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SWACJ Web Page: www.swacj.org

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Summer 2022 Newsletter

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President's Message

Howdy!

I hope that everyone is having a restful, productive, and safe summer. I know that—among other things—the COVID-19 pandemic has been exceptionally taxing on all of us, our families, our students, and society. Fingers crossed, we are to a point where we can begin to gather with friends, colleagues, and students again.

I know that I, for one, am looking forward to our conference in Austin on October 19-21. The Executive Board is working on bringing you an informative and worthwhile conference in one of the greatest cities in the country. Although to be fair, almost anything is an improvement relative to Grand Forks in October. It has snowed here the last two years, and quite frankly, that is just too early in the year for me to see snow.

The conference will be held at the [**Austin Southpark Hotel**](#), which is now converted into a Marriott property. The new team at the hotel has been delightful to work with, and I am optimistic about the event. The room rate—for up to 4 occupants per room—is \$159 per night. To get this rate, you must [**use this link to the reservation site**](#). Two reasons it is important to book your rooms directly through this link. First, SWACJ signed a contract with the

hotel guaranteeing a certain number of room nights in exchange for the meeting space. If we do not meet the minimum number of rooms, SWACJ will have to pay a substantial penalty to the hotel—beyond the other expenses incurred to put on the conference. Second, last year, the City of Austin was again selected to host an **F-1 Race** the weekend after our conference! This is certainly an exciting prospect for the end of the conference, but it also means people are competing for hotel rooms. Our contacts at the hotel said that the going rate for rooms at the conference hotel would be substantially more than we are paying for them (at least \$600 per night). That being said, it will likely be difficult to find a better rate in Austin at that time! I would encourage you to book your rooms early and if you are so inclined to stay for the race over the weekend, feel free to use our rate! I did this already and am planning to try and find a venue to watch the race. If anyone is interested in joining, please [email me](#), and I am glad to add you to the planning for that as well. You can find more information about the conference in the updates from other members of the Executive Board below. We will also generate a separate information sheet that will be sent out in the coming days.

Finally, over the last year, SWACJ as an organization has been quietly toiling away in the background, trying to do the things that keep the organization going and growing. We as an Executive Board have not been as good at communicating with our members as we should have been, and I will take full responsibility for the prolonged silence, and I apologize. The Executive Board has had several personal and professional challenges that required our attention this year. Additionally, there have been some challenges for the organization that has also required our immediate attention. Specifically, Scott Jacques stepped down as the Editor of *The Qualitative Journal of Criminal Justice and Criminology*, and Whitney Gass stepped down as 2nd-Vice President. We are grateful to both for their service to the organization. At the meeting, we will be soliciting nominations to fill several seats on the Executive Board starting at the General Business meeting at the conference. Now is a great opportunity for folks to get involved with SWACJ and contribute their talents and time to further developing the organization. If you have any questions about serving on the Executive Board, don't hesitate to get in touch with me directly.

Again, I hope to see all my colleagues and friends at this year's meeting in Austin.

Jon

First Vice-President / Webmaster's Message

Hey y'all!

I hope that you've had an amazing summer! The past few years have been really taxing for everyone both emotionally and physically, so I hope that you've taken some time over the past few months to relax and recharge.

It's been a long time since we've all been together, and I know that I speak for the rest of the Executive Board when I say that I'm really excited to see everyone this October at the Annual Meeting in Austin! Jon, Tammy, Lynn, Tusty, and I have been hard at work preparing what we hope will be an

awesome conference and reunion. Austin is an incredibly vibrant and fun city, and we believe that this year's Annual Meeting will be an extension of that. We really hope to see you there!!

This year I'll be responsible for the Undergraduate Quiz Bowl, and I've done a lot of planning to ensure that it's a fun, educational, and challenging event for our students. I'm a big fan of "bar trivia," so I've been designing the Quiz Bowl in a similar format – where students will be asked questions in a series of rounds and be allowed to discuss the answers for an allotted period of time before turning in their answers. With this, the focus thus becomes on teams getting the *right* answer, not necessarily being the first one to turn theirs in. I'm hoping that this will not only make the Quiz Bowl extremely fair, but also really fun for our students! The questions themselves will come from a variety of topics, including those that would be covered in any introductory criminal justice course (e.g., Intro to Criminal Justice, Intro to Policing, Intro to Corrections, etc.). All in all, I think it's going to be an exciting event, so please encourage your students to attend the conference and participate! Teams can register directly on the [website](#) before the deadline on September 16, 2022.

Speaking of the website, I do have some updates regarding a few changes that I've made in the past few months as your Webmaster. All of the award and team applications now have direct submission forms on the website itself so we can have clear and centrally located submission records. If you go to the main awards [page](#) you will see blue buttons next to each of the applications that link to additional information and registration/nomination forms. These forms are also able to accept document uploads, so you will be able to attach any letters, papers, and supporting documentation necessary for the awards directly to the forms themselves. Don't forget that all award applications and competition registrations are due on September 16, 2022!

We have also been forced to revert to our old email [address](#). There's a long and complicated story behind this, but essentially there was an unresolvable issue with our Google Workspace account that I spent countless hours trying to fix. This did, unfortunately, lead to a period of instability in our communications, and I apologize for that. Switching back to the old email address, however, has rectified this issue and will lead to an overall cost savings for the organization in the future.

Looking ahead, I'm really excited to welcome everyone to Little Rock for next year's Annual Meeting (October 11-13, 2023)! Tusty and I picked out a great location for next year's conference that's right in the heart of the Little Rock River Market, which is a vibrant entertainment center in the downtown area. There are lots of great places to eat, grab a drink, and shop within a walkable distance, so there will be tons of options for off-site activities. The conference hotel is also located on the Arkansas River Trail, a 17-mile-long hike/bike trail that loops around the Arkansas River. Mid-October is a *wonderful* time to visit Arkansas – the temperatures are usually between 60°F and 80°F and the fall foliage is starting to ramp up. Trust me when I say that it's *gorgeous* here that time of year and you'll want to get outside and explore!

Thank you all for making SWACJ a fun, exciting, and welcoming place for students, faculty members, and professionals. I look forward to seeing all y'all in Austin this October!

Molly

Secretary's Message

I am looking forward to attending my first conference since the pandemic. I can't wait to see and interact with my colleagues across the region and nation.

As secretary, I am in charge of organizing the Crime Scene Competition teams. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [me](#). Team criteria and competition information can be found [here](#).

All teams must be registered through the SWACJ [website](#). Don't forget that all applications for awards and student teams are due on September 16th, 2022.

See you in Austin!

Lynn

Past President's Message

Hello SWACJ colleagues,

Happy Summer 2022! Wow! The past few years have flown by. As the Immediate Past President, I am excited about the leadership on the SWACJ Executive Board. Jon, Molly, Lynn, and Tammy are exceptional leaders who care much about the organization. This has been apparent to me in the time and effort they have invested in SWACJ and their dedication to moving SWACJ forward during the pandemic. It has been an honor to work with them.

As Immediate Past President, my role this year is to lead the efforts for the Felix Fabian Award. This award is given to an exceptional SWACJ member who has shown tremendous dedication and service over the years. To be eligible for this award, you must have been a SWACJ member and involved in Criminal Justice education for the past five years. To learn more about this award, please visit the SWACJ website. If you would like to nominate an exceptional SWACJ member for this award, please email me your nominations at ixzohra@ualr.edu. Nominations should include a brief summary of the nominee's contributions to SWACJ and why these contributions were significant. Supporting documents are welcomed and encouraged but not required.

I look forward to seeing you all in Austin, TX, for the 2022 SWACJ conference. It will be so wonderful to catch up! Have a wonderful remainder of your summer.

Tusty

This year there will be three positions on the Executive Board that the membership will vote on:

1. 2nd Vice President (this is the same as always)
2. 1st Vice President (replacing a vacancy on the board)
3. Secretary (to replace Lynn Greenwood--whom we will miss greatly--as she has fulfilled her term)

If you are interested in any of these positions and want more information, please contact a member of the Executive Board for more information.

SWACJ 2022 Annual Conference



Beyond the Rhetoric: Enhancing, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access in Criminal Justice Education and Research

**October 19-21
Austin Southpark Hotel**

More information to follow.