FROM THE EDITOR

The traditional method of increasing one's knowledge involves learning a lesson and then taking a test. However, as with most endeavors in life, I have taken quite a few tests and learned some lessons during my tenure as editor. In preparation for my last issue as editor, I've reflected on some of these lessons in terms of what we accomplished during the last three years.

Based on comments from various sources, and the increase in the number of subscriptions, I believe that the visibility of the journal has increased. The editorial board and the reviewers have worked diligently to raise the visibility of the journal by attracting quality manuscripts and by maintaining a high degree of academic integrity. As shown below, approximately 77% of the manuscripts submitted during my term as editor were rejected. I strove to provide contributors with feedback, regardless of the publication outcome, in hopes of improving their future publication prospects.

Therefore, it is my hope that everyone who had contact with the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* during the last three years was satisfied with the experience. While it is impossible to please everyone, my goal was to provide a service to the *AJCJ*'s constituencies.

Part of this service was to influence policy in terms of a theoretical/empirical grounding. While it is not possible to gage the direct impact of the published articles, the journal did provide a means of contributing

to the body of knowledge. And this function is the "heart and soul" of an academic journal. Learning never stops, even for the most accomplished of scholars. The journal is now widely abstracted, thus making its contents available to a broader audience.

Yet I am not optimistic regarding the relationship between knowledge and crime control policies. Many politicians try to erect barriers between the knowledge we produce and public policy. One of the many things I have learned, however, is to never be content with the status quo; thus the continued existence of publications such as the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* is critical to the "war on ignorance."

In parting, I want to express my appreciation to a number of people who made the journal possible during the last three years. First, I would like to thank the past executive boards of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, and especially Chuck Fields, Joe Auten, and Laura Moriarty. Each supported the *AJCJ* wholeheartedly during their terms as president. A special thanks go to the membership of this organization for their support. Finally, I want to thank each contributor and each reviewer for their investments in the *AJCJ*. The quality of the journal reflects the efforts of reviewers who judiciously carried out their duties and the authors who selected the *AJCJ* as an outlet for their work. Any faults with the journal can be attributed solely to me.

Finally, I am most appreciative of the opportunity to serve the academic community. The things that we have accomplished during the last decade are nothing short of astounding. While we face seemingly insurmountable obstacles in our quest for knowledge and improvement in our quality of life, I am extremely proud to be member of the academy. Serving as editor of the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* was a unique honor and privilege.

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