Letter from the Chair, Brian K. Payne, PhD

In 1999, singer Prince changed his name to “The artist formerly known as Prince.” Not long after that, rap artist Puff Daddy changed his name to P-Diddy, a name he kept until 2007 when he changed his stage name to Diddy. A year later, football player Chad Johnson changed his name to Chad Ochocinco. Changing a name is something that should not be taken lightly. After all, our names are our identities. Our names reflect how we see ourselves and how we want others to see us.

Following in the footsteps of Diddy and the others, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Criminal Justice has changed its name to “Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology.” Criminal Justice programs tend to focus more on criminal justice processes and the role of the criminal justice system in controlling crime. Criminology programs focus on crime—its characteristics, causes, and consequences. At Georgia State University, we want to make sure that our department is appropriately labeled to ensure that all students (undergraduate and graduate alike) are aware of the types of courses offered in our degree programs. We have worked very hard to have a mix of Criminal Justice and Criminology courses, and a mix of faculty who specialize in both areas. These efforts have placed us in a position to be recognized as one of the top criminal justice/criminology programs in the country. Because our strengths are based on an integration of Criminal Justice and Criminology, our department should be so named.

Every semester I become more impressed with Georgia State University students. We end every semester with a poster session where our criminal justice graduates present an overview of the research paper they wrote as part of the capstone experience. The students’ presentations consistently demonstrate that our graduates have developed critical thinking and writing skills that will equip them for their future experiences. This past semester brought to light the students’ abilities to critically analyze and understand various issues. Topics students addressed included drug courts, police stress, sentencing offenders, violence against drug dealers, and several other interesting critical issues. As I reviewed the students’ posters, I saw that the students were, in fact, producing “Criminal Justice” AND “Criminology” research. The students’ projects affirmed what I already knew—we have a great “Criminal Justice and Criminology” program.

Of course, it is not just the students who impress me. I am both proud of and impressed by my colleagues and their passion for educating our students in the classroom and in joint research projects.

Faculty Accomplishments

As part of the research showcase at the annual meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Susannah Tapp (a criminal justice graduate student) and Richard Tewksbury (a professor from the University of Louisville) presented a project titled “Junior Rainmakers: External Funding by Junior Professors in PhD Granting Criminal Justice Programs.” The authors reviewed the vitas of 102 CJ junior professors (including current assistant professors and associate professors promoted since 2008), with an aim towards understanding trends in grant/contract projects by junior faculty in CJ PhD programs. Wendy Guastaferro, assistant professor of criminal justice, was tied for second out of the 102 junior professors for the most grants/contracts by the “Junior Rainmakers.” She was third in terms of the total amount of grant/contract dollars brought in by the junior professors. This research was a follow up to a project Tewksbury co-authored last year that focused on grant activity among all CJ professors and was published in Journal of Criminal Justice Education.

Barbara Warner, associate professor of criminal justice, has been appointed to the editorial board of Criminology, one of the top journals in our field. She is the first faculty member from our department to be appointed to this prestigious journal’s editorial board.

Dean Dabney is working with a team of graduate and undergraduate students on a project examining violence in Atlanta. The research team is conducting critical incident reviews of homicide and shooting files. The aim is to propose a focused deterrence gang intervention in the city.

Denzell Washington was the lead actor in a movie shot in Dean Dabney’s neighborhood this semester. It was a close call but Washington beat Dabney out for the part.

Leah Daigle recently completed a book, Victimology: A Text/Reader. Published by Sage, the book includes original text and classic readings designed to introduce readers to the study of victims. The text will be available in Spring 2012. For information, go to http://www.sagepub.com/books/Book234793. This is Daigle’s third book.

Brian Payne recently completed a book, White-Collar Crime: The Essentials. The book examines how various types of white-collar crime are committed in different societal systems. Specific attention is given to crime in the educational, criminal justice, and health care systems. Payne’s son Charles tells him he never plans to read it.
**Internationalization and Criminal Justice**

Goal 5 of the Georgia State University’s Strategic Plan is to “Achieve distinction in globalizing the University.” The Department of Criminal Justice has a number of ongoing initiatives that will help the university achieve this important goal. First, the Department has published the *International Criminal Justice Review* since it was created in 1991. The ICJR is a scholarly journal dedicated to presenting system wide trends and problems on crime and justice throughout the world.

Second, the department remains committed to teaching globally-focused courses. We teach an upper-level course, Comparative Criminal Justice Systems, that examines international criminal justice issues. We have offered two Scientific Perspectives on Global Problems courses in the core in the past – Domestic Terrorism and Aggression and Violence. We plan to develop similar courses in the areas of occupational deviance and law and policy in the future. Also, we are in the early stages of planning a study abroad program.

Third, faculty members have actively worked towards developing international partnerships. The Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange, for example, routinely develops cross national partnerships to promote global awareness among law enforcement executives. Faculty members are also currently exploring different types of partnerships with universities in Bosnia, Turkey, and Taiwan.

Fourth, the Department is fortunate to have faculty members conducting internationally-oriented research. Lisa Muftic, for instance, has conducted a number of comparative criminal justice studies. She spent the past summer in Bosnia interviewing police officers to examine how aware officers are about trafficking-related topics. The results of this project are sure to have national and international implications.

Finally, the Department has benefitted from a particularly diverse student body. As we develop our programs, concerted efforts will be made to increase this diversity, particularly in the area of international students.

We are committed to the goal of achieving distinction in globalizing Georgia State. Helping to transform the university will benefit our local and global communities!

**Criminal Justice Student Association**

**Jordan Kragten, President**

The Criminal Justice Student Association has been busy this semester. Our distinguished speakers have included Georgia House Representative and GSU Law Alumnus Rich Golick, and William S. Duffey, the U.S. Federal Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. We also partnered with the Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association to welcome our very own Dr. Wendy Guastaferro (“Dr. G”) as a presenter in the second annual Faculty Speakers series. Dr. G. previewed a video and led an interactive discussion about capital punishment as a prelude to a presentation the following week by Dr. Tom Brewer, a leading researcher on juries in capital cases. These events provided numerous opportunities for students to ask meaningful questions about laws that shape the criminal justice system and affect our daily lives.

The CJSA is also very active in giving back to the Atlanta community. Most recently several members assisted the Historic Oakland Foundation by providing a day of hard work planting trees and hedges at Oakland Cemetery. Additionally, the organization partnered with the Student Veterans Association to assist Hands On Atlanta with decorating Centennial Park for the holidays. Our next community service opportunity is in partnership with the nursing students at Georgia State for Steps That Count, an event to raise awareness and fight kidney disease. The CJSA will also be touring criminal justice related facilities including the 911 dispatch center in downtown Atlanta, Georgia Diagnostic and Classification State Prison, and the Atlanta probation office. We encourage all students to join the CJSA at their next event. To find out more, join us on OrgSync.com, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter.

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**Congratulations Graduating Students**

This fall we have 45 students completing their coursework for their undergraduate degrees. The students were honored at the internship/poster fair held on November 30th. Incidentally, four years ago we graduated 27 students in the fall semester. The department has improved its retention and graduation rates over the past four years. Our three year retention rates of juniors increased 6.4% between 2007 to 2011 (from 74.6 to 81%) and our three year graduation rates increased 10.1% in the same timeframe (from 57.1 to 67.2%).
Since being formally chartered as a GSU organization in February, the CJGSA has branched out on a number of fronts. We have been busy on the administrative front, holding our first meetings, electing officers, and soliciting funds from university-based sources. We successfully procured a modest level of funding from the university for the latter part of the last fiscal year and were graciously awarded some bridge funds from the department and our new college to get us through to the first full competitive funding cycle of the university that we will be pursuing soon. On the substantive front, CJGSA has sponsored several events aimed at contributing to the learning environment of Georgia State University. This summer the CJGSA sponsored a colloquium, at which Dr. Heith Copes of the University of Alabama at Birmingham presented to a packed room about the use of qualitative methods in the study of crime and justice topics. Just recently, we co-sponsored with our undergraduate sister organization (CJSA) a colloquium where Dr. Tom Brewer from Kent State University spoke to an even larger group of faculty and students about his research with jurors involved in capital murder cases. Both events were informative and hopefully mark the start of a series of similar practically based lectures about topics of interest to our members. Additionally, if any readers have ideas about future topics please pass them along to the CJGSA officers!

To display and advertise our young association, the CJGSA has commissioned the design and production of t-shirts for members and friends of the organization. These shirts can be acquired through the payment of membership fees for students or by a humble donation from friends of the organization. This limited fundraising, along with a gregarious display by the undergraduate organization, has served to see the CJGSA through this first lean year of our charter. It is my hope, and that of the rest of the executive board, that through our frugal yet effective use of available funds that the CJGSA will be rewarded with ample funds from the University allocation in the spring. However, we need as many official members as possible to act as a formal display of our presence in and with the University. We have gotten a running start off the block with aid from the Student Government Association, our new Dean’s office, and the Criminal Justice Student Association, but now the weight will shift to you, members and friends. The CJGSA is an outlet for shaping the direction and reputation of the Department of Criminal Justice at Georgia State University.

The time is now and the future is today -- the condition that we pass along this organization to the next generation and the mark that we leave on this department is shaped by our contributions to organized student activity. I tell you now that it is moving towards being in good order, but we need your help going forward to stay on track and to keep getting better.

Graduate Student/Faculty Presentations at American Society of Criminology

- **Brown, Anastasia**, Copes, H., & Hochstetler, A. Accounting for violations of the inmate code.
- **Crank, Beverly R.**, & **Brezina, T.** Adapting to incarceration: Understanding inmate’s adjustment to prison life from a criminal lifestyle perspective.
- **Hawk-Tourtelot, Shila R.**, Teasdale, B., & **Daigle, L.E.** Violent victimization in prison: The role of individual and contextual factors.
- **Hunt, Donald**, & **Muftic, L.R.** Integrating victim precipitation and victim-offender overlap in the study of homicide.
- **Mummert, Sadie.** The influence of gender identity and self-control on victimization.
- **Policastro, Christina**, & **Payne, B.K.** Perceptions of intimate partner violence victims: An extension of myth acceptance among university students.

Selected Recent Publications Co-authored by Faculty and Graduate Students

- **Dabney, Dean**, Copes, H., Tewksbury, R, & **Hawk-Tourtelot, Shila.** Stress among homicide investigators. Justice Quarterly.
- **Policastro, Christina**, & **Payne, Brian.** Pre-professionals’ awareness about elder abuse issues. Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect.
From Your Undergraduate Coordinator, Brenda Blackwell, PhD

Fall is again upon us, and as we experience the shift of the seasons, this particular year has brought significant changes, not only for students as they continue to grow academically and professionally, but also for the department as it moves into a new college and continues its own development.

With the beginning of summer, the Department of Criminal Justice joined the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. While this change does not affect students’ access to courses or their professors, it has yielded changes in the way that students receive their advisement. The Office of Academic Assistance in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies is available to provide curriculum advisement to our students on both an appointment and walk-in basis. This office provides advisement to current students, as well as students who are interested in pursuing a degree within the college. Information about admission, curriculum, and graduation requirements can be accessed through this office. Contact information and hours, as well as descriptions of available services can be found at: http://aysps.gsu.edu/academic-assistance-services.html. Of course, students continue to have access to faculty members in the department to answer questions about courses, curriculum decisions related to preferred career tracks, and other questions that students have about professional development.

Also available through the Andrew Young School are enhanced resources for students regarding career planning and development. I encourage our students to explore their website, http://aysps.gsu.edu/career/6472.html, to see what services, advice, and resources they have available. On this site students will find information about what kinds of careers are available with a criminal justice degree, resources for applying to graduate and law schools, a calendar of events of interest to our majors (such as career and internship fairs, and updated event calendars for career services offered by the university). I encourage all of our students to take advantage of these resources as they move forward through their academic program and prepare for entry into the work force.

As the season closes and we move into the spring semester, we look forward to the continued changes and growth of our department, our faculty, our college, and our students. Best of luck to our fall graduates and wishes for future successes for our continuing students!

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. Timothy Brezina at (404) 413-1020 or tbrezina@gsu.edu.

The application deadline for Fall 2012 is February 15, 2012.

Welcome to New Faculty

The department would like to welcome two new faculty members to the department. Professor Jodie Yu was hired as a clinical instructor to teach courses in Alpharetta and the downtown campus. Professor Yu is completing her PhD at the University of Albany. She is teaching a wide range of courses including Policing, Courts, Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice, and Statistical Analysis in Criminal Justice. Professor Cyntoria Johnson was hired as a visiting instructor. Professor Johnson received her Master’s degree in Criminal Justice from Georgia State University and her Juris Doctor in 2009 from Florida Coastal School of Law where she was the recipient of the Governor’s Merit Scholarship. She is teaching Social Science and the American Crime Problem, Judicial Process, Crime and the Media, and several other courses this academic year.