Another eventful year has passed and there is much news to share with alumni and friends of the Department of Criminal Justice at East Carolina University. This edition of the Pirate’s Plank newsletter recaps happenings during the academic year 2013-2014. You are also invited to keep up with departmental developments and activities by visiting our updated website at http://www.ecu.edu/che/just/ or Facebook. If you haven’t yet, please sign up today! Of course, always feel free to send us an email at JUST@ecu.edu or telephone (252) 328-4192 if there is a question or need for more information.

By the way, you can help us stay connected with alumni, friends, and the Pirate nation by sending information on contact updates, newsworthy events, or new subscribers to Debbie Domer at JUST@ecu.edu or domerd@ecu.edu.

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A Message from the Chair
Dr. William P. Bloss

There is much to be excited about as the Department is growing on many fronts. We’ve seen increases in faculty, research publications, extramural grants, external research projects, student scholarships, donor contributions, and program enrollments. At the same time, we have established partnerships with other departments in the multidisciplinary Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science concentration) and Bachelor of Science in Security Studies. And other ECU interdepartmental programs are being discussed. This year we culminated an extensive review of our undergraduate and graduate curricula which resulted in comprehensive revisions in each program. The changes will provide critical updates and improve student options. Implementation begins in the 2014 fall semester and the improvements will strengthen our programs while making criminal justice study more accessible to students. Importantly, we retained many of the best elements of traditional programs and activities which have contributed to our success over the years.

However, more work lies ahead as the Department continues to be affected by recurrent state budget cuts which have created personnel shortages and impeded progress in some areas. In spite of the economic challenges, we are steadfastly committed to educating the next generation of criminal justice leaders and will continue to provide high quality teaching, research, and service aimed at improving criminal justice knowledge, public safety, and community well-being.

We value the partnerships with alumni, students, and supporters so you are encouraged to stay connected and keep us apprised of requests and news. After all, it’s the best way to remain informed about the Department’s many activities and events. I hope that you enjoy this edition of the Pirate’s Plank!

2013-2014 Highlights

- Master’s degree and more graduate Certificate options online
- BS and MS in Criminal Justice curricula updated
- Multidisciplinary Bachelor of Science (forensic science concentration) available
- New faculty join the Department
- Department faculty named to key national research positions
- Agency research partnerships increasing
- Scholarship numbers up
- Criminal Justice Student Organization founded
- CJ Career Fair participation grows
- Study Abroad continues
PROGRAM NEWS

Degree Programs Updated

After a comprehensive review of all programs, both the undergraduate and graduate curricula were updated to reflect needed changes in course requirement and sequencing to improve student access and cumulative knowledge. For instance, revisions in the Bachelor of Science aim to facilitate student transfer and strengthen core course requirements to better prepare majors for upper level courses. Likewise, the Master of Science degree program expanded access to online courses while adding two graduate certificate options and replacing the comprehensive examination requirement with a professional paper. Implementation of the revisions will occur in the 2014 fall semester. Details can be found on the Department webpage http://www.ecu.edu/che/just/ or ECU online catalogs.

New Options in Graduate Study

Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Graduate Certificate options have been revamped to provide students with more choices. Those interested in getting an advanced criminal justice degree can now complete the Master of Science in Criminal Justice entirely online. The non-thesis degree is open to all post-baccalaureate students who satisfy the ECU Graduate School and Department admission requirements. Three graduate certificate options are now available and each can be obtained independently or in conjunction with the MSCJ program to satisfy part of the required electives.

Master of Science in Criminal Justice
The degree is now available online. Other updates include the addition of a core course in program evaluation and replacement of the comprehensive examinations with a professional paper so students can conduct research on practical problems in the administration of justice.

Graduate Certificate Options

- Certificate in Criminal Justice Education
This 18 semester hour graduate certificate is for students interested in getting a credential to teach criminal justice subjects in educational or agency settings. It emphasizes contemporary subject matter and prepares the student to effectively deliver criminal justice instructional material. MS in Criminal Justice students can also obtain this certificate to satisfy part of the degree's elective requirement.
• **Certificate in Security Studies**
The 15 semester hour graduate certificate is available through a partnership with the Department of Political Science Security Studies program. It emphasizes issues in national security, terrorism, and emergency response and MS in Criminal Justice students can obtain the certificate at the same time they satisfy part of the Master’s degree elective requirement.

• **Certificate in Public Management and Leadership**
This 15 semester hour graduate certificate is available in the Department of Political Science Public Administration program. It emphasizes issues in leadership and management in a public service setting and MS in Criminal Justice students can obtain the certificate at the same time they satisfy part of the Master’s degree elective requirement.

**Forensic Science Degree Available in 2014**

Students interested in forensic science study will have two degree options to choose from starting in the fall 2014 semester. In addition to the longstanding Minor in Forensic Science offered by the Department of Criminal Justice, a Multidisciplinary Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science concentration) degree will be available. The 123 semester hour program is a joint initiative by the College of Human Ecology and Harriot College of Arts and Sciences which involves the Departments of Criminal Justice, Biology, Chemistry, and Anthropology. Its curriculum follows recommendations of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and includes a block of six criminal justice courses (18 semester hours). Each degree program focuses on a facet of forensic science with the Bachelor of Science emphasizing the scientific analysis of criminal evidence in a laboratory setting while the Minor in Forensic Science centers on crime scene investigation and evidence collection. Students in both programs complete forensic science, criminal investigation, and crime scene courses in the Department of Criminal Justice. The Multidisciplinary Bachelor of Science program is under the direction of Dr. Anthony Kennedy in the Department of Chemistry. More information about the program can be found at [http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/chem/old/Forensics.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/chem/old/Forensics.cfm)

For students interested in forensic science study that focuses on criminal investigation and crime scene evidence collection, the Minor in Forensic Science continues to be offered by the Department of Criminal Justice. For information visit [http://www.ecu.edu/che/just/minor.html](http://www.ecu.edu/che/just/minor.html) or contact program Coordinator Dennis Honeycutt at [honeycuttd@ecu.edu](mailto:honeycuttd@ecu.edu).
Agency Research Partnerships Expanding

Emerging partnerships with criminal justice agencies have increased the role of faculty and student researchers in analyzing real world issues.

**East Carolina University Police Department**
For instance, a team of researchers led by Dr. Heidi Bonner is conducting a study on student perception of crime risk in collaboration with the East Carolina University Police Department and campus safety offices. The aim of the project is to analyze student self-reported data to assist campus safety officials in formulating crime prevention methods.

**Greenville, NC Police Department**
Again in 2014, departmental faculty and students will conduct the Greenville, NC Community Fear of Crime and Police Satisfaction study with the Greenville Police Department. Although similar to the 2011 project, the latest research will include community focus groups to gain additional insight into citizen views on public safety. While Drs. Heidi Bonner, Megan Magers, and William Bloss will work on this project, Bonner is also evaluating newly implemented patrol strategies at the request of the Greenville Police Department.

**Greenville, NC and Raleigh, NC Police Departments**
Dr. Megan Magers is evaluating the effectiveness of law enforcement “crisis intervention” training involving officers from the Raleigh, NC and Greenville, NC Police Departments. Along with many police agencies nationwide, both use the Memphis Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) curriculum, which is designed to give officers strategies for diffusing crisis situations. Dr. Magers has been conducting a similar study with Florida law enforcement agencies to assess the usefulness of the training components. Another study is underway with the Raleigh Police Department where faculty researchers from the Departments of Criminal Justice and Child Development and Family Relations are examining occupational stress effects on law enforcement officer family members. The group plans to compare its findings with results from a companion study involving emergency health care workers.

**NC Community Correction Service Centers**
Drs. Mark Jones and Megan Magers recently began a research study with North Carolina community centers serving offenders under community supervision. The project examines the effects of mental health and substance abuse on offenders under community supervision.
At various stages of development, other agency-based research is ongoing as faculty expertise helps to improve organization performance and efficacy. Yet, this is only one piece as departmental faculty are engaged in a host of other research projects and their findings will contribute to criminal justice knowledge, policy making, and community safety.

**Research Affiliation Recognized in National Publication**

Greenville, NC Police Chief Hassan Aden wrote an article in the October 2013 *Police Chief* citing the importance of the agency’s research partnership with the Department of Criminal Justice at ECU. The essay, in the official publication of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, describes the value of scientific research in helping law enforcement leaders understand complex problems in the age of evidence-based decision making. Criminal justice department researchers are working with the Greenville Police Department and other agencies to collect and analyze data pertaining to strategic planning and criminal justice practices. Agencies or organizations needing research assistance should contact Dr. William Bloss (blossw@ecu.edu).

**Criminal Justice Forensic Science Laboratory Relocates**

Forensic science students are learning in a new venue as the Department’s forensic science laboratory moved to improved facilities in the ECU Science and Technology Building. The laboratory is shared with the Department of Chemistry and provides additional space and better equipment. Several new pieces of forensic equipment have been added to the laboratory including a *Live Scan* digital fingerprint scanner and advanced alternate light source devices along with computer software for crime scene sketching, suspect facial identification, and blood spatter pattern analysis.

**Alpha Phi Sigma to Accept Members Earlier**

Due to recent changes in the criminal justice Bachelor of Science program, undergraduate students can declare the criminal justice major after their first semester freshman year. This enables them to complete the number of courses required by the national criminal justice honor society earlier so eligible students can qualify to join the prestigious honorary society. For more information visit the Department webpage or contact faculty advisor Dr. Heidi Bonner (bonnerhe@ecu.edu).
Members of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board voted in 2013 to establish a scholarship fund for undergraduate criminal justice students. Donors generously contributed to the fund and two students were selected from a competitive applicant pool to receive the inaugural 2014-2015 scholarship awards. A total of over $3,000 was given to the recipients at the 2014 donor’s event held in the Murphy Center. Pictured from left are Dr. William Bloss, Ryan Poudrier, John Glennon, and Mr. William Koch (for the Criminal Justice Advisory Board).

**Student Scholarship Awards Rise**

Due to the growing generosity of donors, almost $7,500 in scholarships was awarded to eight Criminal Justice majors for 2014-2015. This is the highest one-year total ever given and shows the tremendous support accorded to deserving criminal justice students. Pictured is Dr. David Stevens (for the David B. and Willa H. Stevens Criminal Justice Scholarship) with student recipient Dalas Young. Others received awards from the John F. Minges, III, James Bruner, and Criminal Justice Advisory Board scholarships. We thank those who contribute and please contact us if you are interested in donating to our student scholarship fund.

**Criminal Justice Student Organization Founded**

A new student organization has been established for persons interested in criminal justice affairs. It offers students a second extra-curricular option along with the ECU chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, National Criminal Justice Honor Society. The Criminal Justice Student Organization is open to all students and gives members an opportunity to participate in community and campus activities including sponsoring criminal justice-related events and volunteering in neighborhoods to enhance public safety and wellness. For more information contact faculty advisor Dr. Megan Magers (magersm@ecu.edu).
CJ Career Fair Grows

2014 marked the fourth year that the Criminal Justice Career Fair has been held at ECU. The annual event convenes representatives from criminal justice agencies and North Carolina law schools to discuss career options and employment opportunities with students from the ECU community and area community colleges. Together, over 20 organizations were represented including newcomers such as the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill law school and US State Department, Bureau of Diplomatic Security which joined regular participants from across the federal, state, and local justice spectrum. This year’s fair attracted the largest number of agencies and students since its inception. Planning is underway for the 2015 Criminal Justice Career Fair which will be held again in the Mendenhall Student Center next spring. For more information visit our Facebook page or contact the Department of Criminal Justice office at JUST@ecu.edu 252.328.4192.

Study Abroad to Europe

For several years Dr. Mark Jones has conducted a study abroad course to the United Kingdom and France giving ECU students the opportunity to learn about the administration of justice in those countries. Once again this year he took the group to London and Paris for a comparative study of British and French criminal justice practices. Students heard lectures from local academics and justice officials while visiting such iconic sites as New Scotland Yard and the Ministry of Justice in Paris. Not only does the course afford students the opportunity to learn about other justice systems but it gives them a chance to travel abroad. For more information on the Criminal Justice Study Abroad program contact Dr. Mark Jones (jonesg@ecu.edu) in the Department of Criminal Justice.
FACULTY NEWS

Professors Join Department

Three professors joined the Department in fall 2013 increasing the full-time faculty to eleven. Together, the additions mark an important increase in the number of permanent faculty which stems from recent growth in programs and enrollment. Welcome aboard!

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<th>Professor</th>
<th>Degree/University</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Patrick Cundiff</td>
<td>PhD, Pennsylvania State University</td>
<td>Criminological theory; juvenile delinquency; adolescent issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Megan Magers</td>
<td>PhD, University of Central Florida</td>
<td>Crime and mental illness; substance abuse; program evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Michele Stacey</td>
<td>PhD, University of Missouri-St. Louis</td>
<td>Race, gender, and crime; research methodology; victimology</td>
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Professor Sorensen to Manage National Archive

Dr. Jonathan Sorensen has been asked to help administer the acclaimed “Capital Jury Project” (CJP) archive by its creator Emeritus Professor William Bowers of Northeastern University. Professor Sorensen, who joined the ECU faculty in 2012, has achieved national prominence as an expert on capital punishment and prediction of criminal offender dangerousness. As the author of three books and more than 70 peer-reviewed articles, Sorensen’s research has been cited, by among others, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Ring v. Arizona* (2002) and American Bar Association. Having the Capital Jury Project data archive here is a distinction for the Department and affords our faculty and students the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Sorensen on this historic research study.
Originally funded by the National Science Foundation, the Capital Jury Project has collected interviews from more than 1,198 death penalty jurors in 14 states. Results from the study have enabled researchers to publish more than 60 academic and law journal articles over the last 22 years. Sorensen said, “The significance of the CJP is hard to overstate: it is the single most comprehensive and influential study of capital punishment ever completed.” “Bowers and colleagues sought to look inside the ‘black box’ at sentencing deliberations” to better understand the decision making of jurors in capital punishment cases. Dr. Sorensen and colleagues will continue with this and similar studies to assess the efficacy of capital punishment policies nationwide.

**Dr. Bonner Named to Research Institute Board**

Professor Heidi Bonner has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of The John F. Finn Institute for Public Safety in Albany, NY. The Finn Institute is among the nation’s recognized leaders in criminal justice-related social research. Dr. Bonner is an affiliated researcher with the Institute who specializes in law enforcement policy and practice. Her new leadership role on the Board will not only complement her research but benefit the Institute in a host of ways. Professor Bonner is a faculty specialist in law enforcement and lead researcher on several projects with police departments around the country.

**Professor Jones Honored as Book Author**

Dr. Mark Jones was honored for his latest book at an author’s reception sponsored by the ECU Joyner Library. His book titled *North Carolina’s Criminal Justice System, 2nd Edition* was co-authored with Dr. Paul Knepper (University of Sheffield, UK) and published by Carolina Academic Press. Professor Jones has authored four books and numerous other academic publications. Jones was joined by other ECU faculty being recognized for their scholarly works. Pictured from left is Dr. Marilyn Sheerer (ECU Provost) with Dr. Mark Jones.
Alumnae Cassandra Deck-Brown Recognized

Raleigh, NC Police Chief Cassandra Deck-Brown was recognized for her outstanding achievements as a Distinguished Alumnae at a reception given in her honor. Pictured from left are Dr. Sheila Bunch (Director, School of Social Work), Dr. William Bloss (Chair, Department of Criminal Justice), Chief Deck-Brown (Raleigh PD), and Dr. Judy Siguaw (Dean, College of Human Ecology). Chief Deck-Brown joined the Raleigh Police Department upon graduation from East Carolina University then rose through the ranks to lead the agency as Chief of Police.

ALUMNI BEAT

Richard Allsbrook, Lieutenant Greenville, North Carolina Police Department, retired and took a teaching position at North Carolina Wesleyan College.

Asa B. Buck, III, Sheriff Carteret County, North Carolina, was elected President of the North Carolina Sheriff’s Association.

Carl Caulk, Assistant Director U.S. Marshals Service, joined the Department of Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Cassandra Deck-Brown was appointed Chief of Police with the Raleigh, North Carolina Police Department culminating a distinguished career with the agency.

Chris Ivey has been promoted to the rank of Captain of Police and appointed Bureau Commander with the Greenville, North Carolina Police Department.

Ken Lang, President of The Robert Taylor Group, was named to the ECU College of Human Ecology Advancement Council.

John F. Minges, III, President/Managing Partner of Minges & Associates, LLC, has been elected Chairman of the Greenville Utilities Board of Commissioners.
**Douglas Morgan**, Special Agent in Charge of the Office of Investigations, National Science Foundation, retired and took a position with OMNISEC International Investigations.

**Ted Sauls** has been appointed Deputy Chief of Police with the Greenville, North Carolina Police Department.

**Kim Westbrook Strach** was appointed Executive Director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections by Governor Pat McCrory.

*If you are alumni, please send news and updates to Debbie Domer at JUST@ecu.edu or domerd@ecu.edu.*

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**CJ ALUMNI HOMECOMING football game tailgate**

Saturday **October 4, 2014** beginning at 12:00 noon in the Pirate’s Club parking area blue lot. Look for the Department of Criminal Justice Banner. All alumni, friends, and supporters are invited!