After serving 17 years in a US state prison for murder, Douglas Thompkins acquired more than released.

But instead of using the skills he learnt in jail to be a hardened criminal when he got out, the former leader of a Chicago street gang began studying criminal justice during his life sentence - and just 18 months after his release had earned a Masters in Public Affairs and later a Doctorate in Criminology.

"Being in prison, I had the necessary skill-set to live the gangster lifestyle but when young men with sentences of 60, 80 and 100 years were coming into prison and turning to me as a role model it made me realise the impact I was having on the community," the now Assistant Professor of Sociology at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York said.

"So I began enrolling in college courses in prison and gave education a chance to make a difference in my life — and a lot of other gang members followed me." Now living in New York, Professor Thompkins has just spent three weeks sharing his knowledge of the criminal justice system with students and staff at Flinders University.

Arriving in September, the Visiting Professor taught an intensive two-week elective course to third year law students about prisoners and social control, and held several meetings with the State’s correctional officials and Social Inclusion Board.

He also delivered a public lecture on race and law enforcement at Flinders University’s city campus, drawing on his extensive research and experiences in the US to discuss the impact of law enforcement strategies on minority groups.

Born in Michigan and raised on the south side of Chicago, Professor Thompkins first became involved in the Gangster Disciples street gang in high school.

After a gang-related incident at just 16 years of age, he turned himself into police and served almost two decades in prison before crucial evidence was released to prove he did not directly cause the victim’s death.

Professor Thompkins returned to the US on October 9 following his work with the Flinders Law School.
Why choose to study at Flinders University?

- Flinders graduates were ranked ahead of all interstate and other South Australian University graduates in terms of the overall quality of graduates.
- Of all Flinders bachelor degree graduates who were seeking employment in 2009, over 90% were employed within four months of completing their degree.
- We are putting students in touch with potential employers - every student has the opportunity to participate in degree related experiences and our Careers Service listed over 7000 graduate positions last year.
- Flinders fosters strong links between teaching and research, consistently ranking among Australia’s top universities on a per capita basis for research spending.
- Flinders has won many teaching awards including eight awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning in 2009.

Why choose to study at Flinders Law School?

**Staff**

The Law School’s academic staff are active researchers, many with national or international reputations in their fields. They are involved in a range of external activities that regularly bring them into contact with the legal profession and the broader community. The Law School prides itself on its friendly, relaxed atmosphere and commitment to high quality teaching and scholarship.

**GDLP**

Our Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice (LLB/LP) students gain knowledge and skills relevant to almost all applications of legal knowledge, not just legal practice. A financial benefit of the Legal Practice component being integrated with the LLB is that students become qualified to practice without having to pay upfront fees for the final part of their training. That is, the Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice is included in our degree.

**Practical Skills**

Flinders Law School’s emphasis on the practical application of the law and its function in society has expanded the opportunity for teaching staff, graduates and researchers to take part in related activities across national and international boundaries. For example, the quality of the Criminal Justice major has led the school’s Criminal Justice team being ranked among the top five groups in this sector.
Globalisation: A Boon to Crime and Terrorism

The means to combat the illegal economy already exist, but curbing global money laundering demands co-operative international action by politicians that is unlikely to occur, according to economist and author Loretta Napoleoni.

Dr Napoleoni (pictured), who spoke to a seminar organised by the Flinders Law School on October 25, is an expert on the financial aspects of transnational crime and terrorism and acts as an adviser to European governments. She has also written on the economic rise of China and the transformation of the world economy by globalisation.

Dr Napoleoni said that the ‘black’ economy comprises a sophisticated global network with a value she estimates to be in the trillions of dollars. “It is highly integrated and is taking place parallel with, and feeding into, the legal economy,” she said.

So far, she says she has seen little evidence of willingness to initiate the co-ordinated international legislative response needed to halt the illegal movement of money.

“Each country pursues its own interests and is setting up its own anti-money laundering legislation – because of that, crime is winning and I think it will continue to win,” Dr Napoleoni said. “Perhaps the only solution is to have a sort of business ethic, a culture where people don’t do such things, but this would require a very different approach to the current one.”

“In Italy, for example, there is now a policy to pardon tax evaders. In reality, this is rewarding people who have broken the law, so we are clearly sending the wrong message to the community.”

Dr Napoleoni said significant steps to curtail the illegal movement of cash could be taken by rolling back deregulation. “Everyone realises that this is exactly what we need, but nobody wants to do it; so again, it all comes back to politics.”

She said that most people continue to underrate the impact of globalisation on their lives. “It’s complex to understand because most people live their lives at a local level, but definitely for crime, terrorism and the illegal economy, globalisation has been an absolute blessing.”

Dr Napoleoni’s visit was co-sponsored by the Flinders Law School and:

Further information about Dr Napoleoni can be found at [www.lorettanapoleoni.net](http://www.lorettanapoleoni.net)

New Academic Staff Appointments

Angela Melville holds a PhD in Sociology and Anthropology from the University of Newcastle, Australia. She started her career as a researcher at the Justice Research Centre in Sydney, looking at legal services in family law. She moved to Newcastle (Aust) as a Research Fellow and Deputy Director at the Justice Policy Research Centre, and focused on third party compensation for motor accidents. She then relocated to the UK, returning to work on legal services in family law and legal aid at the Newcastle Centre for Family Studies, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, before taking up a lectureship at the University of Manchester. Her recent research has involved investigating the experiences of clinical negligence claims (Nuffield Foundation), possible impact of no-fault compensation for clinical negligence claims (Scottish Executive), professional negligence claims against solicitors (Scotland Legal Complaints Commission) and the structure of the Scottish Bar (Faculty of Advocates, Scotland). Angela is currently the Scientific Director of the International Institute for Sociology of Law, in Oñati, Spain, and is also an Executive Member of the International Sociology Association’s Research Committee on Sociology of Law. She teaches socio-legal research methods, and apart from research methods, her research interests include sociology of the legal profession, legal aid, children and the law, and negligence, compensation and insurance.
President's Message

This final edition of Verbatim for 2011 marks the end of another academic year at Flinders University. For many of you, this year will be your final year of study and the start of your professional career. As I am sure many of you will be aware, getting a job as a lawyer is extremely competitive. Fortunately, the benefit of having a law degree is that it opens up career paths outside the traditional lawyer route. FLSA has always promoted the vast array of careers that are available to law graduates. The 2011 Legal Careers Guide is largely dedicated to ‘non-corporate’ legal careers and the Jurist issues an annual careers edition with information on alternative careers.

I recently came across an article in Lawyers Weekly titled ‘Career path outside of a traditional law firm’. The article highlights that the options available to young lawyers are limited only by imagination. Furthermore, a few years post-admission experience or postgraduate study can widen the options even further. Some possible options available include:

> Legal recruitment or human resources
> Ministerial advisor
> Politics
> Academia
> Company secretary
> Legal publishing
> Professional service marketing or management.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FLSA Committee of 2011 for their hard work and commitment to enhance the university experience for Flinders law students. The Committee have been busy all year working behind the scenes to keep all the annual competitions, activities, publications and careers events running smoothly.

We wish you all the best with final assessments and for those returning next year, we hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable break from classes. For those finishing their degrees, we wish you all the very best and look forward to working with you in the future.

Regards

Shae Roberts
Acting President and
Vice President (Careers and Education)
Faculty Awards for Excellence in Teaching - congratulations!

Congratulations to Dr Marinella Marmo and Jenny Richards for their recent achievement of being the successful recipients of the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards.

University Excellence in Teaching Awards serve the purposes of:
> recognising and rewarding teaching excellence
> encouraging teaching excellence through this recognition
> ensuring staff development activities relating to teaching
> and promoting to both the Flinders and outside community that this university is proud of its academic staff and that they perform at national and international standards.

The Faculty of Education, Humanities and Law Awards for Excellence in Teaching are designed to reward staff for excellence in teaching within the faculty, and to encourage winners to apply for the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching later in the year and possibly Australian Teaching and Learning Council (formerly Carrick) Awards in the next year.

Dr Marinella Marmo was presented a teaching award for instilling a passion for research in Criminal Justice at Honours level that can change career prospects.

Jenney Richards was presented a teaching award for in utilising an integrated pastoral approach to teaching law which facilitates student achievement and enhances personal development.

FLINDERS LAW SCHOOL
SHORT FILM COMP

enter by:
creating a 2 minute film that showcases “life in the law school” ideas for what to include: interviews with other students, a tour of the law school, footage of students studying/socialising, law school/FLSA events etc.
submit your entry to: claire.treacy@flinders.edu.au by 16 december 2011

WIN $250
As a high school student, I always thought that I would end up with a business oriented future. However, after finishing secondary school, I found myself at Flinders Law School studying a double degree in Law and International Studies. It was my interest in learning French which had led me to the International Studies table at enrolment day.

I was relieved to find that not having the initial ambition to become a lawyer is common amongst most first year students. As time progressed, I found myself attracted to certain areas of the law, which saw me elect subjects more towards the public international and constitutional fields of study. The rise of China as a regional power as a main staple in both law and international studies discourse resulted in me enrolling in Mandarin classes rather than French. Furthermore, involvement in the Law Students Society from a social perspective then saw me enter student politics, sitting on the Flinders University Student Association Council in 4th year. By graduation I was working in local government and planning law in Adelaide. By the time of my admission, I had my Bachelor in Laws with Legal Practice (a unique attribute to Flinders at the time), a Bachelor in International Studies and an Honours Degree in Asian Studies. It was an eclectic range of qualifications and experiences and it is something for which I am grateful to Flinders. It was a university which catered to a variety of needs from my friends who wished to enter the corporate sector from day one and now sit in reputable firms throughout the world to those who have pursued individual interests in criminal, civil or international fields. It was through taking advantage of opportunities which Flinders offered which in turn enabled me to find direction and pursue a career. If I was to give advice to anyone studying or thinking of studying law it would be to see it through and never pass up on extra curricular opportunities. In my case, it was through some community work with the Red Cross that I gained exposure to what legal officers do in the Australian Defence Force, my current profession.

I joined the Royal Australian Navy as a legal officer in 2004. Since then, I have been able to pursue my interest in public and international law as well as Asian studies. I have also been able to branch out into other areas of interest including military history. After further study, I was able to fill the role of the lead history lecturer at the Royal Australian Naval College in addition to my other duties. I currently work in the field of discipline law which regulates the conduct of ADF members through the court martial and defence force magistrate system. Next year I will be going on to undertake further language study before taking up a posting overseas.

Flinders University Law School provided me a means by which I was able to create my own path towards a professional career and enjoy myself along the way. It transformed a Francophile who was uninterested in law into a public law professional with a strong interest in Asia.

*Lieutenant Commander Michael Paes RAN 2004 Flinders Law School graduate*
New Administrative Staff Appointments

Cathryn Salt has been appointed the position as an Administrative/Student Services Officer and will be working in the Student Services Area of the Law School up until August 2012. Cathryn’s main responsibilities will be the production and distribution of topic materials, maintaining the Student Services Area, FLO maintenance and answering enquiries from students and the public.

Cathryn was previously employed by Housing SA where she worked as a Customer Service Officer. Prior to this she worked as a temp where she experienced a variety of administrative positions across different government departments. Her experience in the administrative and customer service field will bring many positive aspects to the Student Services Team.

The complex and often turbulent relationship between police commissioners and the governments in which they serve was the main focus of a public lecture hosted by the Flinders Law School and TAFE SA - Justice and Policing Studies.

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The event, held at TAFE SA’s city campus, is named after former Queensland Police Commissioner Ray Whitrod, who resigned from the job in 1976 as a protest against government interference in policing.

Using examples from Australia and other common-law countries, Professor Stenning debated whether governments have a legitimate say in the undertakings of the police force or whether police commissioners should act independently and without restraint.

Professor Stenning discussed a number of conflicts between police commissioners and their governments in Australia, including the 1970 South Australian public dispute between Labor Premier Don Dunstan and Police Commissioner John McKinnon over how the police should have handled an anti-war protest planned for the streets of Adelaide, and that between Commissioner Harold Salisbury and the same government in 1978 over access to information concerning intelligence files.

There have been numerous cases throughout history where governments have inappropriately interfered with policing yet we don’t seem any closer to resolving these issues,” Professor Stenning, based in Griffith’s School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, said.

So what extent do governments have a legitimate right to direct police commissioners and where is the line between improper interference in policing and legitimate demands for accountability?

“I want to gauge how we view the parameters of these relationships and how we can avoid these types of conflicts.”

During the lecture, Professor Stenning also discussed how police commissioners can be caught up in exploitation for political advantage, using the recent controversy leading to the resignation of former Victorian Police Commissioner Simon Overland as an example.

The case in question involved allegations, investigated by the Ombudsman, that Overland had allowed the release of incomplete crime statistics which made the former Labor-based Brumby Government appear more favourable to voters right before a State election campaign fought heavily on law and order.

“Given the Overland case is happening now, I’m not just talking about history but something that reoccurs time and time again and remains a very topical issue.”

Professor Stenning started his career at the Centre of Criminology at Toronto University, Canada, in 1968 then moved on to become Professor and Director of the Institute of Criminology at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, from 2003 to 2005. More recently, he worked as Professor of Criminology at Keele University in the UK before taking on the role at Griffith.

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Student Experience - Heath McCallum

As part the topic 'International Protection of Human Rights,' students have the opportunity to run a two hour seminar instead of writing another essay. We chose to explore the human rights situation in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya - the largest refugee camp in the world with over 400 000 inhabitants.

We spent the first hour on the Right to Food and used a role playing exercise to explore the path of food from donor countries to the refugees. Students were assigned into interest groups - the UN, USAid, World Vision and the Kenyan Government - to debate how the food should be distributed.

In the second hour, the same groups explored the Right to Land and debated whether the camp should be expanded and at whose expense.

Having the chance to run a seminar was fantastic opportunity to delve deeply into the human rights issues in Dadaab. It was great fun and a good break from the usual essays and exams.

- Heath McCallum, Flinders Law Student

"The students set up tents, woodpiles and dressed the part of refugees. This created a marvellous atmosphere in the room and helped everyone to focus on the plight faced by refugees in large camps where there is a constant influx of people and little security."

- Tina Dolgopol, Topic Coordinator, Human Rights

Story & Testimonial Requests

The Flinders Law School staff are currently looking for student and alumni stories to use on the website and in various promotional publications.

If you love studying at Flinders Law School, have had an interesting career or are using your qualification in a non-conventional way, then we would love to hear from you!

Contact Claire Treacy on 8201 5028 or email claire.treacy@flinders.edu.au