

Department of Criminal Justice

College of Arts and Sciences THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Spring 2005 Newsletter

Notes from the Chair, Dr. Celia Lo



The Department of Criminal Justice has had a wonderful year since you last heard from us through our department newsletter. The department faculty numbers are dramatically higher this year.

The regular faculty presently includes Robert Jenkot, Ida Johnson, Young Kim, David Klemmack, Bronwen Lichtenstein, Robert Sigler, Richard Spano, Jimmy Williams, and myself. New professors Jenkot, Kim, Klemmack, and Lichtenstein have significantly contributed to the department by teaching courses in methodology, criminological theory, sociological theory, organized crime, health and crime, and juvenile delinquency. In addition, courses vital to our programs continue to be taught by temporary instructors who are accomplished and prominent in the academic and/or professional fields of criminal justice and sociology. For the spring semester, these include Dia Brannen, Judge John England, Randall Farmer, Paul Mills, Lin Olin, Quanda Watson-Stevenson, and Lisa Young.

Recently, we conducted several studies to understand the needs and wants of our constituents, who are vital to the success of this department. Thanks to those who participated, data collection is complete for the department's alumni outcomes survey. In general, the 81 alumni answering the online survey reported strong overall satisfaction with both The University of Alabama and the Department of Criminal Justice. Three distinct "degree groups" can be formed from

the respondents: a B.A.-only group (N=39), who received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at UA; an M.S.-only group (N=22), who earned the master's degree in criminal justice; and a B.A./M.S. group (N=20), who received both these degrees at UA. The results show that the M.S.-only group is the most satisfied of the three groups; the B.A.-only and B.A./M.S. groups reported similar levels of satisfaction for their departmental and university experiences. Members of the two latter groups indicated that the department and the University need to better prepare criminal justice majors by providing a variety of instructional approaches in the classroom, a variety of courses, and competitive skills for the job market. Visit <http://bama.ua.edu/~bamacj/> to view the full report.

Within our department, a study was conducted employing the teaching evaluations, instructors' demographic variables, and grade distribution data from undergraduate and graduate courses we taught during the 2004 spring and fall semesters. The results find no significant difference between the evaluations of part-time temporary instructors and regular faculty members. Higher teaching evaluations, however, were associated with male professors, white professors, and the relatively low number of "C" grades given.

In addition to these studies, I conducted an exit interview study of graduating seniors and master's students from April 13 to May 15, 2004. Overall, the 30 exiting students showed satisfaction with both courses and undergraduate advising in the

department. They felt that the department's courses enhanced their writing, communication, and leadership skills, as well as their career options. Students also named several instructors as people who had made an important difference in their lives. Some students expressed a desire for more familiarity with employment opportunities and made suggestions for introducing students to these opportunities.

In response to these comments and concerns, the Department of Criminal Justice arranged for professionals in the criminal justice and social science fields to make presentations to our undergraduate and graduate students on career choices and employment opportunities. The presenters included UA law professors, forensic psychiatrists, and former FBI agents. Afterward, a number of students found the information useful and appreciated the department's effort to bridge education and employment. The department plans to continue this effort to facilitate students' pursuit of their career goals.

In closing, I wish to offer my thanks to Brenda Parsons for coordinating this newsletter. Brenda has recently been promoted to the office associate senior position, where she directs the department's main office. I would also like to welcome Betty Hicks, who joined the office staff in February 2004. Their dedication to our department goals, and their efficient management of our office, have made life easier for faculty and students in the Department of Criminal Justice.

Thank You!

The department thanks the following for their generous contributions last year:

Mr. Raymond Gallagher
Dr. Celia C. Lo
Mrs. Emma L. Lowe
Ms. Denise L. Taylor

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

Criminal Justice major, Anita Anderson has been selected to serve as the new president for the 2004–05 year. After graduation, she plans to enter our graduate program to complete her master's degree and later go on to law school. According to the past president, Lisa Young, "the organization is in excellent hands with Anita as president."

Alpha Phi Sigma will host its annual career fair this spring. We're expecting to have more representatives than the previous years—making this the best and most informative career fair ever! Our mission is to get the entire campus to attend the career fair. Since it is important to give back to this community, we will focus on community outreach by incorporating volunteer services into this year's activities. The primary objectives for this year are increasing organization membership, encouraging involvement among inactive members, and getting all members actively involved in the local community.

Criminal Justice Student Association

Officers for 2004–05

President—Kaysha Patel

Vice President—Matthew Price

Webmaster—Sabrina Thrasher

Faculty Advisor—Richard Spano

CJSA

This fall we recruited members at Get on Board Day. Our membership is rapidly growing, and we have many exciting activities planned. Both old and new members are encouraged to join us for meetings and suggest how to improve CJSA.

We will hold an informational session focusing on universities across the nation that offer master's and doctoral degrees in criminal justice. Brochures from a variety of schools including UA, FSU, Maryland, SUNY, Indiana, and Georgia State will be available. We plan to have a graduate director available to discuss applying to graduate programs, the GRE test, assistantships, thesis/p&p options, etc. We are currently designing this year's CJSA t-shirt, available for purchase in March, and are planning plenty of volunteer opportunities including youth mentoring and a pen pal program. We are also working closely with Crime Stoppers of Tuscaloosa and the Tuscaloosa Police Department.

Visit our website at www.bama.ua.edu/~cjsa. Thanks to our webmaster, Sabrina Thrasher, the site is filled with details about our organization, our activities, pictures from past events, and minutes from our meetings. T-shirt order forms and membership applications are also available.

Current students interested in joining CJSA or alumni interested in speaking to CJSA—we'd love to hear from you! Please e-mail us at bamacjsa@yahoo.com.

Our New Graduate Students

Chad Allen of Jasper, Alabama, earned his degree from UA in criminal justice with a minor in philosophy in May 2004. Chad's long-term goal is to find a steady job with benefits working for people who really need him. He likes to work out at the Rec Center and volunteer at the West Alabama Food Bank.

Dustin Draine of Stockton, Alabama, earned a degree in criminal justice and minor in political science from UA in May 2004. He is currently a residence hall director at Palmer Hall and a teaching assistant for the department. In his spare time, Dustin likes to duck hunt and fish.

Alicia Faire of Enterprise, Alabama, earned her degree in criminal justice with a minor in English from UA in December of 2002. Alicia's ultimate goal is to complete her juris doctorate in civil rights law.

J. B. Hutchison of Birmingham, Alabama, earned his degree in May 2003 from the University of Montevallo. He is a residence hall director and a teaching assistant for the department.

Patrick McCracken Link of Decatur, Alabama, earned his degree in political science in December 2004 from UA.

Beatrice Swindle, a former Californian, has lived in Tuscaloosa since 1991. She earned a degree in psychology in May 2000 and a degree in criminal justice in May 2004. Beatrice has been married for five years and not only is a graduate student who works, she also takes care of four children. Her eventual goal is to work with juvenile delinquents that have drug or alcohol problems.

Sabrina Ann Thrasher of Springville, Alabama, earned her degree in criminal justice with a minor in computing technology applications from UA in December 2004. Sabrina plays clarinet in the Million Dollar Band, Symphonic Band, and Pep Band. After earning her master's degree, Sabrina plans to apply for a position with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Laura Katherine Wester of Boone, North Carolina, earned her degree in political science from Appalachian State University in 2003.

Koyakesa Shawndrell Williams of Hammond, Louisiana, earned her degree in biology from Nicholls State University in May 2002. Her goal is to work as a forensic biologist or as a wildlife forensic scientist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Faculty News



Ida Johnson is a professor of criminal justice and chair of the Department of Women's Studies. Recently, she published an article in a scholarly journal and also made a presentation at a professional conference.



Department Chair **Celia Lo** has published an article in a scholarly journal and presented two papers at professional conferences. Presently, she is teaching Seminar in Criminological Theory at the graduate level.



Graduate studies director **Robert Sigler** published an article in a scholarly journal in the past year and currently teaches History of Crime and Its Treatment; and Racial Minorities, Criminality, and Social Justice at the undergraduate level.



Undergraduate studies director **Richard Spano** currently has two articles in press in scholarly journals and presented one paper at a professional conference last year. He received two extramural grants for his projects concerning youth violence. Currently, he teaches Introduction to Criminal Justice at the undergraduate level.

CJ Alumni

1981

Connie S. Montgomery, B.S.—Attorney; J.D., Loyola University

1982

Joe Stephens, M.S.—Retired from AOC (Madison County Circuit Court)

1987

Lee Ann (Smith) Ballard, M.S.—Criminal Justice Professor

Tommie M. Black, M.S.—Retired-Executive Assistant Alabama Peace Officer's Standards and Training Commission

Lee Brannon Powell, M.S.—Attorney; M.A. in Education, UAB; Ed.S., UAB; J.D., Birmingham School of Law

1988

William S. Carson, B.S.—ABC Enforcement Agent II/Sgt.

1989

Gary L. Ballard, M.S.—Criminal Justice Professor

1990

Drew Brewer, B.S.—Special Agent, FBI; M.S. in Criminology, Florida State University

Christopher O. Carroll, B.S.—Juvenile Probation Officer; M.S. in Public Administration, Troy State University

Charles "Darren" McGairty, B.S.—Police Officer, Family Services Investigations

1991

Ira L. Frank, M.S.—Senior Special Agent, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; J.D., St. John's University School of Law

1992

Ron Latimer, B.S.—Police Captain

1993

Jeffrey C. Lee, M.S.—Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice Department, Troy University; Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi

1995

William B. Strickland III, B.S.—Judicial Law Clerk/Court Security; M.S., Jacksonville State University; J.D., Birmingham School of Law

1997

Joy Klayman, M.S.—Senior Special Investigator, GEICO Insurance; Police Certification, 1999; Private Investigator, 1998

1998

Bill Comer, M.S.—Security Management

Timothy D. Gallagher, B.S.—Assistant District Attorney; J.D., Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Eric Wade, B.S.—Attorney; J.D., Cumberland School of Law

Sharhonda M. Woods, B.S.—Captain, U.S. Air Force

Vincent E. Williams, M.S.—Social Service Case Worker, Child Protective Services

1999

Buster Duman, M.S.—Special Agent, U.S. Department of State; served on former Secretary of State Colin Powell's security detail

Mark M. Taylor, M.S.—Deputy Sheriff

Elizabeth Vance, M.S.—Paralegal; Adjunct Faculty Member

2000

Christian A. Nappo, M.S.—Lee County (Fla.) District School Systems; article on "Charles J. Guiteau" published January 2005 in *Famous American Crimes and Trials*; admitted to University of South Florida's Library and Information Science master's program summer 2004

Michael Wigginton, Jr., M.S.—Retired from U.S. Customs Service as Senior Special Agent in 2004; Ph.D. Student, University of New Orleans/College of Urban and Public Affairs

2001

Ryan E. Arton, M.S.—Special Agent, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

2002

Laura Danielle Johnson, B.S.—Pro Bono Law Clerk; student, Florida State University School of Law

Betty L. Walker, B.S.—Agent

2003

Calvin J. H. Harkness, B.S.—Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Coordinator, Private Investigator, Private Security Consultant

Jonathan Yasuda, B.S.—2nd Lt. U.S. Army Military Police



Jimmy Williams is associate dean of multicultural affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences as well as associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. He is presently teaching Judicial Process at the undergraduate level.

New Faculty



Bob Jenkot defended his dissertation last summer and has recently submitted the final document to his committee chair. In the past year, Professor Jenkot authored five entries for an encyclopedia and presented two papers to professional conferences. He is teaching Organized Crime



at the graduate level and History of Crime and Its Treatment at the undergraduate level.

Young Kim presented a paper at a national conference in November. He teaches Research Methods at the undergraduate level and a juvenile delinquency graduate course.



David Klemmack has academic appointments in New College and the Department of Criminal Justice. He has two articles forthcoming in scholarly journals and recently presented two papers at a professional conference. Dr. Klemmack teaches two Introduction to Sociology classes.



In the past year, **Bronwen Lichtenstein** has published three studies in scholarly journals; four additional articles are forthcoming. She also made four presentations to professional meetings last year. Beyond this scholarship, Dr. Lichtenstein has been notably active in grant writing. Her diligence was rewarded in the past year with the receipt of four extramural grants. This semester, she is teaching at the graduate level on the topic of health and crime.

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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 _____

E-mail Address _____

Occupation _____

Advanced Degrees and Institutions _____

NEWS TO SHARE

