



September/October 2007
Volume 22, Issue 2

Correctional Education Association - Wisconsin

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"Friends" Enhance Educational Programs

For the 19th consecutive year, the Wisconsin Chapter of the Correctional Education Association is showing its appreciation to individuals and organizations who have helped to improve educational opportunities for offenders in Wisconsin correctional facilities. Since the Friends of Correctional Education Award was founded, the contributions of 70 individuals and organizations have been honored by the CEAW Board.

This year, CEAW is again recognizing some of these volunteers with the Friends of Correctional Education award. Those receiving this award may be volunteers who have contributed time and effort to an education program, community agency employees who have presented special workshops, business people who have donated funds or materials to make programs more effective, or advocates of correctional education in some way.

Certificates for these Friends of Correctional Education award winners will be presented at special ceremonies held at the institutions involved. The 2007 award winners of the Friends of Correctional Education Award are:

William Cook

For nearly the last decade, octogenarian Bill Cook has spent his Monday and Friday mornings helping the offenders at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center understand their math. Bill is always willing to help anyone referred to him and is always on the look out for new resources to do this. He goes above and beyond his role as tutor by advocating in the community for quality education for all and has created valuable relationships with the local Racine Unified School District.

William Cook was nominated by REECC teacher Margaret Done.

Jan Exner

Jan Exner has volunteered as a Financial Literacy instructor for Southern Oaks Girls School students since 1997. Jan is a recently retired financial specialist from the Bank of Elmwood in Burlington, Wisconsin. Her weekly workshops have focused on savings and checking account maintenance, basic budgeting, credit and debt management, and tax preparation. Jan
(continue on page 3)

You May Qualify for Reduced CEA Membership Rates

If you are a student or volunteer, or if you have retired, you are eligible for a reduced CEA membership rate of \$35 per year. Clerical and support staff also qualify for a reduced rate of \$25 per year. According to CEA’s definition, not only Program Assistants, but Librarians, are included in this category.

CEA is the only professional organization devoted solely to providing opportunities for correctional educators to network with their peers. So, if you aren’t already a member, consider joining our growing organization. Take advantage of the services CEA membership affords.

If you are a member of CEA, keep your membership active. If you haven’t already joined CEA, please go to the national website, www.ceanational.org, and do so. Individual memberships are only \$55.

Promising Life Skills Programs for Incarcerated Audiences

UW-Extension/Cooperative Extension has authored a document titled “*Promising Life Skills Educational Programs for Incarcerated Audiences.*” The document is intended for educators to select educational resources, both curricula and supplemental materials, that have resulted in promising outcomes with incarcerated audiences. Information in the document was researched and reviewed by UW-Extension state specialists. The document is available at: www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/families/criminaljustice.cfm.

by: Jennifer Caravella
UW-Extension

Executive Officers		<p>The CEAW News Review is published by the members of the Correctional Education Association-Wisconsin Chapter. The opinions herein are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the executive officers, the Department of Corrections, or the body as a whole.</p> <p>It is our hope that this newsletter will be used to communicate information concerning activities, special events, new directions and policies of CEAW and DOC.</p> <p>Articles for publication may be submitted to CEAW Secretary Barb Rasmussen at Racine Correctional Institution, 2019 Wisconsin Street, Sturtevant, WI 53177-0900, barbara.rasmussen@wisconsin.gov or CEAW News Review Editor Jerry Bednarowski at: jerrybednarowski@new.rr.com</p>
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“Friends” Enhance Educational Programs (cont.)

has been quite successful at engaging even the most difficult students. Jan is an extremely positive individual who has routinely developed effective working relationships with students and staff at Southern Oaks Girls School and her positive nature is infectious! Despite an active retirement filled with travel and adventure, Jan continues to enhance correctional educational education at Southern Oaks Girls School.

Jan Exner was nominated by SOGS Treatment Social Worker Beth Oliver.

Sallie Kernan, Ronda Stokes & the Eau Claire Educational Opportunity Center

The Eau Claire Educational Opportunity Center has sent representatives to Stanley Correctional Institution practically since it opened. Several times a year, they present excellent workshops on Career Planning and Financial Aid for the offenders in various educational programs. Their goal is to assist and encourage all with whom they work to seek out higher education.

Sallie Kernan, Program Coordinator, has been the presenter for the past several years. Ronda Stokes, Program Associate, has often traveled with Sallie to assist in the presentation. They always bring along two or three suitcases of handouts and materials which they distribute throughout the workshops they present. The drive from their office at UW-Eau Claire takes them almost an hour as it is over 35 miles one way.

The presentation they deliver is very uplifting and motivating to the students that are able to hear it. Sallie is able to share personal stories of other previously incarcerated individuals who have been assisted by EOC offices in successfully pursuing education beyond high school.

Sallie Kernan, Ronda Stokes, and the Eau Claire Educational Opportunity Center were nominated by SCI teacher Lori Koenig

Felipe Rodriguez

Felipe Rodriguez, Assistant Dean, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Education, Office of Advising and Academic Services, has worked collaboratively with Southern Oaks Girls School instructors on the school's annual Ethnic Festival since 1996. During captivating performances, Felipe has shared perspectives and insights relative to issues of diversity, teaching tolerance, and celebrating differences. Felipe has also candidly discussed the positive aspects and ever-present challenges of maintaining his Puerto Rican heritage while living in the continental United States. Through personal story-telling, musical interpretation, and light-hearted dance, Felipe has consistently engaged all Southern Oaks Girls School audience members!

Felipe Rodriguez was nominated by SOGS teacher Tracie Ruether-McWilliams.

Sharon Shouldice

Sharon Shouldice is a Master Gardener from Waterford, Wisconsin who has volunteered her time, energies, expertise, and creativity to teaching horticultural science to Southern Oaks Girls School students on a weekly basis since 1998. Southern Oaks Girls School's students and Science instructors have found Sharon's introductory botany lessons, floral design workshops, and plant dissection lab activities fabulous opportunities for learning and experimentation. Sharon is a kind, quiet, and thoughtful person who has not only greatly enhanced the delivery of Science instruction at Southern Oaks Girls School, but has acted as a mentor to some of SOG's most challenging students.

Sharon Shouldice was nominated by SOGS teacher Jason Brost.

WCI's Marshland School Provides Opportunities

The Waupun Correctional Institution Education Department provides the opportunity for inmates to pursue academic, vocational and college programming. The opportunities include possible completion in the following areas: Adult Basic Education (ABE), High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED), Wisconsin Technical College System Vocational Diplomas (WTCS) and Correspondence Courses approved by State of Wisconsin's Educational Approval Board.

The ABE classes are taught by WTCS certified instructors. Once ABE classes are completed, inmates transfer into high level functioning classes. In these classes inmates are assessed by completing GED subject exams, (Reading, Writing, Math, Science, & Social Studies) which lead to a General Education Diploma (GED) or High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED). In order to obtain the HSED, students must complete the GED requirements along with passing Health, Civics and Employability Skills requirements. Marshland School has 6 academic teachers, 2 vocational teachers, a librarian, a guidance counselor, and an education director.

The WTCS programs and classes are certified through Moraine Park Technical College and lead to a diploma either in Welding/Production Welding or in Building Maintenance and Construction. Implementing curriculum, such as this, is important, so that we not only hold offenders accountable, but also do everything we can to help them succeed in their communities. Released offenders are much less likely to commit new crimes if they have stable, well-paying jobs and this curriculum gives offenders an opportunity to learn and retain true "workplace success". These courses allow inmates to become cognizant of the skills that can lead to gainful employment, reducing the chance of committing new crimes and returning to prison at taxpayers' expense. These courses are part of DOC's ongoing efforts to strengthen programming for offenders.

Within the Building Maintenance and Construction program, we have created the Toy Project. The philosophy of the Toy Project is to benefit community nonprofit organizations by donating various wooden toys/items for their organizations' fund raising events, and to promote a more positive and interactive relationship between the community and the institution. Communities need to understand the abilities of offenders and to recognize that the Department of Corrections is providing work positions that teach skills to inmates, which may be used upon their reintegration into the community. Some items are sold to staff, visitors and organizations. The profit from these sales is returned to the program for supplies, equipment and equipment repair. The project employs 16 inmates.

This program has a two-fold purpose. First, it has significant rehabilitative goals. Not only does it keep inmates occupied in a productive manner, but also teaches skills which provide a means of employment or leisure time activity upon release. Second, it provides a community service, while also providing wooden toys for the underprivileged children in the community.

Items produced are useful objects such as toys, rocking horses, rocking motorcycles, Noah's Arks, wooden wagons, walking sticks, tables, chairs, and pieces of art. Many of the items were donated and other organizations have purchased items to be used in their fund raising events.

by: Amy Reid, WCI Education Director

Tell It Like It Is

For over past six years I have looked for ways to assist inmates to “think outside of the box”. This is a challenging matter. To gain more insight into this problem, I decided to do some research into area of using storytelling as a teaching strategy.

Scholars agree that storytelling creates a learning situation. It allows our minds to think outside the box of our own experiences and to develop creative ways to problem-solve. It also allows us to identify with the theme and character of the story and to see their way of thinking. Through this process, our own thinking tends to be realized.

It has been said that stories are the clotheslines of our lives. What might this mean to you? To me, it means that as I look upon my life, I can see a storyline of events, circumstances and people, intertwined. As I examine the stories of my life, what I discover can tell me a lot about who I am and how I got to where I am in life. If I allow myself to learn from these stories, it is often times therapeutic.

Over the past several years I have incorporated the arts into a class I teach on literature. My students have put on productions, using poetry, drama and music they have written. It has been a tremendous amount of work and at times I have wondered if all the work was worth it. What did the students learn? Many things. They learned to work together as a team, even when they wanted to walk away. They learned structure. Working through conflict was another huge lesson learned. Being flexible was difficult for them - some had to push and challenge themselves. Some had to learn to not push and shove their opinions. However, the most beneficial thing gained was that the students stretched themselves to “think outside of the box” and imagine possibilities, other than what they have ever known.

I will have the privilege of presenting a training on this subject in Madison this coming November. I would love to ask you to consider coming and experience for yourself how exciting and worthwhile stories, poetry, drama and writing can be for those we work with.

by: Susan E. Butcher, MSDF

Checkout Wiki’s Corrections Education Page

Gina Lobaccaro of the Prison Education Department at the Sussex Correctional Institution in Georgetown, Delaware maintains the [Adult Education Wiki’s Correctional Education page](http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Main_Page). The main page is located at http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Main_Page and the Corrections page is at http://wiki.literacytent.org/index.php/Corrections_Education

If you would like to contribute information for the Wiki’s Correctional Education page you may email Gina at gina.lobaccaro@state.de.us

You're Invited!

2007 GED/HSED & ADULT LITERACY CONFERENCES

OCTOBER 16-18, 2007

RADISSON PAPER VALLEY HOTEL

APPLETON, WI

If you work or volunteer in family literacy, ESL, ABE instruction, inmate education, or community-based organization or literacy programs, or if you are a GED examiner or administrator, GED/HSED teacher, or disability specialist – this exciting educational opportunity is for you! Besides the sessions designed by and for Corrections Educators and by and for Community Adult Literacy Programs, conference organizers have arranged for many sessions specifically designed for new teachers. You can find further details and registration information at <http://www.wacteonline.org/>. Please forward this information to your colleagues and other interested parties – we hope to see you in October!

Among the over 50 different sessions planned:

- America's Perfect Storm - Three Forces Changing Our Nation's Future*
- On Wisconsin! Career Ladders, Bridge Programs and the Wisconsin RISE Initiative*
- Good Debt – Bad Debt: Top-Notch Financial Literacy Resources for Teachers and Students*
- Wisconsin Literacy's Organizational Tool Kit – Your Manual to Success in Literacy Programming*
- How to Get Everything for FREE and Make Friends Along the Way*
- New Directions: A Roadmap to Prison Life and Beyond*
- An Introduction to Gangs*
- Bright Spots*
- Parent/Child Literacy Programs in Corrections*
- The Adult Learner – Principles of Adult Education*
- Understanding the Impact of Generational Poverty on Our Students*
- Proliteracy Accreditation Process – How Challenging Is It and Is Your Program Ready?*
- Health Literacy – How to Implement and How to Find Funding*
- Successful Collaborations – Adult Literacy Programs and Wisconsin Technical College System*
- Facilitated Faculty Sharing Sessions in Math, Reading, Writing, Etc.*
- Using Modumath to Help Students Who Struggle with Math*
- Utilizing the Various HSED Credential Options*
- The GED/HSED Credentialing Process: Secrets of the DPI Database Revealed*
- Test Administration*

- Developing a Model Test Center*
- What You Always Wanted to Know About the GED Science Test*
- How to Test with Accommodations*
- Critical Thinking Skills: What Makes the GED Science Test Questions Difficult?*
- 118.15 Issues – A Teacher Discussion and Sharing Session*
- I Know a Great Teacher When I See One!*
- Ideas That Work -- Recruitment and Retention of ABE Students in Learning Centers*
- Shared Wisdom -- Reflections of Veteran Teachers*
- New Kid on the Cell Block: Learn Tricks of the Trade for Newcomers to Correctional Education*
- Re-Entry Initiative in DOC*
- Milwaukee's Smart Start/Smart Move Program*
- Universal Design -- Creating Environments and Practices Where All Students Can Learn*
- The Online GED/HSED Program in Milwaukee*
- Hybrid Delivery of Developmental Math*
- Occupational/Technical Programming in MATC's Adult High School*
- The Wisconsin STAR Reading Initiative – The Basics*
- The Next Stages of The WTCS Prepared Learner Initiative*
- Electronic Pod Casting Classes in ABE/ELL*
- Blended Instruction in ELL*
- Marketing Tips for Literacy Programs*
- Federal Grant Writing for Literacy Programs*
- Recruiting and Diversifying Your Board of Directors*
- Progressive Practices in Transitioning ABE/ELL Students Into Postsecondary*
- Using WisCareers to Help ABE and ELL Students Transition to Occupational Programs*

As always, our exhibit hall vendors will have the best and most current goods and services that meet professional educators' needs.

Building on the success of previous years, CEAW will again conduct a Silent Auction. The Silent Auction will include inmate-made items donated by Wisconsin correctional institutions, items contributed by Wisconsin Technical College schools, and items donated by Appleton area businesses. Stop in and make a bid.

We hope to see you in October !

Highly Qualified Correctional Educator Certificate

As graduates of the initial series of courses, we are excited to share some experiences and information with you...

CEA and California State University, San Bernardino, a leader in correctional education training, partnered to provide the "Highly Qualified Correctional Educator Certificate." This program involves three-four credit online courses. The classes are taught by three highly visible and noted correctional leaders and researchers. They are Professors Randall Wright, Bill Muth, and Thom Gehring. Courses are available at CEU, undergraduate, and graduate levels. The courses are also applicable to a masters degree in Correctional Education through California State University, San Bernardino.

The courses encompass all facets of correctional education. They begin with introspection of what is correctional education and how do I fit into its scope and schema. As we discovered, almost all correctional educators unintentionally end up working in correctional education. Therefore preparatory educational training is lacking. This has been our experience. The cultures and borderlands within correctional institutions offered great discussions and insights. The history and evolution of correctional education is explored. Teaching strategies and resources provide opportunities for experimentation. Leadership, structural patterns of correctional education, as well as current and future trends both nationally and internationally are studied. Correctional education is viewed from all perspectives.

An added bonus was the computer knowledge that develops as a result of the discussions and assignments. Part of our experience included joining and participating in internet "list serves" applicable to correctional education. These list serves provide a forum for ongoing collaboration and information. Other networking opportunities were introduced and provide future resources. Additional resources were presented that related to corrections' specific topics and testing and evaluation.

We completed the three successive courses in June. They, without a doubt, were the most helpful and applicable coursework we have done since starting the DOC eleven years ago. The work was challenging and demanding, but insightful. We felt that we understood this career choice until we started this journey. What a rich history we were missing! Its development, progress, and initiatives in the late 1800's and early 1900's were not only fascinating, but courageous in many of the attempts and programs to affect and train offenders for reentry. We had studied the history, mission, etc. of vocational education, but never before that of correctional education.

The greatest aspect of the program was and is the support and sharing of fellow colleagues from throughout the United States. We were able to look at each topic from the perspective of many states, teachers hired by a variety of systems, counselors, and administrators. We started with a class of 37. Twenty of us completed the program. Participants varied from undergraduate to PhD and from recently hired to long time veteran employees. We became not only classmates, but friends. Our program continues with communication and discussions in cyberspace.

Several of our classmates presented in conjunction with our professors at the International CEA Conference that took place in Atlanta in July. We are looking forward to meeting cohorts and professors at the CEA International Conference in Madison in 2009.

This series of courses with its commitment of time, energy, and money provided professional enrichment. The benefits, both personally and professionally, made the experience absolutely worthwhile and invaluable. Working with fellow educators dedicated to teaching excellence, and working under professors who are the shakers and movers of present day international correctional education is inspiring. We would encourage employees in all areas of correctional education to pursue this certificate program.

by: Timothy and Patricia Lanari, TCI

Wisconsin's Teacher of the Year Reflects on His Experiences

Wisconsin's Teacher of the Year Ken VanMieghem was honored with the other CEA regional Teachers of the Year at the International CEA Conference in Atlanta on July 6-11. These are Ken's impressions of the conference:

The International Correctional Education Association Conference in Atlanta was truly a rewarding and memorable experience. The conference was big, busy and covered many different disciplines in the correctional setting. There were vendors and many workshops for many different interests and occupational settings. Being an art teacher, I was impressed with the number of presenters showing the positive affects that Visual Arts and Humanities can have in the prison environment. It was also exciting being around so many creative and positive people.

It has been a very humbling experience being Teacher of the Year for Wisconsin and Region III. I feel very fortunate that I was able to attend the International Conference, where Teachers of the Year from nine different regions were celebrated. I can't think of another time when I was honored with so many gifts and awards. There were many activities for the teachers of the year. I attended the TOY luncheon, the TOY dinner, and the TOY Gala Ball.

I was very fortunate to share such a wonderful time with family and friends. It was a very rewarding, memorable and special experience.

CEA Presents at Congressional Educational Summit

On July 23, 2007, Congressman Bobby Scott of Virginia and Congressman Danny Davis of Illinois, as co-chairs of the Congressional Black Caucus Education Task Force, held an Educational Summit. The purpose was to begin a dialogue among members of Congress and educational experts about educational issues in the African American community. Included in those issues was the quality of education in youth correctional facilities.

Stephen Steurer, CEA Executive Director, had the great privilege to be invited to present as a representative of correctional education, juvenile justice and corrections in general. Jim Keeley helped put together the presentation, but he was not able to present due to family obligations.

All the hard work done at the CEA Leadership Forum in March in Annapolis to put together an agenda for advocacy and legislation paid off handsomely because Steve was able to bring forward CEA's agenda for the whole education field. There will be follow-up hearings and legislative action by House education and judiciary committees and Steve will keep us involved and informed.

CEA's national officers are continuing to keep working to make sure that our voice is loud and clear in Washington, DC.

CEAW Board Is Now Complete

At its July 2007 Meeting, the CEA-Wisconsin Board acted to fill its two remaining vacancies. Laurie Jarvis was named the Community Corrections representative on the Board and Cory Anderson was selected to fill the At-Large position.

Laurie received her Masters from UW-Stevens Point in 2002 in Education. She has worked for Fox Valley Technical College since 1989. Laurie has a contagious enthusiasm for learning; teaching is her passion. She has had the opportunity to work with many different types of students, ELL, Family Literacy, Alternative High School, Business and Industry, GOAL, General Studies, and Incarcerated. Laurie is always amazed by how much she learns from my students and she hopes the lessons they learn from her are as powerful as the ones that they have taught her.

Laurie has been teaching in a jail setting for approximately six years. Her first experience was teaching at the Waushara County Work Release Center and presently she teaches at the Waushara County Jail.

Laurie and her husband Joel are the parents of 4 semi-grown children, Sarah 21, Paul 19, Mara 17 and Peter 14. They farm "part-time for fun." In her spare time Laurie enjoys reading, singing in her church choir and directing the spring play at the high school. Laurie's family motto is "Work hard, Play Hard." For them it is Family First.

Cory is a teacher at RYOCF and a husband and father of three residing in Lake Geneva, WI. Receiving a BS in Education from Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania in 1995 and a MS in Educational Leadership from Aurora University in Illinois in 2002, Cory continues to be challenged and rewarded in a 12 year professional career as a teacher, head coach, and administrator in the public schools. Focusing on his family and putting his career on hold for a year, he concentrated on raising his three children prior to accepting his new and rewarding role with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

Cory enjoys sharing a very active and healthy lifestyle by engaging in power walks to the lake and park and bike rides with his family. An aficionado of culinary creations, Cory loves to entertain and prepare wholesome eclectic foods for friends and family. On a part-time basis, Cory is employed by the YMCA as Group Fitness Instructor and is certified as a Schwinn Indoor Cycling and Zumba Instructor. Possessing competitive spirit, Cory competes in various endurance events including triathlons, marathons, and ultra-marathons.

Creativity Contest Entries Selected

On August 10th, the CEA Creativity Contest Committee members met at the Wisconsin Resource Center to judge the 203 entries that were received for the 2007 contest. Submissions were received from 14 institutions and three county jails. The writings and drawings submitted this year were exceptional examples of the talents of our incarcerated men, women and juveniles. The chosen entries are being typed and formatted at Racine Correctional Institution and then will be sent to Columbia Correctional Institution for printing. The Creativity Contest booklet should be distributed to winners in January 2008. Committee members are Mary Stierna (WRC), Sharon Neseemann (WRC), Libby Kraft (WRC), Lisa Mueller (RCI), Conrad Reedy (KMCI), Susan Casper (OSCI), Jason Brost (SOGS), Jane Schirger (RGCI), Pandora Lobacz (LHS), Linda Lentz (JCBCC), Mark Terpening (CCI), Ray Schlesinger (OCI) and Joy Ellen Schuster (Milw. County Jail).

by: Mary Stierna, WRC

Welcome to the Waushara County Jail

Waushara County Jail is located in Wautoma, Wisconsin. Adult Basic Education classes are held 9 hours per week during the regular school year. Waushara County Jail houses State Inmates, Waushara County Inmates, Green Lake County Inmates and females. At first this diverse population was a challenge to class scheduling; however, now inmates are housed differently and class sections are full.

Each Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 or 12:30 -2:30 up to twelve men can be found working individually on their program of study. I arrive early and set up the classroom; materials are stored in the video courtroom which is attached to the Community Room/Classroom. Three stand-a-lone computers, five laptops, one 4-drawer file cabinet, and a small book shelf transform a multipurpose room quickly into a place of learning. Students use a variety of learning tools; computers of course for most are the favorite! Fox Valley Technical College uses PLATO software and many students choose this format to enhance skills. Some of our inmates need to learn English and the laptop computers are essential to that group of students. Rosetta Stone software helps these students learn the English language.

State inmates can stay in a county jail for up to 120 days. Most start expecting to leave after 90 and the countdown begins around then. As for the rest of the inmates, the revolving door is the same, in and out.

Tuesday from 2:45-3:45 is reserved for the women. Very few women request educational services. Most of the women housed at the jail also have Huber privileges.

In the 2006-2007 school year 79 students were served during the regular school year. In 2005-2006, 91 students attended classes during the regular school year and a summer session was held as well, extra funding was available. In 2004-2005, the startup year 87 students participated.

Each time we go to work at the jail, I am sure we share some of the same feelings. Here is the introduction paragraph to a piece I wrote for a class I took for recertification. I think it speaks to all of us. Again . . . Welcome to Waushara County Jail.

The Jail

The steel door with an entrance buzzer located on the left greets me each time I prepare to teach at the jail. Buzz the buzzer, wait, wait, wait, "May I help you" blares from the metal box. "Laurie Jarvis, Fox Valley Technical College" I reply.

*Wait, wait, buzz, quickly open the door-
Door slams, tin echoes reverberate throughout the jail.
Wait, wait, buzz, quickly open the door-
Door slams, tin echoes reverberate throughout the jail.*



I inhale deeply; stale, stagnant air fills my lungs; another day teaching at Waushara County Jail has begun. Which of my students will be present today? I immediately remind myself that anything is better than a jail cell, class should be full.

by: Laurie Jarvis, FVTC/Waushara County Jail

WRC Multicultural Project Tours Argentina

The WRC Multicultural Project students were asked to Tango when TOP JOBS Intern Jessica Romano presented her colorful and fact filled power point presentation on her travels to Argentina. Jessica's photos and intelligently crafted talk / discussion engaged approximately 30 staff and offenders in the Multicultural Project's first meeting of August.

The socially relevant photography of Ms. Romano captured the passion of the Argentine people, their art, history and architecture. The eye popping color, structure and content of Romano's digital art were enough to keep the viewers attention, but it was the clear pathos of her diction that connected this participant with the experience that was Jessica's first travel to the Paris of South America. Insightful mini-lectures focused the learner's attention to the social agents and institutions of the culture, as well as, the people who define what it means to be Argentinean. As the visual learner was connected to the photography, the ear was equally pleased with her lecture/discussion format of a contemporary traveler's view of Argentina.

The following is a summary of main points presented by Ms. Romano.

Education - Education is extremely important to Argentina. They believe that everyone should have the opportunity to learn no matter where you come from or how much money your family makes. These values explain why education is free in Argentina. College is free for Argentine natives who are interested and willing to attend. They are only expected to provide their supplies. Teachers truly teach for the pure love of education. They are paid so little that they need to have a second job to support their full-time passion for teaching.

Cemetery – El Cementerio de Recoleta is a massive cemetery in the heart of an upscale neighborhood. Mausoleums of various architectures, sizes, and styles line the walk-ways that wind narrowly through the cemetery. Dark, leafy trees shade the paths for the hundreds of cats who call the cemetery their home. The most prestigious and wealthy families of Buenos Aires bury their deceased here.

Evita – Evita was the first lady of Argentina from 1946-1952. She was married to Juan Peron. Considered the "spiritual leader of the nation", Evita had the support of the poor, working class, and women. Evita had come from a working class family and the people of Argentina identified with her. Under Peron, women were first allowed to vote. She died at the age of 33 with advanced uterine cancer. She was such an influential figure that hundreds of people wrote to the pope requesting that Evita be canonized.

Food – Argentina has an exquisite cuisine thanks to the wide diversity of immigrants who call Argentina their home. *Bife*, or steak, is a country-wide favorite. *Parillas* (grills) are everywhere. The average Argentine consumes 120 lbs. of beef per year. Adding chimichuri sauce makes it authentically Argentine. Coffee, *media lunas* (sweet crescents), and *alfajores* (a cookie of chocolate and dulce de leche) are classic breakfast choices. Lunch is served around two where *empanadas* are sure to be served before your meal. Argentines eat dinner from 10pm-2am. Peak dinner hour is midnight. And, of course, wine accompanies most meals. Argentina is also known for its outstanding pastas and Italian cuisine.

Music – The traditional music of Argentina is tango. It has evolved into many new forms over the years. It is now possible to hear new-wave tango and techno-tango. Latin beats and house music are always popular for dancing. Argentine's also listen to a lot of American music.

Dance – Tango is performed all over the city. Any night of the week there are milongas which are tightly packed dance floors in restaurants, bars, and dance halls. People also tango outside to live music. Tango originated in the late 1900s from the African communities in the area. Tango is considered the music of the immigrants because it adopted many different sounds and moves from the melting-pot of people. Tango is a very sensual, emotional, and powerful dance that is still honored today in Argentina.

Clubbing – After dinner, around 2am Argentines start heading to bars and clubs. People of all ages go out dancing. It is very common to see men in business suits in the club who have come from work. Certain clubs are even known for their businessmen patrons. Clubs are very large, usually containing three or four different dance rooms with a variety of music. Clubs do not die down until about 6am. That is when it is time to call it quits and head home.

Vino – The wine to drink when you are in Argentina is *Malbec*. Argentines drink wine with their meals and sit for hours in a café or on the street corner catching up with a friend over a bottle of wine.

Mass disappearances of students – *Los Desaparecidos* (the disappeared) were the estimated 30,000 people that disappeared during the Dirty War from 1976-1983. Under a military government any person who was politically active, subversive, or even educated was seen as a threat. A majority of *los desaparecidos* were college students. Their bodies were never found. Mothers of the missing started demanding answers and when the government refused to help them find their children they took action. A group of 14 mothers founded *Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo*. They continue to march weekly in front of the Presidential building to remind the Argentine people and the world what happened to their children. They are well known for the white handkerchiefs they wear on their heads. These were their children's old diapers. The mothers embroidered the names of their children along with their births and disappearances. Most of *los desaparecidos* never returned; but the few who were released shared stories of the horrifying torture they endured in work camps. Officials from the government at that time are still being tried in court. Recently the key witness in one official's trial disappeared a week before he was set to testify.

The Multicultural Education Project (MEP) at the Wisconsin Resource Center was conceived by Psychiatric Care Supervisor Joan Blatz and Teacher Richard Norenberg as an adjunct to unit services in 1988. At the time, one class was provided for offenders on the Social Skills Unit. With support of the Education Department, the MEP grew into an institution service for inmate and patient populations. In twenty years of service, project staff has reached thousands of offenders, inmates, and patients.

Current MEP services provide activities tied to cultural and historic themes and may include guest speakers, movies with discussion, inmate and patient presentations, and other culturally appropriate activities. Five sections of classes with capacity enrollment are provided weekly. The contemporary instructional format is video based with mini lectures and discussion. The project embraces the philosophy of WRC to engage offenders in healing and promote their personal recovery.

by: Rich Norenberg & Jessica Ramano, WRC

President's Message

Summer is fading fast and the colder weather is approaching. This is a great time to attend the various conferences/conventions being held in September and October. Again this year CEA-Wisconsin has teamed with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Technical College System to plan the GED/HSED & Adult Literacy Conference. Several workshops relating to teaching in jails and prisons will be part of the program schedule. The conference will be held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton on October 16-18. More information on the conference workshops is in this newsletter.

Two other professional development opportunities for correctional educators are in the works. WTCS's new ABE Education Director Peggy Meyers is planning a training day for teachers who work in county jails and detention centers. The CEA Parenting Special Interest Group is working with trainers from the UW-Extension System to offer a workshop on Effective Black Parenting. Both training opportunities are being slated for the Spring. More information will be forthcoming in future issues of this newsletter.

Before we know it will be May 2008 and our next CEA State conference will be here.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at these events. Thank you. DeNeal

CEA-Wisconsin News Review
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