

ACJS NOW

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Issue 2

Dear ACJS Members:

It is exciting to launch the second issue of ACJS NOW as the new editor. Like most of you, I am really looking forward to the upcoming conference in San Diego. I hope you're able to attend as many sessions as possible, including the Author Meets Critics session, which will provide an exciting opportunity to meet and critically discuss *The Criminalization of Mental Illness*, which is coauthored by Risdon Slate and Former ACJS President, William W. Johnson.

Also, keep in mind that March has been designated as the month for criminal justice. Did you know that roughly 3 million employees work in the justice system at all levels of government? As educators and practitioners, we should take advantage of the criminal justice month and use it as an opportunity to empower others. Thanks for your support, and I look forward to seeing you in sunny San Diego!

Sincerely

Robert M. Worley Editor



See you in "America's Finest City" in February!



2010 Annual Meeting: In the Know Now

Dates: February 23-27, 2010

Location: San Diego, CA
Town and County Resort
and Convention Center

Theme:

"Beyond Our Boundaries: The Inclusivity
of Criminal Justice Sciences"

See www.acjs.org for program details

FROM ACJS PRESIDENT JANICE JOSEPH

At the 2010 Conference in San Diego, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) will add a new section, Victimology, to the organization. This new section signifies the multifaceted and diverse nature of ACJS as well as the significant growth in the field of victimology. In 1973 the first international conference on victimology was held in Jerusalem. Thirty-six years later, the success of the Thirteenth (triennial) International Symposium on Victimology held in Japan in August 2009 indicated that victimology has established itself as a dynamic field in criminal justice and criminology.

The number of victimology courses has increased tremendously over the years. Initially, most courses focused on the victims of crime and their role in the criminal justice system. However, "today, these courses are much more sophisticated and now provide students and practitioners with information from more advanced studies" (Dussich, 2003, p. 4). The number of textbooks to facilitate the teaching of victimology courses has also increased with recent publications such as *The Victims of Crime* (2009) by Robert Jerin and Laura Moriarty, *Crime Victims: An Introduction to Victimology* (2009, 7th Edition) by **Andrew Karmen**, *Forensic Victimology: Examining Violent Crime Victims in Investigative and Legal Contexts* (2008) by Brent E. Turvey and Wayne Petherick, and the *Handbook of Victims and Victimology* (2007) by Sandra Walklate (Ed.). The victimology journals and newsletters, such as *International Perspectives in Victimology*, *Journal International de Victimologie (International Journal of Victimology)*, *International Review of Victimology*, *Newsletter Intervict*, and *Victimologist* provide venues where victimologists can publish their research.

The growth of victimology is also evident in the establishment of the World Society of Victimology (WSV) with Special Category consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and the Council of Europe. In addition, there are national victimology organizations in Croatia, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Serbia, Spain, and the United States. The **International Victimology Institute** (INTERVICT) of Tilburg University in the Netherlands and the Tokiwa International Victimology Institute in Mito, Japan conduct international interdisciplinary research in the field of victimology. The World Society of Victimology and INTERVICT are currently working on a UN Convention on Justice and Support for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power

As a new section of ACJS, Victimology will have the opportunity to continue to advance victimological research, enhance the professional image of professors and practitioners in the field of victimology, and provide a venue for the interchange of ideas and teaching experiences among victimologists in the United States. As the President of ACJS and a professor who teaches courses in victimology and conducts victimological research, I welcome this new section into our international organization.

This new section will offer a range of activities during the 2010 conference in San Diego. Please consult the conference program for these activities.

See you in San Diego!!!

"J" FOR JUSTICE

I recently spoke with Adam Berlin and Jeffrey Heiman. Both are faculty members at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and both are interested in issues related to justice. Interestingly, and perhaps surprisingly, these scholars are in the Department of English. They have assembled a literary journal known simply as the *J Journal*. This publication comes out twice a year, and is the only journal to present its analyses of contemporary justice issues through creative work.

The journal consists of short stories, poems, and personal narratives. "We look for good character-driven human dramas," Berlin said. "We're not so interested in cop, shoot-em up pieces," though he added that some of the pieces have been written by criminal justice practitioners. Attorneys, police officers, and even the family members of police officers have contributed to the *J Journal*. And the journal regularly publishes stories and poetry from inmates.

Heiman stated that the journal does not accept submissions from within the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. When asked why, he explained, "We know that there are some very talented writers here, but this is done to avoid the appearance of playing favorites or from having to reject the work of people who work here." Both Berlin and Heiman agreed that the rejection rate is comparable to other literary journals. For every issue, they receive between 250 and 300 submissions. Only about 10% of these submissions are published.

I asked Berlin and Heiman how many people worked on the *J Journal*. I was surprised to learn that it is by and large a two-person operation. "The College provides us money for printing, and the graphics department helps us out, but mainly it's just the two of us working on this journal," Berlin explained. Both individuals obviously enjoy a productive partnership. "In the end, we both want the pieces to be the best, fullest, and truest they can be," Heiman explained. "Often we have back and forth correspondence with authors who are right on the cusp of being accepted." I found this to be extraordinary, considering that typically most literary editors send only an acceptance or rejection notice for each manuscript they receive.

The *J Journal*, which launched in the Spring of 2008, has had four issues published. The latest issue even incorporates photography. Clearly, the editors are not afraid to take innovative approaches in order to understand the justice system. This publication has the potential to be a unique pedagogical tool; professors at John Jay College have already had their students read personal narratives, poetry, and prose from both criminal justice practitioners and inmates. It is also a new venue for criminal justice scholars wishing to take a less traditional approach. For more information, please visit, www.jjournal.org

ACJS MEMBERSHIP

For many of us, it is that time of year to renew our ACJS membership. For your convenience, this can be done on-line through the membership section of www.acjs.org. The membership continues to grow. Did you know that in 2009, there were 2,860 members? There is every reason to believe that membership will flourish for 2010. If you have colleagues who are not members, please encourage them to participate.

Also, you may want to consider becoming a lifetime member of ACJS. The cost is \$1125. While this is substantial, it will pay for itself within 15 years. Also, if someone is a lifetime member, he or she does not need to worry about whether or not the membership fees will increase. Finally, a program can also become an ACJS Institutional Member. More information is available by clicking on "membership" on the ACJS website.

FIRST VP JAMES MARQUART TALKS ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF PARTNERING UP WITH BUSINESS

James Marquart, Associate Provost and Director of the Criminology Program at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), has a tale to tell. Recently, he and other professors at UTD were able to convince a restaurant, Rockfish Seafood Grill, to donate 10% of sales on the first Monday of every month to the Blue Fund at UTD. When asked to describe what the Blue Fund is, Marquart became very enthusiastic. He explained that this is a special program designed to provide scholarship funds to peace officers who are working toward a criminology degree. "This is a way for all of us to show our appreciation for students working in law enforcement," he said. Professor Marquart knows first-hand what it is like to work full time and go to school. Long ago, he was a Texas prison guard at the Eastham Unit while working on his Ph.D. in Sociology. During his tenure as a guard, Marquart successfully defended himself against a physically aggressive inmate and quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant. Marquart's mentor and dissertation advisor, Dr. Benjamin Crouch soon advised him to quit the prison, since he was getting "too close to the fire." Given his practical experience, it is no wonder that Marquart has a special type of empathy for law enforcement officers who are taking Criminology and Criminal Justice classes. In fact, he stated: "A meal at Rockfish in support of these students' education is a way to demonstrate that we are grateful for what they do for us." It is inspiring to see a university work with a local business to support students who are law enforcement officers. Keep up the great work, UTD!



ACJS and ASC Unite on Public Policy Efforts

In September 2009, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) and the American Society of Criminology (ASC) joined together to form the Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy Coalition. The Coalition retained the services of The Raben Group to assist in developing and executing a federal legislative strategy.

The Raben Group is a Washington, D.C., "inside the Beltway" consulting company that assists in bringing policy oriented groups together in a coalition network for the facilitation of policy development. The Raben group provides "outside the box" thinking for clients in the corporate, public, and governmental sectors.

The initial focus of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy Coalition has been to support the nominations of **Laurie Robinson** to the position of Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs; **Dr. John Laub** as the Director of the National Institute of Justice; and **Dr. James P. Lynch** as the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics and to provide recommendations for strengthening Senate Bill 714 and to support its passage. SB 714 is Senator Jim Webb's (D-VA) bill for the creation of a National Criminal Justice Commission which will review every aspect of the American Criminal Justice System in order to make recommendations for reform.

ACJS and ASC are currently combining their efforts with assistance from The Raben Group and COSSA to develop a structure and procedure to regularize the input of the social and behavioral science community on the research priorities of NIJ, BJS and OJJDP.

For more information about SB 714 see:
<http://webb.senate.gov/email/criminaljusticereform.html>

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REGALIA COLOR

For those of you who may not know, the Criminal Justice/Criminology academic color is "midnight blue," which is a dark navy blue. As the official color of the degree, it should be used for in graduations and honors convocations. Specifically, it should be used on mortal tassels (where custom dictates that color of the tassel reflect the degree granted) and on the trim of master's and doctoral Hoods (as custom dictates).

Midnight blue is also utilized for any other academic regalia/publications where the color of the degree is represented. Given this information, it is should not come as a surprise that the letterhead of this very newsletter uses midnight blue.

Midnight blue was chosen because this color symbolizes the following characteristics thought to represent the best in the field of criminology/criminal justice: trustworthy, professional, respectable, and dignified.

ONE LAST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2009 ACJS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Q&A on Scholarly Productivity with an Awardee

In 2009, Geoff Alpert won the Bruce Smith Sr. Award; J. Mitchell Miller won the Academy Fellow Award; and Mary K. Stohr won the Founder's Award. Also, Michelle Oberman and Cheryl Meyer won the award for best book, while Jennifer Hartman, Michael Turner, Leah Daigle, M. Lyn Exum, and Francis Cullen won the William L. Simon/Anderson Publishing Outstanding Paper Award. Tompson Nguyen won the Outstanding Student Paper Award, and John D. Burrow and Robert Apel won the MacNamara Award.

Finally, SAGE Junior Faculty Teaching Awards went to: Kristie R. Blevins, Lynn S. Urban, Jennifer Wareham, Ashley G. Blackburn, Kelly Cheesman Dial, Danielle McDonald, Elizabeth C. McMullen, Shannon K. Fowler, Wesley G. Jennings, Margaret E. Leigey, Robert G. Morris, Carlos E. Posadas, Alison S. Burke, Rebecca J. Howell, Damian J. Martinez, Christie Gardiner, and Jessica P. Hodge.

I recently spoke with Dr. Mitchell Miller about winning the Academy Fellow Award. The conversation proved to

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TO:

ONE LAST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2009 ACJS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Q&A on Scholarly Productivity with Dr. Mitchell Miller, ACJS Fellow

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be very interesting, and I hope that some of the information conveyed here might be helpful to doctoral students or junior faculty members who are at the beginning of their careers.

RW: Do you have a research strategy?

MM: My research agenda is always changing. Right when I think a plan is set for an academic year or even a semester, things like invitations to contribute book chapters or an article to a thematic journal issue and guest talks redefine timeframes. In an odd sort of way, there is a down-side to generating a high quantity of pieces in that highly prioritized projects are constantly being put on the backburner due to impending deadlines - it seems like almost everything I do is deadline driven. In short, my strategy is to work hard, focus on details, be my own hardest critic, and keep organized. Being overcommitted can be stress-inducing but all the more so when things are in a disarray. I can usually get back on track by prioritizing what's to be done in the short term and making sure I am aware of approaching deadlines.

RW: Do you feel you are addicted to research?

MM: As the former Director of Graduate Studies in Drugs & Addictions at the University of South Carolina, I would hesitate to use the word "addicted." But, I might agree with a characterization of "dependency." If I go too long without writing, I start to feel stressed and irritable because I know the clock keeps ticking and another deadline is approaching. I dislike initial drafts of a lot of what I do but will admit that figuring out the solution to a tough problem is very satisfying.

RW: Do you ever get *writer's block*?

MM: All the time. Sometimes it's from mental fatigue. When I have low creative energy, I try to turn my attention to doing busy work until I feel refreshed. Sometimes, I get writer's block from frustration. If you have too many projects in play, this can be frustrating.

Apparently, even the best scholars are not immune to suffering bouts of inactivity. Perhaps one lesson that can be learned here, is for young scholars not to get discouraged if they temporarily lose their "mojo."