From the Editors

Dear Colleagues,

This issue of the Southwest Journal of Criminal Justice marks the complete transition to us as co-editors, and we are excited about the direction the journal is currently taking. We have seen an increase in the number of high-quality articles being submitted to the journal, we are pleased with the high quality of reviews we are receiving, and we are very pleased with the diverse articles that are making it through the peer-review process. We believe that the current issue’s four articles will bear this out.

Granberg-Rademacker, Bumgarner, and Johnson’s empirical piece on School Violence is a very timely topic, coming in the wake of the VA Tech massacre. This is followed by an article by Stephen W. Verrill which remains a source of interest to our profession: the issue of college degree requirements among criminal justice agencies. The third article is an international article by Kim, Gerber, and Kim, detailing the characteristics of incarcerated women in South Korea who murdered their spouses, drawing upon both feminist and age-graded theory. Finally, we have a research note on sentencing data by Hartley, Madden, and Spohn. It is our hope that the quality and diversity of these articles, along with the two book reviews, will allow all of our readers to find something of interest in these pages.

Since taking over the journal, we have seen the number of submissions increase, and already this year we are further along in the number of articles submitted, the number of articles currently under peer review, and the number of articles falling into the “revise and resubmit” category. We hope that by early summer, the Fall issue will be taking final shape and that we may have it available mid-semester.

We presented last Fall’s issue in print form in Seattle at the SWACJ business meeting, and we received high praise. As mentioned in a previous “From the Editors,” we hope to move the journal to a permanent print by way of association with a journal publisher, but we have some work to do before we can make that leap. Almost all of the print journals publish four issues a year, and we may need to move in that direction in order for our affiliation with a publisher to become a reality. We may also need to demonstrate that we can maintain the journal at a high level with the increase to four issues. The next natural progression, then, may be to three issues a year. This will be a topic of consideration for the next business meeting in Corpus Christi: Which is exactly where we hope to see all of you October 4-6, 2007!

Willard M. Oliver
W. Wes Johnson
Sam Houston State University