

Winter 2003

## DivisioNews (Winter 2003, Issue #11)

American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime.

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# DivisionNews

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Winter 2003  
Issue #11



AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF CRIMINOLOGY

**Division  
on Women  
and Crime**

Est. 1984

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## Letter from the Editor

Happy 2003 All ~

I hope this installment of the DivisioNews finds you well. The 2002 ASC Annual Meeting in Chicago was a wonderful opportunity to meet so many of you face-to-face and reconnect with friends and colleagues. Often I find that ASC, with all the commotion of panel presentations and business meetings, is a hurried rush with little opportunity for reflection or meaningful connection with others. The DWC meetings and social gatherings, however, were the exception. I recall walking out of the DWC breakfast Friday morning of the conference with a colleague, feeling rejuvenated and so thankful for the amazing support, dialogue, and activism within the Division. It was simply wonderful. Joanne Belknap deserves special recognition and thanks for her tireless work and leading our brood at 0-dark hundred (or as Joanne notes, the "ungoddessly hour") for the breakfasts.

Thanks to all who volunteered to assist with the DWC events and tables. I also wanted to extend appreciation to those of you who participated in the Networking Survey listed in the last issue of the newsletter.

Please join me in welcoming Jeanne Flavin as our newest member of the DWC DivisioNews crew! Jeanne will be serving as the editor of the "Ask a Tenured Professor" column. If you would like to contribute any questions to the column or would like to offer advice and responses, please contact Jeanne at [jflavin@fordham.edu](mailto:jflavin@fordham.edu).

This issue is filled with news around the Division, valuable guidance regarding the tenure-seeking process, and a comprehensive "must read" list for graduate students. There are new insightful profiles of five DWC members: Kimberly J. Cook, Deborah Burris-Kitchen, Ruth Fleury-Steiner, Venessa Garcia, and Jeanne Flavin. We round out the Winter 2003 edition with Irene Froyland's book review of *The Invisible Woman* by Joanne Belknap.

Many thanks go to the numerous contributors to this edition of the newsletter. They include: Patti Adler, Fran Bernat, William Blount, John Conley, Kimberly Cook, Lin Huff-Corzine, Mona Danner, Kim Davies, Jeanne Flavin, Venessa Garcia, Tara Gray, Nancy Hogan, Beth Huebner, Kristy Holtfreter, Deborah Burris-Kitchen, Barbara Koons, Sharon Redhawk Love, Sheila Royo Maxwell, Jerome McKean, Eleanor Miller, Angie Moe, Roz Muraskin, Barbara Raffell Price, Nicky Rafter, Amanda Robinson, Christine Sellers, Susan Sharp, and Ruth Fleury-Steiner. Thank you all so much for helping to make this a great issue!

Of course, my continued gratitude goes to the column editors: Amanda Burgess-Proctor, Amy D'Unger, Jeanne Flavin, Angie Moe, Susan Sharp, and Alisa Smith! Please feel free to contact us if you would like to contribute to the next edition or if you have any questions, thoughts, or suggestions. We can be reached at: <http://www.criminology.fsu.edu/dwc/comments.html>.

Enjoy and take good care!

Kristin Winokur  
[kwinokur@thejrc.com](mailto:kwinokur@thejrc.com)

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# DivisionNews

## News

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## News and Announcements

Hi Fellow DWCCers,

Welcome to winter! Today it's 25 degrees here in Atlanta, which is about 25 degrees colder than it normally is this time of year! What happened to global warming? Hope everyone had a relaxing holiday season and is geared up for the new year. Thanks to all who sent me their news for the winter 2003 edition of the DivisionNews.

Cheers,

Amy D'Unger, Associate Editor for Member News, DWCC DivisionNews

### News from the DWCC Chair, Joanne Belknap

First, I want to thank all of you for a wonderful conference in Chicago! The highlights of these meetings are seeing all my old friends, making new feminist criminologist friends, and learning about the exciting research, teaching, and activism everyone is up to. But this conference was particularly special to me in terms of all the new women who came to our business meetings (despite the ungoddlessly hour!) and other events.

We kicked off the conference with our fantastic joint Social Hour with the DPCC, and thanks to Stephanie Bush-Baskette and Chris Eskeridge, had a Chicago Blues band at the event. What a great collection of folks to eat, drink, talk, and dance!

If you are reading this and have never come to one of our early morning business meetings, well, you don't know what you've missed! Every year, and this year in particular, thanks to Amy D'Unger, the food was fabulous! I'm not sure which was better: the food at the social or the breakfasts. It was really wonderful to have the fantastic food for the breakfasts while we plowed through our agendas. Another little known fact about the breakfast meetings is that they are often full of many good laughs. They are also a great way for new professors, undergraduate, and graduate students to network. (Of course, they are also great for us ol' timers to network, too!)

The graduate students and new faculty were so inspiring to the rest of us, with their drive and ideas. These meetings made me feel great about the future of feminist criminology. In addition to roundtable discussions on graduate students and new faculty, we had some other lively discussions on putting together a website for our Division to help us prepare for being expert witnesses for battered women, a GREAT idea! We discussed the continuing saga of the longer abstracts for the ASC paper submissions. We had a lively and productive joint meeting with the DPCC and the DCC where we strategized for meeting with the ASC Board. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Stephanie Bush-Baskette who was perfect in stating the

case against these abstract submissions to the Board. Walter DeKeseredy was also great and supportive. Finally, I want to extend my congratulations to Marjorie Zatz, Jeanne Flavin, Kristin Carbone, Amanda Burgess-Proctor, and Emily Gaarder, winners of the 2002 DWC Awards (reported in more detail below).  
DWC: We rock!

### **ASC Issues: A Note from Joanne Belknap, Chair & Angie Moe, Executive Counselor**

Hello All,

We're writing as a follow up of sorts to the discussions some of us recently had with regard to the ASC executive board's communications with the DWC, DPCC and DCC. As you may recall, the three divisions came together for a joint meeting in Chicago last November to discuss our common concerns regarding feelings of marginalization within the ASC at-large, specifically with regard to communication with last year's ASC executive board (beginning with last year's submission guidelines and conference structure and arising again with this year's submission guidelines). A general consensus formed with regard to approaching the ASC executive board as a unified front to express our concerns. The chairs of each division (Joanne Belknap, DWC; Stephanie Bush-Baskette, DPCC; Walter DeKeseredy, DCC) attended the ASC Executive Board Meeting to express their opinions to the current (new) ASC leadership. While there was a spirited discussion of the reasons for the various divisions' opposition, and the majority of the leadership's opinions, it appears that no further actions (like those discussed during the joint meeting) are necessary at this time. The 2003 Program Committee has representation from each of the divisions (by virtue of prominent division members serving on the committee) and there are strong indications that the 2004 Program Committee and conference structure will be even more representative of the three divisions (e.g., area topics on gender, race, and class). If you have further concerns or questions, or would like more specifics, please do not hesitate to contact one of us ([Joanne.Belknap@colorado.edu](mailto:Joanne.Belknap@colorado.edu) or [angie.moe@wmich.edu](mailto:angie.moe@wmich.edu)).

Sincerely,

Joanne Belknap, DWC Chair  
Angie Moe, DWC Executive Counselor

### **Honors and Awards**

Congratulations to Eleanor M. Miller, Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean for the Social Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, who has been elected President of the Midwest Sociological Society for 2004-2005.

Congratulations also go out to all those who won DWC awards in 2002! At the joint Social Hour with the DPCC and at our first breakfast meeting we celebrated our 2002 award winners. First, Marjorie Zatz received the Senior Scholar of the Division. We celebrate Marjorie's long and high quality work in the DWC. Of course, Marjorie is also an incredible scholar with a long list of publications on gender, race, class, and crime. She has published 3 books and is now a professor at the Arizona State School of Justice Studies and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at ASU. Marjorie has been a big advocate for individual women, particularly on career issues and sexual harassment, in the DWC. Thank you Marjorie!

Second, Jeanne Flavin, an Associate Professor at Fordham University, was the recipient of the New Scholar Award. Jeanne has published important contributions to feminist criminology in a number of venues including *Gender & Society*. She has also carried a yeowoman's workload in the DWC. Notably, Jeanne has a wickedly fine sense of humor (which we all appreciate).

Joanne Belknap wants to personally thank all of you who nominated someone and congratulate all of you who were nominated. We had about 10 nominations for each award, all very deserving individuals. So get geared up for next year! Many thanks to Claire Renzetti and the Internal Awards Committee of the DWC for overseeing these important awards.

Turning to the Student Paper Award, once again, there were many fine submissions. Indeed, they were so fine that the Committee decided to give one first place award and two "honorable mention" awards. We voted in Atlanta at the DWC Business Meetings to increase the Student Paper Award to a healthy \$500. The very deserving winner of the 2002 DWC Student Paper award was Kristin C. Carbone, a graduate student in Sociology at the University of Minnesota. Kristin's paper was entitled "The 'Usual Suspects': How Race Affects Decisions to Report Victimization." The two Honorable Mention Awards went to Amanda Burgess-Proctor, a graduate student in Criminal Justice at Michigan State University, for her paper "Evaluating the Efficacy of Protection Orders for Victims of Domestic Violence," and to Emily Gaarder, a graduate student in Arizona State University's School of Justice Studies, for her paper entitled "A Feminist Vision of Justice?: The Problems & Possibilities of Restorative Justice." The Student Paper Award Committee requested and the DWC Board approved not only expanding to the two "honorable mention" awards, but to giving checks for \$150 to each of these fine young scholars for their excellent papers. Many thanks to Angie Moe and her committee for soliciting and judging these candidates!

### **DWC Election Results**

While the DWC Board was sad to say good-bye to Jeanne Flavin and Debra Stanley as they completed their terms as Executive Counselor and Vice-Chair, respectively, we are happy to welcome Susan Krumholz as the new Vice-Chair of the Division and Angie Moe and Jana Jasinski as new Executive Counselors. Thanks to all of you who ran in the elections and thanks to Helen Eigenberg and the Nominations Committee who ran the election. It shows how far our organization has come when we have so many fine folks running for these positions. For point of reference, the other DWC Board Members are: Joanne Belknap (Chair), Nancy Wonders (Past Chair), Kim Cook (Secretary-Treasurer), and Susan Sharp and Vernetta Young (both Executive Counselors).

### **Call for Papers**

Contact Roslyn Muraskin at [Roslyn.Muraskin@liu.edu](mailto:Roslyn.Muraskin@liu.edu) if you are interested in submitting papers or chapters to either one of these upcoming publications:

- *Critical Journal of Crime, Law and Society*, a refereed journal published quarterly by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group
- A volume or chapters for the WOMEN'S SERIES published by Prentice Hall

### **Recent Publications**

Here are some recent publications of DWC members...

Charis Kubrin has published:

Kubrin, Charis and Ronald Weitzer. 2003. "Retaliatory Homicide: Concentrated Disadvantage and Neighborhood Culture." *Social Problems*. 50.

Way to go Charis!

Congratulations also to Shoshana Pollack, who has published:

Pollack, S. Forthcoming. "Focus Group Methodology in Research with Incarcerated Women: Race, Power, and Collective Experience." *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*.

Pollack, S. Forthcoming. "Anti-oppressive Practice with Women in Prison: Discursive Reconstructions and Alternative Practices." *British Journal of Social Work*.



Kendall, K. & Pollack, S. Forthcoming. "Time to Think Again About Cognitive Behaviouralism." In Bloom, B. (Ed). *Gendered Justice: Programming for Women and Girls in Correctional Settings*. North Carolina: Carolina Academic Press.

### **Position Announcements**

*Position:* Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Department of Criminology invites applications for three full-time, tenure track, Assistant Professor positions to begin Fall 2003. Our department, which has the largest undergraduate enrollment in IUP's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, offers Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate degrees.

*Qualifications:* Candidates must have a Ph.D. in Criminology, Criminal Justice, or a closely related social science discipline. ABDs may apply, but we will consider only individuals who can reasonably expect to have their degree in hand by Fall 2003. Area of specialization is open. However, the ability to teach and conduct research in the area of courts and legal issues will be considered a plus for one of the positions. We are seeking applicants with a strong commitment to teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels and to pursuing an active research agenda. In order to become a finalist, candidates must communicate effectively and perform well during the interview(s), which may include a teaching demonstration. Applicants are urged to submit copies of publications or writing samples that demonstrate research interests. Applicants must be work eligible.

*How to Apply:* Applicants for each position should forward a letter of application, a current vita, official transcripts, three letters of reference, evidence of teaching effectiveness, and copies of publications or writing samples, to Dr. David Myers, Chair ? Search Committee, IUP Department of Criminology, 441 North Walk, Indiana, PA 15705. Applications will be accepted until February 15, 2003. IUP is an equal opportunity employer M/F/H/V.

### **New Benefit of DWC Membership: 30% Discount on Women & Criminal Justice subscriptions!**

In addition to all the benefits of being a DWC member, we are just signing off on an agreement with Haworth Press allowing DWC members a 30% discount on their subscriptions to the journal *Women & Criminal Justice*. This fine journal started out of the DWC in the mid-1980s with Clarice Feinman as originator and the first editor. Donna C. Hale has been the editor for about a decade and made a fine presentation at one of our DWC breakfasts in Chicago. This is a great way to support feminist scholarship and benefit from it! The procedure will be that the ASC-DWC provides a check off place on membership applications and on annual renewal forms. Tear sheets or e-mail notices will then be forwarded to Haworth Press for verification. We are very pleased about working out this great deal with Haworth and thank Michelle Savory of Haworth and Donna Hale!

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## Division of Women and Criminal Justice Book Review

### In Praise of Joanne BELKNAP and her "Invisible Woman."

Irene Froyland<sup>1</sup>, Sellenger Centre at ECU, Western Australia.

When faced with a book entitled "The Invisible Woman" and descriptors such as "sex discrimination," and "Women - crimes against - USA" one's first reaction is "Ho hum! Not another one?" Nothing could be further from the truth. The words to describe this book are "comprehensive, academically sound, and totally readable."

Joanne Belknap's work is three-dimensional, presenting women as offenders, victims and law enforcers and for at least the first two of these categories it seems that Belknap is well on top of her subject. In these pages the female offender becomes real to us and we begin to understand her pressures and motivations. Fortunately Belknap does not apologize for, or excuse her. That is left to the reader. She simply presents her in all her complexity. The treatment of women as victims is similarly rich. For too long women victims have been presented as pathetic, weak, shadowy beings whose very existence depends on the goodness or evil of their male partners. At least Belknap presents women as victims of their culture as well as of their men, and she portrays them as real players in their world. We see the first glimmer of hope for female victims as they begin to fight back. I look forward to Belknap's third edition when we might begin to see women as victims of crimes other than crimes of physical violence committed by their male partners, but in these areas Belknap has served us well. It is in her summary of women on the job that Belknap lets us down. Where are women who are station sergeants and police commissioners; shift officers and prison superintendents? Their fight to win these jobs occupied us last year. This year we want to know about their challenges and successes; about how the job changed them as well as how they changed the job. Perhaps in edition three?

The real joy of this book is that it is so soundly based in research. Nothing seems to have evaded the eyes of this thorough author. She presents every idea as a debate between different researchers and her conclusions are carefully drawn and defended. The book would be worth reading for its bibliography alone, but one would not want to miss Belknap's summary and conclusions on each issue. They leave the reader both satisfied with the conclusions and looking for the next instalment.

But most of all, I applaud Belknap for the readability of her work. Be it the anecdotes that add human interest, her clear and elegant writing or her rare personal revelations, I found this book eminently readable. It is a book you don't lend to a friend until you have thoroughly read it yourself, in case you don't get it back. Some of Belknap's stories made me want to leap on a chair and shout "Yeah!" When she described the visible woman as human, strong and female I felt good. But my lasting impression will be of Belknap with her tongue firmly in her cheek as she tells the story of journalists' concern that Mondale almost selected Ferraro as his running mate. "What if he dies and she becomes president? She might go

through menopause and get us involved in a nuclear war." Thank you Joanne Belknap.

Joanne BELKNAP, (2001), *The Invisible Woman: Gender Crime and Justice* (2nd Ed), Wadsworth, California, USA

<sup>1</sup> Associate Professor Irene Froyland is Director of the Sellenger Centre for Police and Justice Research at Edith Cowan University, Perth, Western Australia

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## Ask a Tenured Professor

Thanks to the dozens of you (yes, dozens) who indicated a willingness to respond to questions submitted for the "Ask A Tenured Professor" Column. This column deals with some "heavy-hitting" issues: being turned down for tenure or reappointment, feminist identity, and maternity leave. I was moved by the tenor of the replies, marked as they were by frankness and warmth and stressing the importance of resolve and perspective.

During the course of pulling the column together, I realized that I needed to weigh competing desires to a) acknowledge people's contributions; b) respect the confidentiality of the several people who requested that I do so; and c) avoid stigmatizing people who are/are not comfortable with having their name associated with a given subject. After some thought (lots and lots of thought, it's stickier than I've presented it here!), I have decided to list contributors' names alphabetically at the beginning of the column rather than associating names with specific questions or answers. This is not intended to detract from individuals' contributions. Instead, I hope to create a "safe" setting in which people can comfortably ask the hard/sensitive questions or give the hard/sensitive answers. I welcome others' opinions/suggestions regarding this matter and am willing to modify my approach for future columns which deal with less sensitive issues.

In the meantime, however, I'd like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the following individuals for contributing their insights to one or more of the three questions raised in this issue: Patti Adler, Fran Bernat, William Blount, John Conley, Lin Huff-Corzine, Mona Danner, Kim Davies, Tara Gray, Barbara Koons, Sheila Royo Maxwell, Jerome McKean, Eleanor Miller, Angie Moe, Ros Muraskin, Barbara Raffell Price, Nicky Rafter, Christine Sellers, and Susan Sharp. Please join me in thanking them for their insight and generosity (clap, clap, clap, clap, clap).

Jeanne Flavin, Column Editor

Please submit questions or comments to: [jflavin@fordham.edu](mailto:jflavin@fordham.edu)

### WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T GET TENURE/REAPPOINTED?

The Sleepless Night Questions: What happens if I don't get tenure/don't get reappointed? What options do I have? Should I file an appeal? Should I sue? Should I leave academe? Should I move far, far away? Should I kill myself? How will I face these people for another year? Will I feel like damaged goods? How will I regroup? Will I land on my feet? What do I tell people? Am I ever going to go back to sleep... ?

### The Responses:

It is the emotional fallout that is hard to handle. In my case, I was told in my fifth year review that I needed to publish another article. I did so, and was denied tenure anyway, despite the unanimous support of the members of my department. I filed an appeal and won another year and another tenure review, but was ultimately denied tenure again. After 16 years, it still upsets me to think about it. It took several years for me to come to terms with my own contributions to my downfall, which were considerable. To make a long story short, I was guilty of terminal cluelessness. I believe it is a common disorder among the tenure challenged. How did I get over it? For quite awhile, I didn't. I spent the year after my appeal was denied in limbo. I didn't look for another position or make any concrete plans. Eventually, I wound up doing some consulting, and after a few years, I was ready for another go at academe. Losing tenure wasn't the only problem I had and for that reason, it took me longer to recover from the blow than it does most persons. The important point is that I did recover. There is life after tenure is denied. I am now a tenured associate professor at another institution and have even served as chair of the P & T Committee. I would advise anyone who is denied tenure to do the following: First of all, grieve. It IS a blow and it would be strange if you didn't suffer. Second, realistically assess what happened. Meet with the decision-makers, and ask them why they voted as they did (follow the relevant policies and procedures). If six people tell you that you haven't published enough, it may be that you were denied tenure because you haven't published enough, and not because you are the victim of unjust discrimination. Another question you should ask yourself is whether you want to work at a place where you are not wanted, regardless of the reasons you are denied. Third, simultaneously explore all the options for appeals and legal actions AND look for a job. Don't assume that your appeal will be granted or that it will lead to tenure if it is. As George Herbert said, "Living well is the best revenge." A good job at a place where you are happy is better than tenure at a place where you are miserable. The final step is the hardest, but the most important. Regardless of what happens, forgive. You will not know peace until you do.

If you are denied tenure, read the book *Congratulations! You've Been Fired*. It's a wonderful book and really helped me. It talks about how personnel people (who do a lot of firing) are taught that something like 75% of all people who get fired report that they much prefer their next job to the one they were fired from. I certainly do. I was furious when I was denied tenure, but I decided I wanted to be angry, not bitter. I think that attitude is what helped me land on my feet.

The simplest and most direct answer is to apply for another job at another institution. There are many jobs and you will find the right departmental fit. Do not kill yourself, don't be embarrassed, and don't give up.

I have found that all the people I know who were turned down for tenure ended up quite happy at another job within the year. (Many of them may well be happier in their real-world jobs than they would have been in the academic world, though that is not really for me to say.) There are two factors at play here: one is that people with PhDs have lots of skills and so can find other challenging jobs. The other is that middle-class people tend to land on their feet no matter what. (Maybe those two factors are almost one.) Life doesn't owe anyone a permanent job; most of the rest of the world knows that, but we in the academic world tend to forget it. And we get tied up in knots, trying to please people who are not necessarily worth the trouble.

As someone who has been denied tenure, here's what I would say: keep it in perspective. It is terrible, but not the end of the world. Try to tell yourself before, during and afterwards that the best job insurance you can ever have is to be marketable and always able to get another job. This power, the ability to leave bad jobs and situations behind you, are the only true power of the worker. Therefore, focus on doing things that make you marketable anywhere - rather than just where you work now.

If you don't get tenure, don't go "crazy" -- find out what it is they are looking for, usually you will be told. I serve on the Promotion and Tenure Committee and we do inform the faculty member(s) what they need to make it next time around/ or if we don't think they will ever make it, we give suggestions on what to do as well. Always have a positive attitude, so that you do know how to proceed during the coming academic year for the next time around. You might also want to turn to outsiders (those outside your College/University) for advice allowing them to see what is required and what you handed in. An outsider can be objective and sometimes can come to your aid better than those on the inside. The best advice is to keep plugging away-- particularly if you know what it takes. As for lawsuits, etc., only if you truly believe you have been harassed or overlooked purposely. As for what to tell others, tell them what you want, or simply the truth that you need to get more publications, papers presented, etc., in order for you to get

there. Sometimes that helps and others can help you.

I am in my second year of tenure and my process was mostly good. I teach at a university with a 4-4 load and some expectation of research. My department supported me, my chair supported me and my dean supported me and then the university wide committee supported me for tenure but not promotion. They indicated that "there was evidence to suggest that I failed to challenge students." They did not say what this evidence was and to this day, I don't know what they were talking about. There is speculation that I did not have perfect grade distributions, that I was a feminist and the committee thought I was radical, that the committee did not like people in sociology, and more. Honestly, my initial response was devastation. My master status is professor. I love to teach, to be in the classroom, to work with students and I couldn't believe they were saying I failed to challenge. I teach women and crime and social deviance, how can that not be challenging even if I simply cover the material? Anyway, I maintained coolness at school -- my chair and dean were supportive and I waited. All steps above the university wide committee went well and eventually I was tenured and promoted at the end of the year. But this was much more stressful than I thought it would be or than I thought it was when I was going through it. Now, I'm passed it. It is so much better. And oddly enough I won the outstanding teaching award for the whole university that same year --- politics indeed! The one good thing is that I had to submit my teaching philosophy after being nominated and I wrote while fueled with anger over the decision of the university wide committee and it, honestly, worked well. Oh yeah, I also had to give the commencement speech and I talked about how being radical was a good thing!!! So, now I feel more relaxed and relieved but less trusting of everyone and a slight bit less "in love" with my university. I don't know how or if this actually answers your questions today. Basically, I wanted to make the point that sometimes you have to wait to react. I would have considered filing a complaint or whatever other channels I could have taken had I not got tenure. But I waited (simmering) until the end. Each of us has our own story...

Dear Sleepless, It does no good to worry in advance about not getting tenure - I know because I did it for at least 3 years. In fact, I spent enough time worrying that it probably cut into my time writing, which is what I was supposed to be doing! One of the things I had to face was how much of my well-being was wrapped up in the idea of success. My department hired me to do gendered work in criminology, then promptly started criticizing gendered work in criminology while giving me one or two new preps every semester. Neither of those things made me feel very secure, to say the least. I spent a lot of energy feeling mistreated and frightened, planning what to do when the failure to get tenure arrived, as I was sure it would. I finally reached the conclusion that I had done the best I could do in the circumstances I was in. If that was not enough, it did not mean I was a failure. I had to remind myself of all my successes in the past in order to get past the fear of failure. Curiously, once I reached that point I became incredibly productive and ended up sailing through the tenure process, with only one senior colleague still grumbling about feminist criminology! Currently, I am watching a colleague whose tenure clock is ticking very loudly do the same thing. We've talked a lot about options. She has a healthy outlook, and she has chosen to believe that not getting tenure would be an opportunity to move someplace where she will fit better. (A healthy outlook, but I hope she does get tenure since she is a wonderful colleague!) In a more practical vein, the decision about whether or not to file an appeal depends on your situation. Did someone else get tenure there who has a similar track record to yours? Do you believe that you were not treated fairly? Talk to other women on your campus. Those who have survived the process can be enormously helpful and shed some wisdom on the situation. If you decide to leave, do it with your head held up high. (Yes, I mean during the year that you are there without tenure, incredible as that may seem!) Not getting tenure is not the end of the world. It happens all the time, and people go on to succeed elsewhere, provided they keep a positive attitude. Network with other women, and ask for suggestions. Believe in yourself! And don't forget, non illegitmi carborundum - don't let the bastards grind you down! Regards, Weary but tenured.

### **FEMINIST IDENTITIES AND THE TENURE PROCESS**

I have a question of sorts for some tenured profs out there. I was wondering how they remember negotiating their feminist identities with the tenure process. It seems to me that the two are quite contradictory. Feminism would have us standing up for ourselves, our perspectives, and those we work with, while the pre-tenure existence seems to silence us, marginalize our perspectives, and essentially force us into submission, often resorting to the "nice little good girl" role. At least that's how I feel and it's my feminist mentors who are telling me this is the way the game has to be played!

Just thought others may have some good suggestions on how we can remain true to ourselves and still keep our jobs.

#### The Responses:

My heart goes out to this untenured woman feminist criminologist and I am a bit conflicted about exactly how to answer. Please allow me first to pose some questions for her, others, indeed all of us to consider. How do you want to live your life? How do you want to feel about yourself and your activities and behaviors? How do you want to feel about the place you work and the people with whom you work?

Now, please allow me to provide my own answers for myself. First, from the beginning to the end, I have to live with myself and be true to myself. There's little left to me if I violate my own principles in any part of life, including my job. In addition, if I don't stand up for what I believe and for who I am, who will? If I don't take risks for myself and others, then why should anyone risk anything for me? I want to work with colleagues whom I respect and who respect me, and I want kindness in my interactions. If it's clear to me that the environment or circumstances are poisonous, then I want out; toxic waste spreads and if it surrounds me then sooner or later it'll likely enter me. An environment that is trying to silence me, marginalize my perspectives, and trying to force me into submission is poisonous, and people who tell me I have to be a "nice little good girl" do not feel particularly helpful. The pre-tenure process you describe is NOT my experience of tenure just 4 years ago. I've certainly worked hard but have also done the work I wanted to do and have felt good about. I've always been up-front about my feminism and places that didn't want that never invited me for an interview. My colleagues, department, college, and university have been very professional and much of the time, kind.

Please know, however, that I'm neither stupid nor a martyr and dear friends of mine have suffered terrible injustices in their workplace, and so I always try to seriously assess the environment and circumstances to ascertain what level of safety exists. I also search out people to learn more about the place and situation and look for allies because there is some safety in numbers. My perspective is that life is too short to live in much fear and if this job had not been as described, I would have sought out something more suited to me. In writing this I remember my privilege in that other academic jobs are more readily available in criminal justice/criminology than in other disciplines. I'm not in the most prestigious of universities although my program is known and respected around the country. Lots of prestige and more resources are worthless if I hate walking into the building and dislike or distrust my colleagues. I've also built a whole life with loving friends and family, and enjoyable outside activities and all of these keep me balanced and remembering what's most important in life.

As an aside --- when I first started at LIU/C.W. Post there was a lawsuit asking for equity with regard to salaries of female professors. The actuaries stated that as we live longer, we will eventually catch up. We lost the law suit. It is really a question of insisting that our research is urgent and important --- hey look at our President, he's declaring war on Iraq, possibly Korea, and Women and their right to choose.

We have to be insistent, stick together, and get lots of required feminist/women's courses.

My take on this is, don't wait to become who you want to be: it will never happen. When I was a junior faculty I was surrounded by people who seemed to want me to wait to be my outspoken self until I got tenured. What I kept explaining was when I got tenure, I wouldn't step out of my Clark Kent suit and become Superman (or Superwoman). I would be who I had practiced being for the last six years.

In my own life experience, truer words were never spoken. Your only real power in the work place--tenured or not--is your willingness to keep your resume updated and marketable--and your bags packed.

To me, being a feminist means not practicing being silenced or marginalized for six years as a way of learning how to be empowered after tenure. It means practicing now. We don't teach students to swim by teaching them to sink.

This will probably come off as grumpy, but I have been where the questioner has been and I have had to

ask myself some hard questions. Survival with dignity is not only the concern of feminist college professors, or college professors, but something that everyone struggles with, even those whose journey leads them to the land beyond tenure. It is wise for us to remember that professors are a privileged lot. If you really want to try some submission, work at Wal-Mart.

Thus one of the first ways to cope with the struggle is to avoid terminal uniqueness. Once, I had a position and lost it. I thought it was because I was a union activist, but then it occurred to me that none of the other union activists had lost their positions! I was denied tenure because I didn't do my job very well, and let my yen to crusade overcome my quest to gain competence. Crusading is more fun, but I used it as a means to avoid learning how to teach and do research. After 25 years (said the dinosaur), I think I am getting the hang of it. How well do you do your job?

The questioner should ask herself some questions: Who, exactly, is forcing the questioner into submission? Her tenured, feminist mentors (how did THEY survive with dignity)? Other tenured faculty? What is the questioner being asked to do that is immoral, illegal, or health-threatening? Is the questioner being asked to do things that other, non-feminist faculty members are not being asked to do? Are untenured faculty members, regardless of gender, asked to do things that silence and marginalize them? Are women faculty members, feminist or not, asked to do such things? If the answers to these questions are yes, get the hell out of there. If not, it is wise to remember that one should not take oneself too seriously.

Concentrate on learning--by doing--everything you can about teaching, research, and, yes, even university service. Be true to yourself by doing your work--your chosen profession--the best you can. You will probably get tenure. If you don't get tenure, it is not the end of the world and if you are doing good work, you will land another, perhaps better, job.

This can be a difficult one. I think that I was seen as a feminist and it caused some problems at the university level in getting tenure at a small southeastern university. However, my department of sociologists was pretty cool and overall my other record stood. But I think that I did play it down a little before tenure without knowing, because after tenure, I feel much more free. As a lesbian feminist, I still don't tell my students, but I use correct pronouns in referring to my partner when talking to colleagues now.

This is an extremely important question. I anguished over it myself for several years. My position was that (rebel that I am) I refused to publish work that I did not believe in simply to get tenure. However, the work I did was not necessarily what my (older white male) colleagues thought worthwhile. I finally found a workable solution for myself, although it may not be good for everyone. After spending three years sending my work to journals that my chair deemed worthy, and getting very little published that way, I finally woke up. I decided to start sending my work to journals that published scholarship more similar to mine, and to live with the consequences. Immediately, I started getting publications. I knew that my chair was very hung up on a few specific journals. I also knew those journals rarely publish feminist work. I also knew that if I had to bargain with Dr. Mephisto to get tenure, that I probably did not belong here. But, to take this step, I had to be willing to risk not getting tenure - scary proposition!

The way that I survived and thrived was through getting very involved in the DWC and getting connected to a lot of people. I found friendship and emotional support, and I had names to give to my department as suggested outside reviewers - people who I knew would appreciate and understand my work. And, I knew that if I did not get tenure, that I would have support and understanding. In my case, things worked out. I sailed through the tenure process without a problem. And, I kept my self-respect and identity in the process. For me, it was a matter of asking myself which was more important to me - getting tenure or feeling good about my work. When I first started in this position, I thought that tenure was the most important. But, when I recognized that I was miserable, I decided to be true to myself. But, I also had nobody dependent on me for support, giving me freedom to make that choice, too. I don't think there is a "right" way to handle negotiating the tenure process as a feminist. We each have to find our own way through the mess. However, again, I made it through that maze with a whole lot of help from my DWC friends!



## TENURE AND MATERNITY LEAVE

"I am an untenured faculty member who is in their third year on the tenure clock and who is expecting a baby in July. At my university it is possible to add a semester to my tenure clock due to having a baby. I have been thinking about the pros and cons of doing such a thing and was wondering what others thought about the issue.

Also, should there be any other personnel issues that I should be thinking about at this point that I should discuss with my chair? I don't have any tenured female faculty members to ask here in my own department so I thought I would ask for help from my sisters in DWC."

The Responses:

I have had several female grad students have children while on the tenure clock. I heartily recommend stopping the clock. What's the harm there? So you wait until tenure for a little while longer? The alternative is to possibly not get tenure because you couldn't get enough work done. Why stress yourself and shortchange both yourself and your baby? This is a critical point for your family and yourself. Don't try to be a superwoman. Add the semester to your time clock. If you are a productive faculty member over the long run it will not be held against you. I'd say by all means take the extra semester-- though I'd first make sure how this is reflected in the tenure application (i.e., do you indicate maternity leave on your forms during that semester, or not include that semester at all in your accounts of your performance? Whichever way, make sure you are not informally "penalized" for this). My university allows a year extension for maternity leave. I took this year when I got pregnant (I am now an Associate Professor) and was glad that I did. I had no clue how much time and energy taking care of a baby took!!! A semester is not much leeway but at least you have some time. It's always good to have this time in case you need it, and you'd also want to enjoy your baby. Good Luck!

If you believe that the extra semester will be needed to have your publication record sufficiently strong for the tenure review, then I would advise taking the semester. My only concern in recommending this is that an all-male committee might try to justify holding you to a higher standard since you had more 'time.' Only you can judge whether that is a hazard. Your chair might be in a position to advise you based on experiences he has heard about in other departments (since I gather no women are available for you to consult who have added the semester to their clock). But he might just give you the politically correct response.

Your progress in your research and writing to date is your best guide for this decision. A new baby is definitely going to reduce your professional productivity - probably for a while depending on how much child care help you can arrange. You should not plan at getting much work done the first year - if you are able to, of course that will be a plus but don't count on it. Just loss of sleep reduces energy and concentration and large blocks of time vanish with a newborn. Try to factor in as much as you can when deciding. And good luck.

If they will allow you to stop the clock, I would do it; and I think you should be publishing, writing articles, attending professional meetings to build the resume. Take your time to do what is necessary, so that when you come up for tenure you will be prepared and well qualified. By the way as Editor of the Women's Series for Prentice Hall, you might be interested in submitting a proposal for either a volume or chapters --- it is all refereed. [RM].

It is unclear whether the ability to "add a semester to my tenure clock" means that you are also getting a semester maternity leave. In other words, if you add a semester to your tenure clock, does that mean you must take a maternity leave? If that is the case, then your decision is tied to the leave issue. You would have to decide whether you want a maternity leave. If you do want a maternity leave then the semester question is moot. However, if you have two choices, 1) deciding whether to take the maternity leave, and 2) whether to also add a semester to your tenure clock, you might think of the following issues. If your progress toward tenure is on track or ahead of track in terms of your performance, you might NOT want to add the semester to the clock. If you can continue with

your performance level up to and after the birth of your child, you may not need to add the semester. I would certainly seek advice from your mentor, Chair and Academic Personnel (Associate VP or Provost) about your performance and their thinking about your progress. I assume that in your third year you have received some formal assessment of your performance (probably two assessments by now) so you could review their verbal advice with your formal assessments. They, of course, can not verbally guarantee the outcome of your tenure decision, but their advisory comments would give you additional information to think about. My suggestions here are based on my view that one should get tenure as soon as allowed because it not only takes tremendous pressure off you for career development, it also puts you in a better position should you decide to seek another position at another university.

Having said all this above, I also encourage you to think about the semester maternity leave, if that is available, and take it with the added semester on the clock. I say this because spending the first few months with the newborn is something you cannot do later. If it would be beneficial to you, the baby and any other family members involved, then take the time. You can get tenure at a later date. And you thought this decision might be made easy with outside advice! I bet you get a variety of suggestions. For me the bottom line is: do what you think is best for you and the baby now. Good luck!

. . . I do have many years as a Dept Chair and I always advised individuals to add time to their clock if possible. One never knows what life will hand one. However, before you make a decision, I would urge you to find out the ramifications of adding time to your tenure clock. Several universities permit - and even encourage - this practice, but some of these do not look with favor on those who take this option when tenure time comes around. The only way you can find out is informally, so check with your network [at your university]. . . You need to check at all levels - Dept, College & Provost. That information might influence your decision. Good luck and happy parenting!

Here at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee either a mother or father expecting a baby may ask for an additional year on the tenure clock. We encourage all new parents to do this (faculty may also ask for other caregiving responsibilities, such as eldercare) as soon as possible after the birth (or adoption) of the child. This permits them the extra year if they need it, but does not obligate them to take it. I think the timing is important because it signals the institution's recognition of the extra burden of the caregiving responsibilities and normalizes such requests. Although faculty members may also ask later in the probationary time period and the request will still be granted, then the person risks being perceived as asking because they feel they are in "tenure trouble."

As the mother of a 17-month-old child, I can attest that the arrival of a new baby can seriously curtail the amount of time you usually spend on research and publication. Unless your publication record is already beyond reproach, I strongly recommend that you take advantage of the assistance your University offers. It is your right, regardless of what your colleagues may think privately of it. If it turns out that you do not need the extra semester on the tenure clock, you can always apply for tenure "on time" (unless your University specifies otherwise). Congratulations and best wishes on the pending addition to your family!

We have a statement that is broader than for childbirth, but it works to give leave for this as well. Take it, but find out how the folks you work with view it so you know what you're dealing with. What everyone finds out is that it's harder to have a child and come right back than what they think before doing it. A major question to ask is how this will influence the timing of promotion and tenure for you. Usually when a person takes off one semester, it can move P&T one year forward. But you need to know.

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Winter 2003 - Issue #11

## THE GRADUATE STUDENT CORNER

Hello again, everyone! Welcome to 2003, and to another informative installment of the Graduate Student Corner.

I don't know about the rest of you, but whenever the holidays roll around I always think that it would be smart to create a "wish list" of books that I would like to own, but that I don't have the time (or the money) to buy. The problem is that I never know which books I should ask for. It is this unfulfilled desire to enhance my personal library that prompted the topic for this edition of the G.S.C.

I asked my panel of experts to propose a list of books that they consider to be "must-reads" for graduate students. These books might be: (1) textbooks written by feminist authors that address race/class/gender issues; (2) textbooks in more general subject areas (e.g., policing, juvenile justice, corrections, etc.) used in teaching undergraduate courses; (3) influential novels or works of fiction; or (4) any other books that our experts felt compelled to recommend. I received some great suggestions, and I'm hopeful that the list of books presented here will help other graduate students decide which books they want to add to their own personal collections. (So, start making your holiday "wish lists" early!)

For their contributions to this column, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to: **Nancy Hogan, Kristy Holtfreter, Beth Huebner, Angie Moe, Roz Muraskin, Sharon Redhawk Love, Amanda Robinson, and Susan Sharp.**

If you have questions that you would like to see answered in this column, or if you are interested in responding to grad students' questions, please e-mail me at [burges26@msu.edu](mailto:burges26@msu.edu).

Thanks again to all of you who helped with this column. Enjoy!

Regards,  
Amanda

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Winter 2003 - Issue #11

## Member Profiles

As is the case most years, I came away from last November's ASC meetings with many new friends and renewed friendships (a continued testament to the value of DWC). I am privileged to present just a small sample of these fine scholars here. Rest assured, however, that many more are sure to come (if I didn't get you this time, consider this fair warning).

I hope you will find the following profiles to be wonderfully inspirational, courageous, honest, and at times, a little amusing! Thank you Kim, Jeanne, Deborah, Ruth, and Venessa for taking the time out of your always-hectic schedules to answer my questions.

If you haven't already signed up to contribute to this column, please just email me and I'll send you the details for the next issue ([angie.moe@wmich.edu](mailto:angie.moe@wmich.edu)).

In Peace,  
Angie

~~~~~

### Kimberly J. Cook

Associate Professor of Criminology, University of Southern Maine

#### 1) What has been your involvement in the American Society of Criminology? The Division on Women and Crime? Other ASC divisions?

I joined the Division on Women and Crime in 1989, when I attended my first ASC conference. I felt quite naïve, actually, because I was taken by surprise at the degree to which men were expressing 'interest' in my academic work. Later, I learned mine was not an isolated event, and became rather suspicious of this feigned 'interest.' Certainly not all the men I met at the conference that year had ulterior motives, but several did and it dampened my interest in criminology until I discovered the Division. Since I first began reading in the area of women's studies and feminist theory, I've identified myself as a feminist and with my experiences as a formerly battered woman and single mother on welfare my feminist commitments were galvanized. I was surprised that some men faculty attending the conference would treat me with such disregard, because in each university where I had been a student I experienced the men professors to be respectful and pro-feminist so I naively assumed that all men professors were like that. It was empowering to discuss this experience with others from within the Division and realize that my experience here was not unique. As with most experiences of exploitation, if it remains an "isolated incident" then the exploited person is left feeling that she brought this on herself, or that there's something specific about her that provoked this, and worst of all, that she's not worthy of human dignity. When exploited people come

together to discuss and mobilize around these injustices, then we are all stronger and better equipped to reject that self-denigrating assumption. My awareness around these gender dynamics was also cemented at other professional conferences such as the American Sociological Association. Because of this, I and others organized a day-long conference called Sociologists Against Sexual Harassment in 1992 at the Society for the Study of Social Problems conference. With support from the Division on Women and Crime, we were able to organize some support-group sessions for women in the ASC over the years and that has also been very helpful to so many of us.

### **2) Why/how did you get into this field and why do you stay in it? (i.e., What drives you?)**

I got into criminology as a graduate student studying violence against women. It seemed ineffective to me to study violence against women without incorporating the political dimension that feminist perspectives entail. It is important to understand the psychological impacts of such trauma and the psychological motives for men who are batterers, yet the psychological research didn't satisfy my scholar/activist urges to know "why do men keep getting away with it?" This seemed to me to be a broader question of social control, punitive responses, and male privilege. For decades the modern women's movement has been trying to engage with the criminal justice system to address violence against women as a serious crime. I applaud much of the awareness-raising that has been going on with this issue over the year. On the other hand, I am deeply concerned that by relying on the criminal justice system as our "solution" to the problem of violence against women we're missing the big picture: heterosexism, racism, classism, etc. Studies have shown that the policing solution to violence against women has exacerbated other problems of racism, and classism. The "law and order" agenda has coopted crimes against women in order to further the net-widening and net-tightening without digging into the crucial questions that feminist criminology tends to raise: what about economic marginalization of women? What about political voicelessness among women? What about the intersection of race/class/gender and sexual orientation as contributing factors to the epidemic of violence in our society? What about the displays of 'firepower' by the state against our 'enemies' that result in decimated communities around the world? What about economic policies that deny people human dignity? What about geo-political global practices that put corporate greed ahead of human need? These are all necessary questions for feminist criminologists to ask, explore, and ANSWER in our papers, books, journal articles, and activism. I guess this is what motivates me still; I cannot separate the battering of one woman from the battering ram of the state to impose its will and inflict its pain on massive numbers of people. I see them as tandem forces that reinforce oppressive conditions.

### **3) How do you define yourself as a scholar/activist/educator?**

I define myself as an anti-punitive globally oriented, locally active, feminist scholar. Though most of my published research has not been explicitly about violence against women (rather, it has been examining the connective tissue of abortion policies and capital punishment practices, and lately more about restorative justice), I cannot separate myself from the younger version of myself who was battered, raped, and left to raise a child alone within the economic controls of the welfare system. So, when I speak publicly to support legislation for single mothers going to college, or to oppose capital punishment, or to support reproductive rights, or to promote humane policies within the criminal justice system, I do so with the ever-present realities that my personal experience and academic training are part of the credibility I have to make these public statements. It may be trite to recall C. Wright Mills famous quip "the personal is political", but I do believe that's the case. As a feminist professor, my presence in the classroom is political. My writings are political, and my life is an expression of political resistance against oppression. Of course, the tougher question to ask oneself is "how does my existence contribute to oppression?" As a white woman in the United States, I am a beneficiary of racial privileges that I did not earn; and now as a professor rather than welfare recipient, I am a beneficiary of class privilege. I do my best to be reflective on these privileges, and remain aware of them as I use the voice I have to question these structures.

### **4) What are your current projects or interests?**

I am currently seeking funding to do research on life histories of innocent people condemned to death. With Sandra Westervelt at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, I am hoping to begin collecting data on this project in the next few months. I am also currently working on further developing my specialization in restorative justice. Having spent six months in Australia as a Fulbright scholar (I am one of three feminist criminologists who have gone to Australia on a Fulbright Scholarship - the others are



Kathy Daly and Claire Renzetti), I was able to observe restorative justice programs there. I intend to continue researching in that area and writing in that area for many years. In fact, I expect that my second book will be on RJ. Other projects I have underway include content analysis of editorial/political cartoons on capital punishment in the United States (with Chris Powell) and on-going writing examining shelter services for battered women (with Denise Donnelly).

**5) Do you have any kids, pets, and/or significant partner?**

I have a son who is going to be 22 this year. His name is Greg, and he's a political radical, he's also a musician and plays Afro-Caribbean music (especially percussion). Give him stuff to bang around and he'll make music! I have two cats (Jericho, who is in the picture with me, and Boo who is a tortoise shell cat). We may be getting a puppy in the next month or so, too. My partner is Chris Powell, who is a British critical criminologist. Chris just moved here from Wales last year and we're enjoying our new home which is remote, rural, and relaxing.

**6) How do you wind down after a stressful day?**

This is going to sound really cheesy, but I watch two soaps. One is the American soap, The Bold and the Beautiful and the other is an Australian soap called Home and Away. The Australian soap has to be taped overseas and sent to Maine because it's not broadcast in the US. I hope that readers who object to soaps as anti-feminist don't judge me too harshly on this. I also like to watch movies and read novels.

**7) What is your most embarrassing moment (if willing to share)?**

Having one of my professors in graduate school come into the bathroom while I was on the toilet. This professor didn't know anyone was in there, and the lock in the bathroom was broken. Talk about a red face!

**8) What is your favorite word? Least favorite?**

My favorite for the moment is a word I picked up in Australia "bugger!" when said with the right tone of voice can mean "oh shit!" but without being quite so crass. My least favorite word at the moment is "Bush" as in President-Select Bush.

**9) What is one of your lifelong goals or dreams?**

To abolish the death penalty.

**10) Anything else you'd like to share?**

Yes, I want to express my deep appreciation for the friends I have in the Division on Women and Crime. Mona, Nancy, both Joannes, Helen, Claire, Betsy, Deb, Susan (all of the Susans), Becky, Nicky, Danielle, Angie, Marjorie, Jeanne, Meda, and everyone else who has joined the Division and anyone else who will join the Division. Thanks! You're my heroes.

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**Jeanne Flavin**

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, Fordham University, Bronx, NY

**1) What has been your involvement in the American Society of Criminology? The Division on Women and Crime? Other ASC divisions?**

I only became involved in the DWC a few years ago. I had "lurked" at business meetings at the suggestion of a friend, and eventually, in San Diego, I joined a group of women for dinner. It kind of evolved from there as I became braver about talking to people and consequently, enlarged my circle of acquaintances.

## **2) Why/how did you get into this field and why do you stay in it? (i.e., What drives you?)**

How I wound up studying criminal justice is too complicated of a story, involving England, a homeless shelter, the Defense Department, and an AIDS hospice. I chose to study at American U because it had a good justice, law and society program. I stayed there because of people like Mona Danner and Bette Dickerson. I like my field well enough, but often regret not pursuing a career in journalism or public health where it seems more opportunities exist to influence attitudes, behaviors, and policies.

## **3) How do you define yourself as a scholar/activist/educator?**

I'm a feminist. I love the autonomy and freedom an academic life affords, though I miss the day-to-day opportunities for collaboration that one might find at a non-profit or a research institute. In 2003-04, I hope to spend part of my sabbatical working outside of New York City with kindred spirits. At best, I practice an "everyday activism." I'm fond of telling my students that getting out of bed in the morning and committing to live another day as a decent human being is a form of activism. Ideally, I would like for my scholarship to inform policy, at least in some small way. I teach at Fordham (a Jesuit university) at the main campus in the Bronx. There are a lot of middle class students as well as many who are first-generation college attendees. I want my students to feel challenged to "do great things, or to do small things with great passion." I hope they know I'm confident in their ability to leave their mark on the world, how proud I am of their achievements . . . I can't imagine too many occupations that are as simultaneously exhilarating and humbling as teaching. (Unless it's research!)

## **4) What are your current projects or interests?**

I'm mainly interested in the ways in which entities of official governmental control (including, but not limited to the CJS) impact vulnerable populations. My current projects examine how our current laws and punishment practices affect women, especially poor women and their right to bear and raise children, and women family members of offenders. I also have a longstanding concern with our responses to drug addiction and substance abuse. In particular, I have enjoyed working with a non-profit which provides services to paroled drug users and their families on New York's Lower East Side.

## **5) Do you have any kids, pets, and/or significant partner?**

No pets. No kids. Last year I ended a 6.5 year relationship and have recently started seeing "Pierre," who is a pretty amazing person. When it's not ripping your heart out, love is great.

## **6) How do you wind down after a stressful day?**

Often I call a friend and have a cigarette. I might grab a drink or walk to a bookstore or a coffee shop and hang out. Sometimes I just take a really hot shower and go to bed.

## **7) What is your most embarrassing moment (if willing to share)?**

It's not even close to being my most embarrassing moment, but it is one which allows me to retain a shred of dignity. I served on a jury for a murder trial here in New York City. One morning, outside the courthouse I noticed a long-haired man getting coffee from a kiosk. Was that Ron Kuby? (A prominent public defender known for taking on unpopular cases, a left-leaning, right-minded thinker.) A few minutes later, I'm upstairs outside the courtroom and who should be striding down the hall but this same long-haired guy, with an entourage of legal assistants surrounding him. It's definitely my hero, Ron Kuby. He sees me, and recognizes me as the woman who'd been gawking at him outside. He pauses and says "hello" whereby, do I say, "Mr. Kuby, I want to thank you for taking on unpopular causes"? Or "Mr. Kuby, I respect and admire your work"? Noooo. I proceed to gush - and I mean gush - like a schoolgirl, "Ron Kuby! I'm your

BIGGEST fan!" He was sweet, though. He treated me like a harmless but slightly insane client, taking my hand and saying gently, "Thank you, that's nice to hear."

**8) What is your favorite word? Least favorite?**

Favorite word? Hegemony. Least favorite? Seminal.

**9) What is one of your lifelong goals or dreams?**

Short-term goals: To spend at least part of next year's sabbatical outside of NYC doing socially meaningful work with good and decent people (all invitations seriously considered). To publish an op-ed piece in the New York Times.

Lifelong dreams: To publish a collection of essays/social commentary. To take one good photograph, to draw one good sketch, to write one good poem, to publish one short story.

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**Deborah Burris-Kitchen, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Criminology, Tennessee State University

**1) What has been your involvement in the American Society of Criminology? The Division on Women and Crime? Other ASC divisions?**

I have been a member of the Division of Color and Crime, and the Critical Criminology Division, as well as a member of the DWC. I have been a member of the ASC since 1993. I attend annual meetings, and have presented papers every year since 1993.

**2) Why/how did you get into this field and why do you stay in it? (i.e., What drives you?)**

I have always been interested in criminology/sociology. I came from a lower/middle class family. I have five brothers and sisters, and my father was raising us on a Minister's Salary. He later left the Ministry to work for Holley Carborator in Troy, MI in an effort to bring home more money to help relieve the financial burden of raising so many children. In the ensuing years, my mom found herself home alone most of the week with 5 teenagers. My father had to travel a lot for his work. My brothers began to get into trouble with drugs. My oldest brothers friend was shot and killed by the police while sleeping in his car. I think this woke up our whole family, but mostly it woke up my oldest brother. The teenager that was killed by the police was kicked out of his home and was sleeping in his car with a gun in his lap. The police didn't ask any questions, they just saw the gun and began shooting.

Following this incident, my brother quit using drugs, and I enrolled in a social problems class as an undergraduate at Indiana-Purdue, Fort Wayne, and it was at this point that issues of poverty, racism, crime, and deviance were introduced to me in a formal setting. There were actual theories that helped me understand my brother's involvement in petty drug use, and one of my brothers best friends death at a very young age. It also helped explain gender relations, and female involvement in deviant activities. I began to realize that social class and gender had constrained, and constructed my social choices, as well as my social position at that time. I was hooked on sociology.

My current motivation comes from the love I have for passing on knowledge to college students. Also, my continued love of reading and studying issues of racism, classism, and sexism as it is related to crime. With hopes of using this knowledge someday to bring about social change that will lead our society in the direction of practicing more just political, economic, and social policies.

**3) How do you define yourself as a scholar/activist/educator?**

I am a critical criminologist.

**4) What are your current projects or interests?**

I recently had a book published titled Short Rage: An autobiographical look at heightism in America. It is a literary piece published by Fithian Press. I am in the process of finishing interviews and an article titled Policing Black and Blue in Nashville. I am also working on a book titled Racism, Imperialism, and Social Injustice: The War on Drugs as a current example.

**5) Do you have any kids, pets, and/or significant partner?**

I have a husband of 14 years. I have a daughter that is 14. We adopted her from San Bernardino County (California) Social Services when she was 9 years old. I have 2 German Shepards (Samson and Delilah) and one cat named Max.

**6) How do you wind down after a stressful day?**

I really don't. I usually stay busy until bedtime. I do get up at 4:30 am every morning and lift weights and run 4 miles on my treadmill. That is a great way to start my day. When I do have time I like to water ski and ride my motorcycle.

**7) What is your most embarrassing moment (if willing to share)?**

I was running both my German Shepards at the same time around the track at the field where my daughter has soccer practice. My dogs didn't like another dog that was all the way across the soccer field from where we were. They proceeded to drag me across the field where my daughter's team was practicing and attacked the other dog. It happened to be the dog of one of the other mother's on my daughter's team. Between the two dogs they outweigh me by about 70 lbs. There was really nothing I could do but hold on the leash behind them. The dog they attacked was not hurt.

**8) What is your favorite word? Least favorite?**

My favorite word is Peace. My least favorite word is shut-up.

**9) What is one of your lifelong goals or dreams?**

To set up a community recreation center for youth that also provides after school reading and tutoring programs. I would also like to be more politically involved in movements for social change.

**10) Anything else you'd like to share?**

I really appreciate this opportunity to share with members of the Division of Women and Crime. I also truly appreciate the Division for offering friendship and networking opportunities.

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**Ruth Fleury-Steiner**

Assistant Professor of Individual and Family Studies, University of Delaware

**1) What has been your involvement in the American Society of Criminology? The Division on**

**Women and Crime? Other ASC divisions?**

I've been going to ASC since 1996, but I didn't start going to the DWC meetings until this year.

**2) Why/how did you get into this field and why do you stay in it? (i.e., What drives you?)**

I had a wonderful mentor in graduate school (Cris Sullivan) who introduced me to applied research on violence against women. I think what drives me is the hope that what I do as a researcher and/or a teacher will actually make a difference in someone's life.

**3) What are your current projects or interests?**

My major interest is domestic violence. For the last few years I've been working with several other DWC members (Joanne Belknap, Heather Melton, Cris Sullivan, Amy Leisenring) on a longitudinal study of battered women's experiences with the criminal legal system. Currently, I'm also working on a project about battered women's experiences with child protection services.

**4) Do you have any kids, pets, and/or significant partner?**

My partner is also an ASC member (Benjamin Fleury-Steiner). We have three short, furry, adopted "children" (cats): Daphne, Stanley, and Misty.

**5) How do you wind down after a stressful day?**

I always feel better after spending some quality time with the cats. They remind me of what is really important in life - all they want is a snack, a cuddle, and a nap.

**6) What is your most embarrassing moment (if willing to share)?**

Has anyone ever really answered this? (If so, I admire their courage.)

**7) What is your favorite word? Least favorite?**

I probably should say something like "love" or "respect" or "kindness." But the truth is that one of my favorite words is Oconomowoc (a small town in Wisconsin). It's just fun to say.

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**Venessa Garcia, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Public Administration, Health Services & Criminal Justice, Kean University

**1) What has been your involvement in the American Society of Criminology? The Division on Women and Crime? Other ASC divisions?**

I have been a member of the American Society of Criminology since 1994 when I presented my first conference paper. At the time, I had just completed my master's degree in Sociology at the State University of New York University at Buffalo. I was an inactive member of the Division of Women and Crime, I believe in 1995, however, because I was working full time and taking full time credits in the doctoral program, I let me membership expire. I have maintained my research focus on women in criminal justice and only recently became reconnected with the Division on Women and Crime. At the 2002 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology I was prepared to discontinue attending the conferences

but then met some of the women in the DWC. I was beginning a new position at Kean University in New Jersey, I was tired, overextended and needing to reevaluate my conference attendance to keep it to a minimum due to the need to be with my children. However, the women of the DWC inspired me to the point that my love for the field was revived. The inspiration has enabled me to complete and submit two research articles and I am in the process of completing a third.

## **2) Why/how did you get into this field and why do you stay in it? (i.e., What drives you?)**

I became involved in the field of criminal justice as an undergraduate sociology major at SUNY College at Buffalo, a department that had a deviance focus. While working on my undergraduate senior thesis I focused on police response to domestic violence and was horribly disappointed by the way police treated the victims and their cases. After completing my B.A. in sociology, I attended SUNY University at Buffalo and tried to find another field of interest but the stigmatization of women and women's issues plagued me. I believed that by researching and working with the criminal justice organizations, I could make a difference.

## **3) How do you define yourself as a scholar/activist/educator?**

This is a hard question to answer. I guess I see myself as an educator first while me as a scholar is very close behind - if not standing side-by-side. This is because I do not believe that I can be my best as an educator if I do not engage in the research. I have come to believe that activism is very important (contrary to what I was "trained" to believe in graduate school). As an activist, I have worked with domestic violence groups, a county task force, and a county commission dealing with inequalities in society. In each case, I have been able to bring my roles as educator and scholar into my activity as an activist. I believe, however, that I would not be complete without all.

## **4) What are your current projects or interests?**

I have been invited by a District Office of the New Jersey State Parole Board to aid in the implementation and evaluation of two programs. The first is a parole batterer's treatment program operated in collaboration with the Women's Center of Monmouth County. The program goes beyond anger management, it also attempts to educate the parolees (males) on the definitions and constructs of women and men in society, which influence violence against women. The second program is a parole court, not specific to women, but which works to bring the entire community into the treatment of the parolee.

I am currently finishing a paper, under a revise and resubmit, which focuses on the rejection of community policing based on the idea that it is not traditional policing and therefore does not fall under the functions of the masculine police ideology. I am also working on a small research project investigating the experiences of female criminal justice professionals in New Jersey. Another project I am working on is linked to females as victims but is more general to victims as a group. I am investigating the images of victims in the media and comparing it to victims in the criminal justice system. My goal is to provide evidence of the much talked about "deserving" and "undeserving" victim and the consequences of these images. Obviously, this area is very much linked to women as victims, as well as other minority groups, such as race and social class.

## **5) Do you have any kids, pets, and/or significant partner?**

I have been married to a very wonderful and somewhat modern man who could not see his life with a woman who did not stand up for herself. One of the best things about him is that he loves to cook and spend as much time as possible with our children. We have two children, a six year old girl and a three year old boy.

## **6) How do you wind down after a stressful day?**

After a stressful day I like to play with my children or watch my husband play with them. Watching my laughing children has always been something that has made me happy.

## **7) What is your most embarrassing moment (if willing to share)?**

Fortunately, I do not see things as "embarrassing." Tripping, stumbling over my words, having my children reveal extremely private things about me in public mostly makes me laugh-it makes for good story telling.

**8) What is your favorite word? Least favorite?**

My least favorite word is "chick," that is, in reference to women. I guess I do not have a favorite word.

**9) What is one of your lifelong goals or dreams?**

My lifelong goal is to making a difference with the treatment of women in society. I have started with my children.

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**Winter 2003  
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