

MARY L. PARKER PhD

Professor
Criminal Justice Department
College of Professional Studies
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Chair of the Criminal Justice Department – 15 years
Professor in the Criminal Justice Department – 16 years
Tenure at UALR – 27 years

EDUCATION

1985 Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice
 Sam Houston State University

1979 Master of Arts in Criminal Justice
 Northeast Louisiana University

1978 Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice
 Northeast Louisiana University

EMPLOYMENT

1997-present Professor - University of Arkansas at Little Rock
 Chair and Professor (1997-2011)
 Graduate Coordinator and Professor (1995-7)
 Graduate Coordinator and Associate Professor (1988-5)
 Assistant Professor (1984-8)

1983 - 1984 Assistant Director/Manager of Probation Services - Arkansas
 Adult Probation Commission

HONORS AND AWARDS

2009 Distinguished Service Award from the Crime Victims Assistance Association of Arkansas

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Elections Committee
Secretary/Treasurer – Corrections Section
Executive Counselor - Corrections Section
Academic Review Committee
Regional Trustee - 3-year term
Student Affairs Committee

American Corrections Association

American Society of Criminology

American Probation and Parole Association

Southern States Correctional Association

Southwest Association of Criminal Justice

President 1989/90

1st Vice President 1988/89

2nd Vice President and Program Chair 1987/88

Secretariat 1986-1990

Arkansas Adult Probation and Parole Association

TEACHING

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY -

Introduction to Criminal Justice

Seminar in Community Based Corrections

Criminology

Corrections Survey

Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile Law and Process

GRADUATE COURSE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY –

Teaching Practicum for PhD students

Juvenile Delinquency Problems

Topics in Correctional Litigation

Topics in Criminal Justice Policy

Correctional Administration

Community Based Corrections

Topics in Forensics

Topics in Policy Prep

SERVICE

Arkansas Board of Corrections 1993-current – The Board of Corrections oversees all operations of the adult felon corrections system in the state of Arkansas which encompasses both the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) and the Arkansas Department of Community Corrections (DCC). I was first appointed into the criminal justice higher education position on the Board in 1993 and have since been reappointed to that position four separate times by three different governors. My latest term is for 7 years and I just completed the first year of that term. To fulfill the 7 year commitment I will hold the Board seat until 2016. While serving on the Board I have taken on many projects and held many positions. The list below is just a few of the longer term commitments I have made as part of my responsibility on the Board:

Current Vice-Chair of the Board
Chair of the Board for 3 years

Institutional Liaison to ADC – I have been the Board member that ADC calls for everything, from a meeting with the Governor to an escape in the middle of the night, since 1993.

309 Program Oversight Committee Representative - The 309 program is a community service program in which ADC felons are sent out to requesting county and city jails to live and work in the local jails. I have served on the 309 Oversight Committee, which deals with all problems encountered by the program, since 1994.

Architectural Selection Committee – I have served on the architectural selection committee, which is charged with recommending architects to the full Board for both major prison construction projects and smaller renovation and expansion projects, since 1993. During that time ADC and DCC have conservatively been involved in over \$100 million of construction projects.

Legislative Coordination Committee Chair and Legislative Liaison – as legislative coordination committee chair I have worked with both departments before each legislative session to coordinate their legislative packages and facilitate the approval of substantive and fiscal changes needed by both agencies. As legislative liaison, in addition to the pre-legislative work, I have worked on a daily basis during the legislative session as an advocate for both ADC and DCC for the last 9 legislative sessions and will continue to do so for the upcoming 2011 legislative session.

Grant Liaison – As the higher education representative on the Board I have served as the grant liaison to the Board for both agencies. Over the past 17 years both agencies have applied for and received over \$10 million in grants.

Arkansas Victim Assistance Academy Director 2006-current – I serve as director of the Arkansas Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA) an outgrowth of a three year federal grant through the United States Justice Department’s Office of Victim Services. The academy is the only comprehensive victimization training available for victim service providers in the state of Arkansas. As Director I managed the three year federal grant, facilitated the laws that created the academy and gave it

structure and have advocated for continued funding for the academy since the end of the three year grant.

Safe Places Development Council 2009-current – Safe Places is a safe house, counseling and advocacy program for individuals who are victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse and other forms of interpersonal violence. I was asked to join their development council last year to help them strategically plan to stabilize their long term funding base.

Children’s Books for Prison 2005-current – Every year I coordinate a children’s book drive to support one or more Arkansas prison visitation programs. The books are used during visitation so fathers and mothers who are incarcerated can read the books to their children and are used as part of the Take a Book Home project in which parents are recorded reading a children’s book and the tape and the book are sent home with the child so that the child can listen whenever they want to.

Arkansas Police Corps Training Program 1998-2005 – I served as director of the Arkansas Police Corps program, an initiative started in the Clinton Presidential administration to increase the number of college educated police officers in the ranks of local and state policing agencies. We conducted five training academies in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies and produced over 50 college educated, highly training police officers for agencies in the state of Arkansas

Testimony:

Testimony before the Arkansas General Assembly – 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010. Multiple presentations for Legislative Council, Charitable and Penal Subcommittee, Joint Budget Committee, Senate Judiciary, Senate State Agencies, Senate City, County and Local, Senate Education, House Judiciary, House State Agencies, House City, County and Local, and House Education committees.

Speaker/Panelist for:

Pine Bluff Offender Reentry Graduation
Wrightsville Offender Reentry Graduation
Southern Legislators Leadership Training Program
Out4Life Conference
Southern States Correctional Association
Southern Regional Corrections Educators’ Conference
Arkansas Victim Assistance Academy
Parents Center - Prison Mothers and Children Project

UNIVERSITY SERVICE -

ELAG/Distance Education Committee – represent the college on the Electronic Learning Advisory

Group overseeing all web-based courses in the University
Planning and Finance Committee
College of Professional Studies Cabinet
North Central Accreditation Self Study Group – chaired the subcommittee on Criteria 4

Criminal Justice Student Society
Criminal Justice Alumni Group
Alpha Phi Sigma – the Criminal Justice Honor Society
Extended Programs Reorganization Group
UALR Clinton School Committee

Service on major community problem solving groups.

Pulaski County Jail Study -- member of a 12-person task force to develop solutions for jail overcrowding in Pulaski County.

Saline County Water Study Committee – member of a 13 member task force working with 17 water purveyors over a six month period to develop a regional water distribution district to enable progress toward a long-term water source for the county.

Saline County Future of Education Committee – worked with a seven-member task force to develop progress toward developing a center to offer university, continuing education and adult education programs to the residents of Saline County

Department of Education Review -- Worked with a twenty-person task force appointed by the Chancellor of the University to make recommendations on reorganizing the Arkansas Department of Education to promote educational excellence in the state.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT –

Robert J. Williams Memorial Scholarship support – I assist the group in selecting the student who will receive the scholarship and I coordinate all volunteers for the annual golf tournament that supports the scholarship. The endowed scholarship amount has grown at least \$50,000 since I started working with this group in 1997.

Charles Chastain Endowed Chair Fund – I initiated this endowed fund to honor the senior member of our faculty. Since its inception 5 years ago the fund has crossed the \$50,000 mark and we are currently planning events throughout spring 2011 to honor Dr. Chastain and grow the endowment to \$100,000.

Correctional Challenge Scholarship – This is a scholarship that was initiated by the Arkansas Department of Correction to assist ADC employees who choose to pursue a graduate degree in criminal justice at UALR. The initiative came from discussions between ADC management and me regarding growing future leaders for the agency. An annual golf tournament, which I assist with in any way that I can, supports the endowment. To date we have raised approximately \$100,000.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

PUBLICATIONS -

Parker, M.L. and Miller, A.M. (2009) Serious and violent Offender Reentry Initiative Project outcome Evaluation (tech. rep. 3) Arkansas Department of Human Services – Division of Youth Services.

Parker, M.L. and Miller, A.M. (2008) Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative Project Outcome Evaluation (tech. rep. 2) Arkansas Department of Human Services – Division of Youth Services.

Parker, M.L. and Erwin, V.K. (2007) Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative Project Outcome Evaluation (tech. Rep. 1) Arkansas Department of Human Services – Division of Youth Services.

Legislative Bills authored for 2011 Arkansas general Assembly
Legislative Bills authored for 2009 Arkansas General Assembly
Legislative Bills authored for 2007 Arkansas General Assembly
Legislative Bills authored for 2005 Arkansas General Assembly

GRANTS and CONTRACTS –

Department of Community Corrections/Arkansas Department of Corrections – 2 year process and outcome evaluation contract attached to a \$700,000 Offender Reentry grant – 2010-2012.

Department of Human Services – Division of Youth Services – 1.5 year process and outcome evaluation contract attached to the YAP (Youth Advocacy Program) - 2010-2011.

Department of Human Services – Division of Youth Services – 3 year outcome evaluation contract attached to the SVORI Project (Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative) - 2006-2009.

Arkansas Department Of Correction Research Contract - multi year contract to serve as primary research entity for the Arkansas Department of Correction – 1999-2004.