

Herbert Bloch Award recognizes outstanding professional service contributions

UC Irvine's Professor Henry N. Pontell has garnered the Herbert Bloch Award for outstanding service contributions to the American Society of Criminology and to the professional interests of criminology.

The prestigious award--inaugurated in 1961 but not bestowed every year--was presented November 16th in Washington DC. Pontell, the 34th recipient, joins some of the most prominent criminologists in North America to be so honored.

"I'm overwhelmed and deeply honored by this award," said the professor of criminology, law and society and of sociology. "It's very humbling to be recognized in this way with such a select group in our profession's history."

Pontell has served as vice president of ASC, a member of the executive board, editor of *The Criminologist*, and as a member of numerous committees and editorial boards of journals in the field. He's testified on matters of crime and punishment before national commissions and the United States Congress, presented to the National Academies, been a keynote speaker at major international conferences, and has been recognized with scholarship and service awards from the American Sociological Association, the Western Society of Criminology, and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Pontell came to UCI in 1979, and has served as Director of Graduate Studies in Social Ecology, Chair of the Department of Criminology, Law and Society, and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at UCI. His accomplishments include raising the national and international profile of the Department of Criminology, Law and Society (currently ranked 5th in the country), helping to initiate the proposal for a UCI law school, implementing the graduate tuition-fee remission program which has generated tens of millions of dollars of student support with which to build UCI's graduate school, and creating the first on line degree program at the University of California, the MAS in Criminology, Law and Society, which recently admitted its 9th student cohort.

Pontell's areas of interest include white-collar and corporate crime, the role of fraud in financial crises, and comparative criminology. He is a Fellow of both the American Society of Criminology and the Western Society of Criminology, and an Honorary Professor and Fellow of the Centre for Criminology at the University of Hong Kong.