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American Society of Criminology

Jay Albanese

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1995-96 President's Report

March, 1996
Las Vegas, Nevada

Traditionally, the president summarizes his achievements of the past year in this report, so this is guaranteed to be a very short address. Please allow me five minutes of your time.

In some ways, I feel like the patient who was told by his physician he had three months to live. When I told him I couldn’t pay the bill, the physician gave me another three months.

ACJS is now the largest association of criminologists, criminal justice educators, and criminal justice professionals in North America, and perhaps the world. It would be nice to take credit for this, but our current status is due largely to the hard work of my predecessors, the Executive Board, and our committees.

Being the largest organization of our kind entails an obligation. Most of our members are involved in criminal justice education to one degree or another, and minimum standards for higher education programs in the field have been a concern of mine for quite some time. Consensus regarding substantive content, faculty credentials, student expectations, and administrative support are necessary to keep our field moving forward, and not backsliding in an era of diminishing resources and exploitation of those unprepared for it. I have spoken about minimum standards in every forum I could find (as some of you have heard), and more than 100 colleges and universities have requested, and are reviewing, the standards already adopted in the northeast region. Mittie Southerland has served this year as chair of an ad hoc committee on minimum standards to assemble reaction from across the country.

What the standards ultimately become is less important to me than our continued discussion of what we ought to be doing, rather than trying to justify what we’re already doing. The present is simply not good enough for the future. It never was. I was once asked for my outlook for the future in three or four years. I replied, “There’s no point. In three or four years the future will have already arrived.” It’s time we stopped worrying about it, and started preparing for it.

Putting ACJS on the World Wide Web this year is also a significant step in the evolution of ACJS. If we truly wish to internationalize as a professional organization, there is no other way to do it so effectively.

With the vital help of Mike Thomson, our mission, our sections, sample conference papers, and a directory of related sources on the Internet should help make ACJS synonymous with what’s going on in criminal justice.

Our first ACJS Media Guide is currently being edited and will be published during 1996. This guide will make the work of our members more prominent, provide greater media access to what’s going on in the field, and help us do a better job of public education. So the public starts to ask for what they really need, rather than what the politicians tell them they need. Special thanks go to Trey Williams and Mike Israel for their efforts to bring attention to the visibility of ACJS in the public policy arena.

Diversity is the key to the recent growth and attraction of the Academy, and I have done a great deal to highlight its importance this year. With the help of my Program Chair, Lee Ross, our program committee, keynote speakers, professional development seminars, and the program itself may be the most diverse in content and participation in our history. I focused primarily on pedagogical issues in our newly-titled professional development seminars, inasmuch as that is the one activity that touches the vast majority of our members.

To keep our dues and registration fees lower than most comparable organizations, I have initiated several ideas this year to increase revenues, from an ACJS sponsored VISA and MasterCard, to the coffee mugs you saw at the registration desk. I appointed an ad hoc committee, chaired by Harry Allen, which has provided other ideas that the Board may act on in the future to keep us competitive financially.

Perhaps my most long-lasting contribution as president, other than canvas tote bags, ACJS pens, and nametags on a string, was the successful recommendation and selection of Orlando as the site of our 1999 annual meeting. I thank the Executive Board for their concurrence on that one.

We have continued this year many important initiatives begun in prior years that deserve your continued support. We offer free one-year memberships to new PhDs each year. We have a faculty development program to assist new faculty members in the field link-up with more established scholars in the field, three affirmative action scholarships each year, an annual student scholarship, a bi-annual graduate guide, two journals, a monograph series with continued on page 31.

Oral History Project

Cooperation between the major professional organizations in criminal justice/criminology has been a goal of presidents Jay Albanese (ACJS) and Freda Adler (ASC). This desire for cooperation, combined with their mutual interest in the documentation of significant scholarly and educational contributions to the field, has led to the appointment of a joint committee for the purposes of developing a comprehensive national archive of criminal justice and criminology.

The archive will be housed at the Newhouse Library at Rutgers University. Materials will be made available to other institutions through the development of a consortium or through the worldwide library network. The project has three major goals:

1. Establish a list of major criminal justice scholars and teachers in order to document their contributions on videotape.
2. Identify existing films and tapes which have showcased scholars of the past.
3. Identify, collect, and preserve original written documents, lecture notes, and manuscripts of historical interest to criminal justice.

This project brings together many of the prominent figures in our field in an effort of major magnitude. The committee includes Ronald Akers, Dorothy Bracey, Albert Cohen, Francis Cullen, Carl Klockars, John Hagan, Donna Hale, John Laub, Frank Morn, Gerhard Mueller, and Charles Welford.

It will be the responsibility of the committee to:
1. Recommend persons to be singled out for scholarship and/or teaching excellence.
2. Establish priorities for documentation.
3. Advise the project director regarding possible future funding sources and assist in production grant proposals.
4. Assist the project director in implementation when necessary.

The project director is Franklyn Taylor Robbins, presently visiting fellow at Rutgers.

The collection process is designed to be ongoing and will be limited only by the availability of implementation funding. The project director solicits your assistance and reminds you that preservation of our intellectual heritage is the common responsibility of all.
Announcements

Alfred R Lindesmith Award

The Law and Society Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems has announced Dennis D Loo as the recipient of the 1996 Alfred R Lindesmith Award for the best paper on a law and society topic presented by an untenured faculty member or student at the SSSP Annual Meeting.

Mr Loo is a graduate student in sociology at the University of California-Santa Cruz. His paper title was "Crime Scare and Media Frames in the 1990s", which was presented at the 1995 annual meeting in Washington, DC. The Lindesmith Award Committee commended Mr Loo’s paper for its “documentation of the distorted picture that media coverage often gives of crime rate trends”.

Call for Papers

The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice is soliciting manuscripts for a special issue highlighting “Crime and Mental Health". Contributions are invited which deal with theory, research or policy in this area, including but not limited to topics such as the insanity plea, involuntary commitment, policing, and treating the mentally ill offender.

Manuscripts should be 10-15 pages in APA style with four copies sent to Thomas O'Connor, Southeastern Louisiana University, Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, SLU 686, Hammond, LA 70402.

APPA

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) was recently awarded a $300,000 grant by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment to study Capacity Building in the Juvenile Justice System: Addressing the Need for Substance Abuse Treatment. These funds will allow APPA to identify exemplary juvenile substance abuse prevention and intervention programs and develop and deliver related training and technical assistance to practicing professionals.

APPA also received a grant from the office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to develop a Compendium of promising victim-related practices and programs within probation and parole agencies. The primary purpose of the project is to identify innovative policies, procedures, and programs developed by individual probation and supervising parole agencies to respond to the needs of crime victims, and to encourage their replication through dissemination. The major product of this project will be a Compendium of Promising Victim-Related Strategies and Practices in Probation and Parole.

A comprehensive report on sex offender supervision practices in probation and parole agencies across the United States identifies treatment as the cornerstone of a new model for sex offender supervision. The Containment Approach proposed by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, author of the report, is “a management method grounded in clinical research literature and the day-to-day experience of many criminal justice and treatment professionals. It prioritizes accountability, on the part of the offender and the criminal justice system.” The manual includes detailed accounts of programs and practices operating in several state and local jurisdictions. It was sponsored by the National Institute of Justice and published by APPA. The price of the manual is $30.00. Order to please write APPA, Publications Department, at the address below.

For information on these projects, contact the American Probation and Parole Association, c/o The Council of State Governments, Box 11910, Lexington, KY 40578-1910; (606) 244-8001 (fax).

National Consortium for Research on Violence

In response to concern about violence in the U S, the National Science Board has approved a plan by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to award $12.1 million to Carnegie Mellon University to establish a National Consortium for Research on Violence.

“The consortium will generate fundamental knowledge about the causes and consequences of violence. It will not only provide new data, but it will also integrate substantial but fragmented studies, theory, and research methods into a useful body of knowledge” says Cora Marrett, NSF’s assistant director for social, behavioral, and economics sciences.

The University plans to assemble a team of 39 researchers from 24 research institutions in 11 states, Canada, and four European countries. The National Consortium for Research on Violence will be directed by Alfred Blumstein, the J Erik Jonsson Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research in the University’s H John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management.

Fulbright Scholar Awards

• U S Faculty and Professionals: Opportunities for lecturing or advanced research in over 135 countries are available to college and university faculty and professionals outside academia. U S citizenship and the PhD or comparable professional qualifications required. For lecturing awards, university or college teaching experience is expected. Foreign language skills are needed for some countries, but most lecturing assignments are in English.

Deadline for lecturing or research grants for 1997-98 is August 1, 1996. Contact the USIA Fulbright Senior Scholar Program, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 3007 Tilden Street NW, Suite 5M, Box GNEWS, Washington, DC 20008-3009; (202) 686-7877.

• U K Police Studies: The United Kingdom Fulbright Commission in London has announced that professional fellowships in the field of police studies will be offered during 1997-98. Two American police professionals will be selected and they will be provided the opportunity to pursue extended training and professional development in the United Kingdom. Applicants must hold U S citizenship and have a minimum of five years professional experience. The award is appropriate for emerging, mid-career, or senior domestic police officers and police administrators with the rank of sworn sergeant and above who have had traditional experience in public law enforcement.

Applicants must be currently employed by a domestic police department or equivalent professional organization and be recommended by supervisory staff within the department. It is expected that the successful candidate will arrange a paid leave-of-absence and have financial support from the department as a condition of the grant.

Applications for the 1997-98 fellowship, including reference forms and special instructions, may be obtained by calling (202) 686-7878; e-mail: WE6@ciesnet.cies.org; or writing U K Police Studies Program, USIA Fulbright Senior Scholar Program, 3007 Tilden Street NW, Suite 5M, Box F-UKPS, Washington, DC 20008-3009.