



PACS Press

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Editors:
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RJ Conference Report

The 12th Annual Restorative Justice Conference was a success. Attendance was around 60 people and those who came were key players in our local probation department and district attorney's office, area VORP's, legislative policy workers, RJ advocates, and victim/survivors. Most who attended were from the Central Valley, with panelists and speakers coming from as near as the Sacramento area and as far away as Wyoming and Connecticut. We also had some representatives from television production studios working on RJ projects in attendance.

Hosting both the World and American Society of Victimology presidents was an honor, as well as having faculty from CSU Fresno's victimology department as speakers. Center for Peacemaking associates and staff as well as local advocates and practitioners offered their expertise through breakout sessions on both days, allowing for discussion on particular topics. Friday night's performance of Janka, a play about a victim/survivor of the Holocaust, was a special opportunity to be educated and entertained by local artists through one woman's story. And on Saturday, our guest panelists provided some powerful firsthand experience of what is involved in being a victim/survivor and how to work through that towards healing and restoration.

A highlight of this year's RJ conference was a Fresno County Proclamation delivered by Supervisor Bob Waterston. It declared Friday, October 20th as Restorative Justice Day. It read, "The Fresno County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of Restorative Justice ...and commends the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies for its commitment to Restorative Justice."

A first for this year's gathering was the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Jim Rowland, former Dept. of Corrections director and one of the key players in the development of the Victim Impact Statement. The award was given in recognition for his service to victims and the community.

For full conference information please see the RJ page of our website at: <http://peace.fresno.edu/rjp/>

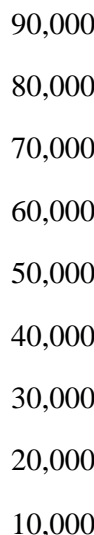


Pictured left to right with Ron Claassen (fourth from left), the Director of the Center for Peacemaking, are the panelists who presented their victim/survivor stories: Cheryl Ward-Kaiser, Stephen Watt, Lisa Rea (Organizer), Russ Turner, and Michelle Renee. For more on Lisa's work and these speakers, visit the Justice & Reconciliation Project at www.thejrp.org.

News

\$100,000 Matching Gift

\$100,000



This year has marked a phenomenal opportunity for funding the expanding work of restorative justice in the Central Valley.

Working on raising these funds since May, we have now surpassed \$50,000.

Will you consider an end of year gift towards the goal?

Announcements

Local TV Program to Focus on Restorative Justice

The local Catholic television station, KNXT Ch. 49, in its regular program, "**Forum for a Better Understanding**" will show a two part interview with Ron Claassen, Center Director, and Arthur Wint, Visiting Scholar. The topics and viewing schedule are as follows:

Part 1: Background on restorative Justice and how it relates to Christian faith, looks from a criminologist's perspective

Airing: Monday Dec. 4 at 2pm

Wed. Dec. 6 at 10pm

Friday Dec. 8 at 11:30 am

Part 2: Implementing restorative justice, embedding RJ in structures, overview of the FPU restorative discipline system, RJ framework and pilot project

Airing: Monday Dec. 11 at 2pm

Wed. Dec. 13 at 10pm

Friday Dec. 15 at 11:30 am

To show your support for the Restorative Justice Initiative in Fresno County, please go to the RJ page of the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies website at: <peace.fresno.edu/rjp> and click on the email link: (rjp@fresno.edu)

Welcome to "New" VORP Staff

The matching grant's purpose is twofold: to expand VORP capacity and to expand the use of Restorative Justice in Fresno County and throughout California.

Two grant funded positions have been filled:

Johnny Phouthachack, VORP Agreement Manager
With 7 years experience in this role, now he is able to enjoy all the benefits of being a part of the FPU community.

Noelle Daoudian, VORP Mediation Manager
Having volunteered for this position as an interim, now she moves into this role as a full-time staff member.

Please congratulate these two new FPU staff!

Change in Student Staff at CPACS

After a wonderful four years of working at CPACS, this small paragraph simply can't explain how thankful I am to have worked here. I will be doing my internship next semester to fulfill the requirements for my B.A. Degree in Social Work. I will be interning at Sunnyside High School alongside a school counselor. My hopes are to broaden my knowledge and be of help to the ninth grade students I will be working with. After, graduating with my B.A., I hope to enroll in the School Counseling Masters program here at FPU. Thanks PACS staff for all of your help! You have all inspired me in so many ways. Don't worry, I will come back to visit and hopefully take on some VORP cases.

-Priscilla Valle

Just after a month here at CPACS, I am grateful that I have the opportunity to be apart of this office and what it has to offer to our community. I plan on graduating in the Fall of 2007 with a B.A Degree in Social Science with an emphasis in Pre-law/Criminal Justice and a minor in Peacemaking. Once I graduate I hope to enroll in the Peacemaking & Conflict Studies Masters Program here at FPU and specialize in Family Mediation. Until then I look forward to what lies ahead and the wonderful experiences that I may gain while I am here.

- Heather Franco

Courses

Spring 2007

PACS 762 Family Mediation

Offered every other year! Register Now!

Instructor: Duane Ruth-Heffelbower

Credit/Grading: Three (3) units

Day/Time: Wednesdays, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Course Description: Marriage is a complex relationship with legal, spiritual, sociological and psychological dynamics. This course covers all aspects of mediation within family relationships, it includes divorce mediation and the legal ramifications of property division and child custody, as well as processes designed to preserve family relationships.



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