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Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice

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SWACJ Web Page: www.swacj.org

Email: swacj.org@gmail.com

Annual Meeting

October 14-16, 2020

Austin, Texas



“Why Fairness Matters: A Multi-faceted Exploration of Social Justice”

Conference information is located at www.swacj.org



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President's Report

WOW! What an amazing time we had in Houston, TX in 2019. We had over 160 attendees in Houston in October and are hoping to break the 200 attendees next year. On behalf of the executive board and our membership, I want to thank our Mike Cavanaugh (University of Houston- Downtown) for his dedication, commitment and leadership to SWACJ over the last few years and continued support in his role as Past-Present. The event was truly a testament to all of his hard work and effort.

For those that do not know me, I am currently an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at UNT-Dallas. I am also a proud alum of Texas State University. My goal for this upcoming year is to increase our membership and to provide more faculty development and training opportunities for our members. I am happy to announce that Jon Maskaly (UT-Dallas) will continue to serve on the board as our 2nd Vice-President and would also like to congratulate Tammy Bracewell (TAMU-Central Texas) for her newly elected position as Treasurer. I truly feel blessed to be part of such an amazing organization.

This year, I had the privilege of running the Undergraduate Quiz Bowl, with the awesome help of Molly Smith (University of Arkansas- Little Rock) as the moderator, and was amazed by their performance. The level of competition between the teams was fierce. Likewise, the quality of research presented at the poster session was also impressive. The students were extremely professional and knowledgeable about their research topic. The students' success is a direct reflection of the practitioners and educators we have in our association. If you have never brought students to the conference, please consider getting a team together for next October. My students have told me in the past that going to the conference was one of their fondness memory during their undergraduate degree.

If you have not heard, SWACJ 2020 will be held at the OMNI | Southpark in Austin, TX from October 14 to 16. Our theme for the upcoming year is *"Why Fairness Matters: A Multi-faceted Exploration of Social Justice"*. We will be sending more information about the conference in the future. On that note, please don't forget to attend our meeting in San Antonio during ACJS. I will be setting up a table during ACJS to help advertise our conference. Please stop by and say hi. If you can volunteer some time, that would even be better.

I am excited about this upcoming year and look forward to making new friends and great memories. If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Wishing all of you a safe and happy holiday season. Be sure to mark your calendar for next October and help me *Keep SWACJ Weird!*

Respectfully,

Paul D. Reynolds

1st Vice President's Report

We had an amazing 2019 SWACJ conference in Houston, TX and thank you to all those who attended the conference. I repeatedly heard about the high quality of the presentations, graduate and undergraduate paper submissions, and professional development opportunities. The pre-conference workshop on HML by Wendi Pollock was well attended. The CSI competition had some well-trained groups and the Quiz Bowl was, as always, challenging. I was, especially, impressed with our Keynote Speaker, Former U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, who served under the George W. Bush administration as head of the Department of Justice. Camille Gibson moderated the keynote by asking him questions about his career, appointment as Attorney General, experience during 9/11, and various other aspects of being in a key leadership position in Washington. The answers provided by the former U.S. Attorney General felt like we were provided a glimpse back in history – what felt like a glimpse of history that few were privy too. Thank you to both the Former U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales and Camille Gibson for an enlightening keynote talk.

A special thanks to our plenary speakers Howard Henderson-Director of Center for Justice Research and Professor of Justice Administration at Texas Southern University, William Wells - Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology and Professor at Sam Houston State University, Travis Pratt - Research Director at Harris County Community Supervision & Corrections, Kim Ogg – Harris County District, Attorney Ed Gonzalez – Harris County Sheriff. The presidential plenary was moderated by Lynne Vieraitis from the University of Texas at Dallas, who did a fantastic job.

All of this was accomplished under the amazing leadership of our President (now Immediate Past President), Michael Cavanaugh. His vision for the conference was spot on and everything was executed without a hitch. As 2nd Vice President last year, I learned a lot from him and will probably continue bugging him for advice (sorry in advance, Mike). I also want to thank the rest of the board members for all their hard work prepping for the conference and putting in hours of their time in Houston. You all ROCK and I am so excited to continue working with you. A special welcome to our newly elected officers Jon Maskály, who has been voted in as 2nd Vice President (congratulations, sir) and Tammy Bracewell, Treasurer, from Texas A&M University - Central Texas. Congratulations and I look forward to working with you over the next few years.

The 2020 SWACJ conference will be Austin, TX next year. Paul and the board members are gearing up to have another exceptional conference. Please encourage your students to participate in the CSI competition, Quiz Bowl, graduate and undergraduate paper competitions. See you all mid-October in Austin!

Trusty

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SWACJ Web Page: www.swacj.orgEmail: swacj.org@gmail.com**Secretary's Report**

I hope everyone had a relaxing winter break and got some time to relax and recharge for the Spring 2020 semester. I enjoyed some time with my family and dear friends.

The SWACJ executive board has been meeting regularly to plan for the 2020 conference. We will be in Austin. The attendance and enthusiasm in Houston was amazing, and I am hoping that will continue in Austin this year. Mark your calendars for October 14-16, 2020 and register as early as possible for the conference and hotel.

Houston was my first conference as secretary for SWACJ, and it was awesome. This board is made up of enthusiastic, hard-working, and capable people (fun, too!), and they were (and are) a pleasure to work with! I am looking forward to another year as secretary. SWACJ is a great organization and I am proud to be a part of it!

Enjoy your semester and I will see you in October!

Lynn

**Journal Editor's Report**

The fall issue of the *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology* was published in October and contains articles on a variety of topics written by young scholars as well as established scholars in the fields of sociology, criminology, and criminal justice. We continue to receive a steady number of submissions and I am working toward expanding publication to four issues in 2020. Please send me your manuscripts! As always, I am looking for reviewers so please say "yes" if we reach out to you. My tenure as Editor will end with the publication of the Fall 2020 issue. The search committee will be seeking applicants for the position of editor soon, so feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Lynne M. Vieraitis, PhD

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SWACJ Web Page: www.swacj.orgEmail: swacj.org@gmail.com**Past President's Report**

As I sit here and write up the Past President's Report, I find myself reflecting on the past few years on the leadership board of SWACJ and how intertwined the organization has become with my general academic and personal life. My years on the board have been a wonderful experience for me and it all culminated with a great conference in Houston for 2019. In the past three years, I have had two children with my wife (Michael Redmond Cavanaugh III and Brees Rose Cavanaugh), I have been tenured at the University of Houston-Downtown, and I have served as President of the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice. I am honored to have accomplished all three (although my children rank a tad bit higher than the other two, no offense).

SWACJ has been an integral part of my life for the past few years and even as I exit the board at the next conference, I plan to stay active and help out where I am needed. For those of you looking to get involved in service to the discipline there is no better organization than SWACJ to do so. You can run for a position on the board at the next conference or there is always the need for volunteers on committees and in other areas of service.

As Immediate Past President, the Felix Fabian Award falls under my purview. The Felix Fabian Award is an outstanding honor for a member of SWACJ who exhibits a commitment to the organization through their substantial contributions of service. There are some requirements for the award, including being a member of SWACJ for the past 5 years and having been involved in CJ education in some capacity for the past 5 years. If you would like to learn more about the award, please see the SWACJ website (<https://www.swacj.org/felix-fabian-award>). If you have any nominations, please email them to me at cavanaughm@uhd.edu. It is never too early to get nominations in.

While my last few years involved in SWACJ have been a blur, I know that this next year will fly by too. The organization will be in great hands as the board transitions to their new positions. Paul, Tusty, Jon, Lynn, Tammy, Molly, Lynne, and Christine are all great individuals and work even better as a team. Austin will be a fantastic location for the 2020 SWACJ conference and I hope to see you all there.

See you all soon!

Mike



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SWACJ General Business Meeting—October 18, 2019 (Houston)

Board Members Present: Molly Smith, Mike Cavanaugh, Paul Reynolds, Lynn Greenwood, Tusty ten Bensel, Jon Maskaly, Christine Nix, Lynne Vieraitis

2019 Conference Awards:

CSI Competition

- 4th place – Lone Star College
- 3rd place – University of Houston Downtown – Blue team
- 2nd place – University of Houston Downtown – Green team
- 1st place – Texas Christian University

Paper Awards – Undergraduate

- 3rd place – Kat Curtis
- 2nd place – Rachel Dugan
- 1st place – Carlos Bourne

Paper Awards – Graduate

- 3rd place – Tobias Hitz
- 2nd place – Crystal Hernandez
- 1st place – Carlos Santos

ACJS Update – Prabha Unnithan – ACJS President

- ACJS is doing well financially
- The current board is diverse
- There is a possibility of money going to regional organizations
- Strategic planning initiatives
 - Justice evaluation journal – launched last year
 - Request for proposals – national directory of criminal justice programs (undergraduate and graduate). Looking for a department that wants to take on the project
 - San Antonio conference in March 2020 – need support from local organizations and universities
- ACJS is no longer certifying programs due to lack of interest. Standards are still on the website – programs can still identify whether they are following these standards.



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Officer Reports:

Past President (not present)

- No report
- James Blair was the Fabian Award winner for 2019

President

- 2019 recap
 - Luncheon went well
 - Plan on sending out a survey for feedback from membership
 - There will also be a way to provide feedback through the Whova app
 - The Wednesday-Friday setup will probably remain in place

1st Vice President

- The 2020 conference will be at the Omni Southpark in Austin
- Surveys will be sent out asking for ideas/input on the 2020 conference

2nd Vice President

- The 2021 conference will be in Little Rock, Arkansas

Secretary

- Newsletter will be coming out before the end of the semester

Treasurer

- SWACJ is financially healthy
- After the conference the balance will probably be around \$20k

Regional Trustee

- Will be attending the regional summit at ACJS

Webmaster

- The online shop format is going well
- SWACJ purchased a camera for conference photos
- Pictures are in Whova and on Facebook

Journal Editor

- The fall issue is published
- Spring issue is ready to go
- Fall 2020 is already full
- Submissions are healthy – good research and well-known authors
- Need a publisher for the journal



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New Business:

Journal Editor

- Lynne's term ends in 2020 – need to search for a new editor
 - 1st issue for new editor will be in Spring 2020
 - Paul will create a search committee
- Committee was formed to discuss journal issues – this committee is headed by Will Oliver
 - Need to increase stipend for editor
 - Need funding for copy editing
 - Supporting two journals would be difficult
 - Copy editing
 - Getting reviewers
 - Getting with a publisher will help

Practitioner Award

- Local award – based on location of conference
- This idea needs to be further developed
- This would be a good idea to build relationships with local agencies and organizations

Code of Ethics

- Jon and Lynn are working on this
- We need a code of ethics – this gives us the ability to remove someone from a conference or even membership
- Bill White indicated that this may already be written into the constitution
- SWACJ board will be bringing this to the membership after additional research

SWACJ Elections

- Treasurer
 - Candidates were Tammy Bracewell and Doshie Piper
 - After paper ballots were counted, Tammy Bracewell was elected Treasurer
- 2nd Vice President
 - Candidates were Jon Maskaly and David Rembert
 - After paper ballots were counted, Jon Maskaly was elected 2nd Vice President

Fabian Award

- Mike will be in charge of the Fabian Award for 2020
- Start thinking of possible nominees
- Requirements for nominations can be found on the SWACJ website

New President

- The gavel was passed from Mike to Paul Reynolds
- Paul requested feedback from membership at the meeting
- Discussion about the Wednesday-Friday format
 - This may be difficult for students who miss class during this time
 - There will not be a time that pleases everyone
 - The Wednesday-Friday format is already set for the 2020 conference
 - A poll will be sent to the membership for the 2021 conference
- Discussion about CSI competition
 - There were 8 teams, which is the most there has ever been
 - We may have to start limiting how many teams there are or go to multiple days
 - Possibility of limiting how many teams a university brings

Meeting adjourned



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Call for Conference Papers & Posters
Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice
(SWACJ)

October 14-16, 2020
Austin, Texas

“Why Fairness Matters: A Multi-faceted Exploration of Social Justice”

Conference information including registration, abstract submission, and hotel reservations will soon be available at www.swacj.org



*No individual may appear more than twice in the program as an author or presenter



2020 SWACJ Poster Session

The **Poster session** offers the opportunity to participate in an innovative, progressive, interactive presentation of your research guaranteed to reach a wider audience than traditional panel presentations.

The poster session is a collection of visual displays of research that encourages informal interaction between authors and attendees. The primary author of a poster presentation must be in attendance and committed to stay throughout the presentation.

How to be a Poster Presenter:

Submit presentation topics via the **Abstract and Panel Participation Form**. Upon acceptance, prepare a visual presentation for your paper, and bring it to Houston.

Set up your presentation in your assigned spot **30 minutes BEFORE** the poster sessions begins and remain at your spot for the full time the poster session is scheduled.

The poster presentation

A poster consists of two components. First, it is a visual display of research and secondly, it involves interaction with the audience. The research is usually PowerPoint slides or some other computer software. Then the slides are printed and placed on a poster stand(s) provided by SWACJ. The visual display includes text, tables, graphs etc. Some author(s) choose to have their posters printed professionally or laminated; this is a personal preference but is not required. The second component of the poster research requires that the author(s) interact with the audience during the allotted session time. Conference participants browse the displayed visual presentations of research and have an opportunity to inquire about the research. (Note: maximum size for each poster is 36"X48")

No one can present* more than one poster presentation at the conference. However, participants may be a co-author of research with other co-authors who will present the additional research. Each poster presentation must have an author present to interact during the duration of poster session. (*No person's name may appear more than twice as author or presenter).

No unattended presentations. At least one presenter is required to stand by your poster for the entire session. If there is more than one author, it is acceptable to alternate or split up times with your co-author(s). If your research is accepted, we will expect someone to be available to present it in your place. Please plan and have a backup person who can present the research on your behalf if you cannot attend the conference.

Please contact Jon Maskaly at Second-Vice-President@swacj.org with questions regarding the poster session.



2020 SWACJ UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Interested undergraduate students are encouraged to submit a paper on a criminal justice topic that is both relevant and current to criminal justice. There are a wide variety of types of papers that could conceivably be entered into this competition, which include:

- a) A literature review of a research topic that demonstrates the ability to synthesize current findings and interpret future research needs;
- b) A policy review of a crime related topic that incorporates an understanding of how policy impacts practice;
- c) A legal analysis of a relevant and current court case;
- d) A research proposal to study a crime and justice related topic

Submissions will be judged on: 1) the student's ability to select and synthesize the findings from significant recent research on the chosen topic; 2) the student's ability to compose an effective argument; 3) the student's demonstrated ability to identify future research needs; and 4) the student's ability to write effectively.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Undergraduate students enrolled during the fall 2020 semester in a university, college, junior college, or community college within the Southwest Region.

AWARDS: The authors of the top three submissions may be awarded \$150 (1st place), \$100 (2nd place), and \$50 (3rd place). Any prizes may be awarded or withheld at the judges' discretion.

JUDGES: Judges are active within SWACJ and will be selected from the updated membership list. Judges may choose not to award any or all of the prizes available depending on the number of entrants and the quality of the papers submitted.

ENTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. Student(s) must author the paper; no faculty/student joint papers will be considered (although papers co-authored by students will be eligible).
2. The paper must be an original work; it may be especially prepared for the 2020 SWACJ annual meeting, a revision of a paper prepared for coursework at the student's home university or college, or a truncated version of the student's thesis proposal.
3. Submissions must be submitted electronically to Dr. Jon Maskaly at Second-Vice-President@swacj.org and must be accompanied by a cover sheet affirming that the submission has been reviewed for quality by faculty at the student's home university or college.
4. The cover letter must specify that the paper is to be entered in the undergraduate competition.
5. To be considered for competition, entries must be received by midnight on the due date (TBD)
6. The paper must conform to the citation and format standard established in the 6th edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) publication manual.
7. The title page of the paper should include the student's full name, address, and school affiliation.
8. The author's name and affiliation **should not** appear on any other page of the submission.

PRESENTATION OF SUBMITTED PAPERS:

Students are not required to attend the annual meeting or to present their papers to be eligible for the awards; however, we do strongly encourage students to present their papers in the supportive atmosphere of the annual meeting. Students who submit papers for presentation are **not obligated** to enter the paper contest. The paper competition is strictly voluntary.



2018 SWACJ GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Interested graduate students are encouraged to submit an **original research paper** on a topic both relevant and current to criminal justice. Submissions will be judged on: 1) the student's ability to synthesize research relevant to their topic; 2) the student's ability to justify the proposed study; 3) the student's ability to develop an appropriate research design; 4) the student's ability to draw conclusions about their outcomes based on current research; and 5) the student's ability to write effectively.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Graduate students enrolled for the fall 2020 semester in a university or college within the Southwest Region.

AWARDS: The authors of the top three submissions could be awarded \$250 (1st place), \$150 (2nd place), or \$100 (3rd place). Any prizes may be awarded or withheld at the judges' discretion.

JUDGES: Judges must be active within SWACJ and will be selected from the updated membership list. Judges may choose to not award any or all of the prizes available depending on the number of entrants and the quality of the papers submitted.

ENTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. Student(s) must author the paper; no faculty/student joint papers will be considered (although papers co-authored by students will be eligible).
2. The paper must be an **original work**; it may be especially prepared for the 2019 SWACJ annual meeting, a revision of a paper prepared for coursework at the student's home university or college, or a truncated version of the student's thesis/dissertation proposal.
3. Submissions must be submitted electronically to Dr. Tusty ten Bensel at Second-Vice-President@swacj.org, and the submission should be accompanied by a cover sheet affirming that the submission has been reviewed for quality by faculty at the student's home university or college.
4. The cover letter must specify that the paper is to be entered in the graduate student competition.
5. To be considered for competition, entries must be received by the deadline (TBD)
6. The paper must conform to the citation and format standard established in the 6th edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) publication manual.
7. The title page of the paper should include the student's full name, address, and school affiliation.
8. The author's name and affiliation **should not** appear on any other page of the submission.

PRESENTATION OF SUBMITTED PAPERS:

Students are not required to attend the annual meeting or to present their papers to be eligible for the awards. However, we do encourage students to present their papers in the supportive atmosphere of the annual meeting. Students who submit papers for presentation are **not obligated** to enter the paper contest. The paper competition is strictly voluntary.

**RECOGNITION OF THE WINNERS AND PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS WILL
BE MADE AT THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING at the end of the 2020
conference.**



-- All Students Encouraged To Participate --

Call for Teams

The Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice

is pleased to announce the

Ninth Collegiate Undergraduate

Crime Scene Interpretation Competition

Time and Location to be announced

The competition will be held as part of the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ). Teams will photograph, sketch, and document a processed crime scene.

Teams may consist of three to five members. Teams must be sponsored by a faculty member of their home institution who is a member of SWACJ. All team members must be registered as meeting attendees. Teams **may not** include professional, reserve, or former peace officers or crime scene technicians regardless of status as students. **Any team found in violation will forfeit placement status and will be disqualified from competing for one year.**

Teams will be judged on professionalism, accuracy of processing and interpretation, and compliance with recognized standards and protocols.

For further information or registration, team sponsors should send an email to

Lynn Greenwood at
Secretary@swacj.org

To be considered for competition, entries must be received via email no later than midnight, **TBD.**



***Entry must include the number of participating students and the name of the sponsoring faculty.**

**** Prior to the conference, a request will be sent to each faculty sponsor for the names of student participants in order to complete the registration process for the competition.**

*****Late submissions will not be accepted.**

******Institutions can have multiple teams, but each team shall have not more than five members.**



Annual SWACJ Undergraduate Student Criminal Justice Quiz Bowl 2020

Team Composition: A team will consist of two to four members. Team members must be registered for the annual meeting as students. A maximum of eight teams will be allowed to participate. Teams will be registered on a first to register, first to qualify basis. Each college or university participating in the SWACJ annual meeting may enter **one** team.

Teams must pre-register by contacting Dr. Tusty ten Bensel (First-Vice-President@swacj.org) no later than midnight, **TBA**. Teams do not have to have to provide the names of team members to pre-register for the Quiz Bowl – simply indicate that a team from a particular program will participate. Teams must submit a list of participants at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the Quiz Bowl for conference registration verification.

Relays (rounds): The Quiz Bowl will consist of two relays followed by a championship round. For the two relays, teams will be divided as evenly as possible and relay assignment will be done by random selection. The winning team from each relay will compete in the championship round. The two teams in the championship round will not carry over any previous points from the first relays. The team with the most points in the championship round will receive the first prize (\$250); the remaining team in the championship round will receive the second prize (\$150). **Prize money** for the first and second place teams will be given to the faculty advisor for the winning teams to be used as they determine.

Teams in the first relays will be quizzed from the following categories:

1. **Law Enforcement:** Five questions about general police systems and practices.
2. **Corrections:** Five questions about U.S. correctional systems and practices.
3. **U.S. Judicial System:** Five questions about U.S. court systems and practices.
4. **Criminal Law:** Five questions about fundamental concepts of criminal law.
5. **Criminal Procedure:** Five questions related to the rules of evidence and criminal procedure

In the event of a tie, the category will be *Major Supreme Court Decisions* for the best two out of three questions.

Teams in the championship will compete for first place and will be quizzed from the following categories:

1. **Criminology:** Five questions about theories of criminality
2. **History of Criminal System:** Five questions related to the history of the crime and the criminal justice system in the United States.

In the event of a tie, the category will be *Research Methodology* for the best two out of three questions.

In all relays, Team Captains will have buzzers to "buzz-in" when their team is *ready to answer*. The team that buzzes in first will be given the first opportunity to answer and must answer within *10 seconds*. Teams answering questions correctly will earn one point; a one point deduction will be assessed for incorrect answers. If the first team to buzz in answers incorrectly or does not submit an answer, the second team to buzz in will be allowed an opportunity to answer. Questions will be passed if no team buzzes in within 60 seconds. Good sportsmanship will be observed at all times by all participants and spectators. Individual participants who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior may be disqualified. Participants must keep cell phones out of sight during the Quiz Bowl. Spectators who engage in rude, disrespectful, or unsportsmanlike behavior may be asked to leave the event. This includes attempting to convey answers to any person in any manner.



**Felix Fabian Founder's
Award
Southwest Association of
Criminal Justice
2020**

Nomination Criteria

Awarded to SWACJ members who are deemed deserving of special recognition for their outstanding contribution to SWACJ and the profession.

Prior recipients of the Felix Fabian Founder's Award are not eligible for nomination.

Selection Criteria:

- Active member in good standing of SWACJ for at least five (5) consecutive years.
- Active involvement in criminal justice education and research for the preceding five (5) years.

•Through service activities, has made a substantial contribution to SWACJ and to the discipline of criminal justice.

Nominations for the Felix Fabian Founder's Award may be made only by current SWACJ members.

Nominations may be submitted by any current SWACJ member. The nomination should include the following information: (a) a brief summary of the nominee's contributions in accordance with the award criteria, and (b) an explanation of the significance of these contributions. Submission of supporting materials with nominations is encouraged but not required.

Submit nominations to: Mike Cavanaugh: Past-President@swacj.org

***Felix Fabian was the first President of SWACJ. His bio can be found on our web page at <https://www.swacj.org/>**



Save the Date
2020 Annual SWACJ Conference
Austin, Texas



<http://www.swacj.org>
<mailto:swacj.org@gmail.com>