

# ACJS NOW

February 2008

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Dear ACJS Members:

I hope everyone's new year is off to a great start. I am getting quite excited about the upcoming conference in March in Cincinnati. As an alum of the University of Cincinnati, this conference is sure to be rewarding and entertaining. Cincy (for short) is a terrific place to visit. There is tasty treats to eat (can you say Skyline Chili, Izzy's, and Graeter's Ice Cream?) and awesome attractions to visit such as the zoo and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The meeting program also entices me with everything from international studies on criminal justice issues to examinations on governmental white collar crime. No doubt, this mix of activities is sure to make the 2008 meeting truly memorable.

Melissa W. Burek, Editor

## See you in Cincy in March!

Important  
DATE!

### Annual Meeting: In the Know Now

Dates: March 11-15, 2008

Location: Cincinnati, Ohio

Hilton Cincinnati Netherlands Plaza

1-800-HILTONS

Hyatt Regency Cincinnati

1-888-421-1442

Reservation Deadline: 2/20/08

Information on Cincinnati: Go to

<http://www.cincyusa.com/acjsannualmeeting>

Meeting Preregistration Ended 1/31/08.

Regular Registration will be held onsite at the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati beginning Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 1PM.

## FROM ACJS PRESIDENT RON HUNTER

Instead of my usual President's Message, I wish to note the passing of one of the greats who helped to establish criminal justice/criminology as a discipline. Dr. C. Ray Jeffery died on December 6, 2007 after battling poor health for several years. Ray was retired from the faculty of the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University. He was a past president of the American Society of Criminology. Ray was a brilliant theorist who made numerous contributions to the literature and the advancement of criminological theory. He followed up his earlier works on sociological explanations of criminology with groundbreaking theories on crime prevention and socio-biological influences on crime and criminality.

In 1971 Ray coined the term *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design*. His concepts were motivations for further advancements in the development of opportunity theories such as *Defensible Space*, *Environmental Criminology*, *Rational Choice*, and *Situational Crime Prevention*. CPTED would not only influence scholarship within our discipline but had a major impact on the development of crime prevention efforts on the part of state and local law makers, OSHA, urban designers, police planners, and security professionals. In the 1980s and 90s Ray expanded his environmental emphasis to include both biological and social influences of the environment on individual behavior. His insights on *Bio-Environmental Design* contributed to a host of subsequent research projects that explored the linkages between criminal behavior and the physical environment. They also contributed greatly to our discipline's understanding that debates regarding the influence of "nature versus nurture" should be replaced by exploration of the relationships of "nature plus nurture" on criminal behavior.

## FROM ACJS VP WES JOHNSON

I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks in Cincinnati for this year's conference. I participated in a site visit there in November. I found the conference hotels very accommodating and the surrounding areas very accessible. While there, I was involved for the first time with assembling the panels for the conference. I was overwhelmed by the complexity of the task and commend the work of Richard Tewksbury and his committee.

Barbara Sims, Program Chair for the 2009 ACJS conference in Boston, and I have been working with the ACJS Executive Board and Cathy Barth at the national ACJS office in planning a successful conference. Barbara is currently putting together her program committee. If you would like to be involved in the conference planning and administration for the 2009 conference in Boston there is much to be done and your help will be greatly appreciated. Barbara can be reached at Penn State Harrisburg, School of Public Affairs, 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898, 717-948-6044 Telephone 717-948-6320 Fax, or [bas4@psu.edu](mailto:bas4@psu.edu).

Mittie Southerland, the ACJS Executive Director, and the ACJS Executive Board, have spent a tremendous amount of time during the last several years negotiating with hotels and event coordinators to maximize the use of ACJS funds, and are to be commended for the work they have done. The move a few years ago by ACJS to create an executive director position has enabled the organization to be more savvy and aggressive in its negotiations with hotels and conference vendors. Both Mittie Southerland and Cathy Barth are to be commended in making ACJS conferences run more smoothly.

It is mind-boggling to me that we are in the process of booking conference hotels for 2015, 2016, and 2017. Sites that are being considered are Phoenix, San Antonio, New Orleans, Portland, Vancouver, St. Louis, Denver, Charlotte, Washington, DC, Baltimore, Atlanta and Omaha. I have enjoyed the opportunities to move around the country and discover new cities at past conferences and hope this tradition continues with ACJS. As we grow as an organization the ability to find hotels that can accommodate us will continue to be a problem. If you have any "out of the box" ideas on conference delivery or comments about past conferences please let me or any of members of the ACJS Executive Board know so we can maximize our planning efforts.

I am in the process of finalizing nominations to standing committees. The standing committees are: Affirmative Action, Membership, Student Affairs, Constitution and By-Laws, and Publications. All committee members must be a current member of ACJS and be approved by the ACJS Executive Board. It is my goal to make committee membership as diverse as possible with respect to ethnicity, gender, and region. I am particularly interested in getting participation from our international members. . If you are interested in serving on a standing committee please contact me immediately at [william.w.johnson@usm.edu](mailto:william.w.johnson@usm.edu) or 601 266-4511. See you in Cincinnati!

### ARE YOU STILL A MEMBER?

*Have you let your membership expire? If so, we miss you. After 2/15/08, all 2008 members will be listed in the online ACJS membership directory. If you do not see your name, your membership has expired. Every member contributes to ACJS in his/her own way be it as a paper presenter, a conference attendee, a committee member, a chair, a discussant, or officer of the organization. ACJS has so much to offer academics and practitioners alike. Some of the perks of membership, to name a few, are ACJS Today, NOW, Justice Quarterly and*

## FIRST PROGRAM CERTIFIED by ACJS

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the faculty, staff, students, and administration for the Master of Criminal Justice Degree Program at Washburn University. This program is the first to be certified by the ACJS Executive Board as meeting all ACJS Academic Certification Standards, as documented through the ACJS Academic Certification Review process. The official document of Certification will be presented to Washburn University representatives by ACJS President Ron Hunter at the annual ACJS Awards Ceremony in Cincinnati. The list of certified programs is available on the ACJS website at:

[http://www.acjs.org/pubs/167\\_667\\_14143.cfm](http://www.acjs.org/pubs/167_667_14143.cfm)



## Updates for Regional Organizations

### Midwestern Criminal Justice Association

- Annual Meeting September 4-6, Chicago, IL.
- Conference hotel is Inn of Chicago, 312-787-3100.
- Go to [www.mcja.org](http://www.mcja.org) for more information.

### Northeastern Association of CJ Sciences

- Annual meeting is June 11-14 at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island.
- Questions should be directed to Jim Ruiz at [jmr33@psu.edu](mailto:jmr33@psu.edu).
- For more information, go to [www.neacjs.org](http://www.neacjs.org).

### Southern Criminal Justice Association

- Annual Meeting October 1-4 New Orleans, LA.
- Conference hotel is Chateau Sonesta Hotel, 1-800-SONESTA
- Proposals due to Mitch Miller by July 15. Send to [scja2008@gmail.com](mailto:scja2008@gmail.com). Go to [www.scja.net](http://www.scja.net) for more news and information.

### Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice

- Annual Meeting October 2-4, Denver, CO.
- Conference hotel is Red Lion Inn, 1-800-388-5381.
- Send proposals for papers/panels to Phil Rhoades at [Philip.rhoades@tamucc.edu](mailto:Philip.rhoades@tamucc.edu).
- For additional information go to <http://www.swacj.org> or read the Winter newsletter.

### Western and Pacific Association of CJ Educators

- Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada in October.
- Visit <http://cja.boisestate.edu/wpacjef> for more information.



### ACJS Today Call for Submissions

Feature Articles  
Book Reviews  
Professional Profiles  
Ph.D. Forum  
Reader Questions  
Your 2¢Worth

What do the above have in common?  
They are all great ways to see your work online  
in *ACJS Today*.

Forward submissions to:  
Nicolle Parsons-Pollard, *ACJS Today* Editor,  
[acjstoday@vcu.edu](mailto:acjstoday@vcu.edu)

## Activities of ACJS Committees

### Academic Review Committee: Laura Moriarty, Chair

The ACJS Executive Board just approved the 1<sup>st</sup> Certification of a criminal justice program: The Masters of Criminal Justice at Washburn University. Six other Institutions have made application and are in some stage of the self-study or review process at this point in time.

### Affirmative Action: Florence Ferguson, Chair

Actively working on an agenda to address a number of issues important to the minority members of the Academy, to facilitate the recruitment and retention of minority membership in ACJS, and to identify areas and possible strategies for ACJS to contribute to the improvement of the position of minority academics within the field of criminal justice/criminology.

### Constitution and By-Laws: John Smykla, Chair

Currently looking at a number of policy and constitutional issues to provide guidance to the ACJS Executive Board regarding constitutionality of policy or interpretation of the constitution. The committee prepared language for the ballot on the Constitutional amendment to add a standing committee on assessment.

### Membership: Matthew Robinson, Chair

Exploring a variety of methods for making ACJS more attractive to students, academics, and practitioners.

### Student Affairs: Reid Toth, Chair

Currently working on providing content for a new section of the ACJS website devoted to items of interest for students. They are also engaged in coordinating efforts for the student events at the annual meeting and receiving the student awards nominations and making recommendations regarding these awards.

### Publications: Faith Lutze, Chair

This committee is working to revive the ACJS CJ Graduate Directory.

### Budget, Finance, and Audit: Janice Joseph, Chair

Meeting in January to conduct a random audit of the ACJS financial records, to review a variety of issues with financial implications, and to review the incoming President's proposed budget.

## Executive Director Mittie Southerland:

### What You Should Know Now

- ⚖ The Academy is financially sound.
- ⚖ Membership and annual meeting attendance is growing. At the end of August 2007 we had over \$500,000 in our various accounts and own two adjoining office condos where the National Office is located in Greenbelt, MD.
- ⚖ ACJS has nearly 2,600 members including 146 institutional members and over 100 PhD students who have taken advantage of the free 1 year membership for PhD students. There were 1,437 attendees at the recent Seattle meeting. Our last west coast meeting netted less than 1,200 attendees.
- ⚖ Both *Justice Quarterly* (editor, Rick Tewksbury) and *Journal of Criminal Justice Education* (editor, Mitch Miller) have quality ratings that are very competitive within the social sciences.
- ⚖ Effective immediately manuscript submission is on-line and the review and editing process are electronically managed. The submission fee for both journals has been discontinued.
- ⚖ Journals are provided in hard copy and are electronically accessible by our members. All members have electronic access as soon as the journal issue goes to press. They also have access to all back issues of both journals.
- ⚖ Janice Joseph, ACJS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, is actively seeking volunteers for the various standing committees of the Academy for her term as President of ACJS from 2009-March 2010. Attend the ACJS General Business Meeting from 9 am until 10 am on Friday, March 14, 2008 to learn more.

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