



SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
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2021 Annual Meeting Little Rock, AR



SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SWACJ)

**CONNECTING RESEARCH,
POLICY, AND PRACTICE: OUR
ROLE IN THE NEW ERA OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
OCTOBER 13-16, 2021

Learn more about the conference:

October 13 - 16, 2021
DoubleTree by Hilton - Little Rock
www.swacj.org/swacj2021



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Messages from your SWACJ Board Members

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President

Hello SWACJ colleagues,

It's summertime, ya'll! Spring 2021 classes are over. Finals are graded and grades have been submitted. Hopefully, all of you will have time this summer to unwind, relax, and maybe catch up on some work (you know, the things we all keep putting off until we have more time). Some down time is definitely needed after the year that we just had.

First, I want to welcome our newest board member, Brie Diamond who has been elected as Trustee at Large (Region 4- Southwest) for ACJS. Brie is joining us from the Department of Criminal Justice at Texas Christian University. She will keep us updated on the important items coming out of ACJS and I have no doubt that she will represent our interests well for the region. Welcome to the team, Bri!

The SWACJ Executive Board has been busy this semester and will continue to work hard this summer preparing for the 2021 SWACJ conference in Little Rock, AR. To prepare for the 2021 SWACJ conference and based on the feedback from the SWACJ membership, we have a number of committees who will be working over the summer.

- **Constitution Committee** – This committee is charged with reviewing and revising the SWACJ constitution to update the document, eliminate inconsistencies, and to provide clearer language on policies and procedures. The revised constitution will be sent out to the general membership for review by mid-July 2021. Members: Michael Cavanagh (chair), George Day, Will Oliver, Judith Harris, and Lynn Greenwood
- **Ethics Committee** – This committee is charged with drafting a code of ethics for SWACJ which will include our ethical principles, standards, and procedures. A draft of the code of ethics will be sent out to the general membership for review by mid-August 2021. Members: Jon Maskaly (chair), Tammy Bracewell, Kilby Raptopoulos, and Whitney Gass.
- **Awards Committee** – The awards committee is responsible for the undergraduate and graduate student paper awards. The deadline for submission is September 1, 2021. Members: Molly Smith (chair), Rocio Paez, Helen Jin, and Sara Zedaker.



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- **Professional Development Committee** – This committee is responsible for developing workshops that will be held at the 2021 SWACJ conference. There will be three workshops offered this year:
 - “The Road to Tenure for Junior Faculty”
 - "Preparing for Graduate School"
 - Grant Writing and Agency Partnerships"
- **Members:** Bob Lytle (chair), Wendi Pollock, Mary Wuestewald, and Andia Azimi.

2021 SWACJ Conference

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming SWACJ conference. The conference theme is "Connecting Research, Policy, and Practice: Our Role in the New Era of Criminal Justice." We will have speakers and panels that focus on how scholars in our field can provide input and shape new criminal justice policies in light of recent events.

The conference will be held from October 13-16 at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown. This hotel is located at the heart of downtown Little Rock, next to the Arkansas River and the River Market. It is connected to the Robinson Center and only blocks away from the William J. Clinton Library and Museum. There is plenty to do in the area as the hotel is right next to popular restaurants, local pubs, museums, and shops. During the conference, rooms are only \$96 for a single or double. You can make your reservations now. For more information on Little Rock or the 2021 conference, please visit this [link](#). We know funds are tight right now, but we need your support and attendance at this conference to keep the organization healthy and moving forward. Plus, it will be great to see all your faces and catch up.

During this conference, we will continue our tradition of having a Quiz Bowl, CSI competition, undergraduate and graduate paper competitions, and various achievement awards. All submissions will be due September 1, 2021 and can be submitted directly through the SWACJ website. More conference updates will be coming your way over the summer.

Have a wonderful summer and I hope to see you this fall in Little Rock, AR!

Tusty



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First Vice President

Greetings, Friends and Colleagues!

I think that we can all say that 2020 has been the year that we would all love to forget, and the first half of 2021 has been a bit more encouraging. This year I am looking forward to supporting Tusty and her conference in Little Rock! I am hoping that we can continue the progress that SWACJ has made as an organization! Several people have poured their hearts and souls into this organization to benefit our colleagues, our students, and our region!

This year in Little Rock, I will be responsible for overseeing the Quiz Bowl competition. I sincerely hope that you will consider forming a team of students and bringing them to Little Rock. I am still ironing out the final details of how I want to run the competition this year. After the past few years, I have big shoes to fill in this capacity and need to ensure I deliver a challenging, educational, and fun experience for our students—and members. Stay tuned for more details about this. Please feel free to drop me a line (Jonathan.maskaly@und.edu) if you have thoughts or suggestions. If you have had the chance to meet me, you know that I have a big personality, and that will likely definitely come through in this year's Quiz Bowl.

Finally, as I am sure most of you remember, our 2022 conference will be in Austin at the Omni, where the 2020 conference was to be held. I am still working on the theme of the conference and ironing out the final details. There will definitely be a need—and strong desire—for volunteers to help make the conference successful. If you have any thoughts or willingness, again, please reach out and let's talk. I am particularly keen on trying to address a question that was posed at the Regional Summit at the ACJS meeting in Kansas City a few years ago by then-President Lorenzo Boyd: “what benefit does the organization bring to your membership?” In my view, this is a remarkably prescient question that we need to address to determine how to enhance the quality and utility of SWACJ further. This will be a significant theme for the 2022 conference in Austin. Again, stay tuned for more details as we draw closer to the 2022 conference.

Thanks again to our members who have survived a genuinely trying year personally and professionally! This pandemic has not been easy on anyone. Many of us miss the interactions and discussions we have with our SWACJ friends and colleagues that cannot be replicated over digital communication platforms. This year, fingers crossed, we will be able to get together.

Jon



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Second Vice President/Webmaster

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Hey SWACJ Members!

I can't believe that it's already summer – it's amazing how fast time flies! I hope all y'all had a fun and productive semester and that you're ready to recharge your batteries a bit over the summer break. I'm personally looking forward to traveling a bit more since almost all of my trips were put on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking of traveling, it feels like it's been forever since we've all been together in person – which is part of why I'm looking forward to our 2021 Annual Meeting in Little Rock! I've lived in Little Rock for the past 5 years and I can truly attest to how vibrant this city is – it's going to be an amazing venue for our conference. I've put together a quick travel guide on our website highlighting some of the fun things to do while you're here (<https://www.swacj.org/littlerock>), so please make sure to check it out!

As your 2nd Vice President, one of my duties for this year's conference is to coordinate the student paper competitions. Participating in these competitions is a great way to introduce students into our organization and reward them for their hard work, not to mention get them excited about working on future research projects! The pandemic has also made the past year difficult (and frankly a bit demoralizing) for all of us, so participating in these competitions could furthermore be a great way to boost their spirits. The full participation criteria are outlined on the SWACJ website (<http://www.swacj.org/awards>), however I want to emphasize the fact that we consider multiple different types of papers for these awards – including literature reviews for undergraduate students! As you'll see on the website, I've created a more streamlined application process for not only the student paper competitions, but all of the SWACJ awards. Instead of emailing submissions directly to coordinators, you can now fill out a simple submission form and upload documents directly to the website. Once you do that, the submission will be sent to the appropriate coordinator and copied to the main SWACJ email account so we can keep detailed records (you will also receive a confirmation email). There are also similar forms you can use to register teams for the Undergraduate Quiz Bowl and CSI Competition. Don't forget that all applications for awards, abstracts, and student teams are due on September 1st!

I've also been looking ahead to our 2023 Annual Meeting, which I am hoping will be in The Woodlands, TX. The Woodlands is my hometown and it has a lot of great attractions, dining, and events that would make it a great location for a conference! I am currently working with The Woodlands Convention and Visitors Bureau to hammer out the details, so stay tuned for more information.



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Thank you all for making SWACJ a fun, exciting, and welcoming place for students, faculty members, and professionals. I look forward to seeing you in Arkansas this October!

Secretary

This last year has been challenging and different. Like most of you, I am ready for my job to get back to normal – back to the classroom and in-person activities. This includes the annual meeting in October! I am looking forward to spending some time in Little Rock with you!

I will be organizing the teams for the CSI competition this year. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to contact me. Instead of emailing team information directly to me, please fill out a registration form on the website. The full participation criteria are outlined on the SWACJ website: <http://www.swacj.org/awards> Once you do that, the submission will be sent to myself and copied to the main SWACJ email account so we can keep detailed records (you will also receive a confirmation email). Don't forget that all applications for awards, abstracts, and student teams are due on September 1st!

Have a great summer! Lynn

Past President

This past year has been difficult for myself and SWACJ for enumerable reasons due to Covid-19 and the unfortunate cancellation of our 2020 Annual Conference. However, it is important that we come together as colleagues, friends and family to secure the future and well-being of this organization. Please continue to support SWACJ through your service, membership and attendance at our annual conferences. I cannot wait to catch up with each of you this year.

Speaking of service, the SWACJ Board is currently accepting nominations for the Felix Fabian Founder's Award. This award is presented to an individual that deserves recognition of his or her outstanding service to SWACJ and to the criminal justice discipline. The criteria for nominating someone is that they must be an active member that is in good standing with SWACJ for five consecutive years; active involvement in criminal justice education and research for five consecutive years; and has made a substantial contribution to SWACJ and the criminal justice discipline. To nominate an individual, please submit the nomination form found on our website (SWACJ.org) under awards tab.

Kind Blessings,

Paul



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Journal Editor

The Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology has moved from its old platform to a much better one. You can see the journal at qualitativecriminology.com, where you'll find an [editorial](#) that describes the changes. It also provides a word cloud that represents all articles on the old platform, and hyperlinks to the old website as archived on the Wayback Machine. We published three issues since the last newsletter, and should publish another in late May or early June. To keep abreast of happenings at the journal, please follow us on Twitter [@QCriminology](#).

Scott Jacques

Regional Trustee

ACJS held a successful virtual meeting in April and is looking forward to next year's annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 15th through 19th. The 2022 ACJS Awards [nominations deadline](#) is August 2nd and they are currently seeking volunteers for the 2022-2023 conference year (email 2023acjs@gmail.com if interested).

Brie



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General Business Meeting April 28, 2021 5pm via Zoom Minutes

Committees

- The executive board took into account suggestions from the last meeting and formed four ad-hoc committees. These committees have all received their charges from the president and have begun meeting.
 - a. Constitution Committee (Chair: Mike Cavanaugh)
 - b. Ethics Committee (Chair: Jon Maskaly)
 - c. Awards Committee (Chair: Molly Smith)
 - d. Professional Development Committee (Chair: Bob Lytle)
- The Ethics Committee is working on a code of ethics and policies and procedures for violating the code of ethics. A draft will be sent out to the membership 60 days before the annual meeting (August).
- The Constitution Committee is working on cleaning up language, inconsistencies, and loopholes in the constitution. A draft will be sent out to the membership 90 days before the annual meeting (July).
 - a. The Ethics and Constitution committees are working closely together since the code of ethics will need to be incorporated into the constitution.
- The Professional Development committee is working on three items for the annual meeting in October: a session for junior faculty regarding tenure; a session for students interested in going to graduate school; and a session for all faculty regarding grant writing and agency management, working with agencies on contracts.

Annual Meeting

- The 2021 conference date is October 13-16
- The conference will be in Little Rock, Arkansas
- The hotel rate is \$96 per night
- The due date for everything is September 1. This includes:
 - Abstracts
 - Student paper competition entries
 - Quiz Bowl teams
 - CSI Competition teams

Sponsorships

- So far \$4900 has been brought in – it's a good start, but more sponsorships are needed
 - There is uncertainty about attendance due to pandemic-related travel restrictions and university funding for travel.



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Officer Reports

- 1st VP
 - Chair of ethics committee
 - The conference for 2022 is still planned for Austin
- 2nd VP
 - Possible site for the 2023 conference is The Woodlands
- Treasurer
 - Reiterated the need for sponsorships
 - There is just under \$13,000 in the account – this is the lowest amount in five years
 - Reassured the membership that the CSI competition will continue to be a part of the SWACJ annual meetings
- Secretary
 - Working on mid-year newsletter
 - Questions about the CSI competition can be sent to secretary
- Webmaster
 - There is now a separate registration link for students, which will make it easier for larger groups to register for the annual meeting
 - All aspects of the conference (e.g., registration, teams, abstracts) result in a form that is sent to the board and to the appropriate board member. This will make tracking and planning easier moving forward.
- Trustee
 - ACJS had a successful virtual conference
 - Planning is moving forward for Las Vegas in 2022
 - ACJS has many openings for committee members and volunteers
- Journal Editor
 - The journal has moved to a new URL: qualitativecriminology.com
 - Movement to the new URL allows for good metadata
 - Two issues have already been published this year
 - There will be three special issues this year

Open Discussion

- Discussion about travel restrictions at different universities – there seems to be a wide variety of restrictions.
- Conference theme for 2021 is Connecting Research, Policy, and Practice: Our Role in the New Era of Criminal Justice
- All ideas for speakers, etc. are welcome. Contact a board member for any suggestions.

Meeting adjourned