



Ronald D. Hunter
45th ACJS President
2007-2008

Ronald David Hunter was born and raised in Tallahassee, Florida. After graduation from high school he attended Florida State University, where in 1975 he earned a B.S. degree in Criminology. After graduation, Hunter secured a position as a police officer with the Tallahassee Police Department. He served as a patrol officer for two years while working on his M.S. in Public Administration at Florida State University. After earning that degree, he accepted a position as a Criminal Justice Planner for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council and then Special Projects Director for the Wakulla County Commission. In 1978, he returned to policing, this time as a Deputy Sheriff with the Wakulla County Sheriff Department, where he served for one year, before returning to the Tallahassee Police Department, first as a police officer and then as a Police Sergeant, a position he held for seven years. While a Sergeant with the P.D., Hunter worked on a M.S. in Social Science at Florida State University, graduating in 1983, and then his Ph.D. in Criminology, which he earned in 1988.

As he neared graduation, Hunter secured his first academic post in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. He served for a short term as a lecturer and then Dr. Hunter was promoted to Assistant Professor. In 1989, Hunter secured a similar position at Jacksonville State University in the College of Criminal Justice, where he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1994, and then appointed as Associate Professor of both Political Science and Criminal Justice in 1996. In 1999, he accepted a position as Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology at the State University of West Georgia, and in 2001, he was promoted to Professor and named the Criminology Program Coordinator. Hunter then moved to Western Carolina University where he served first as Professor and Department Head of the Department of Applied Criminology and then as the Department Head and Interim Associate Dean for the College of Applied Sciences. In 2007, he returned to faculty in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Western Carolina University.

Hunter became heavily involved with both the Southern Criminal Justice Association (SCJA) and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS). In the SCJA served on the Executive board, numerous committees, and was President from 1998 to 1999. In ACJS, Hunter served as a Region II Trustee (2001-2004), Chair of the Security and Crime Prevention Section (1995-1997), and was elected Second Vice President in 2005. After serving as First Vice President, Hunter became the 45th President of the Academy, serving the 2007 to 2008 term in office.

Hunter was active on a number of fronts during his presidency, working to strengthen relationships with other international criminal justice and criminology associations, with Alpha Phi Sigma the National Criminal Justice Honors Society, and with the regional associations.

Since his presidency, Hunter became Professor and Program Coordinator for Criminal Justice/Criminology in the School of Liberal Arts at Georgia Gwinnett College. He continues to research in the area of his interests, crime prevention and law enforcement, and he has published numerous textbooks and articles.

For his work and dedication to the discipline, Hunter has been earned numerous awards including the ACJS Richter H. Moore, Jr. Outstanding Crime Prevention Educator Award (2000), the Outstanding Educator's Award by the SCJA (2002), and Western Carolina University College of Applied Sciences Outstanding Service Award (2006).