



Chair's Introduction

As I enter my second Academic Year as Chair, I am happy to introduce you to a new edition of University of Missouri-St. Louis Criminology and Criminal Justice's departmental newsletter. I have learned a good deal about UMSL CCJ students, present and past faculty, and alumni over the past year and it has only made me more grateful to be here at UMSL. The entries in this newsletter help to show why.



It's no secret that the past few years have seen faculty retirements and other departures and a lot of change in our department. We also lost dear friend and colleague, TJ Taylor, this past Spring. There will be an opportunity to meet in tribute to TJ at the upcoming American Society of Criminology meeting. Sadly, the UMSL CCJ community also mourns 2002 PhD alumnus, Dr. Rick Ruddell, who had an extensive and impactful career as a teacher, researcher, and leader in government and academia.

As we begin Fall 2023, UMSL CCJ faculty continue to build on and advance the department's existing principles built by its past distinguished professors, committed students, and accomplished alumni. Since our last update, new and existing faculty have produced meaningful and impactful scholarship; taught, mentored, and collaborated with students to maximize their talents and build necessary skills; and contributed to the university, community, and field through research and service. Students have likewise reached important milestones and earned their degrees at all levels. They leave UMSL ready to contribute to their chosen areas and apply what they have learned as CCJ alumni.

The newsletter highlights many accomplishments ranging from Lee Slocum's Chancellor's Research Award at UMSL to Janet Lauritsen's leadership as the Past-President of the American Society of Criminology (ASC). It also introduces the faculty and numerous students contributing to the department today. In doing so, I hope that it also identifies some ways that we can continue to (re)connect with those who have helped to build the program's distinguished history and made this a collegial and inspiring place to be (and be from).

As we look forward to another year full of contributions like these, please share any accomplishments that you would like us to include in our next newsletter. Also let me know any thoughts you might have about how UMSL CCJ might further connect with you, your students, and your colleagues. I am also happy to hear how our current faculty and students can continue to make an impact and carry on the department's history of excellence in learning and teaching, contributing to the St. Louis community and beyond.



Remembering TJ Taylor

We are remembering Associate Professor TJ Taylor, our friend, colleague, and mentor, who sadly passed away in February 2023. TJ graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and worked here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis from 2005-2022. His research interests centered primarily on youth violence, prevention, and evaluation. TJ cared deeply about undergraduate and graduate education and mentorship, and along with his wry sense of humor, was known as the "shepherd of lost souls" to many students in the department. The graduate students recently voted to name the library in Lucas Hall after him. He loved music, especially 90s rock, and would often be seen in his classic Nebraska baseball cap. TJ is survived by his sister Danielle ("Dani"), Dani's husband Kyle and their daughters (Mallory, Camryn, Hadley, Ellie), his sister Chrissy, as well as his many colleagues and friends. A tribute to him will be held at the American Society of Criminology meetings on November 16th at 3:30pm in the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Franklin Hall 2.

In Memory of Rick Ruddell

We are also mourning the death of alum [Rick Ruddell](#) (Ph.D. 2002). Rick was Justice Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Chair in Police Studies at the University of Regina, where he had been since 2010. He also served as Director of Operational Research with the Correctional Service of Canada and held faculty positions at Eastern Kentucky University and California State University. Rick's expertise focused on policing, criminal justice policy, and youth justice. Our thoughts are with Rick's family, friends, and many students and colleagues.



CCJ welcomes new faculty

Welcome to four new faculty who arrived this current and past academic year!

[Chris Sullivan](#) is the E. Desmond Lee Professor of Youth Crime and Violence and just finished his first year as Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. His work focuses on juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, developmental and life-course criminology, and research and analytic methods. He is an Associate Editor and former Co-Editor of the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency. He is the author of *Taking Juvenile Justice Seriously: Developmental Insights and System Challenges*,



and *Juvenile Risk and Needs Assessment: Theory, Research, Policy, and Practice*. Chris earned his Ph.D. at Rutgers University in Criminal Justice, and prior to joining the department, was most recently Professor and Director of the School of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Texas State University.

Katie Quinn is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Katie graduated with her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Toronto, and prior to joining UMSL, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto and a Research Associate at the University of Nottingham. Her work draws on qualitative methods to explore on how non-profit organizations and adjacent community actors participate in criminal justice processes and contend with criminal justice problems, especially as they relate to gender and crime. Katie has published in journals such as *British Journal of Sociology*, *Punishment & Society*, and *Criminology & Criminal Justice*.



Valerie Anderson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Valerie earned her Ph.D. in Community Psychology from Michigan State University, and was previously at the University of Cincinnati. She draws from interdisciplinary, community-engaged research to understand system responses to youth offending and victimization, and in particular, the circumstances and contexts in which these areas intersect. Her research program focuses on system-involved youth and responses, and experiences of victimization and trauma (with a primary focus on human trafficking). Valerie's work has been published in many criminal justice, public health, and psychology journals, including *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, *Crime and Delinquency*, *American Journal of Public Health*, and the *American Journal of Community Psychology*.

Rebecca Lennox is an incoming Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Rebecca graduated with her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in Sociology. Rebecca studies gender and crime, gender-based violence, and perceptions of safety. Specifically, her research agenda bridges feminist criminology and intersectional approaches to social inequality to investigate gender-based violent crime. Her project draws from multiple qualitative methods, including interview, observational, and archival analyses to examine how anticipating sexual violence shapes cis and trans women's lives, impacting where women go, where they feel safe, and how they present themselves. Rebecca has published in *British Journal of Criminology*, *Canadian Journal of Family Law*, and *Violence Against Women*.



Alum Michael Randazzo recognized in UMSL's 60 for

60 Anniversary



As [UMSL Celebrates its 60th Anniversary](#), it is recognizing 60 alumni who "[apply one or more of the university's core values in the world and help to make it a better place](#)." CCJ alum Michael Randazzo (BS 2006) has been recognized as one of these exceptional alumni. As [his profile reads](#),

"From first-generation college student to one of the youngest presiding circuit judges in Missouri history, Michael Randazzo has willingly embraced academic and professional opportunities to set a higher bar in life.

That can-do mindset took root at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, where Randazzo graduated from the Criminology and Criminal Justice Program and the Pierre Laclède Honors College, laying the foundation for law school and the prolific legal career that has followed."

UMSL's 60th Anniversary celebration kicks off with a [Red and Gold Day on Sept. 15](#). UMSL is also in the process of \$100 million in [reonnvations to redesign the campus](#), including the

University Libraries and construction of the Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center. [More information about the 60th Anniversary can be found here](#).



Janet Lauritsen issues call to modernize nation's crime statistics during presidential address at American Society of Criminology conference

Hundreds of the world's leading criminologists descended on Atlanta earlier this month for the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. The event looked at the future of criminology – a theme chosen by its president, [Janet Lauritsen](#), a Curators' Distinguished

Professor Emerita of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Lauritsen used her outgoing presidential address this last November to talk about the need to modernize and improve the nation's crime statistics.

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Lee Slocum honored with Chancellor's Award

[Lee Slocum](#) was recently honored with the UMSL [Chancellor's Award for Research and Creativity](#). This well-deserved award is

given for "superior achievement in a program of research." Lee was recognized at the Chancellor's State of the University Address this fall.

Lee is currently leading a project called "Redefining Community Safety" to capture how residents actually feel about safety in their communities. As she and her team note in the project, "policies are often based on a narrow conceptualization and measure of safety that relies primarily on official crime data. Such a definition fails to include the voices of many members of the community, including those impacted by the criminal justice system...who should have a role in setting priorities related to this issue is needed to develop and sustain innovative methods for making communities safer." The project examines multiple sites, including St. Louis County, as well as Charlotte, North Carolina, and Missoula, Montana. [READ MORE](#)



MA student balances academics and athletics

Congratulations to Mylz Barrington, who recently was awarded the Longinette Scholarship from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice! The Longinette Scholarship recognizes outstanding MA students. Mylz, who originally hails from Trinidad & Tobago, also is a starter on [UMSL's soccer team](#).

Recent Ph.D. graduates start new adventures across the country

Our [Ph.D. graduates](#) this year are embarking on new adventures as faculty all across the country. Alessandra Early (fourth from left) is starting as an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York. Andrea Giuffre (fifth from left) is starting as an Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at California State University, San Bernardino. Claire Greene (not pictured) is starting as a Visiting Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Webster University in St. Louis. Congratulations to all of our grads!



MA students apply their knowledge



Several MA students have gained hands-on experiences through recent internships or jobs. Myranda Hogg (left) enrolled in the MA program with the goal of getting federal employment. Drawing on her prior experience as a criminal defense paralegal for a private practice firm, where she worked on a range of cases, including DWIs, sex crimes, assault, domestic assault, she recently started a position with the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri. As Myranda notes, "during the interviews, there were several questions about my educational journey with UMSL. I believe that my UMSL education may have set me apart from other candidates!" Myranda was [profiled in UMSL Daily about her experience.](#)

Melanie Winkler (middle) graduated in May with her MA, as well as a BA in Psychology and BS in Criminology and Criminal Justice. In the spring semester of 2023, she had an internship at Crime Victim Center, which Tim Maher helped her obtain. She used the internship to gain experience in the victim advocacy realm and make community connections. As Melanie notes, "the internship was extremely beneficial and one of the highlights of my time at UMSL!" Melanie is currently working as a legal assistant at a law firm, Klar, Izsak, and Stenger, where she gets hands on experience with legal cases.

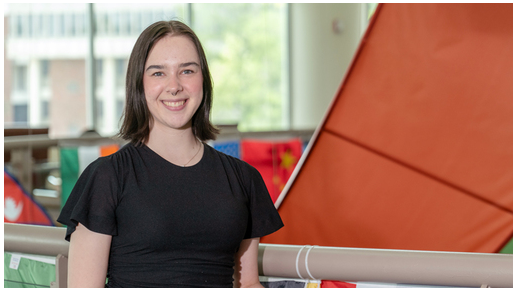
Sarah Schulte (right) is an MA student who interned this summer with the Eastern District of Missouri Probation Office of the United States District Court in the sex offender unit. As Sarah remarks, "I was able to understand the significance of studying sex offenders and how it pertains to criminology and criminal justice during my time working on this internship...When I applied for this internship, I had no idea what I would be doing until I received the news that I had been chosen to take part in the program. I felt uneasy because I was terrified and worried when I learned that I would be working in the sex offender unit. But after I started working there, I had a new perspective on the place: a sensation that this might be my life's work."

Hayden Steingruby (not pictured) graduated summa cum laude with his MA, as well as his BS in Criminology and Criminal Justice and a BA in Anthropology. He is planning to enter the St. Louis Police Academy, hoping it will prepare him to make a difference in some of the city neighborhoods most impacted by crime. He also wants to serve as an officer in the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Hayden was [profiled in UMSL Daily.](#)

Faraneh Shamserad and Bobby Boxerman win dissertation fellowship



Doctoral students [Faraneh Shamserad](#) (left) and [Bobby Boxerman](#) (right) won the Charles G. Huber, Jr. Endowed Dissertation Fellowship, which supports advanced doctoral students who are in the process of completing their dissertation. Faraneh's dissertation is entitled "Immigration, Moral Panics, and Punishment: The Impact of Media Coverage and Public Interest on Jail Incarceration," which examines the extent to which newspaper coverage and Google search volumes influence the punishment of immigrants in the United States. Bobby's dissertation is called "Police Recruit Attitudes and Experiences: The Making of a Police Officer," and he was also awarded funding from the Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice in support of the project.



SGA President Sydney Stark bound for law school in New England

Sydney Stark is glad she gets to spend a little time being a tourist in her adopted city of St. Louis before her time here ends later this summer. She's planning to visit all the spots

– including the City Museum, zoo and art museum – she eagerly toured back in 2019 as she was settling into her freshman year at the University of Missouri–St. Louis before she packs up her apartment at the end of July. In August, Stark, who graduated magna cum laude with degrees in criminology and criminal justice and Spanish and a certificate from the Pierre Laclède Honors College, will move to Boston to begin pursuing her law degree at New England School of Law.

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Outstanding undergraduate students awarded scholarships

Several outstanding undergraduate students were awarded [departmental scholarships](#). Undergraduate students Josef Wibbenmeyer and Kimberly Sanchez-Portillo were recently awarded the Doris Fishman Administration of Justice Scholarship, which recognizes outstanding students who are pursuing a Criminology and Criminal Justice major. Joshua Peterson, Autumn Greenlee, and Morgan Nelson were awarded the Jennings Do-Dads Juvenile Justice Scholarship, which recognizes outstanding students who have an interest and commitment to work in juvenile justice. Morgan Nelson was also awarded the Huber Scholarship, which recognizes Missouri students. Congratulations to these stellar undergrads!

Katie Quinn Wins Awards at Early Career Research Symposium

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Katie Quinn, who won both awards for Best Presentation and Best Visuals for her engaging talk entitled, "Why Doing Good is So Hard: Examining Community Efforts to Help Criminalized Individuals in Canada."



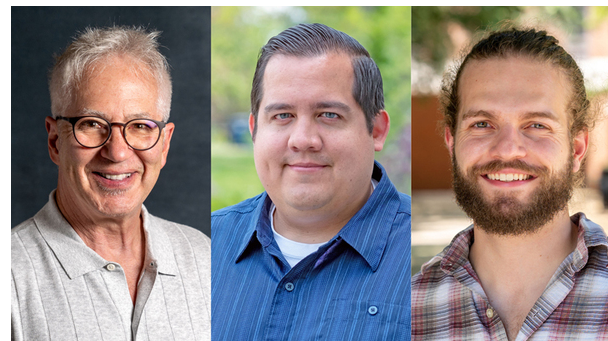
Lauren Morgan gains key experiences at NIJ

Lauren Morgan recently renewed her internship as a Research Assistant for the National Institute of Justice for a second year. Lauren is co-leading the criminal justice interagency working group under the office of science and technology policy's subcommittee on social and behavioral sciences. In this role, she has been working with the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Health, and other agencies to put forward a Social and Behavioral Science blueprint for bridging research and policy. Lauren has been able to work while also working on her dissertation project focusing on "crossover youth," or youth who are involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and was awarded funding from the Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice.



UMSL criminologists behind new report showing declines in violent crime across US

Richard Rosenfeld (left) described the findings as "heartening" in his interview with New York Times reporter Tim Arango. The Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri–St. Louis was discussing a new Council on Criminal Justice report on "Crime Trends in U.S. Cities" in the first half of 2023. It showed a nearly 10 percent drop in homicides and declines in other offenses such as gun assaults (-5.6%), robberies (-3.6%), nonresidential burglaries (-5%), larcenies (-4.1%), residential burglaries (-3.8%), and aggravated assaults (-2.5%). But Rosenfeld was hardly jubilant in giving his assessment of the most recent in a series of reports he's produced with UMSL doctoral candidates Ernesto Lopez (middle) and Bobby Boxerman (right) over the past three years.



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Chris Jones embarks on



career in law enforcement while pursuing criminology and criminal justice degree at UMSL

All it took for Chris Jones to set course on his future career was an informational meeting and a quick perusal of a brochure. From the moment he first heard about the opportunity to work with a local police department through the Boy Scouts of America Greater St. Louis Area Council's Exploring Program when he was 14 years old, Jones knew he wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement.

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