

Realize. It starts with you.

The 15 years Allan Patenaude spent working with inmates has given him a perspective unique among researchers in his field.

Patenaude, now a professor for the Department of Justice Studies, was a high school dropout and just out of the army when he found his first job in corrections at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary in 1975.

It was a job that would set him on the path for work in corrections in various capacities in both Canada and the US — as a correctional officer in two maximum-security penitentiaries and a minimum security correctional centre, as a youth and adult probation officer and as the coordinator of probation services and community justice programs for a territorial (state-level) government.

Down the line, he realized he had gone as far as he could without a degree and started his GED while working in the field. University correspondence courses and then full-time enrolment at the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University soon followed.

“When I went back to school, I had a wealth of experience both in institutional and community corrections, and I knew this is what we do and this is how we do it,” says Patenaude. “What I didn’t have was why we do it and why we do it this way, and that’s what coming back to school gave me, especially as a mature student.”

His worries about what he would be able to accomplish as a returning student faded quickly.

“I know that when I went back I had built an anxiety wall. I had been out of high school for nearly 17 years. Sure, I had taken some correspondence courses. But, I figured all these young kids coming straight out of high school have this studying thing down right and I’m going to be the old person - the dinosaur - who didn’t know anything. But, what I had was all that experience. It helped put what the books were saying into perspective and offered real-world experience to what they were saying, tying them together.”

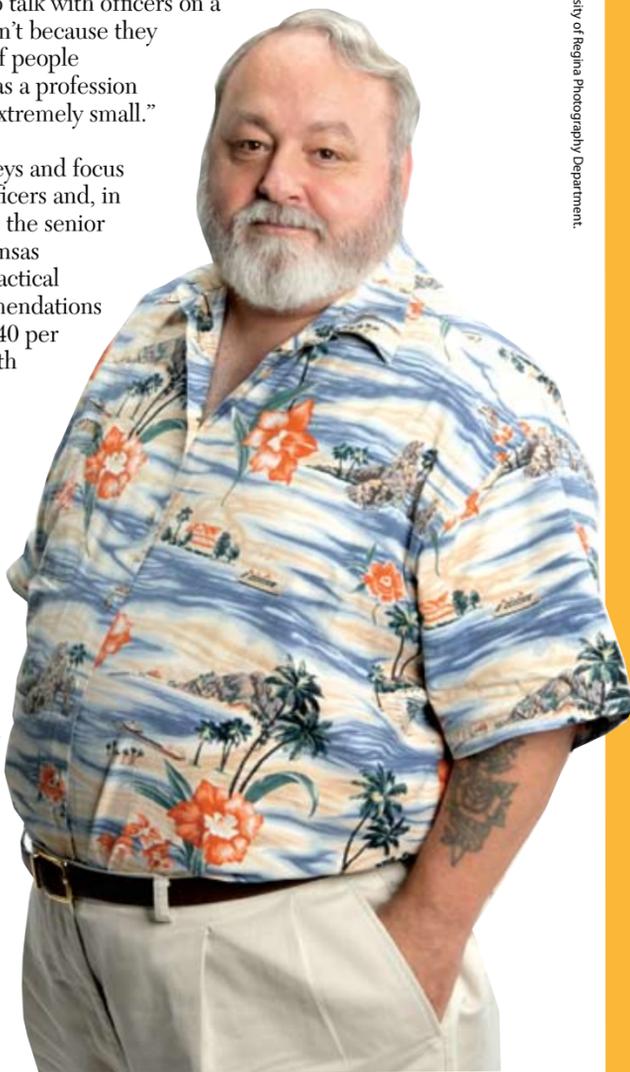
It was that experience that gave him an advantage when he started his research. One of his first major academic projects was an assessment of quality of work life issues for corrections officers in Arkansas.

“The fact that I had been there, done that, walked the talk, did the shifts, did tower duty meant I was able to talk with officers on a level that a lot of academics can’t because they haven’t done it. The number of people who have been in corrections as a profession and then go into academia is extremely small.”

Patenaude did a series of surveys and focus groups with the corrections officers and, in the end, was able to present to the senior management team of the Arkansas Department of Corrections practical policy suggestions and recommendations to improve the approximately 40 per cent turnover rate they had with corrections officers.

Quality of work life issues is still a research topic that holds Patenaude’s interest. He recently finished a review of correctional officer recruitment for the Correctional Service of Canada. He hopes to do more work at the provincial level as well.

“If we recruit the right people, give them the best training possible, help them deal with the working conditions as best as possible and give them opportunities for growth, we are going to retain them. It seems that somewhere between recruitment and retention, there is maybe a piece missing or something that needs to be fine-tuned or tweaked a bit better because the province is doing some really good stuff.”



- Dr. Allan Patenaude

Photos by University of Regina Photography Department.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Thursday, October 29

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

University-Community Circle on Francophone Literature in Saskatchewan
Location: Institut français Rotunda, room 216, U of R campus
Please note the event is entirely in French.

Cercle université-communauté sur la littérature francophone de la Saskatchewan : Le jeudi 29 octobre, de 10h à 16h, à la Rotonde de l'Institut français (LI 216).

For more information: 337-2357
Pour en savoir plus: 337-2357

Thursday, November 5

12:00 p.m.

The Recession One Year Later: Impacts on Canada and Saskatchewan

This lecture will review the “Great Recession” one year later and examine how the country and the province have fared while critically evaluating the responses of various governments as well as speculating on the economic recovery.

Speaker: Dr. Harvey King
Location: Gallery Building, room 106, College Avenue campus
Fee: \$5

For more information, contact Samantha Lehmond, Centre for Continuing Education, at 585-5887.

Thursday, November 5

7:30 p.m.

Bilingual Conference with Dr. Gérard Bouchard, Canada Research Chair in Comparative Dynamics of Collective Imaginary, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi

L'intégration dans la diversité : l'interculturalisme québécois face au multiculturalisme canadien

Integration and Diversity: Quebec's Interculturalism versus Canada's Multiculturalism
Location: Lab Building Lecture Theatre, room 119, U of R campus

For more information: 337-3273
Pour en savoir plus: 337-3273

Friday, November 6

3:30 p.m.

Queer Initiative in and out speaker's series

“Camp fYrefly: Linking Research to Advocacy in Community Work with Sexual-Minority Youth”

Speaker: Dr. Andre Grace (Faculty of Education, University of Alberta)
Location: Education Building, room 228, U of R campus

For more information, contact Wes D. Pearce, University of Regina theatre department, at 585-5571.

Wednesday, November 18

12:00 p.m.

Nourishing Thoughts at the Foodbank Lecture Series

Speaker: Elder Sylvia Obey

Location: Adult Centre for Employment and Readiness, 425 Winnipeg St.

The lecture series is a joint initiative sponsored and coordinated by the Centre for Continuing Education and First Nations University. The public is welcome at no charge and lunch will be provided.

For more information, contact Kathy Buitenhuis, Centre for Continuing Education, at 585-5764.

Wednesday, November 25

7:30 p.m.

Philosophy Café: An open exchange of philosophical ideas led by a University of Regina philosophy professor.

Speaker: Peter Campbell

Location: Connaught Library - 3435-13th Ave.

Refreshments will be served. For more information call 585-4332.

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