WASHINGTON, DC — In this week's address, the President discussed his continued efforts to build a fairer and more equitable criminal justice system. The Department of Justice has designated the week of April 24-30 as National Reentry Week, during which the Administration will highlight how strong reentry programs can make our communities safer. In support of National Reentry Week, the President said his Administration will take additional steps to ensure applicants with a criminal history have a fair shot when competing for a federal job. Additionally, the White House will call on businesses to commit to hiring those who have served their time, and it will issue a report on the economic costs of high incarceration rates in this country. The President emphasized that this is about more than what makes economic and practical sense – it’s about ensuring we live up to our Nation’s ideals.

Remarks of President Barack Obama as Delivered on April 23, 2016.

Hello, everybody. Today, there are some 2.2 million people behind bars in America. Millions more are on parole or probation. All told, we spend 80 billion taxpayer dollars each year to keep people locked up. Many are serving unnecessarily long sentences for non-violent crimes. Almost 60 percent have mental health problems. Almost 70 percent were regular drug users. And as a whole, our prison population is disproportionately black and Latino.

Now, plenty of people should be behind bars. But the reason we have so many more people in prison than any other developed country is not because we have more criminals. It’s because we have criminal justice policies, including unfair sentencing laws, that need to be reformed.

We know that simply locking people up doesn’t make communities safer. It doesn’t deal with the conditions that lead people to criminal activity in the first place, or to return to prison later. After all, there’s evidence that a 10 percent increase in the high school graduation rate leads to a nearly 10 percent decrease in arrest rates. A ten percent wage increase for men without a college degree lowers crime by as much as 20 percent. And a growing body of research suggests that the longer people stay in jail, the more likely they are to commit another crime once they get out.

Here’s why this matters. Every year, more than 600,000 people are released from prison. We need to ensure that they are prepared to reenter society and become productive, contributing members of their families and communities — and maybe even role models.

That’s why we’ve been working to make our criminal justice system smarter, fairer, less expensive, and more effective. This week, the Department of Justice will highlight how strong reentry programs can make communities safer. My Administration will announce new actions that will build on the progress we’ve already made.

We’ll release more details about how we are taking steps to ensure that applicants with a criminal history have a fair shot to compete for a federal job. We’re issuing a new report that details the economic costs of our high rates of incarceration. And we’re calling on businesses to commit to hiring returning citizens who have earned a second chance.

These are just a few of the steps we’re taking. But there’s much more to do. Disrupting the pipeline from underfunded schools to overcrowded jails. Addressing the disparities in the application of criminal justice, from arrest rates to sentencing to incarceration. Investing in alternatives to prison, like drug courts and mental health treatment. Helping those who have served their time get the support they need to become productive members of society.

Good people from both sides of the aisle and across all sectors are coming together on this issue. From businesses that are changing their hiring practices, to law enforcement that’s improving community policing, we’re seeing change. Now we need a Congress that’s willing to send a bipartisan criminal justice reform bill to my desk. This isn’t just about what makes economic and practical sense. It’s about making sure that we live up to our ideals as a nation.
Spring 2016 - Corrections Now

Message from the Chair

It was great to see everyone who attended the Denver Conference and the Section’s annual breakfast and business meeting. We had a wonderful opportunity to network with folks and hear messages from the National Institute of Corrections and the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition. You can read more about both organizations in this newsletter. On behalf of the Section and the executive board, I would like to thank Jeff Bouffard for his leadership the past three years. He took over in a tumultuous time, and has done a great job in both leading and laying the foundation for future leaders. Thanks also to the Correctional Management Institute of Texas and Sam Houston State University for helping to sponsor our breakfast.

The board has been working hard since the conference, particularly our newest executive counselor, Adam Matz. Adam has reenergized our Facebook and Twitter presence, and has made our section a LinkedIn account. Look us up on those media and friend, follow, or link to us (or whatever those things are called 😊). We’re looking forward to the next meetings in Kansas City March 21-25, 2017. We will host our annual Awards breakfast meeting and support a number of other interesting events. Be sure to make plans to join us for our breakfast at 7:30 on Friday, March 24th. I hope to see you all there. Have a safe and enjoyable summer break! ~ Dave

Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research — Call for Papers!

CPPR is a peer-reviewed journal with a broad correctional focus encompassing a wide range of relevant topics and innovative approaches from new theoretical perspectives and research findings to their implications for improving policy and practice. Both national and international in scope, the journal will address these issues and challenges as they relate to sentencing, prisons, jails, and community corrections.

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically. The online submission website is: https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cppr.

Manuscripts should be no more than 40 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1” margins. No color pictures, graphs or tables should be included. Authors should follow all formatting guidelines of the APA Publication Manual, 6th Edition.

2016 Awardees: Risdon Slate, Ph.D. & Nicole Niebuhr & CCJRC

John Howard Award
Risdon Slate, Ph.D., of Florida Southern College has dedicated his career and life to making the field of corrections more humane. Dr. Slate’s own personal experiences with mental illness have shaped his research, scholarship, and service. He has served on international, national, federal and state-level organizations and has testified before Congress and trained CJ agents—all of which primarily focused on mental health issues. His advocacy has changed American corrections and policing.

Dr. Kelly Cheeseman Student Paper Travel Scholarship
The presentation by Nicole Niebuhr, a student at Sam Houston State University, uses a sample of high-risk offenders, recently released from prison, to explore how both job satisfaction and job stress influence the time to recidivism. This paper provides a unique contribution to the literature by going beyond relying solely on the presence of employment, but also including a wealth of information on job satisfaction and job stress, which could lead to furthering our understanding of the relationship between employment and recidivism. Results may be useful for policy interventions in determining what types of employment characteristics are most important in improving an offender’s chance of success post-release.

Local Donation
In line with President Obama’s April weekly address, the 2016 recipient of the Corrections Section’s charitable donation was the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition. The CCJRC is interested in collaborative research and networking opportunities with members! Information and contacts are provided on its website: http://www.ccjrc.org
Katie Green from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) delivered a presentation on community corrections curriculum needs at the ACJS Corrections Section meeting in Denver. Her presentation highlighted the paucity of criminal justice undergraduate curriculum focused on probation and parole supervision work. In partnership with the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), NIC has begun collecting resources that could be used to advance community corrections curriculum development and encourage a greater interest in the field of community supervision, for professors and students alike. Input from an advisory group of academics and practitioners; as well as a survey of APPA, ACJS, and ASC members; revealed five core areas of competencies pertinent to probation and parole work including 1) effective interviewing and report writing, 2) knowledge of evidence-based practices/programs, 3) understanding of risk, need, responsivity (RNR), 4) criminal behavior and prosocial change, and 5) the role of community supervision in relation to the broader criminal justice system. NIC will be releasing a catalogue of free resources pertinent to community corrections curriculum development on their website later this year.

2017 Section Awards and Scholarships

Nominations for the 2017 awards and scholarships are being accepted now through October 1, 2016. Nominations can be sent to ACJS.Corrections@gamil.com. Please check the Corrections Section website for further information.

John Howard Award

The nominee MUST have made significant contributions to practice, but also can have made significant contributions in scholarship, teaching, policy, or service.

Outstanding Section Member

Requires membership in and preferably contribution to the ACJS Corrections Section; and significant research and/or scholarship in the field of corrections. Self nominations are allowed and encouraged.

Dr. Kelly Cheeseman Student Paper Travel Scholarship

Students presenting papers at the ACJS annual conference are encouraged to submit their papers to the Awards committee for consideration for receipt of the travel scholarship. A letter of recommendation/support from a faculty advisor is advised.

NCAA March Madness

For ACJSCS members who are avid fans of college basketball, get your tickets NOW! Kansas City will host the Midwest regionals on March 23 and 25 at the Sprint Center.

Graterfriends Newsletter Support

Graterfriends was originally established by Joan Gauker, an avid Criminal Justice and Pennsylvania Prison Society volunteer at the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Graterford SCIG in 1982. Graterfriends has become the voice of prisoners as it is a forum where those incarcerated and their families can express their thoughts, share ideas, and react to each other’s concerns. It is sent to Prison Society members across the state and inmates nationally; family members; criminal justice professionals and more. It is also housed in prison libraries.

As a publication, it provides updates on current criminal justice legislation, announcements for relevant activities and books, raises legal issues, and is a way in which many prisoners can highlight their poetry and other artistic works.

The Pennsylvania Prison Society publishes Graterfriends as often as possible but hopes to solidify a schedule of six times per year. Although originally set to be produced and distributed monthly, the funding challenges reduced this frequency. We are hoping to build support to sustain and expand this worthwhile newsletter. For more information, please go to the Pennsylvania Prison Society website: http://www.prisonsociety.org/
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 54th annual meeting of ACJS will be held March 21–March 25, 2017, at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown in Kansas City, MO. The conference theme is “Linking Teaching, Practice, and Research.”

Paper and poster submissions are due September 15, 2016 with a final deadline of September 30, 2016.

The Section encourages faculty, students and professionals in the field to submit a paper or poster presentation. Also do not forget to submit conference papers for student travel funds!

Suggestions are welcome for a corrections-related charitable organization in the Kansas City area. Please inform the E-Board via email: ACJS.Correctons@gmail.com for consideration of a donation made on behalf of the Section by December 1.

See you in Kansas City!!!!

Correction Section Purpose

The purpose of the Corrections Section is to bring together academy members who have a particular interest in corrections, to facilitate and encourage research and theory development related to corrections, to encourage appropriate and effective teaching techniques and practices for corrections courses, to serve as a resource network for and encourage interaction among academic, research, practitioner and policy-making sectors in order to further knowledge about corrections, and to encourage the organization of corrections-related conference activities.

Solicitations for op-eds or research items are welcome for the next edition of the newsletter!! Email us!

See you in Kansas City!!!!
Faith Lutze will be ACJS President in 2019 and is soliciting help now! Email her!


Wes Johnson & Cathy Marcum updating members on CPPR

Christie Donner, founder & executive director, & Justin Cooper, deputy director, of CCJRC accepting Section donation from Jeff Bouffard

Congrats to Shippensburg University for becoming ACJS certified in 2016! The chair of the CJ department is Melissa Ricketts, a Section member!

Risdon Slate addressing Section members. Congratulations on this accolade!

Section member, Cassie Reyes, is now an ACJS program certification reviewer! Congrats!