

CCJ GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS Winter 06

CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

Welcome to the Winter 2006 semester.

This newsletter documents the achievements of the department, its students, and faculty over the past six months. I know you will be impressed by the quality, diversity, and volume of activity. Our undergraduate and graduate students continue to be recognized for their academic excellence and achievements in the field of criminology and criminal justice. This recognition occurs within the university and in the community. The department continues to garner awards in academic and applied circles. Our strong enrollments and the frequent appearances by faculty in the media are testimony to our reputation as a quality program. The alumni of this department contribute to the well-being of the community on a daily basis. The faculty has been extraordinarily. The quality and impact of their scholarship continues to change the way that crime and criminal justice are understood. However, the faculty is far more than high-quality scholars. They bring the same level of commitment and dedication to the classroom and their service to the community and the discipline.

The New Year offers many opportunities. There will be faculty seminars, challenging courses, and additional opportunities to recognize the activities of our students, faculty, and alumni. On January 27, 2006, the department initiated the Allen E. Wagner Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. This award commemorates the excellence in classroom instruction that Dr. Al Wagner maintained for twenty years. Al stands as an example to all of us in higher education. I know you will join the rest of us in wishing him well.

Best regards,
Scott H. Decker,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty Awards

Robert J. Bursik, Jr. was awarded the **Herbert Bloch Award** from the **American Society of Criminology (ASC)**. This award is given for "outstanding service contributions to the ASC and the professional interests of criminology."



(Bob Bursik and Julie Horney)

Richard Rosenfeld was named **Fellow of the American Society of Criminology**. The honorary title of "Fellow" goes to those persons who "have made a scholarly contribution to the intellectual life of the discipline, and a significant contribution to the field through the career development of other criminologists."



(D. Wayne Osgood, Rick Rosenfeld, David Weisburd, Barry Feld, and Julie Horney)

Beth Huebner will be awarded the **Donal MacNamara Award** from the **Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences**. This award is given to “recognize outstanding scholarship published in one of the publication venues of the Academy”.

Special Projects and Events

UM-St. Louis Tsunami Reconstruction Project

Jody Miller is Coordinator of the UM-St. Louis Tsunami Reconstruction Project. Established after the Asian Tsunami of December 2004 in partnership with the Sri Lanka Library Association, the project targets two tsunami-affected schools in Sri Lanka. The first, Thambilivul Maha Vidyalaya, is a secondary school on Sri Lanka’s east coast. The second, Andaragasyaya Vidyalaya, is a primary school on the south coast. Jody attended Andaragasyaya’s official library opening in January 2006, and spoke as the representative for UM-St. Louis.

In addition to rebuilding and renovating the school libraries, the project is designed to provide sustained educational programming for students, teachers and parents. Art and music workshops have been held for the students, and the school librarians are being funded to attend a one-year library sciences training course. The project is currently seeking funds for (1) a parent’s workshop, and (2) a field trip for fourth and fifth graders to Sri Lanka’s capital city of Colombo. In addition, in January 2006 we are kicking off a “sponsor a student” campaign, in which members of the UMSL community can sponsor an Andaragasyaya student. Proceeds provide school supplies for the children. To make a contribution to the project, please send a check to the UM-St. Louis Tsunami Reconstruction Project, c/o the Center for International Studies, 366 SSB. For information on sponsoring a student, or other project information, contact Jody at jodymiller@umsl.edu.



Jody with Andaragasyaya fifth graders (from left) Imesha Jayasinghe, Kasuni Pavanika, and Isuri Jayasinghe

Youth Violence Prevention Conference

The 5th Annual Youth Violence Prevention Conference will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2006 at the J.C. Penny Conference Center. The title of this years conference is, Media, Drugs, and Parental Incarceration: Their Effects on Youth Violence. Presenters include: Sarah Britto (Central Washington University), Steven Chermak (Michigan State University), Scott Decker (UMSL), Karl Hill (University of Washington), Beth Huebner (UMSL), Jane Siegel (Rutgers University), and L. Thomas Winfree, Jr. (New Mexico State University).

Finn Esbensen, E. Desmond Lee Chair in Youth Crime and Violence, is organizing the conference. For more information, contact Finn at esbensen@umsl.edu.

Guest Speakers and University Presentations

The department is hosting two guest speakers this semester: **Christy Visher** (Urban Institute) will make a presentation on March 10th; **Ramiro Martinez** will visit on April 28th.

Jody Miller and Rod Brunson will make a presentation entitled, "Gender, Race & Urban Policing: The Experience of African American Youth" on March 1st at 3:30pm. The presentation is co-sponsored by the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies.

M.A. PROGRAM NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who received their M.A. degrees during the Fall semester: Matthew Bileski, Gbenemene Kpae, and Linda McBride.

Students who plan on **graduating in May 2006 or August 2006** 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 Bob Bursik to confirm their graduation date. 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 ABDs

Congratulations to **Jan Hill** for successfully defending her dissertation proposal. Ms. Hill's project is entitled, "Prosecuting Child Sexual Abuse Offenders: A Case Study of Victim, Family, Offender, Evidentiary, and Case Characteristics". The chair of her committee is Janet Lauritsen.

Congratulations to **Toya Like** for successfully defending her dissertation proposal. Ms. Like's project is entitled, "Separate and Unequal Risks for Victimization? An Examination of City-Level Conditions on Victimization Risks". The chair of her committee is Janet Lauritsen.

Congratulations to **Timothy Maher** for successfully defending his dissertation proposal. Mr. Maher's project is entitled, "Police Sexual Misconduct: An Examination of Its Nature, Extent, and Control". The chair of his committee is Richard Wright.

Congratulations to **Adam Watkins** for successfully defending his dissertation proposal. Mr. Watkins' project is entitled, "Isolating Student, School, and Community Effects on School Weapon Carrying". The chair of his committee is Scott Decker.

New Ph.D. Candidates

Congratulations to **Karin Tusinski** for successfully completing the comprehensive exams. Graduate students are designated "Ph.D. Candidates" after they have completed coursework and exams.

Student Awards

Chris Melde won the student paper competition at the 2005 Midwestern Criminal Justice Association meeting. The paper is entitled "Social Disorganization and Violent Crime in Rural Appalachia".

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 2006 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.**

Comprehensive Exams

The Winter 2006 comprehensive exams will take place on May 3-5. Students who plan to take their exams should confirm their place with Eric Baumer. The committee consists of Professors Wright, Rennison and Miller.

Professional Development Seminars

Date	Topic	Presenters
Feb. 10	ACJS Practice Talks	Student Presenters
Feb. 24	Reviewing	Bursik
Mar. 10	Authorship Issues	Wright & Huebner
April 7	Job Market	Baumer & Stewart

OUR INFLUENCE

Publications

Department members published the following articles, chapters, and books since August 2004 (“*” indicates graduate student, ** indicates alumni graduate student):

Research Articles

Scott H. Decker, Jack R Greene, Vince Webb, **Jeff Rojek****, Sean Varano, Jack McDevitt, Tim Bynum, and Peter K. Manning (2005). “Safety and Security at Special Events: The Case of the Salt Lake Olympic Games.” *Security Journal*, 18: 65-74.

Hart, Timothy C., **Callie Marie Rennison**, and Chris Gibson. (2005). “Revisiting Respondent Fatigue Bias’ in the National Crime Victimization Survey.” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. 21:3.

Lauritsen, Janet L. (2005). “Social and Scientific Influences on the Measurement of Criminal Victimization.” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, Vol. 21:245-266.

Lauritsen, Janet L. (2005). “Explaining Patters of Offending Across the Life Course: Comments on Interactional Theory and Recent Tests Based on RYDS-RIS Data.” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 602:212-228.

Justin W. Patchin, **Beth M. Huebner**, John D. McCluskey, Sean P. Varano, and Timothy S. Bynum. (2006) “Exposure to Community Violence and Childhood Delinquency.” *Crime and Delinquency*, 52:2.

Michael Rand and **Callie Marie Rennison**. (2005). “Bigger is Not Necessarily Better: An Analysis of Violence Against Women Estimate From the National Crime Victimization Survey and the National Violence Against Women Survey.” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 21:3.

Callie Marie Rennison and Mike Planty (2006). “Reassessing Who Contributed Most to the Decline in Violence During the 1990s: A Reminder that Size DOES Matter.” *Violence and Victims*, 21:1.

Richard Rosenfeld (2005). “Firearms Research and the Crime Drop.” *Criminology and Public Policy*, 4:799-806.

Richard Rosenfeld, Rob Fornango*, and **Eric P. Baumer** (2005) “Evaluating the Impact of Law Enforcement Interventions on Homicide Rates.” *Criminology & Public Policy*, 4:419-450.

Richard Rosenfeld, Robert Fornango*, and **Eric Baumer**. (2005). “The Straw Man Bluff: Reply to Berk.” *Criminology and Public Policy* 4:467-469.

South, Scott J., Amy Lutz, and **Eric P. Baumer** (2005). “Mobility Effects During Adolescence.” *Sociological Studies of Youth and Children* 11:23-52.

Richard Wright., F. Brookman, and T. Bennett (2006). “The Foreground Dynamics of Street Robbery in Britain.” *British Journal of Criminology*, 46:1-15.

Books

Scott Decker and Frank Weerman (2005). European Street Gangs and Troublesome Youth Groups. San Francisco, CA: Alta Mira.

Arlen Egley**, Cheryl L. Maxson, **Jody Miller** and Malcolm W. Klein (2006). The Modern Gang Reader, 3rd Edition. Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Company.

Richard Wright and Dick Hobbs (2006). The Sage Handbook of Fieldwork. Sage Publications.

Book Chapters

Yngve Carlsson and **Scott H. Decker** (2005). "Gang and Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention: Contrasting the Experience of the Scandinavian Welfare State with the United States." In S. Decker and F. Weerman (eds.) European Street Gangs and Troublesome Youth Groups. San Francisco, CA: Alta Mira.

Janet Lauritsen and **Callie Marie Rennison** (2005). "The Role of Race and Ethnicity in Violence Against Women." In Karen Heimer and Candace Kruttschnitt (eds.) Gender and Crime: Patterns in Victimization and Offending. New York: New York University Press.

Janet L. Lauritsen (2005). "Racial and Ethnic Differences in Juvenile Offending." In D. Hawkins and K. Kempf-Leonard (eds.) Our Children, Their Children: Confronting Race and Ethnic Differences in American Criminal Justice. University of Chicago Press.

Like, Toya Z.* and **Jody Miller** (2006). "Race, Inequality and Gender Violence: A Contextual Examination." In Ruth Peterson, Lauren Krivo and John Hagan (eds.) The Many Colors of Crime: Inequalities of Race, Ethnicity and Crime in America. NY: New York University Press.

Jody Miller and **Christopher W. Mullins**** (2005). "Stuck Up, Telling Lies, and Talking Too Much: The Gendered Context of Young Women's Violence." In Karen Heimer and Candace Kruttschnitt (eds.) Gender and Crime: Patterns of Victimization and Offending. New York: New York University Press.

Callie Marie Rennison and Michael Rand. (2006). "Introduction to The National Crime Victimization Survey." In James P. Lynch and Lynn A. Addington (eds.) Understanding Crime Statistics: Revisiting the Divergence of the NCVS and the UCR. New York: New York. Cambridge University Press.

Richard Rosenfeld and Steven F. Messner. (2006). "The Origins, Nature, and Prospects of Institutional-Anomie Theory." In Stuart Henry and Mark Lanier (eds.) The Essential Criminology Reader. Boulder, CO: Westview.

Richard Rosenfeld, Joel Wallman, and **Robert Fornango**** (2005). "The Contribution of Ex-Prisoners to Crime Rates." In J. Travis and C. Visser (eds.) Prisoner Reentry and Public Safety. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Frank Weerman and **Scott H. Decker** (2005). "European Street Gangs and Troublesome Youth Groups: Findings from the Eurogang Research Program." In S. Decker and F. Weerman (eds.) European Street Gangs and Troublesome Youth Groups. San Francisco, CA: Alta Mira.

Frank Weerman and **Finn-Aage Esbensen** (2005). "A Cross-National Comparison of Gangs: The Netherlands and the United States." In Scott H. Decker and Frank W. Weerman (eds.) European Street Gangs and Troublesome Youth Groups. San Francisco, CA: Alta Mira.

Research Grants

Scott Decker was awarded a grant by the **Bureau of Justice Assistance** for research entitled: "Evaluating Offender Notification Meetings."

Callie Rennison was awarded a grant by the *Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority* for research entitled, "Victim Characteristics and Reporting Violence to the Police, Illinois, 2002."

Callie Rennison was awarded a grant by the *American Statistical Association/Bureau of Justice Statistics Statistical Methodological Research Programs* for project entitled, Response Effects and the National Crime Victimization Survey: What Do We Really Know?

Technical Reports

Scott H. Decker (2005) Using Offender Interviews to Inform Police Problem Solving. Problem-Oriented Guides for Police. Problem-Solving Tools Series. No. 3. Washington, D.C. US Department of Justice.

Scott H. Decker and **Beth M. Huebner** (2005). Outcome Evaluation of the St. Charles County Drug Court.

Scott H. Decker and **Beth M. Huebner** (2005). Evaluation of the St. Louis Weed and Seed Initiative: 2001-2005.

Kimberly Martin** and **Scott H. Decker** (2005). Disproportionate Minority Confinement Report: First and Second Degree Tampering-Specific Results. St. Louis Family Court, City of St. Louis.

Rennison, Callie Marie (2006). Violent Crime and Victim's Gender 2002: An Examination of Differences in Correlates of Male and Female Nonfatal Violent Victimization in the State of Illinois, 2002. Chicago, IL: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

ALUMNI NEWS

Awards and Publications

Noelle E. Fern (Ph.D. 2003) was awarded the 2005 *Outstanding Professor Award*, from the Washington State University Department of Residence Life. She also published: Noelle E.

Fearn (2005). "A Multilevel Analysis of Community Effects on Criminal Sentencing." *Justice Quarterly* 22(4): 452-487.

Rick Ruddell (Ph.D. 2002) published: Ruddell, Rick, Matthew O. Thomas, and Lori Beth Way 2005 "Breaking the chain: confronting issueless college-town disturbances and riots." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 33: 549-560; Kuhlmann, Robynn, and Rick Ruddell (2005). "Elderly jail inmates: Problems, prevalence, and public health." *Californian Journal of Health Promotion* 3: 50-61; Ruddell, Rick (2005). "Long-term jail populations: A national assessment." *American Jails* March/April, 22-27.

Other

Kelli (Dyer) Burmeister (M.S. 2005) is now working as a researcher for the Colorado Division of Youth Corrections, Department of Human Services, in the Research and Evaluation Unit. She currently produces the monthly population reports and the key performance indicator reports. The focus of her research is female-responsive programming and sex offender treatment.

Tom Holt (Ph.D. 2005) was recently awarded a \$6,000 junior faculty research grant through UNC- Charlotte for a research project titled "An Examination of Fair Use Policies and Computer Crime Among College Students." He was also nominated for the Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award competitive grant program.

GOT NEWS?

We would like to hear from you. The newsletter welcomes news from alumni of our graduate program. Keep us posted on your professional activities! Send your information to Beth Huebner (Huebnerb@umsl.edu) or Cathy McNeal (Department Administrative Associate).