Letter from the Chair, Brian K. Payne, PhD

It is hard to believe that our first full academic year in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies has come to an end. The transition has gone even more smoothly than we expected. As part of the transition, our department has made four changes in staffing that may be of interest to you.

First, in February we hired Jamia Luckett as an administrative specialist. Jamia will perform many tasks that will help to ensure that our undergraduate and graduate programs continue to operate efficiently and effectively. Among those duties assigned to her, she is now the editor of this newsletter.

Second, the practice of academic advising has been moved from our department to the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Office of Academic Assistance. Under the leadership of the talented Shelly-Ann Williams, our majors are now provided academic advising from professional advisers. The department will continue to provide career advising, advising about how specific courses relate to student interests, and reviews of course petitions.

Third, we are in the process of hiring an associate undergraduate coordinator who will serve as a liaison between our department and the Office of Academic Assistance. In addition to teaching various courses, the person hired in the position will assist the undergraduate coordinator with program administration.

Fourth, we will have more faculty offering courses at the Alpharetta Center in the upcoming year. Please consider taking some of your courses at the Center. You will be quite pleased with the building, the courses, and the one-on-one interactions provided by faculty in Alpharetta.

These are not the only changes occurring. One day in February, the department hosted a retreat so faculty could have an informed conversation about our future. From that discussion, we agreed that our shared purpose as a department is to generate understanding about crime and violence within the community context to inform theory and policy, particularly in urban areas. With this shared understanding as a foundation, we then talked about our vision for best serving students, how to enhance our research portfolio, strategies to promote globalization among our majors, efforts to promote graduate education, the importance of community partnerships, how we will become a top-ranked program, and other issues that directly tie to Georgia State University’s strategic plan. I learned one important point that day – while our department is doing great things, the best is yet to come!

Faculty Accomplishments

- **Brenda Blackwell** received the 2012 Andrew Young School's Award for Excellence in Teaching. She also was a co-convener of the Women and Criminal Justice Forum held in March.

- **Leah Daigle** was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. She has received widespread recognition for her research on victimization and social biological theories of crime. She won the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences outstanding book award and outstanding article award in 2011. At least three times she has been ranked among the top in studies ranking scholarship by female criminologists. A forthcoming article to be published in *Journal of Criminal Justice Education* ranked her the seventh most cited junior professor in Criminal Justice/Criminology programs.

- **Dean Dabney** received the “Yodeler of the Year” award from his homeowner’s association. This gives him a 10 percent discount on his association dues.

- **Mary Finn** was elected to the university senate’s executive committee.

- **Brian Payne** was elected second vice president of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

- **Brent Teasdale** was tenured and promoted to associate professor. His research expertise is in the areas of quantitative methods and mental health issues related to criminal justice. He is the editor of *Social Problems Forum* and has published in a wide range of journals including *Prevention Science* and *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. He was ranked among the most cited junior professors in a forthcoming article. His “m-quotient” was ranked sixth among junior professors in his field. This is the length of career, divided by the H index. The H index is an indicator of the number times an author’s individual articles have been cited. Dr. Teasdale has a very impressive “m-quotient.”

- **Barbara Warner** was promoted to full professor. Dr. Warner has published more than two dozen scholarly journal articles. Nationally known for her research on neighborhoods and crime, many doctoral students across the country have used her data in their own dissertations. She was listed among the most prolific authors in a recent article in *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. While 80 authors were listed, Dr. Warner was one of only twelve females to make that list.
Congratulations to our 2012 Scholarship and Award Winners!

**Graduate Academic Achievement Award**
Audrey C. Clubb

**Undergraduate Academic Achievement Award**
Cody J. Chung

**Chris Perrin Memorial Scholarship**
Jeanne Nicole Morales

**James L. Maddex, Jr. Scholarship**
Brittany Alexxis Cullins
Faye Marie Adams

**Phil Peters Memorial Scholarship**
Jessica Jocquelyn Weekley
Joshua Christian Johnson

**Bobby Joe Chancey, Sr. Memorial Scholarship**
Christopher Andre Anderson

**Judge Andrew A. Mickle Outstanding Part-Time Instructor Award**
Ms. Sandra Y. Blount

**Distinguished Alumni Service Award**
Sheriff Ted Paxton,
Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office

**Outstanding Criminal Justice Agency Award**
City of Atlanta Police Department

Our honorees were recognized at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Honors Day ceremony and the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology’s Graduation/ Internship Fair

++++++++++++++++++

**Lectures Hosted by Department in Spring**

✓ “Three Strikes and You’re Out: What Women Have Paid for the Pitch of Criminal Justice Policy Reform,” by Mona Danner (Old Dominion University)

✓ “Delinquent Girls and Public Policy,” by Margaret Zahn (North Carolina State University)

✓ “Opportunities and Obstacles: An Informal Discussion about Doctoral Programs in Criminal Justice and Criminology,” by Chris Sellers (University of South Florida)

✓ “Opportunity Structures and Victimization: A Review of Analyses from a Recent Longitudinal Study,” by Pamela Wilcox (University of Cincinnati)

✓ “Extending Immigration and Crime Studies: National Implications and Local Settings,” by Ramiro Martinez (Northeastern University)

**Student Spotlight**

**Shila R. Hawk-Tourtelot** is finishing her last semester of classes towards her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice and Criminology. She has published three articles and a book review. Her articles appear in reputable criminal justice journals including *American Journal of Criminal Justice, Justice Quarterly,* and *Journal of Criminal Justice Education.* Shila has presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the American Society of Criminology, and the Southern Criminal Justice Association.

In addition, Shila is the book review editor for the GSU housed *International Criminal Justice Review and Criminal Justice Review* journals, and she is the Managing Researcher for the Atlanta Police Department ATLAS Project. Also, she participated in the Law School’s Urban Fellows program this past year and is a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research, the Justice Research and Statistics Association, the Southern Criminal Justice Association, and the American Society of Criminology.

**Faculty Spotlight**

**Lisa Muftic** was selected as a “Junior Scholar” for the 2012 Regional Policy Symposium on *Transnational Crime and Corruption in Eastern Europe and Eurasia* sponsored by the United States Department of State and implemented by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IRES) and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars’ Kennan Institute. At the symposium, Dr. Muftic presented an original research paper titled “Law enforcement responses to sex trafficking in Bosnia-Herzegovina: An exploratory analysis of the border police.” Also, she presented her research at a separate poster/networking event at the U.S. Department of State. The data she used in this project came from research she conducted while in Bosnia-Herzegovina last summer.

In addition, Dr. Muftic was awarded a “Research Initiation Grant” for the upcoming fiscal year (July 2012 - June 2013) by the University Research Services and Administration to continue work in Bosnia-Herzegovina examining formal and informal responses related to the fight against human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation in the region.

It was recently announced that Dr. Muftic was awarded a Fulbright to conduct research and teach in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the upcoming academic year. Fulbrights are among the most prestigious awards that academics can receive. Indeed, very few academics receive these awards. That she received the award so early in her career is a testament to her academic skills and enormous potential. Students and faculty alike will benefit from Dr. Muftic’s Fulbright experience.
**Student Presentations**

Trace Taylor, an undergraduate criminal justice student, presented at the Georgia State University Undergraduate Research Conference on March 21, 2012. His presentation was titled, “Unmanageability: Drug court participants talk about their recovery” and his faculty sponsor was Dr. Wendy Guastaferro.

**Background Information:**

In the United States 23.5 million persons aged 12 or older are in need of treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol abuse problem (SAMHSA, 2011). Drug courts have received a great deal of attention due to their reported effectiveness at helping people move into recovery by providing treatment and supervision to people who have been arrested and who have a substance abuse problem. There are more than 2,400 drug courts in the United States; more than 22,000 people have graduated from a drug court program (Huddleston & Marlowe, 2011). Yet we know very little about what happens to the individuals who go through a drug court program, especially from the individual’s perspective.

**Project Description:**

In the summer of 2011, Trace began documenting the recovery experience of participants enrolled in the DeKalb County Superior Court Drug Court program. Using audio and photography, Trace was able to capture both a conceptual and authentic landscape describing the significance of recovery themes for various participants. “Unmanageability” is one of five themes that detail the lives of several participants during their active addiction.

The photograph used and accompanying audio are from a five-part series featured in an independent body of work called The Discovery Project. The audio portion of this piece includes actual testimonies from participants who describe the instabilities and hardships of their lives before entering the program. The photograph demonstrates the conceptual reality of unmanageability by showing a man, an actual participant, attempting to maintain his grip on an impossible number of cardboard boxes. All the participant can see is the boxes and they are all we can see when we look at him. Collectively, the piece represents how addiction causes life to become completely unstable.

The exhibit was on display from March 30th - April 13th at Starbuck’s, on the Square in Decatur. Trace’s project will be shown in other venues as well.

**Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology welcomes Jamia D. Luckett**

The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology is excited to have a new addition to our department. Some of you may already know that Jamia Deondra Luckett is the new Administrative Specialist in our department. She has been working for Georgia State University for nearly 3 years. Some of her previous positions at GSU include serving as an Enrollment Services Assistant in the Office of Registration and Compliance and working as a Receptionist for the Department of Applied Linguistics & ESL.

Jamia is from East Point, GA and has lived in Atlanta all of her life. She is the youngest child of James and Beverly Luckett. Jamia has one older brother, Jay, and one older sister, Sharrell.

She has a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of Georgia. While in college, Jamia minored in Sociology. She took Sociology courses focusing on America’s Criminal Justice system. In 2008, she graduated with honors (Magna Cum Laude) from UGA.

She enjoys working for GSU and assisting students along their educational journey. Jamia plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Political Science ultimately becoming an advocate for justice and equality for all mankind.

Her hobbies include walking her dog “Bobo,” whose full name is Colombo, named after the old, but classic detective show. Also, Jamia enjoys spending time with family and friends and watching mystery shows and Lifetime movies. In addition, she is very proud of her sister, Sharrell, who recently received her Ph.D. in Theater from The University of Missouri.

Again, we are glad to have Jamia and welcome her to our department!

---

**Student Presentations with Faculty**

Criminal justice graduate students, Erin Marsh (PhD student), Elizabeth Bonomo (MS/PhD student), and Daniella Stuart (MS student) presented with Leah Daigle and Wendy Guastaferro at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences meeting in March in New York City. Their presentation was titled “Matching offenders with program objectives and services: An evaluation of the referral process to a treatment-oriented prison.”

---

*Images: Jamia and her mother, Rev. Beverly H. Luckett and Jamia's dog "Bobo"*
From your Undergraduate Coordinator, Dr. Brenda Blackwell

Campus seems busier than ever, with students earnestly progressing through the final semester of the year, and for many, their final semester of school. This is the time of year that we take stock, looking backward on our successes and looking forward to the future.

While all of our students are ratcheting up to finish their many semester projects, and preparing for final exams, our graduating seniors are firmly ensconced in the field placements of their internships. While placements are broad, some of our students this semester are working with a number of different law enforcement agencies: the Georgia Innocence Project, Fulton County Juvenile Court, and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Through the combination of the capstone seminar and the fieldwork experience, our goal is that students are able to see their studies in action. This final semester, students fit together the pieces of the criminal justice system to see the complexity of how the parts come together to move cases forward and address the needs of offenders and victims as well as to address the concerns of the greater communities involved.

Through the internship, students experience the realities of policy, as policies govern their placements (with some agencies having stricter admission requirements in place), as well as agency practices, budgets, and desired outcomes. By the end of their senior year, students should be able to critically observe policies and outcomes within the system and be able to communicate these observations in a variety of formats. As indicated by Monique Wilson, a graduating senior, “The criminal justice internship program has brought new meaning to the knowledge I gained in class, bridging the gap between theory and practice. It is one thing learning about the informal nature of the juvenile justice system and yet another to see it in action. The opportunity to get firsthand experience in the juvenile courts was priceless and will give me a valuable tool in my post degree job search.”

In March I was delighted to attend the several events held to acknowledge Women’s History month, sponsored by the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. In the first of these events, Professor Mona Danner from Old Dominion University spoke about the impact of policy, specifically “3 Strikes, You’re Out” sentencing policies, on women to a full house of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty. Later that same day, three criminal justice alumni -- Renee Propes, Deputy Chief of the Atlanta Police Department, Cynthia Padilla, a Fulton County Advocate, and Cyntoria Johnson, GSU Faculty and private attorney -- spent about an hour answering questions posed by an extremely engaged audience. After the panel, I spoke with several students who noted that the panel “brought their future to light” and provided an “extremely useful and informative” depiction of what is to come. Given these responses, my advice to students for this semester and the coming year is to GET INVOLVED! As one of the panelists said, “you get out of your education what you put into it.” There are so many wonderful, interesting things going on at Georgia State University, in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, and in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. Faculty presentations abound on campus, as do talks by external speakers. Students have at hand a myriad of social, political and volunteer opportunities available to them. Use these resources. While not always easy, and frequently difficult and exhausting, it does pay off in the end.

As always, I encourage students to think ahead, make use of resources, and pay attention to dates and deadlines. Academic resources available through the Office of Academic Assistance abound; make sure that you regularly check their website and your emails to stay on top of things. Finally, I want to say that it has been a pleasure working with the undergraduates in this program as the Undergraduate Coordinator. I have learned so much about our program and your lives working with each of you. I encourage you to get to know your faculty, to work hard, and to have fun while learning. “Now” really is the best time of your life.

Graduate Program Prepares Students for Success, Dr. Timothy Brezina

Each year, the department recruits promising graduate students from across the nation. Prospective graduate students are attracted to our program for a variety of reasons, perhaps the vibrant atmosphere of a downtown campus, the mild Atlanta winters, the buzzing nightlife, or cheese grits. We like to believe that one additional reason they select our program is because we are a productive, research-active department that prepares students for future success.

In the “publish or perish” world of the research university, the publication of quality research articles is a key indicator of success and is especially important for students who intend to pursue academic or research careers in criminology or criminal justice. At GSU, our graduate students learn the skills to conduct their own research and discover opportunities to work with faculty on collaborative projects. These skills and opportunities frequently lead to the development of initial publication records, helping to prepare our master’s students for doctoral study, and positioning our doctoral students for the competitive job market.

In the past two years alone, our graduate students have published studies in Justice Quarterly (in press), Journal of Interpersonal Violence (in press), Violence Against Women (in press), Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect (in press), Journal of Criminal Justice Education, and American Journal of Criminal Justice. This list does not count the many book chapters that are in press or the papers and reports that are currently under editorial review. We applaud the hard work and success of our graduate students and look forward to their future accomplishments. Keep eating those healthy grits!
Greetings friends and community of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. This year has been an exciting one for the Criminal Justice Graduate Student Organization. In our inaugural year we have sought to accomplish two basic goals. The first has been to contribute to the learning environment of Georgia State University by sponsoring and co-sponsoring with our department’s undergraduate organization various speakers including Tom Brewer (Kent State University) who spoke about death penalty juries and Heith Copes (University of Alabama, Birmingham) who talked about surveying marginalized or potentially reserved subjects. Bringing prominent scholars onto the Georgia State campus will be a continuing effort on the part of the organization in the coming years. It is through the exchange of ideas in this manner that meaningful and constructive deliberation can be fostered and grown.

The second goal of our organization is to promote the organization across the GSU campus, in an effort to raise awareness about issues that span the entire field of public policy and not just criminal justice. In the coming months, our organization hopes to facilitate more guest lecturers that will cover issues that resonate with panthers studying criminal justice but also economics, public health, and social work. Criminal Justice involvement is a crossroads that connects a wide variety of disciplines and the CJGSA hopes to build upon the strong foundation that has been set for us by the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies by engaging and bonding with our new sister departments.

In addition to creating on-campus activities that can enhance the local appeal of GSU, our organization plans to institute awards geared towards promoting scholarship by our expanding member base. We hope to take approximately twenty new members into our fold in the coming year with the Fall admission deadlines fast approaching. By supporting the scholastic efforts of our members, we ensure the continued success of the Criminal Justice and Criminology doctoral program and increase the nation-wide, positive exposure of the flourishing GSU community.

In closing, in the coming year our organization will make meaningful contributions to our school, our community and our academic discipline. We have been awarded funds from the college and university to support our efforts, and it is my hope for those that soon will take the reins of this organization into the future that they will be able to make effective and efficient use of the resources available to them so that tomorrow’s members will be more supported and more informed than we find ourselves today.

---

**Criminal Justice Student Association**

**Jordan Kragten, President**

Among other things, this past year the CJSA toured several criminal justice related facilities, volunteered for community service events, and organized another installment in the video lecture series. In November, the Criminal Justice Student Association had a great turnout for the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification State Prison tour where we were exposed to the everyday operations of Georgia’s busiest prison. In the spring, the CJSA visited Arrendale State Prison in Habersham County allowing for a comparison between a men’s and women’s prison.

The CJSA also had the opportunity to assist the American Kidney Fund, a national charity organization for chronic renal patients, to make their first annual Steps That Count event a success. Several CJSA members helped with various tasks ranging from setting up booths for the event to cheering in participants to raising awareness. The CJSA was also able to volunteer their assistance with the third annual Polar Plunge at Lake Lanier. The Polar Plunge is a fundraising event held each year for the Special Olympics where local law enforcement agencies participate in creating a fun environment for special needs children and raising money by plunging into the frigid February waters of Lake Lanier.

CJSA members also organized the spring semester installment of the video lecture series with Volkan Topalli. This CJSA event has become increasingly popular because of Georgia State University’s dynamic criminal justice faculty guest speakers. Dr. Topalli prepared a presentation in which he integrated a video about street gangs with lecture material based on research he has done with those very gangs. These activities help to build connections between faculty and students.

We encourage all students to join the CJSA at our next event. To find out more, join us on OrgSync.com, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter.

---

**Master’s Degree Milestones**


**Shari Gadson** successfully defended her thesis, *Adult children of the incarcerated: An exploratory study of risks and outcomes among college students*. Committee: **Lisa Mutlic** (chair), **Timothy Brezina**, and **Sue Collins**.

**Tonisia Pinson** successfully defended her thesis, *A study of neighborhood level effects on the likelihood of reporting to the police*. Committee: **Barbara Warner** (Chair), **Dean Dabney**, and **Josh Hinkle**.

Five additional Master’s students completed their degree requirements under the direction of **Mark Reed** in the Capstone course.

---
Spring 2012 Graduation/Internship Fair

Technology and the Atlanta Police Department
(Ben Smith with S.P.O. Patricia Powell)

Criminal Justice & the Mentally Ill: When Borders Merge
(Yen Sy)

Does Education Reduce Recidivism?
(Windie Lowe)

The Voice of Victims & Witnesses
(Felicia Bryant)

Family in Low Profile Cases become strained, which leads to vigilantism
(Brandon Tisdale)

Confidentiality: Justification through Rational Choice Theory
(Anna Lin)

Race, Gender, and Age Makes a Difference
(Stacey Carpenter)