Introductory Issue

Welcome! In this issue we let the second cohort at Lancaster Prison introduce each other. We also reproduce the script of a performance based on their reactions to a video about the impact of providing education programs in prisons.

Aims & Scope

Prison BA Journal aims to represent the unique scholarship by the current cohort of students at Lancaster Prison whose life experiences offer a distinct perspective through their academic work. Essays exploring themes related to Communication are welcomed along with personal narratives from those whose voices have been unheard and silenced. Research by communication students and scholars on mass incarceration will also be featured.

The editorial board is comprised of Cal State LA students in the Department of Communication Studies, including students in Lancaster Prison, and a supervising member of the Communication Studies Faculty. The editorial board reviews the writings for consistency, clarity, proper formatting, and references. Editors are recommended by the department faculty based on their demonstrated academic success, ethical responsibility, and critical thinking skills.

Each published essay will be accompanied by a brief biography of its author, as we are proud of those pursuing higher educational opportunities while incarcerated. This journal is created in hopes of putting stereotypes and misconceptions about prisoners to rest.

Prison BA Journal would like to thank Cal State LA’s Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) for funding this publication along with the editorial board. A special thanks to the Lancaster students who are aspiring communication scholars. We look forward to reading their valuable insights.

Editorial Board
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Prison BA Journal
A journal by the Department of Communication Studies
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The Second Cohort Introduce Each Other: 4-13
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Justin Hong
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Aaron Benson
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A class picture 14

A performative Response to “Allen and Zion” 15-23
Witnessing a peer connect with his daughter
The Second Cohort Introduce Each Other:

**Derric Burbie**

My name is Mr. Terry Bell, and I would like to introduce the educational background of Mr. Derric Burbie. Prior to arrest, Mr. Burbie attended Grambling State University in 1991 for three semesters. After incarceration, Derric remained focused on his education and attended Coastline Community College. He achieved three A.A degrees in Social and Behavioral Science, Sociology, Science and Math. Derric furthered his education by enrolling in Cal State University Los Angeles, majoring in Communications to aid in starting his own business as a Life Coach.

* * *

**Cody Kahn**

Cody Kahn graduated high school from Rancho Alamitos in 2006 in the city of Garden Grove. He went to college immediately after to Golden West in Huntington Beach majoring in Business. College was not Cody's first choice, he much rather have traveled the world but he went to college to make his family happy. Now that he has earned his Associate's in prison and is now pursuing a Bachelor's with Cal State Los Angeles, he feels that this was a way for him to redeem himself. He is also a tutor, helping inmates earn their G.E.D. He was also a water polo player in high school. It was a pleasure to interview Cody and I hope to continue to get to know him.

* * *

**Jason Keaton**

I am Jason Keaton, born and raised in Compton, California. Education was never a priority in my life with all the negative influences I had. I joined a gang early on which ultimately lead me down a path of destruction. While incarcerated my life began to change. I experienced the pain of losing my little brother to gang violence. At this point I knew how my actions affected everyone I encountered in my life. I made a conscious decision that I begin to live my life making amends. Enrolling in college was one of the biggest challenges in my life, but I was
committed. I graduated in 2017 with an Associate's Degree in social and behavioral classes. I have found a passion for learning. Enrolling into the BA program has been one of the most memorable moments in my life. I am forever grateful. This has changed my perception on life through furthering to educate myself. I am able to not only be a positive role model but also set an example that change is possible. I no longer let my past define me, I look forward to writing my future. My grandmother is proud of me and it makes me happy. My life now has a purpose and continuing on this journey is my focus. Thank you for everything.

* * *

Macio Lindsey

My name is Risala Rose-Aminifu and I have the privilege of introducing Macio Lindsey. Mr. Lindsey has always been a business minded individual. When he was younger he started a carpet cleaning business with his brother trying to show his younger brother that there's better ways to make money, other than fast money. In 1999, Mr. Lindsey started a pen-pal service based out of Hawaii while he was incarcerated. This business flourished among the prison population and earned him the distinction of, "the go to guy for a pen-pal relationship." Mr. Lindsey knows the importance of a higher education and has been enrolled in Coastline Community College for the past four years. In the fall of this year, He will be receiving four A.A's and is currently enrolled in Cal State LA's Bachelor's program. His hopes are to show that an incarcerated person can rise above his circumstance's and return to society to become a productive citizen. It's been an honor to interview Mr. Lindsey.

* * *

Samuel Nathaniel Brown

I’m Kamran Afary and I’m honored to introduce Samuel Brown. Samuel is excited about being a member of the second Communication Studies cohort. He has made it clear it that his mission in life is to help bring about a liberation of the mind. Prison walls do not cramp his capacity to work towards freedom and justice. He has founded a non-profit organization to help youth develop skills in emotional intelligence. He is particularly interested in ideas and believes that correct ideas, ideas that can liberate the mind, have practical consequences; and he enjoys
following the logic of each revolutionary idea to its conclusion and is always looking for new ideas. He is an avid reader and advocate for social justice with youth outside the prison walls.

* * *

**Jeff Ayers**

My name is Ninh Nguyen and I have the pleasure of introducing my classmate Jeff Ayers. There is something you may not know about Jeff; prior to tenth grade, Jeff was a “wall flower” until one day in an English class where they were discussing Greek literature and the English teacher pronounced the title of the play wrong and Jeff challenged her pronunciation on the word because he grew up with Greek literature and language and his home as a young child. After that incident, Jeff came out of himself, and got involved on his class discussion. This is my new friend, Jeff. Thank you

* * *

**Bertho Gauthier**

Hello everyone, Dr. Afary. I’m here to tell you about Bertho Gauthier that you may not know. At the age of 15 years old he worked at Worskman Circle Jewell Center. He was the youngest worker there and one out of three African Americans. His father got him the job. This kept him out of gangs and troubles for the most part and instilled responsibility and hustle within him. He also has received his A.A. degree in prison. Though he is remarkable at math, he is a horrible basketball player. Thank you.

* * *

**Thaisan Nguon**

My name is Thaisan Nguon and some things that people do not know about me are that I was born in Cambodia. I moved to the United States with my parents when I was still a baby. My parents speak both English and Cambodian, but speak Cambodian most of the time. I speak both as well, but I am better with English. My mom speaks to me in Cambodian and I have to ask her to translate into English for me. I was never good at school until I got older. I received my high school diploma in youth authority, and my Associates degree from Feather River
Community College while in prison. I look forward to earning a bachelor degree with California State University, Los Angeles.

* * *

Andrew “Kicking Horse” McCarter

I had the privilege and honor of interviewing Andrew “Kicking Horse” McCarter. Kicking Horse is an asset to this program and prison. He is always making himself available for people who need help. Enriching his knowledge of the law by previously working in the law library has helped him be an informed inmate. He is looking for ways to improve our circumstances and a fighter in a sense. In addition, a fighter in other ways he has shown resilience in combat but it started in the Midwest.

Kicking Horse was born in Oklahoma and raised on a reservation until the age of eight. He later moved to Texas. He is a tribal member of the Choctaw Nation. He later enlisted in United States Army from 1973-1979. He is part of a family of military service. His father is a Master Sergeant in the Air force, his grandfather Chief Pete Maytubby, who is a WW1 Code Talker. Kicking Horse is currently attending CSULA to earn his Communications degree. His 32 years of Prison experience is helping other individuals who have any questions regarding legal discrepancies in prison institutions.

Kicking Horse understanding makes him versed fighter for prisoner reform. He is a progressive prisoner and essentially one of the first MMA fighters. He is a 3rd degree Black Belt in Hap-Ki-Do (The Art of concentrated Power). Also, a 2nd degree Black Belt in Isshin-Ryu.

PKA (Professional Kickboxing Association) is where Kicking Horse debuted his bouts in the 1970s. Joe Corley founded this Mixed Martial Arts federation. Prisoners such as Andrew “Kicking Horse” McCarter help people see that there is more than meets the eye. This progressive inmate is and continues to help his fellow CSULA colleagues. It was a pleasure to interview him.

* * *

David Ruiz
I had the privilege and pleasure to interview my fellow peer David Ruiz. He was born in the U.S, yet interestingly he did not attend kindergarten as a child. At six years old, he and his family moved to Mexico where he was schooled from the first to the third grade. He and his family moved back to the states where he continued the third grade all the way to the ninth grade. He amazed me when he told me how he learned how to speak English in the third grade in a span of three months- a man of persistence. He moved to Mexico after the ninth grade but he didn’t go to school from the tenth to the twelfth. He came back to the U.S. at the age of 18, got his G.E.D and went to San Diego City College for three years. His dream school was University of San Diego, but I believe he will prosper in this Cal State LA Program through his resilience.

* * *

Gustavo Tamayo

Greetings classmates my name is David Ruiz. My recipient today is a good fellow named Gustavo Tamayo. Gustavo is a U.S. born however he is a first generation. His family originates from Mexico. Gustavo’s education, while still in society, began in kindergarten and extended to college. He attended college preparation high school and moved into the college life when he graduated that school, which required a 3.0 GPA. Thereafter, he attended California State University of Dominguez Hills. I am fully sure that he is very dedicated and confident of what he intends to accomplish in the educational part of his life. He is intensely enthusiastic about this school and class, and clearly looking forward to this semester.

* * *

Larry Torres

Today I am here to speak to you all about Larry Torres. Larry has no dreams of attending college. He would rather learn a trade. After his incarceration, he signed up for Math with Feather River. He graduated with A.A. degree in Arts and Humanities. He learned through education to become productive and continued to self-educate. His goals are to work towards a Master’s Degree to continue his learning experience.

* * *
Risala Rose-Aminifu

My name is Macio Lindsey and I would like to introduce my fellow classmate, Aminifu. At the age of 18, Mr. Aminifu was incarcerated and has been incarcerated for 27 years. Throughout Aminifus’ life he has had the privilege and honor to meet the acquaintance of many celebrities. Some of which include Oprah Winfrey and Smokey Robinson. Aminifu had occasion to be involved in a program for at risk youth. During the course of these programs celebrities would come and mentor the youth. Aminifu recalled both Oprah Winfrey and Smokey Robinson telling him that the appeal of the street life was temporary and costly. Unfortunately, Aminifu found himself imprisoned with a life sentence. Despite Aminifu incarceration, he has diligently sought an education as a means to rehabilitation. In the summer semester 2018, Aminifu will be completing two Associates degrees from Coastline Community College. He has also begun his journey to completing a Bachelor’s Degree generously offered to him by Cal State LA. Aminifu is grateful for the opportunities offered to him. He intends to further his education by one day earning his Master’s Degree and becoming a mentor for at risk youth. It was a pleasure to meet and introduced our classmates, Aminifu. Thank you.

* * *

Aaron Benson

My friend Aaron Benson was born and raised in this great city of Lancaster, California. He had a pretty great childhood. He was part of the Boy Scouts for six years and worked his way up to earn the high honor of being an Eagle Scout. In high school, he was involved with the Navy Junior ROTC. He would describe himself as a “total nerd”, but let nothing in that description carry even a sliver of negative connotation. This guy is sharp, smart, and plays guitar, bass, and drums. He’s even done studio work with various bands. How cool is that! During his leisure time, he enjoys attending live sporting events especially hockey. And that is my friend, Aaron Benson.

* * *

David Lee Jr.
Hello, my name is Robert Pratt and today I’d like to introduce David Lee Jr. He is 33 years old, and has done eleven years of his life without the possibility of parole sentence. Before coming to prison, he achieved an A.S. degree and was working as a respiratory therapist. That involves people with breathing problems, infants in critical care, and post-surgery patients. He was unable to further his education in the first three prisons he was at. When the opportunity to be part of the Cal State Bachelor’s program presented itself he eagerly got involved.

* * *

Robert Kelly Pratt

I had the proud opportunity to interview this gentleman, who I introduce to you as Robert Kelly Pratt. One thing most people may not know about Robert is that before he was born his family owned a dog that they loved so much, they decided to name Robert after the dog; hence the middle name Kelly. As Robert grew so did his love for Kelly. By the age of five, Robert would go on walks with Kelly without his parents’ permission, and often times would get so lost that it would require the local search and rescue team to find them. Robert Kelly Pratt is 49 years old, he has been incarcerated for 30 years, and before prison he was a terrible student who didn’t have much desire to further his education. It wasn’t until after Robert was arrested that a close friend convinced him to continue his education. Robert has since obtained his Associates Degree, and is enthusiastic about being a part of CSULA.

* * *

Terry Bell

Dr. Afary, my fellow Cal State – L.A. classmates. I’d like to introduce to you Mr. Terry Bell. Terry was incarcerated at the age of 17. He got his high school diploma in juvenile hall in 2002, but in 2013 began furthering his education through college courses, and has attained three A.A. degrees in American Studies, Sociology, and Social & Behavioral Science. He is currently pursuing his fourth A.A. degree in Arts & Humanities, as well as is currently in his second semester at Cal State – L.A. where he is pursuing a B.A. degree in Communications. Mr. Terry Bell.
Nihn Nguyen

Mr. Nihn Nguyen was born in Vietnam. He lived there until the age of 11 years old, until he and his family fled on the last day of the Vietnam War in 1975. Mr. Nguyen witnessed firsthand everything that many of us only see in documentaries about that conflict. He and his family came to the United States in 1975 and first settled in Knoxville, Tennessee. The winters were too cold for their liking, so they emigrated to Southern California in 1976. Mr. Nguyen considers himself more American than Vietnamese because his family embraced their new country, and all the opportunities it had to offer. This is why he chose to be a part of the Cal State LA Bachelor’s program. His parents impressed upon him that higher education was one of the keys to making the most of all their new home had to offer.

Christopher Calkins

This gentleman here to my left is my good buddy Christopher Calkins. He is 30 years old and was born in San Bernadino, California. What some of you might not know is that this is not Chris’ first time in college. He actually attended college prior to his incarceration. Christopher started off at the San Bernadino Valley Community College, transferred to the University of Laverne but it was too expensive, his ultimate goal, however, was to attend the University of San Bernadino. While attending college Chris really enjoyed taking math and science classes, and although he hadn’t decided on a career path, he knew that his major would be related to math and science. His overall interest are math and science, and he just enjoys education. Now with this opportunity and new major Chris ultimately would like to have a career in teaching or some type of instruction, and that is what my buddy Chris is all about.

Arthur Andrew Andrade

On February 2, 2018, I had the honor and privilege to interview “Arthur Andrew Andrade”, a fellow Golden Eagle in the second cohort, during our Speech Communications class. Art or
“Triple A” as some refer to him as, is a 34 year-old first generation Bolivian man whose parents migrated to the United States in the 1970’s. He is the middle child and only male in his family, but he has two sisters. One thing most people do not know about Art is that he is a ‘foodies’, and used to Google places to go eat. These inquiries were all based on critiques and/or reviews. His favorite food choice is sushi, and his least favorite thing to eat is... nothing, he loves all food! Art has been incarcerated for five years and is a first termer. One point of interest was that he stated he has the same birth date as Dolph Lungren, the movie star.

*   *   *

Dara Yin

On February 6, 2018, I conducted an interview with a fellow Golden Eagle named Dara Yin from my speech class. During the course of this interview, I discovered Dara has a passion to broaden his horizons through education. He lived a narrow life, constantly in trouble with negative thoughts and actions prior to seeking higher education, which has caused him to be a better human being now. Once he completed his degree in communications, Dare wants to be able to help children in inner cities, ghettos, and neighborhoods that do not receive the same opportunity as other children of more affluent backgrounds. This does not just include academia, but also emotional intelligence, spiritual, and to help them gain confidence in themselves. I had the blessing of introducing Mr. Dara Yin during my previous English 1050 class. I already knew of Yin on the previously. However, we had never been introduced until most recently. I learned an interesting fact about Yin. Mr. Yin use to mow lawns for senior citizens for free as a church project as well as for charity. He first began mowing lawns of his churches congregation for extra income. The pastor of this church was the one who gave Yin this awesome idea. This newfound occupation of his became so successful that he insisted his pastor allow him to somehow display his gratitude. Yin stated the only payment his pastor wanted was for him to “pay it forward”. And so, mowing lawns “just for the love” began.

*   *   *

Deon Whitmore
Deon Withmore grew up in Los Angeles, California. He is one of six siblings. He’s also a twin. Deon grew up in a broken and dysfunctional household where he was exposed to negative elements that children normally wouldn’t be exposed to. At the age of 13 he found comfort in the gang members outside his front door. Deon soon began to hang with these negative influences and eventually joined the gang as a member of the bloods. Deon dropped out of middle school and began to find himself waist deep in a destructive lifestyle. Deon was shot at the age of 15 and almost lost his life. Seven days later he was arrested for murder and attempted murder. While in prison he decided to get his life together a couple years into prison. He decided that he was going to take responsibility for all his actions and be a positive man. He’s six units away from completing his A.A. degree and he’s already a student at Cal State LA in the pursuit to gain his bachelor degree and a career upon leaving prison. He strives every day to be a great father, brother, and influence the younger inmates in prison by showing them that change is possible.
A class photo of Cal State LA communication studies BA students (second cohort) in Lancaster Prison. (photo by Ronald Underwood)
A PERFORMATIVE RESPONSE TO “ALLEN & ZION”

Editors Note: During the spring 2018 semester in COMM 1100 (Oral Communication) each student wrote a one-page response to “Allen and Zion,” a short video documentary about the way a prison education program impacts the lives of prisoners and their family and friends. The title “Allen and Zion” refers to Allen Burnett who is a member of the first cohort at Lancaster Prison and Zion, his daughter, who is a new college student at Cal State LA. In the documentary they talk about how each inspires the other to be a dedicated student. Student responses to this video were developed into a script by Elizabeth Malone, rehearsed for two weeks and performed on May 11, 2018 in front of several visitors, including CSU Faculty Trustee Romy Sabalius, and Vice Provost Octavio Villapando. Here is what Dr. Sabalius wrote after his visit: “I feel that I not only learned a lot, but that my brief visit helped to reflect on my own humanity and helped me grow as an individual.” You can watch the video of Allen and Zion at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqhmAMtIfe4

(half enter from stage left, half from stage right, greeting one another and sitting in chairs in a semi-circle facing the audience.)

ALL
Imagine this.

BERTHO GAUTHIER
(stands up) Just to sit in a room at a high security prison and not feel threatened is a sort of phenomenon. (all give “uh-huh’s” and small vocal reactions.)

JEFF AYERS
I was deeply affected in a way I have not been in years. tears flowing unrestrained...
(all slump down in chairs, showing sadness, wiping tears, etc.)

ALL
(sit up straight, loud and direct) WHAT SOME PEOPLE THINK OF PRISONERS:

TERRY BELL
(stand and shout) A bad influence

CHAY YIN
(stand and shout) We have to judge them!
NINH NGUYEN
*(stand and shout)* Just throw away garbage.

DEON
*(walks forward toward the audience)* I was sentenced to life in prison at 16. What little I knew about life was over.

DAVID LEE, JR.
*(walks forward toward the audience)* For most men and women sentenced to life in prison, there isn’t very much to look forward to. For those with life without the possibility of parole, life is even more bleak.

NINH NGUYEN + OTHERS
*(stands and walks forward)* I’m serving life without parole

KICKING HORSE
*(stands and walks forward)* I’m serving life without parole.

AMINIFU
*(stands and walks forward)* I’m serving life without parole.

TERRY BELL
An L.W.O.P sentence means that a person has no value and will die in prison.

JUSTIN
Only way to leave? In a pine box. *(everyone puts hands to their chest as in a coffin. Those on the stage rush to sit back in their chairs.)*

CHAY YIN
*(steps forward)* Convicting someone of a crime is only about punishment...

JUSTIN
No second chances.

*(Chay puts hands behind back and Justin escorts him back to his seat as if he’s law enforcement)*

CHRISTOPHER CALKINS
At the end of my sentence I will know what it feels like to serve more time in prison than I have lived outside of prison.

*(Christopher stands to speak and anyone who has also served more time than outside at the end of their sentence raises their hand)*

E. RUIZ
When you feel that you do not have an opportunity to better yourself, you feel as if you have fallen into hopelessness...

*(Christopher makes his way to his seat, slumping hopelessly in it)*

**ALL**
I am still a HUMAN BEING.

*(All stand)*

**TERRY BELL**
Regardless of our prison sentence....

**ALL**
We are now focused on EDUCATION.

*(All switch seats with someone else, pretending to read a book as you sit, without running into anyone)*

**DERRIC BURBIE**
I’ll rewind the years...

*(all sit backwards in their chair, backs to audience except Burbie and Bertho. We see the following acted out.)*

Back when we were both teenagers. I was a trustee inside the city jail when Allen was first placed inside a cell. I had no idea that one year later, I was going to be in that exact cell, facing similar charges, and a similar sentence. We used to go to court handcuffed together since they paired people up alphabetically by their last name. In fact, we were sentenced on the same day; he went to the courtroom on the left, I went to the one on the right. I can still remember coming out of the courtroom and being placed in the holding cell.

“What they give you?”
“Life without plus four”
“They just gave me life without plus five”
I had just turned twenty-one, he was twenty. Fast forward twenty-four years later.

*(Burbie and Bertho then go sit in their chairs faced back)*

**ROBERT PRATT**
A story of a father and a daughter.

**JUSTIN HONG**
I see a loving father who can barely restrain his emotions at the slight mention of his daughter.
E. RUIZ
I am a lifer...My daughter is 4 years old, Elaine Mary-Jane Ruiz, and I am on my third year in prison. It is one of my dreams to see my daughter attend college.

JUSTIN HONG
A father’s grief.

ROSE-AMINIFU, RISALA
Tragically, I lost both of my children within the last seven years. I envisioned my own daughter. Maccaia was killed by a hit and run driver here in Lancaster in 2011. She was only 18 years old, and attended Antelope Valley Jr. College. Miles was gunned down in Tarzana, in 2016 in a robbery. He was 26 years old. At times, I found myself lost in emotions, due to the physical loss of both of my kids. It is imperative that higher education be stressed to our youth, especially our inner-city youth.

ROBERT PRATT
A sister and a brother.

CHRISTOPHER CALKINS
My younger sister Justin started high school as I started college courses. I earned A’s in all six classes, and shared my grades with her. I sensed her hesitation in sharing with me, “Don’t worry about this quarter, next quarter you’ll do better right?” “Ok.” The next quarter Justine was happy to share her much better grades.

ALL
I am an incarcerated student, I am changing someone’s life.

ANDREW KICKING HORSE MCCARTER
I feel such a pride not only as a father and grandfather.

JASON KEATON
My grandmother is proud of me.

JUSTIN
My mother is proud of me.

(some students pop up and say “(insert person) is proud of me.”)

ALL
I am not a man who gives into his emotions.

JEFF AYERS
Doing so would be like blood in the water, sure to attract sharks. No matter what I was going through, what I was feeling, I could make no outward showing.
Displaying emotions equated weakness, and weakness would make me a victim. I internalized everything. My sorrows, my joys, my hopes, my despairs. I became just another face on the yard, with my emotions sealed behind a mask of indifference. Twenty years later ever so often I allow it to slip and my long-repressed emotions to rise to the surface.

LINDSEY
An incarcerated person

ALL
CAN RISE ABOVE...

JEFF
Allen and Zion

CHRISTOPHER
Bertho and Marco

BERTHO
Christopher and Justine

JEFF
Kicking Horse and cohort two

KICKING HORSE
Jeff and Heather

THAISON
Ruiz and Elaine Mary Jane

RUIZ
Thaison and Thailee

AARON
Larry and Mabel

LARRY
Aaron and Theresa

DAVID LEE
Derric and cohort 2

DERRIC
David and Symphony
JASON
Ninh and Ann

NINH
Jason and Maxine

TERRY
Gustavo and _______

GUSTAVO
Terry and _______

JUSTIN
Chay and _______

CHAY
Justin and Elaine

RISALA
Lindsey and Macio

LINDSEY
Risala and Miles & Maccaia

ROBERT PRATT
Arthur and Christina

ARTHUR
Robert and Brianna

DARA YIN
Deon and Donna

DEON
Dara and ______

CODY
Samuel and Betty

SAMUEL
Cody and Gramps
JEFF AYERS
Are opposite sides of these prison walls, the walls have not been able to impede the growth in
the relationship to a father separated from his daughter.

LINDSEY
Separated from his son.

NINH
A grandfather separated from his grandchild.

JASON
A son separated from his mother.

LARRY
His father

RUIZ
A brother separated from his sister.

RISALA
His brother.

CODY
A connection being rebuilt.

ALL
Despite being in prison

LINDSEY
Many incarcerated fathers are striving to be good examples to their families and others in the
community.

ALL
EDUCATION

GUSTAVO
Education can break barriers and bridge gaps.

SAMUEL BROWN
A liberation of the mind.

JASON KEATON
I have found a passion for learning.
THAISOAON NGUON
I thought of my little brother, Thailee, who I dragged to prison with me at the tender age of sixteen. These days the glorification of gang and criminal lifestyle is no longer a part of our conversational topics. My brother enriches my life.

JASON
My family is also a part of my journey as a college student. My family convinced me to keep going so I did. Who knows, maybe I’ll be free.

ANDREW KICKING HORSE MCCARTER
A college student

BERTHO GAUTHIER
Successful

AARON BENSON
A father

SAMUEL BROWN
An inspiration

DAVID LEE JR.
Found

DARA YIN

CODY
Better

LARRY TORRES
Happy

DEON WHITMORE
Peaceful

ARTHUR ANDRADE
Influential

ALL
Forgiven

DERRIC BURBIE
What stood out to me was the change within him. Not the change from a teen to a forty-year-old adult, but the entire transformation he’s undergone as a person, and his ability to allow that to come across through his words and actions. Knowing him, I have a contrast of emotions. Happy to see the joy and pride he displays when speaking about, and to ZION. Saddened to reflect upon the thought that without a change in his sentence, he may never be free again.

JUSTIN
We create our own destiny. We create our own chances.

LINDSEY
The other side of prisoners as fathers, motivators, supporters...

ALL
We are among many good fathers, grandfathers, sons, brothers, friends who are incarcerated who invest their all.

AARON BENSON
I am extremely proud to be on the same yard as

(each says the name of the person next to them in intervals).

ALL
From adversity, comes triumph.

ALLEN
Everything we do can strengthen or harm the people that are connected to us.

ROBERT PRATT
All of this puts a real face on a prisoner who is otherwise seen as a faceless number.

SAMUEL
Education is a powerful transformative tool. Not only has it transformed my thinking, it has also allowed us all to rehabilitate the image of prisoners, better yet to rehabilitate the image of people, bringing new definition to RIP. We are not incorrigible.

ARTHUR ANDRADE
There is more than meets the eye.

ALL
Imagine that.
ABOUT THE EDITORS

Dr. Kamran Afary
Dr. Afary is an assistant communication studies lecturer in the College of Arts and Letters at Cal State LA. Dr. Afary is a dedicated teacher who brings a breadth of interdisciplinary knowledge and years of experience in journalism, community activism and drama therapy to his students. He has taught more than 20 different courses in rhetoric, cultural studies and performance theory during the past decade. He has also helped to organize University-wide town hall meetings and student performance showcases. He is the author of the book, *Performance and Activism: Grassroots Discourse after the Los Angeles Rebellion of 1992*

Mariely Pozuelos
Mariely is a Mass Communications major with a newfound love for advertising and public relations. She joined the Prison BA Journal team with the hope of helping those that no longer have a voice because of their circumstances.

Shealene Sakacs
A Communications major student with a public relations and advertising as background. She wasn’t particularly interested in the mass incarceration system, but now she wants to learn more. After reading the work produced by the students in Lancaster Prison she have gained a new perspective of what it’s like on the inside.

Candy Mendoza
Candy is a Mass Communication major who's greatly interested in the entertainment industry along with feminist theory. She will be graduating in Spring 2019 and is a Dean's List recipient who is grateful to have worked as an editorial board member on Prison BA Journal.

Selene Castillo
Selene is part of an organization that is dedicated to advocating for student issues and representing the Cal State LA community. She decided to get involved in the Prison BA Journal because she wanted to contribute to the dialogue of change for the mass incarceration system. “I am happy and grateful to be part of the beginning of the Prison BA Journal”, she says.

Alfonso Peña
Styling and visuals has always been the strong suit of Alfonso. Being the creative director for this project is an extension of his love for all things design. When he heard there was an opportunity to create a journal from scratch, he couldn’t resist to be part of this amazing cause. This will be his second publication as the creative director. He hopes to make a career out of it in the near future.
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Are you interested in contributing your work for the journal? We welcome work relating to the mass incarceration system and communication studies. Work submitted to Prison BA Journal should be inclusive and not include defamatory language. The following are standards for publication that all submissions must meet:

1. All work must be original and properly credited to the authors.
2. All research regarding participants is ethical, professional, institutional, and legal. Informed consent has been obtained with limited risk presented.
3. Scholarship reported is authentic.

Papers submitted to Prison BA Journal will be peer-reviewed without bias by our panel of editors. All submissions should be accompanied by a cover letter including a 75-word biography with full contact information, including an email address.

Please send all submissions to:

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