In August of 1940 Winston Churchill remarked, “Never…has so much been owed by so many to so few.” While a university department in no way compares to the seriousness of the Battle of Britain, the same phrase is applicable in our context.

The founding fathers of the program, Drs. John Watkins and Vergil Williams, recently toured our improved facilities, joined us for lunch, and met with the new faculty. They had not visited the Department in twelve and twenty years, respectively, so we were thrilled to host them. These two pioneering administrators and esteemed educators are directly responsible for the department being here today. They were eager to hear about the tremendous progress the department has made, and I am excited to share some details about these many accomplishments with you. They graciously wrote a brief history of the department (included in this newsletter).

Departmental Growth. A great debt is owed to the current faculty in Criminal Justice (Johnson, Lankford, Seigfried-Spellar, Williams, Klutz, Ivie, Olin) and Sociology (Lichtenstein, Prohaska, Guidry, Swindal). In two years, Criminal Justice and Sociology have enjoyed unprecedented growth. Our undergraduate majors have increased by at least 54 percent! I say “at least” because under the new automated system, eligible students can declare their own majors and minors, so the count changes daily (ours have only increased). We now have “at least” 576 CJ majors and pre majors, 103 CJ minors, and 280 Sociology minors according to Office of Instructional Resources (OIR) data. According to DegreeWorks (the automated student advising system) we have over 1,200 students. Our graduate program has also experienced growth and has drawn top tier students from as far as California and Australia, thanks to the relentless recruitment efforts of Graduate Director Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein (see the section on “Meet a few of our new Graduate Students” for detailed biographies).

CJ now is among the leaders in the College of Arts and Sciences (AS) in several important categories. We are #1 in Student Credit Hours (SCH) produced per faculty member (a credit hour is the number of hours a student takes and faculty teach; for example, if you have 100 students in a 3 hours course, 300 credit hours are produced).

The Criminal Justice and Sociology faculty members have not only increased the number of students taught and amount of service provided, but also their research productivity. We rank in the top 10% research-wise, and #2 in the Social Science division by articles published. So with less, we have accomplished more. Over the past two years all academic books have been published and are in press that ever before in the history of this department. Three faculty members: Doug Klutz, Edmund “Ted” Sexton, and myself are donating 100% of the proceeds from our international book sales to a special scholarship fund for CJ and Sociology students. For scholarly peer reviewed journal articles, the only social science department publishing more per faculty member is Psychology. This type of productivity and service has not gone unnoticed. Dr. Lichtenstein received the highest honor afforded by the School of Social Work—the 2012 Lahoma Adams Buford Peace Award—for her “commitment of justice and to the rights of neglected and underserved people.” Dr. Lankford published an op-ed in The New York Times and was interviewed about his research on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, BBC World Radio, CBS Radio, and other national and international media outlets.

Growth like this does not come without pressure, but more importantly, it creates opportunity.

New Facilities. To accommodate our growth and additional new faculty (even more searches are under way now) we are very grateful to the Department of Geography for relinquishing some of their space on the 4th Floor of Farrah Hall. The College of Arts and Sciences has converted that space into 3 new, state of the art offices and a faculty lounge area. A brand new elevator is being built allowing wheelchair students access to the second floor of Farrah Hall – where our second largest room (n=157) is located. The Provost last summer rebuilt the old “Moot Court” room (FA 120) to seat 250+ students. The College of Arts and Sciences is also considering the construction of a new cyber forensics laboratory.

New Faculty and Staff. The Department of Criminal Justice is very pleased to announce four stellar additions to our faculty and one critical office associate for 2012. Dr. Kathryn “Kate” Seigfried-Spellar has a Ph.D. in Cyber Forensics from the Department of Computer and Information Technology at Purdue University and joins us as an Assistant Professor. She was most recently Assistant Professor at Southeastern University. Her specialization is cyber crime and cyber security, so we look forward to her updating our courses offerings and student research opportunities in those areas. She is developing a Cyber Research and Digital Forensics Center (CRDF) with Engineering, Computer Sciences, and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. Dr. Megan Swindal has a Ph.D. in Developmental Sociology from Cornell University. She is a new Full Time Teaching Instructor (FTTI) and Assessment Coordinator. She has several publications and books mostly related to College Assessment, Ideology and Discourse. She joins us from Miles College. We look forward to her coordinating all the departmental assessment efforts and teaching Introduction to Sociology and other Sociology courses in her specialization areas. A familiar face, Lin Olin, has been promoted from Part Time Teaching Instructor (PTTI) to FTTI. She has degrees from Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed all the course work for her doctorate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). Her change in status will permit us to offer more statistics courses and she has developed a University wide sophomore level generalists statistics course. All three new faculty members meet critical existing needs and fill gaps in

continued on page 2
A Brief History of the Department of Criminal Justice: Part I

John C. Watkins, Jr., Ph.D. and Vergil Williams, Ph.D.

Conception and Initial Planning

The evolution of the Department of Criminal Justice was unique. It had its genesis in the minds of three people: C. Tom Moore, an associate vice-president for Academic Affairs in what is now the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration; John C. Watkins, Jr., an assistant professor of business law in that same college; and Howard Gundy, a School of Social Work Dean.

As far back as 1968, before Professor Watkins resigned his position in the Business School, he was approached by C. Tom Moore and was informed that the UA administration was interested in establishing a “criminal justice presence” on campus. The message continued that in 1968 there was no money to establish such a program, but that the Office of Academic Affairs would be exploring ways over the next several years to bring such an academic unit to fruition. Tom Moore approached John Watkins with this information because he knew that Watkins’ real interest was in the criminal law/juvenile law/criminology fields, and that Watkins had returned to UA receiving an LL.M. degree in criminal law at Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago.

Professor Watkins actually left the UA School of Business in August 1969 to teach criminology, criminal law, and juvenile law at Sam Houston State University. There he experienced the impact of Congress’s Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP), which provided police and prospective police officers with grants and low interest loans that did not need to be repaid if the recipient actually worked in the field. At Sam Houston, each criminal justice faculty member was required to participate in their off-campus program. Once a week, Watkins was flown to Houston, Texas, where he taught a large class of officers. This lucrative funding source attracted students who otherwise might not attend college, and did not escape the attention of other universities, including Alabama. The existence of LEEP encouraged a nationwide move in higher education to provide criminal justice education.

During Professor Watkins’ absence, there was an effort to establish a small criminal justice presence at the University of Alabama without actually having a degree program. A criminal justice certificate program was created within the Department of Political Science. Seven Tuscaloosa city police officers participated in that program. William (Bill) A. Formby was one of this initial cohort and later became a faculty member in the Criminal Justice Department. Another officer in that group who would serve for several years as the Chief of Police in Tuscaloosa. The intent of this program clearly was to offer local law enforcement an incentive to get at least some college training. The Political Science Department was not pleased with this certificate program and planned to drop it after two semesters.

The Social Work Era

The year 1971 was pivotal for the future of a criminal justice degree program at the University of Alabama. Watkins returned from Sam Houston after receiving assurances from the Office of Academic Affairs that some funds were available. With John Watkins’ credentials and teaching experience he was an obvious choice to head the new unit. Funds for his salary and for one additional CJ faculty member were provided.

Any new academic program at UA would need the support of a dean who had the interest and ability to administer such an endeavor. Dean Howard Gundy of the School of Social Work was the best choice since one market for college educated social workers was state adult probation and parole officers. In 1969, Dean Gundy had established a summer training program for the Alabama Department of Adult Probation. He appointed Social Work Professor Frank Egan to administer that program. The training occurred in the summers when there was less academic activity.

Professor Egan hired Vergil Williams as his assistant. Williams, a native Texan, had worked his way through four years of college at West Texas State University as a patrolman and patrol sergeant in the Amarillo City Police Department before earning a BS in Economics in 1966. There were no criminal justice courses offered back then. Having discovered that graduate courses in criminal justice were available at Southern Illinois University’s Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections, he accepted an assistantship there and spent the 1967-68 school year taking advanced criminal justice courses.

His first work assignment at the Center was to research the use of game theory to teach criminal justice. His final report on that subject was submitted to the Journal of Crime and Delinquency, and was accepted and published in October, 1970. It was his first effort to combine economic theory in application to criminal justice issues. His second work assignment involved assisting in the Crime Center’s project to train prison “training officers” from around the country. He was also doing his doctoral dissertation on the token economy used to treat inmates in a prison in Texas. In looking for summer work, Williams had become affiliated with Social Work on a part time basis.

Due to that work, Dean Gundy knew Williams and offered him an assistant professorship to teach criminal justice under Watkins’ supervision. Thus, Watkins and Williams were the first hires to exclusively teach criminal justice. One could say that they became the foundation of what would soon be criminal justice degrees offered at the University of Alabama.

Watkins and Williams met in the summer of 1971 in Dean Gundy’s office. Dean Gundy had done his research and knew that there were at least five (and soon to be more) colleges in Alabama offering undergraduate degrees in criminal justice. Rather than compete with them, we would seek approval for the first Master’s degree in criminal justice in the state. We would offer only that degree in the field, but would serve social work undergraduates by offering the certificate (renamed concentration) in criminal justice abandoned by the Political Science Department. It was estimated...
that it might take as much as two years to get approval for the Master’s degree.

Meanwhile, Watkins and Williams would focus on developing and teaching criminal justice undergraduate courses. Jerry Fuller, Bill Formby, and some of the other Tuscaloosa police officers transferred from Political Science to anchor the continuation of the undergraduate concentration in criminal justice program. And, of course, service students were eager to avail themselves of the opportunity. Soon, there were about thirty social work students who began to identify themselves as “criminal justice” students. At the end of the 1971-72 academic year, the University still did not have a CJ degree, but it did have a CJ faculty and CJ students. The new effort was known as a “Concentration” in Criminal Justice and was heavy on criminal justice courses. The CJ office was a room shared by Watkins and Williams on the left front corner, ground floor of Little Hall. They were on their way.

The next Criminal Justice faculty member hired would be Dr. Robert (Bob) Sigler, who joined the faculty in the Fall of 1974. Professor Sigler had spent two years and had earned a masters degree at Southern Illinois University’s Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections. During one of those years, he worked together with Vergil Williams on the corrections officers training program. Sigler also completed an internship at nearly Marion Federal Penitentiary. This was a period of time in which when Marion housed the most dangerous inmates in the federal system. Sigler was well prepared for the role that Alabama’s new Criminal Justice program would ask him to assume. This new hire eased the strains that came with increasing enrollment. Sigler also was able to work on grant applications to attempt to get some outside funding for the program.

The application for a Masters Degree was approved during this interval. We thought it would be the first in the state, but Auburn had filed a similar request and both were approved at the same time. A majority of the first Master’s degree candidates were African American women. The reason for this was not clear; however, more black women than men were in that first cohort and more at UA than other schools. Professor Ida Johnson was among this contingent. After earning a Master’s Degree from the new Criminal Justice Program, she went on to earn a doctorate from the Florida State University in the field and return to Alabama to become the first female faculty member in our department.

Another significant development of the period was the addition of an undergraduate degree. The original plan of having only a Master’s Degree was abandoned. The Concentration in Criminal Justice was thriving and the demand for a BA degree was evident. There were about thirty-two Concentration in Criminal Justice undergraduates working on social work degrees who self-identified with Criminal Justice and who figuratively left Social Work to become the core of the first undergraduate Criminal Justice class in 1977.

In addition to administrative displacement, there was a physical relocation. Criminal Justice faculty offices were allocated on the top floor in Wilson Hall: an ancient student dormitory that had been abandoned for that use and re-tasked for office space. While the building was old and had no elevator, there were advantages to being there. For the first time Criminal Justice had its own secretary, and the secretary and each faculty member had adjacent former dorm room offices that were roomy. The classrooms were nearby in Little Hall.

Under Vice President Sayers oversight of Criminal Justice, he added a small collection of other unit heads. Williams joined a weekly administrative meeting in Sayers’ office with these other temporarily floating unit heads. Other members of the group included the Director of Alabama’s Million Dollar Band, football coach Bear Bryant, and an engineering professor who was tasked with developing aquifers that were to be used to air condition the Student Recreation Center, the University Mall and the Veteran’s Administration Hospital. These meetings were never dull. Provost Sayers promised that he would find an academic home and a good quality physical location for Criminal Justice. He kept that promise, but it took time to accomplish.

In this era, Professor William A. (Bill) Formby completed his doctorate and joined our faculty. He was especially helpful in setting up the structure of undergraduate courses for the new BA degree in CJ. This much needed addition also allowed us to expand our field of activities to obtain grants for our financial stability. Meanwhile, Professor Robert Sigler took on the additional task of pursuing grant money. An early success had him and the University working with a national figure in criminal justice volunteer services: Judge Keith Leenouts. The Kellogg Foundation invested heavily in that area.

Initial negotiations for an academic home for Criminal Justice centered on the School of Law. When discussions for the Law School to absorb the criminal justice program began, their Dean instructed the Law School Librarian to buy every criminal justice book available on the market. Soon, the best collection of academic resources for Criminal Justice students was in Farrah Hall. However, ultimately, the Law School faculty decided against adopting CJ due to the presence of the new Criminal Justice undergraduate degree. They felt that they had no mandate to award an undergraduate degree and there was little interest in breaking with that tradition. The next best fit for the program was thought to be the College of Arts & Sciences in the Social Sciences Division with Anthropology, Psychology, Political Science, and Sociology. There was a brief discussion of merely adding the Criminal Justice faculty to the Department of Political Science in toto. Neither faculty in those two units wanted to give up their autonomy and Dr. Sayers yielded on that matter.

The Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences then was Dr. Douglas (Doug) Jones, the son of a former President of our University. The Jones family of anthropologists donated the land containing the ancient Native American mounds at Moundville Park to the University. Dean Jones welcomed Criminal Justice into the Arts & Sciences fold.

Whilst the organization charts debate was in progress, the new building now housing the Law School was completed and the Law faculty moved out—vacating their Farrah Hall offices and taking all of their library. Immediately, space in Farrah began to be reallocated. Anthropology was the first beneficiary of this development, moving into offices on the first floor. Of course, Provost Sayers moved to get space for Criminal Justice in Farrah. It is perhaps a bit of irony that Anthropology was charged with the security of Farrah rather than Criminal Justice, but necessary due to the physical arrangements.

Professor Sigler’s grant work also had an impact on the physical relocation of CJ to Farrah Hall. Working with Judge Leenouts, funding from the Kresge Foundation was obtained for remodeling some office space. A part of that money was used to build the two office complex at the head of the stairs on the top floor of Farrah to be used as the Department Chairs office with an adjoining Secretary’s office.

The Early Years in the Division of Arts and Sciences

Perhaps understandably, there was some concern among traditional A & S faculty members concerning the status of criminal justice education. Did it belong in a major university or was it fodder for vocational schools? As a practical matter, there was not yet a large body of scholarly research on work in the field.

From the beginning the small band of CJ faculty members emphasized scholarship by adding to the then small, but growing body of CJ literature. In 1974, Professor Williams (with economics professor Mary Fish) published the first book of the new CJ faculty: Convicts, Codes, and Contraband. This was an inmate subculture theory book partly focusing on the subrosa inmate economy. Professor Watkins and Williams both stressed research and made regular contributions to the scholarly journals in the field. By the time we entered A & S, there were enough faculty members to begin adding regularly to published CJ literature. In the coming years the CJ faculty worked out a rigorous set of criteria for promotion that stressed appropriate publication milestones for each rank.

Soon after moving to Farrah, Professor Ida Johnson, Professor John Smykla, and Professor Jimmy Williams joined the faculty. They greatly enriched the variety of courses offered and all were productive in the publishing realm. The faculty knew the work ethic of Dr. Johnson before she joined us because she had earned a Master’s Degree with us before going to Florida State University to earn her Ph.D. We were especially pleased that we were no longer just a collection of males. Their presence did signal a new maturity in the discipline in that all were specifically trained directly in criminal justice. It should be noted that John Smykla eventually became the most widely published faculty member from this group.

To be continued...
Meet a few of our new Graduate Students...

“...I began my career at the University of Alabama with the intention of receiving a degree in secondary education. However, shortly after my arrival on campus, I had a change of heart. I still wanted to assist and educate young people, but I wanted to do it within a different setting. Young people are a crucial part of our society, and sometimes many of them are caught in bad situations. My goal is to have a career that will allow me to assist troubled youth, and assure them that they can still contribute to society.”

-Mason Wallace, current graduate student

“I began my career at the University of Alabama with the intention of receiving a degree in secondary education. However, shortly after my arrival on campus, I had a change of heart. I still wanted to assist and educate young people, but I wanted to do it within a different setting. Young people are a crucial part of our society, and sometimes many of them are caught in bad situations. My goal is to have a career that will allow me to assist troubled youth, and assure them that they can still contribute to society.”

-Mason Wallace, current graduate student

Tanya Skvortsova, current graduate student

“I was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles. I received a B.A. in Sociology from CSU, Dominguez Hills... My research interests include exploring issues related to HIV and sexual health among individuals who are gang involved and incarcerated. My goal upon completing my master’s degree is to enter into a Ph.D. program in Sociology or Public Health.”

-Kristie Gordon, current graduate student

Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein and Dr. Ariane Prohaska attend International Sociological Association Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina

This past August, Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein and Dr. Ariane Prohaska presented three academic papers at a conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Bronwen attended business meetings, convened sessions, and presented two papers on stigma and HIV/AIDS and trauma responses to disaster. Ariane presented a paper on bankruptcy for a session on gender and mental health. Conference attendees came from around the globe, with about 3,500 papers given by presenters from Europe, the Americas, Australia, Asia, and Africa. Conference sessions were sometimes in Spanish—a challenge for our two English speakers whose repertoire consisted mainly of “hola,” “por favor” and “gracias.”

Traveling to this sprawling city of 15 million people was a treat for the CJ faculty members looking for adventure—Bronwen and Ariane practiced their Spanish, sampled the local cuisine, and navigated the Subte (subway) in search of the sights and sounds of South America. With winter temperatures mostly in the 60s, it was a great escape from the dog days of the Alabama summer.

The conference was not the only draw to Argentina—Bronwen visited the northern region of Salta, known for its Gaucho culture and Andean living. Ariane went on a tango tour of Buenos Aires and visited a fabulous shopping mall. Overall, it was a very fun and productive trip!

Former Israeli Intelligence Officer discusses challenges in the Middle East

On February 8, 2012, former Israeli intelligence officer and current emissary to Atlanta Ronnie Porat visited The University of Alabama to discuss numerous challenges facing the Middle East. He addressed the development of Israel as a nation state, the threats and opportunities it has encountered, its religious and military traditions, its technological developments, its humanitarian and religious efforts, and more.

Porat previously served in the intelligence and operations branch of the Israeli Defense Forces, conducting research on Egyptian-Israeli military history. He also has experience working for PR Israeli/Arab Business Consultants and Koor Peace Enterprises, Ltd., where he led business initiatives between Israel and Arab companies in Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority. Porat’s talk was co-sponsored by the Departments of Criminal Justice, Political Science and Religious Studies.
Criminal Justice Mock Trial Association Celebrates Success

By Judah Martin, The Crimson White

The Criminal Justice Mock Trial Association, an intercollegiate organization that is sponsored jointly by the University of Alabama's criminal justice department and political science department, was created in the spring of 2011 to attract students interested in careers in the legal field.

“Since so many students who are interested in law school are either political science or criminal justice majors, this seemed a logical arrangement, many students are also dual majors or have minors in one of the two departments,” said Mark Lanier, an advisor for the MTA. “The arrangement has been a great success with the competitive Trial Teams enjoying unprecedented success and advancing to the regional tournament for the first time ever.”

The club aims to enhance public speaking skills in its members as well as their understanding of the law and courtroom etiquette.

“Each year, we get a case which is provided by [the American Mock Trial Association],” said Thomas Gibson, the club’s president. “They then read the case and prepare an opening argument and a direct examination of any witness they choose. We then have tryouts in the fall to fill the empty slots on the competition teams.”

The basis of the mock trials rotates annually between civil and criminal cases, according to Gibson. Members are expected to prepare direct examinations, cross-examinations, openings and closings and memorize all parts to prepare for competition.

Each member is provided a copy of the case description that they then read to prepare for their opening argument.

After traveling with its two teams – the crimson team and the white team – to Jackson, Miss., this past February, the crimson team placed high enough in the competition to earn a place in the next competition in Greenville, S.C., where they competed with other teams from schools such as Duke University, Harvard University and Yale University.

While there are no official criteria for joining the MTA, it is recommended that interested students sign up for a 300 level course in either the criminal justice or political science department. The criminal justice department also offers a course titled Judicial and Law Advocacy mutually and the MTA as a special topics course to instruct both members and nonmembers to prepare for courtroom procedures.

For more information about joining the Criminal Justice Mock Trial Association, students can email uacjmta@gmail.com.

Students Publish in Books and Journals and Present Original Research Findings at Conferences around the Nation

Student Publications


Nayab Hakim (with Dr. Adam Lankford), “From Columbine to Palestine: A Comparative Analysis of Rampage Shooters in the United States and Volunteer Suicide Bombers in the Middle East,” Aggression and Violent Behavior, 16(2), 98-107, 2011.


Student Presentations


Former Microsoft Chief Strategist and Senior U.S. Intelligence Officer addresses Cyber Security Threats

On September 20, 2012, Former Microsoft Chief Strategist and senior U.S. intelligence officer Jim Simon visited The University of Alabama to meet with students and faculty and give a talk titled “Change Happens: Why Cyber Conflict is Different.”

Simon is President and CEO of ieLLC, a privately held management-consulting firm specializing in advising companies and governments around the world on a variety of matters including business development, contract capture, M&A, and cyber security. He has received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, and attained the highest grade possible for a career intelligence officer.

He serves on various corporate boards as well as on numerous international governmental advisory groups. But most importantly, he is a graduate of the Capstone!

Before arriving on campus, Simon sent a thought-provoking introduction to get his audience thinking:

Once, weapons were so expensive, so complex, and required so many resources that only nation-states could build them. Banalities aside, the industrial age arsenals of national defense have been superseded by the information age garage and the Internet café. Once, the design and production of weapons was the province of craftsmen, or scientists, with years of study and training honed by constant practice. In history, this single fact alone restricted advances in weapons technologies to relatively few places where scientific knowledge, engineering technology, and key resources all came together to meet a need.

Today, companies, criminals, and informal, self-organizing groups invest more people and money than any single government. Talent, with notable exceptions, resides with companies, criminal enterprises, and self-organizing groups. Governments rise near the top, second only to criminal enterprise in only one area: technology devoted to attack and even then, their status is threatened by self-organizing groups.

Governments have reserved to themselves the right to wage large-scale violence, but they no longer have a monopoly on the means.

Asserting this proposition and examining the consequences of this evolution for modern society is the subject of this talk.

Simon’s talk focused on the emerging cybercrime threats to American security and its infrastructure. Over 350 students, faculty and University administrators attended, and their curiosity was well rewarded. Simon’s visit was co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Criminal Justice, the Center for Advanced Public Safety, and the Department of Computer Science.

U.S. Secret Service Agents, DEA Agents, and local Homicide Investigators visit Department for CJSA Events

During the past year, the Criminal Justice Student Association (CJSA) has hosted a number of compelling speakers, including special agents from the United States Secret Service and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and homicide investigators from several local police forces.

These speakers included Secret Service special agents, DEA special agents Mike Cuento and Jim Langnes from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) task force, and homicide investigator Toby Banks and Jimmy Horner from the Tuscaloosa and UA Police Departments.

The purpose of these talks was to assist interested students in career-planning, by having these highly accomplished practitioners share their own experiences on the path to success.

Speakers discussed their education, training, personal experiences, and range of professional responsibilities, the level of rigor and competition in securing federal law enforcement positions, and how students could successfully prepare for federal, state, or local law enforcement employment.

Students then engaged in an active question and answer sessions with each speaker.

Above: U.S. Secret Service Agents speak with Criminal Justice students

L-R: Homicide Investigators Jimmy Horner and Toby Banks
Hear about a few of our Graduate and Undergraduate Alumni...

A.T. Smith is currently Deputy Director of the United States Secret Service. As Deputy Director, Mr. Smith executes oversight of the agency’s daily operations, including approximately 7,000 personnel and $1.6 billion budget. He also develops and implements policy as it relates to the agency’s investigative and protective mission.

Mr. Smith has received numerous citations of merit as well as public service and law enforcement awards. Most recently, in September 2010, he received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service.

-A.T. Smith, M.S. in Criminal Justice, 1993

Queena Ruffin is currently pursuing her law degree at The University of Alabama School of Law.

“Before I began my undergraduate career in Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama, I knew that I wanted to be a lawyer. This in part was due to my military upbringing and my need to help those who can’t help themselves. After getting my bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice in 2010, I knew the next step was to obtain my Master’s Degree to further pursue my goals. The small class sizes and great faculty in the CJ Graduate Program at UA have definitely made me feel welcome.”

-Queena Ruffin, M.S. in Criminal Justice, 2012

John St. Pierre II is currently a law enforcement officer with the Alabaster Police Department.

“Within the first year of working, I was offered the position of Crime Scene Investigator. My supervisor over the CSI department stated the reason I was chosen was due to my detailed reports, knowledge and observational skills. I have enjoyed my career thus far and am planning to continue to move up the rankings…promotions are coming faster than I thought, thanks to my degree and hard work.”


Leslie Holt is a forensic investigator with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences in Mobile. She investigates suspicious deaths such as homicides, suicides, and possible accidents by going to crime scenes, taking photos and gathering information for detailed reports. Her departments cover eight counties, including Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, Coneced, Monroe, Choctaw, Clarke and Washington.

“In my free time I enjoy spending time with my boyfriend, family, friends and my two mini schnauzers: Wiley and Stanley. I enjoy being close to the beach and getting away when I have the free time. I also enjoy going back to Tuscaloosa for football games!”

-Leslie Holt, B.S. in Criminal Justice, 2007

Ashley McKenzie just graduated this past summer and is already working as a legal assistant with Fitzpatrick, Hagood, Smith and Uhl in Dallas, Texas, a full-service criminal defense law firm dedicated to defending individuals and corporations facing state and federal criminal prosecutions and investigations.

-Ashley McKenzie, B.S. in Criminal Justice, 2012

Sarah Daley is currently enrolled in The University of Virginia’s School of Law.

“The faculty [at The University of Alabama] is great at both explaining concepts to you and pushing you to learn more on your own. After getting my Master’s, I plan to go on to law school, and I am positive that this program will better prepare me for that step.”

-Sarah Daley, M.S. in Criminal Justice, 2012

Jason C. Neff is an attorney with the law firm Sims & Neff.

He has been practicing law since 2001, and was recently honored with a merit award for exceptional performance in criminal cases by the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Along with criminal defense, he has also practiced in other areas of the legal field, including automobile and trucking accidents, workers’ compensation, personal injury, insurance claims, and civil litigation.

-Jason C. Neff, B.S. in Criminal Justice, 1998
Social Stigma and Sexual Epidemics: Dangerous Dynamics
By Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein

Dr. Lichtenstein draws on cases around the world to illustrate how sexual epidemics continue to be shaped by powerful forces of race, gender, and the lingering consequences of history.

Illuminating the continuity of ideas and dynamics that affect both individual behavior and public health responses, Lichtenstein reveals a vicious interplay between the stigmas of social status and the prevalence of sexually transmitted infection (STI). She also shows how the consequences of that interplay spread beyond the stigmatized to affect all social groups. Her insights suggest alternative approaches for understanding, as well as slowing, the spread of STIs.

“Well-researched and engaging.... Takes the reader on a journey across history and around the world to illuminate the sociological dynamics of sexual epidemics old and new.”

—Dr. Laura Carpenter, Vanderbilt University

The Myth of Martyrdom: What Really Drives Suicide Bombers, Rampage Shooters, and Other Self-Destructive Killers
By Dr. Adam Lankford

Hailed as a “Book to Watch For” by The New Yorker, and “especially timely” by Foreign Policy, The Myth of Martyrdom takes a startling look at what truly motivates suicide bombers and other self-destructive killers.

Lankford counters the conventional wisdom that suicide bombers are psychologically normal men and women driven by self-sacrifice, and reveals that most suicide terrorists are like any other suicidal person—longing to escape from unbearable pain, be it depression, anxiety, marital strife, or professional failure. Their “martyrdom” is essentially a cover for an underlying death wish.

Drawing on an array of primary sources, including suicide notes, love letters, diary entries, and martyrdom videos, Lankford reveals the important parallels that exist between suicide bombers, airplane hijackers, cult members, and rampage shooters. The result is an astonishing account of rage and shame that will transform the way we think of terrorism forever.

“A lively, insightful, and evidence-based analysis of the most disruptive phenomenon in world affairs today. Adam Lankford challenges the conventional wisdom about suicide terrorism in a way that respects the facts, resolves the paradox (with profound implications for many other issues), and not least, de-romanticizes this loathsome practice.”

—Dr. Steven Pinker, Harvard College Professor of Psychology, Harvard University
Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology: A Mixed Methods Approach

By Dr. Mark M. Lanier and Dr. Lisa Briggs

Intuitive, accessible, and filled with real-world testimonials from actual criminal justice scholars, Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology: A Mixed Methods Approach gives students the tools they need to understand the research they read and take the first steps toward producing compelling research projects themselves. It features a logical, step-by-step organization that follows the stages of a research project, a robust pedagogy that includes chapter objectives, key terms, a running glossary, chapter-ending discussion questions, and a companion website.

“I love the approach of this book. The authors make research come alive through stories that illustrate the methods presented in the chapters. The hands-on exercises and end-of-chapter discussion questions generate interest and teach students to learn by doing.”

—Dr. Linda Keena, University of Mississippi

From the Crime to the Courts

Edited by Mr. Douglas Klutz and Dr. Mark M. Lanier

Academic Advisor, Intern Director and full time instructor Doug Klutz recently published his first edited volume From the Crime to the Courts by Cognella Publishing. All of the proceeds from this book will go into a fund to benefit Criminal Justice students.

The book uses current research and contemporary issues to familiarize students with the structure and nature of both the criminal justice system and criminology. From the Crime to the Courts includes a range of primary source material, including the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and many famous Supreme Court cases.
Dr. Ida M. Johnson joined the faculty of the Department of Criminal Justice in 1986. She recently celebrated 25 years of service at The University of Alabama. Growing up, Dr. Johnson attended and graduated from Pine Hill High School in Pine Hill, Alabama. As a high school student, she was a library student-assistant. It was here that she read a book, Scotchboro Boy, about Haywood Patterson’s plight of spending years as an inmate at Holman Prison in Atmore, Alabama. This book developed Dr. Johnson’s interest in the criminal justice system. When she entered Alabama State University as a freshman, Dr. Johnson knew that she would become a criminal justice major. As a criminal justice major, she eventually tapped into her special interest in criminal justice after completing a semester-long internship at Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women in Wetumpka, Alabama. The internship experience shaped and defined Dr. Johnson’s interest in gender and criminal justice-related issues. Since receiving her B.S. in criminal justice, she has expanded her research interest in gender and crime by examining public perceptions of sexual harassment, domestic violence victims’ decision-making process, system response to domestic violence, domestic homicide, cross-perceptions of female elders and caregivers, date rape, barriers to reporting domestic violence, and barriers to women’s success on parole.

Dr. Johnson received her Ph.D. in Criminalology from Florida State University. She continued her research interest in gender and crime by focusing on the violence that women experience in intimate relationships and the process of extricating themselves from abusive relationships. Dr. Johnson joined the faculty of the Department of Criminal Justice in 1986. When she joined the department, there were no classes that reflected issues surrounding gender, race, and the criminal justice system. Dr. Johnson was selected to be a Lilly Teaching Endowment Scholar and she designed a course on gendered justice and the death penalty. She taught the course from 1991-2010 as an experimental course that allowed students to learn about gendered justice and to talk with female inmates, women on death row, correctional officers who supervise women inmates, and members of the Alabama Board of Pardons and Parole who determine whether and when female inmates should be released from prison. Dr. Johnson also developed one of the department’s core courses, Racial Minorities, Criminality, and Social Justice.

As a tenure-track faculty member at the Capstone, Dr. Johnson joined a department with colleagues who were very supportive of her and her professional goals. She was actively involved in the department’s graduate residential and practitioner’s programs. The Criminal Justice Practitioner’s Program was a viable program that lasted over 30 years. The program concentrated classroom time into a two-week intensive session supplemented by a four-week reading session. In the residential and practitioner’s programs, Dr. Johnson taught criminological theory, research methods, correctional policy, and seminar in domestic violence. Her research agenda continued to focus on social and legal responses to domestic violence and the public perceptions of the impact that domestic violence laws have on intimate partner incidents. By the 1990s, Dr. Johnson’s research interest continued to focus on gender and crime but from a different perspective. She became interested in female homicide and motives. Also, during the 1990s, she was presented with an opportunity to become involved in a research project outside of her gender and crime research interest. She was hired by ABT as a consultant to evaluate the City of Birmingham’s School Resource Officers (SROs) Program. The evaluation research led to the publication of an article that examined the impact of SROs on school violence and disciplinary infractions. By the time Dr. Johnson achieved the rank of full professor, she decided it was time to explore one of her professional goals of being an administrator. She served as Chair of the Department of Women’s Studies (6 years); Interim Director of the African American Studies Program (1 year); and Interim Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice (2 years). When she returned to the status of a full-time faculty member, Dr. Johnson expanded her research interest on gender and crime by conducting 60 in-depth face to face interviews with women parolees in the state of Alabama. The study explored the barriers that women face when they make the transition from prison to community living under the Department of Corrections.

In her free time, Dr. Johnson enjoys gardening, attending antique auctions, playing word games, and spending time with her family. She also likes the simpler things in life such as reading a book, watching a movie, or taking a morning walk.
Dr. Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar was born and raised in Mulberry, Indiana. "Dr. Kate," as her students refer to her, began studying the personality characteristics of computer hackers during her junior year at Purdue University. Applying the behavioral sciences to the new field of computer forensics was a foreign idea, and she began her quest to better understand how people behave in cyberspace. While working on her B.A. at Purdue University, Dr. Kate was able to gain law enforcement experience by working as a specialist with Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana and as a jail officer in Carroll County. If at all possible, she wanted to blend her love of law enforcement with the field of psychology. In 2005, she received her BA in Psychology / Law and Society at Purdue University. However, this country girl was bound for New York City. In 2007, she completed her MA in Forensic Psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (City University of New York). Dr. Kate’s Masters thesis was the first to study the personality characteristics of self-reported Internet child pornography users using an Internet-based research design. She found that women were engaging in child pornography use more than previously expected, and 1 out of 10 respondents in her sample self-reported the use of child pornography.

After completing her Master’s, Dr. Kate decided to continue her passion for research by applying to the Cyber Forensics Ph.D. program at Purdue University. This program takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and researching computer crime. In the College of Technology at Purdue University, Dr. Kate continued to merge her two passions—the behavioral sciences and computer forensics. In 2011, Dr. Kate finished her Ph.D. at Purdue University with a dissertation expanding her research on the personality characteristics of Internet child pornography users. While at Purdue University, she investigated whether Asperger’s Syndrome, an Autism-spectrum disorder, was associated with computer criminal behavior, and whether a person’s “age of onset” for adult pornography use was a risk factor for later deviant pornography use.

After completing her Ph.D., Dr. Kate taught at Seattle University before joining the Department of Criminal Justice at The University of Alabama as an Assistant Professor. In Fall 2012, Dr. Kate began teaching a Computer Criminals and Cyber Forensics course, which focuses on the different types of computer crime, possible causes and correlates, and the forensic investigation of cyberspace. At The University of Alabama, her research will continue to merge the behavioral sciences with computer forensics using Internet-based research designs.

Outside of work, Dr. Kate and her husband enjoy running half marathons (13.1 miles). Their new years resolution was to run one half marathon each month! They also enjoy “fun runs” including Seattle’s “Polar Bear Plunge” where runners finish a 3-mile run by diving into Lake Washington on New Years Day! In addition, Dr. Kate is an avid yogi who enjoys hot vinyasa and acro-yoga, which is a blend of acrobatics and yoga (look it up on YouTube)! Dr. Kate and her husband also rescue and adopt ferrets—the one pictured here was Winston, who passed away last year of a rare liver disease. If you look closely at the picture, you can see the dust bunnies in his whiskers from when he snuck out the back door and ended up playing in our garage! They currently have a ferret named Priscilla who is a cancer survivor! Why ferrets? Because Dr. Kate’s husband is allergic to cats and their 600 square foot apartment in downtown Seattle was too small for a dog! Ferrets are the 3rd most common pet in the United States, and they are also one of the most neglected, so Dr. Kate and her husband decided to adopt and foster them whenever possible.

Although new residents in Alabama, Dr. Kate and her husband remain die-hard Purdue University fans (especially basketball), but they are warming up to the idea of “Crimson” and learning to greet others with “Roll Tide!”

Above: Dr. Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar and Winston the ferret
CJ Alumni: Keep us Posted!

If you are a graduate from The University of Alabama’s Department of Criminal Justice, we would love to hear from you!

Please let us know about any news from your life that we can share with other members of our community: new jobs, promotions, marriages, kids, arrests, and so on 🎉!

Email: mmlanier@as.ua.edu