Official Newsletter of the Department of Criminal Justice

2016-2017 Edition

“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 the criminal justice community, 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 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 send us an email at JUST@ecu.edu or telephone (252) 328-4192 if there is a question, need for more information, or news to share.

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.

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A Message from the Chair
Dr. William P. Bloss

It has been an outstanding year for the Department’s faculty, staff, and students who should be commended for their dedication and exemplary work. The 2016-2017 academic year is brimming with recognitions and awards and I am very appreciative that several organizations have acknowledged our achievements. Not only are we excelling on many fronts but our students continue to receive a high-quality criminal justice education that prepares them for success. Our reorganization with the Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences is complete. Among the 16 units in the College, we rank third in the number of undergraduate majors and first in graduate students. At the same time, our programs continue to grow in quantity and quality. Recent national rankings of the Master’s program provide further evidence of our commitment to academic excellence, educational access, and affordability. Our talented faculty are reaching new heights in their scholarly endeavors to include a rise in published works and research grant awards. Importantly, their efforts are being recognized across the institution and beyond. Meanwhile, criminal justice students are making impressive contributions in the classroom, research enterprise, and community. Amid the growth, however, we remain mindful of our commitment to best practices which include innovative teaching, inspired research, and beneficial service as together we fulfill our mission to educate the next generation of criminal justice leaders. On a sad note, three emeritus faculty passed away this year. Each was instrumental in building a foundation for the modern Department and left an indelible impression on a generation of ECU criminal justice students. We are grateful for their many contributions and express our condolences to the families.

I am privileged to work with exceptional faculty, staff, students, advisory board, alumni, and supporters and want to celebrate their numerous 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.

2016-2017 Highlights

- Department moves to the Harriot College of Arts & Sciences
- Master’s program ranked nationally by two organizations
- CJ Career Fair celebrates seventh year
- Student scholarship awards top $10,000
- New faculty join the Department
- Professors and students receive awards

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

Department Joins the Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences

In 2016, ECU’s Chancellor approved the Department of Criminal Justice reorganization proposal to become the newest member of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. The Department is the 16th academic unit in the Harriot College and aligned with allied social science departments within the three disciplinary clusters-Humanities, Natural Sciences & Mathematics, and Social Sciences. The move provides an excellent opportunity to expand multidisciplinary collaborations within the College where a number of opportunities for synergy exist. In fact, the Department is already exploring academic partnerships in areas such as GIS crime mapping with the Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment, among others. Such cooperative programs would join existing affiliations in forensic science study with the departments of Anthropology, Biology, and Chemistry and our graduate certificate partnerships with the Department of Political Science in Security Studies and Public Management and Leadership.

Distinguished Alumni Speak at Student Recognition Ceremonies

The Department held student Recognition Ceremonies for Spring and Fall 2016 graduates in conjunction with university commencement activities. Over 700 people joined the faculty to celebrate recognition of 150 criminal justice graduates at the Spring 2016 ceremony in Hendrix Auditorium. Alumnus the Honorable Jeffrey Foster, Superior Court judge, gave the keynote address. Fall 2016 graduates were joined by faculty, family, and guests to commemorate the graduation of new criminal justice alumni in Jenkins Auditorium. Alumna and corrections consulting firm president Ms. Karen Albert, provided the guest speaker remarks. The Spring 2017 student Recognition Ceremony will be held on Saturday May 6, 2017 at 6:00 PM in Wright Auditorium where graduates will be acknowledged for their academic achievement. The guest speaker is alumnus Dr. Roger D. Sharpe. Family and guests are invited to attend and more event information is available on the Department webpage at www.ecu.edu/just.
Undergraduate Student Scholarships Top $10,000

For the third straight year, departmental scholarship awards have increased due to the generosity of donors. Nine undergraduate criminal justice students were awarded over $10,000 in scholarships for 2017-2018. Pictured are Dr. Roger Sharpe (L), Mr. James Warlick (R) with Ms. Tabreah Tatem (C), and Dr. Bloss (R). Ms. Tatem is one of the recipients of the Roger D. Sharpe Criminal Justice Scholarship. Each year criminal justice majors are eligible to apply for five sponsored scholarships to include the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Nancy W. Darden, John F. Minges, III, Roger D. Sharpe, and David & Willa Stevens. Scholarship recipients are selected from a competitive pool of applicants. Annual monetary awards are based on both the fund growth and individual donor contribution to the scholarship pool 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.

PROGRAM NEWS

Master’s Degree Nationally Ranked

For the last three years, our online Master of Science in Criminal Justice program has been nationally ranked by US News & World Report. Yet, 2017 was the highest placement so far as the program moved to 15th in the country while remaining tops in North Carolina in the “Best Online Graduate Criminal Justice Programs” report. This puts ECU among some of the most highly regarded criminal justice graduate programs in the nation. Each year the publication collects a substantial amount of data from university graduate programs vying for a national ranking. A rigorous evaluation of data, coupled with rankings by peer institution graduate administrators, is conducted resulting in the annual report rankings.
In 2016, the online Master’s program was also ranked 12th in the nation by College Values Online: Top Degree Programs. This recognition focuses on the value and affordability of the program when compared to others across the country. Together, the rankings demonstrate our commitment to providing students a high quality educational experience.

Once again, ECU’s Master of Science in Criminal Justice program is in very good company and we are honored and pleased by the recognition given by both rating organizations. 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/just; contact us at MSCI@ecu.edu or Dr. Jon Sorensen, Graduate Program Director sorensenj@ecu.edu.

New Look to Program Brochures

In conjunction with the College reorganization and addition of curricular features, each of the Department program brochures has been given a makeover. The new look brochures are available in print or digital format.

Students Participate in Mock Criminal Trial

With Superior Court Judge Marvin Blount presiding, criminal justice students participated in a mock criminal trial in the Pitt County Courthouse. Students gave testimony, served as jurors, and observed the trial proceedings as a role play criminal defendant was being prosecuted for a felony offense. The program was coordinated by the Department of Criminal Justice in collaboration with the Pitt
County District Attorney’s Office and Superior Court. Judge Blount instructed the students on specific aspects of the trial, and when coupled with direct participation, they gained a realistic understanding of the criminal trial process.

CJ Study Abroad: Crime & Global Justice in The Netherlands

For several years the Department has conducted a European study program led by Dr. Mark Jones. In 2017, however, a new spring break study abroad to The Netherlands was added. It blended both criminal justice and international affair topics as students traveled to Amsterdam and The Hague. Lectures and tours were provided by Dutch officials and academics where students learned about crime control policies and practices, counterterrorism, human trafficking enforcement, and international justice efforts. Students traveled to locations such as the Amsterdam Police Department, International Criminal Court, and University of Amsterdam. For more information on the Criminal Justice Study Abroad program contact Dr. Mark Jones (jonessg@ecu.edu) in the Department of Criminal Justice.

CJ Career Fair Held for Seventh Year

Since 2010 the annual Criminal Justice Career Fair has been held on the ECU campus and become a signature event for the Department. The 2017 Career Fair marks the seventh year that over 25 agencies from federal, state, and local law enforcement, corrections, and law school organizations sent representatives to discuss criminal justice careers and employment opportunities with ECU students. This year’s event had the largest number of participating agencies and student attendees since its inception. Unlike other career fairs at the university and elsewhere, the ECU Criminal Justice Career Fair is unique because it focuses exclusively on justice-related careers by bringing together recruiters from across the professional spectrum.

The 2018 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.
Staff Member Receives *Treasured Pirate Award*

Lead administrative associate Mrs. Sandra Barfield received a 2016 *Treasured Pirate Award* from the university in recognition of her exemplary service to the Department of Criminal Justice. Sandra manages the departmental office and assists the Chair in directing operations. Her contributions are invaluable in assuring that the department runs effectively. Mrs. Barfield also serves on the Harriot College Staff Council executive board.

Law Enforcement Recruiters Visit Campus

It has been a very active year for law enforcement recruiter visits as agencies search for qualified applicants at ECU. As a complement to the annual Criminal Justice Career Fair, federal and local agencies asked to speak with students about employment opportunities. Agency guests this year have included the U.S. Supreme Court PD, Charlotte-Mecklenburg PD, Raleigh PD, Ocean City, Maryland PD, and others.

Justice Leaders Address Students

Prominent criminal justice alumni returned to campus to discuss critical issues with students. Recent talks have been given by Superior Court judge the Honorable Jeffrey Foster, Carteret County Sheriff Asa Buck, III, and Special Agents Sandra and Allen Barrow, NCIS-Camp Lejeune.

**FACULTY NEWS**

New Faculty Welcomed

Dr. Scott Walfield joined the Department’s full-time faculty in fall 2016. Professor Walfield earned a PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell and his teaching/research interests include criminal justice policy, correctional issues, and offender community supervision.
In August 2016, Mr. Chad R. Jordan became the latest addition to the full-time faculty as a Teaching Instructor. He earned a criminal justice Master’s and Bachelor’s degree from East Carolina University and previously held positions as a community college instructor, state probation officer, and law enforcement officer. Welcome aboard!

Also, the Department will add two new faculty positions in 2017-2018 and the searches began in Fall 2016. One is for a terminal degree (PhD) tenure-track faculty while the second is a full-time teaching instructor.

Bonner Joins National Research Project on Domestic Violence

Dr. Heidi Bonner was selected to join researchers at Yale University School of Medicine and Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice to study domestic violence homicide prevention. The multi-year project is funded by the National Institute of Justice and involves several data collection sites in the US. Bonner was awarded a $600,000 grant to direct the research in Eastern North Carolina. In collaboration with area law enforcement, her team interviews domestic violence victims to evaluate their risk and support needs.

Researchers Study Biased-Based Policing

At the request of the Greenville Police Department, department researchers will study factors that contribute to biased-based police practices. Professors Michele Stacey and Heidi Bonner are leading the project to analyze key areas related to bias-based policing. Their findings will be used by agency leaders to guide crime control efforts.

Professor Gives Presentation in Australia

Professor William Bloss was invited to make a presentation at the 22nd World Meeting of the International Society for Research on Aggression held at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. His presentation titled “Youth violence socialization: A typology of indoctrination methods and characteristics” examined youth radicalization mechanisms that lead to violent extremism such as terrorism and child soldiering. Dr. Bloss’ research centers on transnational crime and terrorism.
Graduate Research Assistant Mr. Toby Board was awarded a $1,000 scholarship as a “Lifesavers Traffic Safety Scholar.” He presented his research study titled “Social Media, Road Rage, and Distracted Driving: Does Social Media Affect Traffic Safety?” at the 2017 Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety in Charlotte, North Carolina. Drs. Jon Sorensen and William Bloss are the faculty advisors for the research project, which focuses on road rage and distracted driving risks.

Graduate Students Present Research

Two departmental graduate student research assistants, Toby Board and Aubrey Urwick, presented research reports at national or state criminal justice conferences and university symposia in 2017. Both are actively involved in faculty-led research projects and co-authored scholarly presentations and manuscripts. Through these activities, they are learning every aspect of the research enterprise while contributing to the criminal justice body of knowledge.

Faculty and Student Awards and Honors

Sorensen Named 2017 ECU Scholar

Dr. Jonathan Sorensen has been named a 2017 ECU Scholar by the East Carolina University Division of Research, Economic Development, and Engagement. He joined colleagues from across campus who were recognized for their scholarship at an awards ceremony held in their honor. Professor Sorensen has developed a national reputation as a highly respected scholar and expert in correctional policy. His body of work includes over 100 journal articles, three books, and numerous other publications. Not only does Dr. Sorensen manage the highly acclaimed national Capital Jury Project, but his research has been cited twice in United States Supreme Court decisions.

Bonner Receives 2017 Dean’s Award

Dr. Heidi Bonner is the recipient of the 2016-2017 Thomas Harriot College Dean’s Early Career Award. The award is designed “to recognize and reward exceptional performance by tenure-track Assistant Professors. The award’s primary focus is on the faculty member’s productivity in research and creative discovery, which must be judged to be of such high quality and impact that it
exceeds expectations. Outstanding performance in professional development must be complemented by demonstrated excellence in instructional effectiveness and service,” said Dean William Downs.

**Faculty & Student Recognized by NC Association**

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Association gave 2017 awards to Dr. Heidi Bonner (pictured R) and MSCJ graduate student Ms. Aubrey Urwick (pictured L) for their contributions to the field. Dr. Bonner received the 2017 *Founders Award* while Ms. Urwick was given the 2017 *James B. Merritt Outstanding Graduate Student Award*. In addition to the award, Dr. Bonner has been selected as President-elect of the state association for 2018.

**Professor’s Article Selected by Publisher**

New York’s Springer Publishing selected a 2016 article authored by Dr. Scott Walfield and colleagues for inclusion in their Open Access academic library. The article titled “Religious Motivated Hate Crimes: Reporting to Law Enforcement and Case Outcomes” was published in the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* and chosen based on its relevance and impact of the research findings. Given the scope of the criminal justice academic literature, this is a noteworthy recognition as it underscores the importance of Dr. Walfield’s scholarly work.

**1st year Students Celebrate Academic Excellence**

Seventy-three freshmen criminal justice majors were recognized for their academic excellence at the 2017 Harriot College EXCELS ceremony. To qualify for recognition, freshman students must attain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA (grade point average). Pictured are two recipients (C) with departmental faculty. The university-wide program is designed to acknowledge 1st year student academic excellence. Criminal Justice students were the third largest group among the Harriot College of Arts & Sciences departments.
In Memoriam

David B. Stevens (1923-2016)

Dr. David B. Stevens, Professor Emeritus, University Attorney, and Colonel, USAF (Ret.) passed away on July 4, 2016. David served his country and East Carolina University with distinction as an Air Force pilot, Judge Advocate, attorney, and educator. He joined East Carolina University in 1970 and served in positions as faculty and University Attorney until his retirement in 1989. Dr. Stevens taught criminal law in the Criminal Justice program for years and endowed the David B. and Willa H. Stevens Criminal Justice Scholarship, which continues to benefit undergraduate criminal justice students.

James R. Bruner (1932-2016)

Associate Professor, Emeritus James B. (Jim) Bruner died on October 22, 2016. After graduating from the University of Kentucky School Of Law, he served in the US Navy as a JAG Corps Officer for nearly 30 years (Captain, Ret.). Professor Bruner joined the ECU Criminal Justice program faculty in 1984 and taught for ten years until his retirement in 1994. In addition to being a respected educator, Professor Bruner was actively involved with the Pitt Golden K Kiwanis and received two gubernatorial appointments as “Kentucky Colonel” and North Carolina “Order of the Long Leaf Pine.”

William C. Smith (1928-2017)

Dr. William C. Smith passed away on January 20, 2017 at 89. He was among the early pioneers of criminal justice study at ECU. Along with Gus Moeller and Dr. Kenneth Taylor, Professor Smith developed one of the first correctional services undergraduate programs in the US. A WWII veteran and long-time correctional administrator in North Carolina, Dr. Smith was instrumental in establishing the criminal justice program at East Carolina. He will be remembered by countless students for his teaching and inspiration that contributed to their success. Dr. Smith served on the faculty with distinction from 1971-1989.
Advisory Board News

Advisory Board sponsors BBQ Fundraiser for Scholarships

While there are plenty of Eastern North Carolina BBQ enthusiasts, the Department’s Criminal Justice Advisory Board is fortunate to have two accomplished BBQ cooks in the group. To raise money for criminal justice student scholarships, Board members organized a 2016 Homecoming BBQ fundraiser to benefit the Advisory Board Scholarship fund. Two Board members, and ECU alumni, Douglas Morgan and Lee Meeks prepared the pork BBQ with all proceeds going toward scholarships.

Both devoted off-duty time from their “day job” with federal justice agencies to lend their cooking expertise. Morgan, board chair and company owner of Carolina Q BBQ sauces and Meeks award-winning cook and owner of Carolina Caviar BBQ catering donated their talents to the project. Not only did it raise needed money for student scholarships, but the ready-to-eat Eastern North Carolina pork BBQ got rave reviews from tasters. Plans are underway to repeat the fundraiser during the 2017 Homecoming festivities. Keep watch on the Department’s webpage and social media sites for ordering information next fall.

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. Their advice and support play an important role in the Department’s success and are greatly appreciated.

Board elects 2017-2019 Leadership

Mr. Carl W. Caulk (Assistant Director, US Marshals Service [ret.]) has been elected Board Chair and Ms. Susan McIntyre (administrator, Carteret Community College) was selected as Vice-Chair for the 2017-2019 term. Both are ECU alumni and long-time Board members. The 2015-2017 leaders Mr. Douglas Morgan, Chair and Mr. Carl Caulk, Vice-Chair were recognized for their service at the Spring 2017 Board meeting. In addition to these actions, the Board heard
faculty, student, and Department presentations as well as outlined their 2017-2018 strategic goals, which include fundraising and mentoring activities.

ALUMNI NEWS

Art Beeler Receives the ECU 2017 Outstanding Alumni Award

Arthur F. Beeler, Jr. ('75) received the 2017 Outstanding Alumni Award from the East Carolina University Alumni Association. Following a distinguished career as a correctional administrator with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Art is now a full-time criminal justice educator and community volunteer. He is a longstanding member of the Department’s Criminal Justice Advisory Board and inmate research consultant with the ECU Institutional Review Board.

Jeffrey Foster Elected Superior Court Judge

The Honorable Jeffrey B. Foster ('83) was elected Resident Superior Court Judge, Judicial District 3A, following his gubernatorial appointment in 2016. In joining the judiciary, Judge Foster culminates an impressive career as a trial attorney and civic leader. He continues to be an active ECU supporter and member of the Alumni Association and Department’s Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Robert Stagg Inducted into the ECU Servire Society

Robert “Bob” Stagg ('75) is a 2017 inductee in the East Carolina University Servire Society. The organization’s description is “East Carolina University's motto is Servire - "To Serve." In honor of ECU’s Centennial, the Servire Society recognizes those who have demonstrated a commitment to volunteer service and will challenge the ECU community to serve the larger community external to the university.” Bob is an adjunct criminal justice instructor and long-time supporter of the Department.
Dr. Roger D. Sharpe to be Recognition Ceremony Speaker

Dr. Roger D. Sharpe is a North Carolina native and East Carolina University alumnus ('75). He earned five academic degrees, including a doctorate, which were conferred by East Carolina University, Harvard University, and Columbia University. During his distinguished professional career, Dr. Sharpe held positions as a NC State Senator and educator along with several Washington, DC appointments at the US Capitol, White House, and US Office of Civil Rights. He has an extensive record of public service and has been recognized as a teacher, scholar, historian, and community leader. Dr. Sharpe will give the keynote address at the Department’s Spring 2017 Recognition Ceremony.

ALUMNI BEAT

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