Greetings! I am pleased to be serving as the new chairperson of the ASA Alcohol, Drugs & Tobacco Section. First, I would like to thank Brian Kelly for serving as the Chair of our section this past year.

Our ADT section meeting was held on Saturday, August 19, and approximately 25 people attended. We welcomed Wendy Chapkis as the Section’s Chair elect and Carrie Oser who is our Secretary/Treasurer.

During the meeting the following 2014 Section committees were formed:

- **Elections Committee**: Hannah Knudsen (Chair), Ellen Benoit, Kathryn Nowotny
- **Senior Scholar Committee**: Brian Kelly (Chair), Avelardo Valdez, Sheigla Murphy
- **Junior Scholar Committee**: Mike Vuolo (Chair), Steve Lankenau, Barbara Kail
- **Student Paper Committee**: Alice Cepeda (Chair), Dina Perrone, Kate Smith

Announced later that evening at our reception were the 2013 ADT Section award winners. These included the following: Student Paper Award: **Brooke West**, Junior Scholar Award: **Mike Vuolo**, and Senior Scholar Award: **Avelardo Valdez**. Related, I would like to remind everyone to please forward names for potential candidates for our 2014 awards to the respective chairs of the three committees.

Wendy Chapkis, our chair elect, has been busy this winter organizing our section’s session and roundtables for our annual meeting in San Francisco. Details on these sessions will be forthcoming.

A problem that our ADT Section has been unable to resolve these last few years is our diminishing membership, which is currently at 88 members. This is a serious decline from 2006 when we had a membership of 280 members. We need to work together to develop effective strategies to increase these numbers. If you have any ideas please contact me or Wendy Chapkis.

In closing, I would like to point out that this is an exceptionally exciting time to be substance use researchers with all the policy changes that are occurring in regards to marijuana and sentencing guidelines for drug offenses, as well the emerging or reemerging of opiate use among new drug using populations.

I wish all of you a productive year.

Avelardo Valdez

The misuse of benzodiazepines (BZs) among adolescents is an important issue within the fields of mental health, medicine, and public health. Though there is an increasing amount of research on prescription medication misuse, a relatively small number of studies focus on adolescent BZ misuse. The goal of this study, therefore, is to identify demographic and psychosocial factors that place adolescents at risk for misusing BZs. Additionally, the authors applied concepts from social bonding theory, social learning theory, and strain theory to determine the extent to which these concepts explain BZ misuse. Using data from the 2011 National Survey of Drug Use & Health, multivariate logistic regression models were estimated to determine which factors were associated with an increased risk of BZ misuse. These findings help to describe the psychosocial profile of adolescent BZ misusers which should increase the ability of clinicians to identify patients who may be at greater risk for misuse. This study is particularly important within the context of psychiatry, where a clearer understanding of adolescent BZ misuse is critical for informing prevention efforts and developing best practices for prescribing BZs.

Khary Rigg, Phd., is an assistant professor in the Department of Mental Health Law & Policy at University of South Florida. Jason Ford, Ph.D., is an associate professor of sociology at University of Central Florida.


Recently released by Lynne Rienner Publishers, Meth Mania examines the social, legal, and cultural evolution of methamphetamine in the United States. Placing the drug in its historical context, Parsons shows how many of today’s meth-related harms (e.g., “meth labs”, the increased popularity of smokable methamphetamine) have unintentionally resulted from a series of policies designed to curtail supplies of illicit and licit stimulants. Because many of these policies have been enacted during periods of heightened public fear and attention toward drugs, Parsons also studies national news media coverage of methamphetamine. From a social constructionist perspective, he reveals, compares, and contrasts three separate methamphetamine panics that have unfolded in the U.S. over the past half-century: “Methedrine” of the late 1960s/early 1970s, “ice” in 1989, and “crystal meth” of the late 1990s/early 2000s. While the book’s primary focus is on methamphetamine, Parsons also discusses meth in relation to other amphetamines, cocaine (including crack), and so-called bath salts. Meth Mania might appeal to persons interested in drug policy, black markets, media constructions of drug problems, and the curious relationship between “street drugs” and pharmaceutical “medicines.”

Nick Parsons, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of sociology at Eastern Connecticut State University.
**KUDOS!**

Kathi Harland Harp accepted a postdoctoral fellowship on a NIDA-funded training grant (T32-DA007304) at the University of Kentucky, Department of Behavioral Science. Under the mentorship of Drs. Carrie Oser and Michele Staton-Tindall, Dr. Harp will continue her research on women with substance use problems. Specifically, her research examines the causes and consequences of child custody issues and substance use problems among underrepresented special populations of mothers, as well as the longitudinal trajectory of mothers’ substance use and criminal careers, in order to identify key points for intervention.

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**Preliminary Research Findings...**

— Recently presented at Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research —

**The Times are Changing: Preliminary Findings from a San Francisco Study of Baby Boomers and Marijuana Use**

Sheigla Murphy, PhD, *Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Studies* at the Institute for Scientific Analysis

How do Baby Boomers manage their marijuana consumption as they get older? As political and social contexts change, what are the health and social consequences for users? This presentation reports emerging themes from 50 interviews conducted with marijuana users in San Francisco. These data have been collected as part of a larger National Institutes of Health-funded investigation into the use patterns and perceptions of Baby Boomer marijuana users.

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★ ★ ★ REMINDER ★ ★ ★

**Renew your ASA ADT Membership for 2014!**

To renew your ASA membership, as well as your membership for the ADT section, go to the following webpage and click “Renew”:

[http://www.asanet.org/members/joinasa.cfm](http://www.asanet.org/members/joinasa.cfm)
APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2014

The fellowship provides an opportunity for scientists from Mexico to conduct mentored prevention research with a NIDA-funded investigator.

Join an international network of scientists who exchange information and collaborate on drug abuse research. NIDA International Program postdoctoral fellows develop and conduct a research project with a NIDA-funded investigator, make valuable professional contacts, and learn about the U.S. National Institutes of Health grant application process.

The NIDA US-Mexico Drug Abuse Prevention Research Fellowship provides a unique opportunity for Mexican researchers to obtain postdoctoral training with a NIDA-supported U.S. mentor. Prevention Research Fellows benefit from an intensive research training experience designed to enhance the fellow’s ability to conduct independent research upon return to Mexico. Applicants and their U.S. mentor may propose to conduct their research in any area of drug abuse prevention research, such as prevention intervention research, prevention services research, prevention methodology, or drug abuse prevention as HIV/AIDS prevention.

During the fellowship, the fellow receives training in drug abuse research methods, develops and conducts a research project with the NIDA grantee, and participates in professional development activities. Fellows also learn about the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant application process from their U.S. mentor who has successfully sought NIDA support.

Prevention Research Fellows and their U.S. mentors join a network of international scientists who exchange information and collaborate on drug abuse research nationally, regionally, and globally.

What Does the Fellowship Include?
The 12-month fellowship provides:

- Rigorous postdoctoral drug abuse prevention research training with a NIDA grantee at a U.S. institution.
- Professional development activities that help you establish personal relationships with NIDA grantees and NIDA officials who are willing to continue working with you after you return home.
- A stipend of $39,000 US for living and personal expenses, round-trip travel, and a $6,000 US allowance to cover the cost of health insurance and professional development activities.

Who Is Eligible?
The requirements for U.S.–Mexico Drug Abuse Prevention Research Fellowship applicants are:

- An earned doctoral degree in medicine, public health, or biomedical, behavioral, or social science.
- A minimum of 2 years of postdoctoral research experience including a demonstrated ability to engage in independent research.
- Written assurance from an institution in Mexico that there is a position to which the applicant can return after completing the fellowship.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English.
- Citizenship or permanent residency in Mexico.
- Living and working outside the United States at the time the application is submitted.
- Eligibility for a J-1 visa to enter the United States.

How Can I Get Help in Finding a Mentor?
To find the mentor who is right for you, examine the National Institutes of Health (NIH) public database RePORTER (listing research supported by NIH) at http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm, review journals online at PubMed at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/, or email the NIDA International Program for assistance at ip@nida.nih.gov.

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Special Issue: Justice–Involved Offenders with Mental Health and/or Substance Abuse Problems

Submission Deadline: June 30, 2014

Criminal Justice Policy Review (SAGE Publications) is a multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal committed to the study of criminal justice policy through quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methodological approaches. The journal is published quarterly and accepts appropriate articles, essays, research notes, and book reviews. It also provides a forum for occasional special issues on notable topics in crime and justice. The journal appeals to criminologists, sociologists, political scientists, and practitioners with an interest in criminal justice policy. For more information about Criminal Justice Policy Review, please go to http://cjp.sagepub.com.

The journal is currently soliciting manuscripts for a special issue on justice-involved offenders with mental health and/or substance abuse problems. Manuscripts considered for this special issue could:

- Present exploratory, descriptive, explanatory, or evaluation research;
- Focus on either adult or juvenile offenders;
- Examine offenders at any stage of justice system processing (e.g., arrest, pre-trial, adjudication/conviction, sentencing, incarceration, and community corrections); and/or
- Examine offenders being processed in specialty courts (e.g., drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts).

All submitted manuscripts should contain discussion of relevant implications for criminal or juvenile justice policy and practice.

The online submission and review system for Criminal Justice Policy Review is available at http://me.manuscriptcentral.com/cjpr. Manuscripts should be submitted in current APA format (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association). Further questions can be directed to EmmaLeigh Kirchner at e.e.kirchner@iup.edu or 724-357-2720.
Introductory Remarks
The ADT Business Meeting was attended by 20 people. ADT Chair Brian Kelly opened and ran the meeting before turning over the duties to incoming Chair, Avelardo Valdez.

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report
Membership: As of July 31, 2013, our membership was 187 members, which represents a decrease of -3 from this same time of last year. Of our current members, 43 are students. Only five other sections have fewer members. The cutoff for getting a second Section-sponsored panel at ASA is 300, so any ideas to generate more membership are welcome.

Finances: Our finances are strong. We have assets of $12,412. We have very few expenses (namely, plaques to recognize Section award winners and the annual Section reception at the ASA meeting).

Membership Discussion
Declining membership has been an ongoing issue for our Section. While 300 is the minimum for hosting a 2nd session at the ASA meeting, more critically, a membership of 200 is needed to remain as an ASA section. Brian Kelly indicated that the ASA Committee on Committees has expressed concern about our section. Achieving a membership of greater than 200 would help to secure our future. It was recognized that the historical roots of our Section, with its interdisciplinary ties to medical sociology and criminology, is a strength in terms of the research being conducted by our members. At the same time, our interdisciplinary members often work outside of traditional academic departments of sociology, which may be a disadvantage in growing our membership given our somewhat reduced access to graduate students.

It was also noted that our Section seemed to lose momentum when our request to sponsor a journal was rejected by ASA; following that experience, several long-term members have left the Section. It is hoped that previous strategies of engaging colleagues in membership drives coupled with the widespread social policy changes facing the field of drug abuse and next year’s meeting location of San Francisco may be an impetus for increasing membership. Of particular note, it is anticipated that our Section session will be towards the beginning of ASA, which may offer the opportunity for attendees of the SSSP’s Drinking and Drugs Section to re-join and attend our session. This year, the amount of time between SSSP’s Drinking and Drugs sessions and our Section’s sessions was lengthy, which may have been a barrier to greater participation. In addition to networking with SSSP, Section members are encouraged to network with members of other ASA sections. In the future, we might also consider whether there are ways to integrate greater mentoring by senior scholars as an attractive feature of Section membership. Members are encouraged to email Brian or Avelardo with additional ideas to encourage membership growth.

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Recognition of Section Awardees
Brian Kelly thanked the committees that worked to support the issuing of three awards this year. Award recipients were:
- Student Paper Award: Brook West
- Junior Scholar Award: Mike Vuolo
- Senior Scholar Award: Avelardo Valdez

Selection of 2013-2014 Committees
Brian asked for volunteers to serve on key Section committees for the upcoming year. The committees and their memberships are as follows:
- Elections Committee: Hannah Knudsen (Chair), Ellen Benoit, Katherine Novotny
- Senior Scholar Committee: Brian Kelly (Chair), Avelardo Valdez, Sheigla Murphy
- Junior Scholar Committee: Mike Vuolo (Chair), Steve Lankenau, Barbara Kail
- Student Paper Committee: Alice Cepada (Chair), Dina Perrone, Kate Smith

Next Year’s Session
There was a fruitful discussion of potential themes for next year’s session. It was noted that the ongoing drug policy changes (e.g., future of legalization) may be a timely theme. Given the ASA theme of “Hard Times” for next year, it was suggested that we might consider a “Hard Times, High Times?” theme to encompass the intersection of the recent global recession and emerging evidence regarding drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. It may be possible to engage with ASA in the possibility of such a session being a “Thematic Session” at next year’s meeting. The possibility of a “Regional Spotlight” with a panel of local speakers from the region was also discussed. Although no final decision was made, it was noted that additional ideas can be e-mailed to incoming Chair, Avelardo Valdez, and incoming Chair-Elect, Wendy Chapkis. Dr. Chapkis will be responsible for organizing next year’s session.

Other Business
Brian noted that the ASA has a new person responsible for Web content, and there is a new link to the Section’s website. We are encouraged to increase the frequency of Section updates. Currently our Section’s website is only updated annually. If you have news to share with the Section, you are encouraged to email the Chair.

Our Section newsletter has been led by Carrie Oser for many years. The Section recognized her hard work in preparing this newsletter, which is distributed twice per year. The newsletter is a valuable outlet for announcing new research projects and funding as well as employment opportunities. The next issue will be disseminated in the fall.

Brian also noted that, although our Section’s attempt to sponsor a journal on an ongoing basis was rejected by ASA, an alternative might be for the Section to sponsor a single issue of Journal of Drug Issues. Brian made multiple attempts in the past year to contact JDI’s editor who was not responsive. However, JDI has a new editor. Brian and Avelardo will begin the process of reaching out to this new editor about the possibility of sponsoring an issue.

Avelardo Valdez took the reins as Section Chair as the meeting was adjourned.