Letter from the Chair, Dean A. Dabney, PhD

Serving a year as Interim Chair is usually a grueling and unfulfilling exercise. Lucky for me, I can say with enthusiasm that this was not the case. Thanks to the heroic efforts of the faculty, staff, and students, we head forward poised to realize big things. Thanks to the committed efforts of Dean Mary Beth Walker and a highly motivated search committee, I leave the department in the capable hands of Dr. Richard Wright (pictured below), the newly hired Professor and Chair of the department. He comes to us from the University of Missouri – St. Louis where he twice led his department and established it as one of the top PhD programs in the country. He is a leading criminologist in the world, as evidenced by his status as one of roughly 50 living Fellows of the American Society of Criminology. We also welcomed Dr. Bill Pridemore to our faculty (pictured below) as a Distinguished University Professor and member of the prestigious Evidence-Based Policy faculty cluster and Angela Overton and Michael Shapiro as clinical instructors. It is easy to recruit top scholars such as Drs. Wright and Pridemore when you have such a strong faculty and student body to showcase. The faculty accomplishments section below details key accolades such as Drs. Brezina and Topalli achieving promotions to the rank of professor, Dr. Mary Finn winning the university’s coveted Sparks Award, and a slew of impactful appointments and publications by our talented faculty. I point to the numerous recent student successes such as the graduation and strong academic job placements of students from our inaugural doctoral program cohort, as well as local, regional, and national awards and fellowships bestowed upon our undergraduate and graduate students. On the outreach front, we entered into a partnership with the Atlanta Police Foundation to provide evidence-based leadership training to officers of the Atlanta Police Department (APD). The Atlanta Police Leadership Institute graduated its first class of 70+ Sergeants and Lieutenants and is poised to provide a critical career ladder progression for officers and succession training infrastructure for APD for years to come. And of course, we continue to cater to our student body through curricular enhancements such as our deliberate expansion into GSU’s honor’s program and our rolling out a dual enrollment program that will allow Georgia high school students to get state-sponsored credit for high school and college courses to speed up their progression to the workforce. It has been an honor to hold down the fort for this last year; cheers to the year to come!

Faculty Spotlight by Dr. Bill Pridemore

I do research across and publish in the journals of a wide range of disciplines, including criminology, sociology, epidemiology, public health, and geography. My main research interests include the impact of social structure on homicide and suicide rates, the role of alcohol in violence and mortality, the sociology of health and illness, rural criminology and sociology, and research methods. A sizeable portion of my work is also international or cross-national in nature, and beginning this August I will take over as Editor of International Criminal Justice Review. I am guest editing a special issue of that journal on international studies of violence that will appear later this year, and together with Dutch collaborator Marieke Liem I am guest editing a special issue on violence research in Europe for European Journal of Criminology in 2014.

One area of recent research examines the impact of poverty on cross-national homicide rates, the moderating effect of governmental social protection on the poverty-homicide association, and contests the supposed stylized facts that economic inequality and the proportion of young people in a society influence national homicide rates. This work has appeared in Criminology (2008), British Journal of Criminology (2011; this article won the journal’s 2012 Radzinowicz Memorial Prize), Social Science Research (2013), and two manuscripts (with a current PhD student) now under review. I have also given invited presentations on this research at the University of Montreal (November 2013), the University of Iowa (March 2014), and UNLV (March 2014).

Another recent research project evaluated the impact of a 2006 Russian alcohol policy on mortality. Our work revealed the policy was responsible for saving 16,000 lives annually that otherwise would have been lost to suicide, alcohol poisoning, transport accidents, and cirrhosis of the liver. These articles were published in American Journal of Public Health (2013), Addiction (2013), and Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research (2014).

Another recent research project employed data from a large-scale population-based case-control design to address the association between incarceration and premature mortality among men. This study, which showed that those who had been incarcerated were more than twice as likely as those who had not to die prematurely, will be published in the June 2014 issue of Journal of Health and Social Behavior. Further, together with a collaborator (Mike Massoglia, U. of Wisconsin Sociology), I am writing a piece on incarceration and health that will appear in the 2015 volume of the Annual Review of Sociology.
By Dr. Brent Teasdale

This year, we have much to celebrate. Ph.D. students Beverly Crank and Sadie Mummert both received tenure track Assistant Professorships. In the fall, Beverly will be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Government and Justice Studies at Appalachian State University. Sadie will be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. IUP has a Ph.D. program in Criminology, which will make Sadie our first placement in a doctoral granting department – a major success for a new program!

In addition, Erin Marsh – current Ph.D. student in Criminal Justice and Criminology has won a prestigious Doris Duke Fellowship for the promotion of child well-being. Glen Ishoy won the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology’s Research Award. Beverly Crank won the department’s Teaching Award, and Jane Daquin won the Andrew Young School’s Graduate Research Award. Moreover, Shila Hawk was recognized by the Southern Criminal Justice Association as the Outstanding Graduate Student for 2013.

In addition, our students continue to be successful presenting their research at major national conferences, such as the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, as well as continuing with publishing success in journals such as Deviant Behavior, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, and Homicide Studies, to name a few. We have so much to be proud of! Please take a moment to congratulate each other on our many successes this year.

Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association President, Erin Marsh

The Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association (CJGSA) has had a busy 2013–2014 school year. The association has continued to provide incoming students with older student mentors to assist them in their transition to life in Atlanta, Georgia State, and the Criminal Justice Department. We also arrange social gatherings such as dinners and bowling for graduate students as a way to socialize with each other outside of school.

In addition, CJGSA along with the Criminal Justice Department arranged for Dr. Daniel Nagin, the 2014 Stockholm Prize for Criminology award recipient, to come and give a presentation. He gave a sneak peek at his acceptance speech for the award which he will receive in Sweden in June. We were excited about the attendance and enthusiasm students showed in meeting and talking with Dr. Nagin and look forward to hosting similar colloquia by top scholars in the coming year.

The graduate student association also plans to fund trips to conferences for several students in the upcoming

Graduate Program Successes!

Finally, other ongoing research projects include (1) a series of studies (with a geographer collaborator and a former PhD student) of the impact of alcohol outlets on violence, (2) a large NIH-funded project (I am co-PI with sociologist Bernice Pescosolido (PI) and statistician Karen Kafadar (co-PI), both at Indiana University) examining multi-level factors associated with suicide in the United States, (3) several substantive and methodological articles (with a former PhD student) addressing crime in rural areas, (4) two articles (with a current PhD student) of the foreclosure crisis and crime, (5) creating (with two demographer colleagues) a method for reclassifying deaths categorized as due to external “events of undetermined intent” in vital statistics data as homicide, suicide, or accident, and (6) an analysis (with criminology and sociology collaborators) of the impact of the 1980s farm crisis on suicide and other forms of morbidity and mortality.

Congratulations to our 2014 Scholarship and Award Winners!

Graduate Academic Achievement Award
Rachel Gage
Ryan Coble

Undergraduate Academic Achievement Award
Juan Rivera
Chelsea Harkins
Kerry McDonough

Chris Perrin Memorial Scholarship
Samuel Harvey

James L. Maddex, Jr. Scholarship
Elizabeth Bonomo

Phil Peters Memorial Scholarship
Faye Marie Adams
Taylor Dedrick

Bobby Joe Chancey, Sr. Memorial Scholarship
Paula Allen

Judge Andrew A. Mickle Outstanding Part-Time Instructor Award
Ms. Marilyn Bardie-Kapaun

Distinguished Alumni Service Award
Aparna Bhattacharyya,
Raksha Inc., Executive Director

Outstanding Criminal Justice Agency Award
Visions Unlimited Community Development Systems Inc.

Above awardees were recognized at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies’ Honors Day ceremony and the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology’s 2014 Graduation/Internship Fair.
school year. These students include Glen Ishoy, the Criminal Justice & Criminology’s Graduate Research Award winner, and Beverly Crank, our department’s Graduate Teaching Award winner. We look forward to hosting a reception for those graduate students, Master’s and PhD, who are graduating and leaving the department. We are excited about the upcoming year and continuing to improve and better serve the graduate students and the department.

Lectures Hosted by Department in 2014

- “What to do when crime rates rise?” by Dr. Daniel Nagin (Carnegie Mellon University)

- “How white-collar crime led to America’s mortgage crisis” by Dr. Michael Benson (University of Cincinnati)

- “Beyond self-control theory: Impulsivity and sensation seeking from an evolutionary-neurodevelopmental perspective” by Dr. Callie Burt (Arizona State University)

The Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology would like to congratulate all of our Spring 2014 graduates.

Graduates Chelsea Harkins, BS and Rachel Gage, MS at AYSPS Graduation Recognition Ceremony.

CJ Senior Earns Prestigious Fellowship

Undergraduate student Clifton Ndubuisi (pictured above with U.S. Representative David Scott) was awarded the Boren Scholarship by the US Department of Defense to study Arabic in Jordan and return to the states to work within the federal intelligence community.

The Criminal Justice Association of Georgia annual conference will be held Friday, November 7th at Kennesaw State University Center. Students and faculty are encouraged to present papers at this conference. For more information, see cjag.us/conferences or Professor Michael Shapiro.
### Faculty Accomplishments

- **Mary Finn** was awarded the prestigious 2014 University Sparks Award with her service contributions to the university.
- **Timothy Brezina** received a grant from the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta to study the long-term impact of youth mentoring programs.
- **Volkan Topalli** was appointed Associate Director for Innovative Research Development in the University’s Center for Instructional Innovation. He also took over as Graduate Coordinator in the department.
- **Michael Shapiro** was elected Vice President (President-Elect) of the Criminal Justice Association of Georgia in November.
- **Cyntoria Johnson** received the Faculty Award for Global Engagement from the university to enhance international learning in our legal track courses.
- **Dean Dabney** was elected to a 3-yr term on the Executive Board of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (Southeast Region trustee) and Executive Counselor to its International Section.
- **Brent Teasdale** was elected chair of the Crime and Juvenile Delinquency division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Executive Counselor to the Division of Victimology of the American Society of Criminology and to the editorial board for the journal *Social Problems*.
- **Leah Daigle** won the AYS Excellence in Teaching Award for 2014 and was named the editor of the journal *Criminal Justice Review*.
- **Damon Camp** (Associate Professor Emeritus) got married and returned to the faculty to serve as director of the Atlanta Police Leadership Institute.
- **Mark Reed** was named Undergraduate Coordinator in the department.
- **Bill Pridemore’s** research on the long term health effects of imprisonment was featured prominently in news stories by *Newsweek* and the *PBS NewsHour*.
- **Scott Jacques** earned the Dean’s Early Career Award from the college.
- **Josh Hinkle** and **Volkan Topalli** received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study policing of drug free school zones.

### Select Faculty Publications

From the Desk of the Undergraduate Coordinator, Dr. Mark Reed

The end of another academic year is fast approaching. Our students have been working hard to complete their Maymester coursework for the year, and for many, their final semester at Georgia State University. As always, this is an important time of year to take stock, reflecting back on our students’ successes and highlighting upcoming student opportunities.

First, I want to congratulate our graduating seniors. You’ve made it! Many of you will go on to work within the juvenile and criminal justice profession and other related fields. A few students have plans for or have been accepted to either graduate or law school. The department wishes you great success and we want to hear back from you. Make us proud! For all, if, in the short- or long-term, your path takes you in a different direction (or directions), we hope that our program has provided you with the working knowledge and skills that will serve you and your community well.

I also want to recognize the academic achievements of our students. The Undergraduate Academic Award is given annually to top students based upon their grade point average and credit hours completed. This year’s recipients are Juan Rivera, Chelsea E. Hawkins, and Kerry F. McDonough. Additionally, scholarships have been awarded to four students. Samuel Harvey received the Chris Perrin Memorial Scholarship, Faye Adams and Taylor Dedrick were awarded the Phil Peters Scholarship, and Paula Allen received The Bobby Joe Chancey, Sr. Memorial Scholarship. These awards are based on merit and need, providing substantial financial assistance to some of our well-deserving, outstanding students. Congratulations to the 2014-2015 Criminal Justice scholarship and award recipients!

Finally, I would like to highlight an important and wonderful opportunity that is available in our department. In May 2013, the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology embarked on a new chapter, offering the first AYS West Indies Study Abroad Program. Under the direction of criminal justice faculty member, Cyntoria Johnson, 7 students (from the Departments of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Political Science/Pre-Law, Psychology, and the School of Social Work) left the States to spend four weeks in the twin island country of Trinidad and Tobago. If you haven’t had the chance yet, please read the banner story about their first trip on the AYSPS homepage http://aysps.gsu.edu/news/west-indies-study-abroad-opens-new-chapters.

This Maymester 2014, Prof. Johnson will lead 13 students on a 3-week overseas academic adventure back to the exotic tropical islands of Trinidad & Tobago. This year’s participants include Khadijah Abdur-Rahman (CJC, Junior), Andrew Alcala (Applied Linguistics, Sophomore), Iesha Blankumsee (CJC, Master’s), Michelle Block (CJC, Master’s), Jana Haltaufderhyde (CJC, Master’s), Jasmine Holman (CJC, Senior), Heaven Marshall (Public Policy, Senior), Tiffany Mensah (Public Administration, Master’s), Shakia Pennix (CJC, Master’s), Mychale Peters (CJC major/ Psychology minor, Junior), Evan Summers (CJC major/ Political Science minor, Junior), Kia Williams (CJC, Junior from Georgia Southern), and Le Anne Young (CJC, Junior). We are proud to see that our program participation has doubled in size and is even more diverse, drawing interest from students across the college, both undergraduate and graduate levels, and even outside the university.

Students are super excited about the opportunity to study crime and justice in Trinidad & Tobago. With the exception of two, these students have never been outside of Georgia, much less out of the country. So this year is sure to be an exciting and hopefully enriching experience. We have a jam-packed itinerary for this year loaded with coursework, guest lectures, site visits to local criminal justice agencies (e.g., courts, police department, maximum security prison), field trips to cultural and historical sites, and some service learning activities. As before, the students will study crime and justice from an international, comparative perspective and examine public policy issues related to crime and violence, particularly in developing nations.

If you are looking for an exciting study abroad experience in Maymester 2015, consider applying to the AYS West Indies Study Abroad Program. For more information, please visit the West Indies Study Abroad program’s webpage at http://aysps.gsu.edu/cj/study-abroad-program. Funding and scholarships are also available.
I had never dreamed of going to college to get an education. My father tilled the land for crop production, hunted animals for meat and kept cattle for their products. My mother was a farmer and raised me with my other siblings. My mother and father worked extremely hard not only to keep the roof over our heads and food on the table, but also to teach us the means of survival. As a little boy growing up, my dream was to follow my parents’ footsteps by farming, hunting, and rearing cattle. However, the civil war in my country changed the path of my life.

I am one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. The name “Lost Boys” was given to a group of displaced and/or orphaned boys affected by the second Sudanese Civil War that broke out in 1983. In 1987, when I was seven, I left South Sudan, formerly called Sudan due to civil war between the government of Sudan and South Sudanese rebels. I went to Ethiopia in 1987 and spent four years there. Another civil war broke out between Ethiopia and Eritrea in 1991. We left Ethiopia and came back to Sudan again. The situation was unsafe and unbearable for us to live in the country, so we left once again, this time for Kenya, where we were placed in the refugee camp. In the process of my treks, I encountered tremendous challenges, such as starvation, thirst, wild animals, crocodiles, attacks by enemy soldiers, and walking with no shoes until I reached the refugees’ camp.

I lived in Kakuma Refugee Camp for 10 years. In 1998, the United States government did some research and learned about the story of the “Lost Boys” through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. With the help of the UNHCR, the United States resettlement agencies and international Organization for Migration (IOM) went to Kakuma in 1999 to interview us. The major eligibility requirements were that one had to be one of the “Lost Boys” and a refugee in Kakuma. I got interviewed and qualified to relocate to the United States. The United States government assigned us to the US resettlement agencies, such as International Rescue Committee (IRC), Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Ministries of Georgia, and World Relief. I was assigned to the Lutheran Ministries of Georgia. I was so excited when I saw my name on the bulletin board that I was accepted to go to Atlanta Georgia in the United States with six other friends. We had big dreams and had heard stories about America. I was thrilled to come to America because I used to hear that everybody in America is rich and enjoys a comfortable and luxurious life. I was also happy that I would go to a good school in the US. I would hear other stories that American streets are paved with gold and money would even fall from the trees. Going to America was like going to heaven.

Most of the stories that were told to me about the United States did not come true; however, America is still the greatest land of opportunities on earth. But one story that was true was that there are extraordinary schools in America. Georgia State University is one of those exceptional schools. Georgia State University is highly recognized. Wherever you go, people know about Georgia State University. When I first came here, I would hear my new friends talking about Georgia State and how great Georgia State University was. I would wonder how I could go to Georgia State University. I could barely speak English when I came to Atlanta in 2001. I decided to get my G.E.D in 2003. Then I went to Georgia Perimeter College in Clarkston, Georgia. I graduated from Georgia Perimeter College in 2009. Obtaining my GED and going to Georgia Perimeter College were stepping stones to Georgia State University. I went to Georgia State University in August of 2009 and graduated in December of 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice and a minor in psychology.

I enjoyed being a student at Georgia State University. I met a very diverse group of students and friends from different countries and backgrounds. We were able to share ideas and learned from one another. All the teachers that I had at Georgia State University were incredibly helpful. However, I would like to express my profound appreciation to the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology for playing an extraordinary role in preparing me for the outside world. The teachers I had were informative, knowledgeable, experienced, gracious and helpful indeed. Dr. Sue Collins, Dr. Muftic, Dr. Warner, and many other professors were exceptional. I fell in love with Dr. Collins after we had a little argument regarding internship. I was stuck in the morning traffic and the internship orientation for the criminal justice students was scheduled at 9:00 am. In addition, I used to work overnight and I was so exhausted that I overslept. I arrived 5 minutes late. Dr. Collins stated that I was late and I could not participate in the orientation. She told me that I should go home. I attempted to persuade her to let me take part but she refused. She told me the only option I had was to find an internship on my own. I went and found my internship with the Atlanta Police Department. Dr. Collins was not only strict about time consciousness, but also serious about respecting school rules and regulations. Dr. Collins made it clear that the first rule of the workplace is “to be on time.” So if I could not be on time for an internship orientation, how could she rely on me to be on time for an interview with a potential employer or for the job itself? Looking back on Dr. Collins’ actions and the University, I realized that she was using some tough love to teach me a lesson about promptness. I came to realize that it is important to understand that we do not come to Georgia State University only to learn the academic aspect of education, but also to learn discipline in everything we do. Nothing should be taken for granted.

GSU Alum Jacob Mach’s Story of Survival from Sudan to the Atlanta Police Department
When I graduated from Georgia State University in December of 2011, I was ready, equipped, and prepared to face the world of employment and professionalism. Anyone who graduates from this school has an opportunity to shine on the world stage. Now I work for the City of Atlanta as a code enforcement officer. I do some public speaking engagements as well. I am a proud product of this school. Georgia State University is my source of pride and joy. Thank you for educating me and thank you for preparing my way.

* Jacob’s full life story was showcased as the cover story in the December 4, 2013 issue of the New York Times Magazine.

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**Spring 2014 Graduation/ Internship Fair**

Dr. Dean Dabney presents the 2014 Outstanding Criminal Justice Agency Award to Visions Unlimited Community Development Systems, Inc., founded by Gwendolyn Sands (second from the right).

Dr. Dabney presents the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Service Award to Aparna Bhattacharyya.

Dr. Dabney presents the 2014 Andrew Mickle Part-time Instructor of the Year Award to Marilyn Bardie-Kapaun.

Bridgett Marzette was bestowed the honor of cutting our cake at the Spring 2014 Graduation/Internship Reception.
Mara Wynn discusses her project on police chase policies with Professor Cyntoria Johnson.

Should juvenile offenders receive mandated rehabilitation? (Aleshia Lewis)

Dr. Reed reviewing Chelsea Harkin’s project on juvenile waiver policies.

Should the legalization of recreational marijuana be permitted in Georgia? (Tim Toll)

Dr. Reed conversing with Chelsea and her mother.

Dr. Reed reviewing Kerry McDonough’s project.