On Friday, March 16, 2012 the Minorities and Women Section met in New York City at the Marriott Marquis for its annual Awards Reception. Dr. Jill Joline Myers delivered the keynote address entitled “The Color of School Sanctioning Made Equitable.” Dr. Myers discussed the increased prevalence of cyber bullying and incidents of cyber aggression among students. In addition, she discussed trends in school sanctioning of cyber bullying, which has resulted in a significant number of lawsuits for school administrators. According to Dr. Myers, school administrators who have sanctioned students for cyber bullying behavior have lost lawsuits because the courts have ruled time and time again that sanctioning speech amounts to a violation of students’ First Amendment rights.

Dr. Myers also presented evidence that minorities and those with disabilities are often disproportionately sanctioned by school systems. She argued that such conduct by school systems constitutes a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment’s equal protection clause and will undoubtedly lead to additional lawsuits.

How can this situation be remedied? Dr. Myers along with her colleagues Dr. Donna McCaw and Dr. Leaunda Hemphill have created “The MATRIX” as a tool that administrators can apply to help them avoid liability. The MATRIX is a data-driven, evidence-based disciplinary response tool that provides graduated, equitable, flexible, and individualized sanctioning options. When applied properly it addresses both First and Fourteenth Amendment concerns. If you would like to learn more about Dr. Myers’ research, you are encouraged to pick up a copy of her co-authored book entitled “Responding to Cyber Bullying: An Action Tool for School Leaders.”

During the reception, the winners of this years section awards were also announced. Dr. Francis Bernat was honored with the Coramae Richey Mann Leadership Award. Dr. Allison Cotton was honored with the Becky Tatum Excellence Award.

Two students were awarded the Esther Madriz Student Travel Awards: Erica Redner-Vera of Arizona State University and Leslie-Dawn Quick of Fayetteville State University.

Dr. Terry-Ann Craigie received the Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice Best Paper Award.

To read more about the award recipients please refer to pages 4-7 of the newsletter. If anyone would like copies of the awards reception pictures, please send your request to Kimberly Dodson at KD-Dodson@wiu.edu.
Message from the Chair
Robert L. Bing, Ph.D.
University of Texas at Arlington

Hello all! I am writing to say how nice it was to see so many friends and supporters of the ACJS Section on Minorities and Women at the annual meeting in New York. It was my first trip to NYC in almost ten years, need I say more! Let me get to the point. . . Thanks to all of you who helped make the Awards Reception a wonderful celebration. And congrats to the recipients of the two major awards: Francis Bernat (Coramae Richey Mann Leadership Award) and Allison Cotton (Becky Tatum Excellence Award). On behalf of the Section (and membership), I congratulate you on your accomplishments and recognition that was well deserved at the MWS Awards Reception. I also want to recognize the accomplishments of Leslie-Dawn Quick and Erica Redner-Vera; both were recipients of the Esther Madriz Travel Award and presented outstanding student papers at the conference. We also recognize Dr. Terry-Ann Craigie the winner of the first annual Best Paper Award for the *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*.

Many thanks to our keynote speaker, Jill Myers who gave a phenomenal presentation at the Awards Reception. If you noticed, we changed the format a bit and it worked nicely; at one point, we had standing room only! There are so many other folks to recognize: Faith Lutze, Nominations Chair and her committee; Cathryn Lavery for the flyers; and Angela Taylor for handling the Madriz Travel Awards. I would be remiss if I did not mention the MWS Board members Angela (out-going vice chair), Kimberly, George, Cathyrn, and Camille for their energy, counsel and steadfast support of the Section throughout the year.

In closing, please know that we will be calling upon you in the weeks ahead, as we work toward a membership drive, an enhanced web page, increased visibility for the Section, along with ideas generated at the business meeting. Enjoy this issue of the MWS Speaks!

Message from the Editor
Kimberly D. Dodson, Ph.D.
Western Illinois University-Quad Cities

It was really great to see all of you in New York! I would like to thank all of the people who worked behind the scenes to make the Awards Reception a success. First, thanks goes out to Faith Lutze and the members of the awards committee who solicited award nominations, read and evaluated each nomination, and ultimately voted on the recipients. I’m sure this was not an easy job as we have so many deserving scholars. Second, thanks to Robert Bing for working with the Marriot Marquis staff to set up the room and cater the food for the reception. In addition, I would like to thank Robert for ordering the plaques and awards for the reception. I also want to thank my colleague, Dr. Jill Joline Myers for her keynote address to the section, which was both informative and inspiring.

During the MWS general meeting, many of you made suggestions for improving the section. The MWS Executive Board will work hard to address and/or implement the changes that were suggested. We will call on the membership as needed to facilitate our efforts. Thanks to all of you for your willingness to serve on various committees. I will keep you posted on our progress and the status of projects as we tackle them. If you have additional ideas, concerns, or comments about improving the section or increasing our membership, please feel free to share your thoughts with me.

Again, I want to thank all of you who have supported the newsletter. The newsletter is a place to share ideas, promote fellowship and scholarship, and to stay connected to one another between conferences. I encourage you to send in short essays or articles, teaching tips, professional awards and achievements, or anything you would like to share. Please send these items to me at KD-Dodson@wiu.edu.
History of the Minorities and Women Section

The Minorities and Women Section exists because of the commitment of Vince Webb and Robert Bohm to Affirmative Action. During their tenure as presidents of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, 1991-1992 and 1993-1994 respectively, Vince Webb and later Robert Bohm tasked the Affirmative Action Committee Chaired by Kaylene Richards Ekeh 1991-1994 to develop a formal written policy to advance the interests of minorities and women. Members of the Affirmative Action Committee gathered signatures and drafted a constitution at the 1991 Denver meeting, presented these to the ACJS Board, which then approved the formation of the section.

The Planning and Programming Committee of the Minorities and Women Section held its first section planning conference at Penn State University, University Park Campus, July 10-12, 1992. The objective of the meeting was two fold: to initiate recommendations for panels, workshops, roundtables, and awards for the 1993 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Program on “Class, Race, and Gender,” and to establish short- and long-term goals for the development of research, theory and teaching practices on issues relevant to minorities and women in criminal justice. The participants were: Kathleen Barry, Zelma Henriques, Francis Bernat, Rosemary Gido, Lynn Goodstein, Liz Jenkins, Faith Lutze, Robin Harr, Susan Noonan, Kaylene Richards Ekeh, Mary Stohr, and Vernetta Young.

During the Pittsburg meeting, officers were nominated and later elected. Members agreed that officers would serve for one year only as they ran uncontested. The founding officers were Chair, Susan Noonan; Vice Chair, Zelma Henriques; Secretary/Treasurer, Rosemary Gido; and Executive Counselors, Faith Lutze, Tina Mawhorr, and Robert Chaires.

The Minorities and Women Section is one of the vehicles for bringing life to the Academy's policy of diversity and inclusion. The Section has operated continuously since its inception and provides a forum for discussing issues relating to minorities and women. In carrying out the Affirmative Action policy for minorities and women, the Section:

- serves as a resource network to further knowledge about minorities and women,
- encourages research and theory development, and
- facilitates development of teaching minorities and women issues (ACJS MWS webpage written by Janice Joseph).
Coramae Richey Mann Leadership Award Recipient
Dr. Francis Bernat

Each year the Minorities and Women’s Section selects a few of its members to honor for their excellence in scholarship and teaching as well as their service to the academy, to students, and to the broader community. The spirit of each award is to recognize the work of those who broaden our knowledge, enrich our existence, and create a space for others to prosper. This year’s awardees are most deserving of our recognition and appreciation.

Dr. Francis Bernat received the Coramae Richey Mann Leadership Award. Dr. Bernat is a founding member of the MWS who worked with a small and diverse group of women from around the country to establish our Section and promote a space at ACJS for minorities and women to flourish as scholars and leaders within our profession. As stated by Mary Stohr, Fran “has tirelessly labored to advance justice issues as they apply to women and minority group members in the academy, among criminal justice practitioners, and for victims and offenders caught up in the criminal justice system. This theme of ‘justice for all’ has permeated Fran’s professional work and personal interests.” Dr. Bernat has served on and chaired numerous committees throughout her career dedicated to improving social justice and human rights for faculty, students, and the community. Likewise, her scholarship also concentrates on issues such as human trafficking, race and gender disparities in the criminal justice system, and victimization. Dr. Bernat has repeatedly taken great personal and professional risks over time to pursue equity and justice for whomever is in need. She currently serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Affairs and Social Research at Texas AM International University and is Editor of the journal Women and Criminal Justice (continued p. 5).
Dr. Allison Cotton received the Becky Tatum Excellence Award. Dr. Cotton is a dedicated teacher, scholar, and activist who has dedicated her life and career to giving a voice to those who are silenced by injustice and excluded due to structural inequality. As stated by Denise Mowder in her letter of nomination, “On a daily basis, Dr. Cotton goes above and beyond to develop and strengthen the knowledge of race and ethnicity of our graduates and within our community.” Dr. Cotton serves on numerous committees with the purpose of bringing greater access to and diversity within the university as well as promoting social justice within the community. Dr. Cotton’s scholarship focuses on the intersection of race, gender, and class related to crucial and timely issues such as the death penalty, lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, and cross cultural constructions of violence toward women. She has received two Fulbright-Hays Scholarships, one to Egypt where she conducted research on Egyptian women and the practice of female circumcision and one to China where she explored the relationship of massive structures and human representations of power and strength in Chinese culture. Dr. Cotton is also known for bridging the too often separate worlds of academia, policymaking, and the community. She brings her expertise and passion to wherever she is needed by actively recruiting underrepresented students, disseminating information about criminal and juvenile justice, and serving the Black community to achieve social, criminal, and community justice. She currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Metropolitan State College of Denver.

What these awardees demonstrate through their personal passion and professional integrity is that much can be accomplished through individual efforts such as theirs. Their hard work and determination expand boundaries and create space that gives others the opportunity to flourish. Most important, they live their profession beyond the confines of their offices. They exemplify that the right thing to do is not always the easiest thing to do, but you do it anyway because ultimately it matters. It is my hope that as we honor these two individual members that all MWS Members recognize how our individual efforts create a collective action that represents the very foundation in which the Section was built and the spirit the founding members had hoped to inspire and sustain over time. I encourage you to please take the time to nominate someone next year so that we may continue to recognize the contributions that our members make to our profession and to the community.
MASS INCARCERATION: A CRITICAL REVIEW ESSAY
Leslie-Dawn Quick, Fayetteville State University
Faculty Recommender: Dr. Melissa Hickman Barlow

Incarceration has been utilized to control criminal behavior and as a means of deterrence to prevent crime through much of the history of the United States. Since the 1970s incarceration rates have increased dramatically and have realigned the paradigm of the United States’ penal system into a system of mass incarceration. Mass incarceration has negatively impacted our communities, prisoners, and the criminal justice system as a whole. Paul Butler (2009), Michelle Alexander (2010), and Todd Clear (2007) have differing perspectives on what the best course of action may be; however, all three authors would agree that incarceration in its current form must be revised in order to create a safer society free from disparity.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GANG MEMBERSHIP AND HOPELESSNESS
Erica Redner-Vera, Arizona State University
Faculty Recommender: Dr. Kristy Holtfreter

The literature on hopelessness suggests youth living amid impoverished conditions, social disorganization, and limited resources are more likely to experience increased feelings of hopelessness. Similarly, many of the aforementioned aspects are considered, in some capacity, in the research on gangs. Though a considerable amount of gang literature alludes to the fact that loss of hope may be present, it neither directly addresses it nor references it. This study attempts to converge the present literature on hopelessness among minority youth to minority youth in street gangs. This is done using data obtained from an earlier evaluation of the Mesa Gang Intervention Project, using self-report data from 197 youth, asking questions about socio-demographic information, gang activity, education, employment, crime and delinquency, family and individual crisis, and self-reported detention. Findings implicate a connection exists between gang membership and increased levels of hopelessness. Moreover, results suggest education and self-esteem help to reduce loss of hopelessness.
## MINORITIES AND WOMEN
### PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>AWARDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 2011</td>
<td>Toronto, Ontario</td>
<td><strong>Esther Madriz Student Travel Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Camilla Robinson</td>
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<td><strong>Honoree: Holly Sarinic</strong></td>
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<td>February 26, 2010</td>
<td>San Diego, California</td>
<td><strong>Coramae Richey Mann Leadership Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Dr. Faith Lutze</td>
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<td><strong>Becky Tatum Excellence Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Dr. Robert Bing</td>
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<td><strong>Evelyn Gilbert Unsung Hero Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Dr. Marianne Fisher-Giorlando</td>
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<td>March 13, 2009</td>
<td>Boston, Massachusetts</td>
<td><strong>Coramae Richey Mann Leadership Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Dr. George Higgins</td>
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<td><strong>Becky Tatum Excellence Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Dr. Alida Merlo</td>
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<td><strong>Evelyn Gilbert Unsung Hero Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Dr. George Wilson, Sr.</td>
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<td>March 14, 2008</td>
<td>Cincinnati, Ohio</td>
<td><strong>Esther Madriz Student Travel Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Katie L. Herman</td>
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<td><strong>Honoree: Carlos D. Montemayor</strong></td>
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<td>March 16, 2007</td>
<td>Seattle, Washington</td>
<td><strong>Coramae Richey Mann Leadership Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Dr. Helen Taylor Greene</td>
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<td><strong>Becky Tatum Excellence Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Dr. Roslyn Muraskin</td>
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<td><strong>Evelyn Gilbert Unsung Hero Award</strong></td>
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<td>Honoree: Dr. Lorenzo Boyd</td>
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Why Are So Many Black Folks In Jail?

This book raises very important questions about the plight of black folks and the uses of incarceration in America. African Americans are disproportionately represented in every state in the United States. This book focuses on the root causes of incarceration from the perspective of one of the top African American Criminologists in the United States. This is a must read for all Lawmakers, Criminologists, Convicts, American Citizens and people interested in Conspiracy Theory. A great read for criminal justice students around the world.

The Conspiracy to Exterminate Black Folks, Colored Folks, Negroes, Negroids, and African Americans in 21st Century America

Congratulations to Dr. Terry-Ann L. Craigie who was named the winner of the Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice’s Best Paper Award at the Minorities and Women Section Awards Reception in New York. Dr. Craigie is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut. Her winning article is entitled “The Effect of Paternal Incarceration on Early Child Behavioral Problems: A Racial Comparison.” Her study used data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study to examine how the effect of a father’s incarceration on the behavioral problems of preschool-age children differs by race/ethnicity. She examined both internalizing behaviors as characterized by anxiety and depression as well as externalizing behaviors as characterized by aggression and violence. She found that paternal incarceration exacerbates externalizing behavioral problems in children regardless of gender and particularly for Blacks and Hispanics. The findings indicated that there was no concrete evidence that paternal incarceration significantly influenced internalizing behavioral problems in children.
DON’T FORGET TO VOTE
MWS ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Please be sure to vote in the elections for the MWS Executive Board by April 15, 2012. You should have received an email from Cathy Barth with a link and password to access the online voting site. The following members are seeking election to the board:

CANDIDATES

VICE-CHAIR
Tracy L. Andrus, Ph.D.
Director
Lee P. Brown Criminal Justice Institute
Wiley College
Marshall, Texas

EXECUTIVE COUNSELORS
Camille Gibson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Justice Studies
Prairie View A&M University
Prairie View, Texas

George E. Higgins, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Justice Administration
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Cathryn F. Lavery, Ph.D.
Chair and Associate Professor
Criminal Justice Department
Iona College
New Rochelle, New York

THANK YOU
The MWS is grateful to Dr. Angela Taylor, outgoing Vice-Chair for her service and contributions to the section. Dr. Taylor is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Fayetteville State University and has served as the MWS Vice-Chair for the past two years. We thank you for all your hard work and look forward to your continued active involvement in the section.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK!
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