



# C O N F E R E N C E     D A I L Y

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## Linda Armstrong Kelly Inspires Conference Attendees To Persevere

**L**inda Armstrong Kelly, author and mother of cyclist legend Lance Armstrong, addressed ACA 2006 Winter Conference attendees at yesterday's Opening Session with her inspiring story of courage and determination. Growing up poor with divorced parents (an alcoholic father and a working mother) and a brother and sister in the Dallas projects, Kelly learned early to take care of herself. Although her family moved around the Dallas area frequently because her mother could not drive and had trouble keeping a job, Kelly adapted and pursued her goals. At 16, she dated a rebellious young man and became pregnant.

Kelly's mother told her that there was no way she could have the baby, as they could not feed another child. Kelly insisted that she would have the baby. So, she told the father that they had to get married, and they did. At eight months pregnant, and just after she had made the final payment to the hospital for the baby's delivery, Kelly was beaten so badly by her husband that she could not leave the house for two weeks. Kelly gave birth to a boy — Lance Edward. "I was so consumed with love for this baby," Kelly said, adding, "It went from being all about me to my baby and the salvation this baby brought to me."

Due to the birth of her son, Kelly could not finish her final year of high school and had to find a job. She was hired at the local post office. Kelly said the abuse got worse, and she divorced

her husband. Luckily, after the birth of Lance, her father stopped drinking and began helping her. After three months, she had saved enough money to get a one-bedroom apartment.

"Lance did everything fast," Kelly said. Therefore, she spent much time channeling Lance's energy on nights and weekends. At 10, he began BMX bike racing. When Lance was 12, he began competitive swimming. In the meantime, Kelly's career was on the move. She was working as the head administrative assistant for the controller of a private company and she had earned her GED. Before long, Lance told her he wanted to do triathlons. "Whatever it takes, son," she told him. So, Kelly began helping Lance train. "He had a need for speed ever since he was a little guy."

When Lance's friends were thinking about college, he was thinking about finding a cycling sponsor. Kelly was right there pushing him along. They quickly built up a list of contacts and secured a sponsor, USA Cycling. Lance tried out for the team and made the B team. Not long after, at 17 years old, Lance signed a \$32,000 contract with the Subaru Montgomery cycling team and he moved from Dallas to Austin. Needless to say, Kelly was sad when he moved out. "I grew up with this child," she said. However, Kelly recognized that she had given Lance what he needed to pursue his dream. "The hardest thing to do as parents is to love them and let them go."

Kelly realized soon that she needed to do something for herself and redirect her energy. She obtained her real estate license in case she ever needed to switch careers. Kelly had recently become a project administrator and aspired to become a project manager in the telecom business. "I even became a salaried employee," Kelly said. She noted that someone believed in her enough to give her a chance even though she lacked a college degree.

In 1996, Kelly helped Lance build his dream home in Austin. Not long after, Kelly received a devastating phone call. Lance had been diagnosed with stage 4 testicular cancer. He was at the height of his career. Kelly immediately flew to Austin to be with her son. According to Kelly, she soon became the project manager of Lance's cancer. "That was the hardest job I ever had," Kelly said. She noted that the two of them were like sponges trying to absorb as much as they could about the disease. Within a few days, she took Lance down to San Antonio to bank his sperm before starting his chemotherapy treatments. Lance had brain surgery to remove two tumors and fought the cancer with all his strength. Miraculously, he came back to win the Tour de France in 1999 and is now a father of three. "I'm most proud of the father he is to his children and the choices he's made in his life," Kelly said.

And so, it has been a happy ending for Kelly. Lance's cancer went into

## Congratulations to the Student Poster Session Winners

**Undergraduate — First Place:** Morgan Cox, Eastern Kentucky University, Examining the Merits of Faith-Based Approaches for Controlling the Delinquency of Juvenile Offenders; **Second Place:** Ashley Graves, Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky Juvenile Substance Abusers

**Graduate —** Mayu Hayashi, St. Ambrose University, An Exploratory Study of the Juvenile Correctional Goal Orientation of Youth Services Workers in a Publicly Operated Juvenile Residential Correctional Facility: The Effects of Childhood and Present Family and Social Support Experiences

The posters will be on display in the exhibit hall next to the sidewalk cafe. Please stop by to congratulate the winning students.



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remission and she met her current husband. In closing, Kelly quoted Eleanor Roosevelt: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." She commended the audience for making a difference through the jobs they do and thanked them for their efforts.

Also at the Opening Session, ACA President Gwendolyn C. Chunn addressed the audience. She reminded attendees that the work they do is important. She challenged the audience to be a model for other staff, get involved in accreditation, participate in certification programs, vote in the upcoming ACA election, encourage others to join the association, get involved in various projects and committees, help groom employees and encourage others to stay in the field. Chunn noted that retaining quality staff will be a major challenge in the near future. In closing, she said, "I know no challenge in corrections in this country that we have not met and fully achieved."

— Susan Clayton

## King and Valor Awards Presented at Opening Session

At the Opening Session on Monday morning, ACA presented the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Award to Rebekah Vann and the Medal of Valor to Allan Collins, John Gearhart, Terry Kidwell, Thomas Hopper and Jim Millar.

With a family that includes nine siblings, six of whom still live at home and two who are mentally handicapped, Vann and her family struggle to make sure that she can continue her education. Despite many obstacles, she is currently pursuing a degree in sociology at Mid America Nazarene University in Kansas. Emulating King's compassion, Vann completed an internship at the Johnson County Detention Center, where she displayed genuine care and dedication toward the juvenile offenders there. "It is an honor and a privilege to be here and receive this award," Vann said. "King was an extraordinary man with an extraordinary dream ... and his dream has burst into my heart." Part of that dream, she said, "is for ordinary men and women like you and me to be able to invest in the lives of youth in a practical way."

The Medal of Valor was presented to U.S. Department of Justice corrections advisors Allan Collins, John Gearhart, Terry Kidwell, Thomas Hopper and Jim Millar for actions they took in Iraq at the Rusafa Prison Complex. On Feb. 16, fire broke out in a cell block housing 90 inmates. Braving heavy clouds of smoke and roaring flames, the corrections professionals evacuated the inmates, dragging or carrying those who were unconscious, even going from bed to bed to locate a missing inmate. Accepting the award for the group, Terry Kidwell said, "We really appreciate being recognized here today by ACA, but the fact is we were just doing our job."

— Michael Kelly

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# ACA Workshops Focus On Diverse Topics

## Consular Notification Access Is Necessary

By Susan L. Clayton

In a Saturday afternoon session, titled "Consular Notification and Access for Jails and Prisons," James A. Lawrence, public affairs specialist for the Consular Notification and Outreach Division of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs, told attendees that their contact with non-U.S. citizens is only going to increase in the future. He noted that, according to the Department of Commerce, there are nearly 60 million foreign nationals currently in the country. "How you treat foreigners here will have a direct impact on how Americans are treated abroad."

Lawrence said that each year thousands of foreign nationals are arrested and incarcerated in the United States and that many corrections officials are unaware of their obligation to inform these detainees of their consular rights, which can result in treaty violations and international complaints. "Consular notification pertains to all people," he said.

All non-U.S. citizens who are arrested or detained have the right to communicate with a consular officer (consul). Two treaties regulate the consular notification process. The first is the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR), which has existed since the early 1960s and now includes nearly 170 countries. "It establishes the standard for consular conduct," Lawrence said. He noted that notification should be made within 24 to 72 hours after arrest or detainment. VCCR states that arresting authorities must inform foreign detainees that they have the right to have their consulate notified. The second type of treaty is a bilateral treaty. This makes notification mandatory for 58 countries. Several of these bilateral consular treaties require notification to be made within 72 hours, regard-

less of the detainees wishes. The special rule countries are listed on pocket cards that Lawrence distributed to attendees. He encouraged them to give them out to all staff. VCCR gives the option of having consuls notified because some foreign nationals do not want their situation disclosed. They may be seeking asylum. If the person is an asylum seeker from a mandatory notification country, notification must still be made, but the fact that the detainee has applied for asylum should not be revealed. Also, if a death occurs in a facility, notification is required and if a life-threatening illness or serious injury occurs, notification is recommended.

Both treaties state that notification is an obligation. "The purpose of the consular notification and access requirement is to ensure that foreign nationals are not placed in a situation in which they cannot receive assistance from their own government," Lawrence said. The basic rule with VCCR is that detainees must be informed of their right to have the consulate notified of their arrests. Detainees can choose if they want the consulate notified. The special rule of the bilateral treaties states that notification must be made regardless of the detainees wishes. Both treaties also give consular officers the right to have access to their arrested and detained citizens.

Lawrence outlined the notification procedures. The first step is to determine citizenship of an arrestee or detainee. If he or she is from a special rule country, the notification should take place without delay. If not, the person should be asked if he or she wants their consulate notified. If requested, the consulate should be notified right away. Lawrence stressed the importance of keeping written records of all actions taken, including the offer of consular contact, the detainee's decision and any notification made to the consulate. He suggested that notification be made by

fax, as this can be done 24 hours a day and the fax confirmation sheet provides a written record that notification was made. "Keep good records," Lawrence said, "I can't stress it enough." The Department of State's Consular Notification and Access booklet includes a suggested fax sheet and includes samples in several different languages.

Consular access can consist of visits, phone calls, letters, etc. Lawrence pointed out that it depends on traditions, resources and location of the consulate. Consuls can arrange legal representation and monitor case progress; observe trials and make court appearances; inquire about detention conditions; provide reading material, food and medication; and contact family members. Consuls generally have to follow a facility's regulations regarding security, and time, place and manner of visits. They cannot act as attorneys or interfere with criminal investigations or the judicial process.

Why is notification so important? According to Lawrence, there are legal reasons. Under the U.S. Constitution, treaties are "the law of the land." Policy reasons also come into play. The international golden rule generally is that "if we comply, so will they," Lawrence said. It is the principle of reciprocity. Fulfillment of our obligations under international law is the best way to ensure that Americans arrested or detained overseas will receive the same treatment. Finally, there are pragmatic reasons for notification. It helps prevent diplomatic complaints and State Department investigations. In closing, Lawrence stressed that consular notification helps protect arrested U.S. citizens overseas and prevents litigation and frivolous lawsuits against corrections officials. "Notification is the law, it's an obligation and it's the right thing to do."

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## Georgia's School System For Juvenile Offenders

By Michael Kelly

Georgia has a unique way of providing transition services for its juvenile offenders. It has set up an entire school system under the Department of Juvenile Justice, and representatives were on hand at the Saturday afternoon workshop, "Think Exit at Entry for Juveniles," to discuss their comprehensive program. Thomas J. O'Rourke, associate superintendent for educational services of the Department of Juvenile Justice in Decatur, Ga., delivered a detailed description of his department's school system and explained what it does to promote successful reentry for juvenile offenders. Paul Jones, the curriculum director, and Jack Catrett, the director of special education, assisted O'Rourke with the presentation.

The school system was created in 1992 and took its place right alongside Georgia's other 180 school systems. Although the school system is specifically for juvenile offenders in more than 40 sites across the state, O'Rourke said, "It works like any school district in Georgia, with the same function, regulations and guidelines."

The way the school system operates today has much to do with the fact that in 1997, the U.S. Department of Justice issued findings of non-compliance for the system in 108 areas, 23 of which specifically related to education. In 1999, plans for improvement were developed and implemented, and by 2003, the U.S. Department of Justice found the school system to be compliant in all areas of education and released the program from federal oversight. In 2004, the school system was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. "Federal oversight was a good thing," O'Rourke said. "We never could have done all this from within, and a lot these

changes needed to be made."

The goal of the school system is to help every juvenile who enters the system obtain a high school diploma. Realistically, O'Rourke knows that everyone won't get a diploma, so they will put some in a special education program and help others work toward a GED. "We want to give them something that will make them more employable when they leave," he said.

Often, juveniles are transferred from one facility to another, and they find themselves with a new teacher in a new class. This is not a problem any more, O'Rourke said. "Across the whole state in all our facilities, we have the same curriculum, with the same lessons and the same textbook."

The curriculum includes reading, language arts, math, science and social studies, but it also places a heavy emphasis on vocational training. "We looked into areas that have the most job growth throughout Georgia and came up with horticulture, auto mechanics and computer technology," O'Rourke said, so they offer their students a lot of hands-on training in those and other specialties as well.

For juveniles who already have a high school diploma or GED, the school system has its Graduate Advisement Program (GAP). This program also offers vocational training, but it includes additional graduate classes in life skills, social skills and career education taught by a graduate teacher advisor. In addition, GAP participants stay in a separate dormitory and receive behavioral incentives such as later bed times, more television and extra phone calls. This special treatment confers status and serves as an incentive for juveniles without a diploma or GED.

The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice school system is apparently making a considerable impact on the juveniles in its care. In 2005, statewide testing looked at 1,440 juveniles in the school system and compared the acad-

emic performance of those who had arrived within a few days (short term) with those who had been in the system for four months or longer (long term). The long-term juveniles did better academically than the short-term juveniles in reading, language arts, science and social studies. In math, they were about the same.

The school system serves juveniles up to age 21, "but most of our kids are 12 to 15, middle school kids," O'Rourke said, adding, "Sadly, we had one kid who was 8 or 9 years old."

O'Rourke is confident that the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice school system is achieving its mission of providing a comprehensive education to help juveniles successfully integrate back into their communities. But he puts it in simpler terms: "Educate the kids, get them employed, or they're coming back. We love them, but we really don't want to see them again." ♦

### Attention New ACA Members

*Thank you for joining  
corrections best.*

We welcome you as a new member to our organization. You are important to us, and we want to help you in any way possible. Do you have a question about ACA or even a question about your career and the criminal justice field? If so, please send an e-mail to: [pres@aca.org](mailto:pres@aca.org). Be sure to include your name, membership number and telephone number so that someone from our association can contact you to discuss your inquiry. We look forward to hearing from you and to your continued membership with ACA. ♦



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