



THE WESTERN CRIMINOLOGIST

Fall 2010

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

Editor: Dr. Yvette Farmer, Criminal Justice Division, CSU – Sacramento, 6000 J St. Sacramento, CA 95819-6085



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Laurie Kubicek

California State University, Sacramento

What an incredible year this has been so far for the WSC! The Executive Board met in June and tackled a wide range of significant issues. We discussed at length ways to improve the organization's website by updating the graphic style and making it easier and more intuitive to navigate. The new site is up and running at www.westerncriminology.org. If you haven't had a chance to check it out, I hope you will - and while you are there, you can register for the upcoming Annual Conference in Vancouver BC. Special thanks to Hank for investing his time, energy and expertise and doing an incredible job on the new site!

Another important issue the Board moved forward on regards the *Western Criminology Review*. For about a year the Board has been reviewing, researching and thoughtfully considering a proposal brought to the WCR editors by Sage Publications. Sage's proposal is to publish the WCR. Members of the WSC would have free access to the journal which would continue to be published online. The Board has voted to move forward with the proposal from Sage. The factors that were most significant in bringing the Board to this decision were many: Sage has an excellent reputation in the field of criminology and criminal justice and the WCR would benefit from that connection, online tracking of submissions to a single location (would not move as our editorship changes), a standardized and electronic submission process, consistent publication - likely quarterly, significant support to our editors (copy editing, type-setting, etc.), no cost to the organization to make the transition, and the sale of the journal will generate income for the organization.

The Board's vote to move forward does not mean that in fact, the WCR will be published by Sage. Instead, what it means is that our editors will respond positively to Sage's proposal and Sage will in turn begin the process of approving the WCR for publication. The Board is very excited about the prospect of being affiliated with Sage and will keep you updated on the process as it continues along.

Serving the WSC this year has been a wonderful experience, which is just what I expected. I have had my hands in the process of planning the upcoming Vancouver conference for nearly two years now and I am so excited for February to arrive. I hope to see all of you in beautiful British Columbia in a few months!



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FROM THE EDITOR

Yvette Farmer

Our Fall issue includes an organizational update from the WSC President and information about our upcoming conference in Vancouver (see the Call for Participation in this issue). It also includes some thoughts about funding for corrections and education in *Miki's Reflections* as well as a high school senior's ideas about the influence of media on her perception of criminals—I hope both of these articles continue to challenge readers to critically evaluate important issues in criminology and criminal justice. I appreciate all of the contributions to the newsletter and if any of the articles motivate you to share your thoughts in an upcoming issue, please let me know.

This is *our* newsletter and I would like to encourage all of the readers to take an active role in sharing important ideas and information with our membership. The deadline for receipt of materials will be March 1st for the Spring issue and August 1st for the Fall issue. Ideas should be sent to:

Dr. Yvette Farmer

California State University, Sacramento
Division of Criminal Justice
6000 J Street
Sacramento, California 95819-6085
(916) 278-5062 (phone)
(916) 278-6487 (message)

I look forward to hearing your ideas, answering your questions, or addressing your concerns about the newsletter.



MIKI'S REFLECTIONS

Miki Vohryzek-Bolden

Almost three years ago, journalists and activists in California began to discuss a future scenario where funding for prisons would exceed the funding for our public universities. They were not too far off the mark. In March 2009, a Pew Charitable Trust report stated that in the past two decades, "...state general fund spending on corrections increased by more than 300 percent, outpacing other essential government services from education, to transportation and public assistance...Despite this increased spending, recidivism rates have remained largely unchanged."

In a June 28, 2010 Newsweek article entitled *Classrooms or Prison Cells?*, Pat Wingert states that "It may seem odd that state funding for college kids often competes with money for prisoners, but if you track spending in California over the past 30 years, you'll see evidence of a long-standing tug of war between these two very different constituencies. Over much of the past decade, funding for corrections has gone steadily up, while spending on state colleges has tumbled." The perception and belief is that California's prisons compete with schools for budget funds. How did we ever get here and how do we move forward?

Crime and sentencing are hot political buttons. Politicians are reluctant to appear 'soft on crime,' especially in an election year. There is a plethora of research that supports more community-based interventions for low-risk, non-violent offenders and for parolees accused of technical parole violations. We also know, however, that it only takes one parolee, especially one who might have been released a few weeks early, to commit a serious felony and the doors shut on any additional releases. How can we sustain incarceration costs that exceed \$50,000 per inmate per year in California?

The federal courts have also intervened on behalf of inmates to ensure that their constitutional rights are protected, resulting in some additional costs. This includes the appointment of a Prison Health Care Czar in California to address the medical deficiencies in our 32 state prisons. These medical-care expenditures are mandatory whereas higher education is a discretionary item that makes it more vulnerable to budget cuts. The University of California and California State University systems have resorted to relatively steep tuition increases and reductions in class offerings over the past few years to address reduced funding.

The crisis in California over prisons and higher education will continue for many years. There are no quick fixes; however, there are a few national efforts that might offer some 'best practices' that will help California align its spending on prisons and higher education with most other states, where prisons receive less funding than universities. The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has identified 'analyzing sentencing and corrections costs' as the top priority for state lawmakers in 2010.

The Pew Charitable Trust Center on the States 'Public Safety Performance Project,' in collaboration with the National Governor's Association, the NCSL, and the National Center for State Courts, held a conference in June 2010 on sentencing and corrections policies. The forum highlighted strategies that advance fiscally sound, data-driven policies in sentencing and corrections that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control corrections costs. Let's hope that our California politicians heed the recommendations that promote public safety, inmate rehabilitation, and protect our public universities.



HOW THE MEDIA HAS AFFECTED ONE TEENAGER'S PERSPECTIVE ON CRIMINALS

Olivia Zinsser, High School Student

As a teenager who is interested in the film industry, I watch a lot of television. A staple on the small screen is, of course, the crime show. I have noticed on these types of shows that the more heinous the crime, the more "normal" the criminal. For example, on this past season of *Dexter* the main villain was a friendly, church-going, family man. He lived in the suburbs and built houses for the less fortunate. He was also responsible for thirty years of gruesome murders. Other television series pick similar killers. On *Bones*, one of the serial killers was a federal prosecutor.

The criminals I see in the news seem almost as normal as the ones on fictional television shows. For example, the teens that are responsible for school shootings don't dress or act any differently than some of the kids I have seen at my high school. Other criminals do not always look like they are capable of the crimes they have committed. Some of them, like Scott Peterson, I would not give a second thought to if I passed them on the street. They do not always look like murderers.

I have not seen any criminals firsthand. I have heard stories and been around people who might qualify as delinquents. A few days ago, some classmates came to school so drunk that all or most of them left in a police car or an ambulance. I did not know them personally but they never seemed troubled in anyway. In July, I attended Comic-Con International, a place where people in the entertainment industry come to show bits of their upcoming projects to devoted fans. On the third day, two attendees got into a fight over a seat. No one was critically injured but someone was taken out of the room by EMTs. I did not see the fight or the people involved, however most of the people at Comic-Con seemed harmless and non-violent.

Most of what I know about criminals comes from what I have seen in the media and the stories I have heard about people at my school. Based on that, it seems like a criminal could be anyone. The guy who lives down the street could be a criminal. The lunch lady could be a criminal. There does not seem to be any real way to tell who is and who is not a criminal. If that is the case, than my question is how do we, as a society, identify the criminals in an effort to combat crime when we don't even know who they are and what crimes they have committed in our own neighborhoods?



AN INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND WORDS...

The scholarly exchange of ideas and experiences that takes place between academics and professionals in Criminology and Criminal Justice enriches all of us. If you feel strongly about a certain topic, would be willing to write about it, and believe that others would enjoy reading it, please consider sending me an article that I can publish in the newsletter. Your thoughts and words may inspire another person and should be sent to Yvette Farmer at drfarmer@csus.edu.



CALL FOR PAPERS

The *Western Criminology Review* is the official journal of the Western Society of Criminology, and we invite all presenters to submit their research to the journal. Published twice a year, *WCR* is an on-line, peer-reviewed outlet for scholarly research in all matters important to criminology and criminal justice. The journal is intended to reflect local (Western), national, and international concerns. Manuscripts are submitted electronically, and all correspondence is conducted online to speed up the review process. Due to the advantages of being an online journal, there are no page, color, or appendix restrictions; therefore, authors can include hypertext links and images at their discretion. Our evaluation process of submitted papers involves a brief internal consideration by editorial staff, followed by a blind assessment by at least two external reviewers. Replies and Comments to previously published articles are encouraged. All submissions should be formatted according to the journal's guidelines for manuscripts, which can be found on the *WCR* website at <http://wcr.sonoma.edu/>. Persons interested in submitting their work to the *WCR* should send inquiries to Leana Bouffard and Jeffrey Bouffard, Sam Houston State University. Send all new submissions via e-mail as an attachment to wcr98@hotmail.com.

Please Note: The editorial office for Western Criminology Review has moved to Sam Houston State University. The e-mail address above is new and should be used for all journal submissions and other correspondence.



COME JOIN US!

WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY
38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
VANCOUVER, BC – FEBRUARY 3-5, 2011



Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver
791 West Georgia St.
Vancouver, BC V6C 2T4
Tel: 604-689-9333
www.fourseasons.com/vancouver

Ski Bonus: The Four Seasons is extending the conference room rate to their property in Whistler, BC, for 4 nights pre and post conference!!!

Rate: \$175 CAD Per Night*
(\$143US as of 1/23/2010)

Group Affiliation to mention for Reservation:
Western Society of Criminology Annual Conference

*Rates are subject to availability. Direct reservations must be made prior to January 4, 2011

The Call for Papers appears in this issue, but you may also want to contact Program Chairs Dr. Gardiner and Dr. Kaplan, or our website www.westerncriminology.org for additional information.

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Dr. Paul Kaplan,
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We look forward to seeing you in Vancouver. Bring your passport!

**Submission Deadline for Abstracts is:
October 11, 2010**



PASSPORT REMINDER...

A passport is required when travelling from the U.S. to all international destinations (including Canada). If you need to obtain a passport so you can attend the 2011 WSC meeting in Vancouver, here is a link to information that should help:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

Although the time it takes to get a passport can vary, it is not unusual to receive your passport 8 weeks after you submit all forms and other required documentation.



STUDENT AWARD APPLICATIONS

The WSC encourages the active participation of students in the annual conference by offering the two following awards:

JUNE MORRISON TRAVEL AWARDS

To be eligible for the June Morrison Award, students must present a paper at the annual conference. To apply, send an email by October 11, 2010 to Charles Katz (ckatz@asu.edu).

MIKI VOHRZEK-BOLDEN (MVB) STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

This award allows students to have their papers reviewed by the awards committee, with the best paper submitted for review to the *Western Criminology Review*. Abstracts should be submitted to the appropriate topical chair by October 11, 2010 and a final paper should be emailed to Charles Katz (ckatz@asu.edu) by Friday, October 29, 2010.

To obtain additional details, please consult the submission guidelines for these awards at the WSC website.



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 3-5, 2011 • VANCOUVER, BC

❖ Please note that the deadline to send abstracts to topic chairs is October 11, 2010 ❖

<p>TEACHING ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CRIMINOLOGY</p> <p>John Hipp 2367 Social Ecology 2 University of California – Irvine Irvine, CA 92697 hippj@uci.edu</p>	<p>POLICING AND FORENSIC SCIENCES</p> <p>Dimitri Bogazianos Division of Criminal Justice CSU – Sacramento 6000 J Street Sacramento, CA 95819-6085 dbogazia@csus.edu</p>	<p>LAW, COURTS, AND SENTENCING</p> <p>Paul Kaplan School of Public Affairs San Diego State University San Diego, CA 92182-4505 pkaplan@mail.sdsu.edu</p>
<p>CORRECTIONS</p> <p>Matthew Hickman Seattle University Department of Criminal Justice 901 12th Ave. PO Box 222000 Seattle, WA 98122 hickmanm@seattleu.edu</p>	<p>JUVENILE JUSTICE</p> <p>Kristy Matsuda Criminology & Criminal Justice University of Missouri, St. Louis 324 Lucas Hall St. Louis, MO 63121 matsudak@umsl.edu</p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY OF CRIME</p> <p>Matt Nobles Washington State University Criminal Justice Program Johnson Tower 801, P.O. Box 644880 Pullman, WA 99164-4880 mnobles@wsu.edu</p>
<p>RACE, CLASS, GENDER, & CRIME</p> <p>Cassia Spohn School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Arizona State University 411 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004 cassia.spohn@asu.edu</p>	<p>SEX, ORGANIZED, AND WHITE COLLAR CRIME</p> <p>Charles Katz School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Arizona State University 411 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004 charles.katz@asu.edu</p>	<p>THEORY</p> <p>Mary Maguire Division of Criminal Justice CSU - Sacramento 6000 J Street Sacramento, CA 95819-6085 maguirem@csus.edu</p>

In deciding the most appropriate place to send your abstract, think about the main focus of your paper and how it might fit with the topic of the panel. For example, if your paper examines both race and juvenile issues, think about whether you would like to be placed on a panel with other papers discussing race issues or other papers dealing with juvenile issues and then send to the most appropriate topic chair. Electronic submissions are preferred to hard copies being mailed or faxed. All presenters are asked to submit an abstract of **150 WORDS OR LESS** to only one of the panel topics listed above. *In addition to the abstract, please include the name, mailing address, email address, and phone number for ALL authors on the submission for the participant directory.* Note that all presenters MUST pre-register for the conference by January 4, 2011.

(**continued on next page**)



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION!

Discounted conference rates will be honored on a 'space available basis' until January 4, 2011....so make your room reservations early! Information about the Four Seasons Hotel can be found on the hotel website (www.fourseasons.com/vancouver). To receive the conference rate of \$175CAD +tax/night, call 604-689-9333 and indicate that you are with the *Western Society of Criminology Annual Conference*. This code cannot be utilized to make on-line reservations. This rate will be available four nights prior and four nights after the conference at *both* Vancouver & Whistler Four Seasons locations subject to availability. **Note: no refunds for registration will be given less than 31 days prior to the conference.** For more information see: <http://www.westerncriminology.org/conference.htm>



STUDENTS

The Western Society of Criminology provides several opportunities for students in conjunction with the annual conference, including travel money and a paper competition. Please see the following for requirements and application information. *Application and submission information for all scholarships, awards, and competitions can be obtained by consulting "Student Information", which is in the "Conference" section of the WSC website (www.sonoma.edu/ccjs/wsc/conference.htm).*

June Morrison Scholarship Fund: The June Morrison Scholarship provides supplemental funds (\$100) to support student member participation at the annual conference. A maximum of five awards will be made to students attending the annual meeting of the WSC. In the event that there are more than five eligible applications, the awards committee will randomly select five recipients. To be eligible for the June Morrison Award, students must present a paper at the annual conference. Conference registration and membership dues must be paid prior to the scholarship being awarded. Please submit your application by October 11, 2010, to Charles Katz (ckatz@asu.edu).

Miki Vohryzek-Bolden (MVB) Student Paper Competition: Students are eligible to compete in a Student Paper Competition sponsored by WSC. Papers co-authored by faculty will not be considered. Appropriate types of papers include but are not limited to policy analyses, original research, literature reviews, position papers, theoretical papers, and commentaries. Students selected for this award will be recognized at the conference and will receive a cash award (\$125 for first place and \$75 for second place) and registration reimbursement. Additionally, if the award recipient desires, the best paper will be submitted for review to the Western Criminological Review. Abstracts should be submitted to the appropriate topical chair by October 11, 2010 and a final paper should be emailed to Charles Katz (Charles.katz@asu.edu) by October 29, 2010. Award winners will be notified in writing by December 1, 2010.

Libby Deschenes Prize for Applied Research: Throughout her career, Professor Libby Deschenes sought to strengthen the link between theory, research, and practice. This prize honors her dedication to informing policy through rigorous research. Students with an interest in applied research are invited to submit an application for the \$500 award. To apply:

1. Submit an essay, no longer than 750 words, indicating how you will pursue policy or applied research.
2. Submit a letter of support from a faculty member (must be emailed directly from faculty member to Awards Chair).
3. Application materials should be submitted electronically to the WSC Awards Committee Chairperson Charles Katz (Charles.katz@asu.edu) by December 15, 2010 (please put "Deschenes Prize" in subject line).

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