



Media Guide

National Conference on Restorative Justice
May 13-15, 2009

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Downtown Campus

The following guide has been prepared from a full-length conference agenda, available in the schedule section at RestorativeJusticeNow.org. This guide contains a small selection of the conference's engaging panels, workshops, events and speakers. Some keywords have been highlighted for ease of use.

LOCATION:

All sessions, unless otherwise mentioned, are hosted at the University of Texas at San Antonio's Downtown Campus, 501 W. Durango Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78207.

Building codes:

FS: Frio Street Building

DB: Durango Building

BV: Buena Vista Street Building

Free parking is available under lot D-3, under IH-35 and adjacent to the Durango Building.

A **campus map** is available at utsa.edu/maps/downtown/.

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About the conference

In today's society, crime victims are relegated to being witnesses to the crime. The justice system is based on punishing the criminal rather than healing the victim. Crime violates people as well as the law.

The restorative process uses mediated dialogue between victims and offenders to recognize the harms caused, hold those who have caused harms accountable to those they have harmed, and hold those responsible for repairing those harms to take active steps to heal victims.

This is the second national conference on Restorative Justice. Attendees include academics, law enforcement officials, members of the faith community, social workers, corrections officers, tribal peacemakers and concerned citizens, representing more than 10 countries.

Objective: Familiarize justice system professionals and others with the concepts of restorative and community justice.

Purpose: Promote more effective forms of justice through applications of restorative and community justice principles and practice.

May 12, 2009

6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Pre-Conference Event

Featured Speakers:

- Hon. Ronnie Earle, Former District Attorney for Travis County, Texas
- Jane Browning, Executive Director, International Community Corrections Assoc.

Location: Blue Star Arts Complex, 1414 South Alamo, Suite 105, San Antonio, TX 78210

This casual event would be a great opportunity to meet with restorative justice practitioners and conference attendees in a relaxed, informal setting.

May 13, 2009

9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

(FS 1.512) Introduction to Restorative Justice (Part I)

Presenters:

- Dr. Karen Crozier, Fresno Pacific University
- Dr. Michael J. Gilbert, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Robert Rico, University of Texas at San Antonio

9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

(BV 1.328) PL 01 Transformative Pedagogy, Restorative Justice, and the Voices of Victims

The pedagogy of restorative justice requires a shift in worldview similar to the shift necessary for practicing and living by restorative justice principles. This panel applies the principles of transformative pedagogy to the teaching and learning of restorative justice by demonstrating how people may use their own experiences as victim, co-victim, practitioner and educator to contextualize teaching, promote multidimensional inquiry, and co-create knowing, thinking, and problem solving with students.

Presenters:

- Dr. Mary Kay Houston-Vega, UTSA
- Mona Patel, LCSW, MSW, Amputee Victim of DWI
- Albert Garcia, Student, UTSA and DWI Victim
- Brooke Garcia, MA, Family Member of DWI Victim

10:45 - Noon

(FS 1.512) Introduction to Restorative Justice (Part II)

Presenters:

- Dr. Karen Crozier, Fresno Pacific University
- Dr. Michael J. Gilbert, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Robert Rico, University of Texas at San Antonio

Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch Hour

1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Second Plenary Session (Theatre BV 1.326)

Ultimate Honesty: The Challenge of Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael Hadley, Professor Emeritus, University of Victoria, Canada

Forgiveness and reconciliation are not one-time occasions for sweeping the past under the psychological carpet. They are sets of interrelated principles and processes on the path toward healing of harms caused by violence. These principles and processes operate on a number of levels that range from interpersonal (conflict, crime) to international (political violence, power projection and war). This presentation examines these principles as dynamic components in shaping how justice is advanced. From this view restorative justice is a spiritual process leading to the "peace that passes all understanding." The role of repentance ("ultimate honesty"), restitution, remembering and commemorating are explored. It will be argued that faith traditions offer unique potential for transforming pain into peace that reaches beyond judicial resolution and political compromise.

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

(FS 1.406) PL 07 Faith-Based Programs for the Incarcerated and Their Families

Panelist will focus on faith-based endeavors that address the needs of the incarcerated (including youth offenders) and their families.

Presentations:

- Providing Information and Tools to Help Change Lives
 - J. Caron, Founder/CEO, Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc.
- "Beyond the Fences" – Ministries of Restorative Justice
 - Rev. H. Johnson, Coordinator, Restorative Justice Task Force
- The Faith-Based Community as an Agent in Planning and Preparing for the Offender's Reentry.
 - Anne Gifford, Exec. Dir., Parents and Partners of Prisoners
- Faith-Based Programs for the Incarcerated and their Families
 - Anne Johns, Director of Education, Fruit Bearing Tree Ministries
 - David Johns, Executive Director, Fruit Bearing Tree Ministries

3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

(BV 1.328) PL 09 Restorative Practices and Schools

Restorative practices are increasingly used in schools to manage disruptive behaviors and create safe learning environments. One example is circle conferencing on a college campus. Another example is community conferencing in a public high school small learning community to change punitive attitudes and reduce suspensions. A third example is the use of restorative practices in an educational leadership curriculum for school administrators designed to increase the effective management of student behavior and promote a safe environment.

Presentations

- Conferencing Circles: Reducing Recidivism on College Campuses
 - Jennifer Trombley, MS, Prairie View A & M University
- Moving to a Restorative Model of School Discipline: Ethnography of a Small Learning Community in a Boston Public High School
 - Anita Wadhwa, Doctoral Student, Harvard University
- Restorative Justice And Educational Leadership: The Intersection Of Theory And Practice
 - Dr. Michelle Hamilton

3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

(FS 1.406) PL 10 Circles in Action: Community Continuity

This panel examines interrelated and community coordinated **restorative practices in San Antonio**. Societal norms can be maintained through the passing down of ideas and philosophies generationally, and by the continuity of community endorsement. Three autonomous programs are contributing to the development of new perspectives and changed lives by applying a shared philosophy and espousing a common message with different populations aimed at building community with common knowledge of restorative practices and its application. The presentations provide insights about these programs, how their community efforts came about, how the programs are interconnected, benefits that have resulted, and provide suggestions for other community agencies, programs and schools for implementing peacemaking circles.

Presenters:

- Randy Langford of St. Mary's School of Law, Restorative Justice Initiative
- Bill Gregoire, Crosspoint, Inc.
- Leslie Kelsie-Grubs, Exec. Director, Urban Connection

5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Third Plenary Session (Theatre BV 1.326)

Practicing the Principles: The Challenges of Institutionalizing Restorative Justice

Keynote Speaker: Associate Professor, Jennifer Llewellyn, Dalhousie Law School, Canada

Restorative justice is rapidly moving from its nascent and pilot stages toward institutionalization as an approach to justice in a variety of contexts. Institutionalization has brought with it new and renewed questions about both the theory and practice of restorative justice. These include questions about the very nature of restorative justice: Is it concerned with the justice of processes or is it a more fundamental claim about the very meaning of justice? What is the relationship between restorative justice and other prevailing ideas and approaches to justice including: alternative dispute resolution, criminal justice, civil justice and social justice? The answers to these questions have important implications for the development of principled-based restorative justice and for its successful institutionalization.

May 14, 2009

9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

(FS 3.402) WS 06 **Bringing Restorative Justice to Violent Neighborhoods**

The participants will have the opportunity to learn how a successful restorative justice project has been integrated into neighborhoods filled with drug dealers, prostitutes, and gang members. Participants will learn how to work with victims, community members, offenders (including those returning from prison), faith communities, police, schools, community based organizations and businesses to create an interactive and healing environment in an urban setting. There also will be discussion about pitfalls and challenges in partnering with law enforcement agencies. Most importantly, the workshop will focus on sustainability of restorative justice processes in the community.

Presenter:

- **Justice Janine Geske** (Ret.), Marquette University Law School

10:40 – Noon – Tour – Haven for Hope

Haven for Hope is a newly opened campus housing a variety of social services for San Antonio's homeless community. Critical services include education, job training, day care, substance abuse treatment, medical care, identification recovery, case management, animal care services, hygiene, etc. More information at HavenForHope.org

Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch Hour

1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Fifth Plenary Session (Theatre BV 1.326)

Is Restorative Justice a "Life Way"?

Keynote Speaker: **Hon. Robert Yazzie, Chief Justice (Ret.), Navajo Nation Supreme Court**

The news about restorative justice came out just as Justice Yazzie was lobbying for the adoption of the **Indian Tribal Justice Act of 1991**. He has explored what restorative justice might be for many years to see what it may offer for revival of traditional Navajo justice. He is presently exploring the practical **application of a traditional law code, The Fundamental Laws of the Dine**, and the Navajo Nation Supreme Court is taking a new look at western procedural rules in light of The Fundamental Laws of the Dine. Several Navajo researchers are independently exploring the Navajo "Life Way." Justice Yazzie, will explore how indigenous thought may contribute to restorative justice and explore ideas from indigenous thinking that suggest that there is a "Life Way" that could be collectively developed through restorative justice.

2:20 – 4:00 p.m. – Tour – Haven for Hope

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

(FS 3.406) WS 10 RJ CitySM

RJ CitySM is a research and design simulation project to **create a model justice system for a city of 1 million people** which is capable of handling all crimes, all offenders and all victims as restoratively as possible. It begins with what is currently known about restorative justice and explores what are believed to be its limitations. The goal is to create policies and programs that could form the foundation of a society's entire criminal justice system. The workshop will demonstrate how a **burglary of an elderly woman's house** by two young men might be handled in such a system.

Presenter:

- Dan Van Ness, JD, LLM, Centre for Justice and Reconciliation at Prison Fellowship International, Washington, DC

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

(BV 1.328) PL 15 Uses of Restorative Justice in Post-Conflict Societies

Restorative justice processes are increasingly used to respond to the harms generated at a community level by **terrorists and conflict ridden societies**. War survivors are active participants in the reconstruction of the social welfare system in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Post war Sierra Leone has employed three restorative justice processes used to address gross human rights violations including a TRC, a special court to prosecute those most responsible for the atrocities during the civil war, and security sector reforms. African communitarian principles "Ubuntu" are also examined for potential application within restorative justice processes in western nations.

Presentations:

- Social Welfare and Social Reconstruction in Bosnia-Herzegovina
 - Allison Reid-Cunningham, MSW, ABD, University of California - Berkley
- Restorative Justice and Responses to Human Rights Abuses in Sierra Leone
 - Dr. Peter Dumbuya, Fort Valley State University
- Restoring Justice (Ubuntu) – An African Perspective
 - Sherill V. C. Morris, MSW, ABD, Prairie View A & M University
 - Dr. O. Oko Elechi, Prairie View A & M University

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

(FS 3.406) WS 12 Now Let Us Talk: Restorative Justice Practices Following Terrorism

The Middle East crisis has caused much death, pain and suffering. However, despite the ongoing conflict, individuals and families from across the line wish to meet and talk about their experience that is often associated with personal victimization and loss. The presentation discusses the different forms of such meetings, their participants, the discourse involved and some typical outcomes of such cross community conferences. Some of these meetings bring together direct and indirect 'doers' and 'sufferers' from both sides. The presentation focuses on selected restorative justice principles and issues involved.

Presenter:

- Dr. Uri Yanay, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

(BV 1.328) PL 17 Voices of Participants in Restorative Justice Practices

The success of restorative justice initiatives can be evaluated, in part, by the experiences of victims, offenders, and facilitators as the community representatives. A mixed method exploratory study focuses on preparation of facilitators for community conferencing and an analysis of referrals made to the program. Findings from Interviews with offenders who participated in a VOM program give information about their change processes. Interviews with victims who participated in the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission provides knowledge about the impact of their involvement on their social or psychological well being.

- Setting the Table: A Mixed Method Study of Preparation Processes for Community Conferencing
 - Dr. Becki Sander, University of Maryland
- When Juvenile Offenders Meet Their Victims: A Qualitative Study of Offender's Perspectives of Restorative Justice Dialogue
 - Dr. J. J. Choi, Florida Atlantic University
- Community Reconciliation and Welfare: Victims' Perspectives on the Greensboro Truth & Reconciliation Commission
 - Dr. David Androff, Arizona State University

Special Events

5:45 - 6:45 p.m. San Antonio River Walk Cruise (Pick-Up at Palacio Del Rio – riverside)

7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Awards Banquet

Location: Hilton Palacio Del Rio, 200 South Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX
 Speaker: Raven Kazen, Former Director, Victim Services Division, Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Awards:

- John W. Byrd Pioneer Award for Restorative and Community Justice
 - **Recipient:** Dr. Mark Umbreit, Professor & Director, Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking, University of Minnesota
- Bert Thompson Pioneer Award for Faith-Based Community and Restorative Justice
 - **Recipient:** Mr. John Sage, Founder/Executive Director, Bridges to Life, Houston, TX

May 15, 2009

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Sixth Plenary Session (Theatre BV 1.326)

Where Does Restorative and Community Justice Go From Here?

Convener: Dr. Michael J. Gilbert, University of Texas at San Antonio

Panelists: Dr. Mark Umbreit, University of Minnesota

Dr. Kathleen Daly, Griffith University, Australia
Dr. Gordon Bazemore, Florida International University
Mr. John Sage, Founder and Executive Director, Bridges to Life
Prof. Jennifer Llewellyn, Dalhousie Law School, Canada

9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

(FS 1.406) PL 20 Bernie Madoff and the \$50 Billion Ponzi Scheme: Applying Restorative Justice Principles to White Collar and Corporate Crimes.

This round table discussion will consider issues related to applying restorative justice principles and practices to individual **white collar and corporate crimes** such as the \$50 Billion Ponzi scheme operated by Bernie Madoff, energy market manipulations of Enron, predatory lending by banks and other large financial crimes.

- Convener: Dr. Morris Jenkins, University of Toledo
- Discussants: Dr. Julie Cowgill, Oklahoma City University
- Dr. Anne Berré, Schreiner University
- Dr. Michael J. Gilbert, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Lana Maloney, M.A., Restorative Resolutions
- Joan Cheever, J. D., San Antonio
- Rosalyn Collier, peaceCENTER, San Antonio