

## SEXUAL OFFENDER UPDATE: INCARCERATED OFFENSE BEHAVIOR AND COMMUNITY RISK

Lorraine R. Reitzel, Ph.D. — Contact: lreitzel@houston.rr.com

While many assessment tools designed to predict risk of sexual offending emphasize static factors, the last decade has seen increased attention to dynamic factors that influence the risk of future sexual re-offending (Harris, 2005). Concomitant with this attention to “changeable” factors influencing risk has been a focus on offender behavior during incarceration; for example, did the offender satisfactorily complete a sexual offender treatment program, or has there been a pro-social change in attitudes about sexual offending? However, one aspect of behavior during incarceration that has received less attention in risk assessment is sexual offending behaviors during incarceration. There is a suggestion that, in some prison systems, administrative officials see sexual offending behaviors in prison as “an artifact of [sexual] deprivation,” rather than an indicator of increased recidivism risk (Heil, Harrison, & English, 2005). Treatment programs aimed at sexual offending behaviors committed during incarceration are not prevalent, and criminal (or even institutional) sanctions against in-prison offenders are often not pursued, despite that these behaviors would be considered worthy of arrest if committed in the community. Even when prison officials support victimized staff by pursuing criminal charges, local district attorneys may not follow through (Heil et al., 2005). Is this apparent lack of attention to incarcerated offense behaviors

warranted, or does empirical research support that such behaviors increase the risk of re-offense behaviors on the community? Heil and her colleagues recently conducted a study to answer this question.

A total sample of 3,338 adult prisoners was followed for up to 5 years (range 4.3 – 112.2 months) after

*“It is notable that offenders who committed sexual offenses only while incarcerated demonstrated rates of sexual re-offending in the community equal to those who were known sexual offenders by prior adjudication.”*

release from a Colorado state prison. Of these, 2,133 men were previously adjudicated for a sexual offense, 1,062 men had non-sexual adjudications but official crime reports indicated a sexual nature to the crime/s (i.e., factual basis offenders), and 143 were institutional sexual offenders (Heil et al., 2005). Of the 143 institutional offenders, 45% exposed themselves, 28% sexually assaulted peers, 10% engaged in sexual harassment, 9% attempted sexual assault against staff, and 7% engaged in stalking behaviors while in prison (Heil et al., 2005). Of the 143 institutional offenders, 106 had no history of community sexual offenses, whereas 37 had offended both in the community and in prison prior to

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# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CORRECTIONAL & FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

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## Member Article

**INCARCERATED OFFENSE BEHAVIOR** (Continued from page 1)

release.

Heil and colleagues (2005) gathered recidivism data (as measured by arrests) from the Colorado Crime Information Center. Thirty-four offenders were not located for follow-up and were eliminated from the sample. There were a total of 13,230 arrests over the follow-up period for the remaining offenders, 521 of which were for sexual offenses (L. Harrison, personal communication, July 14, 2006). Results indicated the following re-arrest rates for sexual offenses: 8.5% for men previously convicted of a sexual offense, 7.4% for men with a factual basis of previous sexual offending, 8.5% for men who committed sexual offenses in prison only, and 18.2% for men who had a history of sexual offending in the community and who also committed sexual offenses while incarcerated. It is notable that offenders who committed sexual offenses only while incarcerated demonstrated rates of sexual re-offending in the community equal to those who were known sexual offenders by prior adjudication. Moreover, those offenders who continued a pattern of sexual offending from the community into prison had the highest level of sexual recidivism after release, suggesting that this group presented the highest community risk for sexual

crimes. Also interesting was that all recidivism for this group was sexual assault, whereas only half of the group of prison-only offenders recidivated by sexual assault (with the remaining recidivism crimes for this group comprised of indecent exposure and rape, respectively). Statistical comparisons confirmed that the institutional offense groups (prison only and prison plus community; collapsed due to small sample size) were "often significantly more likely to re-offend than the comparison groups." (L. Harrison, personal communication, July 14, 2006). Authors also compared the offender groups on filings (i.e., sexual charges) and time to sexual re-offense. The manuscript describing these results is currently in preparation (P. Heil, personal communication, July 14, 2006).

The findings from the Heil et al. (2005) study suggest that empirical research on prisoners who sexually offend while incarcerated is warranted, as these offenders may pose an increased risk of recidivism in the community. As a result of their study, Heil and colleagues recommended that prisoners committing sexual offenses should be institutionally and criminally sanctioned so that their behavior might be known when they transfer institutions or by law enforcement officials in the community after release,

respectively. Moreover, if institutional sexual offending is handled in this manner, it sends a clear message to would-be offenders that this behavior will not be tolerated in the prison setting, which also provides a measure of institutional support for prison staff. Heil et al. (2005) also recommended increasing the availability of treatment to institutional sexual offenders, and increasing the intensity and length of community supervision after release for these offenders. Finally, they suggested that correctional clinicians use the results of this study to provide evidence to correctional administrators that attention to sexual offending in prison is important, as it has real implications for post-incarceration community risk. Although additional empirical research on this topic is needed, this study presents a preliminary peek at trends worthy of further exploration, the nature of which are likely in sync with the musings of many clinicians that institutional sexual offenders may be a particularly high risk group for sexual offending after release.

**REFERENCES**

- Harris, A. *Dynamic assessment beyond static: Value added?* (2005, November). Presentation at the 14th Annual Asso-

(Continued on page 4)

## Member News

## REPORT FROM THE AACFP ETHICS HOTLINE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Ethics Hotline Development Committee was created in response to a call for volunteers to develop a proposal for an e-mail based, ethics hotline service. There had been recognition of a growing need for such a service in criminal justice settings. The committee consists of Richard Althouse, Ph.D., Ron Bonner, Psy.D., Alison Jones, Ph.D., Richard Stalder, Sally Wing, Ph.D. and me. During the process of developing the parameters of such a service, the committee also approached the need for our Association to eventually develop an ethics casebook, and to take a pro-active advocacy role when patterns of ethical conflict emerge in agencies.

Ethical issues that frequently arise in criminal justice settings are often similar for psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, physicians, and psychiatric nurses, and of-

***“If it is not possible to include every profession initially, we believe the program should still go forward with those panel members we are able to recruit. There is considerable commonality in the ethical codes of conduct for these mental health professionals, and issues faced in criminal justice settings are often similar.”***

ten involve conflict between the mental health component and security component of service providers. We have attempted to set up the ethics panel to represent most, if not all of these professions. Realization of this objective will depend on our ability to attract panel members

from all of these professions, and doing so may be a gradual process. If it is not possible to include every profession initially, we believe that the program should still go forward with those panel members we are able to recruit. There is considerable commonality in the ethical codes of conduct for these mental health professionals, and issues faced in criminal justice settings are often similar.

We envision the e-mail hotline ethics panel as a source of sound ethical advice in conflicting situations which criminal justice mental health workers all too often face, and it will provide an authoritative, independent source of feedback and guidance. The panel will not provide legal advice and if legal issues are involved, the clinician would be advised to consult an attorney and their licensing board. We hope to be able to construct a database that will enable creation of an ethics casebook from the hotline users serving as a broad-based informational tool for practitioners. The hotline should help in the actual implementation and wider dissemination of our Association's ethical principles and standards of practice.

Many of the correctional

(Continued on page 5)

## Member Article

## INCARCERATED OFFENSE BEHAVIOR

(Continued from page 3)

ciation for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders Research and Treatment Conference. Salt Lake City, UT.

Heil, P., Harrison, L., & English, K. *Community recidivism rates of institutional sexual of-*

*fenders.* (2005, November). Presentation at the 14th Annual Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders Research and Treatment Conference. Salt Lake City, UT.

## REPORT FROM THE AACFP ETHICS HOTLINE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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psychologists I have had the privilege to work with over the years have impressed upon me the need for strong organizational support on ethical issues when there are serious institutional breeches where they are confronted with having to choose between their principles and their jobs. I believe that ethical principles and standards of practice from associations like the American Psychological Association (APA) and others need to be backed up with support from these professional organizations when serious violations by criminal justice agencies are documented. For psychologists, a serious ethical violation of APA's Code of Conduct may result in adverse action by the clinician's licensing board. The clinician who is ordered to act in a way that violates this code has little recourse beyond informing their employer of the violation. If the employer chooses to ignore this information and insists that the clinician comply, the clinician is faced with having to comply or refusing, jeopardizing their employment and career.

In my experience it is often possible to negotiate or work out an acceptable, balanced solution that does not violate our ethical code, the

institution's security needs, and the needs of society in general. To achieve this, however, often requires more than a lone clinician or two standing up. Responsible resolution could be greatly assisted by involvement of the clinician's professional organization. In those few cases where satisfactory resolution for all parties is not possible after reasonable efforts, clinicians standing by their professional ethical standards should not be left to stand alone. The implementation of the e-mail hotline and eventual development of our Association's ethics casebook will be important steps helping to educate and inform all criminal justice professionals.

A critical step will be the selection of an ethics hotline website manager. This person needs good computer skills, clinical

knowledge, and broad-based knowledge of various mental health professions' ethical standards and codes of conduct. The person must be able to monitor and respond to the e-mail traffic in a prompt and conscientious manner. Once the website manager is selected and the ethics hotline panel is in place, it will be equally important to communicate its existence as widely as possible to criminal justice system mental health professionals. My thanks to our committee members for their work to get us to this point.

Robert R. Walsh, Ph.D.,  
Chair, AACFP Ethics  
Hotline Development  
Committee

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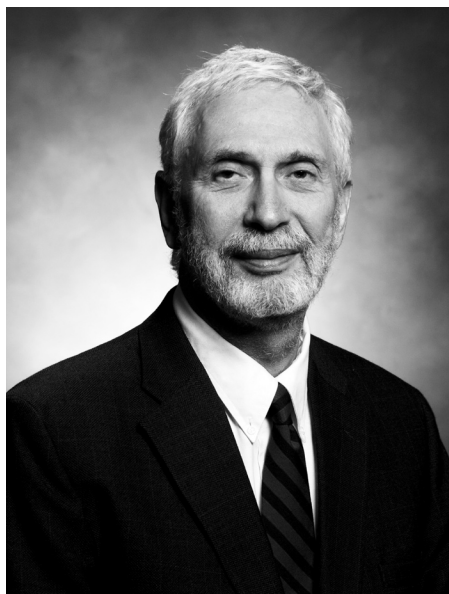


## Member News

## THE AACFP PAST-PRESIDENT AND FOUNDING FATHER AND EDITOR OF *CRIMINAL JUSTICE & BEHAVIOR* RECEIVES PSYCHOLOGY-LAW SOCIETY'S HIGHEST HONOR

Doctor Stanley L. Brodsky, University of Alabama professor of psychology, has recently been named recipient of the American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) Award for distinguished contributions in psychology and the law. Doctor Brodsky was President of our Association from 1969-1971 and is the Founding Editor of our journal, *Criminal Justice & Behavior*. He is also considered the father of modern correctional psychology.

This award is one of the most prestigious awards given by the American Psychological Association. This honor is not given out every year, but is instead only awarded when an individual is nominated that deserves the award. It has only been given out six times. Previous recipients include former Attorney General Janet Reno and Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmon.



**Dr. Stanley L. Brodsky**

Brodsky is one of the foremost authorities in research and practice on testimony. His several books in the area help carve out a systematic approach to effective testimony. Brodsky helped found the American Psychology-Law Society and played an integral role in creating the field of psychology and the law. He has also played an important

role in creating curricula at the graduate level for classes that address psychology and the law.

His interests as a researcher include forensic psychology, expert witness effectiveness, competency for execution, jury selection, trial consultation, and mitigation evidence and testimony. His current work has focused especially on witness research.

The AP-LS Award honors a person who has made distinguished theoretical, empirical, and/or applied contributions to the field of psychology and law.

Brodsky has a doctorate in psychology from the University of Florida and is a licensed clinical psychologist in Alabama. He is scheduled to give an invited talk about his work in 2008 at the AP-LS national convention as part of the honor.

## Association Updates

## ASSOCIATION UPDATE FROM DR. JOHN L. GANNON

It has been a busy quarter for AACFP.

□ Our elections have been completed, and Dr. Reitzel, Dr. Althouse, and Mr. Randall have been elected as President, President-Elect, and Secretary/

Treasurer respectively. They will take office in January, 2007.

□ As you can tell from this issue of *The Correctional Psychologist (TCP)*, we are still in the process of refocusing the newsletter. We will be adding new sections and

departments in the upcoming months. Give us feedback if you like or don't like the changes.

□ The road to Ottawa in June, 2007, and our work on the First  
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*Association Updates*

# North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference

## June 7-9, 2007 Ottawa, Canada



### **WELCOME TO OTTAWA, CANADA**

As the nation's capital, Ottawa is packed full of things to see and do while attending the NACCJP Conference.

The conference hotels are the Ottawa Westin and the historic Chateau Laurier, both situated in the heart of downtown Ottawa overlooking the Rideau Canal (which becomes the world's longest skating rink in the winter months). The conference is being held in the Ottawa Westin and the Ottawa Congress Centre—a short indoor walk away.

The Canadian parliament

buildings are a 5-minute walk from either hotel.

Pictured above is the Peace Tower of the Centre Block of the Canadian Parliament Buildings. Nearby are many of Canada's museums including the Canada Aviation Museum, Canada Science and Technology Museum, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Canadian Museum of Nature and the Canadian War Museum—to name just a few.

Downtown is Ottawa's well-known Byward Market which is full of shopping opportunities by day and entertainment venues by night.

Rent a car and slip over to the 'Quebec Side' and see the sights in the Gatineau hills.

Ottawa is a family friendly and safe place to visit.

Oh, by the way—with all these distractions, make sure you take in the Conference. A Call for Papers is on the next page.

For more information on what to see and do in Ottawa, go to [www.ottawatourism.ca](http://www.ottawatourism.ca).

For more information, contact Dr. Jeremy Mills @ [millsjf@csc-scc.gc.ca](mailto:millsjf@csc-scc.gc.ca) or Dr. Robert Morgan @ [robert.morgan@TTU.EDU](mailto:robert.morgan@TTU.EDU).

### Association Updates

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The **North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference** is co-sponsored by the Criminal Justice Section of CPA and the Criminal Justice Section of Division 18 of APA. The conference will run concurrently with the Canadian Psychological Association's annual convention and is financially supported by the American Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology (AACFP).

### KEY FEATURES

#### Invited Speakers

- Dr. David Farrington, Cambridge University
- Dr. Paul Gendreau, University of New Brunswick
- Dr. Vern Quinsey, Queen's University
- Dr. Don Andrews, Carleton University
- Dr. Marnie Rice, McMaster University

#### •Pre-Conference Workshops

•“Assessing Criminal and Violence Risk: Theory, Ethics and Application” a full-day facilitated by Dr. Daryl Kerner, Dr. Robert Morgan and Dr. Jeremy Mills.

•“Sex Offender Assessment: Scoring the Stable and Acute 2000” a full-day workshop facilitated by the co-author of the instruments, Dr. Andrew Harris.

#### •Concurrent Workshops

•“Cognitive impairment as a responsiveness factor: The dummies' guide to correctional neuropsychology” facilitated by Dr. Dorothy Cotton.

•\$\$\$CASH\$\$ Awards for Best Student Poster Presentations

•A “Celebration of Excellence” Awards Reception.

•Many opportunities to network with leading researchers.

•APA recognized CE credits will be available for participants.

•A Conference Proceeding will be edited and published by CPA. Copies will be available to all participants following the conference.

### PROGRAM SUBMISSIONS

The Conference will be accepting submissions for symposia and poster presentations—see the Guidelines Section. Submissions portal opens in mid-August 2006. Go to [www.cpa.ca](http://www.cpa.ca) and follow the convention link.

**The deadline for submission is November 15, 2006.**

Updated information about the conference will be regularly posted at [www.cpa.ca/aboutcpa/cpasections/criminaljustice/](http://www.cpa.ca/aboutcpa/cpasections/criminaljustice/)

**Circle your calendar and plan to attend. We are aiming to make this the largest gathering of correctional and criminal psychologists—ever.**

### GUIDELINES

The program will be comprised of presentations and symposia selected or invited by the Programs Review Committee and the Conference Steering Committee. Any member of CPA, APA or the AACFP may submit a proposal. Non-members or international participants should be sponsored by a member or belong to a recognized practice or research organization.

#### 1. Number of Participants

Presenters should limit themselves to two participations in the program. Participation in poster presentations does not count towards this limit of two though participants should limit themselves to one poster where they are the lead or presenting author. Non-presenting co-authorships or participation as a panelist/discussant do not count towards the presentation limits.

#### 2. Written Summaries of Presentations

In order to enhance the educational benefits for everyone who attends the conference, each presenter must ensure that hard copies of their material or summaries of their material are available to attendees with contact information where further information may be obtained. Reference lists are encouraged to be a part of this written information.

#### 3. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

A conflict of interest is deemed to be present when the material being

presented includes the use of an instrument(s) or material in which any of the authors have a pecuniary interest. In such instances the presenters must state verbally at the commencement of a symposium and include in the written summaries of the presentations the nature of the pecuniary interest. Where pecuniary interest is present in poster presentations a written statement within the poster and handout materials must state the nature of the pecuniary interest.

#### 4. Scheduling of Presentations

Presentations will be scheduled at the discretion of the organizers. Every attempt will be made to provide ample time for presentations. Presenters should be aware that symposia time slots are not expected to exceed 1.5 hours and may be 1 hour in length depending on the quality and quantity of submissions. Presenters will be provided with the length of time upon notification of acceptance.

#### 5. Peer Review Process

All submissions will be subject to a peer review process. Where the quantity of submissions exceeds time allocations priority will be given based upon quality of the presentation and balance of program topics. Whenever possible symposia submissions not accepted due to scheduling limitations will be allowed to submit as a poster presentation.

#### 6. Previously Published or Presented Materials

Unless invited, presentations previously published or presented at a CPA, APA, AACFP or other national professional / research organization event may not be presented unless they include substantial elaboration or new information.

#### 7. Media Coverage

All submissions will be reviewed for their potential for media interest. If so identified, authors will be contacted and encouraged to work with the organizers to prepare a suitable 'media friendly' summary of their material.



*Association Updates***ASSOCIATION UPDATE FROM DR. JOHN L. GANNON**

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North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference with the Criminal Justice section of the Canadian Psychological Association and Division 18 of APA has not been as smooth as hoped, but the conference should still be well worth attending, and I hope to meet many of you there.

□ We have been working very diligently with Sage Publications, publishers of our journal, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, on a number of issues. For example, we will be improving the value and timeliness of our journal by increasing the amount of content using a larger format, and by publishing 12 issues per year from the current six. Sage is also helping us

refurbish website, manage our membership list, and improve member services. More about these issues as they unfold.

□ The Internet Ethics Hotline Committee has completed its work, and will begin operation as part of the upgrade of the AACFP website.

□ The Research Agenda Committee for correctional psychology, under the leadership of Dr. Bob Morgan, is completing its work and indicates that a submission will be made soon to our journal, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.

□ Doctor Reitzel has completed and mailed the application for APA approval of any educational offerings we might make. The review process appears to be very detailed and quite restrictive, but we are hoping for the best,

and we commend Dr. Reitzel for her herculean efforts.

□ We are currently considering developing a web-based research center. The center would help to create a community of scholars to assist each other in similar research areas, provide low-cost or no-cost journal articles or other materials, such as the Sage Full-Text Psychology and Criminology Collections to qualified students or scholars in impoverished countries, and create other opportunities to assist researchers in getting the materials that they need for excellence in correctional and forensic psychological research.



### Association Updates

## SIGN UP FOR *CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND BEHAVIOR* E-MAIL ALERTS

Dear AACFP Members:

I appreciate this opportunity to introduce myself as one of the liaison people at SAGE Publications for the American Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology (AACFP) and for *Criminal Justice and Behavior* (CJ&B). I have been representing SAGE and AACFP at various conferences and assisting the AACFP in other ways to provide improved member services and increase awareness and use of CJ&B.

Among the benefits that attract new members most are the uniquely useful range of Internet-based tools that come with AACFP membership. My reason for writing this note to you today is to encourage you to explore the advantages of a specific and valuable Internet resource offered by SAGE. As you know, AACFP members currently receive a complimentary print and online subscription to CJ&B. SAGE also offers complimentary E-Mail Alerts for CJ&B through our online delivery platform, SAGE Journals Online.

E-Mail Alerts provide you with notification, in advance, in several categories of interest, including:

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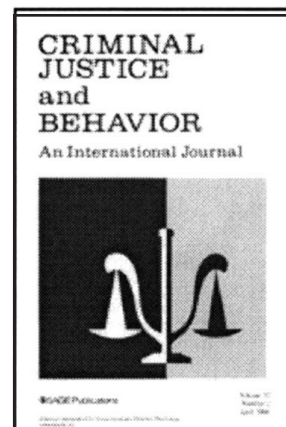
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7. Under "My Content Alerts", click on [ADD CONTENT ALERTS](#)
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## Call for Contributors

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

As you may have guessed from the different paper, colors and fonts in recent issues, Drs. Gannon, Reitzel and I have been working on some revisions for the newsletter, and we are now soliciting your input in two ways. First, we are interested in hearing from you regarding the proposed sections listed here. Second, we are interested in identifying possible contributors to those sections. The overall goal of the revisions is to provide more personal and personalized information for our members, and to bring them more timely information regarding changes in field. Our professional niche is small, and our work important to inmates, administrators and community members alike. We want to make as certain as possible that we provide support and information that is interesting and useful. Please review the sections proposed below, and consider volunteering as a contributor in areas with which you are familiar or curious. Send comments to me at: [smithr@marshall.edu](mailto:smithr@marshall.edu).

### Proposed Newsletter Sections:

#### □ National/International Correctional/Forensic Policy Developments

- Pending/Recent Legislation
- Policy Trends

#### □ Member News

- Ethics Internet Hotline Report
- Interviews
- Awards
- Promotions
- Retirements
- Changes

#### □ Association Updates

- Elections
- Website

- Member Benefits Listings and Updates
- \*Job Listings
- \*Book and Publishing Discounts
- \*Conference Listings and Discounts
- \*Ephemera (AACFP t-shirts, mugs, etc.)

#### □ Member Articles

#### □ Foreign Member Reports

#### □ Research of Interest

- Upcoming Articles in *CJ&B*
- Most Popular (read and cited) Articles in *CJ&B*
- New Book Titles Related to the Field
- Report on New Research
- Developments Related

to Crime and Criminality

\*Cognitive Science

\*Therapeutic Strategies

\*Social Psychology

— Book-Author Interviews

#### □ How-To Section

- Report Writing
- Working with Administration
- Working with Difficult People
- Time Management

#### □ Call for Contributors

- Job Listings
- Member Update Monitor
- Foreign Reports
- Legislation Monitor
- Journalist/Skilled Interviewer

# STUDENTS—TURN YOURSELF IN

The readership of *The Correctional Psychologist (TCP)* is interested in your research. If you've recently defended your thesis or dissertation on a correctional or forensic topic, please let us know. We'd like to highlight your research in *TCP* and let our readership know about your scholarship and results. This is especially important for student-generated research, as *TCP* readers may not have access to unpublished work and there is often a substantial lag time between project completion and publication. So, let your colleagues know about your research.

To "turn yourself in," please send the following information to Dr. Robert R. Smith, *TCP* Executive Editor via e-mail [smithr@marshall.edu](mailto:smithr@marshall.edu): your name, degree, university affiliation, major professor, thesis/dissertation title, date defended,



project abstract, and your e-mail/contact address. Also, if you've received any scholarships/fellowships/awards to support your project, we'd like to know that too.

Students are a valuable part of AACFP membership and we'd like to provide a forum for your contribution to the field, so "turn yourself in" today. Research completed during the 2005-2006 academic year is appropriate for immediate submission.

*Research of Interest*

## A PARTIAL LIST OF UPCOMING ARTICLE TITLES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND BEHAVIOR

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| <p>□ <i>Assessment of Psychosocial Impairment in a Supermaximum Security Unit Sample.</i></p> <p>□ <i>Nothing to Lose? A Comparative Examination of Prison Misconduct Rates Among Life Without Parole and Other Long-Term High-Security Inmates.</i></p> <p>□ <i>Implementing "Corrections of Place" Ideas: The Perspective of Clients and Staff.</i></p> <p>□ <i>Treatment Response of Adolescent Offenders with Psychopathy Features: A 2-Year Follow-Up.</i></p> | <p>□ <i>Global Risk Indicators and the Role of Gender in Juvenile Detention Sample.</i></p> <p>□ <i>Social Functioning, Treatment Dropout, and Recidivism of Probationers Mandated to a Modified Therapeutic Community.</i></p> <p>□ <i>The Impact of Implicit Stereotyping on Offender Profiling: Unexpected Results From an Observational Study of Shoplifting.</i></p> <p>□ <i>Adjusting Actuarial Violence Risk Assessments Based on Aging or the Passage of Time.</i></p> | <p>□ <i>Graduate Students' Experiences, Interests, and Attitudes Toward Correctional/Forensic Psychology.</i></p> <p>□ <i>What is Correctional About Clinical in Corrections?</i></p> <p>□ <i>Personality, Criminal Behavior, and Risk Assessment: Implications for Theory and Practice.</i></p> <p>□ <i>Criminal Thinking on Probation: A Perspective from Ireland.</i></p> <p>□ <i>Moral Reasoning of Adolescent Male Offenders: Comparison of Sexual and Nonsexual Offenders.</i></p> |
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### NEW FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY BOOK

Wiley has just published a new book edited by Alan Goldstein titled *Forensic Psychology: Emerging Topics and Expanding Roles*. It is over 800 pages long and sells for \$125. It

carries a 2007 copyright date and there are 28 chapters with excellent contributors and content.

## TOP-DOWNLOADED CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND BEHAVIOR ARTICLES IN 2006

(Access the full text of these articles and more through the *Criminal Justice and Behavior* link on the AACFP Member's Only site)

Historical and Personality Correlates to the Violence Patterns of Juveniles Tried as Adults  
Ivan P. Kruh, Paul J. Frick, & Carl B. Clements,  
February 2005, 32, 69-96.

A Quantitative Review of Structured, Group-Oriented, Cognitive-Behavioral



Programs for Offenders  
David B. Wilson, Leana Allen Bouffard, & Doris L. Mackenzie,  
April 2005, 32, 172-204.

Factor Structure of the Buss-Perry

Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ) With Mentally Ill Male Prisoners  
Pamela M. Diamond, Eugene W. Wang, & Jacqueline Buffington-Vollum,  
October 2005, 32, 546-564.

Crisis (Hostage) Negotiation Training: A Preliminary Evaluation of Program Efficacy  
Vincent B. Van Hasselt, Monty T. Baker, Stephen J. Romano, Kari M. Schlessinger, Marc Zucker, Romina Dragone, & Aimee L. Perera, February 2006, 33, 56-69.



*Research of Interest*

## PRINCIPLES OF DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS REPORT

The National Institute of Drug Abuse (<http://www.nida.nih.gov/index.html>) has released its report, *Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations*

([http://www.nida.nih.gov/PODAT\\_CJ/principles](http://www.nida.nih.gov/PODAT_CJ/principles)). The NIDA's 13 principles come after years of rigorous research and the effort from dedicated experts and organizations, such as the non-

profit Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities. For more information, go to: [http://www.nida.nih.gov/PODAT\\_CJ/principles/](http://www.nida.nih.gov/PODAT_CJ/principles/)

## VERA INSTITUTE REPORT—CONFRONTING CONFINEMENT

John L. Gannon, Ph. D.

On June 8, 2006, after a year-long inquiry, the Vera Institute's Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons released its report, *Confronting Confinement*, and I strongly urge all of our members to review the report at <http://www.prisoncommission.org/report>.

There are three focal points: 1) re-entry, 2) evidence-based practices, and 3) current data for U.S. jails and prisons as well as overall report recommendations. In my opinion, these issues will have a strong staying power and influence within the correctional community. Correctional and forensic psychology professionals need to educate themselves about each issue since the changes related to the issues will have a major impact on the current and future practice of psychology with offender populations in America.

*Confronting Confinement* is a report on violence and abuse in U.S. jails and prisons, the impact of those problems on public safety and public health, and how correctional facilities nationwide can become safer and more effective.

The power of the report derives from the status of the committee, thoroughness of the inquiry, and the implications for change. The diverse group was co-chaired by former U.S. Attorney General Nicholas de B. Katzenbach and John J. Gibbons, former Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Five members of the Commission have already testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Corrections and Rehabilitation.

On any given day, 2.2 million people are incarcerated in the United States, and over the course of a year, many millions spend time in

prison or jail. There are 750,000 men and women who currently work in U.S. correctional facilities. The annual cost to operate these facilities is more than 60 billion dollars. Yet within 3 years, 67% of former prisoners will be rearrested and 52% will be re-incarcerated.

At this moment, the ineffectiveness of America's approach to corrections has the attention of policy makers at all levels of government and in both political parties. The Commission has made a unique contribution to this timely national discussion by connecting the most serious problems and abuses inside U.S. jails and prisons with the health and safety of our communities. As professionals and Association members, we need to be familiar with every aspect of the report.

*Foreign Member Reports*

## FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY IN THE UK: A BIRD'S EYE VIEW FROM ACROSS THE POND

Louise Coates, MSc — Contact: [Psychybabe@aol.com](mailto:Psychybabe@aol.com)

I am often asked why I chose to work as a forensic psychologist, as though there is something a little weird about my choice. If

you enjoy working with a wide range of people in a variety of roles and responsibilities, and like to know that you're making a contribution

to society and the development of your profession as a whole, then it doesn't get much better

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*Foreign Member Reports*

## FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY IN THE UK (Continued from page 13)

than this!

Compared with other disciplines of psychology, forensic is still a fledgling, having developed from the amalgamation of prison psychology, clinical psychology within secure services, and the division of legal and criminological psychology in the 1990s. Today, the Prison Service of England and Wales continues to be the biggest single employer of forensic psychologists in the UK. Yet, many more organizations are seeing the value in employing the services of forensic psychologists including the National Health Service (NHS), Probation and Youth Offending Services (YOS), Police Service, and independent sector organizations. In addition to these organizations, there is an increasing number of private companies offering forensic psychology services in, for example, the production of assessment reports for the courts, consultancy to aforementioned organizations, training for professionals, and the development, delivery and evaluation of offending behavior interventions.

The development of forensic psychology as a division of the British Psychological Society (BPS) in the 1990s, and the end of the monopoly by the Prison Service over post graduate training (in the form of the MSc in applied criminological psychology) has resulted in academic institutions across the UK offering BPS accredited masters and doctoral degrees in forensic psychology. This now means that, unlike when I entered the field, the opportunities for graduates to specialize in forensic psychology are far more varied and widespread than ever

before.

As a student of psychology in the early 1990s, my interest in applying my studies within the criminal justice field was captured, so to speak, while working as a volunteer group-work facilitator with young offenders in custody. My final year dissertation into the application of general literature on suicidal behavior to understanding suicides in prison gained the attention of the Prison Service at a time when this was emerging as a political "hot potato" in the UK. During my 9 years with the Prison Service I was privileged to have been involved with the development of several of the major initiatives to be led by forensic psychologists, most of which will no doubt be familiar to correctional psychologists in America.

Working in a dispersal prison in England (called dispersal because the Prison Service strategy to disperse maximum secure "Category A" prisoners among "Category B" prisoners in order to dilute the risk they pose within the prison system), I soon became involved in the introduction of standardized assessment tools as a means of understanding prisoners' risks and needs. The most controversial of these tools being Hare's Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R). My masters degree research project indicated that 30% of the population of the prison scored above the accepted cut-off of 30; those who have had the pleasure of working with high PCL-R scorers can empathize with the myriad discipline and treatment problems I learned to endure and overcome. I don't think that any forensic psychologist worth their keychain can get by in that environment without having a few

choice phrases up their sleeve for responding to the numerous solicitors' letters such prisoners tend to generate.

These were the early days following McGuire's publication of the "What Works" principles for effective offending behavior programs, and forensic psychologists found themselves the champions of this approach within the Prison Service. I was no exception. It was an exciting time of innovation and service development where finally there was some empirical evidence to show our approach to working with offenders might actually be effective. I'm not sure prisoners saw it in the same way, though I took it as a good sign that they were now rapping on my office door to complain about not getting onto programs quickly enough.

I worked with a small team of prison officers and psychologists to set up a violent offender program for high risk offenders, which almost ground to a halt before it started when three of the nine participants were dragged off to the segregation unit for fighting the night before the first session. Clearly we had appropriately identified our participants, it was just a pity that one of the officers involved in their removal was one of the facilitators for the program.

Having led the implementation of the nationally accredited Enhanced Thinking Skills program in the prison, I was then fortunate to be invited to spend a week in a hotel in Bath (quintessential English city with an excellent rugby team) with Drs. Hare and Forth and several of my favorite

(Continued on page 15)

### Foreign Member Reports

## FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY IN THE UK (Continued from page 14)

colleagues. Unfortunately, this also involved a great deal of hard work, learning how to train others to understand psychopathy and how to use the PCL-R. There are few more intimidating or humbling situations than presenting the work of an eminent professional to that eminent professional for their approval, unless you count my friend's scheme for a shame attacking exercise of me asking Dr. Hare to autograph my copy of his book.

Along with the day to day assessment and treatment of prisoners, I worked with the deputy governor and his team to train the new operational support grade staff to develop skills in dealing with the public (prisoners aren't the only ones who benefit from assertiveness training!) and searching techniques. I can't have done too bad a job, as I'm still greeted with a cheerful smile and an extra vigorous rub-down search whenever I have to visit.

The deputy governor was given his own prison to govern, a large young offenders' institution with quite a few problems, and invited me to join the team he was setting up to ring in the changes. This meant a rather bigger promotion than I was anticipating, as the area manager decided to combine the post with the area principal psychologist post. This was the first, but not only, time I found myself with two jobs and only 1 working week in which to do them.

I was finally working with the under 21s again with the daily challenges of attempted suicides, fights, resistance to compliance (and that wasn't just the prisoners), but immediate rewards when interventions were

working well. Despite attempts by some colleagues to undermine and sabotage the new developments, I was to leave the prison 2 years later having seen it transformed into the toast of the Prison Service, with offending behavior programs, two new multi-million pound education units, and monitoring systems in place to ensure managers could maintain control of this, now

successful, establishment.

It was during this period that the explosion in forensic psychology occurred, with posts cropping up all over the country to manage the expansion in offending behavior programs. Having been there and done that, it was time for me to move on to new challenges.

## CANADIAN CORNER

Steve Wormith, Ph.D. — Contact: [s.wormith@usask.ca](mailto:s.wormith@usask.ca)

### Canadian Psychological Association Whoops it up in Calgary

The 2006 annual conference of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) was held in Calgary in June 2006, with most of the usual suspects in attendance. Many delegates also found time to attend the famous Calgary Stampede and concluded that working with offenders is really rather tame in comparison to the life of a rodeo cowboy, illustrating once again that it is all relative.

Doctor Karl Hanson gave the Criminal Justice Section's keynote speech, entitled *A Framework for Violence Risk Assessment: Static, Stable and Acute Factors*. Drawing on his work with sex offender prediction, Karl sees a parallel in the prediction of violent recidivism and proposed that these three types of predictor variables (static or historical for long term prediction, stable but changeable - hence targets for intervention, and acute or rapidly changing - hence requiring a more immediate response or management strategy) form the basic framework for the identification of violence prediction variables.

Doctor Brian Grant and colleagues from the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) described their work

profiling federal offenders with drug and alcohol problems. It is estimated that approximately 80 % of the federal offender population is in need of some kind of substance abuse intervention. The session described CSC's work on the development of their Computerized Assessment of Substance Abuse (CASA), randomized drug testing which has related positive tests to greater problems of institutional adjustment and more institutional misconduct reports, CSC's methadone program for the most severely addicted offenders, and the use of specialized 'intensive support units' for offenders who are highly motivated to work on their addiction. The latter initiative is of particular interest in that drug access in these well controlled units is extremely limited and released offenders have recidivated at a lower rate than their counterparts who are released from the general population. For more information, contact Dr. Grant at [grantba@csc-scc.gtc.ca](mailto:grantba@csc-scc.gtc.ca).

An emerging group of police psychology in the Criminal Justice Psychology section is beginning to develop a profile (no pun intended) in CPA as they presented both a symposium and conversation

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### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CORRECTIONAL & FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

"THE VOICE OF PSYCHOLOGY IN CORRECTIONS"

The AACFP is a non-profit, educational organization in service to mental health professionals throughout the world. Many of our members are doctoral level psychologists, but neither a Ph.D. nor a degree in psychology is required for membership. If you are interested in correctional and forensic issues, we welcome you to the Association.

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Brief Description of Work Experience:

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*The memberships fee for AACFP is \$65.00 per year, paid at the time of enrollment or renewal. Membership includes four issues of our newsletter, The Correctional Psychologist, and six issues of AACFP's highly-ranked, official journal, Criminal Justice and Behavior. (CJ&B will be expanded to 12 issues per year beginning in January, 2007). Membership also includes electronic access to current and archived issues of over 65 journals in the Sage Full-Text Psychology and Criminology Collections.*

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