

NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Centre for Forensic
Behavioural Science
and Justice Studies

CFBSJS.USASK.CA



(Photo by Lilani Samarakoon -Professor Baljit Singh addressing the forum)

CFBSJS Strategic Plan Launch: Public Forum, Dec 9, 2022

The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies held a public forum themed "Reducing Victimization Through Rehabilitation" on Dec 9, 2022, and launched its new strategic plan. The keynote speakers were Senator Kim Pate and Alicia Clifford (McMaster University). At the forum, USask Vice-President Research Dr. Baljit Singh helped launch the CFBSJS Strategic Plan 2022-2025, which has six commitments to guide and inspire the Centre's activities over the next three years. Representing our research partners, Dr. Leslie Anne Keown, former Senior Research Manager, Research Branch, Correctional Service of Canada, and Scott Harron, Executive Director, Research and Implementation Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety spoke at the event. In this year's forum, we had individuals with lived experience in the criminal justice system participate by presenting their stories and lessons for the system.



(Photo by Lilani Samarakoon -Professor Vivian Ramsden, Mario Ahenakew (Str8 up member) and Todd Ramsum presenting at the forum.)

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NEW CFBSJS MEMBERSHIPS



Correctional Service of Canada - CFBSJS Meeting Feb 8, 2023

The Centre maintains a longstanding relationship with Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), who provides financial support to the Centre through an MOA with the Regional Psychiatric Centre (RPC). On February 8, 2023, the Regional Management Committee of CSC consisting of Wardens, District Directors and Senior Regional Managers attended a meeting which was organized by the Centre with the objective of exploring the areas of research relevant to CSC.

Representing the Centre, Dr. Mansfield Mela introduced the University's management structure and the Centre. Dr. Lisa Jewell and Dr. Bryce Stoliker presented CSC – related research and evaluation projects undertaken by the Centre, and potential avenues for collaborative research and evaluation projects between CSC and the Centre . Representing the Centre's faculty, Dr. Nathaniel Osgood presented “Concepts and Potential Use of Correctional Data to Manage Prison Population” and Dr. Colleen Dell presented “Animal Assisted Therapy”. The meeting was wrapped up with a Q&A which provided an opportunity to discuss the research needs relevant to CSC.



(Photos by Lilani Samarakoon -Members of CSC and CFBSJS)

CFBSJS Visited Regina April 26, 2023

CFBSJS enjoys a Collaborative Research Agreement with the Research and Implementation Branch (RIB), Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, Government of Saskatchewan. On Wednesday April 26, 2023, the CFBSJS team visited RIB in Regina to discuss future initiatives and research opportunities. Our team met with RIB's team that consisted of Scott Harron (ED), Andrew Betker (Business and Implementation Specialist), Kim Audette (Director, Applied Research and Development), Brittany Thiessen (Research Policy Officer), and Michelle Schwartz (Director, Implementation). Our team also had an opportunity to check out RIB's collaborative working space. The visit provided us an opportunity for team building and collaboration.



(Photo by Dustin Gill -Members of RIB and CFBSJS)



(Photo by Dustin Gill -Dr. Mansfield Mela, Director of The Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies)

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Covid 19 surprisingly interrupted the regular production of our quarterly newsletter. The exit of our social media expert, Dr. Davut Akca and changes in personnel in the Forensic Center also contributed to the "break in transmission". I am excited to see the return of a new and improved newsletter. You will see that not only has the Forensic Center acquired more research expertise in number and in varied competencies, the newsletter showcases a focus on our strategic initiative. You will read that we have had direct physical interactions with our major partners (CSC and RIB) and new partners (Member of Parliament), including visits to the Research and Implementation Branch of the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety. The team from that branch as well as the Regional Management Committee of the

Correctional Service of Canada were on campus to promote awareness and interact with researchers. These interactions allow for the anticipated crosspollination of ideas and ensure that our research is relevant and impact oriented. Our collaborations are also internal. Over the last little while, we have engaged various arms of the University to enhance collaboration. The results are additional new faculty members (Medicine, Law, Arts and Science and an Alumnus). The internal collaboration has also led to more grant applications and learners engagement in grant awards and project completion. It is my pleasure to reintroduce our newsletter. Please provide us with your feedback and I invite you to engage with us to support collaboration with the Center.

Mansfield Mela
Director



(Photo by Lilani Samarakoon -Members of RIB and CFBSJS)

Research & Implementation Branch visited Saskatoon, July 19, 2023

Representing the Research and Implementation Branch (RIB) of the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, Scott Harron (ED), Andrew Betker (Business and Implementation Specialist), Kim Audette (Director, Applied Research and Development), Devin Pratchler (intern), and Michelle Schwartz (Director, Implementation) visited Saskatoon on July 19, 2023. CFBSJS staff Dr. Lisa Jewell, Lilani Samarakoon, Dr. Bryce Stoliker, and students Mehrdad Fazeli and Rachel Hafner met with RIB and had a formal discussion focusing on RIB's checklist for project selection and updates on Indigenous Policing projects. This conversation helped to strengthen the partnership between RIB and CFBSJS.

MP Pam Damoff Visited Saskatoon, July 25, 2023

With the help of the Government Relation office, the Centre hosted a roundtable with MP Pam Damoff on July 25, 2023. Dr. Lisa Jewell and Dr. Bryce Stoliker attended the roundtable along with Centre faculty Dr. Nate Osgood, Dr. Ray Spiteri and Post Doctoral Fellow Dr. Jesus Perez Curbelo. In the roundtable, the Centre staff and USask researchers briefly talked about their work relevant to public safety and justice. The roundtable helped to discuss the expertise of the Centre with MP Damoff as it relates to her area of public service leading to future research opportunities.



(Photo by Sara Daniels -From left to right, Dr. Nate Osgood, Dr. Bryce Stoliker, MP Pam Damoff, Dr. Lisa Jewell, Dr. Ray Spiteri and Dr. Jesus Perez Curbelo))

NEW CFBSJS MEMBERSHIPS



Dr. Robert Henry
Faculty member in Indigenous studies, University of Saskatchewan



Dr. Alexandra Zidenberg
Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology
King's University College at Western University



Dr. Kingsley Okechukwu Nwachukwu
Professor
Department of Psychiatry
University of Saskatchewan



Dr. Timothy Kang
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
University of Saskatchewan