



# News

October 2006

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**European  
Prison  
Education  
Association**

## **11<sup>th</sup> EPEA Conference 2007**

Application forms to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> EPEA International Conference (14<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2007, Dublin, Ireland), are available to download at [www.epea.org](http://www.epea.org). Applications can be submitted online or by regular mail. The closing date is the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2007. A number of new developments are planned for this conference.

**Scholarships:** There will be a limited number of scholarships available to practitioners. These scholarships will cover conference fees and also the cost of travelling to Ireland up to a maximum of 400 euro. In order to apply you must be a prison teacher/librarian who has not attended an EPEA conference before, and who is not in a position to get funding elsewhere. Scholarship application forms are available to complete online at [www.epea.org](http://www.epea.org).

**Poster Workshops:** In addition to regular workshops, conference participants who wish to share their experiences but are unwilling to present a workshop may be interested instead in presenting a Poster Workshop. Poster presentations provide the opportunity for the presenter and the delegates to dialogue and network in an informal, relaxed but structured forum. A physical arrangement similar to an exhibit area is used for this interaction. Presenters are provided with a stand or display area and can display their presentations along with other presenters as part of the designated poster session. During this designated period, the audience moves through the poster displays, stopping to interact with those who are presenting topics that are of interest to them. Any issue relevant to prison education can be a subject for presentation, e.g., summaries of best practice, project details, innovations, research findings, curriculum developments, or indeed simplified outlines of the type of prison education taking place in various countries. Two poster sessions will be held during the conference.

**Research Forum:** This forum will provide conference delegates with the opportunity to be informed of ongoing or completed research into varying aspects of prison education. A maximum of 8 minutes will be allocated for each research presentation and towards the end

of the forum there will be the opportunity to engage with the research presenters. The research forum was devised to facilitate those 'working on the ground', as well as academics and researchers disseminate their research findings. Therefore we are encouraging teachers, librarians, etc who have carried out any such research to share their findings and ideas with their international colleagues.

## **Election Results**

Anita Wilson (England) was elected unopposed to the position of Deputy Secretary of the EPEA Steering Committee (for 1 year and then Secretary for 2 years). Gisle Grahl-Jacobsen (Norway) was elected to the position of Treasurer for 3 years. Their terms of office began in July 2006. Congratulations to the newly elected officers and thank you to those who contested the elections as well as all those who voted.

## **South American Network**

The EPEA is deeply honored to have been approached recently by the Centre International d'études pédagogiques to help establish a South American Network of Prison Education. During October, representatives from the Ministries of Education in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Honduras and Nicaragua will be meeting with members of the EPEA Steering Committee and EPEA branches. The South American group will follow up with a visit to Greece and Ireland in order to network, and see at first hand the provision of prison education there.

## **Conference Directors Prison Education**

The **6<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Directors and Co-ordinators of Prison Education**, was held in Prague, Czech Republic, 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2006. It was hosted by the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, in association with the EPEA. The Chairperson of the EPEA, Dr. Anne Costelloe, represented the organisation. The Council of Europe representative, Mr Roman Huña, discussed the revised European Prison Rules. Other topics on the agenda included policy challenges, recent research, providing prison education for minority and intercultural groups among other things.

## International Publications

1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the [Guidelines for Library Services to Prisoners](#) has just been published by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. It can be downloaded at [www.epea.org/pdf/iflapr-92.pdf](http://www.epea.org/pdf/iflapr-92.pdf).

2. An Australian report examines links between prisoners' participation in the vocational education and training (VET) programs in the Queensland prison system and their chances of returning to prison. See <http://www.ncver.edu.au/students/publication/s/1592.html>. The findings reveal that being involved in VET before initial release decreases the chances of returning to prison from 32% to 23%. Nevertheless, particular attention needs to be given to designing a comprehensive range of programs targeted at meeting the needs of individual prisoner groups, particularly for Indigenous prisoners. The research supports efforts to promote the value of VET and its role in prisoner rehabilitation, and to reduce barriers to accessing VET in correctional centres.

3. A new report commissioned by the US [Institute on Women & Criminal Justice](#) finds that female imprisonment in the U.S. has skyrocketed 757 percent since 1977. Women are the fastest-growing segment of the prison population, surpassing male prison population growth in all 50 states. The report finds that the rise in the female prison population has been punctuated by growth spikes that reached higher, lasted longer and often began earlier than those affecting men. "[The Punitiveness Report-HARD HIT: The Growth in Imprisonment of Women, 1977-2004](#)" takes an in-depth look at female prison population growth patterns and regional trends, and it provides the first state-by-state analysis of female imprisonment from 1977 to 2004, with findings from all 50 states.

4. The newly published [HIV/AIDS and HCV in Prisons: A Select Annotated Bibliography](#) is available online. The bibliography was prepared for Health Canada. This document is the most comprehensive research tool available on this topic, and is a good resource for anyone seeking the most relevant documentation on HIV, HCV and drug use in prisons. The goal of the document is to promote effective responses, based on scientific evidence and respect for human rights, to the issues raised by HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C (HCV) in prison.

## Share your ideas/views/experiences

The *Journal of Correctional Education* is the official publication of the Correctional Education Association. It is a quarterly refereed academic journal publishing research studies and articles of interest to correctional and prison educators worldwide. A special edition dedicated to international issues will be published in the June 2007 *Journal*. The editors are seeking contributions for this edition from the international prison education community. If you would like to share best practice, outline current research or open up a dialogue on matters of common concern to international prison and correctional educators, you can contact David Webb, Technical Editor, *Journal of Correctional Education* at [dwebb@ashland.edu](mailto:dwebb@ashland.edu). In addition, the *Journal of Correctional Education* welcomes manuscripts, book reviews and letters to the editors. For further details please contact <http://www.ashland.edu/correctionaled>.

## What's up down under?

The Australasian Corrections Education Association Inc (ACEA) is the Australasia's leader in the development and promotion of education and training for prisoners, detainees, and people on corrections orders in the general community. It produces a quarterly Newsletter which might be of interest to EPEA members, the first issue is available on the ACEA website [www.acea.org.au](http://www.acea.org.au). Information concerning adult basic education, indigenous education and labour market training are some of the topics covered in this first issue.

## Next EPEA Magazine

It is EPEA policy that each edition of the EPEA Magazine has a Guest Editor who gives that edition a flavour of what is happening in prison education in their country. We would like to thank the last Guest Editor, Kristel Varm (Estonia), and look forward to working with John Papadimitriou (Greece) on the next issue. If you would like to volunteer as Guest Editor so that your country can have its voice heard, please contact us at [www.epea.org](http://www.epea.org).

If you would like to submit an article on any aspect of your work as a prison educator, update international colleagues with details of local events and developments, or contribute in any way to the next issue, please email the editor at: [Asbjorn.Stoverud@jessheim.vgs.no](mailto:Asbjorn.Stoverud@jessheim.vgs.no)