



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA[®]

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Community Members Examine Mass Incarceration in America

The United States' incarceration rate is much higher than that of other countries. The U.S. prison population—693 per 100,000 people as of 2016—is the highest in the world and presents problems for prisoners, affected families, the government, and society in general. The issues raised by this startling statistic were explored during a community forum hosted by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice on October 18, 2016.



Dr. Adam Ghazi-Tehrani served as moderator as students and members of the community questioned Angela Gentry, a case manager at the Aliceville Federal Corrections Institution; Dr. Jennifer Kenney, a professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice; Engret Jenkins, a re-entry coordinator at Aliceville FCI; Warden Dennis Stamper of Montgomery Federal Prison Camp; Tuscaloosa County Sheriff Ron Abernathy; and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeremy Sherer about the role of race in the criminal justice system, mental health issues, prisoners' rights, the war on drugs, and services available to help prisoners reintegrate in society after their release.

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The Department Welcomes New Faculty

Stephen J. Clipper completed his PhD in Criminology at the University of Texas at Dallas in 2016. He also holds a Masters degree in Criminal Justice from Rowan University. His research interests include prediction in criminal justice outcomes, pretrial release, and quantitative methods. His recent research has appeared in the journals *Deviant Behavior*, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, and *Aggression and Violent Behavior*. Since joining the Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty, Dr. Clipper has taught Intro to Criminal Justice, and Statistics courses.

Adam Ghazi-Tehrani completed his PhD in Criminology, Law & Society in May of 2016 at the University of California, Irvine. He also holds Masters degrees in Social Ecology from the University of California, Irvine and in Criminal Justice from the California State University, Long Beach. His research interests include cybercrime, white collar crime, critical criminology, deviance, and social control. His recent research has appeared in the journal *Crime, Law and Social Change* and the *Asian Journal of Criminology*. Since joining the Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty, Dr. Ghazi-Tehrani has taught courses in Cyber Law and Policy and White Collar Crime. In his spare time, he enjoys kickboxing, gardening, and listening to music.



Department Announces Name Change

Since 2001, the number of undergraduates majoring in the Department of Criminal Justice has increased more than 300 percent. Last year alone, more than 2,000 students took Introduction to Criminal Justice, and the department is home to one of the most popular majors on campus.

“Our growth is due in large part to the efforts of our dedicated and diverse faculty,” the department’s chair, Dr. Lesley Williams Reid, said. “As the demand for our courses has grown, the size of our faculty has grown, and our new faculty members have brought with them a broad range of research expertise consistent with the interdisciplinary breadth of the field itself.”

To reflect its growth and increase its prominence within the discipline, the department recently changed its name to the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Reid explains that “Having both terms in our departmental name captures the breadth of the scholarship within the department and puts us in line with our discipline’s largest national organization, the American Society of Criminology, and other research-focused departments nationwide.”

Criminal justice is the study of the institutional infrastructure that creates laws, enforces laws, and sanctions or rehabilitates offenders while criminology is the application of social and behavioral science to the study of the causes and consequences of crime.

“Perhaps at no other time in our nation’s history have we needed to understand the causes and consequences of crime and develop research-based initiatives to improve policing and corrections more than we do today,” Reid said.

CCJ at UA by the Numbers

- ⇒ 765 undergraduate majors
- ⇒ 566 undergraduates minoring in Criminal Justice, Sociology & Cyber Criminology
- ⇒ 30 graduate students
- ⇒ 59 new members of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

Network Intrusion Lab

In January of 2017, the Network Intrusion Lab began operations. This is a joint project involving the University of Alabama’s Police Department and the College of Arts and Sciences. It’s a crucial component of the Joint Electronic Crimes Task Force that offers both law enforcement officers and UA faculty unique opportunities. The lab has secure research facilities and training and classroom space for use by faculty, students, and officers learning about digital forensics.

Equipment for the lab was donated by the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Alabama, and on February 23, AG Steve Marshall [pictured] visited the lab and addressed law enforcement officers from around the state.



Students interested in working with the NIL—or with Dr. Dolliver or Dr. Ghazi-Tehrani’s other JECTF projects—may apply online at cybercrime.as.ua.edu/jectf.



Department Events

Dr. Robert Agnew Visits from Emory University

Dr. Robert Agnew, a past president of the American Society of Criminology who is well known for his development of general strain theory, visited the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice during March. Over the course of his visit, he spoke to groups of faculty and graduate students and toured various facilities connected with the Department and the University, including Joint Electronic Crimes Task Force's lab and Bryant-Denny Stadium. His visit culminated with a public talk entitled "There's Nothing To Do: Boredom as a Cause of Crime."



Student Organizations Combat Trafficking

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, the Criminal Justice Student Association and Alpha Phi Sigma, the national honor society for Criminal Justice students, drew awareness to human trafficking issues and raised over \$1,000 in support of its victims.

The month-long venture began on Tuesday, April 4th with a panel of speakers: Ashley Anderson, Deputy Director of The WellHouse, spoke about efforts to rescue and aid victims of human trafficking; Tuscaloosa police officer Dustin Burroughs presented statistical data on human trafficking as well information about victimology; and Keisha Head, a survivor of human trafficking, spoke about her experiences.

Throughout the month, local restaurants hosted fundraisers for The WellHouse and donated a portion of their proceeds to aid trafficking victims.

Faculty and Students Discuss Research During Colloquium Series

During the Fall Colloquium series, Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty and graduate students attended talks by Dr. Stephen Rushin and Dr. Tricia Witte. Dr. Rushin, an assistant professor at the University of Alabama School of Law, spoke on issues of law and policing. Dr. Witte, an associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, spoke on addiction.

During the Spring Colloquium series, attendees heard new faculty members Dr. Stephen Clipper, speaking on the efficacy of pretrial release mechanisms in preventing failure to appear, and Dr. Adam Ghazi-Tehrani, addressing the implications of state actors and cybercrime for cyber security. Dr. Andrea Glenn, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, spoke on neurocriminology. Dr. Sonya Pritzker, an assistant professor of Anthropology, Dr. Diana Dolliver, an assistant professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Nicole Henderson, a PhD candidate in Anthropology, gave a joint talk titled "‘FE and Await Your Gift’: How Vendors and Consumers of Illicit Drugs Co-Construct Alternative Communities in a Darknet Marketplace."

Alpha Phi Sigma and the Criminal Justice Student Association hosted their annual **Career Fair** on Wednesday, November 9th. Among the agencies represented were: the United States Marshals Service, the Transportation Security Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, the Army National Guard, the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles, Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office, Tuscaloosa Police Department, Tuscaloosa Sheriff's Department, the University of Alabama School of Law, Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, Tuscaloosa's One Place, and the Tuscaloosa Children's Center. Representatives spoke to students about career and internship opportunities.

If you would like your organization to be a part of our next career fair, please contact Alpha Phi Sigma advisor Dr. Joshua Wakeham at jcwakeham@ua.edu.

Exceptional Students

We're pleased to recognize the following
**Criminology and Criminal Justice students for their
academic excellence:**

Ashley Austin, Outstanding Graduate Student Award

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

Ashely is from Max Meadows, VA, and graduates with a J.D. and a Masters in Criminal Justice. She wishes to advocate for prisoners' rights and is exploring how roles in litigation, policy research, or direct services may best enable her to do so.

Amanda Graves, Chairperson's Award of Merit

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

Amanda is a native of Collierville, TN. After graduating this spring, she hopes to build a career in federal law enforcement.

Emelie Larsson-Dally, 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.

Emelie is from Canyon City, CA. After graduation, she intends to pursue a Doctorate in Psychology in order to become a clinical forensic child psychologist.

Olympia Karageorgiou, Scott Deaton Endowed Scholarship

The Scott Deaton Endowed Scholarship in Criminology and 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.

Olympia, who is from Carrollton, TX, graduates this spring and plans to perform a year of service with AmeriCorps before entering law school.

We're also pleased to congratulate the following
recipients of awards given by the
College of Arts & Sciences:

Outstanding Sophomores: Jaylan Davis, Ronterika Exford, Chase Gitter Kristen Gochett, and Rachel Schlossberg.

Outstanding Junior: Benjamin Carl Kline

Dean's Award of Merit: Amanda Graves

Recipients of these awards are recognized for their extraordinary character and maturity, leadership, well-rounded experiences including strong academic performance and involvement in curricular and co-curricular activities.

CCJ Welcomes New Instructors



Patrick Farris has worked as an adjunct instructor at Alabama and Shelton State for nine years. He has a combined twenty-three years of experience in law enforcement, most recently as a Patrol Sergeant at the Tuscaloosa Police Department. He will be retiring from the U.S. Army Reserves at the rank of Sergeant Major after more than twenty years as an Intelligence Analyst and as a Counter Intelligence Agent.

Mr. Farris holds a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of North Alabama and a Masters Degree, also in Criminal Justice, from University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Mr. Farris will be teaching courses in Law Enforcement, Law Enforcement Technology, and Judicial Process.



Kellin Treadway has previously worked as a part-time instructor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She holds a Master of Science in Computer and Information Technology from Purdue University and both a BA in Criminal Justice and a BS in Psychology from the University of Alabama. Her research has discussed the relationship between autistic traits and cyber deviancy in college students and the personality traits and college majors of students who self-describe as hackers, identity thieves, cyberbullies, and virus writers.

Ms Treadway will be teaching Intro to Criminal Justice and Survey of Criminal Theories as well as continuing her work as an academic advisor.

Research News

Dr. Jennifer L. Kenney is analyzing the qualitative data she collected from talking with women in the area who are currently receiving substance abuse treatment. In general, women in substance abuse treatment programs report similar risk factors as those who are involved in the criminal justice system. She hopes to use these data to better understand how some of these women in treatment have become justice-involved while others have not and hear from them how to improve these treatment programs so that fewer women enter the justice system.

Along with her former undergraduate student co-author, Kasi Smart, **Dr. Ariane Prohaska** recently published research on the impact of the 2011 tornado on the availability of multifamily housing in Tuscaloosa in the March 2017 issue of *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*. Using data from city reports and apartment complex websites, Smart and Prohaska found that rebuilt apartment complexes are generally charging higher rents and have fewer units available than the complexes destroyed or damaged by the storm. Additionally, the new complexes are almost entirely marketed to the college student population, even though before the storm, the apartments were rented to different types of community members. These findings support what scholar Naomi Klein terms the “disaster capitalism” model of recovery that focuses on maximizing profits when rebuilding disaster-ridden communities. In Tuscaloosa, multifamily housing recovery has mainly focused on building high-end student housing that charges rent per room rather than per unit, and offers many college-friendly amenities, such as tanning beds and study lounges. The consequence of focusing on profits is perpetuation of vulnerability for lower-income, permanent Tuscaloosa residents. Smart and Prohaska suggest that the case study of Tuscaloosa reveals that lower-income, multifamily housing should be a focus of disaster recovery to maintain the working class workforce, who are particularly important to the functioning of a University community. Dr. Prohaska’s current research is focusing on the long term stressors associated with surviving the tornado and how long-term recovery differs based on the race, class, and gender of the survivor.



Tuscaloosa County Sheriff Ron Abernathy (and Alabama Alum) invited Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice Faculty to tour the Department’s facilities this spring.

Dr. Robert Adelman, of the University at Buffalo; Gail Markle, of Kennesaw State University; Charles Jaret, of Georgia State University; Saskia Weiss, an independent scholar; and **Dr. Lesley Reid**, chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama, explored the links between immigration and crime. They sampled forty years of crime statistics from 200 metropolitan areas and concluded that demographic changes through immigration do not lead to increases in crime. In fact, the data indicated crime decreases in many areas with an influx of immigrants and that foreign-born individuals are overall less likely to commit crimes than their native born counterparts.

This research, which originally appeared in *The Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, was picked up by the popular press and was featured in publications including *The Huffington Post*, *The Conversation*, *Skeptical Science*, and *Scientific American*, *Newsweek*, *Psychology Today*, and the Associated Press.

Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein’s ongoing efforts to offer information about HIV to probation and parole officers and testing and treatment to probationers and parolees received a \$45,000 grant from the Elton John Foundation. Project partners include West Alabama AIDS Outreach, a non-profit AIDS service agency that provides HIV testing and education in the community; Tuscaloosa County Probation and Parole Office, which supervises up to 2000 probationers and parolees a year; and Whatley Health Services, a community health center serving low-income patients in West Alabama. The ultimate goal of this partnership is to provide a sustainable program of on-site HIV services for at-risk offenders in the state.

Alumni Updates can be provided online at cj.ua.edu/alumni-update-form or by emailing cjdept@as.ua.edu. Alumni news may be featured in future newsletters and appear online. We're very interested in hearing from both recent graduates and those already well into their professional lives, so **please take a moment to tell us what you're doing now.**



Contributions to the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice go toward 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 Criminology & Criminal Justice via check, credit card, 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 Criminology & Criminal Justice, The University of Alabama Box 870320 Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0320**

