The latest edition of the Pirate’s Plank shares 2017-2018 news and activities with the criminal justice community, alumni, and friends of the Department of Criminal Justice at East Carolina University. We invite you keep up with departmental happenings by visiting our website at www.ecu.edu/just or Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. If you haven’t signed up, please do so today! Of course, always feel free to contact us through the website JUST Connect link, email JUST@ecu.edu, or telephone (252) 328-4192 if there is a question, need for more information, or news to pass along. We appreciate your help in staying connected with alumni, friends, and the Pirate nation by sending information on contact updates, newsworthy events, or new subscribers to Jenna Smith at JUST@ecu.edu or peadenje@ecu.edu. And if you are criminal justice alumni, please send us a brief testimonial statement about how the ECU criminal justice education prepared you for professional success.
A Message from the Chair
Dr. William P. Bloss

Once again, our faculty, staff, and students have demonstrated their commitment to academic excellence and improving the administration of justice through teaching, learning, research, and service. The exceptional work of each is a source of great pride as the Department steadily grows in numerous areas. These include a rise in the number of criminal justice majors and minors to over 1,000 students coupled with tremendous strides in international collaboration, faculty research, scholarship, and grant funding. Equally successful were our extra-curricular programs such as the UK and Spain study abroad, annual Criminal Justice Career Fair, student organization community engagement, and others. Likewise, this academic year produced more national recognitions and higher rankings for our online graduate programs as three organizations rated the Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree. Together, these efforts and achievements show our dedication to student success and providing a high-quality educational experience. At the same time, we are cultivating intellectual discovery and new-found knowledge through important research that benefits criminal justice policy, practice, and public safety. Joining this progress is our longstanding pledge to incorporate best practices through innovative teaching, inspired research, and beneficial service as we fulfill our mission to educate the next generation of criminal justice leaders.

It continues to be a privilege to work with exceptional faculty, staff, students, advisory board, alumni, and supporters. My sincere thanks to them for their effort and support of our educational mission at East Carolina University. I do hope that you will enjoy catching up on the many exciting departmental activities in this edition of the Pirate’s Plank.

2017-2018 Highlights

- Department majors among the Harriot College leaders
- New CJ Living-Learning campus student community planned
- Master’s program ranked nationally by more organizations
- Criminal Justice Career Fair celebrates a banner year
- Student scholarship award, criminal justice major, and graduation numbers rise
- New faculty and staff join the Department
- International faculty and student collaborations grow
- JUST Connect supporter network launched

“Attending East Carolina University provided the foundation for my career in criminal justice.”

Karen Albert (’80) President, Practical Solutions for Public Safety and Virginia correctional administrator (ret).

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

Student Numbers Among Leaders in Harriot College

The Harriot College of Arts & Sciences is the largest at ECU with 16 academic departments and numerous interdisciplinary programs and centers. It offers 54 graduate and undergraduate degrees and its programs account for 44 percent of all instructional credit hours at the university. In the second year of reorganization with the Harriot College, the Department of Criminal Justice ranks second in the number of master’s majors (75) and third in undergraduate and total graduate/undergraduate majors (900+). Only the Departments of Biology and Psychology have a higher undergraduate major count placing them in the top two slots respectively. Yet, when combined with the Department’s graduate certificate in CJ Education, Minor in Criminal Justice, and Minor in Forensic Science, the overall number of criminal justice majors and minors tops 1,000 students making it among the largest academic programs on campus. These numbers do not include students enrolled in our graduate and undergraduate interdisciplinary course partnerships with Anthropology, African and African-American Studies, Political Science, Public Administration, and Security Studies. All told, the Department’s number of majors, minors, interdisciplinary program participants, and overall annual student enrollment result in a substantial footprint in the university and enable us to positively impact the lives of many students through criminal justice studies.

CJ Living-Learning Community Program Planned for 2019

Living-Learning Communities (LLC) are organized by the ECU Office of Student Transitions to help first-year and transfer students adjust to the university experience. According to the organizers, “they are designed to assist in the academic transition to university instruction, to support the student-faculty interaction beyond the classroom, and to encourage positive student connections within East Carolina University.” The Department’s application to establish a Criminal Justice Living-Learning Community program, beginning in Fall 2019, has been approved so our planning is underway. Each cohort will consist of 20 first-year or transfer criminal justice majors living in a campus residence hall. The program houses the LLC students in the same residence hall section and each group is supported by faculty mentors. In addition to our criminal justice academic advisors, Drs. Heidi Bonner and Scott Walfield will be the CJ-LLC program inaugural faculty mentors. Although the first-year criminal justice major student retention rate is high (79%), the CJ-LLC will further contribute to early engagement in the major as well as academic success. The Criminal Justice LLC will join 15 current programs in areas such as music, biology, business, athletics, and nursing.
Graduation Numbers Rise Amid Celebrations

In the 2017-2018 academic year, 211 criminal justice majors received graduate or undergraduate degrees. This represents a nine percent increase over the previous year and is consistent with the program’s overall growth. To celebrate their achievement, the Department held Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 Recognition Ceremonies as the auditoriums filled with graduates, faculty, family, and friends for the momentous occasion. Mr. Arthur F. Beeler ('75), Federal Bureau of Prisons warden (ret.) delivered the keynote address at the Fall event in Jenkins Auditorium while Greenville, NC Mayor Patrick J. Connelly (‘05) spoke at the Spring ceremony in Wright Auditorium. Congratulations to these new alumni. We are delighted that another group of ECU criminal justice leaders will contribute to the administration of justice in their communities and beyond.

Student Scholarships Reach $11,000

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this year undergraduate 2018-2019 scholarship awards rose to the highest point, at $11,000, given to nine student recipients. Criminal Justice majors are encouraged to apply for general and sponsored scholarships including the Criminal Justice Scholarship and Nancy W. Darden, John F. Minges, III, Roger D. Sharpe, and David & Willa Stevens named scholarships. Scholarship recipients are selected from a competitive pool of applicants. Annual monetary awards are based on both the fund growth and donor contribution to the Criminal Justice Scholarship fund. These gifts are sincerely appreciated and directly benefit Criminal Justice students. For information on donating to Criminal Justice scholarships contact Jessica Nottingham, Harriot College Director of Alumni Relations & Outreach (nottinghamj@ecu.edu 252-737-1753) or Dr. William Bloss blossw@ecu.edu.

Department Introduces New Logo

In 2017, East Carolina University officially adopted a new logo brand so Colleges, Departments, and Offices across campus have implemented the design. The Department of Criminal Justice has begun replacing the previous “arch” logo with the new emblem in its virtual and print materials.
New Administrative Staff Welcomed

Jenna P. Smith
Lead Administrative Support Associate

Mrs. Jenna P. Smith became the Department’s Lead Administrative Support Associate in May 2018. Jenna transferred to the unit from the ECU medical campus where she held a similar position and served in administrative roles for the last eight years. She is responsible for overall operational administrative support in the department to include supervision of administrative and student assistant staff.

Bradley M. Fornes
Administrative Support Associate

Mr. Bradley M. Fornes joined the administrative staff in Fall 2017. Previously, he held an instructor support position at Pitt Community College and is responsible for assisting with administrative functions in the Department.

JUST Connect Launched on Website

To connect with more alumni, supporters, and friends, a new outreach link was added to the Department website. The JUST Connect initiative enables individuals to submit their contact information online so it will be added to our supporter database. Supporters are encouraged to send us their latest contact information to remain informed on departmental activities.

PROGRAM NEWS

Master’s Degree Moves Up in National Recognitions and Rankings

For the fourth consecutive year, the ECU Criminal Justice online master’s program has been recognized by prominent external organizations. Not only did the ECU CJ graduate degree program receive another round of high marks, but it moved up to 14th place in the 2018 US News & World Report “Best Online Graduate Criminal Justice Programs” national ranking while remaining the best in North Carolina in 1st place. The annual report is considered the most prestigious in the industry and the 2018 placement tops previous years. Once again, it puts our program among the nation’s best to include several doctoral degree-granting universities.
In 2017, the online Master of Science in Criminal Justice program also received national recognitions from two other organizations—25 Best Online Master of Criminal Justice Degree Programs and College Choice Best Criminal Justice Master’s Degrees. Like US News & World Report, 25 Best Online ranked the program at 14th nationally while College Choice placed it at 8th in the country. These join our 2016 national ranking of 12th by College Values Online.

It is an honor to be recognized by these organizations because they provide further evidence of our commitment to academic excellence and best value in criminal justice graduate study. The ECU criminal justice online graduate program is open to all qualified applicants and offers post-baccalaureate education options for students interested in career advancement, criminal justice education vocations, or preparation for doctoral study. For more information visit http://www.ecu.edu/just; contact us at MSCJ@ecu.edu or Dr. Jon Sorensen, Graduate Program Director sorensenj@ecu.edu.

Master’s Degree Rankings

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8th Nationally

“The classes at ECU gave me a head start into the skills, technologies, and requirements it takes to be successful in the Criminal Justice field.”

Cameron Turner (’11) Chief Probation Officer, NC-DPS Division of Adult and Juvenile Corrections
CJ Study Abroad: 2018 London & Barcelona

For several years the Department has conducted a European study abroad program led by Dr. Mark Jones. This year is no exception as Professor Jones organized a new London, UK and Barcelona, Spain program in May 2018. Students learned comparative criminal justice and cultural aspects in each country. They toured British and Spanish justice agencies and cultural sites and heard presentations from academic faculty, practitioners, and public officials. Locations visited included Autonomous University of Barcelona, Prison La Modelo, Guildhall Library, Tower of London, and more. Planning is underway for the 2019 London and Amsterdam study abroad program. For more information contact Dr. Mark Jones (jonesg@ecu.edu) in the Department of Criminal Justice.

Visiting Scholar Speaks on Crime in South Africa

In February 2018, the Department hosted visiting scholar Professor Christiaan Bezuidenhout from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Dr. Bezuidenhout is an Associate Professor of Criminology and Director of the Criminology Honors Program at the university. Furthermore, he is President of the Criminological Society of Africa. His invited visit to ECU included meetings with department and university officials on establishing student learning, study abroad, and faculty research partnerships with the University of Pretoria. While on campus he gave a presentation on Crime and Justice in South Africa to a large audience of faculty and students. Other inter-departmental collaborations were discussed, and efforts are underway to formalize agreements between the two university criminal justice/criminology academic departments.
International Initiatives Expanding

Since the Department is committed to global academic engagement, for some time we have participated in programs such as criminal justice study abroad, foreign student exchange, international visiting scholar, inter-university collaboration, and faculty transnational research. However, this year efforts have been expanded on several fronts.

For example, faculty presented the results of their research at the 2017 European Society of Criminology annual meeting at Cardiff University in Wales and Criminological Society of Africa biennial meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. Later in 2018, three ECU professors presented papers at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium in Stockholm, Sweden. Other activities include hosting an international criminology lecture by Professor Christiaan Bezuidenhout from the University of Pretoria, South Africa in February 2018 and coordinating a joint criminology class with Pretoria using the interactive ECU Global classroom in 2019.

2018 CJ Career Fair Participation Soars

Over the past several years the ECU Criminal Justice Career Fair has become an annual tradition. The 2018 event was the largest to date as 32 federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies, including North Carolina law schools, gathered in Murphy Center on campus to discuss career options and employment opportunities with ECU students. Agency representatives from Washington, DC, Miami, Raleigh, Charlotte, and other areas attended the Fair. Many recruiters commented on the high-quality applicants that graduate from ECU programs and praised the Criminal Justice Career Fair for its emphasis on the justice professions. The Fair is no cost to participants/attendees and is open to the ECU community. It offers a “one stop shop” opportunity for students to explore criminal justice jobs across the professional spectrum. The 2019 Criminal Justice Career Fair is being organized and will be held on campus next spring. For more information visit our Facebook, webpage www.ecu.edu/just, or contact at JUST@ecu.edu 252.328.4192.

“It has been an honor to have been a long serving member of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board and very gratifying that I can “give back” to the university for the great skills they provided me to have a successful career in my field.”

Douglas Morgan (’88;’17), Special Agent-in-Charge (ret.), Office of Investigations, National Science Foundation.
Student Organizations Grow Numbers

Two criminal justice student organizations are sponsored by the Department and each offers members a variety of extra-curricular activities. Based on national academic standards, qualified students may join the ECU Omega Alpha chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, National Criminal Justice Honor Society. This prestigious organization is the largest CJ Honorary Society in the nation and is devoted to recognizing students for their academic excellence.

The Criminal Justice Student Organization is also available to any student interested in criminal justice. Together, the student organizations have over 125 members and play an important role in providing students with a meaningful extra-curricular experience in conjunction with their academic study.

FACULTY NEWS

New Faculty Join the Department

Janne E. Gaub, PhD: Assistant Professor

Dr. Janne E. Gaub is the newest addition to the full-time faculty. She joined the department in August 2017 and earned a PhD; MA from Arizona State University and BS from the University of Arizona. Following the completion of her doctorate in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Dr. Gaub worked as the Senior Program Manager in the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety at Arizona State University. Her research focuses on police technology, misconduct, violence de-escalation, and gender issues. Professor Gaub’s recent projects concentrate on police body worn camera research to include the implications for practitioners and agency policies.

Ryan M. Cox, MA: Teaching Instructor

Mr. Ryan Cox came on board in August 2017 as a full-time Teaching Instructor with principal specializations in policing, criminology, and victimology in the undergraduate criminal justice programs. He earned an MS, Keiser University; graduate certificate, Appalachian State University; and BS, Western Carolina University. Prior to coming to ECU, Ryan held positions as a community college criminal justice instructor and law enforcement officer.
We welcome these new faculty colleagues! Beginning in August 2018, the Department will conduct a search for another full-time Teaching Instructor. Qualified applicants with a Master’s in Criminal Justice or Juris Doctor degree are encouraged to apply. Also, a search will be underway for two 2019-2020 tenure-track faculty positions (PhD required).

Dr. Mark Jones Receives the 2018 Peter P. Lejins Research Award

Professor Mark Jones is the recipient of the 2018 American Correctional Association’s (ACA) prestigious Peter P. Lejins Research Award. He received the honor at the ACA Winter Meeting January 9, 2018 in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Jones was recognized for his scholarly contributions to the field of corrections. His research focuses on prisoner reentry and community corrections. Among his recent research projects are studies analyzing probationer support services, substance dependent probationers, and inmate mental health care.

Professor Speaks at African Conference

Dr. William Bloss was the invited Keynote Speaker at the 2017 Criminological Society of Africa international meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. His presentation titled “Crime-terror Nexus in Sub-Saharan Africa” examined the political and socio-economic factors that contribute to transnational crime and terrorism in the region.

Article Captures Publisher’s Award

Dr. Janne Gaub, and co-authors Michael White and Natalie Todak, received the 2018 Emerald Literati Award for Outstanding Paper from Emerald Publishing (United Kingdom). Their article “Assessing citizen perceptions of body-worn cameras after encounter with police” (2017),
published in *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*, was recognized for its scientific contributions to the academic literature.

**Faculty Grant Pursuits Near $3 million**

Although department faculty have been engaged in external grant-supported research for years, 2017-2018 marked a high point in the amount of funding sought and awarded from agencies and organizations. This year faculty submitted research proposals to the National Institute of Justice, National Science Foundation, and other government and private organizations requesting extramural funding for important projects in the areas of policing, hate crime, domestic violence, and victimization. The total proposal amounts and awards approached $3 million for multi-year studies that would have national implications for the administration of justice. The latest grant seeking activities join several currently funded research projects with local and multi-jurisdictional agencies.

**Student Awarded Traffic Research Scholarship for Second Year**

For the second year, Graduate Research Assistant Toby Board was awarded a $1,000 scholarship as a “Lifesavers Traffic Safety Scholar.” He presented his research titled “A Study of Distractive Effects of Technology on Patrol Officers” at the 2018 Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. William Bloss is the faculty advisor for the research project. A pilot study with a local law enforcement agency is being developed to evaluate patrol officer driving safety risks caused by in-vehicle technology.

**ADVISORY BOARD NEWS**

**Board Repeats Scholarship Fundraiser and Develops 2018-2019 Goals**

For the second year the Criminal Justice Advisory Board sponsored a Homecoming BBQ fundraiser to support student scholarships. Board member and alumnus Doug Morgan of *Carolina Q* sauces prepared the tasty Eastern North Carolina pork BBQ for the event. Other members, such as Judge Jeffrey Foster and Mr. Lee Meeks (pictured below L, R) wear our cooks’ apron to promote the CJ program at ECU.
At the Spring 2018 meeting, Chairperson Carl Caulk mapped out the Board’s 2018-2019 strategic goals. These included the implementation of a collaborative student career development program aimed at preparing undergraduate criminal justice majors for employment in the justice professions. The modular program will incorporate job seeking activities such as employment option, resume writing, interviewing skill, job searching, and application process. The initiative will be conducted in conjunction with the departmental internship and annual Criminal Justice Career Fair programs. Board members and volunteer justice professionals will contribute to the program content and serve in mentoring roles.

Advisory Board membership consists of distinguished community, educational, and professional leaders from across the justice-related field. Its mission is to provide the Department of Criminal Justice leadership with input to assure that programs are imbued with best practices while effectively preparing our students for professional success. Their advice and support play an important role in the Department’s success and are greatly appreciated.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**Karen Riggsbee Promoted to Deputy Chief of Police**

Major Karen H. Riggsbee (’88) has been promoted to Deputy Chief of Police in the Raleigh Police Department. She joins fellow ECU criminal justice alumni Chief of Police Cassandra Deck-Brown (’87) and Deputy Chief of Police Robert C. Council (’92) as the top leadership in the agency.
2018 Graduate Enters Notre Dame Law School

Spring 2018 Outstanding Undergraduate award winner James R. Paul (‘18) has been accepted in the University of Notre Dame Law School after earning a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree in May. Mr. Paul graduated Magna Cum Laude with an overall 3.93 grade point average. Because of his interest in law, James completed the criminal justice internship with the Guilford County Public Defender’s Office in Greensboro, NC.

Adam Wilson Receives Top Cop Honors

Gastonia, NC Police Department Detective Adam Wilson (‘18) received the National Association of Police Organizations 2018 “TOP COP” award as an Honorable Mention recipient from North Carolina. Wilson, and Gastonia PD Detective Heather Houser, were recognized at a ceremony in Washington, DC for their work in a human trafficking investigation. Detective Wilson earned a Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree in May 2018.

Jeffrey Foster Named to ECU Board of Visitors

Judge Jeffrey Foster (‘83) has been named to the East Carolina University Board of Visitors class of 2021. The Board advises and assists the Board of Trustees and Chancellor on issues involving the university mission, effectiveness, and development activities. Judge Foster also serves on a university “Greek Life” special task force and the Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

ALUMNI BEAT

If you are criminal justice alumni, please send us a brief testimonial statement about how the ECU criminal justice education prepared you for professional success as well as updates and news to Jenna Smith at peadenje@ecu.edu or JUST@ecu.edu.
$$ Give to CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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 including 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 information on contributing to criminal justice programs contact Jessica Nottingham, Harriot College Director of Alumni Relations & Outreach (nottinghamj@ecu.edu 252-737-1753) or Dr. William Bloss blossw@ecu.edu.