



Crime and Grits

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Criminal Justice Association

Issue 6

Welcome to the sixth issue of *Crime and Grits*, the official newsletter of the Southern Criminal Justice Association (SCJA). Thank you for being a dedicated member of our association. We hope you find this and future newsletters both informative and enjoyable.

Please share this issue of *Crime and Grits* with your networks. If you have comments, suggestions, or ideas for future issues and news features, please email crimeandgrits@gmail.com or contact Kristina Lopez at kristina.lopez@unf.edu.

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Cathy Marcum, Ph.D.

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CONFERENCE MESSAGE FROM THE 2022 PRESIDENT

Hello SCJA! I hope this message finds you well and this latest issue of *Crime & Grits* serves as a welcome distraction from new semester preparations or winter weather. I want to first thank Dr. Bryan Miller, the SCJA Executive Board, registration desk and IT staff, award committees, and everyone else who helped make SCJA 2021 Daytona Beach a huge success. For those of you who were able to join us in person, you may still be energized from the fantastic scholarship, delicious food and drink, and nonstop activity. We are extremely grateful to all of our sponsors and those who provided so much support, especially for the students and junior faculty. It is a special point of pride for SCJA that we safely hosted one of the first in-person conferences since the pandemic.

As of January 1, 2022, we will officially be in the 50th anniversary year of SCJA! While the celebration will be in full effect during our conference in Asheville, NC, I would love to enlist all your help this upcoming year to prepare. If you have any pictures or videos from past conferences, please send them my way. All members who would like to participate in a brief video interview to contribute to our oral history project, let me know and I am happy to interview you at ACJS or via Zoom. Lastly, if you have any ideas for fun activities or events for Asheville, let me know! My email is marcumcm@appstate.edu. Our First VP and Program Chair, Dr. Kent Kerley, will be collecting presentations and posters for the event through mid-summer. Please reach out to him with any questions.

We hope to see many of you at ACJS 2022 in Las Vegas at the SCJA General Business Meeting on Wednesday, March 16th at 5pm and the SCJA Social on Thursday, March 17th at 7pm. Enjoy this new edition of *Crime & Grits*, brought to you by our new editor, Dr. Kristina Lopez-Smith!

Sincerely,

Cathy Marcum, President



SCJA Annual Recap: Daytona Beach, FL

As always, the safety of our attendees are taken seriously, and the spread of the Delta variant presented health concerns leading up to the planning of the conference. However, in partnership with the Hilton property, extra safety precautions were taken and we were able to move forward with hosting the conference. In September 2021, SCJA took over Daytona Beach, FL in our return to an in-person conference coupled with a fitting emphasis on “Enhancing Criminal Justice During a Global Pandemic.”

All contributing efforts proved to be successful in creating an amazing conference. Thank you to all our speakers and presenters for their time and presentations. We hope you enjoyed the sessions and beautiful beach. Our members have demonstrated strong camaraderie during these trying years, and attendance in Daytona was a further show of association unity.

We would like to thank all who attended and look forward to seeing you all at our next SCJA conference in Asheville, NC. This will be an extra special conference as we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of SCJA. See you all then!



The Southern Criminal Justice Association 2022 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the

**Renaissance Asheville Hotel
September 12-16, 2022**



“Going Back to Our Roots: A Celebration of 50 Years of SCJA”

Cathy Marcum, President
Appalachian State University

Kent Kerley, Program Chair
University of Texas at Arlington

We're headed to Asheville, NC in 2022 to celebrate 50 amazing years of the Southern Criminal Justice Association. In addition to the stellar panels and fellowship that have made our conference the top regional criminology conference, we've planned a special emphasis on why SCJA was initially formed and our continued focus on building young scholars. The Renaissance Asheville is a beautiful hotel nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains and directly in downtown Asheville. This prime location gives conference attendees walking access to delicious restaurants, breweries, outdoor activities, and eclectic entertainment. A short car ride will take you to the gorgeous grounds of the Biltmore Estate or on a hiking adventure. The deadline for proposals is July 15, 2022. Please email questions to Dr. Kent Kerley at kent.kerley@uta.edu.

2022 SCJA CONFERENCE

MEETING DETAILS

Dates:

- ♦ September 12-16, 2022

Deadline for Proposals:

- ♦ July 15, 2022

Questions? Please Contact:

- ♦ Dr. Kent Kerley at kerley@uta.edu

CONFERENCE HOTEL:

- ♦ Renaissance Asheville Hotel
31 Woodfin Street
Asheville, NC 28801



HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

- ♦ Reservations can be made using our [personalized group link](#).
- ♦ The conference rate is on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- ♦ Make your reservations as soon as possible.
- ♦ Contact the hotel to be added to the room block if booking through a third party website.
- ♦ Onsite parking is available (\$4/night).



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Kathrine Johnson
Associate Professor
University of West Florida

Thank
you!

It should not come as shock if you recognize the name of our featured member for this issue. Most of us have received emails from her and count on her as the association liaison all year long. Dr. Kathy Johnson, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator at University of West Florida (UWF), is beyond deserving of this recognition as our spring 2022 SCJA Member spotlight. Dr. Johnson has worked tirelessly as the Secretariat and with the SCJA Executive Board for many years. Following years of commitment and service to the association, Dr. Johnson will be retiring from the role as SCJA Secretariate after this year.

“In all the years I have been a member and Kathy was Secretariat, the entire process ran flawlessly. Now that I know what happens behind the scenes, I know there is constantly a hiccup to address...but you would never know that with Kathy at the helm. She is always smiling and always helpful. Kathy serves as a mentor to the students, as well as the most seasoned faculty. Her service to SCJA has been beyond appreciated and she will be greatly missed” said Dr. Cathy Marcum, SCJA President.

Since 2000, Dr. Johnson has worked at UWF, specializing on various topics within courts, corrections, and pedagogy. For example, some of her areas of study have focused on the impacts of holding offenders in jail because of a violation of probation, risk assessment tools for pretrial release, and international collaborative teaching. Her research has been featured in various peer-reviewed journals, such as in *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, *Issues in Information Systems*, *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, and *Journal of Offender Monitoring*.

Please join us in honoring and thanking her for her many years of dedication and service to SCJA and its members.

MEMBERS AROUND THE REGION

◆ Dr. Geo – Fellowship Award

Dr. Joel Geo was selected as the recipient of the 2021-2022 President's Faculty Fellowship Award at Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). The purpose of the President's Faculty Fellowship is to ensure that capable people within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) have opportunities to prepare themselves for top-level management and instructional positions within the LCTCS. This can be accomplished by earning two types of doctoral degrees: community college leadership/higher education degrees or discipline-based degrees.



◆ Dr. Kania – Retirement

In the fall semester, Dr. Richard Kania, a 45-plus year member of the SCJA, has been serving as a Research Professor at Jacksonville State University, an opportunity leading to his retirement on December 31st. With no classes to teach, he and a JSU-CJ colleague Walter "Chris" Haney are writing a text for Cognella on American policing. Dr. and Mrs. Kania presented a paper for the SCJA in Daytona, and he was invited to speak at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Baltimore, on the topic of "Perhaps Why PCR Is Not Working." The Kania's will remain active in the SCJA, as Richard is a life-member.



◆ Isenberg – Doctoral Program

Johnna Isenberg, a SCJA member since 2018, was accepted into the Educational Psychology PhD program at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville). Her concentration will be in Adult Learning. Her research will focus around educational and workforce opportunities for incarcerated individuals within the state prison systems. Johnna's goal is to focus around current opportunities available to inmates, reform those programs, and improve new approaches to prepare them for civilian life after incarceration to further increase productivity, reduce recidivism, and hopefully decrease mass incarceration populations within state facilities.



Showcase your achievements and the great things our members are doing in *Crime and Grits*. We may only reunite at the Annual Meeting, but let us know what is happening among our members around the region. Featuring information such as awards, achievements, milestones, etc., allows readers to remain in touch with the association and its members.

To be considered for inclusion in the newsletter, please email announcements and photos to crimeandgrits@gmail.com or kristina.lopez@unf.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

2022 SCJA Annual Conference:

- ♦ September 12-16, 2022
- ♦ Asheville, NC
- ♦ Hotel reservation link at southerncj.org.

SCJA 2022 Sponsorship?

- ♦ If your institution is interested in sponsorship, please contact First VP and Program Chair, Dr. Kent Kerley, at kent.kerley@uta.edu.

Pictures or Videos?

- ♦ Do you have any pictures or videos from past SCJA events? Would you like to participate in a quick Zoom interview about your experiences? Please feel free to send those to Cathy Marcum at marcumcm@appstate.edu for inclusion in the oral history video.



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GOT MEMBERSHIP?

Cost:

- ◆ Student Membership: \$15
- ◆ Faculty Membership: \$50
- ◆ 3-Year Membership: \$140
- ◆ Lifetime Membership: \$500

How to Join:

- ◆ Visit southerncj.org for more information.
- ◆ To sign up, click on the membership tab and register.
- ◆ Paypal, credit card, and checks are



BENEFITS:

- ◆ Visit great locations including Daytona Beach (2021), Nashville (2019), Pensacola Beach (2018), New Orleans (2017), Savannah (2016), and Charleston (2015).
- ◆ Discounted rates at the regional association conference.
- ◆ Welcoming, friendly atmosphere suited for professional fellowship, networking, and research presentations.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Two networking meals for students to meet with Board Members and Journal Editors.
- ◆ Subscriptions to the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* and an electronic subscription to *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.

Our members come near and far. Member states include:

Alabama Georgia Florida Tennessee South Carolina

North Carolina Mississippi Louisiana Kentucky Virginia

West Virginia Puerto Rico Virgin Islands



**WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**CHEERS TO A HAPPY AND
HEALTHY NEW YEAR AHEAD.**