

# CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER



## Honors Day 2022

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice is proud to recognize some of our outstanding students, including Miguel de Jesus Velez Hernandez and Natalie Simon.



### Letter from the Chair

Dr. Adam Lankford has been with the department for 15 years and is excited to now serve as the new chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.



### Meet Our New Faculty

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Matthew Valasik, Dr. Timothy Dickinson, and Mr. Joshua Tobias to our team this year!



## CCJ at ASC 2021

A student contingent represented CCJ at the 2021 ASC Annual Meeting.

## Connecting with our alumni



## Alumni Highlights

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice is proud to highlight alumni Brand Elverston, Kelvante' Philpot, Marverly Nettles, Randall Shields, and Scott Springer.

## Faculty Publications and Achievements

**Dr. Jane Daquin** recently published *Discretionary Prosecutorial Decision-Making: Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Bias in Intimate Partner Violence*. Summary: Prosecutors exercise substantial discretion within the criminal justice process, potentially allowing for discrepant treatment of criminal cases. The purpose of this research was to examine the association between prosecutorial implicit biases and victim gender and sexual orientation in an intimate partner violence (IPV) case.

**Dr. Yi Ting Chua** recently published "A cyber-risk framework for coordination of the prevention and preservations of behaviours." Summary: Cybersecurity controls are deployed to manage risks posed by malicious behaviours or systems. What is not often considered or articulated is how cybersecurity controls may impact legitimate users (often those whose use of a managed system needs to be protected, and preserved).

**Dr. Timothy Dickinson** recently published "God is real": Narratives of religiously motivated desistance. This study examines the role of Islam in shaping processes of criminal desistance among four men, each with extensive histories of crime and violence. The men's life histories are unique, first, in that they came of age in contexts of extreme violence and religious persecution—all men are Muslim and were children during the ethnic cleansing campaigns in Bosnia in the early 1990s—and second, in that they all identify their newfound or newly cemented dedication to Islam as the primary catalyst for their desistance. Thematic analyses rooted in the principles of grounded theory reveal some consistencies with extant research on religiously motivated desistance, including the role of faith as a means for self-transformation and behavioral guidance.

**Dr. Jihoon Kim** recently published "Theoretical Explanations of the Development of Youth Hacking. Hacking, particularly among youth, is a relatively new form of deviance and its etiology is not well understood. Moreover, there is a lack of developmental approaches to understanding youth hacking, and the majority of studies on predictors of hacking have been cross-sectional. In light of this, we draw on prospective longitudinal data on a sample of Korean youth to explore theoretical predictors of youth hacking through a developmental lens."

**Dr. Daisy Muibu** is Co-Principal Investigator on a grant that has been funded by the United States Department of Homeland Security. Along with a collaborator, Dr. Muibu will study "Vicarious Trauma in Counterterrorism Practitioners." Exposure to violent material could affect counterterrorism professionals in different ways depending on their levels of exposure to violent material. This study aims to understand how workforce resilience and development is affected by this exposure and create tools to lessen the impact of exposure to violence.

**Dr. Matt Valasik and Dr. Shannon Reid** authored "Alt-Right Gangs and White Power Youth Groups" for Oxford Bibliographies Online: Criminology. Gang scholars for the last three decades have explicitly excluded youths who are active, overtly or implicitly, in white supremacy groups (e.g., neo-Nazis; racist skinheads; white separatists, nationalists, and identitists; the alternative right [referred to as "alt-right"]) from conventional street gang studies.

**Dr. Susan Dewey and Dr. Brittany Gilmer** received a grant from The National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research to hire a postdoctoral researcher to assist them with their research with the Tuscaloosa District Attorney's Office on issue related to violent crime.

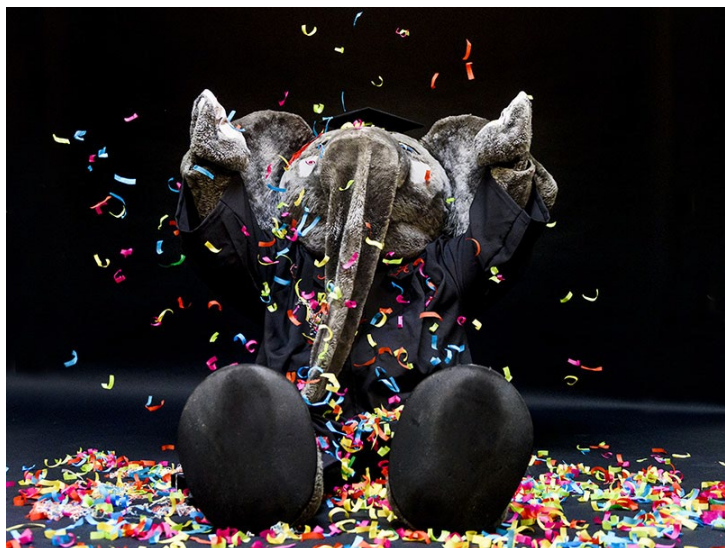
**Dr. Matt Dolliver and Dr. Liana Pennington** have a forthcoming study titled "Understanding the Effects of Jury Service on Jurors' Trust in Courts" in *Law & Society Review*. Summary: Jury service is a positive, even transformative, experience for many jurors. Prior research establishes that jurors who deliberate on a court case develop more positive views of courts in the relatively short time of jury service, but we know little about the reasons underlying why these positive changes develop.

**Dr. Adam Ghazi-Tehrani and Dr. Henry Pontell** recently published a book *Wayward Dragon*, exploring white-collar and corporate crime in China. : "The text begins with an introduction to the topic placing it in global perspective, followed by chapters examining the importance of comparative study, corruption as a major crime in China, case studies and etiology, domestic, regional and global consequences, and concluding theoretical and policy issues that can inform future research."

**Dr. Stephen J. Clipper, Dr. Alexis J. Harper & Ms. Taylor Fisher** recently published "Risk of Revocation: Assessing Correlates of Failure in a Pretrial Services Program" in the *Justice Evaluation Journal*. Summary: Personal recognizance (PR) bonds, often an option in pretrial services programs, allow defendants to be released while awaiting trial without financial backing. This offers some relief for jail over-crowding and permits the defendant the ability to maintain responsibilities of daily life. Not everyone released, however, successfully participates in these programs.

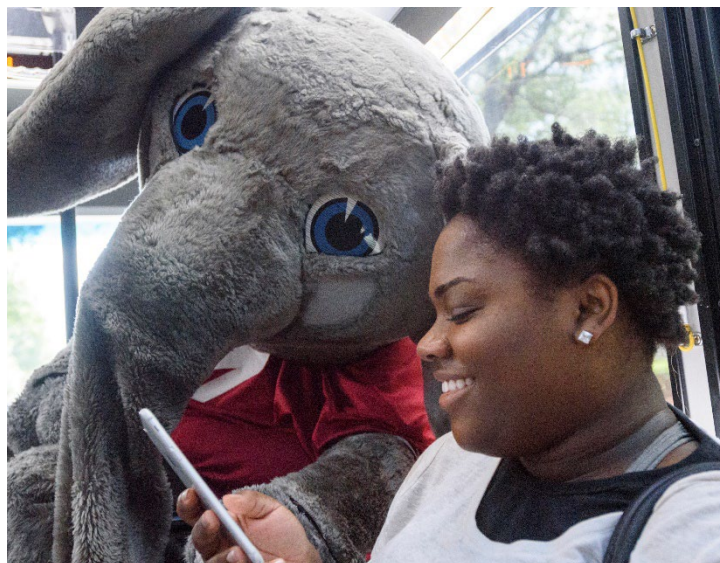
**Dr. Adam Lankford and Ms. Jenna Hayes** recently published a study titled "Could Serial Killing Actually Be Addictive? A Close Examination of Compulsion and Escalation in the Jeffrey Dahmer Case." Summary: The study findings suggest that Dahmer's actions were consistent with a strong behavioral addiction, and that their escalation in frequency and severity over time--despite growing risks to the "user"--constitute a textbook example of an addict's efforts to increase doses or dosage to maintain a neurochemical "high."





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Alumni updates can be provided online [on our website](#) 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.

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