



Friday July 23, 2010

Atlanta, Georgia

INTERVIEW WITH DEA ACTING ADMINISTRATOR AND INCOMING EXPLORER CHAIR MICHELE M. LEONHART



Michele M. Leonhart
DEA Acting Administrator

How did you begin your career in law enforcement?

In high school, I knew I wanted to become a police officer. In college, I sought out a school that had a great criminal justice program, and went to Bemidji State University in Minnesota. Once I got there, I found a teacher and faculty member who encouraged me to pursue

my dreams and became my mentor!

At that time, there were few women in law enforcement, but it was something I was passionate about. I believe that finding something you are passionate about and committing yourself to it is a key to reaching your goals. For me, I focused on excelling in my criminal justice studies and helped start the

criminal justice club at my school—a group that continues to this day. I believed then, and believe now that there is no more exciting or rewarding career than law enforcement.

This conference in many ways takes me back to the beginning of my law enforcement career

See **LEONHART** page page 6

Patrick, Riehl, Betts, Air Marshals Presented Spurgeon Award

The William H. Spurgeon III Award is Exploring's highest award. It is given at each exploring conference to those individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding commitment to the Exploring program. It was first given out nearly 40 years ago in honor the pioneering work of the man who is widely regarded as the architect of the contemporary Exploring program, and three individuals along with one organization were presented with the award at this years conference.

Award winners were:

Connie Patrick, the Chair of the NationalLawEnforcementExploring Committee and the Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) which is part of the Department of Homeland Security. FLETC is headquartered Glynco, Georgia, and operates training academies throughout the United States and around the world.

Joseph Riehl, the Chief of the Arson and Explosives Programs

See **AWARDS** page 7

Health and Wellness Debuts At Conference

More than 100 explorers had the opportunity to participate in a new hands-on seminar about personal health and wellness focused on techniques, objectives and goals that will help explorers find and maintain optimal balance in their lives. "We tried to make the information targeted to the needs of active young adults using practical, real life examples with both visuals and exhibits that would keep their attention," said Grace Joiner,

a summer intern who helped Instructor Tony Madero design and teach the course.

The seminar increased the understanding of explorers about the roles carbs, sugar and fat play in their diet by using real world examples- such as how the body absorbs the calories in a bag of Cheetos or a can of Coca Cola, to techniques to reduce stress during Explorer competitions. Mr. Madero and Ms. Joyner created a seminar designed to



make a difference in the decision explorers make at this time in their lives when they begin to develop behavior patterns

they will keep for the rest of their lives.

See **HEALTH** page 3

Question of the DAY

"What is Your Favorite Law Enforcement or Police Program on Television?"



Logan Lewis
Post 357
Gardner, Massachusetts

Flashpoint (CBS)

"It shows the tough times, good times and the difficult side of the life of being a police officer"



Brian Crownover
Post 805
Montville Township, NJ

COPS (Tru TV)

"It isn't fake- it shows the real lives of police officers doing what they do"



Troy Bowden
Post 2852
Georgetown,
Delaware

NCIS: Naval Criminal Investigative Service (CBS)

"Great real life examples of investigative police work. Shows how different agencies solve crimes"

16th

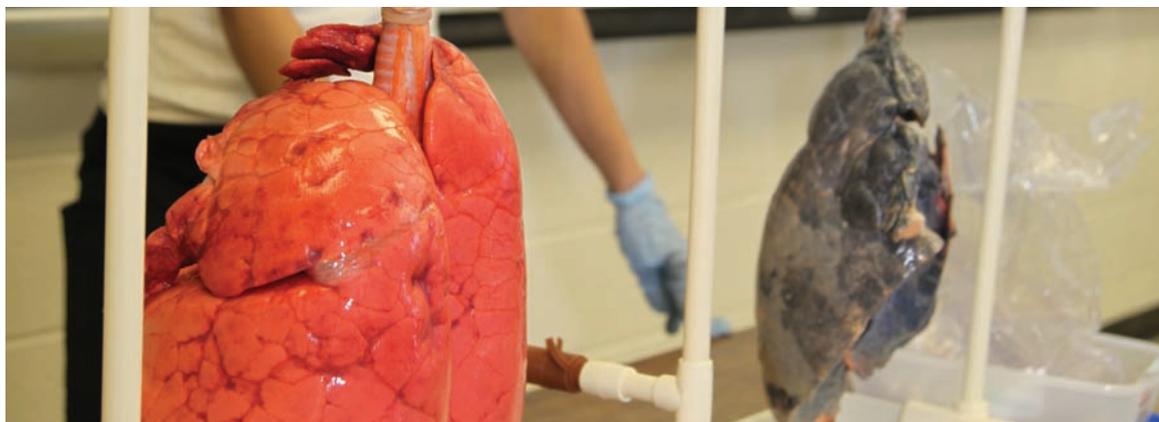
WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 23

6:00 A.M.—8:00 A.M.	Breakfast	Woodruff/Brittain/The Edge (Dining Halls)
	Pistol Competition bus departs (breakfast on bus)	Ferst Drive Bus Area (at Wenn Student Center)
7:30 A.M.		Wenn Student Center, Ferst Place
8:00 A.M.—8:45 A.M.	Rally Bus Departure	Buses departing Techwood Drive (behind CRC)
8:30 A.M.—8:55 A.M.	Rally Assembly	16th Street
9:00 AM.-12:30	Rally	Glenn Field
12:30 P.M.—1:30	Leave Rally	Buses departing Glenn Field and returning Explorers to Techwood Drive
1:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M.	OPEN AFTERNOON	
1:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M.	Cop Shop	Wenn Student Center Piedmont
5:00 P.M.—7:00 P.M.	Dinner	Woodruff/Brittain/The Edge (Dining Halls)
7:30 P.M.—9:00 P.M.	Closing Show	Alexander Memorial Coliseum
9:30 P.M.—11:30 P.M.	Dance-Jump Club	Alexander Memorial Coliseum (Freshman Gym)
Midnight	Day concludes	

SATURDAY, JULY 24

6:15 A.M.—8:00 AM.	Breakfast	Woodruff/Brittain/The Edge (Dining Halls)
6:30 A.M. - Noon	check out and departure	Brittain Dining Hall and Woodruff Dining Hall
	Conference participants depart	
Noon	Offices inspected; clerical equipment checked in	Wenn Student Center
	All dorms checked and inspected	
2:00 P.M.	Staff departs	



HEALTH

Continued from cover page

The seminar was presented by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and is based on a course given to employees of the Center. In addition to focusing on general fitness and wellness, it also included a dynamic twist with a discussion of the harm that comes with using either smoked or chewed tobacco. Graphic pictures and examples were given of the devastating effect of cancers that can form from chewing smokeless tobacco.

At the end of the seminar, Explorers were

invited to see, look (and touch) the inflated lungs of two sets of pigs - one set being from a pig whose lungs were exposed to smoke, and another set of healthy lungs. Before they left, Explorers were also given the opportunity to get their body muscle and fat measured, with results texted or e-mailed to them after the conference. "It was great being able to talk to the Explorers, to help them lead healthy lives, and to improve their ability to perform in the competitions," said Mr. Madero before going back to helping answer questions of Explorers waiting to participate in the exhibits.

Live on CNN, It's Law Enforcement Exploring!

Just before noon on Thursday, Bill Taylor, National Director of Law Enforcement Exploring and Jarius Mixon, an Explorer with DEA's New York Exploring Post #9110, were interviewed live on CNN which was broadcasted to several million people around the world.

Reporter Brooke Baldwin interviewed Taylor and Mixon at CNN's global headquarters here in downtown Atlanta for about five minutes. The segment highlighted Mixon's journey from growing up in the Bronx, New York to how he became an Explorer.

According to Taylor,

the interview was a great opportunity to let the world know about what was going on this week at Georgia Tech as well as the many opportunities that Exploring offers to the young adults like Mixon.

In addition to the live interview on CNN, the Associated Press spent several hours on campus Thursday talking to Explorers about their experiences at the conference. Stories submitted by the Associated Press can be republished by over 1,700 newspapers around the world.

Also roaming around

the campus this week has been CBS radio and their top feature reporter in the Atlanta area, Pete Combs. Combs not only covered the opening show but he was also able to see several team competitions including the Smyrna Police Dept. Explorers who went through the Shoot-Don't Shoot scenario. The story about Exploring is scheduled to air on CBS radio affiliates across the country this weekend. Combs also hopes to scribe a story for the local Atlanta Journal Constitution - the second most widely read newspaper

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(l to r) CNN's Brooke Baldwin interviews Bill Taylor and Jarius Mixon at the cable network's global headquarters in Atlanta on Thursday.

in the South.

For all of those Explorers who were either interviewed or had video cameras following them during their

competitions, thank you very much for representing Exploring in such a professional way.





Leonhart

Continued from cover page

which began as an officer with the Baltimore Police Department more than 30 years ago.

A couple of years later I decided to join DEA and I graduated from the DEA Academy in March 1981. It was a turning point in my career because on that day I became a Special Agent which has allowed me to make a difference in the lives of others as part of what I think is the greatest organization anywhere.

When did you first hear about Exploring?

When I was a teenager, there was no Explorer post in my Minnesota hometown. If there had been, I know I would have joined it, so it took me a few more years to discover Exploring. I think the first time I became involved with Exploring in the early 1980's when I was a young DEA agent. At that time I was able to help teach several posts in my home state of Minnesota about drugs, search warrants, and the

way we attack drug dealers and put them in jail.

Do Explorers make good DEA Special Agents?

Exploring can be a great stepping stone that gives a step up for prospective hires when interviewing for a job. If Special Agent applicants mention that they have been involved in Exploring, it means something to us. It shows us that you are not just looking for a job, but are dedicated to the mission of and a career in law enforcement.

How many Explorer conferences have you attended?

My first national competition was in 1984 at Ohio State University and I was immediately captivated by the experience—I have yet to miss one since.

What is your favorite activity at the conference?

Explorers really look forward to the DEA Arrest and Search

Competition, and the DEA event became very popular at the conferences. I always enjoy judging or role playing in the competition and watching the other activities throughout the week.

I can't wait to see who the winners are and to present them the awards they worked so hard to earn at the closing show!

What is one of your goals during your term as chairman of the Explorers movement?

I would like to expand the leadership academy program and find more opportunities for explorers to gain valuable leadership training and experience.

What is one piece of advice you'd like to give to those just starting their career in law enforcement?

You have worked hard and with great dedication for two years to prepare yourself for your participation in this conference, and

you've have traveled from near and far to get here. Make the most of this experience. Meet as many people as possible from federal, state, and local agencies during your week in Atlanta. If you apply that level of dedication, competitive spirit, and commitment you will go far in you law enforcement careers.

I'd also add to be sure to keep your eyes open to all possibilities. Look outside your comfort zone to see what future opportunities are available. For me, I began my career as a Baltimore Police Officer, and I wouldn't be the agent I am at DEA without that experience. However, I would never have gotten to Baltimore if I hadn't opened my eyes and asked myself a lot of tough questions like: Do I really have to live in Minnesota? Is there more out there for me? So both this week and in the years to come talk to people, make friends, ask lots of questions, and expand your horizons!

NLEE Quick Facts

Founded 61 years ago in 1949

About 35,000 Explorers in all 50 states, two territories, plus Europe, Japan

Hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers were Explorers first

First Conference in 1979 at Michigan State University

Held every two years

This year is the 17th Conference, has been held in 12 cities

Next Conference 2012 to be at Colorado State in Ft. Collins, Colorado

This year being held this week at Georgia Tech

- More than 2700 participants
- Nearly 2000 Explorers in Atlanta (1936)
- 70 percent male, 30 percent female (1365/571)
- Ages 14-21
- 254 Explorer Posts from 37 states and Puerto Rico

If you want to improve your Post's communications with your media, it's easy. Learning for Life's professionals can help Posts get positive publicity for Exploring and for your Post. As you develop your message, Learning for Life can provide you with important support including talking points, background on recent media coverage, photos and other digital media from the conference. For more information, please contact Bill Taylor at BTaylor@lflmail.org or call (972) 580-2241.

AWARDS

Continued from cover page

Division at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He is a member of the National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee, and for two decades has been highly involved in the planning of the Exploring Conference, including serving as the team competition coordinator.

Charlotte Betts, a Public

Affairs Officer at the Federal Bureau of Investigations in Washington, DC. She has been the liaison between the FBI and Exploring for more than 25 years, and in that capacity serves on many National Law Enforcement Exploring Committees.

The United States Federal Air Marshal Service serves as the primary law enforcement organization within the Transportation Security Administration of

the Department of Homeland Security. Its mission is to protect air passengers and crews on flights in the United States and around the world. Throughout the years, the Federal Air Marshal Service has been represented on the National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee and very active with the National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference.



Outgoing Chair of National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee Connie Patrick receives Spurgeon Award from incoming Chair Michele Leonhart



NLEEC Chairs Michele Leonhart and Connie Patrick presents the Spurgeon Award to Joseph Riehl of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives



NLEEC Chairs Michele Leonhart and Connie Patrick give Spurgeon plaque to the FBI's Charlotte Betts for more than 25 years of service to Exploring



The Director of the United States Federal Air Marshal Service Robert Bray accepts the Spurgeon Award on behalf of his organization

DEA IS PROUD TO SUPPORT NLEEC

SPECIAL AGENTS

Attack drug trafficking from every angle.

DEA has a mission like no other – one that challenges us every single day. Through the Law Enforcement Explorer program, young people will learn the career development, leadership and life skills that will prepare them to become the Special Agents of tomorrow. It will also prepare them to one day work to combat the unlawful activities surrounding the trafficking of illegal drugs across the nation and around the world. DEA is a participant and long-time supporter of the National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference. DEA is an equal opportunity employer. www.dea.gov

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Exploring Alumni Association Launched

For some of you, this year's National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference marks your final conference as an Explorer. There are many ways to stay involved in the Explorer movement after your last year: you can stay in touch with advisors and fellow Explorers informally, volunteer to be a Post Advisor, or donate to the cause. For 60 years Explorers that have gotten so much out of Exploring have found ways to give back and stay involved both formally and informally, however there has never been an official alumni organization through which these activities could take place.

That is about to change.

As 2010 is the 60th anniversary of Exploring, it is fitting that this year the movement is developing an Exploring Alumni Association (EAA). Over the years, tens of thousands of men and women have "graduated" from Exploring from the more than 1,600 posts that have been around for ten years or more. The development of the EAA will help us help you, the Exploring movement, and your council in many ways such as:

- Keeping the enthusiasm for Exploring alive;
- Reconnecting former Explorers with friends, advisors and local councils;
- Engaging alumni who want to become post advisors or volunteers;
- Providing avenues for alumni to make donations to the Explorer movement;
- Networking with fellow alumni, many of whom have become leaders in communities around the country and all over the world.

If this is your last conference as an Explorer, you're invited to join EAA! The first step is to go to the Linked In website (www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1928298&trk=hb_slide_g) and join the EAA directory which will serve as the database collection site for EAA.

For more information about EAA, contact Peggy Chestnutt, Director of Workforce Development, 972-580-2428, pchestnu@lflmail.org.



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