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Open Court

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 11



NOVEMBER 1, 2010

A Letter from the NOFSW President

Welcome to the new look of the NOFSW Newsletter! We are embarking on greener and wider communication with our membership to embrace both responsible and sustainable practices. It is with pleasure that I share some of our organization's recent endeavors with all of you. To date, 2010 has been an extraordinary year for NOFSW as showcased in highlights from this edition of "Open Court."

With Taylor & Francis, NOFSW will publish the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work* in January 2011. The journal celebrates NOFSW's vibrancy as an organization and its strong voice and innovative leadership in the social work community.

NOFSW hosted a delegation from the Japanese Forensic Law Association at our 2010 Atlanta conference. Attendees gained an overview of social work and the law, offender rehabilitation, victim support, foster care services, family court probation officers, and restorative justice in Japan.

Rob Butters PhD, LCSW is an Assistant Professor and Chair of Forensic Social Work at the University of Utah College of Social Work where he teaches advanced practice courses and research. His research interests include crime and delinquency, sexual abuse, empathy, restorative justice, and social work education. Dr. Butters is also the clinical

In return, the Japanese delegation hosted a NOFSW Executive Council member at their August conference at Nagoya U., Japan.



Have you completed our survey? NOFSW has distributed an online member survey to learn more about you, as members, and to better meet your needs as forensic social work practitioners, researchers, educators, students, and other professionals involved in practice within the legal system. We appreciate all of your valuable input!

In February 2010, NOFSW's EC hired a professional consultant to shape our Strategic Planning

Process. The Council then met in Atlanta, April 2010 to refine this plan and then in New Orleans this October to craft a collective vision for our future. This process highlighted the extraordinary talent and commitment of our EC – please see below to "Meet the Board."

As NOFSW begins the "Back to Our Roots" campaign in anticipation of our 30th anniversary in 2013, our organization is "planted in the rich soil" of our commitment to the unique needs of social workers and others working with forensic populations. NOFSW will continue its legacy as a leader in forensic social work. Won't you join us?

On behalf of the EC, I thank you for your support of the National Organization of Forensic Social Work and I look forward to seeing you at *Forensic Social Work: Global Horizons* conference in New Orleans!

Sincerely,
Suzanne Dowling, LCSW
NOFSW President, 2010-12

Meet your 2010/11 NOFSW Board Members

director and president of Life-Matters Counseling & Health Center and has worked in criminal justice and mental health treatment settings for over 20 years. Rob is the Treasurer of (NOFSW) and Co-Editor of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work*.

Kathleen A. Carty, PhD, MSW, LICSW has been involved in research, teaching, and practice with Brown University,

NIAAA, Rhode Island Hospital, and in 1998 started her own agency, Vantage Point, Inc. Kathleen's interests include interpersonal violence prevention and intervention, program development and evaluation, treatment and research in the areas of mental health, substance use, and interpersonal violence. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Institute for Addiction Recovery

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NOFSW 27th Annual Conference



2010 Annual Conference
at the Renaissance
Waverly Hotel in
Atlanta, GA

Japanese Society of
Law and Forensic
Social Services &
the National
Organization of
Forensic Social Work

The 27th annual NOFSW Conference: Integrating Research, Policy, and Practice held April 10-13, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia, was a tremendous success. Social workers, students, and allied professionals networked and advanced their knowledge of forensic social work. Lori James-Townes, MSW, LCSW-C, delivered the keynote address with a description of her work in the landmark “Wiggins” case and its impact on capital case mitigation.

Attendees were able to select from over 35 workshops and presentations at the two and a half day conference, on topics such as: *Becoming an Expert*, *Expert Witness – Ethics and*

Practical Application, Forensic Social Work and Restorative Justice, *The Impact of Dialectical Behavior Therapy with Sexually Abusive Youth in a Residential Setting*, *Social Work Services for Female Inmates and Parolees*, *Gangs and Diversity: Racial Inequality in the Study of and Interventions with Gangs*.

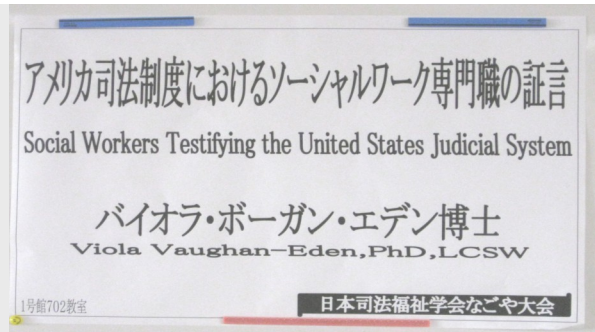
A large delegation from the Japanese Society of Law and Forensic Social Sciences attended the conference. They gave several fascinating presentations about the legal system in their country and how social work is integrated into the Japanese legal system. At the end of the conference they invited NOFSW to send rep-

resentatives to their conference over the summer (see Japan Article below).

A large number of students, many from Savannah State University and Kennesaw State University, volunteered to help with the conference and certainly brought their exuberance to the meeting.

At the NOFSW annual membership meeting, Stacey Hardy-Desmond, PhD, JD, LCSW handed over the leadership of the association to Suzanne Dowling, MSW. Suzanne announced that the Executive Council would engage in a strategic planning process.

Japanese Forensic Social Services



A delegation from the Japanese Society of Law and Forensic Social Services participated in the 2010 NOFSW conference in Atlanta. Following the conference, the JSL & FSS delegation asked for a representative of the National Organization of Forensic Social Work to deliver the keynote at their conference on August 7, 2010, in Japan. Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden was elected to represent NOFSW.

During the trip to Japan, Dr. Vaughan-Eden visited two universities, three child guidance centers, a crisis hotline center, and the Nagoya Court System where she had the opportunity to sit in on two hearings in progress. She learned that social workers are not as

prevalent in Japan as they are in the United States. In particular, social workers are not utilized in the court system to the same degree as they are in the United States. Forensic social workers have to complete three years of training provided by the Supreme Court of Japan. They carry the title of Probation Officer and are very similar to our level social workers except they have extensive court training.

Dr. Vaughan-Eden gave four presentations on forensic social work. With the help of Professors Mari Hirayama, Etsuko Yuhara, and Yutaka Nakagawa serving as translators, she was able to present:

August 2, 1010: Hakuoh University – Department of Law in Oyama, Tochigi, Japan
“Preventing Child Abuse in the United States Utilizing Forensic Social Workers and Community Education Programs: Forensic Interviewing of Young Children”

August 6, 2010: Nihon Fukushi University, Nagoya Campus – Graduate School of Social Welfare in Chita, Aichi, Japan
“Social Workers Testifying in the United States Justice System”

August 7-8, 2010: Japanese Society of Law and Forensic Social Services Congress, Nagoya University of Arts – School of Human Development in Kitanagoya, Aichi, Japan

“Social Workers Testifying in the United States Justice System – Keynote” “Social Workers Testifying in the United States Justice System – Discussant”

Viola cherished the opportunity to study Japanese history, culture, and social welfare. She believes that we have a great deal to learn from one another and that both the National Organization of Forensic Social Work and the Japanese Society of Law and Forensic Social Services look forward to a long successful collegial relationship!

Thanks to all who made her first trip to Japan so special!

NOFSW's Membership Makes the Pieces Come Together

Part of the strategic planning that you've read about in *Open Court* involves YOU!

Highlights of the strategic plan include: surveying the NOFSW membership and conference attendees, strengthening our financial planning, developing certification standards and guidelines, and publishing the JOFSW. This is an exciting time for members of the National Organization of Forensic Social Work.

Do you have research you'd like to present? Are you ready to become published? Where do you fit in NOFSW?

Within NOFSW, members serve on the Executive Council, JOFSW Editorial Review Board, Annual Conference Planning Committees, Certificate Committees, and Membership Committees – just to name a few!

Consider becoming a member of NOFSW and serving in one of its various positions. To get involved visit www.nofsw.org or if you have any questions – please contact either Co-Chair of the Membership Committee: Elgie Dow at elgiedow@charter.net or Elton Louis at elouis@charter.net.



NOFSW's 28th Annual Conference Forensic Social Work: Global Horizons

We invite proposals for presentations which embody this theme and foster collaborative, evidence-based, and innovative approaches to a broad spectrum of forensic social work practice areas.

Direct service delivery as well as mezzo & macro oriented presentations (e.g., management, community development, leadership) are welcomed. The 28th NOFSW conference will offer attendees a wide array of workshops which may include: criminal and civil/family legal domains; family or community mediation; mitigation in capital cases; jail/correctional setting services; risk management for service providers; restorative justice; legal and ethical issues

in schools; medical/health/hospice or occupational social work; child welfare, guardianship, dependency, and care issues.

Proposals should be in Microsoft Word format and provided

on the submission form located on the Annual Conference page of the NOFSW Web Site (http://www.nofsw.org/html/annual_conference.html). Proposals should be emailed to pbrady@nofsw.org.

**Submit your
Presentation
Proposals by
November 15h
www.nofsw.org**

New Orleans



Spring 2011

NEW FROM ROUTLEDGE - BEGINS PUBLICATION IN 2011

Online
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Included
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Journal of Forensic Social Work

*Official Journal of the NOFSW
National Organization of
Forensic Social Work (www.nofsw.org)*



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AIMS

The *Journal of Forensic Social Work* is the principal journal guiding practitioners and researchers involved in day-to-day practice issues with the legal system. The journal is devoted to increasing the general knowledge base, promoting evidence-based and ethically informed practice, improving services for victims and offenders of crime, and setting guidelines and practice standards for the provision of forensic mental health services.

GOALS

The *Journal of Forensic Social Work* addresses a broad range of issues faced by social workers and other professionals who practice in the judicial arena. The journal was established to provide a forum for the discussion of important policy and social justice issues within forensic practice as well as the dissemination of empirical research on legal issues, systems of care, and on the management and treatment of victims of crime and criminal offenders. The journal addresses contemporary forensic practice issues to provide practitioners, social researchers, and students with leading-edge information in an ever evolving field.

NOW ACCEPTING PAPERS
Submit manuscripts electronically to:
journal@nofsw.org

The *Journal of Forensic Social Work* is seeking submissions of scholarly articles and essays dealing with all aspects of forensic social work. Recognizing that social workers are fundamental participants in the justice system, the journal covers topics such as:

- family and domestic violence
- custody disputes
- criminal evidence and proceedings
- criminal justice policy
- victim services
- treatment for offenders
- child maltreatment and child welfare
- expert witness status

The journal publishes original articles that are theoretical, empirical, practice-oriented, or based on comprehensive reviews of the literature.

Complete **Instruction for Authors** can be found at: <http://www.nofsw.org/html/journal.html>

**REVIEW THE TABLE OF CONTENTS
FROM VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1, 2011 ON THE REVERSE SIDE**

NEW FROM ROUTLEDGE - BEGINS PUBLICATION IN 2011

Journal of Forensic Social Work

*Official Journal of the NOFSW
National Organization of
Forensic Social Work (www.nofsw.org)*



FORTHCOMING CONTENTS – VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1, 2011

- Letter from the NOFSW President, Suzanne Dowling
- Letter from the Editors, Viola Vaughan-Eden and Rob Butters
- The History of NOFSW, Guay Chatfield
- The Evolution of Forensic Social Work in the United States: Implications for 21st Century Practice, Tina Maschi and Mary Lou Killian
- Forensic Social Work Practice Standards: Definition and Specification, Carlton Munson
- The Ethics of Practicing Forensic Social Work, Rob Butters
- Testifying about Mitigation: When Social Workers and Other Mental Health Professionals Face Aggressive Cross-Examination, Stan Brodsky and Joanne Terrell

The inaugural issue of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work* will be available in January 2011. Access and download articles from this issue via the journal's web site at: www.tandf.co.uk/journals/WFOR.

To view a free online sample, go to: www.informaworld.com/WSHC

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Next Open Court will be published
January 1, 2011—Get your copy in by
December 1, 2010!

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.

Chapter News!

The New Orleans Chapter of NOFSW is excitedly preparing for the 28th annual conference in their hometown! The New Orleans chapter members met on October 23, 2010 and in attendance were: Karen van Beyer and Lyndia Green Faust (both NOFSW former Presidents), Patricia Percy (former NOFSW Secretary), Cynthia Edwards (current *Open Court* co-editor), and many others. Next meeting for the New Orleans chapter is set for January 29, 2011—and is open to all NOFSW members in the New Orleans area. Contact Cynthia Edwards for more information at ccedwards121@hotmail.com.

Let us know

What do you think of the new Open Court?
Your contact information need updating?
Want to get more involved with NOFSW?
www.nofsw.org

Meet the Rest of your NOFSW Board Members

in Rhode Island, on the advisory board of RHCAREs in Rhode Island, and serves as the Vice-President of NOFSW.

Elgie Dow, LMSW is a forensic social worker employed by the State of Michigan Department of Corrections at the Kinross Correctional Complex in Kincheloe, Michigan. While employed by corrections, he has worked on a psychiatric team for 6 years. For the last 17 years, he has provided crisis management services and has run Assault Offender and Sex Offender Program groups. After almost 40 years of employment with State of Michigan, he will retire January 1, 2011 to open a forensic practice in group work. Elgie has been a member of NOFSW since 1995 and currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Membership Committee.

Suzanne Dowling, LCSW, received her MSW from UC Berkeley, School of Social Welfare. She served as Adjunct Faculty at the School of Social Work, San Francisco State University from 2002-10. Her areas of practice experience include: defense mitigation, child welfare, school social work, migrant worker education, and medical advocacy. Suzanne has served on the NOFSW Executive Council as Councilor from 2006-09 and as Chair of the 2009 San Francisco annual conference. She currently serves as the NOFSW President.

Stacey Hardy-Desmond, Ph.D., J.D., LCSW, is an Associate Professor, Field Director, and coordinator of the Forensic Social Work Certificate Program at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Dr. Hardy-Desmond combines her

education and experience in clinical psychology, law, and social work by focusing on forensic social work practice and multicultural issues, including organizational culture. Other teaching and writing interests include applied clinical assessment and practice, experiential learning through field instruction, and supervision. Stacey is Past-President of NOFSW.

**October in New Orleans****Well after Strategic Planning Sessions!**

Elton Louis, MSSW, LCSW is a self-employed forensic social worker, providing expert witness testimony for alternatives to incarceration in sentencing and revocation hearings. Elton works primarily for criminal defense attorneys. Elton has worked in social work for over 40 years as: a psychotherapist, a director of an agency, a supervisor, an adjunct professor, child welfare worker, juvenile court worker, etc. Elton is currently serving his second term as Councilor on the NOFSW board and is Co-Chair of the membership committee.

Susan McCarter, PhD, MS, MSW is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where she teaches the graduate research and capstone courses. Susan's area of research, practice, and advocacy is risk and protective factors for adolescence – specifically racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. Her practice experience includes policy advocate; inner-city, mental health counselor; and juvenile probation officer. This is Dr. McCarter's first year on the NOFSW board and she currently serves as the Secretary of NOFSW and the Co-Editor of *Open Court*.

Viola Vaughan-Eden has provided mental health services to victims of child maltreatment in Southeastern Virginia for more than 20 years, in both residential treatment and Children's Advocacy Center settings. Dr. Vaughan-Eden is currently in private practice where she provides counseling and forensic evaluations and specializes in cases of suspected child sexual abuse. She has evaluated more than a thousand cases of maltreatment and has provided expert testimony more than 400 times. Additionally, Viola is an adjunct professor in the MSW program at Virginia Commonwealth University, a reviewer for several national child maltreatment journals, and is the Vice President of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. Dr. Vaughan-Eden is in her second year as Councilor on the Board of the NOFSW and serves as the Co-Editor of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work*.