



## **REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2007 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**

**by Prof Anthony Minnaar (President)**

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### **1. Introduction**

While this AGM is a bit later than our usual end of October date (which original date was postponed) it is our annual opportunity for reporting on the year's activities. Accordingly I am pleased today to be able to report to you on a very full year of CRIMSA activities. This year I am also pleased to report that we had only one withdrawal (in mid-year) from the EXCO/Council, namely Prof. Kris Pillay, due to added work commitments resulting from his appointment as Director of the School of Criminal Justice at UNISA. I take this opportunity to thank him not only as a member of EXCO but also as a past president of CRIMSA. The EXCO were able to inveigle on Dr Anni Hesselink-Louw of the Department of Criminology, UNISA to accept co-option onto the Council and EXCO in place of Prof. Pillay. Also early on in the year we co-opted Mr Christiaan Steyn as the Student Representative on EXCO.

### **2. EXCO**

Since the last AGM the EXCO were able to hold nine meetings. A large proportion of business at these meetings was taken up in the organisation of the CRIMSA conference this year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all members of EXCO and those Council members who often travelled from far to attend the Society's regular meetings. It is a standing invitation for all those non-EXCO Council members and our honorary member, Prof. Beaty Naude, to attend EXCO meetings.

### 3. CRIMSA Conference

The mandate given to the EXCO at last year's AGM was, in my opinion, most successfully carried out with the planning and organising of this year's conference. Months of hard work by the Organising Committee culminated in the holding of the CRIMSA conference from 27-29 August with the theme: *Perspectives on Crime and Criminal Justice in Africa* at the University of Pretoria Conference Centre. Incidentally this was the first conference held by CRIMSA since 1999. It would appear to have been a resounding success all round with more than 100 delegates attending three days of presentations, discussions, deliberations and debate. Although there were a few late withdrawals a total of 53 presentations in breakaway sessions were made with another six international speakers presenting in daily plenary sessions. Across the board presentations on a wide variety and range of topics stimulated much discussion, questions and debate with even more networking and meeting of similar minded academics and students occurring at tea time and during lunches. An innovation at this year's conference being the encouragement given to post-graduate students to submit papers as 'works-in-progress'.

At the conference dinner (held at the Mokha Restaurant at the Botanical Gardens) the following conference awards were also made:

#### CRIMSA Conference 2007: Awards

All papers submitted prior to the conference dealing with South African topics in four categories namely, Criminology, Victimology, Penology and Criminal Justice were evaluated. There was also a category for work-in-progress/post-graduate student paper in all four categories.

Broadly the evaluation criteria looked at use of language, how well written the paper was and how each argument was developed in a logical progression and if based on research (preliminary or literature review in the case of work-in-progress) how the findings had been presented, discussed and interpreted. Additional aspects such as innovation and new focus areas of research or a different approach to an issue or problem area of research were also additional complementary factors looked at in the evaluation. A short list in each category was drawn up after which EXCO committee members made a final selection of the best paper.

#### Best papers in their categories

The best paper for South African Criminology at the CRIMSA Conference 2007 was awarded to **Michelle Ovens** for the paper titled: *Maternal substance abuse in South Africa: An area for concern?*

The best paper for South African Criminal Justice at the CRIMSA Conference 2007 was awarded to **Michael Meyer & Jean Steyn** for their joint paper titled:

*Developing cynicism among male and female recruits in the South African Police Service.*

The best paper for South African Penology at the CRIMSA Conference 2007 awarded to **Richard Aitken** for his paper titled: *Inventing prison programmes based on the theory and tradition of restorative justice: The experience of Phoenix Zululand projects in eleven regional prisons.*

The best paper for South African Victimology at the CRIMSA Conference 2007 awarded to **Elaine Steyn & Jean Steyn** for their joint paper titled: *Revictimisation of rape victims by the South African Police Service.*

Best papers in their categories: Work-in-progress/postgraduate students

The best paper for South African Penology (work-in-progress) at the CRIMSA Conference 2007 was awarded to **Gregory Breetzke** for his paper titled: *Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis (ESDA) of violent, economic and sexual offenders in the City of Tshwane, South Africa*

The best paper for South African Criminology (work-in-progress) at the CRIMSA Conference 2007 awarded to: **Charmaine Collins & Christiaan Bezuidenhout** for the paper titled: *Implication of delusional disorders and criminal behaviour for criminology*

The best paper for South African Victimology (work-in-progress) at the CRIMSA Conference 2007 awarded to **Michelle de Neuilly Rice** for her paper titled: *The victimological impact of heroin abuse on the family: A study in progress*

The best paper for South African Criminal Justice (work-in-progress) at the CRIMSA Conference 2007 awarded to **Hema Hargovan** for her paper titled: *Knocking and entering: Restorative Justice arrives at the courts!*

Congratulations to them all on their awards.

All papers submitted will be loaded on the CRIMSA website with a selection (after a peer review process) being made for inclusion in the two special conference editions of *Acta Criminologica* due out at the end of March 2008. I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all the paper reviewers for their work in this regard.

After the holding of this successful conference the CRIMSA EXCO have made a decision in principle to make the CRIMSA Conferences bi-ennial with the added suggestion that the 'in-between' years be set aside for one-day colloquiums (for each of the five categories of criminology; penology; victimology, police science and criminal justice) to be organized at different venues all over South Africa on different dates. So all start planning for colloquiums in 2008 and the bi-

ennial conference in 2009. Any offers from universities to organize a colloquium? Or the bi-ennial conference?

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all my committee members for all the hard work put into the organising of this conference. Without their support and co-operation the conference would not have realized let alone have been such a success – yes there were some glitches and shortcomings but we have established a good solid foundation on which to build and improve for future success. In addition a special word of thanks to the Student Conference Crew who made the daily running of the conference go off so smoothly. These thanks would be incomplete if I were not to thank all those who came from far and wide to present and participate in the conference – thank you then to all of you especially those who made a special effort to travel from overseas – at future conferences we hope to see many more international delegates.

#### **4. Honorary members**

The CRIMSA Conference was also used as the opportunity to announce the formal awarding of two new honorary memberships of CRIMSA to Profs Jan Naser and Johan Prinsloo. These awards of Honorary Membership were not only for their many years of service to the principles and ideals of the Society but also to their overall scholarly and research contributions to the discipline and its sub-disciplines in South Africa over a long period of time.

#### **5. International networking**

I was able this year to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> Australian & New Zealand Society of Criminology Annual Conference with the theme: *Criminology building bridges* which was held in Adelaide, South Australia from 23-26 September and hosted by the University of South Australia/Flinders University/Institute for Justice Studies & Department of Justice, Government of South Australia (in an aside ANZSOC was established in 1967.) I can report that good relations were established with ANZSOC EXCO and the conference organisers and many delegates expressed an interest in attending our future conferences. The ANZSOC conference itself is a conference well worth attending by South African academics. The 2008 ANZSOC conference will be held in mid-November in Canberra.

#### **6. NRF workshop**

On 29 & 30 March this year the National Research Foundation's Knowledge Fields Development Directorate organised and held a so-called 'Criminology & Criminal Justice Roundtable' at the Farm Inn. The Directorate's mandate is to engage in dialogue and exchange with various research communities, so as to begin to map the current state of these disciplines in South Africa in assisting

them to identify gaps in and opportunities for research and collaboration. One potential outcome being to develop action plan to address challenges for, and gaps in, research and collaboration.

Approximately 70 delegates from all over the country representing the broad discipline of criminology attended. Individual representatives from academic institutions, institutes and associated organizations were given the opportunity on day one to give short presentations highlighting the research status (past, present and future) of their organization. As President of CRIMSA I was given a slot to speak about CRIMSA (the full talk is available on the CRIMSA website). The purpose of these presentations was to set the scene, giving attendees a summarized overview of the research landscape. This overview then formed the basis of discussions on Day Two. Here the attendees were assigned to two discussion groups, where discussions and report backs focused on (1) Research priorities for the discipline and (2) Challenges and opportunities for the discipline.

While the NRF circulated a report of the outcomes of these discussions no-one was prepared to take the lead for fear of being accused of trying to dominate the way forward. The NRF eventually contacted me with the request that CRIMSA apply for available funding for the holding of a follow up workshop. However, on closer enquiry it turned out that the NRF policies on funding limited applicants to a university. I have been in discussion with various university representatives to try to move this process forward. While there has been a great deal of support for a follow up workshop the limitations on holding any sort of meeting (because of interested persons spread out all over South Africa) has delayed the issue even further (communicating via e-mail is unsatisfactory in this matter in my view). Eventually taking the opportunity presented by the coming together at the CRIMSA conference I initiated an informal task team made up of willing participants from various universities to follow up on the NRF initiative. Unfortunately I still report here that time constraints have again prevented me from making much progress and no follow up workshop will be possible this year. I will, however, in my capacity as President of CRIMSA, endeavour to get some movement on the matter in 2008.

There is an obvious need (as expressed at the NRF Roundtable Workshop in March) for criminologists and allied disciplines to talk with one voice, to share information, to collaborate in research partnership networks, to possibly increase the harmonisation and standardisation of teaching offerings, and finally the better endowed and resourced universities to offer assistance in whatever capacities they can to the less capacitated institutions, particularly since most of us are experiencing the same obstacles, constraints and challenges.

## 7. SGB

The Standards Generating Body (SGB) for Criminology and Criminal Justice (established on 24 March 2002 and re-registered for a further three year period in mid-2006) continues with their review of qualifications already registered. CRIMSA have requested that their three year tenure be extended to five years.

## 8. Application for professional body status

Our application for the establishment of a regulatory board for criminologists to the SA Council of Social Service Professions (SACSSP) (submitted on 14 March 2006) appears to be indefinitely delayed. Some objections from certain quarters were made and we might have to reconsider the applicability of professional status to the broad discipline of criminology and review the possibilities of putting ourselves forward more as supporting professional specialists to other practitioners throughout the criminal justice system or tag on to other professional councils such as the one envisioned for probationers.

## 9. Acta Criminologica

The journal remains the only accredited journal (SAPSE & DoE listing) for the field of criminology in South Africa and has had a very full publishing year with four issues appearing this year.

I am pleased to report that a far greater number of articles than previous years are being submitted for review. Those who have had articles not accepted please do not be discouraged as the review process is an integral part of academic rigour and the eventual revised, changed and 'panelbeated' article is the better for the whole process. So to all of you aspiring authors keep them coming. Many of our reviewers are only too pleased to extend advice and comments for improvement to articles submitted for publication. Some have in fact written additional reports of comments for authors' perusal and possible implementation.

Article analysis: Acta Criminologica 2007

Volume	Unisa author	Unisa + outside	Other universities/ Orgs	International	Total no. articles/issue	No. Pages
20(1)	3	-	5	-	8	155
20(2)	1	1	5	1	8	153
20(3)	3	-	6	-	9	123
20(4)	3	1	5	1	10	114

The Chief Editor made a decision at the beginning of the year to limit the size of each issue to approximately 150 pages (in essence about eight articles) and to reduce line spacing to (1), for practical and cost purposes. I also need to mention again that it is the Journal's policy not to have any one institution or organisation to have more than 50% of articles in any issue.

#### **10. CRIMSA website**

The CRIMSA Website became fully operational in May this year with the loading of information concerning the Society's activities, the Constitution, SGB matters, and information on the conference. Those not aware of the new website address it is [www.crimsa.ac.za](http://www.crimsa.ac.za). This report and from previous years will be loaded and archived on this website. My wish for this website is that it can also be used as an information clearing house, sharing of research information and contact site with links to other relevant sites as well.

#### **11. CRIMSA Newsletter**

Since the 2006 AGM three newsletters have been produced (Nos. 43-45) and have been posted to members with the journal issue. In mid-year pressures of work and my research load necessitated that I relinquish editorship of the newsletter. A request for nominations to replace me was sent out to members. I am happy to report that Dr Brenda Beukman of Walter Sisulu University, Mthatha, volunteered to take over and she was responsible for compiling No. 45. However, in her absence I again make a request for all members to send material, in particular news of their department's/university's activities relevant to the Association (such as attendance at international conferences, papers delivered, promotions, new research projects, and post-graduate students graduating, i.e. details of dissertation/thesis topics etc.) to the new editor at e-mail address: [bbeukman@wsu.ac.za](mailto:bbeukman@wsu.ac.za). Post-graduate students are also welcome to send in short (work-in-progress) articles on their current research studies of not more than 5 pages for publication in the newsletter.

#### **12. Finances**

The new 2007 treasurer, Prof. Michelle Ovens, did sterling work in managing the finances of the Society this year. The financial statements will be presented to the meeting for perusal but I can report with confidence that our funds show a healthy balance especially in the light of the increase in membership numbers for the year.

#### **13. CRIMSA membership**

In last year's presidential report I made a strong appeal to all members to make a concerted effort to recruit new members, in particular students. I am extremely happy to report that there has been a tremendous growth in

membership numbers both active and institutional with the exception of students which sadly dwindled again. So this year I make an urgent appeal that academic staff make a special effort to recruit student members.

Currently our paid up numbers are as follows (2006 figures in brackets):

Active	79 (28)
Students	15 (21)
Institutional	31 (17)
Honorary	3 (1)

The membership form is available on the CRIMSA website so renew your 2008 membership early. I would like to mention here, to clear up some misunderstandings, some information regarding 'Institutional' Membership. This is designed for entities such as libraries, government departments, institutes, research centres, and academic departments to become members of CRIMSA in their own right. The membership form makes provision only for the details of such entities' contact person to be entered and not a block 'institutional' membership of all the academic staff of a specific department or institute. In any case such an institutional member will receive only one copy of Acta and not multiple copies for each listed staff member! So individuals are please to fill in the membership form as individuals and not as 'institutional members'.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion I would like to once again thank all my fellow Exco members for their support and hard work during 2007.

And, as customary for me, make the rallying cry for this year that I see light at the end of the tunnel. While we still have many challenges facing us, I have grown more optimistic that we have a vibrant future ahead of our linked disciplines – but only so long as we do not spare our efforts in actively fighting for, protecting and nurturing the growth that has occurred this year.

Thank you.