



Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice

2025 Annual Conference

AC Hotel Fort Worth Downtown • October 8-10, 2025



Educating, Recruiting, and Retaining the Next Generation of Criminal Justice Professionals.



SWACJ



President's Welcome Letter to SWACJ Members

Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ)

2025 Annual Conference

Fort Worth, Texas

October 8-10, 2025

Dear Esteemed SWACJ Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

As the newly elected President of the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ) for 2025, it is my profound honor to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we gather for our annual conference in the vibrant city of Fort Worth, Texas. This event represents not just a professional convocation but a cornerstone of our shared commitment to advancing criminal justice research, education, and practice across our region—spanning Arkansas, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Fort Worth's rich history and dynamic energy mirror the resilience and spirit of SWACJ, and I am thrilled to see us come together in person to exchange ideas, forge connections, and chart the future of our field.

In this spirit of unity and gratitude, I want to extend special thanks to the extraordinary individuals who have been the backbone of our organization through unprecedented challenges. First and foremost, my deepest appreciation goes to Dr. Gordon Crews for his tireless leadership in keeping SWACJ intact and ensuring a seamless transition from one president to the next. Gordon, your steady hand and unwavering dedication have been nothing short of inspirational.

I also extend heartfelt thanks to Dr. Howard Kurtz, who has served faithfully as our 1st Vice President. Beyond his vice presidential duties, Howard stepped up as interim journal editor and secured free hosting for our Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice & Criminology at Southwestern Oklahoma State University—a move that quite literally saved the journal from dissolution. Your foresight and commitment have preserved a vital platform for our scholarly voices.

Special recognition is due to Dr. James Hurst, whose meticulous stewardship of our financial accounts has been invaluable. James, last year's heroic efforts in catching us up on overdue taxes and paperwork not only stabilized our operations but also positioned us for sustainable growth. You have been a major contributor to the SWACJ team, and we are all the stronger for your expertise and generosity.

To Garrison Crews, Dr. Kate Wilds, and Dr. Shantol McIntosh, thank you for your outstanding contributions to our committee work. Your collaborative energy and practical insights have been essential in navigating our path forward.

On behalf of the entire executive board, I also wish to acknowledge the generous financial supporters who stepped in during our time of greatest need: the Academy of Criminal Justice



Sciences (ACJS), Texas Christian University (TCU), Tarleton State University, The University of Texas at Tyler (UT Tyler), Sam Houston State University, Prairie View A&M; University (PVAMU), Weber State University, North Richland Hills Police Department, the McCallum Family, and my wife, Mary Jo Watts. Your contributions have been lifelines, sustaining SWACJ at a moment when the organization teetered on the brink. I suspect many members may not fully realize how perilously close we came to no longer existing as the vibrant community we know today.

This past year, our executive board confronted challenges eerily similar to those of the previous one: difficult decisions around executive board composition, the creation of new branding and a revamped website, rebuilding our membership list from the ground up, relocating our journal to a secure home with a new editor, and undertaking a comprehensive overhaul of our Constitution and By-laws. All of this unfolded against a backdrop of dwindling organizational funding and tightening budgets at our colleges and universities. Yet, through sheer determination, innovative problem-solving, and collective hard work, we have not only endured but emerged stronger—ready to host this conference as a testament to our resilience.

For me personally, SWACJ holds a significance that runs deep, woven into the fabric of my professional journey. As a young assistant professor, this was the very first conference I attended—a welcoming gateway into the world of criminal justice scholarship. Even as a student, I was profoundly influenced by two of my professors who had served as SWACJ presidents: Dr. Bob Grant of Midwestern State University and Jim Alexander of Texas Woman's University. I looked up to them immensely, and learning of their leadership roles in this organization instilled in me a sense of aspiration and possibility. Today, as I stand before you as your president, that full-circle moment fills me with humility and gratitude.

The legacy of SWACJ's leadership has been a guiding light. Dr. Will Oliver was president during my early days, when I relied on his seminal policing text in my coursework. Dr. Camille Gibson, whom I have admired for years, brought grace and insight to the role. Dr. Chip Burns, ever the gentleman, once greeted me warmly at a conference—though he had no idea who I was—making me feel instantly included in this community. My colleague Dr. Jiletta Kubena exemplified collaborative excellence as president, while James Blair has that rare gift of making every member feel like family. And there are so many more—Beth, I see you and thank you for all the incredible photos that capture our spirit so vividly. The list is far too long to enumerate here, but know that each of you has shaped SWACJ into a beacon of mentorship, camaraderie, and progress.

As we embark on this conference, let us carry forward that same sense of purpose. I invite you to engage fully in the sessions, network with old friends and new, and contribute your voices to the conversations that will define our next chapter. Together, we will continue to foster high standards in criminal justice education, promote innovative research, and build bridges between academia and practice.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for being SWACJ. I look forward to a memorable and



productive few days in Fort Worth.

Warm regards,

J. Harrison Watts

President, Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ)

2025



Wednesday, October 8

9:00-11:00 AM

Executive Meeting — Panther Board Room (2nd Floor)

11:00 AM-5:00 PM

Registration/Check-In — Registration (2nd Floor)

- Staffed by Texas Wesleyan University students

12:30-2:30 PM

Quiz Bowl (Undergraduates) — The Hanger (1st Floor)

1:00-2:15 PM

Session #1 — Roundtable — Wild Bunch #1 (2nd Floor)

- A Neutral Analysis of Law Enforcement Preparedness and Responses to Inmates During Hurricane Katrina
 - Kashley Brown (Grambling State University); Constance Hester-Dais (Grambling State University); Mackisha Brumant (Grambling State University); Pearl Wise (Grambling State University); Andra Richards (Grambling State University); Shurunda Thrower (Grambling State University); Antoinette Livingston (Grambling State University)

2:30-3:45 PM

Session #2 — Roundtable — Wild Bunch #1 (2nd Floor)

- Bridging Academia and Practitioners to Improve the Criminal Justice System
 - Francheska Brinkley; Shea Robinson; Christopher Alston; Pauline Herrera; Jonathan Favors; Glennie Burks; Kevin Buchanan; Ronny Phillips; S.-Y. Kevin Wang (Tarleton State University)

Session #3 — Paper Presentations — Wild Bunch #2 (2nd Floor)

- Time Series Analysis: The Basics Are Unchanged — Bob Edward Vasquez (Texas State University)
- Conducting Comparative Criminal Justice via Virtual Exchange: Lessons Learned — Camille Gibson; Sherrill Morris-Francis (Prairie View A&M; University)

Session #4 — Roundtable — The Hanger (1st Floor)

- Internships That Stick: Engaging and Developing the Next Generation of Criminal Justice Professionals
 - Stacy Dewald (Arkansas State University); Amy Powell (Craighead County Juvenile Court); Leslie Jo Sullivan; Brooke Oaks (Arkansas State University)

3:45-4:00 PM

BREAK

- Sponsored by Prairie View A&M; University

4:00-5:15 PM

Session #5 — Paper Presentations — Wild Bunch #1 (2nd Floor)

- Careers After Prison — Ian Stephens (Texas A&M; University School of Law)
- Survivor Storytelling in Podcasts — Brooke Oaks; Stacy Dewald; Casey Harris
- Framing of Intimate Partner Stalking — Elizabeth Clark; Shannon Fowler

Session #6 — Paper Presentations — Wild Bunch #2 (2nd Floor)

- Perceptions of Police/Courts — Robin Jackson; Vivek Kannappan (PVAMU)
- Barriers to Reporting Domestic Violence — Myrna Cintron (PVAMU)



- Modeling Violence in Albuquerque (2012-2024) — Fernando Sanchez; Dustin Schiffer; Mike Tapia

Session #7 — Roundtable — The Hanger (1st Floor)

- Ebb and Flow of Terrorist Attacks
 - Henda Hsu (University of Houston-Clear Lake)

6:00-9:00 PM

Past Presidents' Reception — The Hanger (1st Floor)

- Guided Whiskey Tasting with Jerry Kovar — plus cash bar (dutch). Sponsored by The McCallum Family.



Thursday, October 9

8:00-12:00 PM

Registration/Check-In — Registration (2nd Floor)

8:00 AM

CSI Competition (Students) — Wild Bunch #2 (2nd Floor)

9:00-10:15 AM

Session #8 — Paper Presentations — Wild Bunch #1 (2nd Floor)

- Situational Prevention of Terrorism — Henda Hsu (University of Houston-Clear Lake)
- Perceived Immigrant Criminality & Punitive Attitudes — Daniel Ryu; Adam Trahan (University of North Texas)
- Extracurricular Participation & Delinquency — Dionne Smalling (Prairie View A&M; University)

Session #9 — Roundtable — The Hanger (1st Floor)

- Writing in Criminal Justice Education: Help or Hindrance from AI?
 - Catherine Burton; Gordon Crews; Marika Dawkins-Cavazos; Jennifer Lemanski (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)

10:15-10:30 AM

BREAK

- Sponsored by The University of Texas at Tyler

10:30-11:45 AM

Session #10 — Paper Presentations — Wild Bunch #1 (2nd Floor)

- A Decade of Life-Saving Disruption — Jennifer Lemanski; Gordon A. Crews; Cynthia F. Crews (UTRGV/CARC)
- Temporal Patterns in Crime (Cleveland) — Jonathan Favors; S.-Y. Kevin Wang (Tarleton State University)
- Pracademic Perspectives — Luke Andrews; Chris Brabham; Brandon Coss; Justin Kaether; Kristopher Washington; Rachael Wilds; Ken Shelley (Tarleton State University)

Session #11 — Paper Presentations — Wild Bunch #2 (2nd Floor)

- Elder Abuse in South Korea — Jinyoung Lee (Korea University)
- Transnational Ties & Deviance — Song; Jang; Kim; Kim
- Bullying Victimization & Cyber Delinquency — Jaebom Lee (The University of Texas at Dallas)

12:00-1:30 PM

Conference Luncheon & Keynote — Locklear Ballroom (16th Floor)

- Keynote Speaker: Jerry Kovar. Sponsored by Texas Christian University.

1:30-5:00 PM

Registration/Check-In — Registration (2nd Floor)

2:30-3:45 PM

Session #12 — Roundtable — Wild Bunch #1 (2nd Floor)

- Reentry Resources via Micro-Credentialing & Certification
 - Melody Threadcraft; Whitney Treadcraft; Nashabra Morgan (Jarvis Christian University); Kashley Brown (Grambling State University)

**Session #13 — Paper Presentations — Wild Bunch #2 (2nd Floor)**

- Quality of Life in Mental Health Court Programs — Clete Snell (University of Houston-Downtown)
- Generational Trauma in Families — Tina Bui (Texas Wesleyan University)
- Sporting Events & DWI in Dallas — Shea Robinson; S.-Y. Kevin Wang (Tarleton State University)

Session #14 — Paper Presentations — Locklear Ballroom (16th Floor)

- "Culture Dictates Suffering" — Marvin McChriston (The University of Texas at Dallas)
- Youth Gang Involvement — Insang Lee (The University of Texas at Dallas)
- Legalizing Prostitution & Trafficking — Wenyi Wang; Hoda Elsafadi; Sarah Choi (The University of Texas at Dallas)

3:45-4:00 PM**BREAK**

- Sponsored by The University of Texas at Tyler

4:00-5:15 PM**Session #15 — Roundtable — Wild Bunch #1 (2nd Floor)**

- Service-Learning: A Practical-to-Tactical Classroom
 - Eddy Lynton; Alison Simons; Tamika Johnson; Cary Adkinson; Genea Shoulders (Texas Wesleyan University)

Session #16 — Paper Presentations — Wild Bunch #2 (2nd Floor)

- Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM) Analysis of Runaway Offenses in Dallas — Pauline Herrera (Tarleton State University)
- A Survey of Generative AI in Police Work — Stan Korotchenko (Tarleton State University)
- Spatial Distributions of Police Use of Force — Tyler Keller (Tarleton State University)

Session #17 — Paper Presentations — Locklear Ballroom (16th Floor)

- Faith and Policing — Paul Reynolds (UNT Dallas); Rick Helfers (UT Tyler)
- Police-Youth Interactions in Media — Shantol McIntosh; Sh-Shanna Ellington
- Ecological Factors and Trust in Law Enforcement — Jason Boswell (Schreiner University)

6:00-9:00 PM**Session #18 — Poster Session (with Networking) — The Hanger (1st Floor)**

- Sponsored by Tarleton State University.



Friday, October 10

9:00-10:15 AM

Session #19 — Roundtable — Wild Bunch #1 (2nd Floor)

- Video Visitation & Correctional Clients
 - Roberto Gallardo; Paul Reynolds; Michael Noyes; Stephane Womack (UNT Dallas)

Session #20 — Roundtable — Wild Bunch #2 (2nd Floor)

- Equity & Access: Applied Degree Pathways
 - Shannon Hankhouse; Brittany Rodriguez; Tiffany McLaurin (Tarleton State University)

Session #21 — Paper Presentations — Locklear Ballroom (16th Floor)

- Occupational Stress — Noel Otu (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)
- Turnover Intention Among Hispanic Law Enforcement Officers — Yudu Li; Marika Dawkins (UTRGV); Camille Gibson (Prairie View A&M; University)
- Willingness to Call the Police — Ben Brown (UTRGV)

10:15-10:30 AM

BREAK

- Sponsored by Weber State University

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Awards & General Business Meeting — Locklear Ballroom (16th Floor)

- Sponsored by Dr. J. Harrison and Mary Jo Watts.



Student Competitions

Quiz Bowl — Teams of Four

Wednesday, Oct 8 • 12:30–2:30 PM • Location: The Hanger (1st Floor)



- Undergraduate teams of four
- Bracketed rounds of rapid-fire CJ questions
- Scorekeeping to finals; awards at evening reception



Sponsored by Sam Houston State University

CSI Competition — Team Crime Scene Processing

Thursday, Oct 9 • 8:00 AM • Location: Wild Bunch #2 (2nd Floor)



- Teams process a mock crime scene from first response to documentation
- Roles: scene security, photography, sketching, evidence collection & packaging
- Judged on procedure, documentation & chain-of-custody



Sponsored by North Richland Hills Police Department



Past Presidents' Reception — Whiskey Tasting

Wednesday, Oct 8 • 6:00-9:00 PM • The Hanger (1st Floor)

Hosted by Jerry Kovar • Sponsored by The McCallum Family • Cash bar (dutch) available for other beverages



- Whiskey & Bourbon basics: grain mash bills, distillation, barrel aging, proof, and tasting order.
- Guided flight of three expressions: appearance, nose, palate, finish, and water effects.
- Glassware & etiquette: Glencairn vs. tumbler, nosing technique, cleansing palate.
- Responsible enjoyment encouraged. IDs required for tasting wristbands.



Poster Presentations

Time & Location: Thursday Evening • The Hanger (1st Floor) • Sponsored by Tarleton State University

Themes and Trends at ACJS 2024: A Content Analysis of Conference Presentations

Marie Peters, Our Lady of the Lake University; J. Harrison Watts, Our Lady of the Lake University

Risk versus Resilience: Evaluating Predictors of Program Completion in Substance Use Treatment Facilities (SATF) and Their Impact on Rearrest, Revocation, and Reincarceration Among Probationers

Haley Zettler, University of North Texas; Lindsey White, University of North Texas

Future Career Goals of US Criminology and Criminal Justice Ph.D. Students: Variations by Demographics

Justice Arca, University of Texas at San Antonio; Stephanie Cardwell, University of Texas at San Antonio; Heith Copes, University of Alabama at Birmingham; John Sloan, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Understanding the Role of Childhood Trauma in the Development of Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD) Among Convicted Serial Killers in the U.S.: A Narrative Analysis

Ashlyn Gierling, University of North Texas

Hostility as a Prospective Mediator of the Relationship Between Treatment Engagement and Decision Making for People in Court-Mandated Substance Use Treatment

Sakina Ghafoor, Texas Christian University; Renee Castillo, Texas Christian University; Thomas Sease, Texas Christian University; Kevin Knight, Texas Christian University

Leveraging AI to Uncover Strengths: A Qualitative Study on Reintegration Success for Justice-Involved Individuals

Renee Castillo, Texas Christian University; Sakina Ghafoor, Texas Christian University; Thomas Sease, Texas Christian University; Kevin Knight, Texas Christian University

A Second Look at Second Chances: The Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Interventions on Reducing Adult Recidivism in Sex Crimes

Leslie Jo Sullivan, Arkansas State University

Expanding Incarcerated Education: The Scope of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

Willow Hart, University of North Texas

High-Risk Partners, High Risk Outcomes - A Study of Women's HIV Vulnerability After Incarceration

Ewaoluwa Olabisi, Texas Christian University; Brooke Preston, Texas Christian University; Amanda Sease, Texas Christian University; Jenny Becan, Texas Christian University; Kevin Knight, Texas Christian University

Bridging the Gap: Using Provider Mapping to Improve Treatment Linkage for Justice-Involved Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

Brooke Preston, Texas Christian University; Ewaoluwa Olabisi, Texas Christian University; Francesca Gentea, Texas Christian University; Jenny Becan, Texas Christian University; Chelsea Wood, Texas Christian University; Kevin Knight, Texas Christian University

Digital Deception: The Overlooked Victims of Financial Crimes in the Age of Technology



Francheska Brinkley, Tarleton State University

Policing Immigrant Communities: A Qualitative Approach

Tiffany McLaurin, Tarleton State University



Conference Sponsors

GOLD LEVEL



Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences



Dr. J. Harrison and Mary Jo Watts

SILVER LEVEL



Texas Christian University



The University of Texas at Tyler



Prairie View A&M; University



Tarleton State University



Sam Houston State University



Texas Wesleyan University (Registration staffed by TXWes students)



The McCallum Family



North Richland Hills Police Department

BRONZE LEVEL



Weber State University



Our Lady of the Lake University



Southwestern Oklahoma State University



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Things to Do in Fort Worth

Sundance Square

Restaurants, shops, and live entertainment just a short walk from the hotel.

Fort Worth Stockyards

Historic district with daily cattle drives, rodeo events, and western boutiques.

Billy Bob's Texas

The world's largest honky-tonk—live music, dancing, and mechanical bull rides.

Fort Worth Water Gardens

Architectural fountains and serene pools—great photo spot by the Convention Center.

Fort Worth Zoo

Top-ranked zoo with thousands of animals and immersive habitats.

Kimbell Art Museum

Renowned collection in a Louis Kahn building; free general admission.

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

Striking Tadao Ando architecture and post-WWII art.

Amon Carter Museum of American Art

American masterpieces and western art; free general admission.

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Peaceful trails, Rose Garden, and Japanese Garden.

Trinity Trails

Miles of riverside paths for a morning run or evening stroll.

Joe T. Garcia's

Iconic Tex-Mex institution with a lush patio—great for group dinners near the Stockyards.