

## **The Inaugural Issue: A Message from the Editors**

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Journal of Economic Crime Management (JECM). We hope that you will find the journal's articles to be timely and thought provoking. JECM is intended to provide a forum for the discussion of scholarly and professional issues pertaining to prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and management of economic crime, including fraud and cybercrime. The focus will be on research findings, the advancement of new theories, discussions of key legal and legislative issues, reports on significant advances in technology, and analyses of innovative policies and practices in the field of economic crime.

This issue lays the foundation for discussion in several of the areas listed above. The Willox and Regan article, *Identity Fraud: Providing A Solution*, presents a knowledge-based solution for identity verification. This timely paper makes recommendations regarding the means of identification based on the environment in which the authentication occurs.

Potter's article, *Customer Authentication: The Evolution of Signature Verification in Financial Institutions*, discusses the history of signature verification in check processing and focuses on the legal and technological issues pertaining to signature verification that will impact the new check fraud paradigm.

Jones discusses the impact of the electronic payment system upon conventional check fraud in his article, *Taming the Beast: An Assessment of the Fraud Risk Implications of the Electronification of the U. S. Payments System*.

Tom Arnold presents "e-Citadel," a proposed technology designed to provide enhanced security for e-Business transactions in his article, *An Electronic Citadel: A Method For Securing Credit Card And Private Consumer Data In E-Business Sites And Database Systems*.

### **Economic Crime Investigation Institute of Utica College**

The mission of the Institute is to support education and research in economic crime and computer security, with the aim of providing a reliable resource for innovative solutions to corporate, government, and law enforcement entities.

The development of the Journal of Economic Crime Management (JECM) has been funded by the ECII. It is one more way that the ECII provides resources for innovative solutions to the community.

The ECII provided support in 1988 for the first undergraduate program in Economic Crime Investigation in the United States. Information on that program is available at [http://www.ecii.edu/academ\\_undergrad.html](http://www.ecii.edu/academ_undergrad.html). In 1999, the Institute helped launch the only graduate program of its kind in North America, the

Master's Degree In Economic Crime Management. The program details can be viewed at [http://www.ecii.edu/academ\\_grad.html](http://www.ecii.edu/academ_grad.html) and [http://www.utica.edu/gce/graduate/ecm\\_masters.htm](http://www.utica.edu/gce/graduate/ecm_masters.htm).

The Institute has sponsored twelve annual conferences with themes related to economic crime, information security, and computer crime. The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held October 27-29, 2002 at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, McLean, VA. The theme of the conference is *The Nexus of Economic Crime, Information Assurance, and Terrorism*. Information on the conference is located at <http://www.ecii.edu/conferences2.html>.

### **Sponsor for this Issue**

The Directors of the Economic Crime Investigation Institute (ECII) at Utica College and Utica College provided initial funding for the JECM. Utica College will support and house the JECM. Issue sponsors will support the publication and help provide open access to the community.

The Editors gratefully appreciate the generous support of LexisNexis to help launch the inaugural issue of JECM.

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### **Future Issues**

In order for the Journal to be successful, the key contributors in this field must embrace it. In that spirit, we welcome offers of support, including article submission, peer reviewers, and constructive comments. Gary Gordon can be reached at [ggordon@utica.ucsu.edu](mailto:ggordon@utica.ucsu.edu). George Curtis can be reached at [gcurtis@utica.ucsu.edu](mailto:gcurtis@utica.ucsu.edu).

The fall 2002 issue will be online in late September. Submission must be received by August 30, 2002. The winter issue will be available in late December. Its theme is "The Nexus of Economic Crime, Information Assurance, and Terrorism." We encourage the submission of manuscripts related to this topic. The editors must receive submissions by November 10, 2002. The Spring 2003 issue will be published in late March 2003. Submissions for that issue must be received prior to February 20, 2003.

Please share the JECM with your colleagues, students, organizations whose focus is related to economic crime and fraud management, and others who may find the information in the journal valuable. We thank you in advance for your support as we help launch this important endeavor.

George E. Curtis, J.D.  
Utica College

Gary R. Gordon, Ed.D.  
Utica College

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