In Memoriam

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Chester Britt (1962–2016)

In this issue of the journal we are publishing an article by Chester Britt, Gregory Zimmerman and Michael Rocque, that was revised and submitted after Chet passed away in 2016. The article went through a normal peer review and was well received. I am not surprised because Chet was one of those really careful methodologists who knew how to explain cutting edge statistical problems while advancing substantive science. Clarity was a key trait of his work and this article with colleagues represents that as well.

At the journal, we wanted to use the opportunity of this published article to say something more generally about Chet. He was a good friend of mine, and we published together a number of times. Our book, *Statistics in Criminal Justice*, benefited greatly from Chet's

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ability to deal with complex statistical issues in an understandable way. Indeed, when I was looking for a co-author for the second edition of the work, Chet seem a natural choice. He had fantastic statistical skills, but like me, enjoyed translating statistical principles. I learned shortly afterward, that he was not just a good criminological statistician, but a mensch who was a pleasure to work with.

I use the term mensch in its most flattering way. Chet was a really nice guy, who went out of his way for others. He was certainly a distinguished scholar and leader in the field. He published a number of important substantive and statistical articles. He was the chair or director of key programs in criminology, including those at Arizona State University, Northeastern University, and Iowa State University. He was the editor of *Justice Quarterly* for a number of years, one of our most important scientific journals. But he was also a very kind person, and someone who cared a good deal about others.

Chet's death was a shock to us at the journal, and to criminologists more generally. He had so much to contribute, and was taken from us so suddenly. But he has left an imprint on criminologists and criminology not simply through his leadership of so many key institutions in our field, but through his decency and kindness.