

PROBATION TODAY

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Supervising Probation Officer Sylvia Talaugon Honored



Chief Patti Stewart and
SPO Sylvia Talaugon

The 41st Annual H. Thomas Guerry Awards ceremony was held in Santa Barbara on May 21st. The Santa Barbara Citizens' Council on Crime Award for Superior Performance was presented to Supervising Probation Officer Sylvia Talaugon on behalf of the Probation Department by Chief Patti Stewart. Officer Talaugon has served in the Probation Department for 20 years in a variety of assignments across the Administration and Support, Adult, Juvenile, and Institutions Divisions. Sylvia is currently assigned as Supervisor of the Santa Barbara Adult Investigations Unit. Officer Talaugon is highly respected and exemplifies the delicate balance of client support and accountability required of the highest caliber Probation Officer. Sylvia's family was in attendance, including her husband, Senior Deputy Probation Officer Joe Talaugon, and their children Alyssa, Mia, and Jacob. Officer Talaugon is commended for her professionalism and contributions to the Probation Department by maximizing the success of probation clients while promoting community safety.

Submitted by: Probation Manager Lee Bethel

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY DIRECTOR TAKES OFFICE

Damon Fletcher, Administrative Deputy Director (ADD) was sworn in by Chief Stewart on June 8th. Deputy Director Fletcher is a graduate of UCSB and has been employed by Santa Barbara County for 10 years, having served eight years for Probation and two years in the Auditor's Office. He earned his CPA license in March 2007, and served for the last 3 years as a fiscal Project Manager; a role that will be assumed by the new ADD. In his executive role, Damon is responsible for Probation Department fiscal operations, administration, department-wide clerical and support services, and department-specific Information Technology.

Damon maintains a unique balance of incredible fiscal acumen and a keen understanding of Department operations. He is a positive and creative force to be reckoned with and is clearly a welcomed and dynamic-addition to the Department's executive team.



Submitted by: Executive Secretary Melanie Davis

Santa Barbara Fair and Expo

From April 29th to May 1st, Adult and Juvenile Probation Officers teamed up with the California Highway Patrol, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department, Santa Barbara Police Department, and Lompoc Police Department to make the Santa Barbara Fair and Expo a safer place for families. Officers focused on enforcement of Court orders, gang suppression, sex offender observation, and reuniting lost children with their parents. Probation Officers made numerous contacts with probationers in the field. Thanks to collaborative law enforcement efforts, there were no major incidents at this year's annual event at the Earl Warren Showgrounds.

Submitted by: SPO Lori Crestfield

Motivational Speaker brings Message of Tolerance



On May 14th, detainees at the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall and Los Prietos Boys Camp/Academy were treated to an hour with Calvin Terrell, the founder of Social Centric, whose life experience has been shared with audiences around the world. A great motivator and ambassador of harmonious living, his message to the youth was unmistakable - *stop hating one another*. Before he spoke, he blessed the ground and the people who came before, speaking in "Palabras Indigenes" (indigenous language). Of Native-American and African-American descent, Calvin urged his audience to embrace cultural differences and end intolerance. He gave examples of genocide suffered by many cultures throughout history. He pointed to gang violence as a glaring example of senseless hatred and reminded that all people are "of red blood" who laugh, smile, and cry in the same language.

Mr. Terrell's style was candid and abrupt, his mannerisms deliberate as he gave examples of his own personal struggles. He identified with his audience and then challenged them to consider their own existence in society, apart from the facade of gang involvement. He highlighted five types of people: Cowards (those who won't stand up for what is right); Soldiers (followers); Thugs (hurt people who want to hurt others); Rebels (angry people who want a "piece" of anything); and Warriors (those who want peace in their lives). A self-proclaimed Warrior, Mr. Terrell's final message to the group was, "We all have two lives; the one we are given, and the one we choose." He then demonstrated relaxation techniques to help dissipate harsh feelings and asked his audience to wake up and change their ways. "If you change your ways...you'll make this world a better place." His mark was genuine...his message of perseverance for a better life...*powerful*.

Submitted by: Sr. Juvenile Institutions Officer Carolina Gutierrez