Keep In Touch!

Whether you just graduated or feel like a “charter member” of the program, please complete and return to Dr. Celia Lo, The University of Alabama, Department of Criminal Justice, Box 870320, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0320.

Name__________________________ Degree and Graduation Year__________________________
Address________________________
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Advanced Degrees and Institutions__________________________

NEWS TO SHARE__________________________

□ Check here if you DO NOT want this information used in future newsletters.
□ Check here if you would like to be contacted by the Criminal Justice Alumni Advisory Board.

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 too 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 recruiting efforts, which are vital for growth and diversification in the department.

The Department of Criminal Justice would like to thank Dr. Celia Lo, Mrs. Kenyatta R. Sims, and anonymous donors for their generous contributions last year.

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 it to The University of Alabama, College of Arts and Sciences, Development Office, Box 870268, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0268. Thank you for your generosity!

Notes from the Chair, Dr. Celia Lo

If you have not come by the Department of Criminal Justice lately, you should take time for a visit to see the significant improvements in our department recently. In the course of the past two years, we have had some of our offices remodeled and most of our facility repainted. We now welcome—via our new sign—current and prospective students, their parents, guest speakers, alumni, and others to enjoy the more contemporary, more appealing surroundings, while exploring the department and its work. Our “new” space can be a source of pride among students, faculty, and staff, and it will enhance recruitment of well-qualified undergraduate and graduate students to the department.

Changes in the department’s physical appearance have been accompanied by change in other areas, including its social and cultural atmosphere. More than ever before, the activities of our student organizations, both formal and informal, are boosting the department’s visibility on and off campus. Through department-sponsored events, we have been in touch outside the classroom with our majors and minors. Speakers from the UA School of Law and representatives from federal, state, and private agencies have, in colloquia and other workshops, raised our students’ awareness of employment opportunities in the criminal justice field. At each semester’s informal “meet and greet” in the lobby of our main office, criminal justice undergraduate students have the chance to be introduced to faculty members and converse with them and other department staff members.

These events encourage the students not to limit themselves to classroom learning but to pursue their intellectual interests in other ways as well. Through social exchanges, students are often exposed to peers’ and faculty members’ attitudes, ideas, beliefs, and practices that might not be apparent during formal classroom work. In the department today, learning no longer keeps to the traditional boundaries of the academy. The sense of academic community has been discovered in our department by many of our students.

The department’s support of student organization activities has resulted in significant achievement. Both Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society and the Criminal Justice Student Association (CJSAs) were very active during the past year. Officers and members of the two collaborated with the department to organize events including career fairs, colloquia, panel discussions, workshops, and on-campus activities. In 2005, the two organizations brought to the department the largest career fair in its history. With representatives from 29 agencies and over 200 students in attendance, we will argue that the fair was the most successful in the history of the university. The CJSAs and Alpha Phi Sigma officer-student leadership and the students’ enthusiastic participation suggest that department constituents view such extracurricular activities as beneficial to the professional careers they seek.

While current students and faculty are two major constituents within the Department of Criminal Justice, we are also well aware of the important role alumni play in a department’s vitality. In last year’s newsletter, I made an appeal to alumnae and students to establish an alumni advisory committee. I am happy to report to you that several graduates of ours, led by Chad Allen, have put the idea into action. Chad, who received the B.S. in criminal justice in 2005 and M.S.C.J. in 2005, is the president of the newly established Criminal Justice Alumni Advisory Board. To learn more about this group, visit the group’s website through the CJ department webpage. Feel free to voice your opinions and suggestions to the group, sending them to Chad at AllenR09@yahoo.com.

While we are proud of many achievements from the past year, it is also necessary to pass on news of two losses we experienced last year:

—Dr. Richard Spans left the University in August 2006 to join the faculty at Indiana University.

—Mr. Randall Farmer passed away December 25, 2006, of cancer. Mr. Farmer was a well-respected and well-loved professor in our department for more than four years. He had amassed a wealth of experiences as a U.S. Marine (he was a Vietnam veteran) and in his career as a special agent in the FBI. Students working with Mr. Farmer enjoyed practical hands-on exercises, gaining a real-world understanding in topics such as criminal law, law and society, criminal investigation, and law enforcement.

Mr. Farmer’s contribution to the University will be greatly missed. In honor of his special ties to the Department of Criminal Justice, an effort is under way to establish a memorial fund promoting criminal justice study at the University. An adequate fund will allow for the establishment, in the near future, of a scholarship in Mr. Farmer’s name. To contribute, please send your donation to Department of Criminal Justice, University of Alabama, Box 870268, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0268. Please note on your check that the donation is made in Mr. Randall Farmer’s memory.

In closing, I wish to offer my thanks to Brenda Parsons and Annais Anderson, whose efforts pull 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.

The University of Alabama
Dr. Ida Johnson

Dr. Joe Cochrane

Dr. Jennifer Williams

Dr. Robert Sigler

Dr. Ariane Prohaska

Dr. Matthew Williams

Dr. Robert Sigler is a Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. He has interests in variations in criminal justice policy, research methods, and statistics. He has written several articles and has made four presentations at professional meetings. His research interests include: viewing crime, criminal justice, and gender differences. In the past year, Dr. Sigler has published two journal articles and one conference paper. He has received grant funding and has made four presentations at professional meetings. In the past year, Dr. Sigler has presented a research paper at a professional meeting.

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