

# ACJS NOW

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Volume 1

Issue 1

Dear ACJS Members:

Let me be one of the first to welcome to you to a new semiyearly publication from ACJS – *ACJS NOW*. Those of you who have been long time members may recall a similar publication several years ago that arrived in your mailboxes in addition to *ACJS Today*. While *Today* will still be available online at [www.acjs.org](http://www.acjs.org), *NOW* is going to be delivered via postal mail.

So why *NOW*, now? The purpose of *NOW* is to provide members with information and updates about ACJS, its publications, and regional organizations in a concise format. You can look forward to the following contents in this issue and those to come:

- ✦ Highlights on upcoming articles in *Justice Quarterly* and *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*
- ✦ National Office announcements
- ✦ Regional meeting announcements
- ✦ Brief notes on current and upcoming *ACJS Today* articles

Members will receive *NOW* in August/September and January/February to coincide with the start of academic terms. *NOW* is just one more way ACJS is demonstrating its commitment to its members and the study and practice of criminal justice.

Feel free to contact me with updates, announcements, or other items that would be of note to members.

Sincerely,  
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FROM ACJS PRESIDENT JEFF WALKER

Welcome to the first edition of *ACJS NOW*. This is an attempt to continue to improve the communication between members of ACJS and between the Executive Board and members. A few years ago, the Executive Board decided it would be in the best interest of ACJS to move *ACJS Today* to an electronic format. If you have seen a copy of *ACJS Today* lately, you probably think it was a good decision. The electronic format allows *ACJS Today* to be larger, more flexible in the amount of material presented, and it can contain a greater variety of graphics and other information that would not have been possible in a printed version. If you have not seen *ACJS Today* recently, you are not alone. Even with extra efforts, we are aware that many people are not reading *ACJS Today* like they did previously because it does not come to their desk. We are now trying to deliver a more detailed yet more cost effective format for *ACJS Today*, and still give members something they can hold and read. *ACJS NOW* contains essential information for readers. I hope you enjoy this new effort of ACJS, and I hope it gives you the information you need to make your experience with ACJS valuable.

With that said, the essential information I would like you to know about me and my term as President of ACJS is what I hope to accomplish in this year. I have three major goals that I touch upon briefly here, with more to come in later publications.

(1) To get more students involved in service and earlier in their careers: Students are the future of this discipline. If we do not get students and young faculty involved earlier in their careers, we may see serious problems for the professional organizations. To accomplish this goal, I have placed doctoral students on every committee and hope to increase the involvement of masters and doctoral students at the annual meeting.

(2) To expand the reach of criminology and criminal justice (and ACJS) to the international community: There are many current and developing organizations around the world of which the members of ACJS would benefit from being a part. ACJS would also benefit from these organizations as they represent powerful opportunities to expand criminology and criminal justice to new populations. To accomplish the goal of greater cooperation between ACJS and other international criminal justice/criminology organizations, I will be traveling to several international conferences and events. I also have pledged the support of ACJS to help organizations worldwide start or develop a professional presence in their countries.

(3) To put on the highest quality and most academic meeting ACJS has ever had: Many of you have heard me talking about the "feature panels" at the meeting in Seattle. My goal, and the goal of Craig Hemmens, the Program Chair, is to put together a set of panels that anyone who has any interest in criminology and

*Continued...*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1...**

criminal justice will think "I have to see that panel." Participants in each of these panels have committed to writing a paper before the conference and to have something new or special to say. Seattle promises to be a tremendous conference, and I hope everyone will be excited both about the city and the conference.

I want to end with a statement about being active in ACJS. I know many schools place professional service a distant last in the requirements for tenure, promotion, and merit, and when we all have much more to do than we can deal with, it is easy to keep pushing service to the back burner. We are all citizens of this discipline, however; and citizenship comes with a duty to give back to the discipline. It is important to the discipline that everyone contributes to professional service. If publishing is your forte, consider serving as a reviewer for journals and eventually becoming an editor. If you have more of a teaching focus, there are many committees and other outlets that need such expertise. Consider contributing directly to the profession by becoming an officer in one of the organizations. Whatever it is, determine a path and begin your service. As almost every candidate statement says, "It is an honor to be chosen", but it is a duty to serve.

If you have suggestions for these areas, or if you think there are other issues facing the discipline or ACJS that I have not covered, please feel free to contact me.

**Academic Certification for Criminal Justice Programs**

ACJS is accepting applications for Academic Certification based on the Standards for Certification of Academic Programs that were approved in May 2005 by the ACJS Executive Board. The goal of ACJS in adopting these Standards and implementing a Certification Review process is to measurably improve the quality of criminal justice education. For several years, ACJS had Minimum Standards for Criminal Justice Education and these standards were used in a peer review process through ACJS Academic Review. The new standards and process represent an evolution from "peer review" to "certification." The ACJS Certification review process is designed to evaluate evidence-based compliance with the Certification Standards. The application forms, standards, and process for review of academic programs at the associate, baccalaureate, and master's degree levels are available under the Certification Button on the ACJS Homepage, [www.acjs.org](http://www.acjs.org).

**2007 Annual Conference March 13 to 17 Seattle, Washington  
Sheraton Seattle Hotel and Towers**

The Seattle conference hotel is located in the middle of the shopping district and a short walk to the pier for great seafood and views of the ocean and mountains. The hotel is also in the city bus free ride zone for exploring the historic downtown. Mittie Southerland, a neophyte to Seattle, had no trouble finding her way around by bus and on foot during a June site visit, so we know you will find the city equally accessible!

The Call for Presentations, Invitation to Participate, Abstract Submission System, hotel information, and information for Exhibiting for the 2007 Annual Meeting is available in the Annual Meeting section of the ACJS Homepage at [www.acjs.org](http://www.acjs.org). Jeff Walker, Craig Hemmens, and the 2007 Program Committee have planned an extraordinary event exploring "The Science of Criminal Justice Sciences." The deadline for submitting your proposal is October 13, 2006.

**ACJS Awards & Nomination Deadlines**

Please take time to review the 2007 ACJS Awards and Selection Criteria in the Awards section of the ACJS Homepage ([www.acjs.org](http://www.acjs.org)) and nominate deserving colleagues and students for these awards. We encourage you to make your nominations soon as the deadlines are approaching for several of the awards.

**ACJS Awards**

- Nominations for the Bruce Smith Sr., Academy Founder, Academy Fellow, Outstanding Book, and Donal MacNamara Awards are due **September 30, 2006**.
- Nominations for the William L. Simon/Anderson Publishing Outstanding Paper and Outstanding Student Paper Awards are due **August 30, 2006**.

**Scholarship and Travel Awards**

- Student Scholarship Award – Materials and Nominations due **January 15, 2007**
- Minorities and Women Annual Meeting Travel Award -- Applications due **September 15, 2006**
- Affirmative Action Mini-Grant and Student Scholarships Award – Materials due **October 1, 2006**

**Doctoral Programs Summit Information**

Dr. Todd Clear, president of the Association of Criminology and Criminal Justice Doctoral Program Directors (DPD), an association of 34 programs, facilitated the Summit Meeting held in May 2006 at Sam Houston State University. Aside from the arduous task of devising a draft copy of a charter for the DPD, several conclusions were drawn from participants' input on such issues as the future of the DPD, the designation of criminology & criminal justice as an academic field, and enhanced program assessments. Look for a more detailed report on the Summit in *ACJS Today* in October and at [www.acjs.org](http://www.acjs.org). For NOW, major items of note included:

- Rapid growth of undergraduate programs in criminology & criminal justice driving need for more entry level professors.
- Education at the doctorate level is mounting and expected to continue for the next five years or so, which means DPD membership will increase.
- The National Research Council (NRC) has designated criminology and criminal justice as "fields to watch." Recognition from NRC is a concentrated interest of the DPD.
- Inclusion of international programs as members of the DPD was noted.

During the 2006 American Society of Criminology conference, the DPD will be meeting on November 2 at 9:30AM in Room 308B to ratify the charter and elect new officers. Contact Dr. Wes Johnson at [johnson@shsu.edu](mailto:johnson@shsu.edu) or 936-294-1640 for more information.



### Annual Meeting Updates for Regional Affiliates

#### Midwestern Criminal Justice Association

September 28-30, 2006

Chicago, Illinois

Best Western Inn of Chicago: \$115/night plus tax:

(312) 787-3100 or 1-800-557-BEST

Abstracts due: September 1 to Charles

Corley: [corley@msu.edu](mailto:corley@msu.edu)

Student Paper Competition Deadline: September 6.

to [corley@msu.edu](mailto:corley@msu.edu) or go to [www.mcja.org](http://www.mcja.org)

for more information.

#### Northeastern Association of CJ Sciences

June 6-9, 2007

Roger Williams University

Bristol, Rhode Island

Early acceptance for papers deadline ~ mid-

January, 2007

Final deadline ~ early April, 2007

More information posted online at

[www.neacjs.org](http://www.neacjs.org) as it becomes available.

#### Southern Criminal Justice Association

September 20-23, 2006

Charleston, South Carolina

Doubletree Guest Suites: from \$159/night plus tax:

1-800-222-TREE or 843-577-2644

Deadline for abstracts has passed.

For Preliminary Program and additional

information including online hotel reservations go

to [www.scja.net](http://www.scja.net).

#### Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice

September 28-30, 2006

Fort Worth, Texas

Historic Stockyards Amerisuites: \$89/night plus tax:

\$17-626-6000 – mention SWACJ for group rate good

until September 4, 2006.

Student Paper Competition & Abstract Deadline:

September 8, 2006 to Chip Burns at [r.burns@tcu.edu](mailto:r.burns@tcu.edu)

The Undergraduate Quiz Bowl Returns!!

Additional information can be found online at

[www.swacj.org](http://www.swacj.org).

#### Western and Pacific Association of CJ Educators

October 10-12, 2006

Reno, Nevada

Silver Legacy Resort & Casino: \$55/night plus tax:

1-800-687-8733, use group code WPACJE

Abstracts due: September 1, 2006 via email to David

Mueller at [dmueller@boisestate.edu](mailto:dmueller@boisestate.edu).

For more information, go to

<http://cja.boisestate.edu/wpacje/>.

### JQ & JCJE Issues in Focus

*Issues in Focus* highlights some of the articles forthcoming in *JQ* and *JCJE*. The September issue of *JQ* and the Fall issue of *JCJE* will be arriving soon.

**ASC & ACJS Members Weigh In.** There is often a risk for professionals when they work with the media be it commenting for a newspaper article or as a resident expert for a TV news spot. A forthcoming *JCJE* article tackled this concern by surveying members of ASC to determine satisfaction with such experiences. Overall, it was observed that these respondents were pleased with their participation with the media. In another *JCJE* article, ACJS and ASC members were surveyed about journal prestige. Both criminologists and justices agreed on the journals that should be ranked in the highest tier. For lower-ranked journals, however, these two groups were in disagreement.

**Policy & Practice.** Legal reforms were found to alter police behavior in domestic violence cases, but they were not observed to contribute to the likelihood of arrests across both sexes and Blacks and Whites in an analysis forthcoming in *JQ*. The authors of this article raise some concern, however, with reforms dealing with dual arrest practices. Interest in other law enforcement procedures at the international level were explored in another *JQ* article on the European Police Office or Europol. The primary function of this office is to encourage police agencies cooperation in investigating international crime and counter-terrorism. Europol's influence is anticipated to affect the European Union's operations in these areas in the long term.

**Surveys & Virtues.** The topic of academic integrity be it cheating or plagiarism, has plagued the college environment for years. With the emergence of online courses, some violations might be harder for instructors to detect. A study in *JCJE* found that problems with cheating are more pervasive with students taking online courses compared to those taking courses on campus. Implications and possible solutions are offered for tackling academic dishonesty relative to the type of learning environment and demographic characteristics. Concerning a somewhat related quality, civility, an article forthcoming in *JQ* presents readers with results from a survey examining the relationship between perceived incivilities and perceived neighborhood crime and personal victimization. The results hinted that respondents estimate incivilities independently from crime. Physical incivilities were perceived to be separate from victimization.

**Courses & Textbooks.** Two articles falling under this heading will appear in the Fall issue of *JCJE*. According to the authors of one of these manuscripts, courses on or including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) populations and the CJS appear to be few in number across undergraduate programs. Discussions concerning the importance of GLBT issues are examined. The second article analyzed introductory criminal justice and criminology texts to determine the extent of coverage on research methods and ethics. In general, coverage was found to be tenuous.

**Of Note.** The Spring 2007 issue of *JCJE* is being guest edited by Alex Piquero & Ruth Triplet. It will focus on the history of CJ education. Please go to [www.acjs.org](http://www.acjs.org) for instructions on manuscript submissions and inquiries.

### News You Can Use: *ACJS Today*

#### Look for these articles in upcoming issues:

*Pooh and the Ph.D.: In which Pooh Bear shows us how to write a dissertation*

By: Willard M. Oliver, Ph.D., Sam Houston State Univ.

*Still left Out? The coverage of critical/conflict criminology in introductory textbooks.*

By: Ken Wagner, Radford University

*Is it really 'Just a J.D.'?*

By: Robert P. Engvall, J.D., Ph.D., Roger Williams Univ.

*How the FBI has advanced the effectiveness of policing and law enforcement in America, while serving as the nation's Homeland Security Agency*

By: Terrance A. Johnson, DPA, CBM, CFE, Lincoln Univ.

#### Call for Submissions for Today:

**Book Reviews:** This is a great opportunity for students and anyone who is interested in sharing their thoughts on a particular book. If you would like to write a book review but don't have a book in mind, just let us know! Go to [http://www.acis.org/pubs/167\\_666\\_3516.cfm](http://www.acis.org/pubs/167_666_3516.cfm) for writing guidelines.

**Feature Articles:** Articles may vary in writing style (i.e. tone) and length. Articles should be relevant to the field of criminal justice, criminology, law, sociology or related curriculum and interesting to our readership.

Go to [http://www.acis.org/pubs/167\\_666\\_3516.cfm](http://www.acis.org/pubs/167_666_3516.cfm) for article guidelines.

**Professional Profile:** This is an excellent chance to introduce a prominent person to *ACJS Today* readers. Send in a short article (350 – 500 words) along with a photo of the individual. The article should highlight the person's career and accomplishments. Also include current position, birthplace, current residence, education, first job, best career advice received, career advice for student/faculty, before I die I want to... If I could change one thing..., and family members. See the February 2006 and June 2006 issues of *ACJS Today* for examples.

**Ph.D. Forum:** Share the results of your dissertation by submitting your abstract.

**Reader Questions:** Have questions? Ask them and we'll forward it to an expert in the field for a response.

**Your 2¢ Worth:** Can't share it with your colleagues, your children or even your spouse---YOU CAN TELL US. Sound off on a controversial topic anonymously.

#### **Forward submissions for *ACJS Today* to:**

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