

The Ern Nian Yaw Award

Our first edition was published last year with the aid of a great many people, far too many to list here. Nonetheless the efforts expelled by Ern Nian Yaw, one of three editors-in-chief at the time, were exemplary and are worthy of mention. His commitment to the project, his drive to see it completed to a high standard, his staggering work ethic, and his attention to detail, were outstanding and all played an essential part in ensuring the success of our inaugural publication. These qualities were generously paired with a warm, friendly, and endearing personality which infected all those around him. As such it was a pleasure to work with Ern and to follow the example he set.

With great misfortune however Ern never saw the fruition of his contribution to the first edition of the Journal that he helped to launch. In July 2014, shortly before publication, Ern was sadly involved in a traffic accident which claimed his life. His loss was truly tragic and was felt by all involved with the journal and the Aberystwyth University Department of Law and Criminology itself. Writing at the time Professor John Williams, Head of the Department, stated "It is sad beyond what words can express that his life ended so suddenly and at such a young age. His academic successes and the accolades he achieved are testimony to his many achievements during his short life. His death is a great loss. He was a lovely person who will stay in our memories. He was kind and caring. To meet him would brighten up the day. Ern's legacy will inspire future generations of students and staff at Aberystwyth and beyond, and that is an appropriate tribute to such a great person."

In the spirit of Ern's legacy the first edition was published in his honour. I had the honour of writing Ern's dedication in that edition and although I doubt that my words truly did justice to the sentiment felt by those involved I hope I summed up our wishes by stating "It is our hope that its content can inspire others in the way he has inspired us." In many ways I believe that a great deal of progress towards that goal has been achieved. In the past year I have received a great number of positive comments regarding the Journal. I have seen statistics showing that it is regularly accessed online.

The Thomas Parry Library has a hard copy available for students. A further two hard copies were actually (and scandalously) stolen from within the Department itself. Perhaps most significantly, the number of papers submitted for consideration for the second edition increased by almost fifty percent!

Moving forward however all parties involved in the production of the Journal agreed that we needed to do more to honour Ern's legacy. The first step was to ensure the project did not end in the summer of 2014 and continued to be produced annually. The second was to ensure that Ern himself was remembered and remained part of the Journal itself. With this in mind I am very proud to launch the *Ern Nian Award* which will be bestowed upon the authors of the best law and criminology articles published by the Journal each year. It shall be awarded to authors who have demonstrated the very qualities possessed by Ern: outstanding academic ability, fantastic work ethic, and an eye for detail.

It is once again our hope that Ern and this award can inspire you as he inspired us.

Andy Hall

Managing Editor