Letter from the Chair, Richard Wright

The United States has witnessed an unprecedented drop in crime in recent decades. Or has it? Certainly rates of predatory street crime have dropped dramatically. The reasons for this drop are complex, but part of the explanation seems to be a change in the way we buy and pay for goods.

Research shows that predatory street crimes like robbery and burglary often are motivated by a pressing need for cash. And I mean cash, not credit or debit cards. Street criminals like cash because much of what they buy with the proceeds of their crimes is illegal stuff like heroin, cocaine, or meth. With rare exceptions, drug dealers don’t take credit or debit cards because they’re traceable.

The use of cash has declined precipitously over the past few decades. Think about it. You can no longer use cash to pay for meals on planes and lots of places won’t accept large bills, especially after dark. At the same time, the use of credit and debit cards has become more and more widespread. You can use those to buy a Coke, pay at a parking meter, or purchase a snack on that long flight from Atlanta to Los Angeles.

So as cash has increasingly been replaced by credit and debit cards, opportunities for predatory street crime have fallen apace. But has crime really gone down? Maybe it has just shifted. How often do you hear stories about credit or debit card theft? Plus, credit and debit cards have made it possible to buy things online, leading to a big increase in cybercrime.

My sense is that we’re seeing a major change in the nature of crime, the likes of which hasn’t been experienced since the breakdown of feudalism, which liberated peasants from their enforced ties to the land and allowed them to move into cities, where predatory street crime first flourished. Now the fall of cash may be ushering in a new era of digital crime wholly unconnected to a physical place. It’s an exciting time to study criminology.

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And now for something completely different. Sue Collins, a longtime member of our department, has announced her retirement, effective at the end of this coming summer. She will be greatly missed. We wish her the very best for a long and happy future and implore her to keep in touch.

Faculty Spotlight by Dr. Leah Daigle

Our department is proud to announce that Dr. Leah E. Daigle, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology was recently awarded as a sub-grantee $174,200 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of Georgia (CJCC) to work on a project as the university researcher for a larger grant funded by the Office for Victims of Crime’s Victim Legal Assistance Networks program (total funding $453,666.24). This grant is an 18-month project that is designed to assess the civil legal needs of crime victims in Georgia.

In addition, a Steering Committee will be developed, and policies and protocols to establish a statewide network of pro bono legal assistance providers for victims of crime in Georgia will be created. The overall goal of the grant is to enhance victim services and outcomes in Georgia by increasing the capacity of legal services for victims, such that victims can receive comprehensive pro bono legal services coupled with other services and resources.

Particularly exciting is that the grant brings together several agencies as project partners to facilitate this needs assessment and eventual development of the statewide legal network. In addition to GSU and the CJCC, project partners include, Atlanta Legal Aid, Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, and Georgia Legal Services Program.

As such, this grant provides an opportunity to work with local and statewide agencies to address real-world issues facing crime victims, legal professionals, and victim service providers and to facilitate solutions to those issues. Also important, this grant is specifically designed to address the legal needs of certain types of victims such as victims of human trafficking and identity theft, two victim groups that are understudied and underserved.

In performing the needs assessment, focus groups with crime victims throughout the state will be held, surveys of victim service providers and legal professionals will be conducted, and crime victims who have been the victims of identity theft and who have used specific services in Family Law Information Centers will be surveyed.

Along with Dr. Daigle’s participation, two Ph.D. students in the Criminal Justice and Criminology program—Chrystina Hoffman and Sarah Napper—are being funded to work on the project, thus providing our students with the opportunity to engage in data collection and analysis and working with agencies in Georgia.
Congratulations to our 2015 Scholarship and Award Winners!

Graduate Academic Achievement Award
Michelle N. Block

Undergraduate Academic Achievement Award
Deonne M. Eagle
Shania D. Witter

Chris Perrin Memorial Scholarship
Iesha Reona Blankumsee

James L. Maddex, Jr. Scholarship
Omolayo Adenrele
Chrystina Yong Hoffman
Darryl Lavon Moses
Tam Quach
La'shay Shecore Wiggins

Phil Peters Memorial Scholarship
Irvign Bobadilla
Sophia S. Cuneo

Bobby Joe Chancey, Sr. Memorial Scholarship
Stacia Bowe

Judge Andrew A. Mickel Scholarship
Shakia Rene Pennix

Andrew Young School Excellence in Teaching Criminal Justice Award
Rebecca A. Headley

AYS Excellence in Criminal Justice & Criminology Graduate Research Award
Shila Hawk

Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association Travel Award
Stacia Bowe

Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association Travel Award
Jerreen Ivanich
Jane Daquin
Rebecca Headley

Alpha Phi Sigma Travel Award
Jane Daquin
Chrystina Yong Hoffman

Judge Andrew A. Mickel Outstanding Part-Time Instructor Award
Andrew A. Mickel

Distinguished Alumni Service Award
Judge Gregory A. Adams

Outstanding Criminal Justice Agency Award
The Fulton County State and Magistrate Court Public Defender’s Office
(Ms. Elaine McGruder accepted the award on the agency’s behalf.)

Many of the awardees were recognized at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies’ 2015 Honors Day ceremony and the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology’s Spring 2015 Graduation/ Internship Fair.

Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association President, Charles Hogan

Greetings again fellow Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association members and friends of the association. The last year has been an exciting one for all of us I am sure. This year our organization has expanded its membership, far beyond our initial expectations when the association was founded some five years ago. This year we have been involved in a variety of programs and events. Thanks to a decisive lack of snow, we were able to have our second bake sale to raise funds for future projects. Unlike some of the other AYSPS groups, we like to make our food work for us. Just kidding to all our other brother and sister associations in the college.

The Fall saw several social get-togethers put on in all manner of bowling alleys and dimly lit public houses. Hopefully, this trend will continue with some end of the semester functions, for those of us that make it through finals. At the beginning of this semester, our association partnered with the undergraduate criminal justice association to host two information sessions to illuminate the path from undergrad to graduate student. It is the hope of our two groups that this continuing effort will foster the expansion of the department’s graduate program for years to come.

More recently the association has provided supplemental funding for students that attended this year’s ACJS annual meeting in Florida. While the report was that, unlike some past conferences, there were still some operational beverage taps at the conference hotel, a good and informative time was had by all. It is the plan to continue this practice in the future based on the overwhelming response for funding that was received this year.

Additionally, the association is working to bring in another speaker in the continuing series of informative colloquiums taking place monthly here at GSU. We all know we need something to break up those slow summer months. To the point of these talks continuing in the future, the suggestion inbox is always open to recommendations for new speakers and/or topics to be covered in forthcoming presentations. Please make your vote heard early and often to better tailor the formal functions of the association, and the department, towards topics that are current, informative, and pertinent to student research taking place every day here on the 12th floor.

In closing, it has been a super quick year at the helm of the association, and the time is coming for new officers to take the reins. Nominations are open for executive board positions for the coming scholastic year. We will have a meeting next month to vote for/appoint new officers. This is a great chance to effect some positive change on your school environment and get a great vita line for those preparing their dossier for the job market. We need four people that hear the calling for community service. The positions are, in no order, Secretary, Treasure, Vice President, and President. While it would
be my pleasure to serve a third term as the fearless leader. I am officially removing myself from consideration for any of the offices.

Whomever eventually takes these coveted positions, I know, will be supremely qualified and capable to perform the directed task because they are GSU, AYSPS, and Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology graduate students.

So to finish my final state of the association commentary, I would like to make a toast to all members and friends of the association to a productive coming year full of success and goodwill. ~Charles

**Lectures Hosted by Department in 2015**

- "Professional Development in the Social Sciences: Safe and Risky Career Agendas" & "The Increasing Stickiness of Public Labels" by Dr. Christopher Uggen (University of Minnesota)

- "An Overview of Bureau of Justice Statistics' Statistical Programs and Data Series" & "Developing and Using the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics’ Data Infrastructure for Research and Program and Policy Evaluation" by Dr. Bill Sabol (Acting Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics)

- "Diverting those with a history of incarceration and homelessness: Is the FUSE model the answer?" by Dr. Shelley Listwan (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)

**Student Publications & Presentations**

- **Shila Hawk**
  - Warner, B.D., Swartz, K., & Hawk, S.R. Racial Homophily in Social Networks and Informal Social Control. *Criminology*
  *Shila Hawk is an Urban Fellow in GSU’s College of Law’s Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth.*

- **Chrystina Hoffman**

- **Susannah Tapp**

- **Jane Daquin**

- **Rebecca Headley**
Staff Spotlight

On April 25th, the Criminal Justice Department's Business Manager, Larose Raston, celebrated her youngest daughter, Jhori Raston's graduation from the University of West Georgia in Carrollton. Jhori Raston received her Bachelor's degree in Education. In addition, Larose Raston and the department's Administrative Assistant, Mary Mason (pictured right), received a "Certificate of Professional Development" for completing the 13th annual Women-At-Work workshop.

Faculty Accomplishments

✓ Timothy Brezina was awarded a grant by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta entitled “Exploring the Long-Term Outcomes of Mentoring” in which Brezina is the Principal Investigator.

✓ Michael Shapiro was quoted on Sharon Hayes’ book “Criminal Justice Ethics: Cultivating the Moral Imagination.” Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group), 2015, ISBN 978-1-138-77697-5. Prof. Shapiro was also a panelist on the Center for Instructional Innovation’s “Engaging Students through Peer Review” event in January.

✓ Cyntoria Johnson earned Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) certification and transformed CRJU 4720: Law, Justice and Social Change, a course that had not been taught since in our department since 2009. Prof. Johnson also chaired the AYPS Diversity Committee which was tasked with drafting a new diversity strategic plan for the Andrew Young School.

✓ Bill Pridemore became an Affiliate Faculty Member at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education and in GSU’s Department of Sociology last fall.

Select Faculty Publications


Faculty Presentations

- Johnson, Cyntoria. (2015) Open Seminar presentation entitled “Developing Study Abroad Programs: What to Know from Start to Finish” at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Orlando, FL.


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

Another academic year has come to a fast close, and it is always important to reflect upon our students’ successes and highlight recent learning opportunities outside of the classroom. First, I want to congratulate our graduating seniors. As of this writing, we have **70 students in the process of completing their internship coursework and are looking forward to their graduation.** Never in the history of our department have we graduated this many students in one semester. Second, through personal communications, I heard that many of you are working or finding work within the juvenile and criminal justice profession and other related fields. Please keep the department informed about your successes. We want to hear back from you.

Opportunities to learn about the legal system often extend outside the classroom. This Spring semester, four Georgia State University undergraduate students joined Clinical Instructor Cyntoria Johnson at a Georgia Perimeter College’s (GPC) Reads event hosted by the Dunwoody Campus. Jennifer Thompson-Cannino presented on the eyewitness misidentification that led to the wrongful conviction of Ronald Cotton in North Carolina detailed in their New York Times Bestseller, “Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption.” She shared her compelling story of sexual violence, racial bias in our legal system, and the resulting miscarriage of justice. Jennifer and Ronald frequently speak to college campuses, law schools, state legislatures, and judicial conferences nationwide advocating for judicial reform and best practices in the criminal justice system. For more information about the program and book, go to: [http://depts.gpc.edu/gpcreads/index.html](http://depts.gpc.edu/gpcreads/index.html) and [http://www.pickingcottonbook.com/home.html](http://www.pickingcottonbook.com/home.html).

Pictured here at the GPC Reads event with co-author Jennifer Thompson-Cannino (center) and their professor, Cyntoria Johnson (far right) are (from the left) criminal justice and criminology undergraduates Tamara Austin, Jovany Mondragon, and Joseph Rabianski. Not pictured here is student Dasmyne Harrison.

Also this semester, Cyntoria Johnson accompanied five Georgia State undergraduate students to the Voting Rights Symposium hosted by the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, a progressive legal organization helping to shape law and policy in the U.S. The symposium was held in the wake of the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and in the context of Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder, which challenged the constitutionality of the Act. Presentations discussed litigation and other efforts to protect and defend the right to vote through state courts and constitutions as well as through state legislative and administrative advocacy. For more information, go to: [acslaw.org/votingrightssymposium](http://acslaw.org/votingrightssymposium) and [http://www.acslaw.org/sites/default/files/2015-Voting-Rights-Agenda.pdf](http://www.acslaw.org/sites/default/files/2015-Voting-Rights-Agenda.pdf)

Pictured (from the left) are CJ&C undergraduate students Joseph Rabianski, Jovany Mondragon, Prof. Johnson, Michelle Mendez, Tamara Austin, and Daryl Davis.

In the Fall, our department will be hosting a brown bag lunch series entitled “Exploring Significant United States Supreme Court Cases” beginning Tuesday, Sept. 1st-Nov. 10th from 12-12:45pm in Urban Life, Room 1212.
Criminal Justice Student Association President, Irving Bobadilla

The Criminal Justice Student Association is an organization open to all G.S.U. students who are interested in pursuing a career in criminal justice. It is our mission to facilitate networking and career building activities in order to create a more cohesive and professional student criminal justice community. We seek to provide forums that focus on the interaction between students, faculty, program alumni, professionals employed in the field, and members of the broader community. We are committed to developing networks with future criminal justice employers, the G.S.U. Student Government Association, and faculty members in the Criminal Justice Department.

Membership brings students and the community together to promote awareness of criminal justice issues in society. Being a member of the C.J.S.A. is a great way to get involved on campus and in the Atlanta community, to help develop team building and leadership skills, and to meet other individuals interested in criminal justice issues. Our organization has participated in volunteer events as well. If you would like to join this outstanding organization, students are required to pay a one-time membership fee of $15. Once the membership fee is paid, new members will receive a free CJSA t-shirt. Any Georgia State Student can join the organization as long as they pay their membership fee.

This school year, CJSA hosted several talks in which students were able to meet and speak with Public Defender, Thierry Overton and Private Investigator, Debra Mulder. CJSA is also going to have another distinguished guest speaker U.S. Deputy Marshall, Khali Sollas in April as well.

On Feb. 27th, the Criminal Justice Student Association (CJSA) hosted a “Criminal Justice Career & Internship Fair” in Dahlberg Hall’s Veterans Memorial Hall. The fair was a huge success! More than 20 agencies were at the fair. (See pictures of the fair below.)

Irving Bobadilla (President), Prof. Michael Shapiro (CJSA Faculty Advisor), and other CJSA members as well as Dr. Kevin Gaw, the Senior Director of University Career Services, and his staff, most notably Ramona Simien and Monwilla Ingram, outdid themselves in organizing the event. All of the criminal justice majors who attended were “dressed for success” and engaged professionally with the more than two dozen organizations who participated. Student attendance exceede exceeded expected results by nearly 10%.

Some of the law enforcement agencies at the event included the: U.S. Secret Service, CIA, the Atlanta Police Department, Cobb County Police Department, Forest Park Police Department, and the Atlanta Food Bank. Participant agencies came from as far away as Washington, D.C. and San Antonio, Texas. (Irving Bobadilla pictured with policeman below)

Keep up the great work CJSA and University Career Services!
Andrew Young School’s “Ph.D. Visit Day 2015”

The Criminal Justice Criminology Department welcomed three prospective Ph.D. students to visit our campus as part of the Andrew Young School's “Ph.D. Visit Day.” The students got the opportunity to speak with Criminal Justice faculty members and current graduate students to get a better feel for what our department has to offer and what their role and responsibility as a graduate student would be. Also, the students got to meet the Andrew Young School’s Dean, Mary Beth Walker, and Assistant Dean, Dr. Cynthia Searcy.

(Pictured from left to right are: Victoria Smiegocki, Anna Busey, Graduate Program Director: Volkan Topalli, Brooke Cooley, and Nicole Wilkes)

Spring 2015 Graduation/Internship Fair

Drs. Volkan Topalli and Sue Collins present the 2015 Andrew A. Mickle Part-time Instructor of the Year Award to Judge Andrew A. Mickle (center).

Drs. Sue Collins, Volkan Topalli, and Dean Mary Beth Walker (far right) present the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Service Award to Judge Gregory A. Adams (2nd from right).

Tori Williams was bestowed the honor of cutting our cake at the Spring 2015 Graduation/Internship Reception.

Drs. Volkan Topalli and Sue Collins present the 2015 Outstanding Criminal Justice Agency Award to the Fulton County State and Magistrate Court Public Defender’s Office. Ms. Elaine McGruder (center) accepted the award on the agency’s behalf.
Should Restorative Justice Boards continue to be used as a community court method? (Shania Witter)

Should students, faculty, and staff be allowed to carry concealed weapons on college campuses? (AnNesha K. Flecha)

Should the handgun purchasing age be reduced to 18? (John Harris)

Prostitution: Decriminalized, but regulated? (Michelle Smith-Garrick)

Should Atlanta Legal Aid offers services to clients charged in criminal cases? (Khadijah Abdur-Rahman)

Should unaccompanied immigrant children be deported, or allowed to reside in the United States? (Aqesua Robinson)

Should juveniles caught with possession of marijuana be punished as a felon? (Lavorius Hall)

Should individuals be punished more severely for driving under the influence of alcohol? (Osama Kazwah)

Should mentally ill offenders be subjected to the same traditional criminal sanctions as non-mentally ill offenders? (DeAndre Lloyd)