Letter from the Chair, Richard Wright

I will call this the semester of the great flood. Early in the autumn, university officials decided to re-roof the Urban Life Building. Initially, those of us on the top floor welcomed that decision. There had been small leaks over the years and they were bound to get worse if we ignored them. But no sooner had the contractors removed the old roof than it began to rain -- and rain hard -- for much of the next two months.

Every time the roofers started to make a little progress, it would rain again, which meant that they had to wait for things to dry out. And before that could happen the rain reappeared, setting the project back further still.

Needless to say, many of our offices got soaked, not once or twice, but many times. It was no way to welcome our newest faculty member, Eric Sevigny, who joined us as an Associate Professor from the University of South Carolina. Nor was it the best of introductions to GSU for our Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Rod Brunson, who is spending the year with us while on sabbatical from Rutgers.

Fortunately, Eric's office escaped unscathed. Rod was not so lucky, but he endured the deluge with the grace and good humor that make him such a wonderful colleague.

In fact, the entire CJC faculty and staff showed great resilience throughout this trying time, covering their computers, papers, and books with heavy plastic and dodging drips as they continued to work, undaunted by the conditions.

It was an inspiring sight and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for being such good sports.

The powers that be assure me that our new roof soon will be watertight. In the meantime, surf's up!

Faculty Spotlight by Dr. Rodney K. Brunson

Dr. Brunson is a Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. His work appears in the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, Criminology, Criminology & Public Policy, Justice Quarterly, Urban Affairs Review, and the Journal of Quantitative Criminology. His research agenda is shaped by three independent, but complementary, areas: (1) police-community relations, (2) youth violence, and (3) concentrated neighborhood disadvantage.

Dr. Brunson has consistently found that neighborhood conditions have important implications for police-minority youth interactions. In particular, his work demonstrates that young people of color from disadvantaged backgrounds experience considerable police harassment and mistreatment. He has also shown that in distressed neighborhood settings, young minority females are more likely to express concerns about police sexual misconduct, whereas their male counterparts often describe being the primary targets of aggressive policing tactics.

Dr. Brunson has extended his work beyond solely examining the experiences of disadvantaged African American youths, to include explicit comparisons across distressed neighborhoods that vary by racial composition. This comparative approach has allowed him to investigate whether neighborhood racial composition or socioeconomic profile is more important in shaping police-community relations. This work represents Brunson’s attempt to disentangle the race/class relationship regarding urban young men’s attitudes toward the police. In particular, his study findings reveal that whereas black and white youths alike reported experiencing unwelcome police encounters, they occurred less frequently for whites, who primarily risked being stopped in a more narrow set of situations. Furthermore, his research with Afro-Caribbean adolescents reveals their beliefs that aggressive policing tactics are intended to restrict and criminalize youths’ movements, rather than reducing crime. The vast majority of Dr. Brunson’s scholarship has been supported by university grants.

Dr. Brunson was awarded $466,039 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to Co-Direct (with Drs. Jody Miller and Ruth Peterson) the Racial Democracy Criminal Justice Network (RDCJN). He also recently received notification of a $408,535 forthcoming award to undertake a mixed-methodological study of illegal gun markets in New York City (with Dr. Anthony Braga).
Faculty Accomplishments

- **Joshua Hinkle** won the 2015 Springer American Journal of Criminal Justice Outstanding Article Award for “Emotional fear of crime vs. perceived safety and risk: Implications for measuring ‘fear’ and testing the broken windows thesis” (sole authored).

- **Joshua Hinkle** and doctoral student Chrystina Hoffman (lead) were awarded research stipends from GILEE for their project entitled “The Impact of Policing Strategies on Officer Job Satisfaction.” Hinkle will receive a $2,000 stipend in Spring 2016 and Hoffman will receive a $3,000 stipend in Spring 2016 and a $3,000 stipend in Summer 2016.

- **Michael Shapiro** will become the new President of the Criminal Justice Association of Georgia at their November 5-6 conference. Shapiro is currently serving a two-year term as Vice President/President-Elect of the association. In addition, Shapiro will moderate a panel at the conference entitled “Controversies in Criminal Justice” and present, with Peter Fenton of Kennesaw State University, a “Supreme Court Update” and the pedagogically-focused “Coordinating and Delivering an Undergraduate Criminal Justice Internship Program”.

- **Michael Shapiro** serves as our department’s new Undergraduate Internship Coordinator this semester.

Select Faculty Publications & Presentations


Our Department congratulates Dr. Leah Daigle-Anderson on her recent marriage!!

On Aug. 15th, 2015, Dr. Leah Daigle married Taylor Anderson at Piedmont Park. Leah is an associate professor in our department and an author and co-author of five books. Leah’s book, *Victimology: A Text/Reader*, is highly acclaimed in the field of criminal justice and criminology. Taylor is a research manager at State Farm Corporate. We wish Leah and Taylor lots of joy and happiness in their union.

Staff Spotlight

On Sept. 23rd, Administrative Assistant, Mary Mason (pictured left), and Administrative Specialist, Jamia Luckett (pictured right), attended GSU’s Women-At-Work workshop titled, “The Art of Keeping It Moving.” At part I of the workshop, Kimberly Bass of GSU’s Health Policy Center lectured on how to turn life’s curveballs at work and at home into opportunities for growth.

On Nov. 18th, staff members: Mary Mason, Jamia Luckett, and Business Manager, LaRose Raston, attended Part II of the Women-At-Work workshop series titled, “Bloom Where You Are Planted.” This workshop also featured speaker Kimberly Bass. At the workshop, attendees learned how to take advantage of opportunities to enhance their skills and improve their status on their current job.
Donald Hunt, a doctoral student in GSU’s Criminal Justice & Criminology program, was awarded a very prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship by the US Bureau of Justice Statistics. Bureau of Justice Statistics’ fellowships are highly competitive. Donald is one of only six doctoral students from around the country who will share the $569,623 award. Donald will explore the impact of the declining use of cash on a wide variety of offense types nation-wide. Join us in congratulating Donald on his wonderful achievement.

**Congratulations to all CJ Graduates!!!**

The Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology would like to honor all of our Fall 2015 graduates. You all worked hard and we are very proud of you.

Our department hooded two doctoral students (Glen Ishoy and Shila Hawk) this year.

**Glen Ishoy**  
*(pictured left)*  
Dissertation Topic: “Applying Focal Concerns and the Theory of Planned Behavior to the Decision-Making Process in Policing.” Committee: Dr. Dean A. Dabney (chair), Dr. Brenda S. Blackwell, Dr. Joshua C. Hinkle, and Dr. Volkan Topalli. Ishoy has accepted a tenure-track position in the Dept. of Criminology at Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania in Fall 2016.

**Shila Hawk**  
*(pictured right)*  
Dissertation Topic: “A Multi-Method Examination of Homicide Investigations on Case Outcomes.” Committee: Dr. Dean A. Dabney (chair), Dr. John P. Jarvis, Dr. Mark D. Reed, and Dr. Brent E. Teasdale. Hawk accepted a research associate position at Applied Research Services, Inc.

**Master’s Degree Milestones**

Michelle Block successfully defended her thesis, “Confronting Issues of Legal Cynicism: Law Enforcement’s Role in Impeding Community Expectations for Informal Social Control.” Committee: Dr. Barbara Warner (Chair), Dr. Timothy Brezina, and Dr. Joshua Hinkle

**Student Presentations**

- **Harris, Michelle.** (2015, November). American Society of Criminology Conference. The effect of social network characteristics on adolescent marijuana use for individuals with depression. Washington D.C.

**Criminal Justice Student Association President, Irving Bobadilla**

CJSA is a GSU organization that engages in career building opportunities for students who are interested in the criminal justice field. This semester CJSA invited Agent Mina Riley of Homeland Security and US Customs to speak with students about how she began as an officer and worked her way up to becoming a special agent. Also, Fred Lee, from Fulton County Police Department, spoke to us about his career and experiences as an officer. CJSA hosted a government and non-profit career fair in November with the University Career Services Center. We had many agencies there such as Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Dallas Police Department, Cincinnati Police Department, etc. Our organization also had the opportunity to go on a field trip to visit the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. It is a huge training facility where public safety officers such as police officers, fire fighters, and agents attend. CJSA also participated in the homecoming golf cart parade.
GSU Alum Success Story: Judge Gregory A. Adams

Georgia State University’s Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology Department has produced successful alumni that have made significant impacts in the field of criminal justice and beyond. One of our most notable alumni is Judge Gregory A. Adams. He graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from GSU in 1981 and earned his law degree from the University of Georgia. In 2004, Judge Adams was elected to the Superior Court of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit and was reelected in 2008 and 2012. Judge Adams also served as the Chief Judge of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit from 2013-2015.

In 2007, the Dekalb County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to name its $45 million new juvenile court the “Gregory A. Adams Juvenile Justice Center.” Adams is the 1st Dekalb County Judge to have a building named in his honor. Adams is also the 1st African American Jurist to have his portrait permanently displayed in a county building. In addition to being a successful jurist, Adams has made many accomplishments as a lawyer such as being the 1st person to serve as both the President of the DeKalb Lawyers Association and the President of the DeKalb Bar Association. In 2015, our department awarded Judge Gregory A. Adams the “Distinguished Alumni Award.”

When asked how did GSU’s Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology prepare you for your career in law, Judge Adams stated, "My degree in criminal justice provided me with the foundation to be prepared for the rigors of the study of law at the University of Georgia School of Law. The education I received at Georgia State University developed my ability as a critical thinker."

Along with having top notch academic programs and professors, Judge Adams highlights the benefits of GSU's location in downtown Atlanta. Adams states, "The fact that Georgia State University is located in downtown Atlanta was a big plus because I depended on MARTA to travel to and from campus during my tenure. In addition, the close proximity of many employers to GSU that offered internships made GSU a prime location for access to numerous opportunities."

When asked what is his proudest moment in his professional life, Judge Adams stated, "During my tenure as Chief Judge of the DeKalb County Juvenile Court we were able to secure funding to establish programs to divert youth out of the court system, thereby allowing them to move in a more positive direction with their lives. In all, the DeKalb County Juvenile Court obtained over $6 million in federal, state and local grant funds to assist youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system." ~ Keep up the good work alumni!

By: Jamia Luckett
**Lectures hosted by Department in Summer 2015**

“Children Born of War: A Cross National Study of Trajectories of Violence in Post-War Bosnia-Herzegovina.”
By Dr. Stephanie DiPietro (Univ. of Missouri-St. Louis)

“For Every Rhyme I Write, It’s 25 to Life: Rap on Trial”
By Dr. Charis Kubrin (Univ. of California-Irvine)

**Summer 2015 Graduation/Internship Fair**

Are private prisons a necessity in the criminal justice system?
(Raj Shelat)

Should the death penalty be eliminated?
(Shemeka Jackson)

Is the Courthouse safe and Secure?
(Andrew Houser)

Shantoria Williams (pictured with Dean Dabney) cutting the cake at our Summer 2015 Graduation/Internship Reception
Are treatment diversion courts a way to get mentally disabled adults out of jail more quickly?  
(Zehrah McCoy)

Would Newton Co. Juvenile Court’s “Substance abuse Program Offering Treatment” be more beneficial if parents got involved?  
((Za’Coya Scott)

Officer safety is one of the most challenging issues that the Atlanta Police Department faces.  
(Wesley Davis)

Should attorneys require clients to take mandatory background checks?  
(Alexis Blackburn)

Cellphones are a major problem in Fulton County Jail.  
(Felix Ruiz)

Tamara Austin (pictured with Mark Reed) was bestowed the honor of cutting the cake at our Fall 2015 Graduation/Internship Reception.