



THE WESTERN CRIMINOLOGIST

Fall 2011

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

Mary Maguire
California State University, Sacramento

Hello Members! I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying your summer in full swing! I have some good news to share about our upcoming annual meeting as well as a call for a new Board position.

This is a busy time for the WSC as we gear up for 2012 in Newport Beach. On February 16th we will gather at the beautiful Fairmont for three full and interesting days. Now is the time to begin thinking about submitting your abstracts! The conference has steadily grown over the past several years, and we are expecting a large number of papers in 2012. Please submit your abstracts early and encourage your colleagues and students to do the same.

Submitting your abstract will be easier this year! We are pleased to announce our new abstract e-submission process. The WSC website Conference page (<http://www.westerncriminology.org/conference.htm>) has user-friendly directions for making a paper or panel submission. Look for the “Present” option and click it to be walked through the easy submission process. The abstract submission deadline is October 10, 2011, and pre-registration for presenters must be completed by January 4, 2012.

New to our 2012 conference is a poster presentation. We especially encourage students to consider presenting their work in a poster format. This is a great opportunity to formally disseminate your work while talking informally to people about it. The poster session includes wine and cheese and will replace the Meet the Author session of previous years. We are hopeful that this will be an interesting and interactive alternative to an author presentation. Aside from promoting your scholarship, the poster session is a great networking opportunity.

Lastly, at the time of this writing the Board is seeking a new Treasurer. Historically, the positions of Secretary and Treasurer have been completed by one person. When I joined the Board six years ago, a student filled the role. Other Board members have covered for short stints, but ultimately Andrea Schoepfer took the mantle and has done an outstanding job. For many years the organization has discussed splitting the two roles of Secretary and Treasurer, and Andrea has confirmed for us that the time has come. We want to thank Andrea for the amazing and generous support she has provided the WSC. The role of Secretary will now be assumed by the Vice President, and the treasurer’s role will be assisted by increasingly more automated processes. Any member in good standing is eligible for the Treasurer’s position. If you are interested, please contact me or the WSC Vice President, Hank Fradella. (*cont’d on next page*)

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In the mean-time, we are looking forward to three days of interesting and thought-provoking conversation, networking and some pure pleasure, overlooking the water in beautiful and sunny Newport Beach. As always, please contact Board members with your feedback before or after the meeting. We are anxious to hear from you. See you February!



FROM THE EDITOR

Yvette Farmer

Our Fall issue includes an organizational update from the WSC President and information about our upcoming conference in Newport Beach (see the Call for Participation in this issue). It also includes some thoughts about education and employment in *Miki's Reflections* as well as some tips for avoiding identity theft. I hope the information contained in both of these articles continues 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

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Division of Criminal Justice
6000 J Street
Sacramento, California 95815-6085
(916) 278-5062 (phone)
(916) 278-6487 (message)

Please send your submissions to:

drfarmer@csus.edu

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



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT TREASURER

The Western Society of Criminology seeks a volunteer to serve in the position of Treasurer for a three-year term. The duties of this important Executive Board position include:

- Invoicing, receiving, and safeguarding all moneys of the WSC
- Managing the WSC's income and disbursements
- Drawing all warrants of the WSC and signing them for payment of the Society's expenses
- Otherwise overseeing the financial accounts of the Society

Although this position is especially well-suited for detail-oriented faculty members who need professional service for reappointment, tenure, and/or promotion purposes, all applicants will be considered regardless of membership status or faculty rank. Please send self-nominations to WSC President Mary Maguire at:

maguirem@saclink.csus.edu





AVOIDING IDENTITY THEFT

Although a *Washington Post* article published earlier this year indicated that identity theft has recently decreased, it also stated that there has been some growth in “friendly fraud” or theft by someone known to the victim. The idea of an individual being victimized by someone they know is certainly not new—particularly in the study of domestic violence and child molestation. Still, the idea of a ‘friend’—someone with whom a person often shares personal information—stealing another friend’s identity is very disconcerting. The internet can provide you with numerous tips to help you avoid identity theft and here are a few that seem especially pertinent to ‘friendly fraud’:

- Guard your financial information. Only provide your credit card or bank account number when you are actually paying for something with it.
- Keep your social security number confidential. It’s the key that unlocks your identity. Don’t give it to anyone unless you’re sure who it is and why it’s necessary to provide it.
- Keep your mail safe. Your mail contains account numbers and other personal information. Collect it promptly from your mailbox and ask the post office to hold it if you’re going away. Send bill payments from the post office or a public mailbox, not from home.
- Memorize your passwords and PIN numbers. Don’t leave them in your wallet or on your desk where someone else could find them.

Source: National Consumer League’s Internet Fraud Watch



COME JOIN US!

WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY
39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NEWPORT BEACH, CA – FEBRUARY 16-19, 2012

We encourage you to mark your calendar for our next conference!



Hotel: Fairmont Newport Beach
4500 MacArthur Blvd.
Newport Beach, CA 92660

1-800-441-1414

www.fairmont.com/newportbeach

Rate: \$169 +tax/night

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

*Rates are subject to availability. This code cannot be used to make on-line reservations.

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

Dr. Paul Kaplan,
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San Diego State University
5500 Camponile Drive #4505
San Diego, CA 92182-4505

Dr. Kristy Matsuda
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice,
University of Missouri-St. Louis,
333 Lucas Hall,
St. Louis, MO 63121

**Submission Deadline for Abstracts is:
October 10, 2011**

We look forward to seeing you in Newport Beach!



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 16-19, 2011 • NEWPORT BEACH, CA

❖ Please note that the deadline to submit abstracts is October 10, 2011 ❖

PANEL TOPICS

- COURTS AND JUDICIAL PROCESSES
(INCLUDING SENTENCING)
- CORRECTIONS
- CRIME ANALYSIS
(INCLUDING GEOGRAPHY & CRIME AND SOCIAL NETWORKS & CRIME)
- CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY
- CYBERCRIME
- DRUGS/SUBSTANCE ABUSE & CRIME
- GENDER, SEXUALITY, & CRIME
- JUVENILE JUSTICE
- LEGAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
(CRIMINAL LAW & CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)
- ORGANIZED CRIME & GANGS
- SEX CRIMES
- TEACHING
(PEDAGOGY & ASSESSMENT IN JUSTICE EDUCATION)
- TERRORISM
- WHITE COLLAR CRIME

The Abstract Submission System is now online. To access it:

1. From our **Home Page**, navigate to the **Conference** page and then click the link in the table which says **Present: Press here** to be taken to our online Abstract Submission System.
2. Alternatively, the Abstract Submission System can be accessed directly at the following URL:
http://www.westerncriminology.org/abstract_submission_gateway.htm (note the underscores).

In deciding the most appropriate topic area for your abstract, think about the main focus of your paper and how it might fit within a panel organized around a larger topical theme. 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 submit it to the topic area in which you think it fits best.

All presenters are asked to submit an abstract of 1,100 characters or fewer to only one of the panel topics listed above (on or before October 10, 2011). 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, 2012.

All proposals must be electronically submitted through the WSC's online Abstract Submission System:
http://www.westerncriminology.org/abstract_submission_gateway.htm



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION!

Discounted conference rates will be honored on a 'space available basis' until January 4, 2012 so make your room reservations early! Information about the Fairmont Newport Beach can be found on the hotel website (www.fairmont.com/newportbeach). To receive the conference rate of \$169 +tax/night, call 1-800-441-1414 and indicate that you are with the Western Society of Criminology Annual Conference. This code cannot be utilized to make on-line reservations. Note: No refunds for registration will be given less than 31 days prior to the conference. For more information see: <http://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" section of the WSC website (<http://westerncriminology.org/students.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 28, 2011, to Charles Katz at 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. Papers should be emailed to Charles Katz (ckatz@asu.edu) by October 28, 2011. Award winners will be notified in writing by December 1, 2011.





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. Please note that this award is not related to the Student Paper Competition. All students attending the annual meeting are encouraged to apply.

Who is eligible? 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.

How do I apply? Email your application to Charles Katz (ckatz@asu.edu).

Your email should include the following:

- a brief statement indicating that you are applying for the travel award and how conference attendance will be valuable to you;
- full contact information: name, address, phone number, and email;
- the name of your school, department, and whether you are a graduate or undergraduate student;
- the title of your paper presentation; and
- the name of the topic chair to whom you have submitted an abstract for presentation consideration.

To complete your application, a faculty sponsor must provide an email statement acknowledging their support of your request for travel funds.

Entries must be received by **October 28, 2011**.



MIKI VOHRYZEK-BOLDEN (MVB) STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Students are eligible to compete in the MVB Student Paper Competition sponsored by WSC. Papers co-authored with 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. The paper should be emailed to Charles Katz (ckatz@asu.edu) by October 28, 2011. Award winners will be notified in writing by December 1, 2011.

Submission Information:

Any student currently enrolled full- or part-time in an academic program at either the undergraduate or graduate level is eligible to submit a paper. All entries must be related to criminology or criminal justice. Papers must not exceed 30 pages (all inclusive – text, references, tables, notes, etc.). Papers exceeding this limit will not be considered. Papers must be double-spaced, 12 point font, with one inch margins, and conform to a standard format for the organization of papers and citation.

The WSC Awards Committee is responsible for evaluating papers meeting the guidelines described above.



DESCHENES PRIZE FOR APPLIED RESEARCH

Elizabeth Piper Deschenes, a long-time member of WSC and former President, passed away in April, 2008 following a two- year battle with ovarian cancer. Known as Libby to her many friends and colleagues, she was an expert researcher who concentrated on applying rigorous research methods to improving policy and practice. Dr. Deschenes was also a true champion of student research and worked tirelessly to mentor her students. To honor her commitment to students and to continue her legacy of applied research, the Deschenes Prize for Applied Research has been established in her name.

The Deschenes Prize for Applied Research may be conferred upon a student who shows documented commitment to improving policy, practice or programs in criminal justice through research or the application of 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. Have a Faculty member submit a letter of support (must be emailed directly from faculty member to Awards Chair).

Application materials should be submitted electronically to the WSC Awards.

Committee Chairperson Charles Katz ckatz@asu.edu by October 28, 2011 (Please put "Deschenes Prize" in subject lines).



AWARD NOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Nominations are sought for the following awards bestowed by the Western Society of Criminology:

Paul Tappan Award for outstanding contribution to the field of Criminology.

Joseph D. Lohman Award for outstanding contribution to the Western Society of Criminology.

June Morrison – Tom Gitchoff Founders Award for significant improvement of the quality of justice.

W.E.B. DuBois Award for significant contributions to the field of racial and ethnic issues in Criminology.

Western Society of Criminology Fellows Award conferred upon individuals generally associated with the Western region who have made important contributions to the field of Criminology. Nominees need not be members of WSC.

President's Award for contributions to the field of Criminology and positive influence on the current president's career.

Nomination letters and supporting materials should be sent to Charles Katz, via email to ckatz@asu.edu. Nominations are due by October 28, 2011.



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.



MIKI'S REFLECTIONS

Miki Vohryzek-Bolden

In Search of a College Degree and a Job

It is almost impossible to read a newspaper, browse the Internet, or talk with your colleagues without discussing the current state of higher education and the struggle that recent college graduates experience in the workplace. Since the Western Society of Criminology has always been committed to its student membership, this article will discuss two facets of the challenges facing our students – getting a college degree and finding a job related to one's chosen field.

The first element of the equation is the financial cost of a college degree. Students must cobble together a variety of funding sources, including grants, scholarships, government loans, 529 savings plans, part-time work, work study, and of course, the proverbial parental wallet [of which I have plenty of experience]. While there have been many comments made by the public universities that financial aid will increase, this does not take away the monetary pain of a college degree. As tuition and fees rise at an unprecedented rate and remain a constantly moving target, even careful financial planning may not ensure that our students are able to afford college and/or complete their degrees in a timely manner.

The second element of the equation is using the degree to work in a related professional field. A May 2011 report from the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, details the findings of a survey of a nationally-representative sample of 571 graduates from four-year colleges and universities between 2006 and 2010. There were several significant findings relevant to our discussion here: 82 percent are working in some fashion, though only 53 percent hold full-time jobs; the assessment of how well college prepared them for the workforce is mixed – partly explained by the lack of quality jobs and the disconnect between educational experiences and occupational needs [three-quarters of the respondents indicated that they would do something different if they could start college again]; the number working in an unrelated field is larger for students who graduated during the recession [43 percent] as compared to 22 percent for pre-recession graduates; and 83 percent of the students currently owe at least half of what they borrowed.

If you are in California, the average total resident tuition and fees at the University of California and California State University systems has increased almost 200 percent over the last decade. However, California is not alone in dealing with what I would call a crisis. According to the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, state support of higher education is at its lowest level in more than 30 years. Other states are hiking tuition – Florida state schools have a 15 percent tuition hike for the third year in a row; the University of Washington is considering a 20 percent increase in next fall's tuition; and the incoming freshman at the University of Arizona are paying double what students' paid four years ago.

These findings are disheartening and discouraging for educators as well as students and their families. The future of the educational landscape does not bode well for students in the near term – the current state of the economy, slow rate of recovery, high unemployment, particularly among 18-25 year olds, and competition among programs for limited public funds ensure that this struggle will continue for a number of years. So, where is the silver lining, since I hate to end this discussion on a negative note? Getting a college degree will still serve you well in the future – in terms of both future earnings and the exposure to ideas and perspectives different from your own.



ACJR (CA) ANNOUNCEMENT

The next conference for the Association for Criminal Justice Research (California) is on October 20-21, 2011 at the Hotel Huntington in Huntington Beach, just off the I-405. The title of the conference is " Half-Empty or Half-Full: Adapting the Criminal Justice System to a New Era". The keynote speaker is going to be Sheriff Lee Baca of LA County. Panels will include topics such as adult and juvenile realignment, law enforcement initiatives, collaborative courts, gang activity and cybercrime. The conference typically has a \$70.00 registration fee (for members) which includes lunch on Thursday. Registration can also be made for individual panels. Additional details may be found at their website: www.acjrca.org.



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 co-editors Karen Glover, California State University, San Marcos, Stuart Henry, University of Texas, Arlington and Christine Curtis, San Diego State University. Send all new submissions via e-mail as an attachment to EditorWCR@gmail.com.

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