Dear Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Section Members,

I hope your fall season has been a good one. Hard to believe we are already into winter. First off, I would like to thank our outgoing chair, Dale Chitwood, for his impressive leadership last year. Dale spearheaded the effort to formalize an affiliation of the Journal of Drug Issues with ADT. I have good news to report. As you can see by the results of the online referendum vote (see page 10), the section overwhelmingly voted in favor of seeking an affiliation with the Journal of Drug Issues. Thank you to all of the other section officers and committee members. With their hard work, the annual meeting in August was a good one for ADT. We had strong attendance at the panels and the section business meeting. We have included the minutes from the meeting in this newsletter (see pages 5-6).

Our next order of business is to conduct elections for a chair-elect, secretary-treasurer, and one council member. If you have nominations for these officers, including yourself, please contact Dale Chitwood, chair of the nominating committee (dchitwood@miami.edu).

Probably the most important topic of this letter is our membership. Our section has struggled with staying at the all-important 300 mark for many years. We have been fortunate to have donated funds that are able to cover student membership to the section. I will invite back all student members who haven’t renewed for the section at the start of the year, and then again every two months, hoping to catch as many as possible as early in the year as possible. But this is not going to solve the membership.
problem. An affiliation with JDI is expected to help our membership grow over time. However, we still need to be making every effort now to help boost our numbers in the short-term. Be sure to bring it up with your colleagues who might be working in overlapping fields. Invite students to join. Have them send me their names and current ASA membership numbers and I can take care of the rest (mkelley@ou.edu).

The ASA call for papers is now available online. Please plan to submit your current work for presentation at the annual meeting next year in Boston. The deadline for submission is January 16, 2008. ADT has two open topic paper panels and roundtables to fill and which our chair-elect, Richard Wilsnack, will be organizing. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Margaret Kelley
ADT Chair

Happy New Year!
Religiosity and Participation in Mutual-Aid Support Groups for Addiction*

By: Randolph G. Atkins, Jr., Ph.D., The Walsh Group, and James E. Hawdon, Ph.D., Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University


Mutual-aid support groups play a vital role in substance abuse treatment in the United States, providing cost-effective resources for people in recovery and an overburdened health-care system. The most widely known group, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), bases their 12-Step spiritual program on the principles of the Oxford Group, a Christian evangelical movement of the early 20th Century. Subsequent 12-Step groups, such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA), have modeled their programs after AA. This 12-Step approach, now institutionalized in American addiction care, has helped many people. For people who are not spiritually or religiously inclined, however, 12-Step groups may not be a good fit or may even be contra-indicated. Alternative non-12-Step support groups, such as Secular Organizations for Sobriety (SOS), SMART Recovery, and Women for Sobriety (WFS), may be better matches for people in recovery who have problems with the 12-Step philosophy.

The Walsh Group conducted a national survey of people in recovery who participate in mutual-aid support groups for addiction to identify key differences between participants in various recovery groups and how these differences affected their recovery. Here we focus on the impact of respondents’ level of religiosity on their participation in mutual-aid support groups and, ultimately, their recovery. We found that active involvement in these groups significantly improves the chances of remaining clean and sober, regardless of the group (SOS, SMART, WFS, 12-Step) in which one participates. Respondents whose beliefs better matched those of their primary support groups showed greater levels of group participation, resulting in better outcomes as measured by increased number of days clean and sober.

Religiosity did not directly influence sobriety, but was a key intervening variable that strongly influenced group participation. Religious respondents were more likely to actively participate in 12-Step groups and WFS, both of which have spiritual components in their programs. Non-religious respondents were significantly less likely to participate in 12-Step groups. Respondents with low levels of religiosity were more likely to actively participate in groups with secular programs, such as SOS and SMART Recovery.

These results have important implications for treatment planning and implementation, indicating that matching clients to appropriate support groups according to their individual beliefs can have a positive impact on their program involvement and, ultimately, on their treatment outcomes. When participants in recovery groups feel more comfortable with the philosophies of the groups they attend, they are more likely to become actively involved in these groups, which often results in longer periods of remaining abstinent from the use of alcohol and other drugs.

This study was funded by NIDA. The survey was conducted with the assistance of The Center for Survey Research at the University of Virginia. Special thanks go to all of those people in recovery who shared their experiences and beliefs with us through participation in the survey.
Given increasing substance treatment admissions for adolescents, this study assessed the efficacy of adolescent alcohol and other drug treatment programs. In particular, this study used meta-analytic techniques to examine the effects of method, subject, and program characteristics on the effectiveness of adolescent substance treatment. The sample included 27 studies that reported post-treatment outcomes for adolescents randomized to treatment and comparison groups. Eligible studies were those that used a randomized design, involved formal treatment designed to reduce substance use, included adolescents meeting clinical diagnoses for substance abuse or dependence, reported post-treatment outcomes for substance use, were reported between 1990 and 2006, and were reported in English.

Descriptive analyses indicated that most of the studies (74%) were conducted in the United States, 26% used matched group assignment, 48% reported alcohol outcomes, and the majority (82%) of outcomes were self-reported. Further, 63% of the reported outcomes were measured immediately at post-test. Approximately 37% of the studies were comprised of primarily male samples and 59% were comprised of primarily white samples. Several studies (15%) were also comprised of psychiatrically comorbid samples. Among the treatment groups, approximately 48% used cognitive behavioral therapy, 26% used family therapy, and 26% used pharmacological therapy. The modal (67%) frequency of treatment contact was one to two times per week, and 48% of treatment programs lasted less than eight weeks.

Finally, comparison groups generally consisted of placebo/no-treatment, alternative treatment, and treatment as usual groups.

The overall mean post-test effect size was .54 indicating that treatment groups reported significantly less substance use after treatment than comparison groups. Controlling for method, subject, and program characteristics, results from weighted random effects regressions indicated that matched group assignment, focal treatment component, and frequency of treatment contact significantly contributed to between-study differences in reported effect sizes. That is, studies using matched group assignment, cognitive behavioral therapy, and weekly treatment contact reported lower mean post-test effect sizes. However, the gender, age, and racial composition of samples did not significantly impact the mean post-test effect size.

Thus the results suggested that overall, treatment programs for adolescent substance use were effective in reducing alcohol and other drug use after treatment. Although the efficacy of treatment did not depend on subject characteristics, method and program characteristics did influence post-treatment effect sizes. In particular, studies using matched group assignment, cognitive behavioral therapy, and weekly treatment contact were less effective in reducing substance use after treatment, relative to comparison groups. Although treatment programs with these methods and program characteristics may be less efficacious in reducing adolescent substance use, programs with these characteristics are also more likely to service samples with higher levels of substance use risk, and tend to exhibit higher levels of methodological rigor. Thus, findings from the current study indicate a need for more meta-analytic research explicating how methodological and sample characteristics influence adolescent substance use outcomes after treatment.
Introduction

The meeting, attended by 30 members, began with Dale Chitwood (the outgoing Chair) opening the meeting. Dale told the meeting attendees that prior to handing over the stewardship of the Section to Margaret Kelley, the new Chairperson, he wished to say a special thank you to the following people: to Duane McBride for his work on the publications committee, to Alice Cepada for her work on setting up the new website, to Andy Golub for chairing the nomination committee for senior scholar, to Richard Wilsnack for chairing the nomination committee for Junior scholar, to Yonette Thomas for chairing the nomination committee for student, and finally to Carrie Oser for her work on the newsletter.

Margaret then took over chairing the meeting and announced that Richard Wilsnack was the new Chair elect and Ellen Benoit was the new council member.

Budget

The first issue discussed was the budget. It was reported to the members that overall the budget had been relatively stable with income and expenses being approximately the same.

Official Section Journal

Margaret Kelley then asked Duane McBride to give a report on the possible creation of an official section journal. He described initial meetings that had taken place with ASA officials and with Bruce Bullington, the Editor, to develop an affiliation with the *Journal of Drug Issues*. In deciding on the possibility of creating a section journal, Duane noted both the advantages and disadvantages of developing a journal. The main advantage could be a potential increase in membership for the section and the main disadvantage could be an increase in the membership fee of about $25.00 for full members and $15 for students. Duane also informed us about the pre-nuptial agreement that ASA would be taking with the Journal around ultimate ownership and selection of Editors. However, before the committee undertook any of the extensive paperwork that was needed to create this official affiliation with the journal it was necessary for the full ADT Section membership to vote and give their approval. In order to arrange a ballot of the membership, it was necessary for the members at the meeting to approve a motion to put the vote to the full membership. The motion put forward was:

“The Publications Committee of the Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Section of the American Sociological Association and the Section’s Executive Committee recommends to the membership of the Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Section that we move forward to develop a formal affiliation between the ADT Section and the *Journal of Drug Issues*. We believe that such affiliation provides a synergistic relationship between sociological researchers in the substance use field and an important journal in the field. The cost for Section members would be $25 for a journal subscription with a $15 subscription cost to student members. This would be in addition to Section membership dues.”

A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Duane also told us that once the section journal was created it would be necessary to form a journal oversight committee.

Section Website

A second report was given by Alice Cepada on the steps taken to develop a website. Alice informed the members that a website had been created ([http://www2.asanet.org/sectionadt](http://www2.asanet.org/sectionadt)). She then described the details of the website including the home page, a section from the Chair and other related sections such as bylaws and the mission statement. Alice also talked about the possibility of developing an individual membership page section and hoped that members would be willing to send in their information. She then raised the important issue of who would be responsible for maintaining the website and how this would be paid for. Finally she again encouraged members to submit information and of course utilize the site.

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Membership
The next issue raised by the Chair was that of Membership. The Chair informed the members that we needed to keep up to 300 members, currently we had 292. Margaret also informed the members that new ideas were needed on how to recruit more members, so that we did not have to face this pressure every year. Richard Wilsnack raised the troubling point that the turnover of membership was not only among the students, but also the established members.

Awards
Margaret then announced the winners of the various awards, which would be handed out at the reception later that day:
- Student Award: Michael Weiss, University of Miami
- Junior Scholar: Anne Nielsen, University of Miami
- Senior Scholar: Bruce Johnson, NDRI

Nominating Panel Members for Next Year’s Committees

Nominating Committee
Chair: Dale Chitwood
Members: Bruce Johnson
        Jesus Sanchez

Graduate Student Paper Award Committee
Chair: Stephen Lankenou
Members: Barbara Kail
        Steven Kulis

Junior Scholar Award Committee
Chair: Richard Wilsnack
Members: Paul Steele
        Geoffrey Hunt

Senior Scholar Award Committee
Chair: Carrie Oser
Members: Lana Harrison
        Bill Sanders

Liaison Committee – Currently Inactive

Next Year’s Conference
The title and subject for next years meeting was then discussed. It was suggested that one of the panels should be open and the other based on the topic of workplace and substance abuse, given the fact that the title of the conference was Worlds of Work.

Next Year’s Reception
The final topic to be discussed was next year’s reception. Bruce Johnson volunteered to begin looking into off-site locations in Boston.

The meeting was then adjourned.
2008 Nominations for ADT Section Awards

Senior Scholar Award Committee
Chair: Carrie Oser
Bill Sanders
Lana Harrison

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Section Senior Scholar Award: The recipient should be a member of the Section. This award will be based on accomplishments such as publications and grants and overall contributions to the sociology of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Members should submit nominations for the Senior Scholar Award to the section chair, Margaret Kelley (mkelley@ou.edu), no later than February 1, 2008.

Student Paper Award Committee
Chair: Steven Lankenou
Barbara Kail
Steven Kulis

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Section Graduate Student Paper Award: This award recognizes excellence in graduate student research in the sociology of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled in a graduate sociology program and not have earned a degree at the time of submission. Students may submit one scholarly paper for consideration. It may be an unpublished manuscript, an article submitted or accepted for publication, or a single chapter from a thesis or dissertation, and should address a theoretical or empirical problem central to the study of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. The paper along with a cover letter must be submitted electronically to the section chair, Margaret Kelley (mkelley@ou.edu), no later than March 1, 2008.

Junior Scholar Award Committee
Chair: Richard Wilsnack
Paul Steele
Geoffrey Hunt

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Section Junior Scholar Award: The recipient should have completed their Ph.D. in the previous five years and be a member of the Section. This award will be based on accomplishments such as publications and grants; however, an outstanding publication may be sufficient for a recent Ph.D. The recipient should also demonstrate an independent line of research. Members should submit nominations for the Junior Scholar Award to the section chair, Margaret Kelley (mkelley@ou.edu), no later than February 1, 2008.
Duane McBride (PI), Jamie Chriqui (Co-PI), Jean O’Connor, Curt VanderWaal and Yvonne Terry McElrath (Co-Investigators) presented key findings from a project funded by the National Institute of Justice entitled “Controlling Methamphetamine Precursors: From Policy to Practice” at a special panel at the November American Public Health Association meetings. This two year project examined the relationship between state and federal methamphetamine precursor laws and trends in small toxic lab seizures. Consistent with media reports, this study found a relationship between precursor policy and declines in STL seizures and added considerable detail on the elements most related to those declines. Currently the investigators are working on a series of publications from the data.

Duane McBride (PI) and Jamie Chriqui (Co-PI) have recently begun a project supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Substance Abuse Policy Program entitled “State Medicaid Policies Governing Substance Abuse Treatment Programs: Are they Facilitating or Inhibiting Access for African Americans”. This approximately 3 year project is focusing on specific state Medicaid policies that may affect access to drug treatment for minorities as well as affect the quality of services offered by treatment programs in the state. Recent reports from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Institute of Medicine have strongly indicated the need to examine macro policies that affect access to and the quality of drug abuse treatment services.

U.S. drug policy has been debated for most of the last century. While official U.S. policy tends to focus on a deterrence approach, states and communities are showing considerable innovation in providing alternative policies. An editorial in the American Journal of Public Health by Don DesJarlais called for public health to become more involved in the drug policy debate and become more active in providing policy alternatives. An article scheduled to be published in the February issue of the AJPH written by Duane McBride, Yvonne Terry-McElrath, Curtis VanderWaal, Jamie Chriqui and Jana Myllyluoma used a national survey of public health agencies in the United States to understand the role of local agencies in providing alternatives to an incarceration deterrence drug policy approach. The findings suggest that public health agencies can be an important partner in efforts directed at drug policy reform.

Tammy Anderson, Ph.D. edited the book “Neither Villain nor Victim: Empowerment and Agency among Women Substance Abusers” published by Rutgers University Press in February 2008. Female drug addicts are often stereotyped either as promiscuous, lazy, and selfish, or as weak, scared, and trapped into addiction. These depictions typify the “pathology and powerlessness” narrative that has historically characterized popular and academic conversations about female substance abusers. Neither Villain Nor Victim attempts to correct these polarizing perspectives by presenting a critical feminist analysis of the drug world. By shifting the discussion to one centered on women’s agency and empowerment, this book reveals the complex experiences and social relationships of women addicts.

Tammy Anderson, Ph.D. was part of the Chicago NPR Worldview Program's series on the Geopolitics of Drugs in October, 2007. The series focused on the “Geopolitics of Drugs: Women’s Roles in the Illicit Drug Economy.”
Richard Miech, Ph.D., MPH received an R01 from NIDA that will: 1) address limitations in current evidence on the growing disparity of illegal drug use across socioeconomic strata, 2) predict both changes in the prevalence of illegal drugs over time and also changes in the characteristics of illegal drug users over time, and 3) trace the extent to which the key predictors of illegal drug use, as highlighted by the Diffusion framework, have their roots in the early life course. Results from this project will inform policy and intervention programs aimed at reducing the prevalence of illegal drug use across all socioeconomic strata.

Wendy Chapkis, Ph.D. and Richard J. Webb investigate one community of seriously-ill patients fighting the federal government for the right to use physician-recommended marijuana in their forthcoming book, “Dying to Get High: Marijuana as Medicine” published by New York University Press. The California-based Wo/Men’s Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM) is a unique patient-caregiver cooperative providing marijuana free of charge to mostly terminally-ill members; for a brief period in 2004, it even operated the only legal non-governmental medical marijuana garden in the country, protected by the federal courts against the DEA. Chapkis and Webb tackle the broader, complex history of medical marijuana in America. Through compelling interviews with patients, public officials, law enforcement officers and physicians, Chapkis and Webb ask what distinguishes a legitimate patient from an illegitimate “pothead,” “good drugs” from “bad,” and medicinal effects from “just getting high.” Dying to Get High moves from abstract argument to the messier terrain of how people actually live, suffer and die, and offers a moving account of what is at stake in ongoing debates over the legalization of medical marijuana.

"Cannabis, Consciousness and Healing" by Wendy Chapkis, Ph.D. will be printed in the next issue of Contemporary Justice Review (Volume 10 Issue 4 December 2007) which is part of a special issue on "Drugs, Healing, and the Expansion or Repression of Human Consciousness: PART II" edited by Dennis Sullivan. Federal drug policy defines marijuana as a prohibited “Schedule I" substance – a dangerous drug carrying a high potential for abuse and no accepted medical use. This classification is largely due to the drug’s well-known psychoactive effects (“the high”). Because of this, even medical marijuana advocates have tended to downplay the consciousness-altering properties of cannabis when arguing for the medicinal utility of the drug. Advocates instead focus largely on the therapeutic potential of marijuana to relieve physical symptoms such as nausea, weight loss or elevated ocular pressure. But interviews with more than three dozen seriously and terminally ill medical marijuana patients affiliated with one Northern California cooperative, the Wo/Men’s Alliance for Medical Marijuana, suggest that the consciousness-altering effects of cannabis may play a significant role in what many patients report to be the therapeutic value of the drug.

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**Current Members:**

Please remember to renew your membership in ASA and ADT by the end of 2007!
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The Department of Sociology invites applications for an associate professor position to begin August 2008. Although the position is budgeted at the associate professor level, the department will also consider outstanding assistant professor candidates. We are seeking to hire a colleague with teaching and research interests in crime, law and deviance, who will add to the department’s strengths in this area. To be competitive, candidates should have a strong publication record and either demonstrated success in or clear potential for securing external funding. Send a letter describing teaching and research interests, a curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and writing samples to Ronald L. Simons, Search Committee Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-1611. The position will remain open until filled. All applications received by January 4, 2008 are assured full consideration. The Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, its many units, and the University of Georgia are committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty and students, and sustaining a work and learning environment that is inclusive. The University is an EEO/AA institution. Salary will be competitive and consonant with the applicant’s experience. Information on the department, the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, and the University of Georgia is available on the Internet at http://www.uga.edu/~soc/.

Thanks for Voting!

The referendum to make the Journal of Drug Issues an official Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco (ADT) section journal was approved with 97.6% of the vote. The next step is to make an application to ASA per the referendum.