Message from the Chair:

Thank you for electing me as Mental Health Division Chair. I am honored to serve and follow in the footsteps of prior distinguished members who have held this position. I especially want to thank Eric Wright for serving as Division Chair in the previous two years and for orienting me to the Chair’s work. The principal function of the chair is to organize the program for the two years of office. At this year’s meeting Eric Wright, Jay Turner, and Carrie Costello played equally important roles in planning next year’s sessions. Members of three other divisions worked with us to add three co-sponsored sessions, giving us more sessions than usual.

Our 2008 meeting will be in Boston, July 31 – August 2, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers. I encourage you to attend the Division’s business meeting in Boston where we’ll plan the following year’s sessions. If you have a paper which doesn’t seem to fit in any of the 2008 planned sessions, please let me know. We may be able to accommodate you. The planned sessions are:

1. Mental Illness and Stigma---Invited Session--- Organizer: Eric Wright (ewright@iupui.edu), Indiana University and Purdue University at Indianapolis.
2. Crossing Borders and Mental Illness—Organizer: Jay Turner (jturner@fsu.edu) Florida State University. This session will include racial and ethnic studies
3. Bodies and Mental Health—Organizer: Carrie Costello (COSTELLO@UWM.EDU) University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
4. Mental Health across the Life Course—with Division of Youth, Aging & Life Course---Organizer: Kristen W. Springer (kspringe@rci.rutgers.edu) Rutgers University.
5. The Sociology of Therapeutic Jurisprudence—with Division of Law & Society---Organizer: Stephanie Hartwell (Stephanie.hartwell@umb.edu) University of Massachusetts at Boston.
6. Substance Abuse and Mental Illness—with Division of Drinking and Drugs—Organizers: Richard Carpiano (Carpiano@interchange.ubc.ca) University of British Columbia, and Brian Kelly (beckelly@purdue.edu), Purdue University.

We are going to resume honoring one of our members with the Greenley award for Distinguished Lifetime Contributions. We need two things from you: 1) nominees and 2) names of those who won the award in 1995 and from 1997 to 2003. We have the following awardees:

1989: Walter Gove and Thomas Scheff
1990: Jerome Meyers
1991: David Mechanic
1992: Leonard J. Pearl
1993: R. Jay Turner
1994: George Brown and Bruce Dohrenwend
1996: Jim Greenley
2004: William Avison

We are also going to resume having a reception just for our division so as to return to the small group size to allow more mixing by Division members and better conditions for welcoming young faculty and graduate students.

Remember to nominate students for the Student Paper Award. Richard Capriano is chairing that selection committee so send nominees and their papers to him at Carpiano@interchange.ubc.ca.

Please send Padriac Burns any member news and accomplishments for future Division newsletters. Best, Ginnie Aldigé Hiday