



THE INFORMER

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ Governor Selects Thomas to Head PPP
- ◆ Alston Wilkes Honors Agent of the Year Jessica Drost
- ◆ PPP has 11th J. P. Strom Winner
- ◆ Boulton Honored by U.S. Secret Service

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Governor Selects Kela Thomas to Head PPP

Governor Nikki Haley announced Kela E. Thomas as the next Director of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (PPP). Thomas, an Orangeburg native, was the Deputy Director for Administration at PPP. In this capacity, she served as a top advisor to the Director on administrative, fiscal, professional development and information technology issues since 1999. She was confirmed by the South Carolina Senate on February 24, 2011, the last member of the Governor's Cabinet appointments.

Previously, the governor announced her support for legislation that would

consolidate PPP into a division of the South Carolina Department of Corrections, streamlining administrative services and saving tax dollars. "Kela understands the challenges that PPP faces and we couldn't be happier that she can turn her full attention to working with Judge Byars at Corrections and Margaret Barber at Juvenile Justice to reduce recidivism rates in South Carolina and make our communities safer," said Governor Haley.

Mrs. Thomas has had a diverse background in project management, budget and legislative issues, marketing and personnel development. Prior to assuming her



Kela E. Thomas, Director

duties as Deputy Director at PPP, she served as the Director of Development for the School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. She has had a lengthy career in financial management and executive oversight of program development, guidelines and processes.

Richards is J.P. Strom Award Winner



Michael G. Richards, a Probation and Parole Agent in the Laurens County office, is the J. P. Strom Award recipient for the Criminal Justice Academy Basic Law Enforcement Session 566. Richards, who was honored during graduation ceremonies on March 18th, is the 11th Probation and Parole Agent to receive this award since its inception. The 1995 honor graduate of the Citadel served in the South Carolina National Guard from 1990 to 1996.

This award, named after the long time Chief of SLED, is given to the student with the highest overall academic average, with a minimum of 96%, including the successful completion of all performance tests.

Motivating Offenders to Change Series

Part II: The Occurrence of Crime from a Theoretical Perspective



As a professional in the criminal justice system, it is likely you have encountered countless individuals who have committed a variety of crimes.

At some point, you may have wondered, "Why did this person commit that crime?" You are not alone. Criminologists have spent many years developing and testing theories to explain the occurrence of crime and deviant behavior. By definition, a theory is a generalization which seeks to explain the connection between two or more events and the condition in which the relationship takes place. Criminologists seek to determine the "how" and the "why" of crime and delinquency in order to explain criminality. In order for a theory to be viable, it should be testable and there should be research evidence to support the explanation of crime.

There have been several different theories developed and tested to explain the occurrence of crime. At any given time and based on the continual efforts to test and retest theories, criminologists have not defined one theory that generally explains the occurrence of crime. The following are examples of some theories which have been used to explain criminality and the reason individuals commit crimes:

Classical School Theories:

According to classical school theorists, crime occurs when an individual pursues their own self-interest in the absence of effective punitive sanctions. It is the belief

that people are rational beings and they have the ability to make decisions on their own will and for their own purposes. In essence, based on the notion of classical theories, people are capable of making the distinction between right and wrong.

One perspective, which is the foundation of the classical school of thought, is the deterrence theory. The defining principle of the deterrence theory is crime can be effectively controlled through the use of effective punishments with the appropriate degrees of *certainty, severity, and celerity*. The fundamental component of the U.S. criminal justice system is deterrence. The criminal justice system has implemented laws, policies, and programs in an attempt to deter crime or lessen recidivism. Examples of such programs are boot camps/shock incarceration, three-strike laws and scared straight programs.

Positivist School Theories:

According to positivist school theorists, crime occurs because of an individual's biological deficiencies. Additionally, positivist theorists have also identified psychological and sociological factors which explain criminality and deviant criminal behavior. The biological explanation of crime asserts criminal behavior occurs due to a biological defect, genetics or some type of abnormality at birth. This theory of crime refutes the claims of the classical school and contends deterrence has very little impact on individuals who are "born criminal".

Biological theories seek to explain the relationship between factors such as IQ, hormones and criminal behavior. According to positivist theorists, for this explanation of crime, punishment or deterrence will not have an effect on individuals predisposed to commit crimes. Under the biological perspective, the criminal justice system has made attempts to prevent future criminality by treating the offender through counseling and/or medications, separation, incapacitation or capital punishment.

Social Learning Theories: Social learning theorists argue crime occurs through learned associations in social environments. For instance, crime occurs when individuals maintain relationships or associations with antisocial peers. Therefore, it is believed criminal behavior has the potential to be reinforced and criminality becomes persistent over a period of time. Theorists who promote this explanation of crime and delinquency contend deviant behavior can be lessened or even eliminated by removing the reward for negative behavior, increasing negative or punitive sanctions or by basically balancing the notion of rewards and punishments for behavior.

Several programs have been implemented to prevent delinquency in at-risk youth.

Programs such as the D.A.R.E., an educational program which attempts to prevent drug usage and now gang membership in

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Crime Theories

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school-aged children, seek to alter an individual's social environment and minimize learned criminal behavior.

Prior to the advent of evidence-based practices in the criminal justice system, many policies and procedures were not validated by research or theory. Theories are

important because they lay the foundation for many of the strategies implemented to improve the criminal justice system. It is important to understand a phenomenon in order to explore logical correctional strategies. As criminal justice agencies begin to develop policies, procedures, and programs based on evidence-based practices, theories and

research findings will remain invaluable assessment measures of what is working and what is not in order to promote effectiveness and efficiency in organizational operations.

Source: Williams, F.P., III & McShane, M.D. (2009). *Criminological theory*. (5th ed.)

*by Shaunita M. Grace
Field Operations Programs*

Berkeley's Jessica Drost is Agent of the Year

Probation and Parole Agent Jessica Drost of the Berkeley County Office was selected as the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services' 2010 Agent of the Year. In recognition of this honor, Drost received a commendation from the Honorable Joseph Jefferson, of the 102nd District of the South Carolina House of Representatives during a ceremony in October. The five-year veteran also received the Mark Hart Agent of the Year Award from the Alston Wilkes Society at its 48th annual luncheon in November. The award is named after, Mark Hart, a Probation and Parole Agent in the PPP Spartanburg office who died of cancer in 1983.

Drost supervises a caseload of sex offenders. She agrees that there is a lot more that goes into dealing with sex offenders than with the general

population. Drost said, "With sex offenders, you are dealing with people who need a lot of counseling and extra attention." Agent Drost was lauded by her Agent in Charge as efficient, autonomous and focused on her job. "Jessica requires little supervision, has a very positive attitude, and is deserving of this award" said AIC David Fashion. Agent Drost is a graduate

of Western Michigan University and has a master's degree from Webster's University. She is a very active member of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Probation and Parole Association.

BELOW: Representative Joe Jefferson presents Agent Drost with a commendation for the SC House of Representatives during a ceremony at the Berkeley County Office.



Berkeley Country Agent Jessica Drost is the SCDPPPS 2010 Agent of the Year and the Alston Wilkes Mark Hart Award recipient.

*By Pete O'Boyle
Director of
Public Information*

Highlighting Horry County

Horry County is home to Myrtle Beach, known as the vacation capital of the state – indeed, it is one of the most popular vacation destinations for the whole nation that's why Horry County presents some unique supervision challenges.

The county is one of the largest geographically in the state and it certainly is diverse. Its crowded urban areas along the coast give way to an interior part of the county that is rural farm country. A trip by car that can take 15 minutes in the winter can take an hour during the peak tourist times of the summer, complicating home visit schedules and warrant service.

To cope with the congestion, AIC Scott Herrington and Team Leader Tara Tyler have divided up the county into three zones. The ten Agents responsible for supervising these cases are: Bryan Anderson, Chris Doerr, Rhonda Elliott, Eric Hooks, Biff Johnson, Desmond Major, Alex Myers, Brian Scales, Michael Thompson and Curtis Wright. Geographically assigning caseloads allow the Agents to be more efficient in the field.

Because of the heavy tourist population and being a border county, Horry County has a large Interstate Compact (ISC) workload. Since the implementation of Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System (ICOTS), two Agents Jenny Sims and Cindy Jones have been dedicated to handle all cases transferring into the state and conducts the out of

state investigations. AIC Herrington states, "it has been an advantage to have the interstate cases as a specialize caseload. This allows the other Agents to focus solely on South Carolina cases."

Horry County has two weeks of General Sessions Court per month. Russell, Court Coordinator schedules hearings, file all court paperwork and oversees the court intake process for new cases. Also, he is responsible for maintaining positive relationships with judges, the Solicitor's Office, and attorneys.

Rich Loskill Jr. Supervises all Horry County's Sex Offenders cases. Rodney Bellamy handles all of the pre-parole and pardon investigations for the county. Randy Worrell serves as the Victim Services Coordinator for

both Horry and Georgetown Counties.

There's a myriad of law enforcement agencies throughout the county as well, which is dotted with many different incorporated entities. To keep good relations and make sure there is continuous information sharing all law enforcement chiefs meet once a month.

"It's always a plus to have good relationships with your local police departments," Herrington notes. "We're very fortunate to have built upon these relationships over the years."

The staff in Horry County rely on each other to keep motivated. They set aside certain days to have office lunches and bake cakes to recognize the birthdays of all staff members.

See Horry Country, Page 8



As part of its ongoing effort to build morale, the Horry County staff holds regular lunches together. Here they are eating some chicken bog and pound cake prepared by Rhonda Hucks. (From left, are) Team Leader Tara Tyler, HSS Hucks, HSS Sharon Long, AIC Scott Herrington, Agent Curtis Wright, Intern Diana Hampton, Agent Cindy Jones and Agent Jenny Sims.

New Agent Basic Class Graduates



Ceremonies were recently held for the first class of new agents in almost three years. (Left to right): Michael Richards, Laurens; Robert Aroneck, Jr., Charleston; William Garmany, Dorchester; Lonnie Stuckey, Georgetown; (Deputy Director for Field Operations, Mike Nichols, Former PPP Director Samuel Glover) Brandon Wallace, Spartanburg; Anna Bailey, Richland; Robin Herndon, Aiken; Heidi Blackstock, Anderson.

Aiken AIC Receives Award

Aiken Agent In Charge Marie Boulton received an unexpected award from the United States Secret Service recently for her assistance in apprehending an offender who was wanted in another state for several counts of Bank Fraud. "I made arrangements along with my staff to have the offender come into the office. The Secret Service came down

and assisted as well as apprehend the offender." The offender was later extradited back to the state in which he was wanted. In January 2011, the Secret Service returned and presented AIC Boulton with a Certificate of Appreciation for the efforts of her and the Aiken staff.



It's the Stomach Flu!

You're suddenly throwing up, have diarrhea and maybe stomach cramping for a couple of days. Many people call it stomach flu, which has nothing to do with seasonal flu. Now there's a name for stomach flu: **NOROVIRUS**.

And it's a virus all right—a germ you pick up somewhere. These bugs are highly contagious. People affected can spread the disease from the moment they

begin to feel ill to at least three days after recovery, according to the Center for Biopreparedness Education and the CDC. Most people get better within a day or two. But those who can't keep anything down and can't drink enough liquids to prevent dehydration, such as children or the elderly may need medical care.

The bad news? There's no treatment for norovirus. Antibiotics

don't work against viruses.

Drink juice or water to replace fluids lost to vomiting and diarrhea (if you can).

Your best defense is hand washing and staying away from anyone who is ill.

Source: American Institute for Preventive Medicine, "Healthy Life Letter", December 2010.



SC NABCJ'S Annual Conference

The South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice celebrated its 17th Annual One-Day Training Conference at the Brookland Banquet and Conference Center in West Columbia, SC on December 3, 2010. The theme for the conference was "Reinventing NABCJ: Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities in the Criminal Justice System." There were approximately 150 people in attendance, representing various facets of the South Carolina criminal justice field.

The day began with United States Marshal Kelvin Washington addressing conference attendees regarding Mentoring. Author Joseph B. Washington delivered the luncheon address encouraging everyone to "Break the Spirit of Average." The SC-NABCJ provided its attendees with informative concurrent workshops followed by great networking opportunities. Congratulations SC-NABCJ on executing another successful annual conference!



Conference attendees included (left to right) George Whitehead, PPP Mentoring Coordinator; Dr. Johnny Ray Noble, minister of Second Nazareth Baptist; Dr. Tajuana Massie, Political Science professor at South Carolina State University; and SC-NABCJ Board member Sonya T. Bookard, PPP Deputy Director for Administration. The Edgewood Foundation, a ministry of Second Nazareth Baptist, was the 2010 community service recipient. Dr. Noble accepted the award on behalf of the Church.

CPR Training at Central Office

Loretta Goodwin of the Central Office becomes CPR/AED certified during a class conducted by the American Red Cross Association. This training was coordinated by the PPP Training Section, based on requests from EMT and the Building Tenants Safety Committee that staff in the building become knowledgeable in operating the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), located on the second floor of Central Office.

The American Red Cross has revised its First Aid/CPR/AED program, making it more convenient for people to learn how to help someone in distress until advanced medical help arrives. Highlights of the new program include a two-year certification and shorter, more interactive classes. This day-long training included staff from PPP, the University of South Carolina, and the South Carolina Public Health Institute. Additional Central Office staff who received their certification were: David O'Berry, Gene Adkins, Denise Sox, Lacy Jeffcoat, and Ellicia Thompson.

By Pete O'Boyle, Director Public Information and Melissa Ray, Director of Training Compliance & Professional Development



Snow Days in South Carolina

The 2011 snow storm in January caused closings of state and local government offices, power and telephone outages in nearly every county. While the snow presented certain dangers, one cannot argue with its beauty. Enjoy some of the scenes from around the state. Thank you to the following staff members who shared photographs:

Marchar Stagg, Field Operations
AIC Hardy Paschal, Greenville

Arnise Moultrie, Executive Programs
AIC Katherine Moore, Chester



GREENVILLE



CHESTER



COLUMBIA



BLYTHEWOOD



FORT MILL

Staff Honored at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Training Conference Luncheon



LEFT: Scott Norton, Assistant Deputy Director for Field Operations, received the "Grady Wallace Excellence Award" at the SC Criminal Justice Conference in Myrtle Beach in November along with a big hug from Field Support Project Coordinator Angela Salley after receiving his award.

RIGHT: Senior Administrative Specialist Carolyn W. Brownlee of the Greenwood office, posing with Greenwood AIC Kevin Reeder, received the "Distinguished Administrative Support Staff Award."



Horry County

Continued from Page 4

Herrington says all of the credit goes to his thoughtful and hard working Human Service Specialists, Rhonda Hucks, Sharon Long and LaToya Blue. They plan the lunches that include their home baked cakes in addition to all of their day to day duties. "I don't

know what we would do without them," "They are a dedicated group that works extremely hard. They put others before themselves and I credit them for keeping our office together."

Also, throughout the year staff members participate in after hour group activities such as fishing and bowling. Herrington states these outings provide an outlet to build comradery. It's all a part of the

"Team" building process.

In this new year, Horry County continues to look to the future. What challenges are ahead, who knows? One thing is for sure in fast-paced Horry County, there is never a dull moment. Unless of course you have a full belly after one of their office lunches.

*By Pete O'Boyle, Director
Public Information*

New Hires: July 2010 — January 2011

Mary Anderson	Parole Board Support	Robin Herndon	Aiken
Robert Aroneck, Jr.	Charleston	Amanda King	Greenville
Allison Avinger	Field Support Programs	Michael Richards	Lauren
Anna Bailey	Richland	Darian Rogers	ITSS
Heidi Blackstock	Anderson	Lonnie Stuckey	Georgetown
Deborah Cherry	Finance	Jennifer Turner	Field Support Programs
William Garmany	Dorchester	Robert Whidby	ITSS



Do you enjoy making presentations?

Have you spoken to the community about the Department's mission and goals?

Are you interested in speaking to the community about the Department?

To become an Ambassador for the Department, consider joining the PPP Bureau.

The Bureau will provide Training.

All interested persons should contact
Jodi Gallman at
jgallman@ppp.state.sc.us for more



Fastest Time



Recognized during the Criminal Justice Academy graduation ceremonies on March 18th was Agent Robert Aroneck, who was the Challenge Run Award Recipient. This award is given to the graduate who completes the three-mile run in 25 minutes or less.

**South Carolina
Department of
Probation, Parole and
Pardon Services**

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The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor

Kela E. Thomas
Director

Jodi Gallman
*Director,
Office of Executive Programs
Newsletter Editor*

Arnise N. Moultrie
*Office of Executive Programs
-Grants Management
Newsletter Designer*

AGENCY MISSION

To prepare offenders under our supervision toward becoming productive members of the community;

to provide assistance to the victims of crimes, the courts and the Parole Board; and

to protect public trust and safety.

AGENCY MOTTO

PREPARE. PROVIDE AND PROTECT

2010 Leave Donors

Gene Adkins	Central	Jonathan Griffith	Saluda
Josephine Baccous	Beaufort	Michael Herd	Jasper
Renee Barrett	Central	Christian Hines	Richland
Patrice Boyd	Central	David Hotchkiss	Jasper
Luther Brown	Dorchester	Eloise Jamison	Richland
Kenneth Bumgarner	Central	Brenda Jolly	Cherokee
Jeff Cogdill	Central	Billie Lundy	Lexington
Charles Coleman	Central	Todd Panther	Cherokee
Robert Collier	Greenville	Luther Patrick	Clarendon
Roy Evans	Central	Randy Raybon	Lexington
David Fashion	Berkeley	Jerry Rivers	Hearings
Suezanne Foot	Beaufort	Donnie Rogers	Central
William D. Fordham	Central	Patrick Rowell	Beaufort
Anthony Fowler	Union	Greg Stewart	Oconee
Chad Gambrell	Laurens	Gloria Wilson	Horry
Stephanie Garrick	Richland	Patty Truett	Lee
Samuel Glover	Central	Carol Woodard	Central
Rhonda Grant	Central		

Upcoming Events

March

The American Dietetic Association sponsors an education and information campaign to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. "Eat Right with Color" is this year's theme.



April

National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed April 10th to April 16th. This year's theme is "Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past." In an effort to enhance community awareness, the Department will host an Open House and Information Fair on April 12th which will highlight services available to victims.

May

National Military Appreciation Month is the special time to recognize and honor the men and women for their sacrifices serving our country. As we continue to show our support, we stay connected to them and their families.

National Public Service Recognition Week and State Employee Recognition Day are celebrated to show appreciation to employees for their tireless services given to the citizens of South Carolina. To the staff of PPP, you are valued and appreciated.

CODE

Connecting Our Deployed Employees

Stephen, Ricky and Tim still need to hear from you! Your words of encouragement and support will let them know that they are gone but not forgotten.

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