Welcome from the Chairperson

As the new Chair of the Department, I welcome you to the Fall 2009 issue of the Departmental newsletter. Professors Janet Lauritsen and Beth Huebner have produced an informative newsletter that highlights a number of activities and achievements of the past year. As you will read, the Department continues to exert a strong presence within the discipline. Bob Bursik is the immediate Past President of the American Society of Criminology and Rick Rosenfeld is the President-elect of the ASC. Jody Miller was elected to serve a three-year term as an Executive Counselor of ASC and Richard Wright will be recognized as an ASC Fellow at this year’s ASC Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

On the local front, we begin this new academic year with two new faculty members: Terrance J. (TJ) Taylor (Ph.D., University of Nebraska), joins the faculty as a tenure-track Assistant Professor and Kristy Matsuda (Ph.D., University of California, Irvine) joins the faculty as Assistant Research Professor. We are very pleased to welcome these colleagues. Additionally, Beth Huebner has been granted tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. Beth has assumed the role of Director of the CCJ Graduate Program and will oversee both the MA and Ph.D. programs.

Lastly, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Richard Wright who just completed his second term as Department Chair. Under his guidance, the Department has prospered and solidified its place as one of the premier CCJ programs in the country.

Finn Esbensen, Ph.D.
E. Desmond Lee Professor of Youth Crime and Violence
Chairperson

Announcements

US News and World Report Ranks Doctoral Program Fourth in the Nation

The UMSL CCJ Ph.D. program was ranked #4 among Criminology and Criminal Justice Doctoral Programs in the Nation according to the 2010 U.S. News & World Report peer rankings. These peer rankings update earlier rankings in which UMSL was also ranked fourth, tied with the University of California-Irvine, and Rutgers State University.

The 2010 Rankings for the top 10 departments are:

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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Mean Assessment Score (5.0=highest)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. University of Maryland, College Park</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. State University of New York - Albany</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. University of Cincinnati</td>
<td>4.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. University of Missouri - St. Louis</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Pennsylvania State University - University Park</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. University of California - Irvine</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Michigan State University</td>
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<td>7. Florida State University</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Rutgers State University of New Jersey</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. CUNY - John Jay College</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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Faculty Awards and Special Appointments

Finn Esbensen received the 2009 President’s Award from the Western Society of Criminology, for contributions to the field of criminology.

Janet Lauritsen was appointed to the Committee on Law and Justice, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences. Her term runs from January 2009 to December 2011.

Jody Miller has been selected as the winner of the 2009 American Society of Criminology, Division on People of Color & Crime, Coramae Richey Mann award for her "outstanding
contributions of scholarship on race, ethnicity, crime, and justice." Professor Miller will receive her award at the 2009 meetings of the ASC in Philadelphia in November.

Andres Rengifo was appointed Research Fellow to the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management)

Richard Rosenfeld has been appointed to the National Academy of Sciences Panel entitled “Developing Metrics for the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Research,” Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, and Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Lee Slocum won the Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award which recognizes early career faculty for outstanding teaching. Professor Slocum received her award at the Chancellor’s State of the University Address, and was recognized at the 18th Annual Founders Dinner at the Ritz Carlton, St. Louis.

Richard Wright was named a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology. He will be honored with this award at the upcoming ASC meetings in Philadelphia in November.

Graduate Student Awards
Jena Owens won the Elton S. Carter Thesis Award for Excellence in a Master’s Thesis at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Employment News
Mark Berg accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis.

Bradley Brick accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Old Dominion University.

Jennifer Cobbina accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Michigan State University.

Kimberly Martin accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Old Dominion University.

M.A. Program News
Congratulations
The following students received their M.A. degrees during the 2008-2009 school year: Ethan C. Amidon, Kristi Beall, Matthew A. Durbin, Amanda Gendon, Laura M. Herman, Tamara S. Johnson, Tammy Meyers, Kaitlin J. Rayne, Michele Stacey, and Brandon Rosenfeld.

Welcome to the 2009 M.A. Cohort

Reminder
Students who plan on graduating in December 2009 or May 2010 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 Graduate Director Beth Huebner to confirm their graduation date. The M-1 Form (and all other Graduate School Forms) is available on-line: on the UMSL Graduate School web page, go to “Current Students,” then “Forms.”
PH.D. PROGRAM NEWS

New Ph.D. Students

Welcome to Mark Debarr, Robert Domiano, Mikhail Gunderman, Kimberly Kras, and Stephanie Wiley.

New Ph.D.s

Congratulations to Mark Berg for successfully defending his dissertation. The title of his work is “Understanding the Persistence of the Victimization-Offending Relationship: Modeling Causal Mechanisms Across Place and Time.” The chair of his committee is Janet Lauritsen.

Congratulations to Jennifer Cobbina for successfully defending her dissertation. The title of her work is “From Prison to Home: Women's Pathways In and Out of Crime.” The chair of her committee is Jody Miller.

New Ph.D. Candidates

Congratulations to Scott Jacques, Brian Oliver, and Michele Stacey for successfully completing the comprehensive exams. Graduate students are designated “Ph.D. Candidates” after they have completed coursework and exams.

Ph.D. Grant Awards and Accolades

Amanda Gendon has been named one of the recipients of the 2009 Graduate Minority Fellowship by the American Society of Criminology.

The Graduate School has awarded Scott Jacques a dissertation fellowship for the 2009-2010 school year.

Tiffany Polk and Allen Shamow have been selected for the 2009 ICPSR Summer Course on Quantitative Analysis of Crime and Criminal Justice Data on fellowships by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

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. Students who plan to receive the Ph.D. by May 2010 must have their dissertation completed by April 1st. Finally, students who plan to complete 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.

OUR INFLUENCE

Publications

Department members published the following articles, chapters, and books since September 2008.

* indicates graduate student, ** indicates alumni graduate student

Articles


Book Chapters


Books


Technical Reports


Outreach

Jody Miller continues her work as Coordinator of the UM-St. Louis Operation Teardrop Campaign, a project that works to improve the educational opportunities of children at Macaldeniya Tamil Vidyalayam, a primary school on a tea plantation in the central hills of Sri Lanka.

This year, the Campaign opened a school computer center, school library, and Montessori for pre-school aged children on the plantation. December 3-17, 2009, Jody will guest curate the exhibition “Kids with Cameras: Photographs by Macaldeniya Tea Plantation Children in Sri Lanka” at UMSL’s Gallery Visio. For more information about the project and its efforts, see: http://www.umsl.edu/~ccj/faculty/miller.html.

Research Grants


University Grants


Other

Richard Rosenfeld is Editor-in-Chief of the Online Bibliography in Criminology series for Oxford University.


Alumni News

Tenure and Promotion

Elicka Peterson was promoted to Associate Professor at Appalachian State University. She also got married this year and is now known as Elicka Peterson-Sparks.

Grants


Publications


Other

Chris Melde welcomed a baby girl (Elyse Marie) on July 15, 2009. Congratulations!