

Dr. Ronald “Chip” Burns Nomination

When reading about the Felix Fabian Award, I immediately thought of Dr. Ronald (Chip) Burns. Chip has dedicated his life to improving the field of criminal justice and criminology, including the people in it. His professional service to SWACJ and ACJS alone is impressive. He was the Secretary/Treasurer for SWACJ from 2001-2004, First Vice President from 2004-2005, and President from 2005-2006. Since then, he has consistently served ACJS as different section Chairs, numerous committee memberships, and as Regional Trustee. In addition, while Chair of the Criminal Justice Department at Texas Christian University, he consistently encouraged faculty and students to participate in SWACJ through membership and the CSI and Quiz Bowl competitions. Even during tough budget times, he always kept departmental funds aside for faculty and students to attend and actively be involved in SWACJ annually.

This type of service and mentorship just scratches the surface. Chip has taught at Texas Christian University for his entire academic career, since 1997. He has taught thousands of undergraduate and graduate students in his 2 plus decades of teaching. His impact on students' lives is evident with an Outstanding Professor Award from TCU Panhellenic Council and numerous Senior Appreciation Recognition Awards. He has taught almost every class in our curriculum, lately focusing on Internship in Criminology & Criminal Justice and Introduction to Criminology & Criminal Justice to discover and promote students' passions for the field. He even created our Career Planning class to help students get to know all careers in the field.

As we know, teaching and service take considerable time and commitment and he still finds time to actively publish. In 2022, he had 3 peer-reviewed publications analyzing district attorney sexual assault and criminal trespassing data, as well as studying the school culture and preventing violence. He also published a textbook called Criminal Justice: The System in Perspective with Oxford University Press. This year (2023), he published a book on Careers in Criminal Justice & Criminology with Routledge. I have attached his vita to show the full scope of his accomplished research career.

Most importantly, to me, Chip is one of the most genuine people in the field that you will ever meet. He is extremely humble; so humble that he would be embarrassed to know that he has been nominated for this award. You would never know the extent of his accomplishments if you left it up to him to talk about himself....so I am doing it for him. I have worked at TCU since 2014 and he has consistently mentored me and countless other faculty along the way. He is the first person to stop by your office and say hi and ask about you as a person and a colleague. I can't find the words to discuss how big of an impact he has made on countless lives through SWACJ and TCU. Chip embodies the characteristics of Felix Fabian and it is an honor to work with and know Chip.