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## President's Message

### Michelle Smith

#### 2015 MCA President

I'd like to write this month about Corrections Employee Appreciation. May was a time to celebrate all those who are dedicated to field of Corrections. Many work areas enjoyed various events and acknowledgement for our employees to let all know how much they are appreciated. I am a firm believer that this is what we should do every day! Good things are happening throughout the department, in our facilities, field services and support units that make this a great place to work. Over the years I have encouraged and sometimes challenged staff to recognize each other and for supervisors to reach out to their staff and let them know that day to day extra efforts are being made everywhere. In fact the department has implemented a new policy and committee for Employee Recognition. Taking nominations and recognizing a group of staff or individuals whom others see as mentors, resources and dedicated to the work they are assigned to do. I look forward to the growth that this committee brings in the future and hope that all staff one day understands how important they are in the puzzle of life. If one piece is missing the picture is not complete.

So with that in mind let's continue to challenge ourselves to find the good in everyone. Let them know you noticed and put a smile on someone's face today!

Registration is open for the Annual Training Institute in Mankato. The program committee continues to amaze us with the schedule they put together. MCA will also be hosting a Criminal Justice Career Fair on October 20<sup>th</sup> in Mankato at the same location as the conference.

Hoping all of you had safe travels as Summer comes to an end and our Fall begins. It was a season that that brought family and friends close together with graduations, weddings, reunions, and hopefully an appreciation for the great outdoors here in Minnesota. ☺

*Michelle Smith*  
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## Legislative Affairs Cal Saari MCA Legislative Liaison



### LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE:

Mid-summer greetings to ALL, hoping you have found time to enjoy some of the Minnesota beauty this summer. In my last article to the FORUM, I summarized the work of the 2015 legislative session with an eye toward the start of the 2016 session which is the second year of the biennium and usually considered to be a "bonding year". Actions from past Sessions however, have shown us that the historical pattern of the Legislature doesn't always hold true. As example, we did have a small bonding bill passed this past spring.

The 2016 Session does not officially begin until March 8, 2016, making this a planned short Session. I do believe however, that we will see several committees in both chambers conducting Committee hearings shortly after the start of the new year, hoping to get a good start on legislative proposals so they can be brought to the floor for full consideration early in the short session. Keep in mind though, that final consideration of bills will be determined by the leadership in both chambers, and it is the thought of most bloggers that we won't see much being accomplished this next year as well. Next summer begins a new election cycle for all legislators so party philosophy will again dictate actions the legislature will take. We are somewhat hopeful that the leadership will agree to consider several of the policy provisions in Public Safety/Corrections that were left on the limb last spring. We'll work hard with several of our partners to revive the Juvenile Justice provisions that we believe a majority of legislators support but which the leadership did not endorse.

At this time most of our effort is being spent developing a Legislative Update workshop for the Fall Institute scheduled October 21-23, 2015 at the Verizon Center in Mankato. Our Legislative Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

The MCA Legislative Committee has voted to focus on Mental Health and Housing needs for this year's program, so we are currently working to bring in a number of experts and correctional employees to present some of the issues and needs of correctional clients. With a background of the issues, we'll then hold a panel discussion with several legislators and government officials. At this point, Senator Kathy Sheran and Rep. Tony Cornish have indicated their willingness to participate, and we are still in discussions with US Senator Al Franken's staff hoping to include them in this panel as well as a designated county Sheriff to discuss the impact of these issues on the jail population. Our objective will be to articulate the issues of mental health and correctional client housing needs with a discussion of possible solutions for consideration by the legislature this next session. This should make for another good roundtable discussion of a current timely topic. We hope that you will consider making this workshop a part of your activity at the Fall Institute.

This is also a good time to encourage our members to communicate with us on your issues and concerns as our Committee is actively working on finalizing our Legislative Agenda for the 2016 Session. We'd love to hear from you! Hoping to see you in Mankato in October!

Calvin Saari  
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## Techie Talk David Heath MCA Technology Committee



### Google's Loon Project

On first glance, you might wonder what a company like Google would have with the Minnesota's State Bird. The answer is absolutely nothing. The Google Loon Project is all about helium balloons flying as cell towers in the stratosphere, bringing internet services to about 4.3 billion people on earth that do not have it. The project name was chosen for its association with both flight and insanity. As insane as it might have been for an initial startup idea, MIT now has it listed as a top 10 breakthrough technology for 2015 with availability in a couple of years or less.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/featuredstory/534986/project-loon/>

The balloons are accurately piloted with no means of propulsion. Winds in the stratosphere blow in different directions, and they move the balloons up or down inflating or deflating the helium balloons to catch the wind in the direction they want to move. Think of these helium balloons as floating cell towers very high in the stratosphere. Safely above commercial flights, clouds and storms in an area of the sky typically only used by weather balloons and spy planes.

Supposedly, these will first be implemented in the southern hemisphere as that is where the most need is. There are many places where cell phones do not work in rural Minnesota and in the USA there is an estimated 10 million people without internet access. Tests in the Northern Hemisphere are to begin later this year.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/roberthof/2015/06/02/googles-project-loon-internet-balloons-coming-to-u-s-eventually/>

Hopefully, this technology will fulfill a long ago prediction that the cell signal footprint would cover just about the entire earth. It never seemed to happen with traditional cell phone towers and this is a cost effective solution that might make it become a reality.

I have seen a one bar ATT signal or no signal at all, in many places in Minnesota that you would expect decent coverage. When signal carriers like ATT and others start using Google balloons to expand their coverage, maybe failed text messages, dropped calls and the phrase "Can you hear me now" will become a thing of the past. Hopefully, the expanded coverage will not cost the consumer much more.

Here is one more link if you want to read more.

<http://www.theverge.com/2015/3/2/8129543/google-x-internet-balloon-project-loon-interview>

*David Heath*  
*Technical Committee Chair*

## 2016 MCA Board of Directors

Watch for the e-mail with your link to the on-line voting  
Candidates for the 2016 Board of Directors are

**President (will serve in 2017):** Sarah Eischens, Mark Haase

**Vice President:** Scott Halvorson, Connie Hartwig, Lori Korts

**Secretary:** Angie Roche, Jean Wipper, Robyn Wood



# ***CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER FAIR***



***October 20, 2015***

***9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.***

***Located at the Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato  
(1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001)***

***Focusing on Careers in the Corrections Field:***

- ❖ Probation Agents***
- ❖ Parole Officers***
- ❖ Peace Officers***
- ❖ Many more***

***Sponsored by MN Corrections Association (MCA)***

***The 3-day MCA Annual Training Institute will be held from  
October 21-23, 2015. To register, please visit [www.mn-ca.org](http://www.mn-ca.org).***

***If you have any further questions, please address them to  
Lori Korts at [lori.korts@state.mn.us](mailto:lori.korts@state.mn.us).***

**MCA Annual Training Institute**  
**October 21-23, 2015**  
**Verizon Center – Mankato, Minnesota**  
**Early Bird Registration Rate**  
**Save with your registration Paid**  
**by September 1<sup>st</sup>!**  
**Register at [www.mn-ca.org](http://www.mn-ca.org)**

**Wednesday General Session: Dr. Jody Janati** **Got Conflict? Find Your “Conversation Peace”**: An entertaining and humorous session that will provide you multiple techniques to ensure you can find your voice, maintain wholeness and go unimpaired while engaging others during difficult interactions. You’ll learn 101 things to say and do during difficult interactions and maintain your personal integrity through effective communication strategies that really work. Be cool, calm, and collected and set healthy boundaries with others and ultimately find your “Conversation Peace.”

**Friday Keynote Speaker - Darren Kavinsky** Darren was a law breaking, homeless, drug addict who completely overcame these problems only to become a multi-millionaire and one of the most recognized criminal defense attorneys in the country! He regularly works with the law enforcement community with his hit television shows “Deadliest Sins” and the new “Breaking Point” on the Discovery Networks. His story of transformation, weight loss, overcoming addiction and bankruptcy shows that breaking bad patterns can lead to amazing breakthroughs! This is his MAIN message. Darren asks us to “Be the Billboard”. This is more than just a personal transformation; the Billboard is also a vehicle to inspire change in others, especially within organizations, families, or teams. You don't need to be famous for your face to grace an important "billboard" and to stand for something that matters for reasons much larger than individual benefit. Darren appears weekly on many national and local television and radio programs as an expert legal analyst.

**Break Out Sessions Include:**

**Richard Dusterhoft, Criminal Division Director, Ramsey County Attorney’s Office.** **The Brian Fitch Murder Trial**: Officer Scott Patrick was shot three times during a routine traffic stop on 7-30-14. Brian Fitch, a multi-convicted felon on supervised release, was later determined to have been the shooter. He ran from and shot at police when located the same day. Fitch was indicted by a multi-county Grand Jury, and prior to trial, enlisted the help of another inmate at MCF-Oak Park Heights in a plot to have two key witnesses murdered. The plot was discovered by DOC investigators and Fitch was later convicted of First Degree Murder, three counts of Attempted First Degree Murder, and Possession of a Firearm by an Ineligible. This is the story of the murder, investigation, trial, and sentencing...

**Steve (Retired County LE) and Katie (Minneapolis PD) Blackwell. Veterans Crisis**

**Response Awareness:** This session was developed and is presented by combat veterans who are also Law Enforcement professionals. They bring their personal and professional experience to this in-depth look at the current storm of Veterans in crisis confrontations with first responders nationwide.

This session was developed to give first responders and corrections professionals a unique insight into these confrontations and give our public safety personnel some tactics, techniques, principles and awareness to protect themselves and the Veteran and safely manage the crisis scene.

**Todd Kohl, EAP. Secondary Trauma/Self Care:** Taking care of ourselves.

**Edgar Barens, Director & Producer. Prison Terminal: Life and Death in a Prison**

**Hospice:** Screening of the Oscar nominated documentary Prison Terminal: The Last Days of Private Jack Hall; a documentary that breaks through the walls of one of America's oldest maximum security prisons to tell the story of the final months in the life of a terminally ill prisoner and the hospice volunteers, they themselves prisoners, who care for him. The film draws from footage shot over a six-month period behind the walls of the Iowa State Penitentiary and provides a fascinating and often poignant account of how the hospice experience can profoundly touch even the forsaken lives of the incarcerated. After the screening, a lively Q & A session with Director Edgar Barens will be held.

**Join us for the MCA Awards Ceremony  
Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> - 5:00 p.m.  
Social Hour Sponsored by  
180 Degrees, Inc.  
City Center Hotel – Mankato, MN**



**Exhibitors Register by  
September 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure you  
are included in the conference brochure!**

# PSYCHOPATHY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

**Authors: Jillian Peterson and Jerrod Brown**

The original 1941 definition of psychopathy articulated by Cleckley depicts a charming, unreliable, egocentric person who experiences a flat range of emotions. A more recent definition of psychopathy by Robert Hare distinguishes between two factors of psychopathy: the first factor focuses on features of personality (i.e. charming, grandiose, lying, manipulative, emotional shallow, callous), and the second factor focuses on aspects of behavior (i.e. easily bored, impulsive, irresponsible, lack of goals, early behavior problems). Studies have found that psychopathy is about 50% genetic and 50% environmental (Blonigen, Hicks, Krueger, Patrick, & Iacono, 2005). Environmental risk factors include child abuse, social disadvantage, and lack of parental involvement (Peterson, Skeem, Kennealy, & Camp, in press). Prevalence estimates in the general community are approximately one to two percent of the general population (Newman & Hare, 2008). In contrast, prevalence estimates of psychopathy in prisons vary widely, but may be as high as 30% (Hart & Hare, 1997).

Psychopathy is highly predictive of future crime and violence (Hare, Clark, Grann, & Thornton, 2000). For this reason, it is used as an indicator of risk in the criminal justice system to make sentencing and release decisions, in death penalty cases, for sex offenders, and even in juvenile cases. Psychopathy is often assessed using the Psychopathy Checklist: a 20-item semi-structured interview that takes about three hours to administer (Hare, 2003). Each item is scored as a 0, 1, or 2, and a total score above 30 classifies an individual as a psychopath. The Psychopathic Personality Inventory, a 154-item questionnaire, is another tool used to assess psychopathy. It is faster to administer than the Psychopathy Checklist, since it is a self-report questionnaire.

As new research on psychopathy is reported, a number of important questions about the validity of the label have developed:

- **What is the role of violence and crime in defining psychopathy?**

Although the media typically portrays psychopaths as violent, remorseless killers, the current definition of psychopathy does not include violence. The role of crime and violence in defining psychopathy is currently under debate.

- **Is “psychopath” a category, or a continuum?**

Scores on the Psychopathy Checklist range from 0 to 40, presenting themselves along a continuum. Using cut scores to distinguish “psychopaths” from “non-psychopaths” may construct a false dichotomy. Approaching psychopathy as a continuum of personality traits is likely a more accurate approach (i.e. people may be high in psychopathic traits without meeting the cut off score for a psychopath).

- **Is there more than one type of psychopath?**

Scholars suggest that there may be two types of psychopaths: Primary psychopaths (higher on factor one) and secondary psychopaths (higher on factor two). Primary and secondary psychopaths may have different backgrounds, treatment needs, and different associations with recidivism risk.

- **Are there “successful” psychopaths?**

Although traditionally studied in correctional settings, community studies have shown higher rates of psychopathy in fields such as entertainment, law, politics, the military and law enforcement.



- **Does psychopathy generalize across gender, race, and age?**

More research is needed to know whether psychopathy scores mean the same thing in men and women, cross-racially, and cross-culturally. There is some controversy about at what age a psychopathy diagnosis is appropriate.

- **Can psychopaths be treated?**

For a long time, psychopaths were considered “untreatable.” New research findings are showing that psychopathy may be responsive to cognitive-behavioral treatment or behavioral-modification training.

While psychopathy is an important construct that may be helpful to identify high risk individuals in the criminal justice system, research has shown that the term ‘psychopath’ should not be used to identify violent criminals who are beyond treatment or intervention. Psychopathic traits fall along a continuum, can describe different types of individuals, are influenced by the environment, and may be amendable to treatment. More research is needed on these critical research questions in order to confidently understand and use the psychopathy construct in criminal justice settings.

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## Author Biographies

### **Jillian Peterson, Ph.D.**

Dr. Jillian Peterson is an Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Hamline University in St. Paul, where she teaches classes in forensic psychology and research methods. She has a Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Behavior from the University of California, Irvine with an emphasis on Psychology and Law. Dr. Peterson previously worked as a special investigator on death row cases in New York City, as a research coordinator at the University of

Minnesota, and as a jury and trial consultant. She has published multiple articles related to risk assessment, psychopathy, mental illness and crime, and school shootings.

**Jerrod Brown, MA, MS, MS, MS**, is the Treatment Director for Pathways Counseling Center, Inc. Pathways provides programs and services benefitting individuals impacted by mental illness and addictions. Jerrod is also the founder and CEO of the American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies (AIAFS) and the lead developer and program director of an online graduate degree program in Forensic Mental Health from Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Jerrod is also in the dissertation phase of his doctorate program in Psychology

**About the MCA FORUM**

*FORUM* is published up to six times a year by the Minnesota Corrections Association, a nonprofit professional association incorporated in Minnesota. Articles submitted by our membership do not express the views of MCA or the board of directors.

Articles may be submitted to the 2015 *FORUM* editor

**Marc Bloomquist** at [marc.bloomquist@state.mn.us](mailto:marc.bloomquist@state.mn.us)

Articles should not be of the nature of a commercial solicitation of products or services; rather, they should be informative on topics of interest to MCA membership at large.

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