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# Open Court

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 1



JUNE 30, 2014

## JSLFSS/NOFSW Exchange Continues

In August 2013, Viola Vaughan-Eden, current NOFSW president, and I were invited to present at the Japanese Society of Law and Forensic Social Services- JSLFSS conference in Nagoya, Japan. This was part of a burgeoning exchange between JSLFSS and the National Organization of Forensic Social Work (NOFSW). Arriving in Nagoya, Viola and I were met by our host, Dr. Masanori Fujiwara, professor of Social Work at Suzuka University and 3 of his colleagues, including the president of Nihon Fukushi University and president of JSLFSS, Professor Sachio Kato.

There were ~ 200 attendees at the JSLFSS conference. After introductions from Professor Fujiwara and keynote speaker, Professor Masako Yamada, we began our presentation on the 2003 Wiggins v. Smith Supreme Court decision insuring mitigation investigation is presented for all capital cases.

Following the conference, attendees were invited to attend a dinner with the leaders of JSLFSS and conference presenters. We spent much of the evening discussing our work. Thankfully, many of our Japanese colleagues spoke English, which gave us an opportunity to learn about their work as well.

The next day I joined a panel discussion on expert forensic testimony and presentence investigation/mitigation with professor Yasuhiro Murao and my interpreter for the afternoon, Masahiko Mizuto. I spoke with Masahiko the evening before and learned that he is a social welfare professor at Yamaguchi Prefectural University and spent 10 years working as a social worker in the CJ system in Australia.

Following the conference, Professor Yamada arranged a visit to one of the Child Guidance Centers. The Child Guidance Center offer services to children, youth, and families in the community. Their programs include nearly every possible service a child or adolescent may need, from medical and mental health screenings to physical and occupational therapy. There are residential programs, an early childhood intervention program, and court liaisons for delinquent youth. The Child Guidance Center was one of the great highlights of the trip. Nagoya city is divided into 16 Wards and there are

professor Yoji Endo, an associate professor at Kansai University of Welfare Sciences and Utako Matsumura, a law professor also at Kansai University who took us to the Kyoto Hotel, directly across from the Emperor's Palace. We visited the Kodai-Ji Temple at night, with lanterns and landscape lighting that accentuated the gardens, temples, and surrounding forests.

Our final adventure took us to the Golden Pavilion or Kinkaku at Rokuon-ji Temple. The Golden Pavilion is a shariden, or Buddhist hall containing relics of Buddha. Gold foil on lacquer covers the upper two levels of Kinkaku and a shining phoenix stands on top of the shingled roof. There is a large traditional rock garden within the temple where many Japanese go to sit and reflect.

In February, Utako (with her husband, Kaz) and her colleague Kyoko Takada, law professor from the Osaka Inst. of Technology, met social workers, judges, and attorneys touring Washington, DC and Virginia with Viola and NY with Tina Maschi.

Several JSLFSS members plan to attend the NOFSW conference in New York City next month. Additionally, five professors from Nagoya will be returning to Seattle (site of last year's NOFSW conference) to observe our specialty court systems and meet with judges, attorneys, and mitigation specialists. While 2 other professors will have a similar educational tour in Virginia. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with JSLFSS and their members. Our two cultures and legal systems share many similarities and we can learn much from one another.



two Child Guidance Centers. The one we visited is responsible for serving 10 Wards!

In addition to attending the JSLFSS conference, we toured many of the country's historic and cultural sites, including temples, shrines and markets. Our hosts were incredibly gracious and generous. Some of the most memorable sites included the Osu Kannon temple originally built in 1324 near Kuwabara-cho, Osu, in Gifu Prefecture. It was moved to its current location in 1612.

We took the Shinkansen, or "bullet train" from Nagoya to Kyoto, ~ 80 miles away. Driving would take two hours, but by bullet train, it took just 30 minutes. We were met by Pro-

*By Valarie Mitchell*

## Highlights of Upcoming Conference

Keynote Presentation: **Finding the Place for Cultural Humility in the Healing Process**, Robert Ortega, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Michigan School of Social Work. A cultural humility perspective is fundamentally geared toward acknowledging the limitations of cultural knowledge beyond self-knowledge. Through cultural humility, cultural stereotypes and culture-bound assumptions about specific cultures and cultural identities are actively and critically examined. Helping professionals are challenged to learn to identify and build on assets and adaptive strengths of child maltreatment victims and their families, inclusive of their intersectional, cultural self-definitions. This presentation advocates for engaging in culturally responsive practice inclusive of cultural humility that recognizes the unique contributions that victims and their families can make in the child maltreatment recovery process.



Special NOFSW annual conference session: **Forty Years Later: Why Hasn't Elder Abuse Also Been In the Spotlight?** Robert B. Blancato, MPA, President of Matz, Blancato, & Associates. Bob is the National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition, a non-partisan, 680 member organization. Approximately 40 years ago, child abuse prevention legislation began receiving funding. Today, elder abuse prevention is still under-recognized and poorly funded. This session will examine the evolution of elder abuse prevention as compared to child abuse prevention and the lessons that the elder justice movement can learn from the worlds of child abuse prevention and domestic violence prevention, including ways that these movements can work together. 6:30–7:30PM, July 26, 2014. Special Participatory Forums on Social Work Empowerment and Forging 21st Century Social Work Leadership in Forensic Research, Education, & Practice/Advocacy.

"Figures in Flight Released" a performance group with Rehabilitation through the Arts will perform Saturday evening at the NOFSW Annual Conference. RTA believes in the profoundly rehabilitative effect that engaging in the arts has on men and women behind bars.

Friday, July 25, 2014, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM Welcome Reception with entertainment by Bobbi DiBlasio, "**A Taste of Greenwich Village.**" DiBlasio has been inspired by the likes of Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, The Byrds and numerous others. This Acoustic 12 String Guitar Singer-Songwriter creates a distinctive, stimulating mix between blues, rock and folk. DiBlasio has opened for New Riders of The Purple Sage at BB Kings, NYC, Gil Parris at BB Kings, NYC, Blues Traveler in Tappan, NY, to name a few. Bobby's original, creative style of music is welcomed by all spectrums of listeners. Open to the conference attendees and their friends.



**Pre-Conference Events include: Queer Justice: The Intersection of LGBTQ Issues and CJ; Site Visit to SSB at the NY Society for Ethical Culture; Social Work Rising: Empowering Ourselves & Our Profession for Cultural Justice**

# NOFSW's 31st Annual Conference

## 21st Century Forensic Practice: Moving Beyond Cultural Competence



**In this century of changing demographics and policy and system reform**, this year's NOFSW conference will feature inter-professional learning opportunities on how to integrate cultural competence with justice in clinical, organizational, community, and policy practice. This year's conference will advance a new century of cultural justice, dignity, respect, and acceptance for all persons. Many forensic populations, such as racial and ethnic minorities, at-risk youth, the elderly, veterans, immigrants, LGBTQ persons, persons with disabilities, or those living in poverty or communities of violence often lack access to quality services and cultural justice. Conference attendees will increase their knowledge, values, and skills for working with forensic populations in healthcare, social service, and legal settings, including the courts and corrections.

The conference also includes the unique opportunity for attendees to attend field visits to innovative local and global organizations that advance cultural justice, live performances of the use of the arts for healing and rehabilitation, a prison art show, and film screenings with follow-up discussions with film directors. This year's conference presentations also will be considered for our upcoming published book of conference proceedings or eligible for publication in the *Journal of Forensic Social Work*.

Some of this year's peer-reviewed/accepted presentations include:

- Justice Denied: Working with the Exonerated and Wrongly Convicted**
- The School-to-Prison Pipeline: Implications for 21st Century Forensic Practice**
- Parents Trapped in Family Court: The Complicated Web of Culture, Race, and Class**
- Where Forensic Social Work Begins: An Introduction of Legislative Advocacy**
- Treating Mentally Ill Offenders in an Inpatient Setting**
- Defense without the Defendant: Rethinking and Challenging Language in the Courtroom**
- Community Mediation as a Forensic Social Work Tool: National Trends**
- Extreme Hardship: Hispanic Children and Deportation**
- Best Practices for Forensic Interviews of Sexual Abuse Allegations**

***Make plans to join us this July in the Big Apple!***

**July 25-27, 2014**  
**Fordham University (Lincoln Center) - NYC**

**To register  
 for this  
 year's  
 conference  
 visit: [www.  
 nofsw.org](http://www.nofsw.org)**

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*To submit to Open Court, email your articles to the co-editors by the deadline (one month prior to publication). All submissions become property of NOFSW.*

*Mission: NOFSW endeavors to advance social justice through the inter-professional collaboration of human service and legal systems.*



***NOFSW Election Results:***

***President:***

***Viola Vaughan-Eden—Term through 2015***

***Vice President:***

***Susan McCarter—Term through 2016***

***Secretary:***

***Valarie Mitchell—Term through 2016***

***Treasurer:***

***Steve Hartsock—Term through 2015***

***Councilors:***

***Michael Feer (2015); David McLeod (2016); Tina Maschi (2017); Stacey Hardy (2017); Rob Butters (2017)***