

## **Bucknell and Prisons HISTORY 2/8/20**

**Compiled by Prof. Coralynn Davis, with the assistance of many named within**

Bucknell University and its personnel have had a long and varied history of engagement with prisons in Pennsylvania, beginning in the 1950s. This engagement is of several types, including: research/publication, teaching incarcerated folks, teaching courses that connect Bucknell students with prisons in CBL and CEL ways, volunteering as individuals, etc.

Most famously, in the 1960s, Philip F. Berrigan, the former Roman Catholic priest who led the draft board raids that galvanized opposition to the Vietnam War in the late 1960s, was doing time at USP Lewisburg. He had fallen in love with a nun, Elizabeth McAlister, and the two of them exchanged love letters past the prison censors through another inmate Berrigan trusted, Boyd Douglas, who was allowed outside to work in the library at Bucknell. Berrigan had been warned by fellow inmate Jimmy Hoffa, the Teamsters president, that Douglas was an FBI informant, but Berrigan ignored this warning, and the letters eventually became evidence in a trial. The letters spoke of kidnapping a government official and shutting down government buildings in Washington. The conspiracy trial of the "Harrisburg Seven" that included Berrigan and McAlister eventuated in 1972 with an acquittal of all major charges (as per <https://www.nytimes.com/2002/12/08/us/philip-berrigan-former-priest-peace-advocate-vietnam-war-era-dies-79.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>).

According to her memoir, *Zoia!: Memoir of Zoia Horn, Battler for the People's Right to Know*, (McFarland & Company, 1995) in 1972, while head of reference for the Bucknell Library, Zoia Horn was subpoenaed in the trial of the "Harrisburg Seven" antiwar protestors. Horn refused to testify due to principles of intellectual freedom and was jailed for contempt. The American Library Association publicly refused to support her. Prof. Gene Chenoweth (retired [deceased], Political Science) did testify in the trial. Prof. Doug Candland (retired, Psychology) reports that a number of USP Lewisburg inmates were released to work for a few hours a week at Bucknell in the late '60s early '70s. Soviet atomic spy and USP Lewisburg inmate, David Greenglass (Ethel Rosenberg's brother), did electronic work in Prof. Candland's lab. At the time, Prof. Candland only knew his first name and nothing of his case.

### **TEACHING**

1. Beginning in the 1950s, a number of incarcerated men were permitted to take classes from Bucknell professors.
2. According to retired Prof. of English, Dennis Baumwoll (personal communication), in 1962, Prof. Richard "Dick" Drinnon [deceased, History] convinced the then warden, Jake Parker, at USP Lewisburg to hire Prof. Baumwoll to take over the educational needs of the inmates. Prof. Baumwoll would be hired by prison but paid by Bucknell. For two or three years, Prof. Baumwoll went to the prison every Wednesday evening. And he recruited several other Bucknell professors to do the same.
3. Thus, beginning in the 1960s, Profs. John Murphy (retired, English), Charles Sackrey (retired [deceased] Economics), Karl Patten (retired [deceased] English), Gene Chenoweth (retired [deceased] Political Science), Adrienne Birecree (retired, Economics) and Dennis Baumwoll (retired, English) taught at USP Lewisburg and/or USP Allenwood and Bucknell gave the incarcerated students full credit. Prof. Murphy

taught courses on drama and short fiction. He reported, "This arrangement worked for about 2-3 years...until a prisoner named Boyd Douglas, who was an informer for the prison [see opening paragraph], reported to the Warden that some of us were working against the prison's rules. That ended this promising program." Prof. Candland reported it thusly: "Some faculty were taking library books to the Lewisburg Pen for men incarcerated there and one of the Bucknell librarians refused to cooperate with the authorities, who wanted to know the titles that were checked out for Berrigan."

4. In the early 1980s, Prof. Paul Susman (Geography) taught part of an Urban Geography course at the Lewisburg Penitentiary for one year and at USP Allenwood the next. Prof. Susman reported that Bucknell gave the inmate students credit for the courses for free and that the program ended when a new prison Education Director came in and declared that only voc-tech courses would be offered.
5. Prof. Steven Stamos (retired, Economics) recalled that in the early 1990s, USP Lewisburg accepted a college level Principles of Economics course to be taught for credit in the penitentiary. He taught one section one night a week for three hours with about 35 students, "evenly balanced between white, hispanic, and African American." He also taught the same class at the Honor Camp facility at USP Allenwood, where students "were primarily white and about half college educated."
6. Prof. Leslie Patrick (retired, History) taught a course for Bucknell students called Poverty and Punishment in Early America, for which she took the students to Eastern State Penitentiary, which had closed in the 1970s, but was in the process of becoming the historic site it is today.
7. Prof. Matthew Silberman (retired, Sociology) took classes for tours at USP Lewisburg until the mid-1980s. Beginning in the 1990s and continuing for several years, he sponsored interns and research assistants at Muncy.
8. In the late 1990s, Prof. Sue Ellen Henry (Education) and Prof. Chris Boyatzis (Psychology) co-taught a UNIV course called Multicultural USA, which had one of its three course themes and clusters on the penal system. They took the class to SCI Muncy for a visit and tour and possibly USP Allenwood and Muncy Correctional Facility.
9. In Summer 1996, Prof. Linden Lewis (Sociology) developed and taught a short course on Race and Masculinity for incarcerated men at the USP Allenwood. In Spring 2001, he taught a short course on Race, Self, and Manhood, to another set of incarcerated men at the same facility. In addition, he gave a lecture to Prison Administrators on the origin of the NAACP. For many years Prof. Lewis lectured at the Kwanzaa Celebration and during Black History Month. For about four years straight, he spent New Year's Day at the Prison, lecturing to inmates at their Christmas celebration. He also took two of his students in with him, on different occasions, to meet with inmates.
10. In 2001, Prof. Sue Ellen Henry (Education) visited both UPS Allenwood and SCI Muncy with her students in her course, Multicultural USA. In her 2002-2004 Multiculturalism and Education course, Prof. Henry first took students to the USP Allenwood and later arranged service learning placements for her students at Allenwood and SCI Muncy.
11. In the early 2000s Prof. Glynis Carr (retired, English) taught women's literature at SCI Muncy.
12. In the early 2000s, Janice Butler (then Director of the Office of Civic Engagement) led a reading and discussion group with women at SCI Muncy.

13. Four Bucknell faculty -- Profs. Coralynn Davis (Women's and Gender Studies), Carol Wayne White (Religious Studies), Kim Daubman (Psychology), and Carl Milofsky (Sociology) have all been trained as instructors through the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program model. The crux of the model is that an evenly mixed class of incarcerated ("inside") and college-enrolled ("outside") students take a semester-long course together taught by a college professor. The first Inside-Out course in our area was taught at SCI Muncy by Profs. Davis and White in 2005. Prof. Davis taught this course singly 10 times in the following decade. In the early 2010s, Prof. Kim Daubman (Psychology) began teaching at Positive Psychology Inside-Out course at SCI Muncy and continues to do so. In 2018, Prof. Carl Milofsky (Sociology) began teaching a modified Inside-Out course at SCI Coal Township.
14. In 2010, as a spin-off of Prof. Coralynn Davis' (Women's and Gender Studies) Feminist Theory in Practice course experience, a student named Alexis Griffiths started a student club called "Empowering Voices" that provided programming for girls at a facility called Clear Vision in Montgomery, PA. Clear Vision provides care for adolescent girls, adjudicated delinquent or dependent, who require placement services outside the home for social, emotional, and behavioral problems. This initiative lasted several years. Janice Butler, then Director of the Office of Civic Engagement, acted as adviser for this club.
15. In the early 2010s, Janice Butler, then Director of the Office of Civic Engagement, arranged a 6 week program for arts enrichment at the Danville Center for Adolescent Females, working with Bucknell student Oompah Williams ('14). Gretchen Heuges, then Coordinator for the Craft Center, participated in these weekly visits working with an undergraduate to do art work.
16. Since 2015, Prof. Annie Randall (Music) has been teaching a course entitled Music and Social Justice, which entails her students and herself creating music and other related activities with girls/young women at the Danville Center for Adolescent Females.
17. Prof. Karen Altendorf (Sociology) has involved her students in engaged learning projects at USP Allenwood and with Prisoner Visitation and Support. She has taught courses about corrections: Corrections, Women in Corrections: Victims, Offenders and Employees, Punishment and Rehabilitation (History of Corrections).

## **PUBLIC SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING**

1. In 1959, "The Challenge," a publication of the Bucknell Christian Association, which supported and involved students in civil rights issues as well as other social activism activities, listed summer "work and study" opportunities in various fields, including correctional institutions.
2. From 1964 to 1967 Prof. John Ernest ("Ernie") Keen (retired [deceased], Psychology) was contracted to USP Lewisburg to supervise group therapy, entailing weekly one-hour visits.
3. From the late 1960s at least through the mid-1970s, the Bucknell organization Concern through Action, whose predecessor may have been the Bucknell Christian Association, and which described its focus as "interfaith, social services, interpersonal, international,"

organized a student volunteer program that worked with the prisons and a specific program, The Prison Program, that provided recreational, educational, musical, theatrical and other activities for women incarcerated at SCI Muncy and also incarcerated folks at USP Lewisburg.

4. 1973 Spring, a “Colloquy” (really a two-day conference) at Bucknell – with film festival, concurrent workshops and classes, theatre, prison art, and lectures and by multiple Bucknell professors and visitors, including government officials, corrections and corollary professionals, and professors from other universities.
5. A significant number of Bucknell personnel have been and currently are involved, separate from their roles as Bucknell personnel, with the Lewisburg Prison Project, a non-profit organization founded in 1973 that provides advocacy, information, and legal assistance regarding conditions of confinement. While national in the scope of its efforts, in the Middle District of PA, they are able to advocate for and provide civil legal advice and assistance to inmates regarding violations of their constitutional rights. The Middle District of PA includes the Allenwood Federal Correctional Complex, USP Lewisburg, USP Canaan, and FCI Schuylkill. In addition, there are twelve PA DOC state prisons, and 33 county jails. Founders were spouses of Bucknell faculty. Bucknell participants have included Prof. Karl Patton (retired [deceased], English), Prof. Marty Ligare (Physics and Astronomy), Prof. Doug Sturm (retired [deceased], Religion and Political Science), Prof. Steve Becker (retired, Physics), Prof. Paul Susman (Geography), Prof. Karen Morin (Geography, currently Associate Provost), Prof. Jennifer Thompson (History), Prof. Vanessa Massaro (Geography), Prof. Ben Vollmayr-Lee (Physics), and Deirdre O’Connor (Director of the Writing Center). In the early days, the project would meet families of inmates at the local bus stop, provide lodging and meals for them, and make sure they had a ride to the penitentiary.

According to Prof. Baumwoll (personal communication), in the early 1970s, prior to the formal establishment of the Lewisburg Prison Project, there were a few church groups who helped the friends and relatives of people in jail. They would meet them at the bus coming in from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, DC, etc. Afterward the Lewisburg Prison Project incorporated, they provided this service. Baumwoll said that the main function of LPP in the beginning was to interview inmates who had written to LPP with complaints about conditions/treatment in the prison. LPP was dependent on correspondence, so the interviews were helpful; to address issues more quickly. In addition to civil rights litigation, LPP has also helped families of incarcerated folks contact their loved ones and locally premiered prison-related films.

According LPP Vice President Angela Trop, in the late 80's, USP Lewisburg housed a significant amount of Mariel Cuban Detainees. A plethora of professors and community members represented the detainees at their parole hearings. They would meet with the inmates in advance to gather information, build a case for their release, and attend the hearing in the institution. This went on for a few years. Across the course of their existence, the LPP has worked with Bucknell’s Office of Civic Engagement to provide internships for students. In the late 1990's and early 2000's LPP took students on tours of USP Lewisburg. One student intern decided to create a collection of poems written by inmates for his English senior thesis work. The work was turned into a small book. More recently, LPP assisted in bringing Mass Story Lab where several hundred people listened to a mother of an incarcerated, two formerly incarcerated, a child of an incarcerated, and a father of a murdered man share their stories. The large room then broke into groups to discuss what they learned and what they believe society needs to

address mass incarceration. This event connected to the Bucknell's First Year Reading, *Just Mercy* (Bryan Stevenson, 2015). We also teamed up with Bucknell to bring the film, *Herman's House* with the movie director Angad Bhalla. Both BU and Susquehanna students were present alongside community members.

6. Prison Visitation and Support Program. Through this program, a number of Bucknell personnel have volunteered as visitors to incarcerated persons at the Lewisburg Penitentiary. They have included Prof. Ben Willeford (retired [deceased], Chemistry), beginning in the 1970s. Starting in the 1990s, Prof Carl Milofsky visited, at various times and for several years at both the Lewisburg Penitentiary and the Allenwood Penitentiary. Other more recent visitors have included Cindy Peltier, former Operations Manager of the Samek Art Gallery, and Prof. Karen Altendorf (Sociology).
7. In the 1970s, Prof. Matthew Silberman (retired, Sociology) participated as a volunteer lay group discussion leader as part of the Yokefellow Prison Ministry, whose principal leader was a Protestant pastor. The Pennsylvania headquarters of the Yokefellow program was centered in Shamokin Dam at the time. Prof. Silberman reported that most of the prisoners in the group were "high profile" when the prison was considered (falsely) to be a "country club" and before it was transformed into a maximum security facility. He used to take students in his classes for tours until he felt it was unsafe to do so. In the 1970s, he conducted evaluation research for the Pennsylvania Justice Commission (later to be renamed the Pennsylvania Crime Commission). He evaluated four group homes for delinquent youth in Williamsport, Shamokin Dam, Shamokin, and State College. The population varied from programs that primarily housed boys who committed serious crimes to boys and girls who committed status offenses. Only one of the group homes was coed and some of the girls were "sexual delinquents", committing offenses that would not have been a problem if committed by boys. Some of the boys were truants. In the 1970s, he evaluated a residential community for drug offenders for the Justice Commission. He also worked with a staff psychologist to develop a program for delinquent youth and visited several programs in New Jersey and Pennsylvania to gather data for our proposal.
8. A few Professors have given presentations in different years for occasions in the Lewisburg Penitentiary, including Profs. Linden Lewis (Sociology), Hilbourne Watson (retired, International Relations), Coralynn Davis (Women's and Gender Studies) and Christiane Andersson (Art History).
9. Bucknell Radio Station -- According to Brent Papson, Director of Campus Activities and Student Media, the Prisoner [music] Request Show began in the early 1980s. Sometime between 1991 and 2015, the show ceased to exist. In 2016, the General Manager announced that the once popular program would return (and air during the Safe Harbor period, which is 10pm to 6am). Bucknell University Archivist, Isabella O'Neill, found an undated document in the collection circa 1986 that mentions the prisoner request show, as follows: "...in compliance with federal regulations, WVBU allocates a specific amount of airtime each week to public service. For several years we have presented the Prisoner Request Show. This spot devotes two hours per week to the musical requests of the inmates at the Muncy and Lewisburg penitentiaries. In addition to being a required public service, the show is also very popular among the inmates of both prisons (see enclosed letters) and is appreciated by all those involved with either facility on any level. WVBU's obligation to public service does not end with the academic year; it would be regrettable if WVBU were forced to suspend this service even for a summer." A 2016 email describing the "Friday Night Show" line-up includes "Music from Inmates." Brent Papson

indicates that inmates “write in requests via letters to WVBU, and a DJ host will play the songs requested after careful review of each song. Often, the Prisoner Request Show will be held in the Safe Harbor Period to prevent any problems that may arise with a song.”

10. In the late '90s/early 00s Prof. Chris Boyatzis (Psychology) arranged for several students to volunteer at the Lewisburg Penitentiary. He thinks they had direct interaction with inmates and COs. He and one of his student volunteers, Kara Pursley, attended the recognition banquet for volunteers at the end of academic year. In spring and summer of 2000 Boyatzis would visit UPS Lewisburg, at the invitation of staff psychologist Doug Contri, on Tuesday evenings for 60-90 minutes to interact with a group of inmates to talk with them and play chess.
11. Several Bucknell staff persons have volunteered in area prisons through their own religious institution.

## SCHOLARSHIP

The publications to date by Bucknell faculty that address incarceration in Pennsylvania in particular are as follows:

Altendorf, Karen. 2018. A Warden or a Ballerina: Examining the Relationship between Gender Socialization, and Occupational Choice among Prison Wardens and Superintendents. *The Qualitative Report* 23(3): 596-615.

Altendorf, Karen. Under Review: “Encyclopedia entry on Correctional Officers”

Altendorf, Karen. Under Review: “You're Going to Make a Hell of a Corrections Man Someday: Work Experience of Female Wardens and Superintendents”

Davis, Coralynn V., and Carol Wayne White. “How Porous are the Walls that Separate Us? Feminist Pedagogy, Incarceration, and Disseminating Knowledge.” *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations* (special issue on Social Justice Action, Teaching and Research) 34:85-104.

Massaro, Vanessa A. 2015. The Intimate Entrenchment of Philadelphia’s Drug War. *Territory, Politics, Governance* 3(4): 369–386.

Massaro, Vanessa A. 2019. Relocating the “Inmate”: Tracing the Geographies of Social Reproduction in Correctional Supervision. *Politics and Space* 1-21 (published online).

Morin, Karen M. 2013. “Security Here is Not Safe”: Violence, Punishment, and Space in the Contemporary US Penitentiary. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 31(3), 381-399.

Morin, Karen M. 2018. *Carceral Space, Prisoners and Animals*. New York, New York: Routledge.

Patrick, Leslie. 2000. Ann Hinson: A Little-Known Woman in the Country's Premier Prison, Eastern State Penitentiary, 1831. *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies* 67(3), 361-375.

Patrick-Stamp, Leslie, 1995. Numbers That Are Not New: African Americans in the Country's First Prison, 1790-1835," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History & Biography*, 119(1-2), 95-128.

Ptacek, J.T. and Kimberly A. Daubman. 2018. An Exploration of Self-Compassion in Incarcerated Women J. T. Ptacek & Kimberly A. Daubman1 # *Society for Police and Criminal Psychology*

Silberman, Matthew. 2010. Sexual Abuse in Childhood and the Mentally Disordered Female Offender. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* 54(5), 783-802.

Silberman, Matthew. 2007. The Muncy Way: The Reformatory Ideal at the End of the 20th Century. *The Prison Journal* 87(3), 271-294.

Some of these authors have additional published research related to incarceration that does not focus specifically on institutions in Pennsylvania.

Prof. Leslie Patrick (retired, History) reported that her work on Eastern State Penitentiary began when she was a member of the team that wrote the *Historic Structures Report*, which established the foundation for the prison to become an historic site rather than condos. Her contribution was to document what she could about the prison from prisoners' perspectives (from the first incarcerated person, who was black; to Hinson and the other three black women); and other individuals whose records she was able to find during that nascent period in the development of the literature on the institution. She continued as an advisor for a period after that.

Prof. Vanessa Masaro (Geography) is currently studying the impacts of prisons on the coal region through qualitative research.