



C O N F E R E N C E      D A I L Y

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**THANK YOU**  
*for Joining Us in Tampa*

**A**s the 2007 Winter Conference concludes, I want to thank you for attending and being an important part of another successful conference. Betty and I had a wonderful time, and I hope all of you did too. It was great to see so many friends once again, and I was encouraged to see many new attendees. Corrections is an ever-changing field, and our conferences remind me that it continues to attract bright, innovative people. I hope that you found this conference fun and informative and that you had a chance to enjoy some of Tampa's attractions.

Our profession thrives on expertise and new ideas. This year's workshops, seminars and exhibits provided valuable knowledge and fresh insight into our profession. By participating, you are showing your dedication to corrections and to ACA and are helping to improve both. I truly appreciate that. I urge you to keep up with the latest developments in corrections by attending future ACA conferences and discussing what you learn with your colleagues in the field. And remember to let them know that we welcome

and encourage their attendance at all ACA conferences.

This conference marked the official launch of ACA's Healthcare Professional Interest Section. More than 30 workshops addressed a variety of correctional health care topics. Section members could also attend several other events that addressed the issue of health care in corrections. If you haven't joined the professional interest section, I encourage you to contact our membership staff and become a part of this new and exciting initiative.

Thank you again for participating in the 2007 Winter Conference. Have a safe trip home, and I look forward to seeing you in Kansas City, Mo., in August.

Sincerely,

James A. Gondles, Jr., CAE  
Executive Director  
American Correctional Association



**Impossible Dreams  
Come True**

**A**t the Opening Session on Monday, James Bradley, author of *Flags of Our Fathers*, challenged conference attendees to pursue impossible dreams. He relayed his father's story of heroism as a Marine on Iwo Jima in 1945 and his own fight to publish an account of the heroic events. With the famous photo of the Iwo Jima flag raising on the screens behind him, Bradley said, "When I look at this photo, it represents the concept of doing the impossible."

Bradley explained that the war tactic used in the Pacific, amphibious assault, was deemed impossible by the military after the development of automatic weapons — until the 1920s when Marine Holland McTyeire "Howlin' Mad" Smith foresaw the need

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James Bradley  
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to train Marines in the tactic. Smith said, "We are going to do the impossible, and we are going to do the impossible well."

When Bradley's father, John Bradley, passed away, Bradley found three boxes of Iwo Jima memories and began his quest to discover the stories of the other five men in the famous photo — Harlon Block, Rene Gagnon, Ira Hayes, Franklin Sousley and Michael Strank. Bradley's father had never spoken of Iwo Jima during his life, but in a letter Bradley found after his father's death, he had written that putting up that flag was the happiest moment of his life. Bradley said that contacting the families of the other Marines was a way to find out more about his father. "What I wanted to know was: Who was my dad on that Feb. 23, 1945?" he said. After speaking with the other families, it dawned on him that he had to write a good book that would get their stories out.

"Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima" is the most reproduced photo in photographic history and Bradley's book is a *New York Times* number one best-

seller. Bradley never gave up on that goal, even after 27 rejections from publishers. The stories he documented taught him about determination against impossible odds.

Bradley was animated about his book, his research and his message of perseverance. Bradley is currently working on his third book on the Pacific, and his first two, *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Flyboys* have both been made into movies. Bradley is also president of the James Bradley Peace Foundation, which fosters understanding between America and Asia.

In closing, Bradley encouraged the audience to write down their impossible dreams at some point during this conference and to pursue them. He said that putting impossible dreams out in the open helps to move them from the "impossible file" in our minds to the "possible file." He ended by saying of his book, "It's a book about six nice young boys who fought a terrible battle far in the Pacific, missing their mothers. They did the impossible and they did the impossible well."

— Lisa Leone

## Congratulations to the Student Poster Session Winners

**Undergraduate – First Place:** Ashley Graves, Eastern Kentucky University, "Why Juveniles Abuse Substances"

**Second Place:** Shondra New, Eastern Kentucky University, "The Relationship Between Parenting Styles, Attachment and Substance Abuse"

**Graduate – First Place:** Bahiyyah Muhammed, doctoral candidate, Rutgers University, "In Their Shoes: Children of Incarcerated Parents Speak Out About Life on the Outside"

**Second Place:** Shenique Thomas, doctoral candidate, Rutgers University, "Staying in Touch: Uncovering Prisoners' Perceptions of Visitation"

The posters are on display in the exhibit hall. Please stop by to congratulate the winning students.

## Awards Presented at the Opening Session

Also at the Opening Session on Monday morning, several awards were presented, including ACA's Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Award. Keisha Costello, a graduate student at Central Missouri State University, received this year's award. Costello's goal as a criminal justice professional will be to help juveniles become improved members of society. Like King, she wants to teach them about communication through cooperation, nonviolence and acceptance of others. Upon receiving the award, Costello said, "I would like to thank the American Correctional Association and my

advisor, Dr. Frances Reddington, for giving me the opportunity to advance in my graduate studies."

Two individuals received the Medal of Valor Award. The first was Dontae Malone, a correctional officer at the Maryland House of Correction. After only three months on the job, Malone responded to an attack by several inmates on a fellow officer. Upon responding to the call, Malone became the target of the attack and suffered stab wounds to his head and lower parts of his body. He heroically saved the life of his co-worker and positively identified the inmate attackers. "I would like to thank ACA for making

this possible and for allowing me to come here and enjoy this beautiful Tampa weather," Malone said.

Also receiving the Medal of Valor Award was Jason Sullivan, a captain at the Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby, Mont. On Jan. 6, 2006, eight members of a prison gang assaulted two other inmates. Sullivan, then a lieutenant, and several of his officers responded. He took control, never giving up despite sustaining serious injuries. "This is something I couldn't have done without the people who were behind me ... I really wish they

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## Conference Awards

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could have been here because they were more of a driving force than I was.”

Finally, two Golden Eagle Awards were presented by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections. The award is given to agencies who have distinguished themselves by achieving 100 percent accreditation of all facilities and programs. The first award went to the New Mexico Corrections Department. Secretary Joe R. Williams accepted the award on behalf of the department. “This award comes from the ashes of the 1980 riot where 33 inmates were killed in the penitentiary in New Mexico. For the next 20 years we were under court monitoring and our system continued to be one of the more violent in the country. ... When this administration took over, we were committed to accreditation and stopping the violence and running a system that could be recognized by nationally recognized standards,” Williams said.

The second Golden Eagle Award was presented to the Arkansas Department of Community Correction. Department Director David Guntharp accepted the award, saying, “I would like to say on behalf of the 1,200 employees of the Arkansas Department of Community Corrections, this award — we wouldn’t have been able to achieve it without each and every one of them.”

— Susan L. Clayton

## I-CAN Art Exhibit

Today is your last chance to stop by the International Correctional Arts Network’s (I-CAN) Art Exhibit and Sale, held on the second level of the Tampa Convention Center.

## The Future of Correctional Medicine Depends On Dedicated and Trained Staff

In a Saturday morning workshop, titled “The Future of Correctional Medicine — Professionalize Correctional Health,” David L. Thomas, M.D., JD, professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery and Division of Correctional Medicine at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., shared with attendees some of the history of correctional medicine as well as his predictions for the future.

“Changes in correctional health care are generally due to court action,” Thomas said. He noted that Earl Warren, a former Supreme Court justice was expected to be conservative when he was appointed by President Eisenhower, but instead he became one of the most activist jurists in the U.S. justice system. He led the court in some of the most pivotal decisions, especially in the area of human rights.

Another chief justice who influenced correctional health care was Warren Burger, who eventually expanded on some of Warren’s decisions. “This led to a change of philosophy of the Supreme Court, from the individual being a part of society and society helping the individual, to society being responsible for the individual,” Thomas said.

*Estelle v. Gamble* was the case that changed correctional health care. It ensured that prisoners be entitled to three constitutional rights: access to health care, a professional medical opinion and the ability to have that opinion carried out. Thomas pointed out that any breach to that is deliberate indifference.

According to Thomas, the 1980s and 1990s were the decades of change in correctional health care. Following *Estelle*, privatization in correctional health care expanded and eventually some states switched to a university-based health care system. In 1995, Congress passed the Prison Litigation Reform Act because almost 20 percent

of all federal district court suits were inmate-related. “The act was intended to reduce the federal docket; it was basically an economic law,” Thomas noted. He said it changed the funding formula for payment of attorneys representing prisoners and narrowly defined what a federal judge can do to impose prisoner relief. Thus, a judge must grant relief only by using the least intrusive means necessary.

After PLRA, consent decrees, consent agreements, individuals and groups implemented further change in corrections. He noted that the Federal Bureau of Prisons implemented a medical category plan that indicated the level of care needed. This meant that those who needed more intense services were located close to where services were available. Florida also instituted several levels of care and placed inmates and health care providers accordingly. “Care improved significantly and costs went down,” Thomas said.

In looking at the future of correctional health care, Thomas said, “As economic pressures continue, there is going to be a necessity for creative thinking.” There is going to be a decrease in personnel and services for inmates. However, he noted that there are still visionary people who want to improve correctional health care and there are several noteworthy programs.

Thomas said the massive input from the federal courts will not be as obvious in the future. He also noted that correctional systems continue to suffer from “bureaucratic inertia.” According to Thomas, most systems hold the belief that correctional health care should reflect community health care. Thomas anticipates that health care decisions will be left more in the hands of health care providers than with correctional providers.

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## The Future of Correctional Medicine

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“Privatization is not quite as attractive as it was a decade or two decades ago,” Thomas said. He noted that although it still permits the prison administrator to remove a troublesome area of care from his or her day-to-day supervision, it does not absolve the administrator of legal responsibility or public accountability for that care. Thomas sees private companies expanding into specific areas in correctional health such as mental health, pharmacy services and utilization review, rather than overall health care.

University-centered systems will lead the way in improving medical care, according to Thomas. These systems are able to gain funding and grant opportunities that state correctional departments cannot. Thomas believes public systems will lag behind community standards of care and be the last to catch up to those standards, due to the competing interest of state employees, unions, legislators, public opinion, etc. Public systems also face the turnover due to

the election process, which leads to abrupt changes in initiatives and priorities.

Thomas pointed out the importance of accreditation in correctional health care. “It will drive the quality of health care and will continue with a higher level of services in all areas,” he said. The American Correctional Association, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations each provide accreditation for corrections.

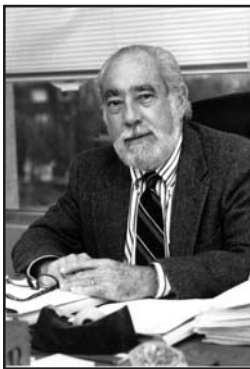
Due to the current nursing shortage, Thomas said, there will be lesser-trained personnel because they will not be as competitive as hospitals or other health care entities. He anticipates more creative arrangements for nursing extenders. “Correctional systems will be forced to resort to lesser-trained people except for physicians,” Thomas said. “Therefore, there’s going to be more supervision required of the physicians and fully trained nurses. Everybody is going to have to work harder to maintain the same level and it is going to be difficult to improve the level, but it can and it will happen.”

In the face of this, Thomas noted some promising federal government, university and individual organization initiatives. For example, there is a federal call to action for correctional health care and legislation to create a correctional health care office within the federal public health service. Also, some universities have begun to offer rotations for medical students in prisons and jails. Eventually, Thomas says, all of this will lead to a cadre of well-trained physicians who choose to practice medicine in corrections.

Correctional health care will continue to advance, Thomas said. “There will be significant changes, but they will be more incremental than dramatic.” When predicting the future, Thomas said, “One cannot underestimate the impact of a small group of dedicated individuals. Therefore, each of the people in this room has a committed role in improving correctional health care.”

— Susan L. Clayton

## Be Sure to Attend the Annual Luncheon



**Who:** Alvin J. Bronstein  
Director Emeritus  
ACLU National  
Prison Project

**When:** Today at noon

**Where:** Ballroom,  
Tampa  
Convention  
Center

## Don't Forget the Grand Prize Giveaway!

Do you feel like a winner? Beginning at 2 p.m. a variety of prizes will be given away in the Exhibit Hall, including Best Buy gift cards, an iPod and the grand prize — a 60-inch Plasma, high-definition TV. The runner-up prizes aren't shabby either. They include a 32-inch Plasma TV and a DVD player and recorder. But remember, you must be present to win. Be sure to visit the sponsoring companies to become eligible to win.

## Congratulations!

The 50/50 Membership Raffle winner, Kelly Johnson (president-elect of the Iowa Corrections Association) walked away with \$510 — half of the \$1,020 raised through ticket sales. The remaining money will go to the Judeo Christian Health Clinic here in Tampa. The clinic was founded in 1972 and is the largest, most comprehensive free clinic in the Southeast. It provides free, quality care to thousands of people each year.