**Letter from the Chair, Brian K. Payne, PhD**

It's that time of year that it is natural to reflect on our past successes and our future paths. This newsletter highlights many of the recent successes of our students, faculty, and staff. In the months to come, our path will be marked by change. In particular, as part of a broader restructuring process occurring at Georgia State University, the Department of Criminal Justice will be moved to the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

This change is an exciting opportunity for all of us. The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies is a nationally ranked policy school with renowned faculty, talented staff, and a bright future. Created in the mid-1990s as part of a restructuring process that was occurring at that time, the school is ranked 5th in public finance and budgeting, 12th in city management/urban policy, 13th in nonprofit management, 18th in public policy analysis, and 33rd in public management administration and 27th among the top 269 schools in public affairs by U.S. News and World Report’s 2009 rankings of graduate programs.

The school is named after Ambassador Andrew Young. Ambassador Young has made immeasurable contributions to the city of Atlanta and the state of Georgia. His service to our country has had a global impact. His vision for a better community and a more just world has improved the lives of all of us. For future criminal justice graduates, I am confident that you will be proud to have his name on your diploma.

Efforts have been underway to make this transition as smooth as possible for students. For the time being, the Department will remain in 1201 Urban Life. Information about specific changes will be provided as soon as it is available. In the meantime, please visit the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies website at [http://aysps.gsu.edu/](http://aysps.gsu.edu/).

Our move to AYSPS is not the only exciting change occurring. In Fall 2011, we will begin offering courses at the Alpharetta Center. For those of you looking for free parking, Alpharetta may be just the place for you. Our full curriculum will be offered at Alpharetta for those seeking coursework “outside the perimeter.” You’ll have the same instructors -- you’ll just have them in a different place.

We will also welcome our second cohort of PhD students in Fall 2011. Our excitement about our students -- graduate and undergraduate alike -- cannot be hidden. You will read about many of their accomplishments in this newsletter.

This semester we have 64 undergraduate students scheduled to graduate! Reviewing available records, this is the highest number of criminal justice graduates in one semester that we have ever had. In fact, between Summer 2010 and Spring 2011, nearly 140 students will have graduated from our department. These graduates earned their degrees. They worked hard and we are proud of them for that. For those considering additional coursework, check out our graduate program.

A quote from Ambassador Young comes to mind: “Wishing of all strategies, is the worst.” To our students and graduates -- do not wish for change. Use the knowledge and skills you have gained at Georgia State University to affect change.

**Faculty Accomplishments**

The March 2011 issue of *Journal of Criminal Justice Education* included a series of articles that assessed various publishing trends in criminal justice and criminology. One of the articles ranked top female academic “stars” based on total citations, various citation measures, and total number of publications. Among the “stars,” Leah Daigle was ranked second for “elite” publications and eighth for total number of citations. Another article in the same issue ranked criminal justice authors based on the total number of sole and lead-authored publications between 2000 and 2009. Brian Payne was ranked sixth among the “most prolific sole and lead authors in criminology and criminal justice” in this article. Timothy Brezina and Barbara Warner were also featured in the article as being two of only eighty criminologists who published five or more sole or lead-authored articles during the same timeframe.

Several faculty have recently received funding to support their scholarship. Wendy Guastaferro was awarded a contract to evaluate the DeKalb County Drug Court. Dean Dabney led efforts to enhance the financial support given to Criminal Justice Review and International Criminal Justice Review and was awarded funding to promote partnerships that combat gang violence. Volkan Topalli, Leah Daigle, and Brent Teasdale recently completed a funded project assessing victim services in Georgia. Lisa Muffic received funding to assess anti-trafficking programs, services, and prevention efforts in post conflict areas. In addition, Drs. Guastaferro, Daigle, and Topalli were awarded a research contract to study an intervention program at Georgia’s Coastal State Prison.

Leah Daigle and her co-authors recently learned that their book, *Unsafe in the Ivory Tower: The Sexual Victimization of College Women*, was selected as the recipient of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 2011 Outstanding Book Award. In addition, Dr. Daigle and her co-authors won the 2011 McNamara Award for their paper “What Distinguishes Single from Recurrent Sexual Assault Victims? The Role of Lifestyle-Routine Activities and First Incident Characteristics,” which was published the prior year in *Justice Quarterly*, one of our discipline’s top journals. The award recognizes the most outstanding scholarship published in an Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences publication.

Dean Dabney recently created a blog titled “How not to get angry at work or while driving in Atlanta.” So far, the blog is blank.

**News from the Library**

Have you been searching for resources and finding nothing? Wondering whether you should use a book or a journal article? Looking for statistics that will emphasize your position? Preparing for tenure and need assistance with citation analysis? If you are struggling with a research project consider connecting with a subject librarian. Each academic department is assigned a subject librarian to support the research needs of the department. For the Department of Criminal Justice the librarian is Mary Jo DeJoice. She can be reached at either 404-413-2853 or dejoice@gsu.edu. Students, staff and faculty are welcome to make an appointment.
**Student News**

Three criminal justice majors participated in Undergraduate Research Day at Georgia State University March 16th. Working under the supervision of department faculty, the students presented research projects they have been working on over the past semester. The students who participated in research day and their supervising faculty included:

- Andia Azimi, “Social Support and Delinquency: Does the Source of Support Matter?,” (supervised by Timothy Brezina)

**Congratulations to our Honor's Day Award Winners:**

**Graduate Academic Honor Award**
Beverly Crank & Nancy Dickinson

**Undergraduate Academic Honor Award**
Eric Little & Cordarius Pettaway

**Chris Perrin Memorial Scholarship**
Jenese Daniel

**James L. Maddex Scholarship**
Beverly Crank

**Larry E. Quinn Memorial Award**
Rodney Woody

**Phil Peters Memorial Scholarship**
Meghan Bowden

**Bobby Jo Chancey Sr. Memorial Scholarship**
Edet Unanaowo

**Judge Andrew Mickle Outstanding Part-Time Instructor Award**
Major Debbie Turner

**Distinguished Alumni Service Award**
Chief Connie B. Sampson

Chief Sampson was hired as Director/Chief of Police of the Georgia State University Police Department in February 1996. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Georgia State University (1983). Congratulations to all honorees!

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**“Major” Growth**

The Department had a total of 1,448 students enrolled during 2010, while in 2009 1,198 students were enrolled in our courses. Of the students enrolled in Fall 2010, 66.0% were minorities and 61.4% were females. A total of 12,366 credit hours were produced by the students. The students who participated in research day and their supervising faculty included:

- Andia Azimi, “Social Support and Delinquency: Does the Source of Support Matter?,” (supervised by Timothy Brezina)

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**Community Partnerships**

Our department values the many different partnerships we have with other departments and agencies. Through these partnerships, we are able to work collaboratively for the greater good of our community. We have had an ongoing partnership with the Atlanta Police Department. This partnership was recently formalized through the revision of a memorandum of understanding between the APD and Georgia State University. This MOU provides for the following:

- A process for sharing data between APD and GSU faculty.
- The provision of desk space at APD for GSU researchers conducting research using APD data.
- GSU faculty and researchers visiting APD to share their expertise and APD officials advising GSU faculty about potential research opportunities.
- Dialogue and constructive feedback between APD and GSU employees and students, with the objective of advancing individual research ideas, broad areas of cooperation, and the GSU-APD relationship.

The MOU was signed by Dr. Robin Morris, Vice President of Research at Georgia State University, and Chief George N. Turner, Atlanta’s police chief. Dean Dabney was instrumental in revising the MOU as part of an ongoing project focusing on developing research partnerships with community agencies.

**Let's Give Them Something to Talk About: Graduate Student Colloquium Series**

In Fall 2010, Timothy Brezina, doctoral program coordinator, organized the department’s graduate student colloquium series. The lecture series has provided students the opportunity to hear from top scholars about their past and ongoing research. Those who have lectured as part of this series included:

- Kirk Elifson, Research Professor at Emory University, "Criminal involvement: An exploration of risk factors across the life course."
- Ron Simons, Distinguished Research Professor of Sociology at the University of Georgia, "Unfair treatment, plasticity, genes, and aggression: A test of the susceptibility hypothesis."
- Richard Wright, Curator’s Professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, "The phenomenology of the stick-up."
- Brent Teasdale, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Georgia State University, "Applying growth mixture modeling to understand the developmental trajectories of suicidal ideation."
- Robert Agnew, Professor of Sociology at Emory University, and Richard Rosenfeld, Professor of Criminal Justice at University of Missouri-St. Louis and former president of the American Society of Criminology, "Beyond Merton: On the development and future of general strain and institutional anomie theories."

The scholars provided insightful lectures about their research and also offered specific suggestions for making the most of the graduate school experience. Rosenfeld also presented along with Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri-St. Louis) and Philip Cook (Duke University) at the Crime and Violence Prevention Policy Initiative’s inaugural symposium focusing on crime and the economy. Several dozen attendees participated in each event.
Faculty Spotlight, Mary Finn, PhD

When I was an undergraduate student, I never envisioned that I would spend most of my career in higher education. After completing my undergraduate degree, I started a career in justice working first with juvenile delinquents and later with mentally ill parolees. This experience was rewarding and informed me in ways, now reflecting backward, that were immeasurable in shaping me as an academic. The decision to continue my education beyond my baccalaureate degree was spawned by the gnawing sense I had that more needed to be done. Education had opened my eyes as a justice practitioner to the notion that existing interventions for offenders could be more effective if they incorporated findings from research, and many policies in place had unintended consequences that made the lives of offenders and the community I served worse, not better. I observed a huge divide between the academic world, where important knowledge was generated, and the world of policy and practice, where that important knowledge needed to be implemented, tested, and refined. If that gap was going to be bridged, someone had to bridge it, and I was just the person to do it. I put on my gear, grabbed my tools, and entered a doctoral program. I emerged as an agent of change committed to researching problems and issues that had direct relevance to justice policy and practice, and to partnering with justice officials to see that knowledge utilized. For the past 22 years I have tried to stay true to that commitment in my research, my teaching, and my service.

My current interests focus on policy responses addressing violence against women and children; these interests are incorporated into the courses I teach and the student research that I supervise. Prosecutors, in efforts to deter offenders and to hold them accountable in domestic violence cases, have adopted policies that base the decision to charge on the strength of the evidence regardless of the wishes of the victim to prosecute. I am completing an article that explores the soundness of those policies by examining the influence of evidence-based versus victim-empowerment based policies on recidivism of offenders and the re-occurrence of violence in the lives of victims.

Over the past several years, media reports and advocacy organizations have claimed that Atlanta is a major hub for the sex trafficking of children and several organizations in the city of Atlanta/Fulton County have collaborated to address this problem. I and several colleagues, including Dr. Blackwell, recently completed research funded by the National Institute of Justice that documented the nature and extent of child trafficking and conducted a process evaluation of Atlanta’s response to the problem. While child trafficking is a hidden problem, our research reported that relatively few cases are officially identified by front-line service providers in education, social services, health, law enforcement, or the courts, thus calling into question the accuracy of claims by the media and advocates. Current legislation is pending in Georgia that would increase criminal penalties for those convicted of child trafficking and would provide services for child victims who are willing to assist in the criminal investigation and prosecution of child traffickers. My research examines the unintended consequences of criminalization efforts that focus on offender accountability to the neglect of the needs of child victims.

Students are encouraged to check out Dr. Finn’s fall classes: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice – CTW (CRJU 3060) and Corrections (CRJU 3310)

Graduate Criminal Justice Association, Erin Marsh

This semester the graduate students, both Master’s and PhD, started the Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association (CJGSA). We did this with the help of our Faculty Advisor, Dr. Dean Dabney. We recently gained an official charter from the university and we will be soon applying for funding for the upcoming year. We hope to be able to invite speakers from various universities and disciplines to come in and discuss a wide variety of research issues. Unlike some of the undergraduate associations which tend to focus on those working in the field of criminal justice, we hope to invite speakers who are working and knowledgeable in criminal justice research. This will allow our graduate students to gain understanding of how research works in the field and better appreciate how top scholars work as faculty members at research universities. This association will also help to form relationships between both Master’s and PhD students and to provide an association where new graduate students can be introduced and welcomed. This will also give new graduate students the place to ask questions and gain advice in an informal setting. We also hope to fund several graduate students so that those students will be able to attend conferences and present on research topics. This will give our students access to new research. These students will also be able to come back to Georgia State and the graduate association and report on what they learned. Our goal is to provide a supporting environment to all graduate students in the Department of Criminal Justice at Georgia State University. We are now holding elections for the upcoming year and we cannot wait to get started in making this organization a productive part of the graduate process.

Criminal Justice Student Association, Christopher Coronado

The CJSA plans to continue to serve the students of Georgia State University with opportunities to learn about crime and justice from professionals in the field. We plan to continue our tradition of hosting the Distinguished Speaker Series in Fall 2011 and the Career Fair in Spring 2012 to give students opportunities not afforded to them at many other universities. For this past academic year CJSA was able to host several activities including a discussion showcasing Georgia Supreme Court Judge Harold Melton, a video lecture covering contemporary debates concerning drug legalization, a host of community service events involved with helping Atlanta residents, and our annual career fair which provided over 150 students with networking opportunities with the DEA, Secret Service, APD and fourteen other agencies. Not only has CJSA hosted such great events but it has also been able to recruit over 30 new members since Fall 2010. We have been able to create an online social community through OrgSync.com so that old and new members can communicate and continue to be made aware of all of CJSA’s events. Also, CJSA is welcoming the merger between the Department of Criminal Justice and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. The CJSA is excited to share new opportunities with these organizations and also plans to connect with the other organizations at Georgia State University. Vice President Sue-Anne Liverpool and I are happy to have been given the opportunity to work with Georgia State University through the Department of Criminal Justice. We hope that CJSA will continue to build and provide numerous amounts of opportunities for Georgia State students in the future.
It has already been an eventful year, and as we spring forward into this new year we take stock of where we have been and where we are going. The department has been busy, both inside and outside of the classroom. We are excited about our student’s accomplishments and celebrate the steps that our students make as they graduate and enter their careers or continue their education. Indeed, the spring semester draws our focus to thoughts of celebrations, particularly graduation, as the ceremonial rite commemorating the culmination of the many years our students have spent immersing themselves learning about the criminological perspectives on the emergence of crime, criminal justice policies, and agency responses to both offenders and victims.

Spring candidates currently are entrenched in their fieldwork and capstone experiences. Students are working in police, courts, and correctional agencies, as well as with victim service providers across the metro Atlanta area. In conjunction, they are connecting the dots, relating and extending knowledge gained in the classroom with their experiences in the field. For example, one student this semester noted, “I realized that in all of the classes I had taken in school, I had never really learned about the juvenile court system. Most of the textbooks only have one chapter, and they briefly touch on the subject. I (feel) that I (am) finally getting insight into a system, that is based on confidentiality and protection of the juvenile.” The Internship Fair/Graduation Reception poster session and celebration for this semester’s graduates will be held on April 27, 2011 from 4:30-7:00 in the West Exhibit Area on the second floor of the Urban Life Building. The department and graduates look forward to this celebration every year. We strongly encourage students to attend this event, not only to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates, but also to get a glimpse of what to expect. Of course, our students will also be celebrated by faculty, parents, families, and peers, at the Spring Commencement ceremony on May 7, 2011, where Former US President Jimmy Carter will be providing this year’s commencement address.

Meanwhile, the next cohorts of students are preparing for their own internship experiences. A few points are worth noting. Students should review the hours completed towards the degree; at approximately 90 hours, students should see an advisor to determine their preparation for the internship, which is completed during their final semester of study. Students ready to apply for an internship should submit their application. A new requirement for students is to ensure that they have had their faculty advisor review their status to complete and include the advisors interview form in their internship application file. These advisement contacts should occur along with the application. Those expecting to complete the internship and capstone seminar in Spring, 2012 should meet with their advisors for this review prior to submitting their application on May 15, 2011. Students should “think ahead” when making appointments for advisement; do not wait until the last minute.

While these celebrations of accomplishments are what we all look forward to, we are ever cognizant of what these events represent; the degrees that students obtain represent successful learning experiences and outcomes. Holding a degree in criminal justice from GSU indicates that a student has demonstrated their knowledge and ability to critically think and communicate about issues in the field of criminal justice, the occurrence of crime, and the difficulties of addressing criminal events in today’s diverse, complex society. Congratulations graduates!

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**From Your Undergraduate Coordinator, Brenda Blackwell, PhD**

**Top 10 Top Reasons Why Students Select our M.S. in Criminal Justice Program**

- Criminal justice is at the forefront of national policy.
- Small classes provide students the opportunity to work individually with faculty.
- Faculty with interdisciplinary backgrounds are nationally recognized scholars.
- Emphasis is placed on excellence in practice, problem solving, critical thinking, and leadership.
- Funded assistantships are available on a competitive basis.
- Flexible scheduling allows students to complete their degrees in a timely manner.
- Students learn practical research and analytical skills.
- Our graduates report widespread satisfaction with their academic coursework.
- A recent publication ranked the Department 8th in the nation in terms of average number of criminology and criminal justice research articles published.
- Learning about crime and justice in an urban environment provides students valuable insight and opportunities.

For information about the program and admissions requirements, contact Dr. Barbara Warner at (404) 413-1020. Application materials are available online at [http://chhs.gsu.edu/graduate_admissions.asp](http://chhs.gsu.edu/graduate_admissions.asp). The application deadline for Fall 2011 is May 15, 2011.

**Graduate Student News**

Christina Policastro presented a poster titled “Assessing the Level of Elder Abuse Knowledge Pre-Professionals Possess” at the Annual Student Mentoring Conference in Gerontology & Geriatrics at Tybee Island on March 25th.

Jennifer Cruze and Erin Marsh presented a paper titled “College Students’ Attitudes Towards Prostitution” at the annual meetings of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences held in Toronto, Ontario in March.

Nancy Dickinson served as an editor, writer, and designer of the 2011 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review.

B.A. Myrstol and Shila R. Hawk-Tourtelot had a paper, “In Search of Respect: Examining Arrestee Satisfaction with Police,” accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*. Ms. Hawk-Tourtelot was chosen to be a part of the Urban Fellows Program at GSU.

Sadie Mummert and Christina Policastro presented a paper titled “Teaching sensitive topics in the college classroom: Dilemmas associated with violence against women” at the GTA Pedagogy Conference held at Georgia State University in March.


John Prevost published a co-authored article, “Measuring electronic monitoring tools: The Influence of vendor type and vendor data,” in the American Journal of Criminal Justice. The article was co-authored with Brenda Blackwell and Brian Payne.
**Selected Faculty Publications (2010)**


**Brezina, T.** (2010). Anger, attitudes, and aggressive behavior: Exploring the affective and cognitive foundations of angry aggression. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice, 26*, 186-203. (Special Issue on General Strain Theory)


**Time, V., Payne, B. K., & Gainey, R. R.** (2010). Don't help victims of crime if you don't have the time: Assessing support for Good Samaritan laws. *Journal of Criminal Justice, 38*, 790-795.


Beginning Fall 2011, Georgia State University’s Criminal Justice and Social Work programs will begin offering junior year courses at the Alpharetta Center. Senior classes will be offered in Fall 2012.

This site is located adjacent to the Georgia Perimeter College Alpharetta Campus at
3775 Brookside Parkway, Alpharetta GA 30022
Phone: (404) 413-2200
www.cba.gsu.edu/Alpharetta/directions.htm

**GSU Alpharetta Campus is convenient for students who live or work in the North Metro area; easy access to Georgia 400. FREE PARKING.**

**How to Apply?**

The admission process and criteria for both majors will remain the same. Admissions information and a complete list of courses available can be found on the web sites of both programs:

- **Criminal Justice**  http://chhsweb.gsu.edu/cj/
- **Social Work**  http://chhs.gsu.edu/socialwork/bsw.asp

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