

Department of Criminal Justice

College of Arts and Sciences THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Spring 2006 Newsletter

Notes from the Chair, Dr. Celia Lo



The “learner-centered college” initiative recently put forward by the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Alabama has energized an already dedicated criminal justice faculty. Using various methods and channels, the

faculty is furthering efforts to develop students’ critical-thinking strategies. In particular, there is renewed focus on analytic and application skills, those which are critical for building a criminal justice career and undertaking advanced study. Critical thinking is receiving added emphasis in classroom education, internship experiences, activities of our student organizations, and through other channels. In the time passed since publication of this newsletter last year, I have watched a fresh atmosphere of intellectual engagement move through the Department of Criminal Justice.

One meaningful example comes from incorporating electronic technology in the learning process. With detailed lecture notes now often accessible online, classroom time can be devoted to discussion and problem-solving activities, rather than simple content delivery. An increasingly proactive learning climate is fostering graduate-type study in our undergraduate courses as well, with students at both levels taking responsibility to research and present materials that reflect their understanding of topics. Professors are there to provide feedback and suggestions, clearly

guiding, but not dictating to, their students as they exercise critical thinking with the issues of our discipline.

In a learner-centered college, the faculty and the department promote and facilitate not only the learning process, but its outcomes: employment, for instance, as well as the acquisition of advanced academic degrees. The department has, for example, made the criminal justice internship mandatory for majors, ensuring students of an opportunity to apply what they learn, while gaining work experience and employment skills. The internship, furthermore, requires students to prepare a research paper demonstrating how classroom study bears on professional duties in criminal justice, and conversely, how field experience deepens the classroom learning experience.

Joining in the activities of student organizations is another channel through which our students are sharpening their critical thinking skills. Working together, organization members must make some hard decisions and attempt to solve problems in real life. Two student organizations are currently active in the department: Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society and the Criminal Justice Student Association. Officers and members of the two collaborate with the department to organize events including career fairs, colloquiums, casual get-togethers, charitable events, and homecoming activities. Their objective is to increase students’ awareness of employment opportunities; of the needs of the vulnerable in society, such as

children in poverty or the victims of catastrophe; and of various arguments concerning social issues of relevance in our field. Equally important, our student organizations help the department create a sense of community within the large campus, so that our students feel comfortable to reach out for the attention they deserve.

Students and faculty are two major constituents within the Department of Criminal Justice, but we are also well aware of the important role alumni play in a department’s vitality. Alumni often make the best mentors for current students, introducing them to both employment-based and social networks. On this note, I want to make an appeal for input from alumni and students. Would you support our establishing an alumni advisory group? Would you be willing to participate in a group of this kind? Would you be willing to return to campus to speak to criminal justice students or participate in a career fair? Would you be willing to mentor our students? I would be pleased to talk over your ideas and responses to these questions, either by phone or email: (205) 348-7795 or CLO@UA.EDU. I hope to hear from our alumni as well as current students—who, of course, will join the alumni ranks soon enough.

In closing, I wish to offer my thanks to Anita Anderson, whose efforts pulled this newsletter together. I also extend thanks to all of the criminal justice faculty and staff for their contributions to and suggestions concerning the completion of the newsletter.

Thank You!

For many years, affiliates of the Department of Criminal Justice have supported The University of Alabama and its students through financial gifts. Supporters know how much the University relies on them. But how many know that direct contributions to the Department of Criminal Justice are welcome—and quite appropriate. Department Chair Dr. Celia Lo has made it a priority to acquire funds that will establish scholarships to ease financial burdens on deserving undergraduates and graduate students. Such scholarships boost the department’s recruiting efforts, which are vital for growth and diversification in the department.

Please consider making a financial gift in any amount. It is tax deductible, as federal and state laws allow. To direct your gift to the department, make your check payable to The University of Alabama, Department of Criminal Justice. Send to The University of Alabama, College of Arts and Sciences, Development Office, Box 870268, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0268. Thank you for your generosity.



Organizations

Alpha Phi Sigma

Anita S. Anderson, President
Randall Jones, Vice President
Ashley Cornelius, Secretary
Sabrina Thrasher, Treasurer

2005 Organization Activities

- 2005 Annual Career Fair - 25 agencies including FBI, Secret Service, DEA, Homeland Security, ATF, Forensics, ABC Board, Pardons and Paroles, Corrections, Youth Services, state and local law enforcement, U.S. military, asset protection firms, and Graduate School discussed careers with 150+ students attending from all majors. The event was hailed as one of the most successful Career Fairs in UA history!
- CJ "Meet and Greet" – Students get acquainted with CJ faculty
- "Get-On-Board" Day – Student organization recruitment drive
- Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief drive
- Guest speaker discussed careers available with a juris doctorate
- "Careers in Criminal Justice" - 100+ students discussed requirements and applications processes with agents from FBI, Homeland Security, U.S. Marshals, U.S. Secret Service, DEA, State Corrections, and ATF
- "Beat Auburn/Beat Hunger" canned food drive
- "Face-Painting-On-the-Quad" – Arts & Sciences Homecoming festivities
- Fundraisers – Auctioned off autographed footballs
- Salvation Army Angel Tree program
- Induction Ceremony at The University Club with Tommy Hester of Homeland Security/Transportation Security Administration as guest

Alpha Phi Sigma is looking forward to another great year with plans to host its 2006 Annual Career Fair—making it the most successful career fair ever! Our goal is to have the entire student body attend our Career Fair and leave with an answer to the question "What do you want to do with your degree?" We will focus on increasing organization membership and on getting members involved in the local community by incorporating volunteer programs into this year's activities. Officer elections for the new year will be held in May 2006.

The success of Alpha Phi Sigma would not be possible without support from its members, faculty advisor Dr. Robert Jenkot, the Department of Criminal Justice, and the College of Arts and Sciences. We would like to extend a special thanks for all that has been done in support of Alpha Phi Sigma.

Criminal Justice Student Association

Matthew Price, President
Jason Reed, Vice President
Ashley Cornelius, Secretary
Sabrina Thrasher, Webmaster

Through avenues such as "Get-On-Board Day" and facebook.com, our membership has steadily grown. Old and new members are encouraged to attend meetings to suggest ways to improve CJSA and to get involved with our many exciting planned activities.

Our main focus for Spring semester will be career options. CJSA, and the CJ Department are hosting a career forum to inform students of career choices available in the private sector for CJ graduates. We will also be collaborating with Alpha Phi Sigma in hosting one of UA's most spectacular career fairs!

Our website should be available in the near future. You can visit us at www.bama.ua.edu/~cjsa. You may access meetings and events schedules at CJSA Group, www.facebook.com, or contact us at bamacjsa@yahoo.com.

New Graduate Students

Anita Spurlock Anderson of Ider, Alabama, earned her B.A. in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology from UA in August 2005. Anita is President of UA's Alpha Rho Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, National Criminal Justice Honor Society, is a freelance Paralegal, and cares for her two children. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. and teach at the university level.

Jacqueline Suzanne Chavez of Dothan, Alabama, earned her B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice from UA. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. and teach at the college level.

Ashley Ryan Cornelius of Oxford, Alabama, earned her B.A. in Criminal Justice with a minor in English from UA in May 2005. Ashley is Secretary of UA's Alpha Rho Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, National Criminal Justice Honor Society. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Political Science and wants to develop and evaluate public policies.

Maya Henson of Mobile, Alabama, earned her B.S. in Business Administration with concentrations in Marketing and Management from Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in May 2004. Maya plans to pursue a career in corporate security.

Ryan Nicholas Johnson of Richmond, Virginia, earned his B.A. in Criminal Justice from UA. He is a member of UA's Alpha Rho Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, National Criminal Justice Honor Society. He plans to pursue a career in federal law enforcement.

Kelli Angelique Matthews of Mobile, Alabama, earned her B.A. in History with a minor in Political Science from Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Kelli plans to pursue a juris doctorate specializing in civil rights law.

Patrick Shawn Murray of Gadsden, Alabama, earned his degree in History from UA. Patrick plans to attend law school.

Sokju Park of Puchon, South Korea, earned his degree in Public Administration from the University of Seoul, Korea. Sokju plans to pursue an MBA.

Michael Jason Reed of Lexington, Alabama, earned his B.A. in Criminal Justice from UA. Jason plans to attend law school, pursue a Ph.D., or work in federal law enforcement.

Leigh Ann Shelton of Dutton, Alabama, earned her B.A. double majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology with a minor in English from UA in August 2005. She does freelance legal research and also cares for her grandmother. Leigh Ann plans to pursue a Ph.D. and teach at the college level.

Debora Warner of Daphne, Alabama, earned her degree in Psychology from UA. Debbie's plans include consulting or teaching law enforcement officers.

SaCoastia T. Williams of Jacksonville, Florida, earned her degree in Psychology from Oakwood College, Huntsville, Alabama. She plans to work with juveniles.

Student Achievements

Desiree D. Adams

- 2005 undergraduate award for CJ-490 Health and Crime class paper titled "The Filicidal Body", sponsored by the Division on Women and Crime, American Society of Criminology (Professor: Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein)

Anita S. Anderson

- Received Graduate Council Research Fellowship for 2006-2007 academic year for thesis titled "Domestic Violence within Police Families: A Test of General Strain Theory and Angry Aggression Theory" (Advisor: Dr. Celia Lo)
- Paper titled "Protecting Alabama Students from Alcohol and Drugs: A Multi-Level Modeling Approach" forthcoming in *Journal of Drug Issues* (Lead author: Dr. Celia Lo)

Crystal L. Murry

- McNair Research Scholar; presented papers at McNair Scholars Conferences at Pennsylvania State University and The University of Alabama, and at the Southern Criminal Justice Association (Advisor: Dr. Jimmy Williams)

Faculty News



Dr. Robert B. Jenkot is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. His research interests are in the intersection of race, class, and gender relating to crime, deviance and drugs with a focus on methamphetamine sales, use, and production.

Since January 2005, Dr. Jenkot has directed one grant project, published one book review, and made three presentations at professional meetings.



Dr. Ida M. Johnson is Chair of the Department of Women's Studies and a Criminal Justice scholar with specialties in the areas of domestic violence, date rape, and female criminality. In the past year, Dr. Johnson has published one book chapter and has two journal articles forthcoming.

CJ Alumni

1979

W. Edward Folts, M.S.—Chair and Professor of the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina

1987

Charles Norton Wilson, M.S.—Retired police officer; Coordinator, New Vision Criminal Justice program, Syracuse, New York—gives high school seniors realistic view of careers in the criminal justice system

1991

Marcia LaKita Sledge, B.A.—Therapist

Karla Williams, B.A.—Emergency Technician; enlisted in Army Reserve as chemical operations specialist

1992

Marcus D. Huber, B.A.—Officer in charge of Cullman County, Alabama, Probation and Parole

1993

Frances Margaret Hamner, B.A.—Police officer with University of Alabama Police Department; attending massage therapy school

1994

Stephan Bridges, B.A.—Pursuing Ph.D.; Agency Field Consultant, State Farm Insurance, Atlanta, Georgia; United States Navy Lieutenant

1995

Larry Carli, M.S.—Retired criminal investigator

1996

Katie Hiland, M.S.—Case manager, Federal Bureau of Prisons

Ryan W. Knerr, B.A.—Special Agent with Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Justice

1997

Carol Gann Harper, B.A.—Deputy District Attorney for Jefferson County, Alabama

1998

Anita J. Ewing, M.S.

Ralph A. Howard, B.A.—Adult education teacher; state representative

Alan Clark Kelly, B.A.—Sergeant in Criminal Investigations, Tuscaloosa Police Department

A.C. Roper, Jr., M.S.—Assistant Police Chief, Hoover, Alabama

1999

Amy Lawson, M.S.—Teacher

2000

Michelle R. Hecht, M.S.—pursuing Ph.D., Indiana University; Lecturer, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

2001

Nancy W. Wall, M.S.—Deputy Press Secretary, U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions (Republican, Alabama)

2002

Ricardo “Rickey” Fernandez, M.S.—Retired as Special Agent with FBI; Adjunct faculty, Tulane University; Consultant and trainer in detection of deceit

2003

Calvin J.H. Harkness, B.A.—Deputy Sheriff, private investigator, private security consultant

Holly Smith, B.A.—Investigator with Marshall County, Alabama Department of Human Resources

Jonathan T. Yasuda, B.A.—1st Lieutenant, U.S. Army Military Police Corps., Platoon Leader 1st MP Company, returned from Iraq to home station in Ansbach, Germany

2004

Kurt Robak, M.S.—Probation and parole officer

2005

Denise Michelle Ware, M.S.—Pursuing juris doctorate from Northwestern University Law School



Dr. David L. Klemmack is a Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and the New College Program. His research interests include gerontology, social policy, and sex roles. Since January 2005, Dr. Klemmack has

published one journal article, has two in press, and has made one presentation at a professional meeting.



Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. Her research interests focus on HIV and STIs with an emphasis on the intersection between crime, health, gender, and ethnicity. In

the past year, Dr. Lichtenstein has published eight articles and/or fact sheets, has two articles forthcoming, has received one grant, and has made five presentations at professional meetings.



Dr. Celia C. Lo is Chair of and Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. Her research interests are in the fields of the sociology of alcohol and drug use, the drug/crime link, and gender and crime. In the past

year, Dr. Lo has two journal articles forthcoming, has published one book chapter, and has made two presentations at professional meetings.



Dr. Robert T. Sigler is a Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. He has interests in community corrections, juvenile justice, and domestic and courtship violence. In the past year, Dr. Sigler has published two book

chapters, and has two journal articles forthcoming.



Dr. Richard J. Spano is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. His research interests include

policing, life-course explanations of criminal offending and violence, and juvenile delinquency. Since January 2005, Dr. Spano has received one grant, published two journal articles, has two articles in press, and has made five presentations at professional meetings.



Dr. Jimmy J. Williams is Associate Dean of Multicultural Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences and an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. Dr. Williams' research interests include type

of counsel and criminal case outcome, sentencing guidelines, and state intermediate appellate court decision-making in criminal appeals.

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Advanced Degrees and Institutions _____

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