



Issue 4

Welcome to the fourth issue of *Crime and Grits*, the official newsletter of the Southern Criminal Justice Association (SCJA). With the cancellations of the 2020 conferences, I am the most disappointed in the cancellation of the SCJA's annual conference. Since it will be quite some time before we all get to see each other in person again, I hope this newsletter makes you feel more connected with your fellow members and keeps you current on SCJA's news and events.

Please share this issue of *Crime and Grits* with your networks. If you have news, information, or suggestions for the next issue, please email CrimeandGrits@gmail.com.

Important Updates

All Current Memberships Extended through September 14, 2021!!!

In its virtual meeting on June 8th, the SCJA Executive Board unanimously approved the extension of any membership that is current but expiring prior to September 2021. Any current membership that is set to expire prior to September 14, 2021 will be automatically extended through September 14, 2021.

SCJA Elections close at Noon on June 15, 2020 - See Pages 6-10

SCJA 2020 Awards

- Nominations for Awards are due September 1, 2020 - **See Pages 11-12**
- Award winners will be highlighted in the Spotlight of *Crime and Grits*, Issue 5
- Award recipients will be honored at the 2021 Conference on Tuesday, September 14, 2021

2020 Student Poster Competition

- Student Posters will be judged in a 2020 Virtual Poster Competition!
- Submissions can be made via the SCJA website and are due on September 1, 2020.
- The 2020 Student Poster Award system has been updated - **See Page 12**

This Edition of *Crime and Grits* was brought to you by:

Julie Baldwin, *American University*

Congratulations to SCJA Members Honored by the ACJS!



ACADEMY FELLOW AWARD

Dr. Wesley G. Jennings, *University of Mississippi*

For distinguished contributions to criminal justice education and scholarship

Dr. Jennings has amassed over 250 publications and nearly 10,000 citations. His demonstrated excellence in teaching, scholarly productivity, national and international recognition as a scholar, impressive record of service and contributions to ACJS, various awards and recognition, and many years of service as an office holder in the Southern Criminal Justice Association made him an ideal and deserving candidate for the award.



ACADEMY FOUNDER'S AWARD

Dr. J. Mitchell Miller, *University of North Florida*

For outstanding service to ACJS and the profession

Dr. Miller's contributions over the past 25 years include editor of the *Journal of Crime & Justice*, *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, and the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*; the 38th president of the Southern Criminal Justice Association; ACJS pre-conference professional development workshop presentation; and multiple professional organization and US DOJ committee and project assignments. He previously received the ACJS Fellow and Bruce Smith, Sr. awards that, with the Founder's, puts him in a small group of seven colleagues to receive all three of the Academy's major accolades.



ACADEMY NEW SCHOLAR AWARD

Dr. Julie Marie Baldwin, *American University*

For outstanding scholarly contributions to the study of crime and/or criminal justice by someone who has received their most recent doctoral degree in the past 6 years

Since graduation (2013), Dr. Baldwin has obtained approximately \$9.5 million in grant funding as PI or Co-PI, as well as produced 18 academic peer-reviewed publications, 1 book chapter, and 23 practitioner reports, resources, or publications. The majority of Dr. Baldwin's work is translational research conducted through research-practitioner partnerships in which she works closely with agencies and programs on evaluation research to produce practical evidence-based recommendations for implementation in the field.



WILLIAM L. SIMON/ROUTLEDGE PUBLISHING OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

Dr. Ryan M. Labrecque, *Portland State University*

For outstanding paper presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD

Dr. Labrecque and his co-authors earned the award for their paper titled "Assessing the Impact of Pretrial Detention on Sentencing Outcomes using Propensity Score Modeling."

Spotlight: Comments from Dr. Brandon Applegate



SCJA 2019 Outstanding Educator Award Recipient

The 2019 SCJA Awards Luncheon was a great success but ran over time. As such, we're spotlighting the comments that were going to be provided at the luncheon by the SCJA Outstanding Educator Award recipient: Dr. Brandon Applegate, University of South Carolina.

I am truly honored to receive the Outstanding Educator Award for 2019. The Southern Criminal Justice Association has been my academic home away from home for more than 20 years, so it is a special privilege to be recognized in this way by a group that has been so important to me. I would like to thank the award committee – Wes Jennings, Holly Ventura Miller, and Bruce Arrigo. I hope that their task was not an arduous one, but I am sure it was not easy. Southern has always been blessed with many people who are deeply devoted to higher education in criminal justice. I also want to thank (and possibly embarrass) those who nominated me for this honor – Riane Miller Bolin, Heather Ouellette, and Mateja Vuk.

When Bryan Miller contacted me to let me know I would be receiving this award, it got me thinking, “how did I get here?” To borrow the subtitle from a favorite book of mine, the outset at least was “an unexpected journey.” As an undergraduate student, I found criminal justice to be fascinating. I loved that it drew on the insights of psychology, sociology, political science, and law. The concepts, ideas, and policy implications sparked my imagination, and I was drawn to the human side of our discipline. As I approached the end of my studies, however, I had no idea what I wanted to do. Fortunately, one of my professors invited me to be involved in some research he was conducting and mentioned to me the possibility of graduate study. I found that I had a knack for approaching criminal justice issues from a theoretical and empirical perspective, and going to graduate school meant I could put off deciding what I wanted to do!

This serendipitous start has led to a rewarding career. As academics we get to indulge our intellectual curiosity, but as criminal justices we are also in a unique position to have an impact on the world around us. Borrowing again, this time from the theme of this year's conference, we have the important opportunity for our research and expertise to improve the efficiency and quality of criminal justice. We scrutinize practices, policies, and beliefs by holding them up to logical, systematic, and empirical examination. We support the critical work of professionals by supplying information they can use. We also prepare our students to carry the field and discipline forward. It is through those we teach about the field that we can, perhaps, have the broadest impact on the functioning of the criminal justice system. So, I also want to thank all of you for joining me on this journey because what we do—what *you* do—is important and impactful. Thank you!

Remembering Dr. Michael J. Leiber

(1956-2020)



Michael J. Leiber's friends and colleagues were sad to announce his untimely passing this year. Mike should be best remembered for his desire to see the world become a better, fairer, and more equitable place. He believed in advancing knowledge to correct the many challenging social ills in society, and this concern for social justice guided his career. Mike grew up in and cherished his home town, Milwaukee. He earned his BA from Marquette University, and then entered the MA program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He transferred to The University at Albany, where he earned his MA and Ph.D. He held academic positions at the University of Northern Iowa (1989-2005), Virginia Commonwealth (2005-2010), and the University of South Florida (2010-2020), where he also served as department chair (2011-2019).

His research focused primarily on juvenile justice and disproportionate minority contact with the criminal justice system. He authored over 100 publications, including 76 articles and book chapters, and more than two-dozen government reports, and received more than \$700k in grants and contracts. Mike was the recipient of several scholarly awards of which he was proud, including those from the Division of Minorities and Women (Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences), a lifetime achievement award from the Division on People of Color and Crime (American Society of Criminology), the W. E. B. Du Bois Award from the Western Society of Criminology, and a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University at Albany, among others. He served as editor of the *Journal of Crime and Justice*, and more recently, *Justice Quarterly*. He was often an invited speaker at programs and sessions sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, Washington, D.C..

Many knew Mike in a variety of capacities: distinguished scholar, colleague, mentor, and friend. In his personal life, he was a devoted animal lover to his multiple cats and "fidos." An avid sports fan, he loved his Green Bay Packers, along with the Milwaukee Brewers and Bucks, and the Wisconsin Badgers. He maintained a pristine early 1970s Alfa Romeo Spider. He is survived by his beloved wife of eight years, Lana. Condolences may be sent to her at: 4946 Eensburg Drive, Tampa, Florida, 33647.

Dr. J. Mitchell Miller Named Delaney Presidential Professor



Dr. J. Mitchell Miller, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of North Florida (UNF), has been named the next Delaney Presidential Professor at UNF. This award is based upon Dr. Miller's sustained record of outstanding scholarship, grant funding, and the research projects he has delineated for the years ahead. This Professorship was established through the generosity and support of the Newton and Stein families. Dr. Miller joins Drs. David Courtwright, Gary Smart, Andy Buchwalter, Tom Pekarek, Lev Gasparov, Dominik Guess, John Hatle, and Cliff Ross as a Presidential professor. The Delaney Professor is awarded for up to 3 years and carries with it a stipend and a course release each academic year. The course release is granted in perpetuity contingent upon the awardees' ongoing scholarly productivity.

A Big Thank You to Officers and Board Members Rotating off the Board

Immediate Past President

John Stogner, PhD
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Secretary-Treasurer

Chad Posick, PhD
Georgia Southern University

Director-at-Large

J.C. Barnes, PhD
University of Cincinnati

Director-at-Large

J. Andrew Hansen, PhD
Western Carolina University

VOTE NOW! Elections Close June 15th at Noon

2nd Vice President Candidates



Veronyka James, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Shenandoah University

My fellow SCJA members, I am honored to be placed on the ballot for the position of 2nd Vice-President. Since 2014, I have been an active member of SCJA and am currently a lifetime member. During this time, I served SCJA as a member of the Undergraduate Student Awards Committee in 2015-2016. Additionally, I have attended and presented several times at the SCJA conference, as well as served as panel chair. On the national level I have served as Secretary of the ACJS Police Section and was recently elected Vice-Chair for this section. I have also served as Executive Counselor of both the ACJS Victimology Section, and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Section, as well as served on numerous committees, most recently on the Ken Peak Innovations in Teaching Award Committee and the 2020 ACJS Program Committee, even though sadly this conference was cancelled. I am committed to both professional organizations and the discipline. If elected, I look forward to serving as part of the SCJA Executive Board to work on behalf of SCJA and its members. Thank you for your consideration.



Sheri Jenkins Keenan, Ph.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor, The University of Memphis

Dr. Keenan has been an active member of SCJA since 1998 (Lifetime member). She has presented papers, participated on round tables, and served as session chairperson. She has served as Committee Chair, (2016-2017) and Committee Member, (2015- 2016) of the Tom Barker Award for Undergraduate Student Service. In addition, she has served as an Executive Counselor, Juvenile Justice Section, (2009-2012) for the Academy of Criminal Justice Science. Finally, she has served as Vice President, (2012-2013) for the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Association. Dr. Keenan wishes to continue to service SCJA and its members by promoting a professional regional organization that fosters collaboration between academic/researcher, practitioner, and student in the criminal justice sciences.



Kent Ryan Kerley, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, University of Texas at Arlington

I first attended the SCJA's annual conference in 1999 when I was a second-year PhD student at UT. The conference was held in Chattanooga, which is just 80 miles from my hometown. I presented a paper and served on a roundtable, and noted that there did not appear to be an informal system for separating graduate students from established PhDs. In fact, President John Smykla treated me with the same level of respect and kindness as the other, more senior, panelists. I also noted that many practitioners attended the meetings and were treated as true peers. I had the opportunity to meet top scholars in the field at the various panels and special events, and this proved incredibly helpful in my career. For example, I sat next to John Sloan at my roundtable, and he would later be my Department Chair at UAB for ten years. In all, I found the SCJA meetings to be especially collegial and welcoming.

Having attended these same meetings for the last 20+ years, including regularly bringing my REU students, I am proud to say that the atmosphere has not changed. My interest in serving the organization led me to run for Treasurer in 2014. I was pleased to be elected and to serve a three-year term. I now welcome the opportunity to serve SCJA again, this time as Second Vice President. I am committed to doing all that I can to promote and advance my home organization. Thank you for considering me with your vote.

Treasurer Candidates



Molly Buchanan, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Marist College

In 2012, I attended my first SCJA conference and delivered my first ever academic presentation; I was still relatively new to Florida and getting accustomed to a doctoral program. The bar was set high by that and each subsequent SCJA meeting. The current Treasurer vacancy provides an opportunity for me to begin to pay it forward (pun slightly intended) to an Association and membership whose genuine hospitality and friendliness remain unsurpassed. As a student and now as an Assistant Professor, I have served in other capacities for regional and national associations, including volunteering for the SCJA Audit committee and the Tom Barker Outstanding Undergraduate Award for Service subcommittee. Through the current Treasurer role, I can meaningfully contribute to the SCJA's continued growth and facilitation of professional development, interaction, and fellowship. I also dig all things quantitative and can be agonizingly detail-oriented, all seemingly positive qualities for a Treasurer. Thank you for considering my candidacy for SCJA Treasurer; it would be my honor to serve the Association and its membership in this capacity.



Kevin Buckler, Ph.D.

Professor, University of Houston-Downtown

Kevin Buckler is Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Houston-Downtown (2015-Present). He has stints as department chair at two previous institutions, the University of Texas-Brownsville (now UT-Rio Grande Valley) and Prairie View A and M University. His scholarship focus is on law, courts, and criminal procedure, and he teaches in the undergraduate and graduate programs at UHD. At present, he is involved in qualitative-based observational work on sentencing discretion by judges in a federal district court, and in a project to better understand (and hopefully help to correct) IRB "mission creep." He is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati (Ph.D.) and Eastern Kentucky University (M.S.). The most enjoyable conferences he's attended have been the SCJA conferences and, if elected, he looks forward to serving the region and the organization in the role of Treasurer.



Chad Posick, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Georgia Southern University

My name is Chad Posick and I am an associate professor of criminal justice and criminology at Georgia Southern University. I am also a lifetime member of the Southern Criminal Justice Association. I am honored to be considered for the position of treasurer for the SCJA. For the past 3 years, I have served in this capacity and would like to continue my work for SCJA for a second term. Over the past 3 years, our organization has grown - there are more members, the conferences are larger, and the journal is growing in prominence. I believe my knowledge of the organization's financials uniquely positions me to continue as treasurer to maintain consistency and navigate new complexities as we grow even more in the future. Thank you for considering me for this position and I hope all our members are doing very well.

Director-at-Large Candidates



Lisa M. Carter, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Florida Southern College

My desire for serving on the Board of Directors for the SCJA stems from my long interest and passion for the discipline of Criminology and a career of teaching in higher education. I view further involvement in the association as a way to expand my professional networks and research opportunities, and as a means to offer my time and efforts to the association for service related endeavors. I have been a member of SCJA since 2012 and I am greatly interested in becoming more active with the association.

I am currently the chair and Associate Professor of Criminology at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. Some of my most memorable and rewarding teaching experiences has been assisting students to prepare and present their coursework and research projects at annual SCJA meetings. Since my time in a tenure track position (2012-present), I have travelled to five SCJA annual meetings with students (all undergraduates). I am thrilled to be a part of these kinds of learning experiences for my students and to hear compliments on their work from my peers. Further details can be found on my curriculum vita under the section titled “Conference Presentations.”

I believe I can contribute to the organization based on my experiences as a member of three organizations in my local community.

- I have experience in advocacy and fundraising through my current position on the Board of Directors for Heather’s Hope. This agency advocates for educating the community on the dangers of dating and domestic violence. I have assisted in organizing the organization’s annual 5K run for the past three years. Proceeds from this event benefit Heather’s Hope scholarships and other educational programs to alleviate violence.
- I am a member my local League of Women Voters chapter. Additionally, I have been involved in the Gun Safety and Juvenile Justice committees associated with the state league. I have experience working at community events to engage the public in voter registration drives and collecting petitions for the restoration of voting rights for people with felony convictions.
- I am a founding and board member of Bicycling in Lakeland, a non-profit that promote programs to support cycling safety and awareness. We coordinate events to inform the public of the laws that apply to motorists and cyclists. Our “Light the Lake” event is an occasion that our members distribute cycling equipment such as: helmets, bike lights, and reflective gear to the community to promote the visibility of road cyclists. The group has raised funds to assist a local organization that operates to repair and distribute bicycles for those with transportation needs. Our most recent fundraiser supported the Lakeland Police Department’s bicycle patrol unit.

I would be proud and enthusiastic to serve in the Director-at-Large position for the Southern Criminal Justice Association. Thank you for taking the time to learn a little about me and for considering my candidacy. I am very appreciative for of the opportunity to be nominated.

Director-at-Large Candidates (Continued)



Sheri Jenkins Keenan, Ph.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor, The University of Memphis

Dr. Keenan has been an active member of SCJA since 1998 (Lifetime member). She has presented papers, participated on round tables, and served as session chairperson. She has served as Committee Chair, (2016-2017) and Committee Member, (2015- 2016) of the Tom Barker Award for Undergraduate Student Service. In addition, she has served as an Executive Counselor, Juvenile Justice Section, (2009-2012) for the Academy of Criminal Justice Science. Finally, she has served as Vice President, (2012-2013) for the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Association. Dr. Keenan wishes to continue to service SCJA and its members by promoting a professional regional organization that fosters collaboration between academic/researcher, practitioner, and student in the criminal justice sciences.



George E. Richards, Ph.D. CPP

Associate Professor, Edinboro University

I regularly suggest to junior faculty or students needing experience presenting to attend the annual conference. They can expect critiques that are both cordial and supportive. The association's journal and material presented at the annual conference have helped me in articulating my research agenda and incorporating current research and best practices in my lectures. I would like to work with the other board members and the membership to continue this tradition of excellence and build upon it.



Ben Stickle, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Middle Tennessee State University

SCJA has been a major component of my professional life and I always look forward to the annual conference and the opportunity to interact with fellow members. As you well know, SCJA conferences are a tremendous opportunity to collaborate, learn, and meet new colleagues in a unique and welcoming atmosphere that has become the SCJA trademark.

To continue the traditions of professional development opportunities and offering the discipline's most enjoyable conference, I am standing for election to the SCJA board. I will work to maintain and foster an atmosphere of openness, cooperation, and support among our members. I will seek to continue the strong tradition of engagement with students, new scholars, and practitioners. The SCJA conference provides a unique experience and is clearly the best of discipline conferences. As a past and current beneficiary of these traditions, I will work to encourage collaboration and engage members to strengthen the association, our rising journal, and professionalism in the CCJ discipline.

I'm proud to be a Lifetime Member of the Southern Criminal Justice Association and eager to enhance the excellence we are known for throughout the region and beyond. I look forward to serving you and respectfully request your support.

Director-at-Large Candidates (Continued)



Shaun A. Thomas, Ph.D.

***Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Social Research,
University of Arkansas***

I am running for the Director at Large position in 2020 not only because of my love for SCJA as a professional association, but also because SCJA continues to be an organization that brings together students, academics, researchers, practitioners, and even significant others in a friendly and supportive environment that facilitates professional networking and collaboration for the advancement of evidence-based criminal justice.

In 2016, I attended my first SCJA meeting in Savannah and realized that I had been missing out on the more intimate setting and opportunities the Association offers. I was able to really get to know the people behind research that I had admired. I, like many others in academia, had been convinced that national associations and conference were how I needed to focus my time and service efforts not realizing how misleading and isolating this approach can be. Since that first conference, I have consistently and enthusiastically devoted most of my professional service time to SCJA. I am a strong believer that the people who support and contribute to an organization make it what it is, and the larger SCJA family is what sets our Association apart. Because of this, I am running for SCJA Director at Large so that I can do my part to help our organization continue the values and traditions in place and contribute to our future development and success.

Since becoming a member at our 2016 conference, I have not missed a conference and I have formally served our association in several capacities, including as a member of the editorial board of the American Journal of Criminal Justice and as Chair of the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award committee in 2017 and 2019. I have also successfully promoted our association to students and faculty, which has resulted in a number of new members. If elected, I will promote continued inclusivity, diversity, and equality among our membership in general and those that provide service to the association. I will also promote and facilitate expanding opportunities for interaction, involvement, professional development, and recruitment among students, practitioners, junior faculty members, and the established scholars and professionals that built this organization. Thanks for your consideration.

Call for 2020 SCJA Awards

Deadline: September 1, 2020

All nominations should be submitted by email to the chair of the respective award committees with the email copied to the 2nd Vice President (marcumcm@appstate.edu).

Association officers are not eligible for awards.

Outstanding Educator Award

This award recognizes one criminal justice educator for outstanding academic achievement in teaching, research, and service. The recipient of the award is selected on the basis of overall contributions to higher education in criminal justice. Nominees must be members in good standing of SCJA. Nominations should include the nominee's Curriculum Vita and supportive letters. The winner will receive a lifetime membership to the association.

Committee Chair: Bruce Arrigo (brarrigo@uncc.edu)

Outstanding Professional Award

This award recognizes a practitioner in the field of criminal justice for outstanding contributions. Nominees must currently serve in a criminal justice-related position within the Southern region. Nominations should include a nominating letter detailing the nominee's record of achievement and the nominee's resume. The winner will receive an honorarium to attend the conference.

Committee Chair: Brian Schaefer (brian.schaefer@indstate.edu)

Richter H. Moore, Jr. Founder's Award

This award recognizes a SCJA member for *sustained* and *exceptional* contributions to the Southern Criminal Justice Association. It is not the intention that this award be given out each year or even every few years for that matter. Rather this highly selective and rarely given award is intended to be bestowed to a SCJA member after a lifetime achievement of service to the SCJA (send nominations to: Cathy Marcum; marcumcm@appstate.edu)

Outstanding Student Awards

The Southern Criminal Justice Association recognizes exemplary student achievement through four awards. Eligibility for each award is limited to students currently enrolled (or graduates who were enrolled through May 1, 2019) in schools within the Southern region. Each nomination must contain a description of the nominee's accomplishments (in areas such as scholarship, leadership, public service, etc.). The nomination should include the nominee's grade point average and additional information sufficient to answer the following question: "In what ways has this student contributed to his/her academic program, college and/or community?"

Tom Barker Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award

Committee Chair: Amanda Cook; acook@meridian.msstate.edu

Outstanding Masters Student

Committee Chair: Christina Policastro; Christina-Policastro@utc.edu

Outstanding Doctoral Student¹

Committee Chair: Rhys Hester; RHYSH@clemson.edu

Outstanding Student Poster Award

Committee Chair: Courtney Crittenden; Courtney-Crittenden@utc.edu

This year, we're conducting a virtual student poster session, and have created two categories of submissions: 1) still posters (PDF) 2) 3-minute video. The number of awards have also increased; please see below.

- All participants will get their registration waived for the 2021 SCJA Conference in Daytona Beach, FL
- Monetary awards for the Still Poster category
 - 1st place = \$500
 - 2nd place = \$250
 - 3rd place = \$100
- Monetary awards for the 3-Minute Video category
 - 1st place = \$500
 - 2nd place = \$250
 - 3rd place = \$100

Join the SCJA Family!

There are numerous benefits to joining the Southern Criminal Justice Association! Among them are:

- Discounted rates at the best regional association conference!
 - We only visit great locations including Asheville (2022), Daytona Beach (2021), Nashville (2019), Pensacola Beach (2018), New Orleans (2017), Savannah (2016), and Charleston (2015).
 - SCJA has a welcoming, friendly atmosphere suited for professional fellowship, networking, and research presentations.
 - There are numerous social receptions and activities for faculty and students.
 - Student members are eligible for a variety of financial awards such as the student poster competition and three other annual awards. In addition, the association hosts two networking meals for students to meet with board members and journal editors.
- Plus, members get a subscription to the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* and an electronic subscription to the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.
- 25% discount on English-language books from Springer
- Discounted registration fees for the annual conference

The cost of SCJA membership is a bargain:

- Student Membership, One Year: \$15
- Member, One Year: \$50
- Member, Three Year: \$140
- Lifetime Member: \$500

Member states include Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, BUT you don't have to be a resident or work in those states to join – we welcome everyone!

Visit southerncj.org for more information. To sign up, just click on the membership tab and register! Paypal, credit card, and even good ole fashioned checks are accepted.