

### Letter from the Editor

The Criminology and Criminal Justice Department would like to introduce *The SOU Student Journal of Criminology & Criminal Justice*. This marks an important step in highlighting students' academic work.

In this inaugural volume, we are proud to showcase several papers that contribute to our understanding of criminal justice and delinquency. In the first article, "Forty Years and Counting: A Picture of Domestic Violence Homicide in Josephine County," Rose Bahr examines domestic violence in Josephine County. Ms. Bahr presents a thorough portrait of risk factors and variables associated with domestic violence, such as weapon, time of year, and the gender of the victim/offender. Ms. Bahr also explores the services available for victims of domestic violence in Southern Oregon.

This volume then switches gears and moves into papers about juvenile justice and delinquency. In her article, "A Study in Obstructions to the Access of Juvenile Legal Rights," Ms. Erika Jacobson explores the violation of juvenile's rights from *In re Gault* to the present day. She also examines the research regarding a juvenile's competency to stand trial and his/her understanding of legal rights.

In the next article, Mr. Daniel Kevan presents research on recidivism and boot camps in his paper, "Juvenile Boot Camp Recidivism." Mr. Kevan discusses the financial aspects of recidivism and the changes that need to happen within juvenile boot camps in order to make them more effective.

In the vein of reform and change, Ms. LisaMarie Williams discusses truancy in her paper, "Dropping Out: How School Affects Incarceration, and What California & Oregon Are Doing About It." Ms. Williams explores the reasons why students drop out of high school, examines the truancy rate in Oregon and California, and discusses the funding issues for educational and delinquency prevention programs.

In the final article, "Adult Jails and the Adolescents Imprisoned There," Ms. Kim Abel evaluates the policy of life without parole for juvenile offenders and argues that the "get tough on crime" policies of the 1980s and 1990s have caused more harm than good for juveniles.

I hope you will find our featured articles insightful and well researched. My thanks to all the students who submitted papers for this journal.

Enjoy!

Best,  
Dr. Alison S. Burke