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A Submission to the DWC Newsletter, DivisioNews

American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime.

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Chris: Here is an entry for the DivisioNews. I hope it's okay.

As you have probably heard, Carole Garrison is now on United Nations assignment in Cambodia and has left the chairship of the Division in my hands while she is gone. A few days after she left I received a bulging looseleaf binder attesting to the high level of activity of the division during her months as chair. Just trying to keep up in Carole's wake will keep me more than busy until the meetings in November.

Since taking over as acting chair, I have been mostly involved with nominations, for posts both within the division and the general association. We are in the final stages of putting together a slate of nominees for vice-chair, secretary/treasurer, and executive counselors and plan to hold elections in early fall. Please make sure to vote! Also, if you are interested in holding a division office, please send your name to me at 12 Sparks Building, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802. It may not get on the ballot for this year, but we will need a good slate for the next few years as well.

It would take me the whole newsletter to tell you about all the activities division members are involved in, so here I will just mention some highlights. We have been working with the ASC board to work out an official society policy on sexual harassment and to obtain more direct involvement in the workings of the general board. Several panels at the upcoming meetings are being sponsored by the division, as well as a workshop Chris Rasche is organizing on issues of teaching women and crime. Jane Foraker-Thompson and her committee have put together a dynamite list of nominees for ASC fellows awards. With Susan Krumnolz's help, we plan to have a second "annual" division luncheon at the ASC meetings, so mark your calendars now for Friday noon. Committees and task forces are hard at work on other important issues, including greater involvement of underrepresented groups, including women of color and all students in our division, focusing on concerns of non-university feminist criminologists, and heightening awareness of sexual harassment and what can be done about it within the division and the society in general. This is not an exhaustive list; there are many of us working on issues of great importance. Come to the November general meeting and find out more about their work, and plan to get involved in one or more projects.

It is my sense that with the retrenchments and "downsizing" at many colleges and universities, and with the recent social acceptability of a "backlash" mentality, feminist and many women criminologists may be less support for the work we do than before. In my view, we are in a critical time. In times like
these, organizations like the division become that much more important, both to argue the case for women and women's concerns to the field, and to give us the support and affirmation we may not be getting in our departments, offices or agencies. Please help us help ourselves by getting involved in division work. I look forward to seeing you in November.
March 2, 1993

Professor Christine Rasche  
Criminal Justice  
FAX #: (904) 646-2703

Dear Chris:

Here is some copy for the newsletter.

Report from the Division Chair:

I have recently returned from an exciting and revitalizing trip to Vietnam and Thailand (see article on p. ?) and was pleased to return to find many members of our division hard at work on various projects. There is much to be done, however, and enough work for any and all who are interested in getting involved in Division activities. One strong theme to emerge from the Division meeting in New Orleans was the importance of continuing to revitalize ourselves by encouraging the involvement of new members and fostering diversity within our membership. There were many good ideas exchanged within the meeting and in later hallway conversations among members for expanding participation and involvement. I and all members of the Division board are eager to hear your suggestions for inviting and including new members and encouraging voices of people who identify as persons of color, lesbians, gays and bisexuals, students, junior faculty members and researchers, and any other group who has not had center stage in Division business.

We will be trying some of the ideas proposed at our next year's meeting in Phoenix (see article on p. ?). There will be more opportunities for us to meet for smaller blocks of time in (hopefully) a more interactive framework that will allow more of us to actively participate in Division discussions. I and the board are still much in the planning stages of these meeting activities, however, so we are very open to your suggestions and requests. If you would like to organize an interest group to meet during our first business meeting (Thursday from 8:00 to 9:00 AM) or if you have other ideas, please write or call.
Meanwhile, there has been a flurry of activity lately among division committees responsible for advocacy for women and our members in general ASC business. In anticipation of an ASC board meeting scheduled for early April, the chairs of the nominations, awards, and fellows committees have been coordinating their efforts in support of women. Frieda Adler, who has agreed to chair the awards committee, conducted her own poll of our members with FAX numbers listed on our membership list and generated a strong list of nominees for the four major ASC awards. Virginia Morris, chair of the nominating committee, has been working with committee members to put together a list of nominees for ASC committee assignments that has been sent to Jerome Skolnick, the next ASC president. Jane Foreaker Thompson, chair of the fellow committee, has recommended three members of the division for consideration as ASC fellows. In addition, Jane will be working on a proposal for a new award to be given by the Division on Women and Crime (more about this at our meeting in Phoenix).

Other members have been planning for the October meeting as well. Mona Danner, chair of the student affairs committee, informs me that her committee is planning at least one panel session to focus on the needs of the ASC student members and one to introduce the divisions to students and other interested members. Her committee has also discussed a mentoring project for linking students to regular division members. Ideas and volunteers for this project will be welcomed by Mona (202) 885-2475.

At least one additional panel at the Phoenix meetings will focus on encouraging new involvement in division business. Drew Humphries has solicited input in shaping this panel, to be called something like "Critical Issues for Women in the ASC" and is eager to hear from you at (609) 757-6073 (Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ 08102).

There are other events and activities I will just have to save for the next newsletter. This organization is a vibrant one with a clear and compelling mission. It is gratifying that there are so many members who are willing to give of their time to assist it in carrying out its important work. But any effective organization is a living entity that is constantly in flux, bringing in and nurturing new leaders, initiating new directions, defining new goals. To maintain its effectiveness, we need to encourage new visions, new initiatives, new perspectives. I look forward to working with all of you as our organization continues to develop, grow, and change.

Piece on Vietnam:

Lynne Goodstein, Acting Chair of the Division on Women and Crime, was one of ten U. S. women's studies and family scholars and feminists who met with ten Vietnamese scholars at a conference
entitled "The family and the condition of women in society." The conference was sponsored by Penn State University and the Institute of Social Sciences in Ho Chi Minh City. During its two-week visit to Vietnam, the Penn State delegation visited many social services programs including the Tu Du Hospital for Mothers and Infants in Ho Chi Minh City, did field study visiting Vietnamese in their homes in small hamlets in the Mekong Delta, toured the country by bus from Ho Chi Minh City to Danang and Hue, and were briefed by women leaders in Parliament and from the Union of Vietnamese Women in Hanoi.

Future reports will identify some of the many impacts and potentiality for long range collaboration from this historic meeting and research trip. They include a book to be published in both Vietnamese and English and research collaborations among individual delegates.

Several issues of particular interest to criminologists were on the conference table and discussed throughout the trip. Dr. Kathleen Barry, the organizer of the seminar and chief of the delegation, presented to conference participants the text of a new international law to protect women and children from prostitution and the sex industries. Dr. Barry, the executive director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in women, an United Nations Non Governmental Organization, was asked to present the new international law she and her organization have been developing with UNESCO, "The convention to eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation of women." Dr. Barry's report at the closing session of the Seminar was enthusiastically received by the Social Science Research Council, and policy recommendations are being prepared for submission to the government.

In addition two conference papers focused on women's victimization. Dr. Goodstein's paper discussed the extent and nature of sexual victimization in the United States and developed a conceptual framework for understanding rape in Vietnam. Dr. Michael Johnson focused on the problem of domestic violence, distinguishing between ordinary domestic violence and what he labels "patriarchal terrorism."
August 1, 1993

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Dear Chris:

Some copy for the newsletter:

Report from the Division Chair

Now that it is officially August, many of you are probably trying to squeeze in just a bit more rest and relaxation before the fast approaching arrival of the new academic year. You can see from the contents of this newsletter and the ASC registration materials, however, that many Division members have been hard at work throughout the summer preparing for the national meeting in October.

The ASC meeting in Phoenix promises to be a busy one for the Division on Women and Crime (DWC). In addition to the numerous substantive panels dealing on women and crime issues, there are several scheduled events on the program dedicated specifically to DWC activities. Instead of one long business meeting, we will have two meetings of one hour each, the first on Thursday October 28, followed by a second one on Friday. During the first business meeting Division members will be asked to form small working groups to review the work of committees and task forces over the past year and set agendas for the coming year. At the second the work that has gone on at the conference within the various DWC groups will be reported on and discussed. Committee and task force chairs for the upcoming year will already have been appointed, so the real work of these groups will be well underway while we are all together at the national meeting. In between the two business meetings a thematic session, "Issues for Women in the ASC," will be held. We hope that Division members and interested conference participants will use this session for some more lengthy dialogue about longer term division goals.

I would ask all of you to think about the role you would like to play in the DWC over the next year and consider offering to serve as chair or member of one of the committees or task forces. I would like to have all appointments for the 1993-94 year made by October 15, so if
you would be willing to serve the DWC in any capacity, please notify me or Virginia Morris (nominations chair) by October 1. A list of committees and task forces, with names and numbers of 1992-93 chairs, was included in the Spring 1993 issue of DivisioNews.

There are many other plans for new activities at our upcoming conference that I do not have the space to discuss in detail here. They include: a series of "town meetings" on the subject of violence, jointly sponsored by the three ASC divisions -- Women and Crime, Critical, and International -- and the local arrangements committee; a DWC pre-dinner party for members and friends; and nightly DWC organized dinner groups for anyone seeking congenial dining companions. And, of course, we will continue to staff the DWC information table and sponsor the annual informal discussion on sexual harassment.

I hope that the activities planned for this year's conference will attract many members who have not been involved in DWC activities in the past. There is still much work to be done to make the ASC a society that fundamentally values diversity among its members and within the field of criminology. All of us-- younger and older, new and veteran members, women of color and non-minority women -- are needed to work to transform the society and support the DWC in its important work.