The Elliott Youth Development Lecture

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It is with great honor that I introduce the 2011 *Elliott Youth Development Lecture*. The lecture is authored and presented by a leading researcher widely recognized as having made foundational contributions to our understanding of youth. In 2011, Alex R. Piquero was selected as the recipient of this recognition by a group of researchers at Indiana University, where the lecture was delivered. His engaging presentation, which is published in this issue, was entitled *James Joyce, Alice in Wonderland, and Criminal Careers*.

The lecture is supported by a generous donation from Howard R. “Skip” Elliott, BA’77. Elliott was a double major in Forensic Studies and English and continues to be a faithful alumnus of what has become known as the Department of Criminal Justice at Indiana University. After graduating from the Department, Elliott then graduated from the state police academy, after which he joined the police department of Conrail railroad. Eventually, he joined CSX Transportation, where he currently serves as vice president of public safety and environment. CSX Transportation is one of America’s major freight railroads and a Fortune 250 Company that operates in 23 states and in cities such as Chicago, Boston, and New York City. Elliott leads CSX’s hazardous materials transportation safety efforts, its environmental protection program, its police department and its homeland security initiatives. Among his many commitments to public service is his exemplary service to *National Safe Place*, an organization

that links runaway and homeless youth with the help needed to be safe (see Walsh and Donaldson 2009). Elliott earned Indiana University’s Department of Criminal Justice’s first-ever Distinguished Alumni Award, for the great credit he has given the Department, Indiana University, and the field of criminal justice. It was Elliott’s dedication to serving others, and his passion for helping youth, that led to the development of this lecture series.

The Elliott Youth Development Lecture has many goals. The lecture seeks to recognize the accomplishments of a leading scholar who has made a foundational impact on our understanding of youth and social responses to them. It does so by requesting that the lecturers offer a review of their work, their sense of where the field is heading, and their thoughts on potentially fruitful research and policy directions. Publishing a written version of the lecture helps to enhance its reach and, equally importantly, attract increased attention to the multidisciplinary study of adolescence.

Professor Piquero was the ideal recipient of this honor. He currently is Professor in the Program in Criminology in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas, Adjunct Professor Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice, and Governance, Griffith University and Co-Editor of the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. He has published over two-hundred peer-reviewed articles in the areas of criminal careers, criminological theory, and quantitative research methods. His research has found homes in leading journals in a wide variety of disciplines, including developmental science. Indeed, he has been a regular contributor to the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, recently authoring at least two articles per year (see Goldweber et al. 2011; Haynie et al. 2009; Jennings et al. 2010; Lee et al. 2011; Mauricio et al. 2009; Piquero et al. 2010). Notably, he also has

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collaborated on several books including *Key Issues in Criminal Careers Research: New Analyses from the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development* (Cambridge University Press, co-authored with David P. Farrington and Alfred Blumstein) and *Handbook of Quantitative Criminology* (Springer, co-edited by David Weisburd).

Like his publications, his service endeavors, awards, and other forms of recognition have been numerous. In addition to his membership on over a dozen journal editorial boards (including this journal's) in criminology, sociology and several other disciplines, he has served as Executive Counselor with the American Society of Criminology, Member of the National Academy of Sciences Panel Evaluating the National Institute of Justice, Member of the Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network at Ohio State University, and Member of the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on Adolescent Development & Juvenile Justice. Professor Piquero has given congressional testimony on evidence-based crime prevention practices in the area of early-family/parent training programs, and has provided counsel and support to several local, state, national, and international criminal justice agencies. Professor Piquero is the past recipient of the American Society of Criminology's Young Scholar and E-Mail Mentor of the Year Awards, Fellow of both the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and also has received several teaching awards including the University of Florida's College of Arts & Sciences Teacher of the Year Award and the University of Maryland's Top Teaching Award. He also happens to be one of the most cited to criminologists of our time.

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Author Biography

Roger J. R. Levesque Chair and Professor of Criminal Justice, Indiana University. He is Editor of the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.