



# THE WESTERN CRIMINOLOGIST

Spring 1999

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

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## From The President

*Martha-Elin Blomquist*  
*Southern Oregon University*

Welcome new and returning WSC members to another year of activities and connections. For personal and professional reasons, I am very pleased to serve as President of the WSC for 1999-2000. This Association has provided me with a receptive and supportive group of colleagues with whom to share my work over many years. I look forward to carrying on a tradition, established by my predecessors, of making the WSC an intellectual and inspirational "home" for professionals in the West who practice, teach, or research in the fields of criminology, criminal justice, and social justice. My first official, and pleasant, duty to the membership is to reflect on the highlights of our 26th Annual Conference, held February 25-28 at the Oakland Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, and to share some of the WSC Executive Board's activities and goals for the upcoming year.

Thanks to the Executive Board under the leadership of Barbara Bloom as President and Marilyn McShane as Program Chair, and to all of the participants, for making our 1999 conference a wonderful success. Some 120 people gathered at the Oakland Marriott to put our minds to and share our scholarship on the conference theme, "The Challenges of Crime and Justice in the New Millennium." Hotel staff made our stay comfortable with excellent food service and meeting room space. From the A.J. Topper Room, where we held our luncheons and Presidential Reception, we were able to enjoy 180 degree vistas of the Bay Area skyline. Mother Nature even cooperated by giving us sun and warm temperatures by day and fabulous sunsets at dusk.

To me, our 1999 conference exemplified what makes the WSC a unique and hospitable regional professional association. I'd like to use my reflections on the conference to illustrate what I see to be the hallmark qualities of the WSC.

## *Best of the West*

We bring together the "best of the west" when it comes to the diversity of our professional affiliations and disciplines, and the quality of work members produce with respect to scholarship, research, teaching, and the delivery of programs and services. Conference participants come from academic settings, policy environments, research/think tanks, private nonprofit service agencies and public service agencies. They offer a breadth of expertise from the disciplines of criminology, sociology, criminal justice, public policy, government, women's studies, urban and public administration, social ecology, law, mental health, social works, library science, corrections, geography, and computer science. The geographic areas from which they come are equally broad. A large contingent comes from California; almost all of the CSU campuses were well represented at this year's conference, with Bakersfield, San Jose State, Hayward, Stanislaus creating a notable presence with several new or returning participants; U.C. campuses were also represented. A number of presenters came from other corners of the Western region as well: British Columbia, Hawaii, Guam, Texas, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska and Washington, D.C.

The WSC welcomes and encourages scholars and practitioners at all points in their careers to share their work and knowledge. So it was that at our 1999 conference we had a wonderful array of panel presentations and discussions informed by the work of undergraduate and graduate students, new, mid career and senior level professionals. Nationally known researchers from NCCD, NIJ, and the Social Science Research Institute, acclaimed

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academics from such universities as U.C. Berkeley and Simon Fraser University, and state and federal policy experts sat alongside and exchanged perspectives with newcomers to the fields of criminology and criminal justice. Practitioners from youth and adult, state and federal corrections departments, mental health departments, public health departments, county probation departments, law enforcement departments, and school districts made presentations that illustrated or countered theories, constructs, and policies proposed by their more academic colleagues.

During the Conference, sharing and contrasting knowledge occurred in many ways. Formal presentations utilizing the most sophisticated quantitative methods and technologies such as those in the crime mapping and crime analyses panel and the electronic media panel could be found in between panels that offered more informal and audience inclusive exchanges such as the dialogue in the Author Meets Critic session and The Berkeley School of Criminology Retrospective. And of course there were the ongoing personal exchanges outside the meeting rooms, at the Conference social functions including the sponsored breaks, the luncheons, the Presidential Reception and the Student Party (and let's not forget inside the restrooms!). Throughout, participants enjoyed the spontaneous and welcomed moments that WSC conferences create to support one another's efforts, to learn more about issues of mutual interest, and to find opportunities for collaboration and ways to stay in touch for future projects and papers.

### *Our Defining Issues*

To what issues and concerns did this unique group of professionals direct our diverse knowledge and experience? With the lead offered by Elliott Currie in his opening remarks, "Reflections on Crime and Criminology at the Millennium," conference participants committed ourselves to the tasks of what I believe are at the heart of what the WSC is about: acquiring and sharing cutting edge knowledge, critically examining knowledge and practice, and advocating on behalf of the ignored voices in debates about fairness and justice. Elliott reminded us of some of the very disturbing and pervasive trends in oppressive and repressive crime control methods that mark American practices at the end of the 20th century. He called those of us who are makers and testers of knowledge about these practices to pursue the responsible, ethical, and humanitarian use of this knowledge. As we move into the next millennium, Elliott challenged us to take our knowledge of crime and justice into the realms of advocacy and activism.

This challenge and our particular abilities to meet it appeared in various forms and phrases throughout the conferences. The WSC has two important traditions: to join scholarship with social and political action on behalf of ignored, undervalued, or oppressed voices and perspectives, and to use scholarship and action to unveil the realities as well as the possibilities of justice. Several panels were specifically oriented to issues of crime and justice as they affect various

groups and populations -children, youths, low income persons, women, families, ethnic and racial minorities. Many other panels included individual presentations that incorporated marginalized groups and perspectives in discussions of such topics as law and courts, evaluation, theory, drugs, victims, and policy.

Coming together at our annual conferences reminds us of the special skills WSC members bring to the field of criminological scholarship and advocacy: Evident in panels and presentations throughout the 1999 Conference were WSC's hallmark of being at the forefront of critical analyses of current practices and policies. This year panelists shared critiques of such practices as "Three Strikes Legislation," the "Drug War," "Megan's Law," the privatization of prisons, and overuse of psychotropic drugs with female inmates. In addition, our members are noteworthy for their work in the design and use of cutting edge technology. These contributions to the field of criminology appeared this year in panels that described GIS mapping, and electronic communication in research strategies, data analyses, and teaching techniques. Our membership also has uncanny prescience about problems as well as solutions before they become mainstream; WSC conference presentations on innovative and progressive solutions often become harbingers for directions and interventions studied by others. This year, ongoing or new attention was brought to such directions and intervention as restorative justice, drug courts, and residential treatment programs for pregnant and parenting female offenders.

### *In sum.....*

With me, this year's Board is directing its energy and attention to accomplishing three goals: increasing student awareness of and involvement with the WSC, expanding the visibility and influence of members of color within WSC leadership positions and conference activities, and serving the needs and interests of practitioners with respect to opportunities for professional development.

The current Board reflects the Association's strengths, its diverse geographic, disciplinary, and institutional affiliations. Executive members come from throughout the Western Region and from various settings and departments: academia, research entities, and agencies affiliated with corrections, law enforcement, counseling and human resources. I appreciate the opportunity to work with this dedicated group; as professionals, they bring a range of knowledge, experience, skill, and talents to their tasks; and as friends and colleagues, they bring energy, humor, and heart.

With the assistance of the Executive Board, I look forward to promoting what I see to be the unique hallmarks of the WSC as I have outlined in this article: our diversity, our critical/analytical perspective, the quality and integrity of the work of our members, our accessibility and the support we offer to individuals at all career stages, and our commitment to both knowledge and advocacy. Indeed, these several essential

traditions and distinctions help to create the WSC's special niche in the fields of criminology and criminal justice: We provide a forum for acquiring, exchanging, testing, and applying knowledge; we serve as a conscience in the field for imagining, defining and using theories and methods, and we promote voices and perspectives ignored or undervalued in debates about crime and justice. As we take up the challenges of crime and justice in the next millennium, please feel welcome to contribute your interests, ideas, abilities, and resources to helping the WSC carry on these important traditions and distinctions.

### ***Blueprints for Violence Prevention Training and Technical Grant Opportunity***

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) at the University of Colorado - Boulder and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U. S. Department of Justice, have entered into a cooperative agreement to provide training and technical assistance over a two year period to 50 community organizations and program providers to implement *Blueprints for Violence Prevention* programs.

CSPV has identified ten exemplary programs, called Blueprints programs, which meet a very high scientific standard of program effectiveness. The criteria include a strong experimental or quasi-experimental research design; evidence of significant prevention or deterrent effects on violence, delinquency, substance use, or pre-delinquent aggression; replication at multiple sites; and a sustained effect beyond one year of treatment.

The standard for program selection is very high. At this time, ten Blueprints programs have been identified that span the infancy through high school developmental stages. They target a wide variety of youth, including whole populations of youth (universal programs), at-risk youth (selected programs), and youth requiring treatment (indicated programs). Books are available from CSPV with in-depth descriptions of these programs, and one-page overviews of each program are on the CSPV website. The programs are briefly described below:

1. *Prenatal and Infancy Home Visitation by Nurses* - nurse home visitation program for at-risk pregnant women designed to improve parenting skills and enhance children's development
2. *Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies* - promotes emotional and social competence of elementary school children
3. *Bullying Prevention Program* - reduces bully/victim problems among primary and secondary school children
4. *Big Brothers Big Sisters of America* - mentoring

5. *Life Skills Training* - school-based drug prevention program for junior/middle school students
6. *Midwestern Prevention Program* - community-based drug prevention with a junior/middle school drug component as the hub of the intervention
7. *Quantum Opportunities Program* - educational incentives program targeting ninth grade students and designed to increase graduation rates and college attendance through an intense, four-year intervention
8. *Functional Family Therapy* - behavioral-based family therapy for at-risk, conduct disorder, and adjudicated youth
9. *Multisystemic Therapy* - family ecological systems approach which targets serious, violent, or substance abusing juvenile offenders
10. *Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care* - places serious and chronic juvenile offenders with foster families who provide close supervision, fair limits, consistent consequences, and a supportive relationship

**Training and Technical Assistance:** Training and technical assistance will be provided to a total of 50 program sites desiring to implement one of the Blueprints programs. CSPV will contract with each Blueprints program designer to provide the technical assistance over a two-year period.

Technical assistance will consist of all necessary training, up to three trouble-shooting site visits per year, and phone consultation. CSPV will conduct a process evaluation at each site to monitor the quality of the implementation to determine if the program is reaching the target population and evaluate whether the program is being fully implemented as designed. Please note that this grant does not include funds for the cost of the program itself.

**Selection Process:** Sites will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis; however, all sites must be selected prior to July 31, 1999. Eligibility will be determined through a General Application, a Blueprint-specific Application, and a feasibility site visit. Sites should strive to return a General Application as soon as possible so that CSPV is aware of all interested sites.

**For more information** on Blueprints programs and the Training and Technical Assistance grant, *please contact:*

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence  
 Institute of Behavioral Science  
 University of Colorado at Boulder  
 Campus Box 442  
 Boulder, CO 80309-0442  
 (303) 492-1032  
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<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints>

## *Theses Abstracts*

*Kristen Jensen, Northern Arizona University, Criminal Justice Department (August 1998)*

On Veterans Day, 1987, John Brewer murdered his fiancé and her unborn child. Surrendering at the scene and throughout the investigation, Brewer's continued cooperation with authorities was indicative not only of his death wish, but of his underlying border personality. On March 3, 1993, Brewer was the second person executed in Arizona since the state's resumption of capital punishment. Through archival research and interviews with the principle parties, the legal, political and social contexts of this case are explored to better understand the death penalty and its use today. A critical element of this study is the role that the media played and the force of mass communication in drawing public support for this execution. It is argued that Brewer's death wish together with popular support for capital punishment, converged to facilitate his death.

*Bekki L. Riggan, California State University, Sacramento, Division of Criminal Justice (Fall 1997)*

The literature is filled with descriptive, anecdotal and conceptual accounts of the successes and failures associated with providing substance abuse treatment to offender populations. However, the substantial body of literature in this field is primarily concerned with programmatic aspects and outcome measures. Many correctional policy researchers argue that specific program elements are often less predictive of program success than the attributes of the implementation process and organizational setting. Although the body of implementation-related literature is growing, studies that critically describe and evaluate implementation issues encountered in designing and administering substance treatment programs for offenders are still limited.

This thesis provides a case study analysis of the key implementation issues encountered by county probation and substance abuse staff in their collaborative effort to develop and administer a treatment in lieu of incarceration program for offenders. This study reviews both justice and treatment literature pertaining to collaborative efforts of this nature, and includes a discussion of the environmental characteristics - or preconditions - recommended for successful program implementation.

Research methodology includes a review of pertinent journals and texts dealing with the developmental history of substance abuse treatment in corrections. Data sources include written documentation, program evaluation materials, and in-depth interviews with program staff, administrators, and program evaluators. In addition, the author was able to draw upon firsthand experience as an associate of a private consulting firm specializing in program evaluation.

Based on the findings, it appears that the success of program implementation remains to a large extent dependent on the environment in which it takes place. Differences in philosophies, goals and practices of the criminal justice and substance abuse treatment agencies can interact to create a policy environment characterized by conflict, frustration and confusion. Policy developers should expand their responsibilities to include assessing the environmental characteristics, or pre-conditions in which a program will be implemented. If indicated, they should then take corrective measures to bring these characteristics as close to the ideal as possible to enhance the likelihood of effective program implementation.

*Elizabeth Anne Humphrey, California State University, Sacramento, Division of Criminal Justice (Fall 1998)*

There are over eleven thousand public-sector law enforcement agencies in the United States. As populations continue to increase, so will the demand for law enforcement personnel. In recent years, police departments have been struggling with the scarcity of eligible recruits, particularly females and minorities. Some departments are looking into career education programs as a way to expand recruitment efforts. In 1988, the first law enforcement magnet program at the high school level was created. John F. Kennedy High School's Academy of Criminal Justice and Community Service in Sacramento is one of these career magnet programs.

The purpose of this thesis was to provide a descriptive study of Kennedy High School's program from the perspective of the participants and the director of the academy. In addition to a review of related literature, a survey questionnaire was administered to all of the students in the academy. Ninety-five of the one hundred nine students enrolled in the academy during the 1997-98 school year completed the survey that consisted of fixed-alternative and open-ended statements. A semi-structured interview of the academy director was also conducted in order to gather information regarding the objectives of the program

The findings of this study reveal that not only is John F. Kennedy High School's Academy of Criminal Justice and Community Service meeting its stated recruitment goal, the students are also demonstrating a knowledge of the intended material. In all but one of the six subject areas, at least half or more of the students indicate an understanding of the material. Furthermore, the program meets its students' expectations and each student lists at least one benefit they have received as a result of participating in the program.



## **WSC Awards 1999**

### ***Recipients of the Western Society of Criminology Fellow Awards 1998-99***

*Elliott Currie* ..... University of California, Berkeley  
*Dorie Klein* ..... Public Health Institute  
*Julie Stewart* ..... Families Against Mandatory Minimums  
*Terrence Hallinan* ..... San Francisco District Attorney

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### ***Recipients of the Western Society of Criminology Awards 1998-99***

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

*James Austin* ..... George Washington University

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

*Cheryl Maxson* ..... University of Southern California  
*Linda Humble* ..... Federal Defender's Office

#### **The June Morrison - Tom Gitchoff Founders Award:**

**For Significant Improvement in the Quality of Justice**

*Ellen Barry* ..... Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

#### **President's Award:**

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

*Austin Turk* ..... University of California, Riverside  
*Barbara Owen* ..... California State University, Fresno

### ***Acknowledgment of Sponsors***

The Executive Board of the Western Society of Criminology, on behalf of itself and all of the members of the association, wishes to express thanks and appreciation to all of the individuals and groups who supported the 1999 annual conference in Oakland with their sponsorship of different events. We realize that without your ongoing supports of our organization, we would not be able to maintain a reasonable dues structure while still providing the membership with a newsletter, a journal, and an exciting and intellectually engaging annual program.

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to all of our sponsors: Center for Criminal Justice Research, California State University, San Bernardino; College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona; Wadsworth Publishing; Copperhouse Publishing Company; and College of Applied Sciences and Arts, San Jose State University.

### ***A Call for Reviewers***

The *Western Criminology Review* seeks to enhance communication between society members and encourage them to share their ideas with others in the international world of criminology and criminal justice. Our first volume addresses significant issues in the field, such as the theory and practice of restorative justice, the efficacy of daytime curfews, the potential of animated, three-dimensional crime mapping models for research and theory, and others.

WSC members and friends of WSC can help out with the journal by making themselves available to review manuscripts submitted for publications consideration. To be placed in the reviewer pool, mail your name, postal address, email address, a phone number, a brief biography, areas of specialization, and the type of computer and word processing program(s) you use to *Pat Jackson, WCR Editor, Criminal Justice, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928*; or fax it to (707)664-3920. For web surfers, an online form is available at <http://wcr.sonoma.edu/Inquiry.html>. You can email the information to [wcr@sonoma.edu](mailto:wcr@sonoma.edu).

### ***WSC 2000***

The 2000 Western Society of Criminology Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 25-27, 2000 at the Kona Surf Resort in Kona, Hawaii. The theme of the Conference is "Diversity and Justice." Please contact *Dr. Cynthia Rienick, Associate Research Analyst, San Diego Association of Governments, Criminal Justice Research Division, 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101-4231*. Phone (619)595-5361 or Fax (619)595-5305.



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## *Internet Access*

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