Official Newsletter of the Department of Criminal Justice


“Educating the next generation of criminal justice leaders”

This edition of the Pirate’s Plank is filled with news about developments and activities we want to share with alumni and friends of the Department of Criminal Justice at East Carolina University. You are also invited to keep up with departmental happenings by visiting our website at http://www.ecu.edu/che/just/ or Facebook. If you haven’t already, 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.

And 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 Sandra Barfield at JUST@ecu.edu or barfieldsa15@ecu.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In This Edition</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Message from the Chair</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015 Highlights</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department News</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program News</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty News</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni News</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni Beat</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~ 1 ~
A Message from the Chair
Dr. William P. Bloss

I’m delighted to report on the achievements of our programs, faculty, and students which includes national recognition for the Master’s degree program. This has been a banner year as the Department continues to experience steady growth and craft new ways to fulfill our mission to educate the next generation of criminal justice leaders through innovative teaching, inspired research, and service focused on community, professional, and campus engagement. Furthermore, through interdisciplinary partnerships and cutting-edge research our imprint in the criminal justice community is expanding and becoming more recognized. Our faculty and students have made significant contributions in improving public safety and community well-being by giving their knowledge, expertise, and time to support campus initiatives, justice agencies, and community groups.

Due to organizational changes in the university, we are charting a new course as the Department of Criminal Justice proposes to join the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. With the elimination of the College of Human Ecology, constituent departments including the Department of Criminal Justice are being realigned with colleges around the university. As an interdisciplinary social science, the Department is an excellent fit for the Harriot College and the move should be completed by next year. The proposed reorganization will bring about not only changes in Department operations but new opportunities. For example, for the first time the Department will hold its own student Recognition Ceremony on December 18, 2015 for fall bachelor and master degree graduates. While these developments are promising, along with other units in the university we face persistent budget cuts and personnel shortages. In spite of these challenges, we are committed to sustaining a tradition of educational excellence amid the dwindling resources.

I’m privileged to work with the dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters in the Department and want to showcase their contributions and accomplishments. Hence, I trust that you will enjoy reading this edition of the Pirate’s Plank to learn more about the many exciting developments and activities in the Department. Our future is bright so please join us on the journey ahead.

2014-2015 Highlights

- Department proposed move to the Harriot College of Arts & Sciences
- Master’s degree ranked 25th nationally by US News & World Report
- Inaugural Recognition Ceremony for student graduates held
- CJ Career Fair celebrates fifth year
- Student scholarships award $8000 to undergraduate majors
- Criminal Justice Advisory Board welcomes new members
- New faculty join the Department

~ 2 ~
• Professor’s research covered by National Public Radio
• Faculty researchers assist justice agencies

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Department Proposes to Join the Harriot College of Arts & Sciences

A proposal has been submitted by the Department of Criminal Justice to join the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences following the university’s 2015 elimination of the College of Human Ecology. If approved, the Department would become the latest addition to the Harriot College, which currently has 15 departments and numerous programs in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. Both the Department faculty and Harriot College leadership voted overwhelmingly in favor of the reorganization. The affiliation would complement the Department’s existing multidisciplinary collaborations with the Harriot College departments of anthropology, biology, chemistry, and political science. University officials are expected to decide on the proposal by the end of the year.

Student Recognition Ceremony Held for Graduates

The Department will hold its inaugural student Recognition Ceremony for graduates on Friday December 18, 2015 at 5:00 PM in the Jenkins Auditorium on the ECU campus. Both Bachelor and Master fall 2015 graduates will be recognized by the Department of Criminal Justice in conjunction with university commencement activities. Faculty, students, and invited guests will be on hand as graduates are given individual recognition for their degree completion and academic accomplishment. Distinguished Alumnae and Raleigh Police Chief Cassandra Deck-Brown will give the keynote address at the ceremony. Planning is already underway for the spring 2016 Recognition observance.

Contributions Help Programs & Students

Donors play a vital role in the success of the Department. Gifts support a variety of programs that directly benefit students and help us fulfill our educational mission. Tax deductible contributions may be made to several funds to include Friends of Criminal Justice, departmental programs, student scholarships, and student programs. Individual, matching,
corporate, or planned gifts are needed and sincerely appreciated. Please support our students by donating today. For more information, contact Jennifer Tripp at University Advancement (trippj@ecu.edu; 252-737-4201) or Dr. William Bloss blossw@ecu.edu.

**Friends of Criminal Justice Membership Available**

The *Friends of Criminal Justice* program gives supporters a way to designate gifts specifically for the Department of Criminal Justice. Donations are used to support departmental programs and academic activities. Donor contributions through a *Friends* membership help sustain criminal justice education at ECU. If you have not already joined, please consider adding your name to the list of donors at one of the giving levels. For more information, contact Jennifer Tripp at University Advancement (trippj@ecu.edu; 252-737-4201) or Dr. William Bloss blossw@ecu.edu.

**CJ Advisory Board Welcomes New Members**

Three new members joined the Criminal Justice Advisory Board in 2015-2016 to include Ms. Karen Albert, President of Practical Solutions for Public Safety; Chief Cassandra Deck-Brown, Raleigh Police Department; and Chief Mark Holtzman, Greenville Police Department. Advisory Board membership consists of distinguished community, educational, and professional leaders from across the justice-related field. Its mission is to provide the Department leadership with input to assure that programs are imbued with best practices and effectively prepare our students for professional success. At the same time, Board members sponsor the CJ Advisory Board Scholarship while advocating for the Department. Current Board members include leaders from law enforcement, corrections, judiciary, higher education, and law.
Undergraduate Student Scholarship Awards Increase

For the second straight year, departmental scholarship disbursements have increased due to the generosity of donors. Seven undergraduate criminal justice students were awarded almost $8000 in scholarships for 2015-2016 (six pictured). The recipients were selected from a competitive pool of applicants by the departmental scholarship committee. Each year criminal justice majors are eligible to apply for several sponsored scholarships from the Nancy Darden, John Minges, David Stevens, and Criminal Justice Advisory Board funds as well as the open CJ Scholarship pool fund. Annual monetary awards are based on both the fund growth and individual donor contribution to the scholarship pool fund. All scholarship donations are sincerely appreciated and directly benefit criminal justice students. Scholarship funds are managed by University Advancement (http://www.ecu.edu/adv/). For more information, contact Jennifer Tripp (trippj@ecu.edu; 252-737-4201).

PROGRAM NEWS

Master’s Degree Ranked 25th by US News & World Report

In the 2015 national ranking of “Best Online Graduate Criminal Justice Programs,” East Carolina University was listed 25th in the nation and highest in North Carolina. The prestigious ranking is published annually by US News & World Report with over 300 criminal justice programs nationwide evaluated. ECU’s Master of Science in Criminal Justice topped some prominent criminal justice graduate programs so we are in good company and delighted about the recognition.

We have been invited to submit program information for the 2016 publication and hope to move to an even higher rank next year. This recognition came amid substantial growth in admission and enrollment in our graduate criminal justice programs which now includes a Master’s degree, graduate certificate in Criminal Justice Education, and two multidisciplinary graduate certificate options. Our online graduate programs are open to all qualified applicants and they offer advanced education options for students interested in career advancement, criminal justice education, or preparation for doctoral study. For more information visit http://www.ecu.edu/che/just/; contact us at MSCJ@ecu.edu or Dr. Jon Sorensen, Graduate Program Director sorensenj@ecu.edu.
CJ Study Abroad to Europe a Success

Again this year ECU students had a chance to study criminal justice in London, England and Paris, France as part of the department’s summer Criminal Justice Study Abroad program. Led by Professor Mark Jones (pictured L), undergraduate and graduate students visited historic and agency sites while hearing presentations from British and French academic faculty and justice professionals. Dr. Jones was joined by ECU Teaching Instructor Richard Allsbrook with additional lectures provided by Dr. Peter Johnstone from program partner the University of North Texas. For more information on the Criminal Justice Study Abroad program contact Dr. Mark Jones (jonesg@ecu.edu) in the Department of Criminal Justice.

Faculty and Students Promote Community Engagement

Community engagement has always been an important component in the administration of justice. And at ECU, it’s being emphasized through faculty and student initiatives. Along with faculty and staff, both student organizations Alpha Phi Sigma, National Criminal Justice Honor Society and the Criminal Justice Students Organization are actively participating in community support programs. For example, the faculty-led 2014-2015 Cans for Credit campaign donated over 2,250 lbs. of canned food to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. Other programs, organized by the Criminal Justice Students Organization, include donations to the Greenville Domestic Violence Shelter and “Packages for Patriots” program.
CJ Career Fair Celebrates Fifth Year

In 2015, the Criminal Justice Career Fair was held for the fifth consecutive year. The event was a resounding success and we welcomed several new agencies including the Fayetteville and Durham Police Departments, North Carolina DPS Adult Corrections division, and US Marine Corps, among others. Together, over 20 agencies from law enforcement, corrections, and armed forces attended representing federal, state, and local organizations. Moreover, the Career Fair’s notoriety is growing as we’ve received participation inquiries from such agencies as the Transportation Security Administration, Las Vegas, Nevada PD, and Houston, TX PD. The sixth annual Criminal Justice Career Fair is scheduled for March 17, 2016, and once again, it will be held in the Mendenhall Student Center on campus. Our 2016 Fair promises to have the largest number of participating agencies and student attendees so far. For more information visit our Facebook page or contact the Department of Criminal Justice office at JUST@ecu.edu 252.328.4192.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Joins Department

Dr. Robert D. Lytle joined the Department in fall 2015 as the latest addition to our full-time faculty. Professor Lytle earned a PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and his teaching/research interests include correctional policy, criminal justice policy, and program evaluation. He recently was awarded a research grant to study sex offender registration and community release monitoring. Welcome aboard!
Department to Hire Additional Faculty

The Department is seeking to fill two faculty positions for the 2016-2017 academic year. One is for a full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor while the other a four-course Teaching Instructor. Qualifications are a PhD in criminal justice, or closely related field, for Assistant Professor and Master’s in Criminal Justice for Teaching Instructor. Preferred specializations include law enforcement and criminal law. Advertisements for the full-time position can be found in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and American Society of Criminology employment bulletin. Interested persons may apply online at ECU jobs.

Sorensen Research Covered by National Public Radio

Research published by ECU’s Dr. Jonathan Sorensen and co-author Dr. Erin Espinosa at University of Texas at Austin was the subject of a National Public Radio broadcast. The impetus for the NPR story was their recent article titled “The Influence of Gender and Traumatic Experiences on Length of Time Served in Juvenile Justice Settings” published in *Criminal Justice and Behavior* in 2015. Their research findings shed new light on incarceration trends for juvenile girls with a history of trauma victimization. Espinosa and Sorensen’s study has been reported by the Justice Information Exchange while garnering considerable attention from scholars and the national media.

Professors Named to State Mental Health Task Force

Professors Mark Jones and Megan Davidson have been appointed to a statewide Mental Health Task Force by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety Division of Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice. The group, led by Art Beeler, is tasked with evaluating North Carolina correctional inmate mental health needs and services within the state institution system. Task force recommendations will be reported to the NC-DPS and state legislature.

Correctional Officer Recruitment & Retention Studied

At the request of the NC-DPS Criminal Justice Standards Division, Drs. Heidi Bonner and Megan Davidson are conducting a statewide study on the recruitment and retention of correctional officers employed in North Carolina facilities. In collaboration with the office of research and
planning, the CJ Standards Division is interested in examining the factors that contribute to building a long-term correctional work force.

Second Greenville Crime Study Completed

Once again faculty researchers were asked by city officials to conduct a study on Greenville, NC resident crime perception and police satisfaction. The 2014 project was led by Dr. Heidi Bonner who replicated portions of the previous study to measure changes in attitudes during the time periods. Further, the latest study examined police satisfaction measures in relation to a newly implemented patrol strategy by the Greenville Police Department. Data were collected by criminal justice student research assistants then analyzed and reported by Dr. Bonner with co-author Dr. William Bloss. The City of Greenville, NC Resident Fear of Crime and Satisfaction with Police Research Report noted similar findings to the previous study in which residents gave the Greenville Police Department a high satisfaction rating overall while expressing comparable concerns about crime and disorder.

Stacey Receives Grant for Bias-Crime Research

Dr. Michele Stacey was awarded a grant by the ECU Diversity and Inclusion Research Associates Program (DIRA) to support her research on predictors of arrest in bias crime incidents. Her study will examine social, structural, and organizational correlates of arrests involving hate crimes. Professor Stacey specializes in the administration of justice as it relates to diverse populations and victimization.

Bonner Selected as Undergraduate Program Director

Dr. Heidi S. Bonner has been appointed Undergraduate Program Director for the Department of Criminal Justice. She will serve as coordinator and external liaison for undergraduate programs with responsibilities to include curriculum, student advising, and institutional reporting. Her new duties are in conjunction with faculty teaching, scholarship, and service responsibilities. Along with Graduate Program Director Dr. Jon Sorensen, Professor Bonner will advise the Department Chair on programmatic matters.

~ 9 ~
ALUMNI NEWS

Sheriff Asa Buck Appointed to NC Justice Commission

Carteret County Sheriff Asa Buck, III has been appointed to the new North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice by the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. An ECU alumnus, Sheriff Buck has held multiple terms as Carteret County Sheriff and is a past president of the North Carolina Sheriff’s Association.

Chief Cassandra Deck-Brown to be Keynote Speaker

Raleigh, NC Police Chief Cassandra Deck-Brown will be the keynote speaker at the Department of Criminal Justice student Recognition Ceremony on Friday December 18, 2015 at 5:00 PM in Jenkins Auditorium. She joins the department faculty, student graduates, and family members in celebrating the Fall 2015 graduation of Bachelor and Master criminal justice students. The ceremony is being held in conjunction with ECU commencement activities. Chief Deck-Brown is a member of the Department’s Criminal Justice Advisory Board and recipient of the Distinguished Alumnae Award. In 2015, she was inducted in the College of Human Ecology Wall of Fame. She joined the Raleigh Police Department upon graduation from East Carolina University then rose through the ranks to lead the agency as Chief of Police.

CJ ALUMNI HOMECOMING football game tailgate

Saturday October 17, 2015 beginning at 10:00 am in the Pirate’s Club parking area blue lot. Look for the Department of Criminal Justice Banner. All alumni, friends, and supporters are invited!

ALUMNI BEAT

Karen Albert, President, Practical Solutions for Public Safety joined the Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Asa Buck, Sheriff Carteret County has been appointed to the NC Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice.
Carl Caulk, Assistant Director, U.S. Marshals Service was elected Vice-Chair of the 2015-2016 Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Cassandra Deck-Brown, Chief, Raleigh, NC Police Department joined the Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Christopher Harrison has been appointed Chief of Police at Beaufort Community College.


Douglas Morgan, SAC-Investigations, National Science Foundation (ret.) was elected Chair of the 2015-2016 Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Ryan C. Willhite has been appointed Chief of Police at the Winterville, NC Police Department.

*If you are alumni, please send news and updates to Sandra Barfield at JUST@ecu.edu or barfieldsa15@ecu.edu*