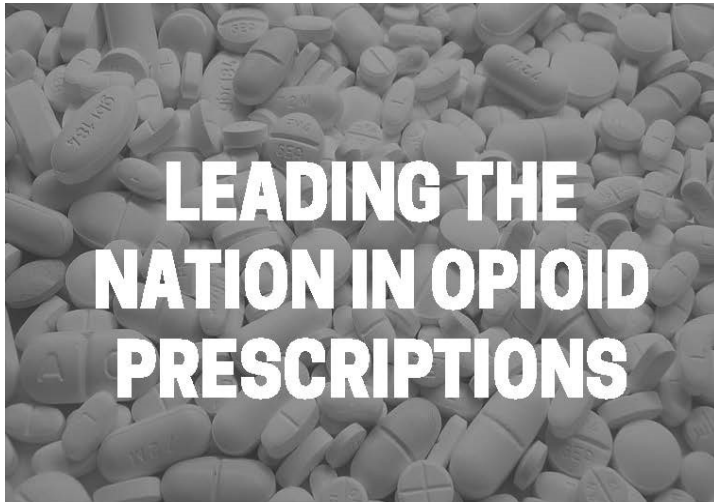




# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

Newsletter: *Winter 2018-2019*



## WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ALABAMA?

On Thursday, October 18, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at The University of Alabama continued its tradition of bringing together experts in criminal justice with members of the local community to discuss the important issues of our day with a moderated discussion on the opioid epidemic in Alabama. Panelists included Bret Hamilton, DEA Alabama Assistant Special Agent in Charge; Bronwen Lichtenstein, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at UA; J.B. Ward, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama; Matthew Tucker, M.D., Alabama State Chair of the Addiction Policy Forum; Nathan Culmer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Medical Education at UA; Marisa Giggie, M.D., MPAff. and medical director of A Reprieve for Women; and Andrea Haynes, M.D., Resident Physician at UA Family Medicine.

Community Forums are held every fall. If you're interested in attending, visit us online during the Fall semester at [cj.ua.edu](http://cj.ua.edu), [facebook.com/CCJatUA](https://facebook.com/CCJatUA), or [twitter.com/CJatUA](https://twitter.com/CJatUA).

## CCJatUA Welcomes New Faculty



**Dr. Brittany Gilmer** completed her PhD in Geography at the University of Toronto. She also holds a Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a concentration in International

Development. Her research interests include maritime piracy, international crime and security, criminal justice reform in developing countries, critical criminology, African criminology, and qualitative methods. Her recent research about piracy in Somalia has appeared in the journals *Feminist Criminology*, *Punishment & Society*, and *Geoforum*. Since joining the Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty, Dr. Gilmer has taught courses titled *Human Trafficking* and *Pirates and Punishment*.

In her spare time, Dr. Gilmer enjoys resistance training and rooting for the Green Bay Packers.



**Ms. Taylor Fisher** joined the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice as a full time instructor this fall. She teaches Intro to Criminal Justice, Intro to Sociology, Juvenile Delinquency, and Corrections. Ms. Fisher says she particularly enjoys teaching Intro to Criminal Justice and Juvenile Delinquency because her students come to class with robust opinions and diverse life experiences related to these topics. In her courses, she puts those experiences and opinions in context and connects them to relevant research.

Ms. Fisher also works as an academic advisor to students enrolled in the Bama By Distance online bachelors degree program. Her research interests include drug regulation and the treatment of individuals with mental illness by the courts system.

She holds degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice from the University of Alabama and is an alumna of The University of Alabama's famed Million Dollar Band.

# Exceptional Students



## **Spencer Fonte, Graduate Student of the Year**

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

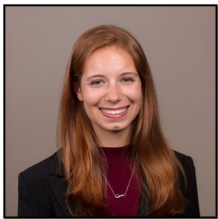
Spencer is a December 2017 graduate of The University of Alabama and is pursuing a career in law enforcement. He is a native of Clay, Alabama.



## **Rachel Salter, Graduate Student of the Year**

*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.*

Rachel is a May 2018 graduate of the University of Alabama and is currently employed as an investigator with the Joint Electronic Crimes Taskforce. She is a native of Pace, FL.



## **Kathryn Hartig, 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.*

Katy graduated with a Bachelors Degree in May 2018 and is currently completing her Masters in Criminal Justice. Katy, who also garnered the Dean's Award of Merit, is from Strongsville, OH.



## **Benjamin Klein, Bo Robertston Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award**

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

Ben graduated in May of 2018 and is serving his nation as a Military Police Officer. Ben is a native of Blount County, Alabama, where he worked as a reserve deputy throughout his college career.



## **Jazmine Dilligard, Scott Deaton Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice**

*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.*

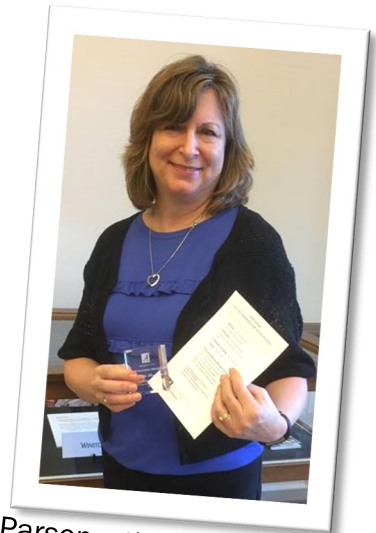
Jazmine is a December 2017 graduate of the University of Alabama and is currently attending Law School. Jazmine, who hails from Burlington, NJ, was also named Turning Point's Volunteer of the Year while she was a student. She hopes to aid victims of domestic violence and human trafficking with her career in law.



# Department Events



Dr. Tiffany Guidry's Sports and Society students conducted research at Alabama's home games.



Ms. Brenda Parsons, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice's long-time administrative secretary, was recognized by the Office/Clerical/Technical Staff Assembly.



Students and faculty explored research in CCJ-related disciplines through the department's ongoing colloquium series



Department alumni cheered the Tide to victory against Mizzou at CCJ's first alumni tailgate.



Dr. Lesley Reid & Dr. Jane Daquin led a study abroad trip with students volunteering at medical clinics in Guatemala during May.



Dr. Adam Ghazi-Tehrani's students toured the National Computer Forensics Institute.

## AMP Students Get a Head Start on Graduate School

The University of Alabama's Accelerated Master's Program allows exceptional, motivated undergraduate students to begin pursuing graduate degrees while completing their Bachelors degree. We spoke with **Katie Hartig**, one of the first Criminology & Criminal Justice students to participate in AMP, about her experiences.

### First, what made you decide to do the accelerated master's program?

I decided to do the Accelerated Master's Program to enhance my knowledge of Criminal Justice issues not currently discussed that semester at the undergraduate level. Additionally, I wanted to get a head start on master's courses since I knew that was the route I would be taking in the future.

### What do you hope to do after graduation?

I hope to be working for a government agency after I graduate.

### What advice do you have for students interested in the AMP program?

The advice I would give to students interested in the AMP program is to just try it, even if it is just for a semester! The graduate courses will introduce you to higher education, provide an in-depth look into Criminal Justice issues, and allow you to take classes that may not be offered at undergraduate level.

**Students interested in a starting their Masters in Criminal Justice while pursuing a Bachelors Degree can find more information online at [graduate.ua.edu](http://graduate.ua.edu).**

#### Connect Online

[www.facebook.com/CCJatUA/](https://www.facebook.com/CCJatUA/)

[www.twitter.com/CJatUA](https://www.twitter.com/CJatUA)

## Alpha Phi Sigma and The Criminal Justice Student Association held their Career Fair on January 30, 2019.



If you'd like to speak to our outstanding students about career and internship opportunities within your organization next year, please contact us at [cjdept@ua.edu](mailto:cjdept@ua.edu).



Criminology and Criminal Justice graduate students, Kelly Kortright, Rachel McNealey, Carol Ann Sharo, and Epiphany Storey prepare for their presentations at The 74th Annual Meeting of the Society of Criminologists in November.

### CCJatUA Goes Virtual

This fall the Department instituted a new fully online Bachelor's degree in Criminology & Criminal Justice. Jointly housed in the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Continuing Studies, this online only degree program will expand the reach of the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice far beyond Tuscaloosa opening up opportunities for students to earn a high quality degree from the Capstone from anywhere in the world. Students can begin having no past college experience and complete their entire degree online. Or they can transfer credit from other colleges or universities and complete their degree at UA. For Fall 2018, we have 27 students enrolled in the program and we expect that to grow to 50 students in Spring 2018. If you know of anyone who would be interested in this program, they can contact the Department directly or find more information at [bamabydistance.ua.edu](http://bamabydistance.ua.edu).



# Research News



**Ariane Prohaska** and Jeannine Gailey (Texas Christian University) are guest editing a two-part special issue about fat oppression for *Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society*. Part one, which includes their co-authored

lead article entitled "Theorizing Fat Oppression: Intersectional Approaches and Methodological Innovations", will be in print in Spring 2019.



An article coauthored by **Brittany Gilmer** and Caroline Comerford (Florida International University) will appear in an upcoming issue of the journal *Crime, Law, and Social Change*. The article, titled "Promoting Pirate Prisons: Exploring the Intersections of Narratives, Media, and Criminal Justice Reform in East Africa."

**Stephen Clipper** and graduate student **Abbey Harbert** presented their research, which was




coauthored by Zachary A. Powell of The University of Texas at Dallas, at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference in February. They studied the relationship between income and the duration of clean-up at Superfund Sites across the United States.



**Adam Lankford** and graduate student **Kaitlyn Hoover** coauthored an article titled "Do the Ages of Mass Shooters Matter? Analyzing the Difference Between Young and Older Offenders." In general, earlier research suggests that young people are more likely than their older counterparts to commit crimes because of immaturity, lack of impulse control, rebelliousness, peer pressure,



poor role models, and the influence of what they see on television or consume through other media content. When it comes to mass shooters, however, the answer to this question may depend on whether "young" offenders are defined using the legal age of adulthood or the scientific definition of when brain development typically reaches maturity. This study aimed to determine whether significant differences exist between public mass shooters who were younger than or older than 18 years when they attacked, or younger than or older than 25 years when they attacked, by examining 88 offenders who struck in the United States from January 1982 to March 2018. Tests of statistical significance found that with both definitions, young mass shooters were more likely than older mass shooters to obtain their weapons illegally, attack at schools, have a reported history of animal abuse, and admit copying or being inspired by previous attackers. These results were interpreted in the context of previous scholarship, and recommendations were provided for future research. The article appears in the journal *Violence and Gender*.



**Alumni Updates** can be provided online at [cj.ua.edu/alumni-update-form](http://cj.ua.edu/alumni-update-form) or by emailing [cjdept@ua.edu](mailto:cjdept@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](http://www.onlinegiving.ua.edu) by specifying the Department of Criminal Justice. Gifts can be sent directly to the Department at the following address:

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Box 870320  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0320**