

2014

President's Message

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President's Message



*Brian Payne, President, ACJS**

I had breakfast with **Dave May** (Mississippi State University) the last morning of the conference in Philadelphia. After checking off the official business for discussion, we started to talk about our families. During the conversation, Dave asked if I had given my son “the talk” that all parents seem to dread giving. After I confessed to Dave that Charles (age 11) had not yet been the audience of “the talk,” Dave said I better hurry and give him “the talk” before he hears it from one of his friends. (One of Charles’ friends that is, not one of Dave’s friends).

As soon as I got home later that day, I mentioned this conversation to my wife Kathleen. A few minutes later my son walked into the room and before I knew it, my wife had given him “the talk.” I sat idly by waiting for the “presentation” to be over. When my wife was done, I asked Charles if he had any questions. He responded, “No. It sounds gross.”

While Charles learned a lesson that day, I too was reminded about an important lesson. There are times when you can sit idly by and hope for the best (as I had done that day), and there are times when you cannot sit idly by. Having watched all of the effort that **Jim Frank** (Immediate Past President, University of Cincinnati), **Mary Stohr** (Executive Director, Washington State University) and **Cathy Barth** (Association Manager) put into ACJS activities this past year, I fully understand that I will not be able to simply “sit by” in the upcoming year.

Because of the efforts of Jim, Mary, Cathy, and others, the most recent ACJS meeting was a huge success! Please join me in thanking Jim, **Christine N. Famega, (Program Co-chair, California State University – San Bernardino)** and **Nicky Piquero** (Program Co-chair, University of Texas at Dallas) for organizing an outstanding conference. They deserve special recognition for their commitment to excellence in advancing criminal justice research. In addition, three board members (**Jill Gordon**, Virginia Commonwealth University; **Alexis Miller**, Northern Kentucky University; and **Brad Smith**, Wayne State University) completed their three-year stint on the board. I can’t say enough about how much I enjoyed working with Jill, Alexis, and Brad.

Congratulations are also in order for Jim Frank and his remarkable year as president. During his tenure, the organization renewed a concerted effort to reach out to practitioner organizations including, but not limited to, the American Probation and Parole Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and

the American Jail Association. He also promoted closer ties with international organizations. Most recently, discussions with representatives from the Canadian Criminal Justice Association and the British Society of Criminology have created a solid foundation that can be used to build future partnerships with these, and other, organizations. In a similar way, Jim renewed efforts to work with the American Society of Criminology in identifying ways to promote federal funding for criminal justice research. ACJS was fortunate to have Jim leading these efforts.

I also want to thank the numerous committees and committee chairs who helped run this organization over the past year. Through committee-driven efforts, ACJS has made great strides over the years. The accomplishments of the association truly are our members' accomplishments. I hope you will consider continuing this legacy of service by offering to serve on one of First Vice President **Brandon Applegate's** (University of South Carolina) committees.

One notable decision made by the executive board at the conference in Philadelphia was the approval of a new award called the **Dorothy Bracey/Janice Joseph Minority and Women New Scholar Award**. The creation of the award, and policy supporting the award, was recommended by the association's Affirmative Action Committee, which was led last year by **Tamara Madensen** (Committee Chair, University of Nevada, Las Vegas) and **Leah Daigle** (Committee Deputy Chair, Georgia State University). As noted in the policy statement drafted by the committee, "the intent of the award is to recognize outstanding academic contributions by new minority and female scholars in honor of the first female and racial minority ACJS presidents." The recipient of the

award will receive a plaque and \$1,000 from the ACJS Affirmative Action Fund. Details surrounding the award will be available on the awards page on our website.

Speaking of awards, please nominate someone or yourself for one of the "Academy" awards. The awards ceremony allows us to come together to celebrate as a community the accomplishments of our members and the association itself. For myself, it is an honor to be a part of a community of scholars that has accomplished so much!

In the upcoming year, I hope to continue the efforts of expanding our reach and our relationships with other associations. The criminal justice system does not operate in a vacuum. In a similar way, we cannot study or educate about criminal justice in a vacuum. It is especially fascinating and rewarding to be a part of the criminal justice field because of its dynamic nature. The theme of the 2015 conference, "Broadening the Horizons of the Criminal Justice Sciences: Looking Outward Rather than Inward," is a call to action to embrace and expand the connections that criminal justice has with other disciplines, practitioners, and policy makers.

For some, this call to action may be viewed as unwarranted change. Change can be intimidating, whether we are talking about individual change or change at the disciplinary level. I recall, with very little fondness, that I got a perm in 1987. Imagine if you will **Craig Hemmens'** (Washington State University) lovely hair on my head. I am hoping that none of my IUP classmates have any photos of me from that time. Craig's hair looks good on him, but it doesn't have the same appeal on me! I have no idea why I decided to pay someone to put curlers in my hair for three hours, just as I have no idea

why you voted for me to lead this fine organization. While some things are not easily understood, other things are. In particular, I understand this very simple statement: *we cannot sit idly by and expect the field of criminal justice to reach its full promise without actively charting our direction.*

I look forward to working with everyone in the upcoming year. Together, I am confident that we will make 2014-2015 another successful and memorable year for the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

**Brian K. Payne received his PhD in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1993. He is currently the vice provost for graduate and undergraduate academic programs at Old Dominion University, where he is tenured in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. He is a former editor of the American Journal of Criminal Justice and past president of the Southern Criminal Justice Association. Payne is the author or co-author of more than 160 journal articles and seven books including White-Collar Crime: The Essentials (Sage), Family Violence and Criminal Justice (Elsevier, with Randy Gainey), and Crime and Elder Abuse: An Integrated Perspective (Charles C Thomas). He is currently co-authoring (with Will Oliver and Nancy Marion) Introduction to Criminal Justice: A Balanced Approach (Sage).*

Upcoming ACJS Meetings

March 3-7, 2015	Orlando, FL
March 29-April 2, 2016	Denver, CO
March 21-15, 2017	Kansas City, MO