



**Felix Fabian**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> ACJS President**  
**1964-1965 & 1974-1975**

Felix Monroe Fabian, Sr. was born in Anderson, Texas on March 3, 1915. He graduated from Lamar High School in Houston, Texas, in 1933. In his early adult life, during the Great Depression, he worked as a movie theater usher and in the oil fields of northeast Texas. While working the oil fields he met Amy Blanchard Seip and they married on April 6, 1936 in Marshall, Texas.

Felix Fabian became a police officer with the Houston Police Department, just prior to the start of World War II. After the war, he enrolled at the University of Houston to earn a Bachelor's degree in police science while still working full time with the police department. Upon graduation in 1950, Felix was offered an instructorship at Washington State University. There, he joined the police science program under the leadership of Dr. V.A. Leonard, who advised him to quickly earn a doctorate in order to give this new and growing discipline some academic legitimacy. So, while teaching, he began work on his Masters of Science degree in police science, graduating in 1953. He then went on to earn his Ph.D. in public administration at the University of Idaho in 1965 at the age of 50.

After having taught at Washington State University for twenty years, he moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1971, taking a teaching position at the University of Nebraska. Staying only a short time period, he moved back home to Texas in 1974, specifically to Corpus Christi, where he accepted a position in what was then known as Texas A&I, today Texas A&M – Corpus Christi. He was given the opportunity to become the first and founding faculty member of the criminal justice program at Corpus Christi and he relished the role.

In the early 1960s, a number of criminal justice professors wanted to take a different direction from that of the American Society of Criminology (ASC). ASC was moving away from the police science perspective of its founder, August Vollmer, the Chief of Berkeley Police Department and a former Professor at the University of California at Berkeley. A number of police science professors, including John P. Kenney, Edward Farris, and Felix Fabian met in May of 1963 in Pullman, Washington, and created a new organization: The International Association of Police Professors (IAPP). Dr. Fabian was instrumental in moving this organization forward and served as the second President in the 1964-1965 academic year. Dr. Fabian also took part in promoting the name change at the 1969 annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, becoming the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS). He would serve as President once again, of the newly renamed organization, in the years 1974-1975. According to his son, Astronaut Dr. John Fabian, his father "was very proud of his involvement with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences."

Felix Fabian's son also noted that his father "loved teaching and was very popular with his students." This sentiment is echoed by Dr. Robert Keppel, a professor of Criminal Justice at the University of New Haven and author of the book *The Riverman: Ted Bundy and I Hunt for the Green River Killer*, who was a student of Dr. Fabian's in the late 1960s. "Felix was my favorite Police Science and Administration Professor," noted Dr. Keppel, "I took fingerprinting and identification techniques from him." Dr. Keppel fondly remembers that Felix was "tall, all the time cracking jokes, and was an avid sports follower."

Dr. Felix Fabian retired from Texas A&M Corpus Christi in 1982. He and his wife spent their golden years in Longview, Texas. Dr. Fabian died on December 18, 1990, and was followed by his wife Amy in 1998.