



# THE WESTERN CRIMINOLOGIST

Spring 2008

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*

**Adrienne Freng**  
University of Wyoming

Excited, enthusiastic, honored! These are just a few ways to describe my feelings about being President of the Western Society of Criminology this coming year. I am so thrilled to have been selected to lead an organization that I believe is valuable and distinctive based on its devotion to merge research and practice, its emphasis on student involvement, and its inclusive environment. In the coming year, I hope to continue the mission of the organization and build upon the outstanding work of those before me.

We just finished a successful conference in Sacramento and are looking forward to another one in San Diego in 2009! Under the leadership of John Vivian, WSC welcomed over 100 individuals to the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. The theme of the conference was *Social Justice: Informing Evidence-Based Policy and Planning*. The Plenary Panel speakers, including Barbara Bloom, Glenda Miller, Mary Anne O'Shea, and Rosendo Padilla addressed this issue from the standpoint of gender-responsive programming. During this presentation, we were also fortunate to be able to hear from one of the individuals that has benefited from this unique program. John Hipp, who discussed his current research on parole and community re-entry, also exemplified this theme as our keynote speaker. Additionally, after attending these conferences for many years, I am constantly impressed by the quality of the panels, especially those involving our student members. Finally, I want to thank all of the board members from last year, without whose hard work, the conference would not be possible.

Over the years of being on the board of WSC, I have been extremely fortunate to work with many wonderful and dedicated individuals. This year is no different. As we say goodbye to some, we welcome other new faces. After several years of doing an excellent job, Sharon Chamard and Andre Rosay have turned over the reins of *Western Criminology Review* to Leana and Jeff Bouffard from Washington State University. I want to take this opportunity to thank Sharon and Andre for their hard work as co-editors, as this is not an easy job. During their editorship, they increased the visibility of the journal, which continues to be a goal

of the organization. We look forward to continued growth of the journal under the capable hands of Leana and Jeff. Additionally, after many years with the organization, Mike Day stepped down as Secretary/Treasurer this past fall. Another long time member of the WSC, Sue Cote, has willingly agreed to take over this position. I want to personally thank Mike for all of his years of service to the organization. He has literally been the "face" of WSC for as long as I have been involved. Best wishes to you Mike in your future endeavors! We also say goodbye to Connie Ireland who has left the board to pursue other opportunities – Good luck Connie. Other members of the board this year include Yvette Farmer who continues to do a wonderful job as Editor of *The Western Criminologist*. During her editorship, she has been able to solicit some extremely interesting articles on a variety of pertinent issues and I would encourage members to continue to send her articles on relevant matters in criminal justice and criminology. John Vivian will serve the board as Immediate Past President. Christine Famega returns to the board this year as Vice-President/President elect. Returning Executive Counselors are: Stacy Mallicoat, Bryan Kinney, Brenda Vogel, Aili Malm, and Finn-Aage Esbensen. Our new Executive Counselors are Cassia Spohn and Laurie Kubicek. New and old members alike are filling our Counselors at Large positions. Mary Maguire, Chris Curtis, and Michael Olivero have agreed to serve a one-year appointment, as has Brandi Vigil, our student representative.

The board has already been hard at work and I cannot thank them

## ***In This Issue:***

- *From The President* ..... 1
- *From The Editor* ..... 2
- *Greetings from your Secretary* ..... 2,3
- *Plenary Speakers* ..... 3
- *Keynote Speaker* ..... 4
- *WSC Awards/Nominations* ..... 4,5
- *Thanks to Conference Sponsors* ..... 4
- *Come Join Us* ..... 5
- *Call For Participation* ..... 6,7
- *Call For Papers* ..... 8
- *Miki's Reflections* ..... 8,9
- *Opportunities Provided by MHSA* ..... 9,10
- *Lethal Injection* ..... 10
- *Share Your Thoughts and Words* ..... 10

enough for their devotion and willingness to serve. I am thrilled to have many of them returning and am excited to work with the new members of the board, whose contribution is already being felt after our first meeting. One of my goals as President is to explore ways to increase funding for the organization without raising membership and registration fees. We continue to benefit from the generosity of various organizations, including the College of Health and Human Services at California State University-Sacramento this year, which sponsor the printing of the program for the annual conference. In the past, publishers who have sponsored our Meet the Author Sessions have also assisted us. This year, we were fortunate to receive contributions from the Deputy Sheriffs' Association of Alameda County, the Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs' Association, the El Dorado Deputy Sheriffs' Association, and the Folsom Police Officers' Association, thanks to the efforts of board member Laurie Kubicek and her colleague David Swim. I have asked the board to continue to explore these and other opportunities for financial contributions as we strive to keep the costs of membership reasonable.

My primary goal as President is to increase participation and membership. In order to accomplish this, the board has already implemented a few new strategies this year that will provide additional opportunities for members. Included in this newsletter are solicitations for nominations from the membership for our annual awards and for positions on the board. This is a great opportunity to nominate those individuals that you believe have contributed to the field, as well becoming more active in the organization. Additionally, we are employing several plans to welcome back individuals that have been members in the past, but may have lapsed in their involvement; continue the membership of those already involved; and increase membership by attracting new members. So, talk to your colleagues, students, research associates, government officials, and anyone that would benefit from what you already know is a fantastic organization. Invite people to join us at the conference in San Diego next year. **HELP US TO GET THE WORD OUT!** We especially need assistance in telling students about a couple of wonderful opportunities including the June Morrison Award for travel money and the Miki Vohryzek-Bolden (MVB) Student Paper Competition. Any student attending the conference and presenting a paper can apply for travel money through the June Morrison Award. It is awarded on a first come, first serve basis, so make sure to get the application in early. Also, please encourage students to apply for the Student Paper Competition. This year, in addition to winning a monetary award, the best paper will be submitted to WCR for consideration for publication. What a wonderful opportunity for a student who is looking for a venue for their work! Information on both of these awards can be found on the Western's web site at: <http://www.sonoma.edu/ccjs/wsc/>.

In closing, I think this is an exciting time for the organization and I hope that you will join me and the board in increasing the visibility of the organization, getting involved, and making the Annual Conference in San Diego a resounding success!

For more information on the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in San Diego, please see the web site at <http://www.sonoma.edu/ccjs/wsc/>. The Call for Papers is included in this newsletter. Abstracts are due by October 6, 2008.

## *From the Editor*

**Yvette Farmer**

You may notice that this issue of the newsletter has more items to for you to read. Many of the committees on the WSC Executive Board are soliciting your help. Please take a moment to consider their requests and know that any help you provide is definitely appreciated.

In an effort to see that the newsletter remains informative and continues to challenge its readers to critically evaluate important issues in criminology and criminal justice, you will see an article on the opportunities provided by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and another article on lethal injection—a piece inspired by a previous article published in *The Western Criminologist*. In *Miki's Reflections*, you will see her thoughts about New Zealand's correctional system and the importance of programs that prepare inmates for re-entry in their communities. Similarly, the California re-entry issue was discussed by our 2008 WSC conference keynote speaker. If these pieces motivate you to share your thoughts in an upcoming issue of the newsletter, 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 1<sup>st</sup> for the Spring issue and August 1<sup>st</sup> for the Fall issue. Ideas should be sent to Dr. Yvette Farmer, California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, California 95815-6015. The telephone number is (916) 278-5062 or 278-6487 (message).

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



## *Greetings from Your Secretary!*

**Sue Escobar**

As I sit here and write this article, in my new home in the small, rural community of Pollock Pines, California, where, yes, we do get Internet and cable TV connections, I reflect back on the 2008 Sacramento conference with a smile and appreciation for the many people who made it happen. I would just like to take a brief moment to thank the previous Executive Board members for assisting me in my transition into this position, which went smoothly, though arrived unexpectedly sooner than I had anticipated. Special thanks go to our previous Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Day, for all of his hard work over the past several years. He helped me, and continues to help me, with the transition. I would also like to thank you, the members, for your interest in this wonderful community of criminology and criminal justice scholars, researchers, practitioners, teachers, and students. I also want to thank you for your patience, as I continue learning all there is to know about being financially responsible for an organization like the WSC.

I am giving thanks in the newsletter because I would like it to reach all of you, but more particularly, I would like to invite you all to share

---

your thoughts, opinions, and ideas about the WSC. The WSC would not exist without you, so you are critically important! Personally, I think it is important to do outreach and hear from our membership, just like politicians (hopefully!) like to hear from their constituents. I want this organization to be the best it can be in terms of hosting first class conferences, disseminating first class research and other information in our newsletter and journal, and, most of all, serving the members that continue to sustain it, year after year.

So, with that said, let me hear from you! Do you have thoughts and ideas about our future conferences? What do you like about the WSC? What would you like to see happen differently in general or at the conferences? Would you like to be on the Board? These are just some questions that popped into my head in this very moment, but you all may have others, and I would like to hear from you!

Before I sign off, I wanted to let you know about two of our upcoming conference sites, so you all can spread the word and begin making plans! February 5—7, 2009, we will be back in San Diego, California at the Best Western Island Palms Hotel! And, drum roll please..... February 4—6, 2010, we will be back in Honolulu, Hawai'i at the Ala Moana Hotel! So, shake the cobwebs off of that bathing suit and start planning! Oh, and start researching and writing, too. Personally, I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you, and your colleagues, at these upcoming and future conferences.

Cheers,

Sue Escobar, Secretary/Treasurer

(P.S. I legally changed my name, but I am the same ol' Sue! You can still reach me at [scote@csus.edu](mailto:scote@csus.edu) or at the address on our website!)



### *Thoughts from the Plenary Speakers:*

#### **Barbara Bloom, Mary Anne O'Shea, Glenda Miller, and Rosendo Padilla**

This year's plenary panel included Barbara Bloom from Sonoma State University and her colleagues Mary Anne O'Shea, Glenda Miller, and Rosendo Padilla from the Margaret J. Kemp Camp in San Mateo County. This camp reflects the application of theory and principles to an innovative program that serves young female probationers. It specifically recognizes that gender-responsive services are one of the key factors in the successful rehabilitation of girls that have entered the juvenile justice system.

Dr. Bloom indicated that gender responsiveness in the context of this program included: the creation of an environment that promotes physical, psychological, and emotional safety; selection of staff who want to work with girls; and the development of a program with specific curricula for girls. The program must take into account

relationships that girls have with each other and staff as well as the roles of trauma and addiction. She described the guiding principles as follows: 1) acknowledge that gender makes a difference; 2) create an environment based upon safety, respect, and dignity; 3) develop policies, practices, and programs that are relational & promote healthy connections to children and family; 4) address issues such as substance abuse, trauma, and mental health; 5) provide women with opportunities to succeed; and 6) establish a system of community supervision and re-entry with comprehensive, collaborative services.

Mary Anne O'Shea, retired Director of the San Mateo County Probation Department, provided information about the development of the camp including important components reflecting their gender-responsive approach. After conducting an assessment of girls in the juvenile justice system, a county-wide planning group was formed to create a holistic program that recognizes the needs of girls. This program includes services that are inclusive, relational, restorative, multi-leveled, and pay attention to societal influences.

Glenda Miller, Director of the Margaret J. Kemp Camp for Girls, described a profile of the girls that participate in this program. They typically range in age from 14-16 years, belong to a minority group, demonstrate poor academic performance, drop out of high school, abuse substances, and have previously been abused. One program within the camp focuses on yoga as a way for girls to develop a healthy relationship with their bodies. Data on academic goals, alcohol use (relapse), and employment have been collected as a way to determine the program's success. Progress is slow and maintenance of such a program requires work on gender-responsive services and evidence-based planning with both the girls and the stakeholders involved in the camp.

Rosendo Padilla, Group Supervisor II at the Margaret J. Kemp Camp for Girls, discussed the daily routine for girls as well as the focus on conflict management, brainstorming, and the need for positive role models. According to Mr. Padilla, a positive male role model is important for the girls due to their previous abusive experiences with males. Male staff members need to be aware of girls seeking male attention and should establish and maintain clear boundaries. They should not accept female stereotypes. Males should own their power appropriately and model it intentionally.

One of the most powerful parts of this session was the success story told by Rachel (a former camp resident). With her father in prison and her mother using drugs, she entered the foster care system and eventually the juvenile justice system. After being assigned to this camp and participating in the programs offered, she believes that the programs help girls learn to do things for themselves. Rachel also learned self-control and how to present herself in a positive way. Finally, she learned to love herself and self-acceptance.

The audience was clearly moved by Rachel's story and had many questions. We believe in her ability to succeed and we hope that she enjoys a long, productive, and happy life. Her experience also provides evidence that a gender-responsive program *can* change the lives of girls in the juvenile justice system.



---

---

## ***Thoughts from our Keynote Speaker:***

### **John Hipp**

Our keynote speaker, John Hipp from UC Irvine, discussed a variety of research projects conducted at the Center for Evidence Based Corrections that examine the relationship between neighborhoods and California parolees. His specific interest lies in the re-entry problem or reintegration of parolees in their neighborhoods. This is a difficult problem to study with a number of methodological challenges including: a lack of data indicating where parolees live; too much data given the large number of parolees returning to their neighborhoods; the hard work of geo-coding residences and service providers; and the need to get beyond crime mapping efforts.

One of the projects discussed focuses on the effect of neighborhoods on parolees—and specifically, access to social services. Preliminary analyses on this issue indicate that African-American and Latino parolees, sex offenders, and women live in close proximity to service providers rendering those providers more impacted than other service providers. Young parolees, however, do not live near service providers.

Other projects focusing on the effect of neighborhoods on parolees examine issues such as recidivism, residential mobility, and access to economically advantaged neighborhoods. Some of the questions that will be addressed in these research projects include: What effects do the neighborhoods have on recidivism? How frequently do parolees move? Does access to economically advantaged neighborhoods differ by race/ethnicity?

Dr. Hipp also discussed a project that focuses on the effect of parolees on neighborhoods. Research questions to be addressed include: Do parolees commit crime? Do they increase neighborhood instability? Does their return to these neighborhoods re-unite families? Some preliminary findings from Sacramento, CA indicate that crime increases, but this effect seems to be moderated by the presence of voluntary organizations in the neighborhood.

It is clear that many questions are going to be addressed through this on-going work. The importance of this research is evident given the large population of prisoners and eventually parolees that will return to their various neighborhoods. We *must* understand what happens to parolees and their neighborhoods as so much reintegration occurs in society.



## **WSC Awards 2008**

### ***Recipient of the Western Society of Criminology Fellows Award 2007-2008:***

*- Neil Boyd*

### ***Recipients of the Western Society of Criminology Awards 2007-2008:***

***The Paul Tappan Award*** - For Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Criminology

*- Inger Sagatun-Edwards*

***The Joseph D. Lohman Award*** - For Outstanding Service to the Western Society of Criminology

*- Sue Cote*

***The June Morrison-Tom Gitchoff Founders Award*** - For Significant Improvement in the Quality of Justice

*- Joan Petersilia*

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

*- Samuel A. Lewis*

***W.E.B. DuBois Award*** - For Significant Contributions to the Field of Racial and Ethnic Issues in Criminology

*- Ruth Peterson and Mike Leiber*



## ***Thanks to Conference Sponsors!***

We would like to thank the College of Health and Human Services at Sacramento State University for their support in producing the 2008 Conference Program.

We would also like to thank Professor David Swim from the Division of Criminal Justice at Sacramento State University for securing monetary donations from:

Deputy Sheriffs' Association of Alameda County  
Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs' Association  
El Dorado Deputy Sheriffs' Association  
Folsom Police Officers' Association



---

---

***COME JOIN US!***  
**Western Society of Criminology**  
**36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**ISLAND PALMS HOTEL & MARINA**  
**SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**FEBRUARY 5 – 7, 2009**

We encourage you to mark your calendar for the 36th Annual Conference of the WSC. *The theme of the conference is Crime and Criminal Justice on the Border.* The Program Chairs are: Dr. Laurie Kubicek, Division of Criminal Justice, Sacramento State University, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819 and Dr. Aili Malm, Department of Criminal Justice, California State University - Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90840. The Call for Papers appears in this issue, but you may also want to contact Dr. Kubicek, Dr. Malm, or check out our website - [www.sonoma.edu/cja/wsc/main/html](http://www.sonoma.edu/cja/wsc/main/html) for additional information about the conference. We look forward to seeing you in beautiful San Diego, California!

For the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (February 4-6, 2010), we will be back in Honolulu, HI at the Ala Moana Hotel. We had great weather during our last conference there and we're looking forward to the same in 2010! For more information, visit the hotel's website at <http://www.alamoanahotelhonolulu.com/index.cfm>



***The WSC Awards Committee is seeking nominations 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 and who may 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 should be sent to Finn-Aage Esbensen, Depart-

ment of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 330 Lucas Hall, University of Missouri-St. Louis, One University Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63121-4400 or via email to [esbensen@umsl.edu](mailto:esbensen@umsl.edu). Nominations are due by May 1, 2008.

The WSC encourages the active participation of students in the annual conference. To facilitate and encourage participation, the WSC offers travel support via **June Morrison Travel Awards**. To be eligible for the June Morrison Award, students must present a paper at next year's annual conference in San Diego. To apply, send an email by October 6, 2008 to Bryan Kinney [[bkinney@sfu.ca](mailto:bkinney@sfu.ca)] indicating your desire to be considered as an award recipient.

Additionally, a student paper competition, the **Miki Vohryzek-Bolden (MVB) Student Paper Competition**, 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 6, 2008 and a final paper should be emailed to Bryan Kinney [[bkinney@sfu.ca](mailto:bkinney@sfu.ca)] by Monday January 5, 2009.



***The WSC Nominations Committee is soliciting nominations for the following two Western Society of Criminology positions:***

**- Vice President and Executive Counselor**

The person elected to the position of Vice-President will have a three-year term of office on the WSC Executive Board and will hold the offices of Vice-President, President, and Immediate Past President in turn. The person elected to the position of Executive Counselor will have a three-year term.

Those nominating individuals for WSC positions are expected to contact the nominee to ensure that the nominee is willing to run for the office in question. Any regular member of the WSC whose dues are paid and who has been a member for at least one year shall be eligible to hold office.

Individuals seeking a WSC position may achieve candidacy by either nomination or petition. Individuals who are nominated for office shall compete for placement on the slate via review by the Nominations Committee. Individuals who use the petition process automatically secure candidacy, as long as the petition contains the signatures of ten members of the WSC, and the application is received by the Chair of the Nominations Committee no later than two weeks after the official date of notification of the tentative slate.

All nominations should be sent to Christine Famega, Department of Criminal Justice, California State University-San Bernardino, 5500 University Pkwy, San Bernardino, CA, 92407, or email a letter attachment to [cfamega@csusb.edu](mailto:cfamega@csusb.edu). Please state the name and complete address of the candidate, his/her email address, home and office phone numbers and position sought. Nominations are due by May 1, 2008.



# CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Western Society of Criminology  
36th Annual Conference

Theme – Crime and Criminal Justice on the Border  
February 5-7, 2009 • San Diego, CA

❖ Please note that the deadline to send abstracts to topic chairs is October 6, 2008 ❖

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>POLICING</b></p> <p>Christine Famega Department of Criminal Justice California State University, San Bernardino 5500 University Pkwy San Bernardino, CA 92407-2397 Phone: 909-537-5285 Fax: 909-537-7025 Email: <a href="mailto:cfamega@csusb.edu">cfamega@csusb.edu</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COURTS</b></p> <p>Cassia Spohn Arizona State University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice 4701 W. Thunderbird Road Mail Code 3250 Glendale, AZ 85306-4908 Phone: 602-543-0023 Fax: 602-543-6658 Email: <a href="mailto:Cassia.Spohn@asu.edu">Cassia.Spohn@asu.edu</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CORRECTIONS</b></p> <p>John Vivian Administrator of Research and Development Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections 1624 W. Adams Street Phoenix, AZ 85007 Phone: 602-542-2274 Fax: 602-542-4026 Email: <a href="mailto:jvivian@azdjcc.gov">jvivian@azdjcc.gov</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GEOGRAPHY OF CRIME</b></p> <p>Bryan Kinney Simon Fraser University School of Criminology, Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies (ICURS) 8888 University Dr. Burnaby, BC, CANADA V5A 1S6 Phone: 1-778-782-3892 Email: <a href="mailto:bkkinney@sfu.ca">bkkinney@sfu.ca</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RACE, CLASS, GENDER &amp; CRIME</b></p> <p>Brenda Vogel Department of Criminal Justice California State University, Long Beach 1250 Bellflower Blvd. Long Beach, CA 90840-4603 Phone: 562-985-1894 Fax: 562-985-8086 Email: <a href="mailto:bvogel@csulb.edu">bvogel@csulb.edu</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JUVENILE JUSTICE</b></p> <p>Finn-Aage Esbensen Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice University of Missouri-St. Louis 330 Lucas Hall 8001 Natural Bridge Road St. Louis, MO 63121 Phone: 314-516-4619 Email: <a href="mailto:esbensen@umsl.edu">esbensen@umsl.edu</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IMMIGRATION &amp; INTERNATIONAL ISSUES</b></p> <p>Christine Curtis School of Public Affairs San Diego State University 5500 Campanile Drive San Diego, CA 92182-4505 Phone: 619-892-3109 Email: <a href="mailto:christinecurtis2@msn.com">christinecurtis2@msn.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b></p> <p>Yvette Farmer Division of Criminal Justice California State University, Sacramento 6000 J Street Sacramento, CA 95819-6085 Phone: 916-278-5062 Fax: 916-278-7692 Email: <a href="mailto:drfarmer@csus.edu">drfarmer@csus.edu</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THEORY</b></p> <p>Leana Bouffard Washington State University 826 Johnson Tower PO Box 644880 Pullman, WA 99164-4880 Phone: 509-335-6135 Email: <a href="mailto:lbouffard@wsu.edu">lbouffard@wsu.edu</a></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 to only one of the panel topics listed above. ***ALSO, PLEASE KEEP YOUR ABSTRACT TO 150 WORDS OR LESS.***

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION!

All conference participants need to make reservations by January 6, 2009. Information about the Island Palms Hotel & Marina can be found on the hotel website ([www.islandpalms.com](http://www.islandpalms.com)) or by calling 619-222-0561. To receive the conference rate of \$149+tax, a two night, Saturday inclusive stay is required (Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday). Please indicate that you are with the Western Society of Criminology Annual Conference and provide discount rate code GWSC. This code should also be utilized if making on-line reservations.

## 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.

**June Morrison Scholarship Fund:** The WSC offers student scholarships for participation in our annual conference. To be eligible for the June Morrison Award, students must present a paper at next year's annual conference in San Diego. Please submit your application by October 6, 2008, to Bryan Kinney at [bkkinney@sfu.ca](mailto:bkkinney@sfu.ca). Information can be obtained by consulting *Student Information*, which is in the *Conference* section of the WSC website (<http://www.sonoma.edu/cja/wsc/wscpages/conference.htm>)

**Miki Vohryzek-Bolden (MVB) Student Paper Competition:** Students are eligible to compete in a Student Paper Competition sponsored by WSC. One undergraduate and one graduate student paper (either sole authored or co-authored) will be selected. 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 and registration reimbursement. Additionally, the best paper will be submitted for review to the *Western Criminology Review*. Abstracts should be submitted to the appropriate topical chair by October 6, 2008 and a final paper should be emailed to Bryan Kinney at [bkkinney@sfu.ca](mailto:bkkinney@sfu.ca) by January 5, 2009. Information can be obtained by consulting *Student Information*, which is in the *Conference* section of the WSC website (<http://www.sonoma.edu/cja/wsc/wscpages/conference.htm>).



## 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 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, Washington State University. Send all new submissions via e-mail as an attachment to [wcr@wsu.edu](mailto:wcr@wsu.edu) or via postal mail service on a floppy to:

Editor, Western Criminology Review  
Criminal Justice Program  
Washington State University  
PO Box 644880  
Pullman, WA 99164-4880  
Phone: 509-335-6135  
Fax: 509-335-7990



## *MIKI'S REFLECTIONS*

Miki Vohryzek-Bolden

On January 10 and 11, 2008, I had the privilege and opportunity to visit three correctional facilities in the Christchurch area on the South Island of New Zealand. The three facilities included a youth unit, the men's prison, and the women's prison. The visit was coordinated by the Canterbury Prisons Regional Management Office. Every courtesy and accommodation was made by all the staff to ensure a productive and informative overview of the services and programs offered in these three facilities. I am still overwhelmed by the reception I received from everyone.

As I strive to accurately describe what I learned during my visit, there are some who might argue that New Zealand's size, inmate population, and demographics partially explain its ability to offer programming and services to their inmates. I beg to differ. Yes, the numbers differ dramatically from the inmate population statistics in California. Yes, California in particular has very diverse communities to which our inmates return. Yet, I believe that the programs and services that I will describe below can be adapted to serve the needs of specific inmate populations within our correctional systems.

The Youth Unit was opened in May 2001 to accommodate youth under 17 or those 17-19 who are assessed as vulnerable and should not be placed in the men's prison. On the day of my visit, several youth were performing four short plays entitled *Lifeboat*, *Interesting People*, *Self Defense Against Fresh Fruit*, and *Non-illegal Robbery*. Volunteers work with the youth and believe that this activity improves self-confidence and esteem. They ended the performance with a traditional Maori (i.e., original 'people of the land') dance. While I did not have a chance to talk with any of the youth, I found this use of theater arts an interesting component of the youth programming.

While at the men's prison, I learned that they separate custodial functions from other services provided to inmates. These treatment-oriented services, with the exception of psychiatric services, are contracted out to other providers. The men's prison has a drug treatment unit that offers a program to inmates who are housed in the unit. The program is run by a therapist who is affiliated with the Salisbury Street Foundation in Christchurch, which provides services, including residential programs, to men released from prison. The link between the institutional program and a community program for parolees at a minimum offers the opportunity for the continuity of care essential for successful integration back into the community, especially for inmates who have addiction issues.

The two initiatives that make the New Zealand prison system unique are the regional reintegration teams and the self-care units. The regional reintegration teams were established in 2006 to provide prisoners with specialist support to prepare them for release back into the community. The teams include caseworkers, social workers, and Whanau liaison workers (i.e., resource for prisoners in Maori focus units) who work collaboratively with correctional staff to address prisoners' social, living, and reintegration needs.



Initial interviews are conducted with the prisoners upon arrival at the prison. The interviews address seven objectives for successful release: acquire suitable accommodation; obtain employment; manage finances; manage relationship issues; develop pro-social community support (including identifying support people and lifestyle balance); prevent victim-related problems; and post-release health care continuity. The reintegration team then determines whether there is a reintegration need by objective. In terms of eligibility for intervention by a case worker, a priority is placed on prisoners who upon release are under the age of twenty, mainstream male and female prisoners with three or more reintegration needs, and prisoners with one or more complex reintegration needs.

They also offer two additional programs: Living Skills and Parenting Skills. The Living Skills program provides prisoners with enhanced programming to address employment, housing, finance, relationship, and health. The Parenting Skills program is designed to encourage prisoners to develop pro-social values and behavior that are inherent to good parenting and minimize inter-generational offending.

Whether or not these reintegration initiatives result in a lower recidivism rate is unknown at this time. However, the message they send to prisoners is that while punishment is part of the correctional mix, the system also recognizes that prisoners need the skills to adjust to life back in the community. Staff are encouraged to refer prisoners to the reintegration team leader if they believe the prisoner is qualified and will benefit from the program.

The Christchurch area men's and women's prisons also have self care units. These are basically duplexes, located on prison property, with four bedrooms in each unit with one inmate per room. Staff indicated that initially, these units were designed for inmates who had served long prison terms who needed assistance with basic living skills (e.g., shopping, cooking, budgeting, and laundry) prior to release.

A priority for the units include a parole board recommendation, and inmates who have completed criminogenic programming, in the relapse prevention or maintenance phase of their rehabilitation, and can provide peer learning and mentorship opportunities to other prisoners in the unit. The inmates I spoke with had been in prison several times and recognized the many benefits provided to them in the self care units, including the added freedom of movement inherent in these environments.

The women's prison offers a Mothers and Babies Option in the self care unit that was opened in 2002 to allow babies less than six months old to bond with their mothers. One of the women I spoke with had a one month old and a pre-teen who was being cared for by relatives. She acknowledged that having her daughter with her in the prison was extremely beneficial because it provided an opportunity to bond with the child and enhanced her confidence in her parenting skills.

Another woman I spoke with in the self care unit had nine prior incarcerations that lasted from three months to a year. At the time we spoke, she was serving a sentence of 2 ½ years. She indicated that

the longer term was certainly a wake-up call and that with two children to care for on the outside, the skills she learned in the self care unit would help her become a better mother.

There are lessons to be learned from the programs offered in the New Zealand correctional system. Setting aside the issues of scale and demographics, New Zealand has taken some first steps to provide services that address the reintegration needs of offenders. At this time, there are no evidence-based data on these programs in terms of participants remaining crime-free and successfully integrating back into society. They provide, however, some food-for-thought for other correctional systems. We can hope that the New Zealand officials recognize the need for an evaluation of these programs and share that information in various correctional venues.



## *Opportunities Provided by the MHSA*

**Sheryle Stafford, M.S.W., M.S.**  
**California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies**

The passage of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) by California voters in 2004 brought with it many opportunities for new innovative mental health programs. Funding restrictions that mandate services be voluntary have locked out criminal justice agencies. This has caused much frustration in some counties that have attempted to secure funding for programs through the courts, corrections, or policing. The Oversight and Accountability Commission (OAC) has rejected every request for such funding.

The inability for criminal justice agencies to access MHSA funding has fueled the animosity between the criminal justice and mental health professions. This should not be the case, it is past time that criminal justice and mental health professionals set aside their differences and use MHSA as an opportunity to further understanding between the two professions.

There are programs that put emphasis on mental health issues within departments. There are programs that focus on mental illness sponsored by community groups to educate officers and some training academies have added more curriculum in mental health issues. However, the colleges and universities seem to be lagging by not offering courses specific to mental health.

This is truly a tragedy given the scenario that plays out daily whereby a person with a mental illness does not, or chooses not to receive mental health services. Unfortunately, individuals with mental illness are disproportionately represented in our jails and prisons, yet the people who have contact with them through the various criminal justice functions have little or no knowledge of mental illness.

By educating criminal justice professionals at the colleges and

---

---

universities an opportunity is seized upon to begin breaking down the barriers between the mental health and criminal justice professions. The individual with a mental illness is likely to be in both systems at any given time and a well informed workforce can begin to ease the animosity towards the other. Education serves not only to impart knowledge upon a student but can help breakdown stereotypes of individuals with mental illness. Learning should be both traditional and experiential in nature offering the student the most diverse exposure possible.

MHSA has presented a unique opportunity that can facilitate collaboration while staying within the funding guidelines. As long as a mental health agency meets all of the funding criteria and drives the program there is nothing to prohibit collaboration with criminal justice. Instead of seeking funding exclusively, criminal justice agencies must collaborate with their local mental health system. The limits are only bound by creativity and may be as simple or complex of a relationship as two entities wish to build.

Criminal justice agencies can benefit from MHSA despite their inability to secure exclusive funding. The benefit lies in the shared responsibility for the mentally ill population. But opportunities may be lost without a workforce that is educated in mental health issues.

The opportunity is here, the time is now that both professions begin working together using creative collaboration in order to meet the stringent funding requirements of MHSA. Barriers must be broken and one way to do that is to have an understanding of the population you are working with and share resources with another system of care.



## **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](mailto:drfarmer@csus.edu).



## **“Lethal Injection: A Human Way to Die?” – Revisited**

**David V. Baker, Ph.D., J.D.**  
Riverside Community College

In the fall 2006 edition of *The Western Criminologist*, Professor Laurie M. Kubicek at California State University—Sacramento argued, “Rather than attacking the method of execution, [death penalty] opponents should focus their attack on the state sanctioned execution of prisoners itself as cruel and unusual punishment.” The problem with Professor Kubicek’s conclusion to her piece on “Lethal Injection: A Human Way to Die?” is that the U.S. Supreme Court has slammed shut the door to challenging the constitutionality of capital punishment directly. The Court made it exceedingly clear in *Furman v. Georgia* capital punishment *per se* is constitutional even if the Court found unbridled discretion in capital jury sentencing constitutionally challenging. In fact, the Justices directed death penalty jurisdictions to devise procedural strategies to restrict unbridled discretion of juries in remanding prisoners to death. The Court avowed a rational structure of procedural safeguards ostensibly designed to curb jury discretion in capital sentencing four years later in *Gregg v. Georgia*. This is not to argue that challenges to the arbitrary and capricious nature of capital sentencing are not imminent. As one scholar has warned, “The procedural and substantive protections that have been erected by the Supreme Court in an effort to minimize arbitrariness in capital sentencing, if fully implemented, could yield rational, consistent and fair sentences in capital cases. The problem is that these procedures are rarely implemented.” It is not by happenstance that most capital defendants are poor; that bigotry and intolerance accent prosecutorial selection of capital cases; that prosecutors use peremptory challenges to enhance the “whiteness” of capital juries; that prosecutorial wrongdoing is unrelenting in capital cases; that rampant prosecutorial and judicial homophobia accent capital cases involving gay and lesbian defendants; that prosecutors exploit the mental incapacities of capital defendants; that gross ineffectiveness pervades indigent capital defense; that prosecutorial and police lawlessness recurrently underscore wrongful convictions; and that predominantly white and often racist juries pervade the capital punishment system. One finds similarly systemic problems in clemency decisions and foreign national executions. Thus far, however, the U.S. Supreme Court has mostly ignored these issues impeding fairness and evenhandedness in capital sentencing.

Death penalty litigators have chosen a prudent yet complex path toward abolishing capital punishment by challenging the constitutionality of lethal injection protocol. Several states and the federal government have existing execution moratoriums because of constitutional challenges to lethal executions. If successful, these legal challenges could render the death penalty *de facto* unconstitutional because there is no acceptable execution method. In January the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in two Kentucky cases on whether the tri-chemical cocktail of sodium thiopental, pancuronium bromide, and potassium chloride used in the state’s execution protocol violates constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment. While the case (consolidated under *Baze v. Rees*) is important because the Court has not visited the constitu-

---

tionality of an execution method since *Wilkinson* in 1878 when it legalized death by firing squad, the case will probably not leave capital punishment *de facto* unconstitutional because the litigators have limited the appeal to four substantive issues, one of which has left the Court a way out by arguing that lethal injections can be carried out using other chemicals that pose less risk of pain and suffering. There are several alternative chemicals available that act far slower in causing prisoners' deaths but do not create such a substantial risk of wanton and unnecessary pain to prisoners. These alternative chemicals create a horrific sight for witnesses to watch given the physical effects of the drugs, and at least one anesthesiologist has explained that "policy makers have historically considered the needs of witnesses in devising protocols." The case should go a long way in eliminating the arbitrariness and capriciousness accenting the existing execution protocol used by most states by eliminating "[t]he dysfunctional patchwork of stays and executions going on in this country." Despite the foreseeable limitations evidenced in *Baze v. Rees*, litigators should still have plenty of opportunity for frontal attacks on the range of medical and administrative issues raised by lethal injection protocols.



---

The Western Criminologist  
Sue Escobar  
Sacramento State University  
6000 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6085



### *Internet Access*

---

**President:** Adrienne Freng - AFreng@uwyo.edu  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Sue Escobar - scote@csus.edu  
**Newsletter Editor:** Yvette Farmer - drfarmer@csus.edu  
**Journal Co-Editors:** Leanna Bouffard - lbouffard@wsu.edu  
Jeff Bouffard - jbouffard@wsu.edu  
**WSC Webpage:** <http://www.sonoma.edu/cja/wsc/wscmain.html>.  
**Membership Information:** Laurie Kubicek - lkubicek@csus.edu

---