Introduction

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The Journal of Quantitative Criminology (JQC) turns 25 this year. To mark this anniversary, we decided to give our readers some insight into JQC's history and future using three different but original sources. First, we asked the previous editors of JQC (James Alan Fox, John Laub, Michael Maltz, and David McDowall) to each write a brief essay about their experience with the journal, where they saw developments emerge in the field, and what they envision will be the future of research in criminology. Readers unfamiliar with the development and history of JQC will be pleased to read the comments made by James Alan Fox, the journal's founding editor. Without his hard work, dedication and foresight, we would not be where we are today. Second, we asked the pioneer in quantitative criminology, Al Blumstein, to give readers a sense of the field's development since his influential role in the famous 1967 Presidential Crime Commission. His comments regarding the interrelationship between the sophistication of statistical techniques and their influence on theory and policy are especially noteworthy. Finally, we identified a small number of scholars each of whom we asked to prepare a brief essay on select topics in quantitative criminology. We asked them to summarize the most important findings in their assigned area of quantitative criminology and how these findings have helped answer or raise important questions in the field. We suggested they conclude their essays by describing what they believed the upcoming challenges for criminological research will be and how recent discoveries in the field can help researchers overcome these potential hurdles. We are fortunate that the scholars all accepted our request and prepared insightful essays that will surely influence readers' thinking for years to come. We hope that this three-part approach to the JQC 25th anniversary issue will allow readers to appreciate the

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discoveries of the past but also get a glimpse of the future of quantitative criminology. It is our sincere hope that readers will agree with us that this issue summarizes the state of our field as well as it sets the stage for future research on a wide range of quantitative issues. Steven Tyler once sang, enough already, “let the music do the talking.” Sit back and enjoy.