly so when the partnerships are innovative and do not represent the politically correct rhetoric about drugs and crime. In addition, panelists including criminal justice practitioners and policy advisors, academic researchers and students, presented their research.

The new WSC Executive Board for 2003/04 is composed of the following members: Cynthia Burke at SANDAG is Vice President/President-elect; Executive Counselors are John Berecochea, California Department of Corrections (retired); David Huizinga, University of Colorado; Gisela Bichler, California State University, San Bernardino; Neil Boyd, Simon Fraser University; Sue Cote, California State University, Sacramento; Carrie Petrucci, California State University, Long Beach; Brenda Vogel, California State University, Long Beach. Serving as Counselors-at-large are William Feyerherm, Portland State University; Les Smith,

Tarrant County Administrator's office; Melanie Tennant, student counselor from California State University, San Bernardino; and John Vivian, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. Mike Day and Miki Vohryzek-Bolden continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer and Editor of *The Western Criminologist*, respectively. Libby Deschenes, California State University, Long Beach, is Past President. Our outgoing board members are Paul Brantingham, Finn Esbensen, and Linda Humble. We graciously thank the outgoing members for their work with the WSC board.

The 2004 conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Long Beach, CA. The theme of the 31st Annual Conference is "*Criminology and Practice: Expanding the Horizon of Collaboration.*" We hope that you plan to attend and help the WSC continue its tradition of welcoming local community leaders, criminal justice practitioners, academic researchers, and students. Do your colleagues a big favor; make it a point to personally invite them to the next annual conference of the WSC. They will enjoy the conference program and the esteemed membership of our organization. They may even decide to come back the following year! (Don't forget to mention that the location for the '05 conference will be Oahu, Hawai'i). I hope to see you in Long Beach!

Admittedly, in comparison with many other members of this organization, my professional involvement and experience with the WSC is relatively limited. Nevertheless, I think that I am in a position to comment upon a few aspects of the organization that I view as providing me with a certain degree of pride and the motivation for my continued involvement. Among the many things that make the WSC more than simply yet another professional association is that all of us recognize that one of the unique facets of the WSC is the atmosphere usually present at the

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annual conference. In my view, this atmosphere can be described as friendly, welcoming, kind, professional, non-pretentious and above all truly enjoyable.

While the Executive Board relentlessly works hard at identifying and selecting conference venues that facilitate an “intimate” atmosphere, the root source of this atmosphere is clearly found within the WSC membership itself. In other words, it is you, the members of this organization that make it the pleasure it is. Over the years I have heard many others comment about how personable and cordial the WSC conference is. Personally, I greatly value this and I consider it a great honor to be part of an organization that is often identified by these wonderful qualities.

Lastly, this newsletter presents some commentary from years past. Miki Vohryzek-Bolden selected the following excerpts as vivid examples of the kinds of ideas about crime and criminal justice policy that are routinely shared via our organization. In a time where politicians often speak nonsense about drug and crime policy, I take great pride in the fact that the WSC as a professional organization acts as a forum for the sharing of alternative views about crime and criminal justice policy. Please enjoy!



From the Editor

As I reminisce over the years that I have been involved with the Western Society of Criminology, I value the many friendships developed, the opportunities for professional and personal growth obtained, and the richness of the dialogues that occurred both inside and outside the conference rooms. Since assuming the role as editor of *The Western Criminologist* in 1991, my goals were to provide the readership with articles that:

- ☆ recognize and reward student scholarship;
- ☆ expose our readers to issues covered in the conference as well as current topics of interest; and
- ☆ provide the membership with a publication they can be proud of and share with others interested in the quality of justice here and around the world.

It is my hope that these goals were accomplished over the last twelve years. Since I now recognize that I am becoming more and more like my mother! In the fact that I find it comforting to take stock of where I have been, this edition of our publication is devoted to a retrospective journey through the many issues and topics debated, discussed, and presented in *The Western Criminologist* over the years. You will have the opportunity to read excerpts from articles published in the newsletter. It is my profound hope that you enjoy the journey and come away shaking your head because we've come so far, yet not always learned our lessons.



A Blast From the Past!



Co-Founders Tom Gitchoff and June Morrison with Past President Janice Lowenberg at WSC Board Meeting, MGM Grand-Reno, October 20, 1984.

Spring 1981

Keynote speaker Honorable Judge David L. Bazelon of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C. made the following remarks:

- ☆ The current extreme public anxiety over street crime, encouraged by our officials at all levels of government and its criminal justice system, requires attention from criminologists. Certainty of arrest and swift follow-up can only be achieved by giving up our liberties, and our dollars, at a prohibitive rate.
- ☆ We already imprison more people than any other modernized nation, except Russia and South Africa. Those we do detain we do not know what to do with, for we do not know how to alter behavior. What is certain is that unless we change social conditions, a new generation of criminals will have developed while we still have the older ones locked up, and we cannot hold them forever. When they leave prison, they are usually worse than before.

September 1987

Professor Donal MacNamara, retired distinguished Professor of Criminology at New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice, stated in an interview that defense lawyers are "getting away with murder," through delaying tactics that contribute significantly to the log-jammed judicial system, the death penalty diverts attention from real crime issues, and the emotionalism over the war on drugs clouds the fact that drug laws are financing the underworld.

Fall 1991

Keynote speaker John Irwin, addressing his comments to the letters to the editor of a journal regarding a review of a book and the concern expressed by the book authors, wanted us to think about the following: Who in American science, particularly in criminology, has fabricated and enforced scientific findings and interpretations that were consistent with government ideology, and in so doing, advanced his own career?

He stated that one should never trust anyone who claims that their science is not influenced by their personal and political values and their self-interests. We must all recognize objectivity, though an honorable value, is unobtainable. The best we can do is pursue it honestly. But one of the preparatory conditions of its pursuit is constant attention to and revelation of our personal biases.

Second, he would be skeptical of any ideas that are consistent with the narrow interests of the more powerful and privileged segments of the society offered by persons who occupy or aspire to higher positions in the social class structure, government and academic institutions. Irwin also stated that we should be skeptical of ideas that suggest that stratification and poverty are inevitable, necessary evils, even beneficial for the society, or that greed is good, or that many people are unavoidably and deservedly destined for lives of poverty, crime, or other undesirable outcomes because of their genetic makeup or early formed personality structure. Irwin concluded by stating that, "I believe fully in the old adage, slightly corrected, that there but by the accidents of social circumstances go I."

Spring 1992

A Life of Crime: Criminology and Public Policy as Peacemaking was the title of the keynote address by Richard Quinney. He stated that "to be aware of the violence in our everyday life is a beginning in the move to a peacemaking criminology. But the outrage and anger we feel in this realization must be turned into an energy that promotes thoughts and actions of peace and goodwill." A compassionate criminology begins with the awareness of the interpenetrating nature of all things animate and inanimate. A Zen master notes: We are all of us interrelated, not just people, but animals too, and stones, clouds, trees.

"Where does this lead in our criminology? The objective is quite simple: to be kind to one another, to break down the barriers that separate us from one another, to live moment-to-moment our connection to all that is. The peace and social justice we seek comes in the realization of our interconnectedness – our oneness." Public policy is to be peacemaking. A compassionate public policy is a natural, effortless consequence of a compassionate criminology. Whenever and wherever we engage in public policy, we will think and act in the ways of wisdom, love and compassion. Out of an understanding so informed, we know what is to be done.

Fall 1992

Clarice Bailey, in her article entitled *Justice Reconsidered*, noted that while the great philosophers of the United States and Europe were postulating equality and fairness, framing constitutions and wording social contracts, subjugation and oppression were driving the policy action of the hour. We have carried and promoted this contradictory behavior into the present. Contemporary discussions and great debates have rarely been to the benefit of the underclass. Those with either no rights or limited rights, or those struggling to establish their existence as full-fledged humans continue to lose faith in their system of governance.

Several questions beg to be answered: How do we apply a consistent set of values that are reasonable to the reality we hope to judge, especially if those values are no longer reasonable when reviewed through alternate lenses? If our framework of justice was developed on Christian, Western European values and social mores, how are these interpreted and applied to a person whose values and views of life are different?

Fall 1993

The keynote address by Vincent Schiraldi with the Youth Law Center in San Francisco began with a heavy parable excerpted from *The Trial*, written by Franz Kafka in 1937. He went on to say: "I am finding the patterns of the past fifteen or so years with respect to California's and America's use of imprisonment disturbingly similar to those (e.g., Japanese internment, House UnAmerican Activities Committee) landmark collective moral lapses. I am also finding the response from the criminological community sorely lacking. The common reaction to the Kafkaesque doorkeeper as a functionary following orders to prevent the applicant from gaining access to the Law is one of disdain and abhorrence. I fear that unless we make substantial strides in our reform efforts, posterity will etch a similarly baneful epitaph on the gravestone of late 20th century criminology."

Schiraldi called upon the membership to take action; be the Earl Warren who wrote the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision; use the Western Society of Criminology as a forum for ideas and reform recommendations; and leak a particu-

larly interesting study, or better still, an inflammatory institutional incident to the press, maintaining anonymity and deniability. "I challenge you to do this because our prisons, our jails and our juvenile prisons are full of real people, with real lives, real families, real hopes and real aspirations. They feel real pain, they really suffer. We need to keep that uppermost in our minds."

Spring 1994

Dr. Lee P. Brown, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, discussed the role of research in the campaign against drugs in his keynote presentation. "Whether at the community or national level, the most effective policies for controlling crime and drugs are those that are firmly grounded in research. In my view, it is essential that public officials act on the basis of what is true and what is proven, not on what may merely be fashionable or politically expedient."

Spring 1995

Chuck Terry, then a graduate student in Criminology, Law and Society, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine won the student paper award for his work entitled *Socialization Processes of Prison Inmates and the Function of Humor in the Prison Environment*. The following excerpts from an interview with a young inmate and an older inmate with years spent in prison set the tone for his paper:

"There's a place where you're treated like cattle. You're branded, herded, and you're fed. When you come up missing, somebody is sent to find you. Like a cow that strayed from the herd, you're driven back. It is known among those who share this experience. But we laugh about it. Make jokes about it. If we didn't, we'd probably revolt. Nobody wants to take the time to think about the conditions we find ourselves in."

"You know, I realized that when I'm joking around all the time with the fellas, it's real cool. I mean it just seems like things are okay. But then, when I have to lay down at night, by myself, alone – it's different. You gotta have others to joke with. Otherwise, it doesn't work."

His review of the current literature on prison adaptation revealed the need to do further research to determine whether and to what degree inmates can and do express their feelings through humor. Humor may be the major social instrument used by prison inmates to adapt to the institutional setting and to manage this period between being a normal person and being a convict.

Spring 2000

First place June Morrison Student Paper Award winner, Barbara Mendenhall, then a master's degree student in Anthropology at California State University, Sacramento,

drew upon findings from a project to study youth gangs on the Navajo Nation. Her paper, entitled *Identity and Popular Culture Among Navajo Gang Members*, focused on factors of street culture and popular youth culture that shape identity of the Navajo Gang study recipients.

For Navajo youth, numerous forces of marginalization affect development of self-identity including: poverty, street socialization, loss of connection to Native culture and community, alienation from tribal government and institutions, lack of connection to pro social peers, negative and delinquent peer influence, and identification with popular youth culture. Mendenhall suggests that the involvement of Navajo youth in street gangs in the 1990s can be traced in large part to the history of culture conflict and culture change, and the resulting multiple marginality these circumstances bestowed on Navajo families and communities, and the Navajo tribe.

Fall 2000

Mara E. Libuser, graduate student in social psychology at the University of California, San Diego sent her note of appreciation: The June Morrison Scholarship helped me to attend my first WSC conference in five years, my first out-of-town conference, and my first conference in which I gave a presentation. I was very fortunate to have participated this year because of the informal and relaxed atmosphere of the Hawaii conference, putting my nerves at ease before my first presentation.

The 2000 Conference Program was dedicated to the memory of Wayne Matsuo, Fellow, Western Society of Criminology. Meda Chesney-Lind wrote that: Wayne Matsuo was a tireless worker for social justice in Hawaii. There was not a part of the youth service or corrections system that he hadn't worked in and yet his gaze was anything but parochial. Wayne's life was clear testimony to the observation that, "Real change is brought about by those who have both the vision and the power to effect it – hence, the most effective reformer is the person within the power structure."

Spring 2001

At the Spring 2001 conference, Advocates for Women in Prison (AWIP) led a panel on spirituality and activism entitled *Healing Through The Bars*. Their work includes projects and issues critical to our understanding and awareness of women caught in the justice system, in an effort to bring community focus and resources. They described the labyrinth as a powerful tool for meditation, self-discovery, and discernment for women incarcerated in prison. The history of the labyrinth in the United States began in 1990, when a project was initiated by a group of people from Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. They discovered an ancient and beautiful walking path, called a labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France. Their intent was to bring it to the United States.

The purpose of the project was to give people from all walks of life a place to retreat from the pressure of their lives, to have a place to reduce stress, quiet the mind, and open the heart. There are now labyrinths available for walking all over the United States, both in permanent locations and on 'traveling' canvas formats.

The labyrinth, usually 42 feet in diameter, has one path in and back out. There are eleven concentric circles for walking, with the twelfth being the center of the labyrinth. There are no tricks or decisions to make when walking. A person can enter the labyrinth path, walk the curving pathway to the center, stop for reflection and then return out by the same path. The labyrinth is a universal symbol, used by various cultures as a tool in their search for meaning and guidance.

Fall 2002

Lyudmila Alpern, Deputy Director, Moscow Center for Prison Reform, Member, Penal Reform International, and Visiting Scholar, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, wrote an article entitled *Elements of Culture in Selected Prison Facilities for Women in Russia*. "Visiting women's prisons always leaves a bitter aftertaste. Prison is no place for a woman, especially a Russian prison where an unbearable, cheerless feeling imbues the whole atmosphere. Yet women are festive creatures; they embellish their surroundings, bring joy, and inspire hope."



WSC Awards 2003

Recipients of the Western Society of Criminology Fellow Awards

2002-2003

Individuals Generally Associated With the Western Region Who Have Made Important Contributions to the Field of Criminology

Barbara Bloom, Cheryl Maxson, and Barbara Owen

Recipients of the Western Society of Criminology Awards

2002-2003

The Paul Tappan Award

For Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Criminology

J. David Hawkins and Richard F. Catalano

The Joseph D. Lohman Award

For Outstanding Service to the Western Society of Criminology

Paul Brantingham

The June Morrison-Tom Gitchoff Founders Award

For Significant Improvement of the Quality of Justice

Daniel Prefontaine

President's Award

For Contributions to the Field of Criminology and Positive Influence on the Current President's Career

Paul Tracy and Susan Turner

W.E.B. DuBois Award

For Significant Contributions to the Field of Racial and Ethnic Issues in Criminology

James Diego Vigil



Acknowledgment of Sponsors

The Executive Board of the Western Society of Criminology, on behalf of itself and all of the members of the association, wishes to express thanks and appreciation to all of the individuals and groups who supported the 2003 annual conference in Vancouver, Canada: College of Health and Human Services, California State University, Long Beach; Department of Criminal Justice, California State University, San Bernardino; School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University; and Jossey-Bass, A Wiley Imprint.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Western Society of Criminology 2004 Annual Conference

The 31st Annual Conference of the Western Society of Criminology is scheduled for February 19-22, 2004 at the Hilton Long Beach, Long Beach, California. The theme of the conference is "*Criminology and Practice: Expanding the Horizon of Collaboration.*" The Program Chair is Sue Cote, Criminal Justice Division, California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA, 95819-6085. Please contact Dr. Cote at scote@csus.edu or check out our website – www.sonoma.edu/cja/wsc/main/html for detailed information on the conference.

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