



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL ECOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY, LAW AND SOCIETY  
UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA • IRVINE

# Master of Advanced Study (MAS) Program Newsletter

MAS News

Spring 2011



Dear MAS Students, Alumni,  
and Prospective Students,

As the new (old?!) Director of the MAS program I'm delighted to welcome you all back for the spring quarter and to this edition of the newsletter. Since many of you know me from your classes, I'll skip the customary "background check!" For those of you who may be reading this who don't know me, I'm the senior member of the CLS Dept. who basically got this whole program up and running. But without the hard work of our stellar, nationally-ranked faculty, the diligence and dedication of our former and present students (you!) and the yeoman efforts of previous MAS Directors John Dombrink and George Tita, the program would not be the incredible success it is today. John is now the Director of our graduate program in CLS, and a long-time colleague who I look forward to working with as we continue to move the MAS program forward to new educational heights. George Tita has embarked on a new journey with another professional masters program here at UCI (public policy) and we wish him all the best in making that program as great a success story as he has made this one. I look

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## Back to the Future!

It is my pleasure to announce the transition from George Tita to Henry Pontell as MAS Director starting mid-Spring. Many of you may already know Professor Pontell as the visionary who worked tirelessly a decade ago to develop the first online degree within the University of California system. While John Dombrink and George Tita have admirably served as MAS Directors, overseeing remarkable growth, and doing their best to shepherd Henry's vision, having Professor Pontell at the reins will help us reach even greater heights as the premier online educational experience within the criminal justice and related fields.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Pontell!

Adrianna Lopez, Assistant Director MAS

## Now Accepting Applications for Fall 2011

Are you ready to take the next step in your education and career goals? If so, UC Irvine is currently accepting applications for the MAS program. Please visit our website for current information, requirements, and deadlines at <http://cls.mas.socceco.uci.edu/>

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## Alumni Spotlight

*Cohort 4 Graduate: Wendy Still, Chief Adult Probation Officer, City & County of San Francisco*

forward to continue to work with George as he continues to serve on our MAS steering Committee. And of course, I am excited about working with you all in continuing to build the MAS in Criminology, Law & Society as one of the most educationally innovative and successful programs in the entire UC system. With the recent addition of Adrianna Lopez to our staff, I know that we'll be able to do that. In the meantime, enjoy the spring quarter, and I'll see many of you soon at graduation!

Sincerely,  
Henry Pontell  
Director, MAS Program



Welcome soon-to-be members of Cohort 9 to UCI's MAS Criminology, Law & Society Program. I graduated in 2008 and attended the program while working as the first Governor Appointed Associate Director of Female Offender Programs and Services for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. After finishing the MAS Program, I was hired by the Federal Healthcare Prison Receiver as the Director of Rehabilitation to design the rehabilitation programs and associated physical plant for a new medical prison. Subsequently, I was hired in my current position as the Chief Probation Officer for the City and County of San Francisco. The MAS program provided an opportunity to learn from top ranked Professors in an on-line learning environment, which provided the flexibility for me to meet the demands of my job and complete the outstanding program. When I began the program, I had over twenty years of extensive correctional experience working in executive leadership roles for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. I thought I was pretty knowledgeable about the criminal justice system; however, the wonderful MAS learning experience significantly broadened my perspective by providing a theoretical and research based understanding of the criminal justice system and also expanded my overall knowledge of the components of the system. The whole MAS experience far exceeded my expectations and also made me a better leader. The MAS Program provided me with a solid understanding of the criminal justice system continuum, including the social and human elements, and also enabled me to develop research skills which improved my job performance and effectiveness. An unexpected benefit was the professional doors that were opened by the advanced degree, the professional opportunities that were then presented, as well as the improved professional credibility from having graduated from a top ranked criminology program. Congratulations as you embark upon an exciting learning experience that will enrich your personal and professional lives in many ways for years to come.

## **Congratulations Soon-To-Be Graduates of Cohort 7!**



The students of Cohort 7 are nearing the final stretch in their degree program and are set to participate in commencement ceremonies at the UCI campus on Saturday, June 11th. Please join us in congratulating Cohort 7 on their academic achievement. We wish them luck as they participate in their final term and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

## **Alumni**



## **Connection**



## **MAS Meet & Greet Sacramento**

Prospective students, current students, and Alumni are invited to join us in on Monday, May 2nd from 6:00-8:00pm at the Pyramid Alehouse in downtown Sacramento. This will be a time for interested students to learn more about the program, and is a fantastic networking opportunity for current students and Alumni. Excellent food and beverages will be served and you are welcome to bring a guest. To ensure an appropriate headcount, reservations are recommended. Please contact the MAS Assistant Director at [adrianni@uci.edu](mailto:adrianni@uci.edu) if you are interested in attending.

We hope to see you in Sacramento!

## **MAS Student Feature**



Jon Lipsky (Cohort 8) was the lead FBI agent in the raid and investigation of the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant in 1989. Evidence of nuclear contamination was found in the soil and water both in the weapons plant and in the surrounding residential neighborhoods and drinking water supplies of nearby Denver, Colorado. The U.S. Justice Department turned the FBI investigation of Rocky Flats into a cover-up of environmental crimes by U.S. government

Last Fall the MAS Program started an Alumni program where graduates are kept in the loop of possible job openings and career connections. In addition, Alumni are given the chance to be featured in the 'Alumni Spotlight' section of MAS Program newsletter. If you would like to be a featured Alumni in a future newsletter, have a job you would like to post for Alumni, or would like to be an active part of the Alumni program, please contact the MAS Assistant Director, Adrianna Lopez, at [adriannl@uci.edu](mailto:adriannl@uci.edu).

### Quick Links

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officials and the off-site nuclear contamination that resulted. Agent Lipsky was pressured to lie to a congressional investigation about the crimes and contamination. When Lipsky refused to go along with the cover-up, he was transferred out of Denver and ordered never to publicly discuss Rocky Flats again. In order to warn the public about the dangers of the cover-up and the government's plans to open the former nuclear weapons plant to public recreation, Lipsky took early honorable retirement from the FBI and cooperated with a Citizens' Investigation of the crimes and contamination that resulted in the non-fiction book, "The Ambushed Grand Jury. How the Justice Department Covered up Government Nuclear Crimes and How We Caught them Red Handed." Lipsky now speaks publicly about the dangers of nuclear weapon operations and nuclear waste, and has been asked to present on this topic at "Rocky Flats: A Call to Guardianship" a public information event hosted by Naropa University at Boulder, Colorado downwind from the former Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. Given the recent nuclear catastrophe in Japan, this topic is at the forefront of international discussion, and the MAS program is proud to support Jon's efforts in sharing his expertise at this event. More information on Nuclear Guardianship at Rocky Flats can be found here at [www.rockyflatsnuclearguardianship.org](http://www.rockyflatsnuclearguardianship.org) and at [www.Ambushedgrandjury.com](http://www.Ambushedgrandjury.com).

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