



Issue 5

Welcome to the fifth issue of *Crime and Grits*, the official newsletter of the Southern Criminal Justice Association (SCJA). With all the cancellations due to the pandemic, I know I was most disappointed in the cancellation of the SCJA conference last year. BUT It's been great to hear how excited everyone is for the SCJA conference next month in Daytona Beach, FL!

This issue is full of information related to the upcoming conference, updates on member activities, and membership highlights.

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 and Reminders

The 2021 SCJA Conference Room Rate Offer Expires 8/13

SCJA's annual conference will be taking place in Daytona Beach, FL, next month. The amazing room rate offer expires THIS WEEK! [Rate is \\$159 per night. No resort fees! Oceanfront rooms! \\$10 parking!](#) Check out the pages 2-4 for conference information.

The *American Journal of Criminal Justice* Is Ranked #15 with 2.366 Impact Factor

The *American Journal of Criminal Justice* has recently been ranked #15 in our field. Check out page 5 for more information.

Membership Extensions Expire September 14, 2021

Last year, the SCJA Executive Board unanimously approved the extension of any membership expiring prior to September 14, 2021. These memberships were automatically extended through September 14, 2021, which is now only a month away! Remember to renew your membership. More information on memberships can be found on page 11 of this issue.

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

Julie Baldwin, *American University*

2021 SCJA Conference in Daytona Beach, FL

September 8-11, 2021



We're headed to Daytona Beach, Florida, in a month! Join us at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort for a great conference. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruption across the world, within criminal justice agencies, and in higher learning institutions. In addition to the stellar panels and fellowship that have made Southern conference the top regional criminology conference, we've planned a special emphasis on facing the challenges of the pandemic and working to enhance criminal justice practices and education through these difficult times. Thematic presentations, discussions, and roundtables will largely focus on this theme.

Hilton Daytona Beach Resort is conveniently located at the edge of the most famous beach in the world. You will have access to some of Daytona's best attractions, from the Daytona Beach Boardwalk and Pier to the shops and restaurants that line Ocean Walk Village. Sports enthusiasts can enjoy the local golf courses and Daytona Speedway.

Conference Room Rate Offer Expires This Week (8/13)!

You definitely do not want to miss out on this deal, so [book today](#) if you have not already.

[\\$159 per night – No resort fees – Oceanfront rooms - \\$10 parking](#)

[Register for the Conference Today](#)

Advance registration prices:

Student Member: \$5	Regular Member: \$70 \$40
Student Non-member: \$20	Regular Non-member: \$85 \$55

Conference Message from the 2021 President

I'm excited to bring our conference to the "World's Most Famous Beach." The history, hard-packed sand, and sounds of motorcycles and race cars make Daytona a fantastic destination. I am excited that we are back in person this year!

We have excellent guides and recommendations for local attractions and dining options. Due to worker shortage and public excitement about ability to travel, many restaurants and points of interest may have longer than usual wait times. We highly recommend you make reservations if you are hoping to catch a meal with colleagues and friends outside of the conference, especially if you have a large group.

We've worked hard to develop a good program while cognizant of the specific challenges the pandemic still presents. We will follow all CDC guidelines and make available masks and hand sanitizer in all conference spaces. We strongly encourage all attendees to get vaccinated and follow public health guidelines.

Unique to this year, we will have two award ceremonies. A special ceremony on Wednesday will honor the SCJA 2020 award recipients, and our traditional award luncheon on Friday will have the Keynote Address from our SCJA 2020 President Wesley Jennings.

On Thursday, my Presidential Address, "Enhancing Criminal Justice During a Global Pandemic: Resilience in Criminal Justice and Criminal Justice Education," will highlight the specific challenges to criminal justice professionals and educators in our region with a focus on our resiliency.

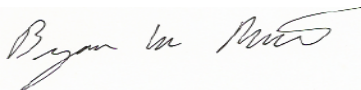
We'll have local live entertainment at both our Wednesday and Thursday receptions, along with our Friday evening event hosted on the Joe's Crab Shack Rooftop. A short walk from the hotel to the Daytona Main Street Pier, Joe's offers spectacular 360-degree view of the historical beach and ocean out to Ponce Inlet.

We are excited to continue our charity raffle. Drawings will be held at the Presidential and Springer receptions on Wednesday and Thursday. You must be there to win! You can purchase tickets for \$1 during online and on-site registration and at the receptions. All proceeds go to Volusia-Flagler-St. Johns NAMI, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Despite the COVID-19 related setbacks, we have record membership surpassing the 500-member threshold for the first time in SCJA history. The Board has done a remarkable job to maintain low costs and increase value, making the SCJA conference one not to miss even in tough financial times. This year, we instituted special travel awards to aid students and junior faculty with limited travel resources.

In addition to the achievement of our growing membership, our *American Journal of Criminal Justice* has experienced notable success. In just the first few years after receiving a Social Science Index impact factor, *AJCJ* has jumped into the top 15 in the field with a 2020 impact factor of 2.366!

I greatly appreciate your support of my presidency and our organization during these difficult times. This is a highlight of my career and a great honor. Thank you again for this opportunity. I hope you enjoy Daytona!



Bryan Lee Miller
President, Southern Criminal Justice Association



2021 SCJA RAFFLE

PRIZES INCLUDE 6 THEMED GIFT BAGS:

- Writer's Block
- Conference Traveling
- Movie Night
- Classroom Goodies
- Beach Weekend
- Working from Home

TICKET DRAWINGS:

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION (9/8) 6-8:30 PM

SPRINGER RECEPTION (9/9) 6-8:30 PM

YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

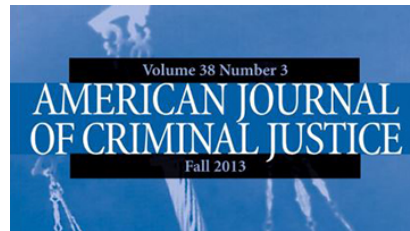
Tickets may be purchased for \$1 during registration (online or during the conference), or from Dr. Ráchael Powers and graduate students during the receptions.

All prizes valued between \$40-50!

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO A LOCAL
CHARITY**

American Journal of Criminal Justice

Ranked #15



2.366 Impact
Factor

We have some amazing news to celebrate! Just a few years after receiving a Social Science Index Impact Factor, the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* has increased its impact factor to 2.366 and jumped the rankings to #15 in the field. This is very exciting news and should be a point of pride among our membership. “We appreciate all of Dr. J. Mitchell Miller’s work as Editor in Chief and the extremely hard work of reviewers to elevate the journal’s status,” said Dr. Bryan Miller, the 2021 SCJA President.

SCJA Leadership Virtual Roadshow at the WACJ Virtual Conference

Three of our SCJA Past Presidents (Mitch Miller, Wes Jennings, and John Stogner) participated in the Western Association of Criminal Justice (WACJ) 2020 Virtual conference in the Fall semester. This late night (9:00 p.m. EST start!) panel featured selected presentations from the recent *American Journal of Criminal Justice* special issue on the COVID-19 pandemic. Mitch Miller shared highlights from his article with Al Blumstein regarding the benefits and basics of a national crime and justice research agenda addressing the virus. Wes Jennings discussed changes and challenges for law enforcement brought on by the virus from his article with Nick Perez. John Stogner reported major findings on law enforcement mental health during COVID drawn from his co-authored paper with Clemson colleagues Kyle McLean and current SCJA President Bryan Miller. The WACJ leadership thanked the panel for this involvement and looks forward to future engagement with SCJA.

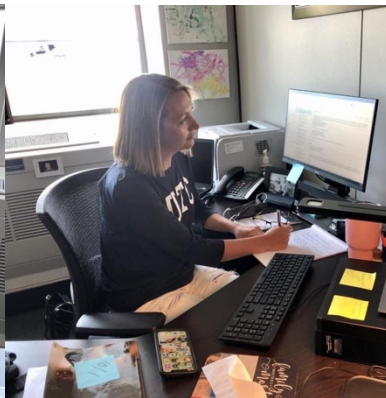
SCJA 2020 Virtual Showcase

In place of last year's conference, SCJA held a [2020 Virtual Research Showcase](#). The showcase was held on September 8-10, 2020. The following poster sessions were held on the first day: Undergraduate Student Poster Session, Masters Student Poster Session, Doctoral student Poster Session, and a Faculty and Professional Poster Session. Lightning talk sessions occurred on the second day and included an Undergraduate, a Masters, a Doctoral, and a Faculty and Professional lightning talk session. On September 10, a Presidential Session hosted seven invited subsessions and a live award announcement and raffle drawing followed to close out the week's events.

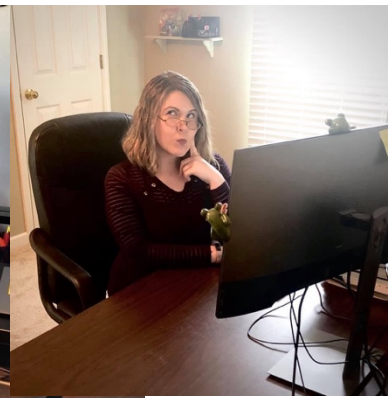
The feedback was extremely positive, and we'd like to thank all those who worked hard to put on the event and all who participated. This includes the amazing award judges below!



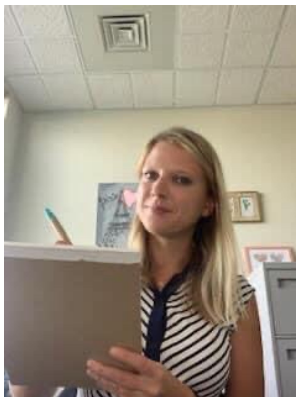
Courtney Crittenden
University of Tennessee Chattanooga (UTC)



Christina Policastro
UTC



Melanie Holland
Kennesaw State University



Caroline Jalain
University of Southern Indiana



Jim Hawdon
Virginia Tech University



Matthew Costello
Clemson University

Dr. Holly Ventura Miller's Report to Congress



Holly Ventura Miller, Professor and Graduate Program Director in the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice at the University of North Florida and Southern Criminal Justice Association Past President, authored a Report to Congress in December 2020 on behalf of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

The report, "Formerly Incarcerated Women and Reentry: Trends, Challenges, and Recommendations for Research and Policy," examines the movement toward gender-responsive programming, describes the programs and practices designed specifically for female offenders, and reviews the empirical literature related to what works in female reentry. Nine recommendations for policy and practice are offered based on the current state of the empirical evidence related to reentry more broadly. The report was converted to an [article disseminated by the NIJ](#).

Dr. Ben Stickle Talks Porch Pirates on GMA

Ben Stickle, Associate Professor at Middle Tennessee State University and SCJA Director-at-Large, appeared on Good Morning America on June 2, 2021, and discussed porch piracy. [Check out the video!](#)

Dr. Richard Kania Retires



Dr. Richard R. E. Kania, Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice at Jacksonville State University, is retiring this year after 16 years at JSU and 41 years of teaching. Dr. Kania has taught at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Guilford College, the University of Louisville, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and as a Fulbright Professor in Poland and Belarus. A Life Member of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Dr. Kania joined the SCJA in the 1970s, held several offices in the Association, and has attended most of the annual meetings over the decades since. Dr. Kania intends to remain active in the SCJA and in the field of criminal justice. He is co-founder of LindRich Associates, Consulting which provides program evaluation services, and he will continue writing and publishing. He will take up residence in Boynton Beach in Palm Beach County, Florida.

SCJA Colleague Study Drug Abuse in MO

SCJA President Bryan Miller, Past President Mitch Miller, and outgoing AJCJ Managing Editor Stephanie Koskinen visited Joplin, MO, in July 2021 to evaluate a drug treatment program delivered by the MO 29th Judicial District for the US Bureau of Justice. They are pictured here with Court Administrator Erik Theis touring the jurisdiction's new jail under construction.



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



Immediate Past President

Wesley Jennings, PhD
University of Mississippi



Director-at-Large

Julie Marie Baldwin, PhD
American University



Director-at-Large

Ráchael Powers, PhD
University of South Florida

Welcome the New 2020 and 2021 Board Members!

2020 2nd Vice President: Kent Ryan Kerley, PhD



Professor and Chair, University of Texas at Arlington

Kent Ryan Kerley, PhD, is Professor and Chair in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). He received a BA in Criminal Justice from East Tennessee State University and MS and PhD in Sociology/Criminology from the University of Tennessee. Prior to joining UTA, Dr. Kerley served as a faculty member at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (2005-2015) and Mississippi State University (2001-2005). Dr. Kerley's research has appeared in top journals such as American Journal of Criminal Justice, Aggression and Violent Behavior, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Justice Quarterly, Police Quarterly, Social Forces, and Social Problems. He was Principal Investigator for two Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) grants from the National Science Foundation.

2020 Treasurer: Molly Buchanan, PhD



Data and Policy Specialist, Crime and Justice Institute

Molly Buchanan earned her Ph.D. in Criminology, Law and Society from the University of Florida; she is currently a Data and Policy Specialist for the Crime and Justice Institute in Boston. In her work, Molly applies multidisciplinary perspectives to criminal justice realities with the goal of informing system policies and practices. Compelled by former practitioner experiences, her scholarship focuses on developmental, life-course topics particularly related to youth development and the different contexts that influence life outcomes. Her work has been published in refereed outlets such as Criminology; Criminology & Public Policy; and the American Journal of Criminal Justice.

2020 Director-at-Large: Shaun A. Thomas, PhD



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

Shaun A. Thomas earned his M.A. and Ph.D in Sociology from Louisiana State University. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminology and Co-Director of the Center for Social Research at the University of Arkansas. His teaching and research is oriented around the epidemiology and etiology of violence, inequality, and civic engagement. His research examines how neighborhood dynamics and physical environment influence spatial and temporal patterns in crime. Shaun has been a very active member of SCJA for the last five years and has contributed to the Association through committee work, editorial board service, presentations and panel chairing at our conferences, SCJA promotion to graduate students, and filling conference bags with coffee cups, beach towels, and harmonicas for SCJA meeting attendees!

2020 Director-at-Large: Lisa M. Carter, PhD



Associate Professor, Florida Southern College

Dr. Lisa Carter completed her Ph.D. in Criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is an associate professor of Criminology and department chair at Florida Southern College. She also teaches courses for the Women and Gender Studies program. Her research interests include: female criminality, corrections, and reintegration. She is the co-editor of Female Offenders and Reentry: Pathways and Barriers to Returning to Society and co-authored the second edition of The Decision Making Network. She is an advocate for victims and survivors of violence. She is a board member for Heather's Hope, and organization that supports programs to inform teens about the dangers of dating and domestic violence. She also holds a position on the executive board of Bicycling in Lakeland, an advocacy group for cycling safety, awareness, and community education.

2021 2nd Vice President: Ráchael Powers, PhD



Associate Professor, University of South Florida

Dr. Ráchael Powers earned her PhD from the University at Albany in 2012. She has since returned to the south (BA from University of Alabama-Huntsville, MA from University of Maryland) and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology at the University of South Florida. Her main research interests lie in the areas of violent victimization, with a focus on gender-based violence (IPV, sexual assault), hate crime, and bystander behavior. Much of her recent work centers on victim and bystander agency, what victims and bystanders do during and after victimization, including the use of the criminal justice system. Her recent work has been published in *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* among other outlets. Dr. Powers also has experience in evaluations of campus- and community-based violence prevention programs. Her work has been funded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Institute of Justice, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. She serves on the editorial boards of several journals including *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, and *Journal of Crime and Justice*. She is a member of American Society of Criminology, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the Southern Criminal Justice Association.

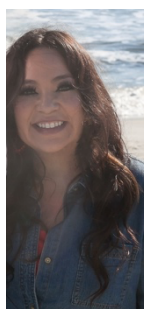
2021 Director-at-Large: Ben Stickle, PhD



Associate Professor, Middle Tennessee State University

Ben Stickle earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in Justice Administration from the University of Louisville. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice Administration at Middle Tennessee State University, where he teaches policing, qualitative methods, and criminal investigation. Ben has been heavily involved in a wide range of discipline activities, including service as Associate Editor for *Police Practice and Research*, Alpha Phi Sigma Chapter Advisor, and manuscript reviewer for multiple CCJ journals. A former police officer, he is also a past president of the Kentucky Peace Officers' Association and frequently involved in research practitioner partnerships with police and correction agencies in Kentucky and Tennessee promoting mental health diversion and reentry programs. Ben's research interests include emerging crime types (i.e., package theft), property crime (i.e., metal theft), policing. His scholarship includes multiple books and numerous scholarly articles, including contributions to the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*. He has been involved with SCJA since a graduate student at the University of Louisville and is a Lifetime member.

2021 Director-at-Large: Kristina Lopez, PhD



Assistant Professor, University of North Florida

Kristina M. Lopez, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice at the University of North Florida where she also serves as the faculty advisor for the Alpha Phi Sigma (APS) - Criminal Justice Honor Society. She received her B.A. in criminal justice and Master's of Science in justice policy from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a Ph.D. in Criminology from Texas State University. She has received awards for teaching and mentorship, including Alpha Phi Sigma Advisor of the Year Award (2020), Van Vleck Early Career Teaching Excellence Award (2019), and Graduating Student Recognition of Campus Support (2014). Her research primarily focuses on immigration, race/ethnicity and crime, and criminological theory, more specifically examining the relationship between ethnicity, acculturation, and crime among Latino/a adolescents and across Latino/a subgroups. Some of her work has appeared in *Victims & Offenders*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, and the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*.

Join the SCJA Family! You Know You Want To . . .

Our family is officially over 500 strong! “Despite the COVID-19 related setbacks, we have record membership surpassing the 500-member threshold for the first time in SCJA history. Our continued growth is a testament to the loyalty and dedication of our membership,” said Dr. Bryan Miller, current SCJA President.

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.