

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Criminal Justice  
432-C Farrah Hall  
Box 870320  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0320

Phone: (205) 348-7795  
Fax: (205) 348-7178  
E-mail: [cjdept@cj.as.ua.edu](mailto:cjdept@cj.as.ua.edu)  
Web Address: [www.cj.ua.edu](http://www.cj.ua.edu)



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Department of  
**Criminal Justice**  
College of Arts and Sciences

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Spring 2008 Newsletter

Notes from the Chair, Dr. Celia Lo



In keeping with rapid enrollment growth at the University in recent years, the Department of Criminal Justice has seen its share of students walk these halls as they pursue undergraduate degrees with a criminal justice major, a criminal justice minor, and/or a sociology minor, or as they pursue master's degrees in criminal justice. As of last December, the number of department alumni has almost reached the 2,000 mark. Through the use of technology and development of innovative teaching methods, the department and its faculty have truly promoted active learning among our students, who are expected not just to acquire knowledge in the field of criminal justice and sociology, but also to build critical thinking and communication skills, preparing for their professional goals and careers. A great deal of credit for promoting student learning and facilitating students' future endeavors should be given to the criminal justice faculty and staff, who continue to strive to provide an appropriate environment in which students will grow academically and personally.

If you have been reviewing our newsletters in past years, you probably have noticed some turnover in our personnel. Robert Sigler and David Klemmack, both of whom had worked at the University for over 30 years, retired last year. We welcomed David Forde and Ariane Prohaska to the faculty this academic year. Currently, our tenure-track and tenured faculty members are David Forde, Robert Jenkot, Ida Johnson, Bronwen Lichtenstein, Ariane Prohaska, Jimmy Williams, and myself. In fall 2008, we will welcome to the department two additional tenure-track members, Rebecca Boyd and Adam Lankford. Full-time and part-time instructors who have continued to contribute to the Department of Criminal Justice include Ross Bryan, Dustin Draime, John England, Jeff Hartley, Wanda Hunter, Ebony Johnson, Paul Mills, Lin Olin, Devonna Snuggs, and Quan-

da Stevenson; all are teaching classes for us this semester. In addition, the staff of our main office has changed, with Scott Channell arriving to join Brenda Parsons. The joint forces of our faculty, instructors, and staffers have led to many successes and accomplishments among students and alumni of which you will be very proud. These successes and accomplishments reflect both the processes and the end results of student learning and engagement.

To sample just a few of these successes, I would like to introduce Anita Anderson, Tom Allen, and Carol Vance, three students who received 2006–07 or 2007–08 graduate fellowships including a scholarship and stipend. There are Tom Allen, Katie Devlin, Crystal Murry, Michele Bishop, Victoria Tomczak, and Joe Martin, as well, graduate students who presented research papers at regional and/or national conferences. Nor are accomplishments in our department confined to our graduate program: Our undergraduate students shine in college-wide competitions and earn even national honors. Several of them entered the first Department of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation Competition held in February 2007. Garrett Grothoff went on to win first prize in the College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Social Sciences Oral Presentation Competition. The Leadership Board selected Shaniqua Davis to receive the Outstanding Sophomore Award for 2007–08; Tom Allen also received the Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship while an undergraduate student in our department. These students' hard work and self-motivation are to be commended; at the same time, guidance and mentoring provided to the students by the CJ faculty are also greatly appreciated for their role in student success.

Academic awards and honors received by our students are tangible, positive outcomes of student learning and engagement in our department. Student learning and engagement, however, can also be achieved through processes not always associated with awards and honors. Students' work with professors on research projects may not win competi-

tive prizes or even lead to publication in journals, but the process of engaging in the research clarifies for our undergraduate and graduate students the steps and procedures of social science research aimed at scientific discovery or investigation. Also in the past year, our students have, through student organizations and department-sponsored functions, engaged in community service and volunteer work, learning leadership and organization skills that are critical for attaining success in future employment and self-development. For example, the enormous success of last year's career fair organized by Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society (with support of the Criminal Justice Student Association) impressed upon our campus and community leaders the power our students possess to create a sense of community in the Department of Criminal Justice, while achieving the common good of introducing students (and not only criminal justice majors) to employment opportunities. The new Criminal Justice Alumni Advisory Board, with its focus on advising and mentoring graduating students in the department, has brought the meaning of engagement to a new level, linking student learning in college to a lifelong process of experience and knowledge sharing.

The Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society has already planned important events for the coming year. In addition to the annual career fair, the society will put on another big push to raise donations to fully endow the Randall Justice Farmer memorial fund. As most of you know, Mr. Farmer was an instructor who taught criminal justice courses in the department from 2002 to 2006. To contribute, please send your donation to the Department of Criminal Justice, University of Alabama, Box 870320, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0320. 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 Scott Channell, whose efforts bring this newsletter together. I also extend thanks to all of the criminal justice faculty and graduate students 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 recruiting efforts, which are vital for growth and diversification in the department.

The Department of Criminal Justice would like to thank Mr. Larry Long, Ms. Marley McKenzie, Alpha Phi Sigma, Ms. Kathleen Farmer, Dr. Celia Lo, 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!





## Organizations

### Alpha Phi Sigma

Tom Allen, President  
Mairejo Ballard, Vice President  
Leigh Ann Shelton – Secretary/Treasurer  
Dr. Celia Lo, Faculty Advisor

#### 2007-2008 Activities

- Criminal Justice Career Fair: April 10, 2008 – local and federal law enforcement, asset protection firms, insurance fraud investigations, and other agencies in the field of criminal justice meet with students to discuss career options.
- CJ “Meet & Greet” – students get acquainted with CJ faculty and fellow students
- “Beat Auburn/Beat Hunger” canned food drive
- “Face-Painting-On-The-Quad” – Arts and Sciences homecoming festivities; contributed earnings to Randall Farmer Memorial Fund
- Continued donations drive for Randall Farmer Memorial Fund
- Two-time recipient of the Chairperson’s Award of Merit

Alpha Phi Sigma has been working hard for 2 semesters straight to raise donations for the Randall Farmer Memorial Fund, with the hope of reaching our \$10,000 goal. We will raise money at the annual career fair, which we hope will be our most successful yet. We plan to use Action Card swipe machines to allow students to make donations directly into the fund through their BamaCash account. Our intention is to get more undergraduate students thinking seriously about their post-college plans and understanding what they need to do to prepare for their careers. Additionally, new officer elections will be held in May.

Alpha Phi Sigma has been blessed with the continued support of our membership, our advisor Dr. Celia Lo, the Department of Criminal Justice, and the College of Arts and Sciences. We hope to give back to the University in the form of leadership and service.

### Criminal Justice Student Association

Joseph Martin, President  
James Oden, Vice President

The Criminal Justice Student Association had a successful 2007-2008 school year. CJSA opened the year with a booth at “Get on Board Day” recruiting a number of members through this event. Meeting bi-monthly, our members discussed many possible ideas to reach out to the student community here at the University. In November, CJSA hosted a forum entitled “Protect Your Home While You’re Gone”. Police officers from Northport and the University of Alabama Police Department spoke on topics such as common sense ways to protect your property, how to identify your property if it is stolen, as well as ways to protect your person. There is another forum being planned for the spring, along with planning for the social with Alpha Phi Sigma.

## Criminal Justice Alumni Advisory Board

Chad Allen, President  
Anita Anderson, Vice President  
Leigh Ann Shelton, Secretary/Treasurer

The Alumni Advisory Board is an organization dedicated to the improvement of the Criminal Justice Department and its students. The Board is still in the process of strengthening the relationship between alumni, students, and faculty. An initial meeting focused on developing ideas for the Board. Our second meeting introduced students to careers and job opportunities. The Board’s third meeting will focus on bridging relationships between criminal justice fields. We are inviting all available alumni to meet with students and present personal observations of their criminal justice field. The meeting is set for Thursday, May 1, 2008. Presentations will begin at 5:30 p.m. in departmental conference room (5th Floor of Farrah Hall). If you would like to make a presentation on your personal observations, please contact the Department of Criminal Justice at [cjdept@cj.as.ua.edu](mailto:cjdept@cj.as.ua.edu).

The goal of the Advisory Board is to develop a social network that will be educational and informative. The Advisory Board will accomplish this goal by setting a number of objectives for members of the Advisory Board. The objectives include:

- Serve as liaisons for the University of Alabama.
- Make recommendations to the Department of Criminal Justice regarding prospective students.
- Provide assistance to undergraduate and graduate students through internships and scholarships.
- Make recommendations to the Department of Criminal Justice regarding education programs, courses, and initiatives that provide a competitive advantage to graduates seeking employment.
- Apprise the faculty of the Department of Criminal Justice of state, regional, and national research opportunities.
- Advise students of career opportunities in the criminal justice field and offer sound individual guidance based on lessons learned by experienced professionals.

## New Graduate Students

**Andrea Allen** of Fayetteville, Georgia, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Georgia Southern University with a Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies in May of 2007. Her future goals are possibly to pursue a doctoral degree in criminal justice and obtain an administrative position within a criminal justice agency.

**Tom Allen** of Madison, Alabama, graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice in August of 2007. His future goal is to work in the investigative field.

**Katie Devlin** of Starkville, Mississippi, graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science in Educational Psychology in August of 2006. Her future goals are to teach and perform research work for the government and eventually pursue a doctoral degree.

**Christopher Thompson** of Clay, Alabama, graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice in December 2007. His future goal is to work for a Federal Agency (US Marshals, DEA, or ATF).

**Carol Vance** of Whittier, California, graduated from the University of Montevallo with a Bachelor of Science in History and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology in May 2007. Her future goal is to work in the law enforcement field.

## Faculty News



**Dr. David Forde** joined the Department of Criminal Justice in fall 2007 and he currently serves as Graduate Program Director. For over 20 years, he has collected survey and evaluation data on issues of criminal victimization and trauma. His current projects examine crime and trauma in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Pathways to delinquency for children who are victims of child abuse, and issues related to early childhood development. This year, he has co-authored a textbook, Elementary Statistics in Criminal Justice Research, Third Edition. In 2007, he published five articles in journals such as Justice Quarterly, Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice, and Journal of Criminal Justice.



**Mrs. Wanda Hunter** is an instructor in the Department of Criminal Justice. Her research interests are in the areas of race and criminology, race and labeling, corrections and juvenile de-

**1982**  
**Martha Mitchell**, B.A. - Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Fayette County, Alabama

**1987**  
**Stoney Chavers**, B.A. – Partner, Fleming & Chavers, LLP, Mobile, Alabama; J.D. from Birmingham School of Law 2003

**1988**  
**William S. Carson**, B.A. – ABC Enforcement Sergeant, Tuskegee, Alabama

**1993**  
**Karla Williams**, M.S. – Mental Health Specialist, United States Army; deployed to Iraq with 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Georgia

**1994**  
**Scott Springer**, M.S. – Senior Special Agent, Department of Homeland Security/ICE; assigned as professional staff to U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on Homeland Security

**1996**  
**Catherine Hiland**, M.S. – Federal Bureau of Prisons; transferred to the Designation: Sentence Computation Center

linquency. She is currently in the process of completing her dissertation entitled “Life After Prison: What Price Do Black Youth Pay for Child’s Play?”



**Dr. Robert Jenkot** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. His research interests are sociology of deviance, sociology of gender, race and ethnic relations, illicit drugs and drug policy, criminology, and social problems.



**Dr. Ida Johnson** is Chair of the Department of Women’s Studies and a Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. Her research interests are in the areas of domestic violence, date rape, and school violence. In the past year, Dr. Johnson has published one book chapter and two journal articles with an additional book chapter currently in press. In 2007, she received one grant and made a presentation at a professional conference.

## CJ Alumni

**2001**  
**Deonne Johnson Wilson**, M.S. - High School Assistant Principal; EdD. from Oregon

**1997**  
**Dean McWilliams**, M.S. - Police Lieutenant, Topeka, Kansas; J.D. from Washburn Law School

**1999**  
**Jennifer Deerman**, B.A. – Owner of Quality Count Inc., an employment screening firm

**2000**  
**William H. Green**, B.A. – Emergency Management Specialist; in charge of CERT and Mutual Aid for Alabama Emergency Management Agency

**Eric Rhine**, B.A. – Guidance Counselor and After-School Director; recognized and selected as Bibb County, Alabama Elementary Teacher of the Year for the 2006-2007 School Year; M.S. from University of West Alabama, M.Ed. from University of West Alabama

**Michael Wigginton, Jr.**, - M.S. – retired Special Agent for U.S. Customs, Assistant Professor at Southeastern LA University



**Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. Her research interests focus on stigma, gender, and health, health and crime, and minority health in relation to STI/HIV. Dr. Lichtenstein has recently published six journal articles with an additional article in press. In addition, she has published articles in a monograph series and in conference proceedings. In 2007, Dr. Lichtenstein also received one grant, made two presentations at professional conferences, and gave an invited talk at an international conference. She also won the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Article Award from the Gender, Race and Society section of the American Sociological Association.



**Dr. Celia Lo** is Chair of and Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. Her research interests are in the fields of alcohol and drug use, criminology, women and crime, and statistics. In the past year, Dr. Lo has published one journal article with two forthcoming. One article has also been published in confer-

**2001**  
**Anthony Galloway**, B.A. – business owner, Bonding Company and Real Estate Investment

**2003**  
**Johnathan Yasuda**, B.A. – Captain in the United States Army Military Police Corps, currently a company commander for a military police basic training company at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

**2004**  
**Josh Kelley**, B.A. - Police Officer, University of Alabama Police Department

**2005**  
**Benjamin Rose**, B.A. - Police Officer, Las Vegas, Nevada

**2006**  
**Jackie Chavez**, M.S. – Fraud Investigator, NWI Investigative Group, Inc.; currently working on a Ph.D. and teaching at Mississippi State University



ence proceedings and a quarterly article is forthcoming. Dr. Lo received two teaching and learning grants this past year and has presented at four professional meetings.



**Dr. Ariane Prohaska** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. Her research interests are in the areas of gender, work and family, sociology of gender, and social inequality. In the past year, she has published one book chapter with an additional chapter forthcoming. In addition, she has one manuscript under review. In 2007, Dr. Prohaska made presentations at two professional meetings.



**Dr. Jimmy Williams** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and an Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Williams’ research interests include courts and politics, decision-making in criminal cases, and processing of drug cases.