

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA[®]

Newsletter: Spring 2016

A Message from Our Department Chair, Dr. Lesley Reid



Welcome to the University of Alabama, Department of Criminal Justice annual newsletter. This has been another productive year for the Department. We completed our first Academic Program Review in over a decade. This process allowed us to reflect on how far we have come and chart a path for the future. How far have we come, you ask? Here are some highlights:

- In 2000-2001, we had 178 majors. In 2015-2016, we had 725.
- In 2000-2001, we awarded 66 Bachelor's degrees. In 2015-2016, we awarded 236.
- In Fall 2000, we generated 2,166 credit hours. In Fall 2015, we generated 11,636 credit hours.

To say the Department has grown in the past 15 years is an understatement to say the least. We are now one of the most popular majors on campus. Our growth is due in large part to the efforts of our dedicated faculty. Beyond their hard work in the classroom, our faculty are prolific researchers who published over 20 peer-reviewed articles this year. You can read more about the accomplishments of just a few of our faculty on page three.

And what does the future hold for the Department? We will likely see more faculty joining our ranks. In fact we will have two new assistant professors starting in Fall 2016. Our undergraduate student body will continue to grow, as will our graduate program. We will even begin exploring the feasibility of adding a PhD program to our curriculum. Whatever the future holds for us, we hope you will continue to be part of it. Let us know what you are doing by visiting our website at cj.ua.edu and submitting an Alumni Update Form. And find out up-to-the minute news about the Department by liking us on Facebook or following us on Twitter.

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JECTF Internship Program is Growing

Technology often evolves more quickly than law enforcement's ability to deal with it. The Joint Electronic Crimes Task Force, established in 2014 with a grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, enhances that ability. Since 2015, University of Alabama's students have been serving as interns to this partnership between the Department of Criminal Justice, the College of Arts and Sciences, and local, state & federal law enforcement agencies.

Student interns have the opportunity to develop their own professional expertise while providing law enforcement access to their first-hand knowledge of social media and emerging technologies. Today seven interns are at work at the JECTF, learning how to access encrypted systems, retrieve deleted information from devices, and perform grant-related research. Students also plan their own research projects.

Dr. Diana Dolliver, the program's academic director and a Department of Criminal Justice faculty member, anticipates continued growth of the internship and of the JECTF as time



Department Events

The Department of Criminal Justice hosted **two community forums** last semester. On October 1, student, faculty, and community members were invited to discuss **“Cybercrime & Stolen Data.”** On December 1, the department responded to student concerns by hosting a panel in cooperation with local law enforcement, **“Obeying the Law & Protecting Your Rights.”**



Before most home games this year, students, faculty and alumni met in front of Farrah Hall for **Criminal Justice Tailgate Parties**. The fun continues next season! **Join us this fall.**



Tailgaters Katie Green, Larry Boothe, Kellin Treadway & Valerie Trull

Alpha Phi Sigma hosted their annual **career fair** on November 3. The event was attended by employees of local, state, and federal organizations within the criminal justice field.



The Department’s annual **Fall Colloquium Series** included talks by Dr. Tricia Witte on intimate partner violence and by **Dr. Richard Fording** on hate groups in the U.S.

The Spring 2016 Colloquium Series began Friday, February 19 with a talk by the Department’s own **Dr. Joshua Wakeham**. Dr. Wakeham spoke on “Organizing StreetSafe.” StreetSafe is a Boston-based gang intervention program. On March 25, **Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein** spoke on “Women Foreclosed: A Gender Analysis of Housing Loss in the Deep South.” On April 15, **Dr. Lesley Reid** spoke on “Sexually Oriented Businesses and Ambient Crime in a Southern City”

Barber & Lichtenstein Publish Article on HIV Attitudes and Convicted Offenders



Brad Barber, a 2013 graduate of the Masters program, and Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein questioned 197 probationers and parolees about what they know about HIV, what they know about mandatory HIV disclosure laws, and what their attitudes are concerning these laws. They then analyzed results to determine that disclosure laws legitimize stigma and may present a barrier to care. Their study was the first of its kind to investigate the possible links between HIV criminalization and barriers to HIV prevention and care among convicted offenders. Their findings appear in the September 2015 issue of the journal *HIV Law & Policy*.

Lankford Returns from Prolific Sabbatical



Dr. Adam Lankford spent the Fall 2015 semester focusing on his research. He returned having published a number of new articles. Among them are “Are There Reasons for Optimism in the Battle Against Sexual Assault?” in *Sociology Compass*; “Are America’s Public Mass Shooters Unique? A Comparative Analysis of Offenders in the United States and Other Countries” in the *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*; “Race and Mass Murder in the United States: A Social Behavioral Analysis” in *Current Sociology*; “Mass Murderers in the United States: Predictors of Offender Deaths” in the *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*; and “Is Suicide Terrorism Really the Product of an Evolved Sacrificial Tendency? A Review of Mammalian Research and Application of Evolutionary Theory” in *Comprehensive Psychology*. In addition, he has been cited in or interviewed by dozens of news sources over the past several months.

Lockwood & Prohaska Research Intimate Partner Violence & Law Enforcement



Daniel Lockwood, a 2013 graduate of the Masters Program, and Dr. Ariane Prohaska reviewed existing literature about the influence officers’ gender had on their responses to intimate partner violence, including whether or not to make an arrest and their decision-making criteria. Evidence supports the argument that common beliefs about gender roles and a masculine police culture lead to a failure to respond seriously to intimate partner violence. Lockwood and Prohaska propose that interventions in police training, policies of mandatory arrest, and improved recruiting techniques would ameliorate these problems. Their work appears in the January-June 2015 issue of the *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*.

Contributions to the Department of Criminal Justice go towards ensuring our faculty’s ability to work on the cutting edge of criminological and sociological research and our students’ ability to learn in the most scholarly environment possible. We appreciate the benevolence of our alumni and friends.

You may contribute to the Department of Criminal Justice through a check, a credit card contribution, a gift of securities, a gift in trust, a bequest, or a transfer of property such as real estate. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, and may be designated for specific purposes.

Gifts can be made online at www.onlinegiving.ua.edu by specifying the Department of Criminal Justice. Gifts can be sent directly to the Department at the following address:

Department of Criminal Justice,
The University of Alabama
Box 870320
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0320

Department Award Winners Announced

The Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama is pleased to honor the accomplishments of its many students, including the following winners of departmental awards:

Larry Boothe, Outstanding Graduate Student Award

This award is made in recognition of students' academic accomplishments in the Department of Criminal Justice.

Larry graduated in December 2015 with his Master's degree and is currently working in the Tuscaloosa Public Library System. He's also an alumnus of the Department's Undergraduate program. Larry intends to pursue a dual MBA and JD in fall 2016. In his spare time, Larry volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and is active in his church.



Daniella David, Chairperson's Award of Merit

This award is made in recognition of students' academic accomplishments in the Department of Criminal Justice and is chosen annually by the chair of the Department.

Dani is a Criminal Justice Major minoring in Computer Tech & Applications. After her 2017 graduation, she plans to go to law and then become a defense attorney.



Elyse DePorter, Bo Robertson Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award.

This award is presented to students who have demonstrated superior academic performance and who are majoring in Criminal Justice.

Ellie is a Criminal Justice Major minoring in Psychology and a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society. After her graduation in 2018, she hopes to pursue a Masters in Psychology.



Jacob Levin, Scott Deaton Endowed Scholarship

The Scott Deaton Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice was established to honor the memory of Scott Deaton and to promote academic excellence for students majoring in Criminal Justice. Students' leadership and academic credentials are considered.

Jake is double majoring in Criminal Justice and Communication Studies and anticipates graduating in December of 2016. He's involved with Alpha Phi Sigma, Sigma Phi Epsilon, the Pre-Law Student Association, and the Criminal Justice Student Association.



Krista Grace Pruitt, Scott Deaton Endowed Scholarship

Graci is a Criminal Justice major minoring in Addiction and Recovery and will graduate in December of 2016. She is currently participating in a joint internship with the United States Marshalls and the DEA in Birmingham. She also volunteers with Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Posse and has recently completed the Tuscaloosa County Citizen Academy and passed the Civil Service exam.



The Graduate Honors Convocation was held Monday, April 4 in the Recital Hall of the Moody Music Building. Undergraduate Honors Convocation was Friday, April 8 at in the Concert Hall of Moody Music Building. A reception honoring both graduate and undergraduate awardees in the Department was held at the University Club on April 8.

Alumni Updates

Mason Wallace, a 2013 graduate of the Masters program, is an investigator for the Tuscaloosa Public Defender's Office. **Alexandra Wade** & **Daniel Lockwood**, also 2013 graduates of the Masters program, are Juvenile Probation Officers in Tuscaloosa. (pictured, left to right)



Lauren Alexander, a 2015 graduate of the Masters program, works for the University of Alabama as a Title IX investigator. Her main responsibility is to interview students and build cases that can be presented to the Title IX Coordinator for decision-making and sanctions. She also provides resources to students involved in cases of sexual misconduct.

CadeAnn Smith, a 2011 double major in Criminal Justice and Political Science, worked on Capitol Hill for Congressman Robert Aderholt. She's currently enrolled in the University of Alabama School of Law and plans to become a criminal prosecutor.

Rita Allyse Martin, a 2014 graduate of the Masters program, is a Budget Analyst with the Department of Labor's Departmental Budget Center through the Presidential Management Fellows Program. She assists a portfolio of DOL agencies with their budget submissions each fiscal year and advocates for program increases.

Do you have news you'd like share in a future issue or online? Email cjdept@as.ua.edu or complete the form online at cj.ua.edu.

Julie Esposito Johnson is a 1995 graduate of the University of Alabama and is a Captain in the New Haven (CT) Police Department. We caught up with her recently in an online interview.

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CJ: *What did you learn during your time as a student in the Department of Criminal Justice that you feel prepared you for your current role?*

JJ: I was on the volleyball team for two years and then became the single mother of a daughter. I brought my daughter to school with me for my last three semesters. While I was in school, between these two totally different situations, I really learned to manage my time between school work and real life! The school was very demanding but the instructors were all very professional and compassionate. I know that in my line of work, you have to be strong and disciplined, but you can be compassionate too.

CJ: *What's your favorite part of your job?*

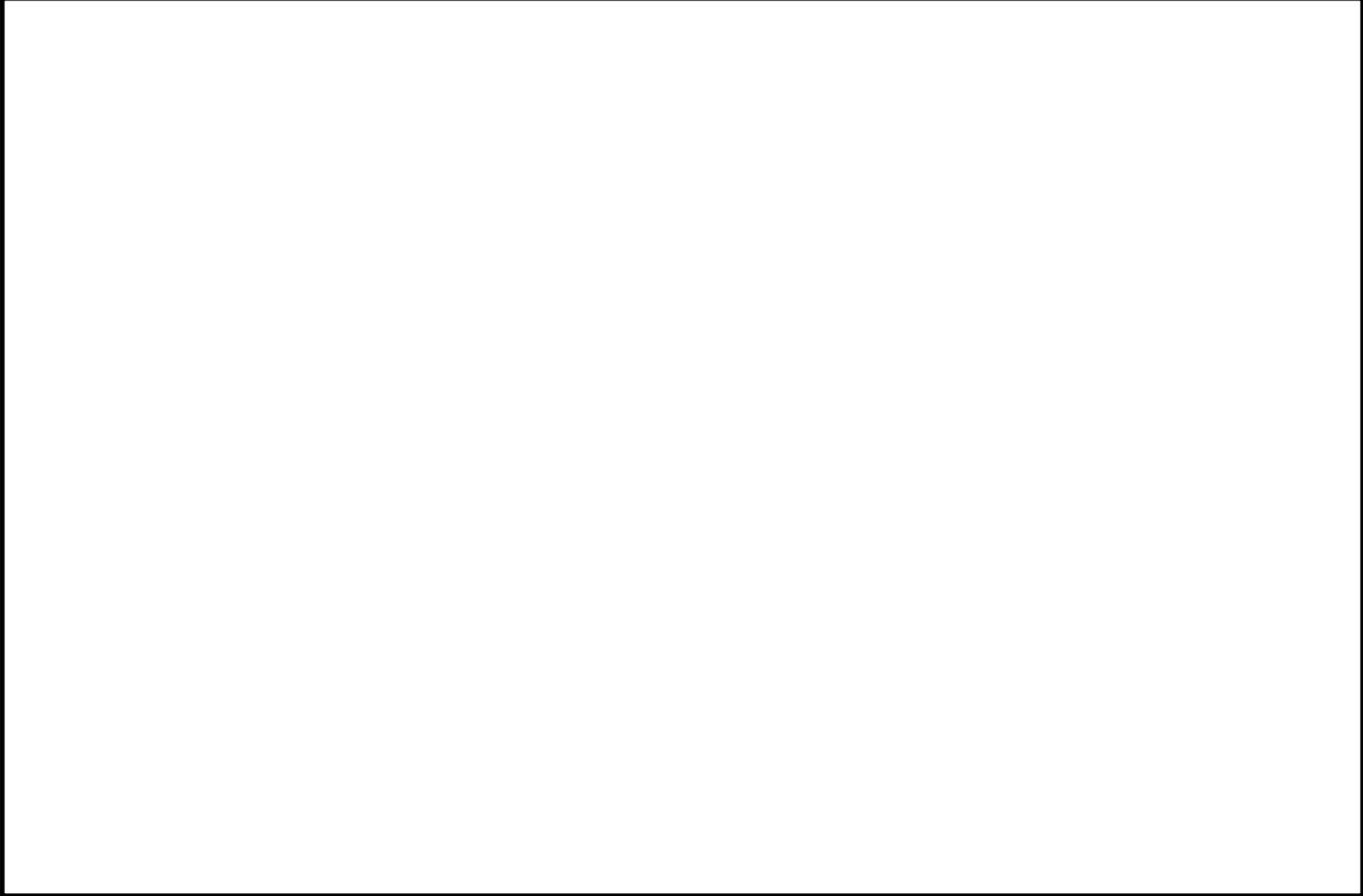
JJ: I have the opportunity everyday to make a difference in someone's life. It doesn't get any better than that!

CJ: *Do you have a favorite memory to share from your time here?*

JJ: I had so many experiences at UA that made me into the person I am today. BUT winning the football National Championship in '92 was pretty special. **Roll Tide!**

CJ: *If you could give current students a piece of advice, what would you say?*

JJ: Keep an open mind about what you want to do with your life. Criminal Justice was the third major I had at UA, before I took a juvenile justice class that changed my life. Even after graduating, I really didn't know what direction I wanted to go into, until I got accepted into the police academy. Life takes many turns, so keep your options open. You may never know what opportunities present themselves. Also, no matter who you interact with, be respectful, whether it's a victim or an arrestee. There is no reason to be disrespectful. You never know when that person can help you in another case. When a person you have arrested still shows you respect, you have done your job right. Whatever you do, work your hardest, expect the best out of yourself and others, and success will follow!



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