

CCJ GRADUATE PROGRAM

NEWS Fall 2003

WELCOME

Welcome to the start of the 2003-2004 academic year. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep graduate students, instructors, and faculty informed about the CCJ department by providing news of departmental changes, upcoming events, recent research grants and publications, and news about alumni. Published each semester, the newsletter also reminds graduate students of important Graduate School deadlines for completing the M.A. and Ph.D. in a timely manner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Awards

Congratulations to **Eric Baumer** who is the recipient of the prestigious *2003 Young Scholar Award of the American Society of Criminology*. This award is given annually to the most promising young scholar (less than five years since the Ph.D.) in the discipline. The award has been given since 1997 and the UMSL CCJ department has more of these scholars than any other university in the United States. Jody Miller received the award in 2001, and David Klinger, in 1997.

New CCJ Faculty

The department is very pleased to announce the addition of two tenure-track Assistant Professors. **Beth Huebner** received her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. Dr. Huebner specializes in corrections and sentencing. **Callie Rennison** (*Ph.D. '97, Political Science, University of Houston*) comes from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S.

Department of Justice. Dr. Rennison's research focuses on victimization statistics and violence against women. The total number of Ph.D. faculty in the department is now 14. The department is home to approximately 400 undergraduate majors, 50 M.A. students, and 30 Ph.D. students.

Other Faculty News

To better serve the needs of students, the department has named two faculty directors to help manage the growing graduate program. Effective immediately, the new **Director of the Ph.D. program** is **Eric Baumer**. The new **Director of the M.A. program** is **David Curry**. Undergraduate students will now have their own director as well. **Jody Miller** will serve as the Director of the B.S. program.

Assistant Professor **Rod Brunson** was awarded the Ph.D. from the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Congratulations to Rod, who defended his dissertation in Winter 2003.

After six years, **Bob Bursik** has completed his term as Editor of **CRIMINOLOGY**, the flagship journal of the American Society of Criminology. During that time, Professor Bursik reviewed more than 1,000 research articles and was responsible for the publication of more than 170 of the best research articles in criminology. Financial support for the editorial office was provided by the American Society of Criminology, the CCJ Department, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The new Editor of the journal is Raymond Paternoster at the University of Maryland.

Professor Bruce Jacobs has left the UMSL CCJ department to take a new position as Associate Professor in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Texas-Dallas. Dr. Jacobs had been with the department since 1994 and served as the Director of Graduate Studies from January 2002 to June 2003.

Employment News

Noelle Fearn, (Ph.D. 2003) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Washington State University-Pullman. Dr. Fearn defended her dissertation in August 2003. Best wishes to Noelle as she begins her new career.

Shannan Catalano (ABD) has accepted a position as statistician at the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice in Washington DC. Best wishes to Shannan as she begins her career in the federal government.

Ann Dirks-Linhorst (ABD) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Best wishes to Ann as she leaves the Missouri Department of Mental Health to begin her career as a professor.

Special Appointments

Richard Rosenfeld has been appointed member of the Advisory Panel to the Law and Social Science Program of the *National Science Foundation*.

GREETINGS FROM THE GSA

Special welcome to graduate students from the CCJ GSA President, Brian Buchner:

On behalf of the CCJ GSA, I would like to welcome those students new to our department and those returning from last year. This year looks like it will be another fantastic one, with new adventures, new department t-shirts and

sweatshirts, the annual meetings of the ASC in Denver, guest speakers, social events, brown-bag lunches with new faculty (and different food!) and much more.

The CCJ Graduate Student Association (GSA) is a university organization headed by the graduate students in the department. Our primary objectives are to facilitate the professional development of students seeking a career in criminology and criminal justice; to encourage an active graduate student culture in which students can grow and develop long lasting relationships with fellow students and faculty; and to contribute to the discipline through service and scholarship. For more information on the CCJ GSA including event and deadline updates, please visit our website at: www.umsl.edu/~ccj/gshome.htm. If you would like to be involved with the CCJ GSA, feel free to drop by 544 Lucas, call me at (314) 516-4915, or email me at buchner_umsl@hotmail.com.

M.A. PROGRAM NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received their M.A. degrees in May 2003: **Brian Buchner, Janice Hill, Thomas Holt, Daniel Isom II, Robin Schaum, and Karin Tusinski**. Congratulations also to **Jason Huber** who received his M.A. degree in August 2003.

Students who plan on **graduating this semester (ceremony in January 2004)** should have already filed an M-1 Form (Program for Master's Degree) with the Graduate School. MA students should contact their faculty advisor if they have any questions about anticipated graduation dates. Students should contact M.A. Graduate Director Dave Curry immediately to confirm their January 2004 graduation date.

Students who plan on **graduating in May 2004 or August 2004** should fill out an M-1 Form and submit it to their advisor by October 15th. The M-1 Form (and all other Graduate School

Forms) are available on-line. Go to "Rules and Regulations" under the UMSL Graduate School web page to find the forms.

Ph.D. PROGRAM NEWS

New Ph.D. Graduate Students

Four new graduate students will join the Ph.D. program this fall. They include: **Regan Gustafson** (B.S., Criminology and Criminal Justice, UMSL); **Kimberly Martin** (M.A., Criminal Justice, Georgia State University); **Karin Tusinski** (M.A., Criminology and Criminal Justice, UMSL); and **Nicole White** (M.A., SIU-Carbondale). Good luck to the new Ph.D. students as they begin their studies.

New Ph.D. Recipients

Congratulations to **Arlen Egley** for successfully defending his dissertation in April 2003. Dr. Egley's dissertation was entitled "Levels of Involvement: Differences Between Gang, Gang-Marginal, and Non-Gang Youth." The chair of his committee was Dave Curry. Dr. Egley works for the National Youth Gang Center in Florida.

Congratulations to **Noelle Fearn** for successfully defending her dissertation in August 2003. Dr. Fearn's dissertation was entitled "Community Context and Sentencing Decisions: A Multilevel Analysis." The chair of her committee was Eric Baumer.

New ABDs

Congratulations to **Shannan Catalano** for successfully defending her dissertation proposal. Ms. Catalano's project is entitled "An Examination of the Convergence Between Police Recording and Victim Reporting of Serious Violent Crime, 1973-2002." The chair of her committee is Janet Lauritsen.

Congratulations to **Dennis Mares** for successfully defending his dissertation proposal.

Mr. Mares's project is entitled "Civilization, Economic Change and Trends in Interpersonal Violence." The chair of his committee is Richard Rosenfeld.

Congratulations to **Ann Dirks-Linhorst** for successfully defending her dissertation proposal. Ms. Dirks-Linhorst's thesis is entitled "An Evaluation of a Family Court Diversion Program for Delinquent Youth with Chronic Mental Health Needs." Dave Curry is the chair of her committee.

New Ph.D. Candidates

Congratulations to Adam Bossler, Michelle Sierzega, and Jenna St. Cyr for successfully completing their comprehensive exams in February. Graduate students are designated "Ph.D. Candidates" after they have completed coursework and exams.

Dissertation Deadlines

In order to receive the Ph.D. by the end of this semester, ABDs must be ready to submit a copy of their dissertation in "essentially final form" to the Graduate School six weeks prior to the end of the semester (i.e., by **November 1st**). Students who plan on receiving the Ph.D. by May 2004 must have their dissertation completed by **April 1st**. Finally, students who plan on completing their degree by the end of this academic year must have completed the dissertation by **July 1st**. Remember, *you must be enrolled in the semester in which you defend your dissertation*. Also, be aware that summer graduations are much more difficult to coordinate because of faculty research obligations. **Be sure to plan ahead.**

Comprehensive Exams

The Fall 2003 comprehensive exams will take place **October 1st-3rd**. Students who plan on taking their exams should confirm their place with Eric Baumer. The committee consists of Professors Bursik, Klinger, and Lauritsen.

OUR INFLUENCE

Publications

Department members published the following articles, chapters, and books since January 2003.

Research Articles

Eric Baumer, Julie Horney, Richard Felson and **Janet Lauritsen** (2003). "Neighborhood disadvantage and the nature of violence." *Criminology* 41:39-72.

Eric Baumer, **Richard Rosenfeld** and Steven Messner (2003). "Explaining spatial variation in support for capital punishment: A multi-level analysis." *American Journal of Sociology*.

Laura Dugan, Daniel Nagin and **Richard Rosenfeld** (2003). "Exposure reduction or retaliation? The effects of domestic violence resources on intimate partner homicide." *Law & Society Review* 7: 169-198.

Bruce Jacobs, Volkan Topalli and **Richard Wright** (2003). "Carjacking, streetlife and offender motivation." *British Journal of Criminology* 43: 19-34.

Richard Rosenfeld, Bruce Jacobs and **Richard Wright**. "Snitching and the code of the street." *British Journal of Criminology* 43: 291-309.

Scott South, **Eric Baumer**, and Amy Lutz. "Interpreting community effects on youth educational attainment." *Youth & Society*.

Jenna St. Cyr (Ph.D. Candidate) (2003). "The folk devil reacts: gangs and moral panic." *Criminal Justice Review* 28: 26-46.

Books

Scott Decker (2003). From the Street to the Prison: Understanding and Responding to Gangs. 2nd Edition. Eastern Kentucky University Press.

Book Chapters

Scott Decker (2003). "Legitimizing drug use: A note on the impact of gang membership and drug sales on the use of illicit drugs," pp. 263-277 in R. Peterson (ed.) Gangs. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Mark Fleisher and **Scott Decker** (2003). "An overview of the challenge of prison gangs," pp. 157-168 in R. Peterson (ed.) Gangs. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Lauritsen, Janet L. (2003). "Race and Ethnic Differences in Juvenile Offending," in Our Children, Their Children: Confronting Race and Ethnic Differences in American Criminal Justice, D. Hawkins and K. Kempf-Leonard (eds.), University of Chicago.

Jody Miller (2003). "Feminist criminology," pp. 15-28 in Critical Criminology, M. Schwartz and S.Hatty (eds.), Anderson.

Jody Miller (2003). "Feminist theories of women's crime: robbery as a case study," pp. 51-67 in The Criminal Justice System and Women: Offenders, Victims, and Workers. McGraw-Hill.

Jody Miller (2003). "Young Women in Street Gangs: Risk Factors, Delinquency and Victimization Risk," in Responding to Gangs: Evaluation and Research. Washington DC: NIJ.

Jody Miller (2003). "Feminism in the field," pp. 233-45 in Our Studies, Ourselves, B. Glassner and R. Herz (eds.), Oxford.

Presentations at Meetings

From January to August 2003, department members gave the following presentations at professional meetings:

Scott Decker presented: “Securing international sporting events: lessons from Utah and the Olympic games” at the Law Commission of Canada Conference, *In Search of Security: An International Conference on Policing and Security*, Montreal (Feb); “Benchmarking racial profiling data” at the conference on *Confronting Racial Profiling in the 21st Century: New Challenges and Implications for Racial Justice*, Boston (March); “An analysis of racial profiling data in Missouri: searching for denominators” at the *Northeastern University Racial Profiling Conference*, Boston (March); “Evaluation of the St. Louis Weed and Seed Initiative” at the *National Weed and Seed Conference*, Albuquerque (May); and “The PSN Initiative in St. Louis” at the *Annual Research and Evaluation Conference* in Washington (July).

Jody Miller was an Invited Plenary Speaker at the *2003 World Congress on Criminology*, sponsored by the International Society for Criminology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Aug).

Richard Rosenfeld presented: “Trends in serious violence” at the *Oasis Institute* (March); “The costs of incarceration in Missouri and the benefits of sentencing alternatives” at the *Missouri Legislative Academy* (March) and to international judges at UMSL; “The contribution of ex-prisoners to crime rates” at *Saint Louis University* (April); “Criminological and public health perspectives on recent crime trends” at *Saint Louis University School of Public Health* (May); and “Violence theories and criminal justice policy and practice” at the *Annual Research and Evaluation Conference in Washington* (July).

RESEARCH GRANTS

Eric Baumer received a *UM-St.Louis Research Award* for a study entitled “Incarceration, offender re-entry and the maintenance of community vitality in Chicago neighborhoods.”

Eric Baumer and **Richard Wright** received a grant from the *Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Science* to collaborate

with Ian O’Donnell of University College Dublin and Shadd Maruna at the University of Cambridge for “A multi-level, multi-method analysis of offender re-entry in Ireland.”

Richard Wright, Trevor Bennett, and Fiona Brookman received a grant from the *Economic and Social Research Council* to study street violence in two British cities.

ALUMNI NEWS

Elicka Peterson (Ph.D. 2002) has accepted a new position as Assistant Professor of political science and criminal justice at Appalachian State University in North Carolina.

Rick Ruddell (Ph.D. 2002) published two articles with G. Larry Mays: Ruddell, Rick and G. Larry Mays (2003), “Examining the arsenal of juvenile gunslingers: Trends and policy implications,” *Crime and Delinquency* 49: 231-251; and Ruddell, Rick and G. Larry Mays (2002), “Research note: Using the NIJ threat level scale to classify firearms lethality,” *The Justice Professional* 15: 319-327. **Dr. Ruddell** also made the following presentations at the Western Social Sciences 2003 annual meeting: “Inmate voting and pardons in Canada: Should American criminal justice policy makers look north?” and “Child access prevention legislation and firearms mortality in the United States and Canada.”

Lisa Sample (Ph.D. 2000) and **Tim Bray** (Ph.D. 2002) published “Are sex offenders dangerous?” in *Criminology & Public Policy* 3(1), November 2003. **Dr. Sample** also received a subcontract grant from NIJ (via NORC) to continue directing the ADAM program. With William Crawley, she also received a grant from NIJ (via NORC) for a project entitled “It’s the Same Difference: A Comparison of Drug Use among Douglas and Pottowattamie County Arrestees.”