

Sociology & Criminal Justice Department Newsletter

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Chair's Letter, Brian K. Payne, Ph.D.

Jerry Seinfeld once said, "It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper." This is actually not the case with news from our department. We have so much going on that is quite difficult to catch everything in our newsletter. Still, we make an attempt so that those interested in our activities—including our majors and minors, students in our courses, faculty and staff, colleagues, alumni, and others—are aware of the exciting growth that is occurring each day in the Sociology and Criminal Justice department.

In this newsletter, you will read about a number of different student and faculty activities. From the career fair to the study abroad program, our eyes are being opened to exciting opportunities that await us.

A few things not highlighted in the following pages warrant attention. For instance, an effort was recently made to develop a list of faculty publications—both recent and cumulative. The results of this task have been quite telling. So far, the list includes fifteen books written over the last decade or so and about 220 articles in roughly the same timeframe. This group of faculty is committed to conducting scholarly research that will help better inform them as instructors in their courses. They are, in every sense, true scholars—as teachers and researchers.

Two **paper contests** are also underway--the Center for Family Violence Education and Research Paper Award and the Sue Kent Undergraduate Research Paper Award. A \$50.00 cash award and certificate is awarded to the winner of each contest. The CFAVER award is for a paper written about violence over the past academic year. Submissions should be e-mailed to me at bpayne@odu.edu before April 6th. The award will be presented on April 11th as part of the Sociology and Criminal Justice Lecture Series. The Sue Kent award is for a paper about women or culture written in an Anthropology, Sociology, or Criminal Justice Course. Submissions should be sent to me before April 15th. This award will be presented as part of Research Day on April 26th. I can't wait to get your submissions.

Also, get ready for registration. It's just a few weeks away. Faculty will post their available times on their doors and you can schedule an appointment with your advisor. Make sure you have given some thought to the classes you want to take and that you come prepared. You can't register until you've been unblocked. You can't be unblocked unless you've been advised. You can't escape us!

Certainly, you will see that a great deal of activities are occurring in our department—much more than can exactly fit in a four page newsletter. We do this to keep you informed with what is going on in our lives. Please keep us informed with what is going on in yours!

Faculty Activities

Off to London - Victoria Time's study abroad program is full. This May students will visit various sites including Scotland Yard, Old Bailey (the Central Criminal Court), and the Tower of London as they earn three upper level elective credits.

Faculty Abroad - Libby Monk-Turner has been on leave this year doing research in many different countries. In May, she will be presenting a paper on "Wage Differences in South Korea" at a conference in Istanbul, Turkey. Another paper, on women's wages in Korea, will be presented at a feminist economic conference in Sydney, Australia. **Mona Danner** is in Valencia, Spain this spring semester. In addition to learning Spanish, Dr. Danner is engaged in research on globalization, especially women and immigration. In April, she will speak on racism and xenophobia at a conference in Madrid. About Spain, she writes, "What a wonderful opportunity to be in Spain at this time! Spanish wines are wonderful and inexpensive. Valencia is the home of Valencia oranges and a major agricultural region providing us with delicious fresh fruits and vegetables. Valencia is a major transportation port and Spain is a primary point of entry for immigrants, making it a perfect place for my research. I'm so pleased to be here, though very much miss everyone at home."

Favorite Professor - On February 16, Lucien Lombardo and Ruth Triplett were among the honorees at Delta Sigma Lambda's Ruth Harrel Favorite Professor's Dinner. Lou was nominated by Leanne Hedberg who had this to say "...in Dr. Lombardo's class I learned rather than being taught".

Sociology and Criminal Justice Lecture Series -

The Department's Spring 2005 lecture series focuses on the theme of violence and victims:

- April 11 Victims and the Justice Process** - 11:00-11:50 Hampton/Newport News in Webb Center. Presentations by Ivan Sun and Dianne Carmody
- April 12 The Integrated Response to Violence** - 3:00-4:15 Hampton Newport News in Webb Center. Presentations by Bernadette Holmes, Jodi Teitelman and Stacey Plichta
- April 13 The Neglected Sides of Violence** - 11:00- 11:50 Hampton/Newport News in Webb Center. Presentations by Jonathan Appel and Randy Gainey
- April 13 Victims Witness** - 7:00-9:00 Cape Charles/Isle of Wight in Webb Center. Presentation by Lou Ann Ivory and Kim Birdwell
- April 15 Conceptualizing the Response to Family Violence** -11:00-11:50 Cape Charles/Isle of Wight in Webb Center. Presentations by Brian Payne and Karen Polonko

Student Activities

Dr. Sumter Reports on the 2nd Annual Sociology and Criminal Justice Career Fair

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice in conjunction with the student chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice held its 2nd Annual Sociology and Criminal Justice Career fair on Wednesday, January 26 in the North Mall area of the Webb Center. In attendance were 36 agencies representing various human service and criminal justice agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, For Kids, Supreme Court of the United States Police, Seton Youth Shelters, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Alternative Behavioral Services.

Sponsoring the career fair provided students the opportunity to gain exposure and market themselves to prospective employers. As well, the career fair provided students the opportunity to learn about various career opportunities in the areas of sociology and criminal justice. A couple of students made the following comments that directly echoed this point,

“The Virginia Department of Corrections offers employment in the areas of security, administrative, maintenance, medical, counseling, enterprises, accounting, computer programming, food services, and human resources. There are many possibilities in entering the Department of Corrections. I am interested in entering this field because of the many job possibilities and it also offers a job in counseling.”

“Many career opportunities exist within the DEA, most notably the DEA Special Agents. Other jobs within the DEA include intelligence researcher, criminal investigator, chemist, lawyers, administrative, and clerical.”

Students were also provided the opportunity to explore internship and volunteer opportunities within their respective fields, and learn about the benefits an agency provides. Finally, the career fair provided students with a sense of purpose and future direction. For example, a couple of students commented,

“...After attending the career fair, I now have a better knowledge of where I want to go in life. The career fair helped me open my eyes to the many opportunities that are available to me. I am very glad that I decided to attend. The criminal justice field has some of the most exciting and interesting jobs available.”

ODU-NABCJ - Along with the career fair, another activity begun by NABCJ has fast become an important part of the department – the sale of departmental t-shirts and sweatshirts. The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice and ODU-NABCJ sold t-shirts from January 19 to February 28. If you missed it this year, be on the look out for sales next year. NABCJ has also sponsored a number of presentations including “**Exploring Leadership**” by Captain Monica Washington, United States Army Saturday; “**Graduate School Seminar**” by Dr. Randy Gainey; and “**Acquiring and Maintaining a Career in the Criminal Justice Field**” by Warden Carlyle Holder Federal Correction Institution. Finally, NABCJ made the holidays brighter for a number of children along with the **Angel Tree Foundation**. Here gifts were given to children in the Norfolk area whose parents were incarcerated. To mention one item coming up, this spring, members will be attending **NABCJ State Conference and Training Institute**. Please check the website to learn more about this organization <http://www.lions.odu.edu/~msumter/odu-nabcj.htm> or contact Gia Dyke (President) gdyke001@odu.edu

Alpha Phi Sigma - Dr. Time, who is the faculty sponsor, wants to encourage student involvement in Alpha Phi Sigma, a criminal justice honors society active at the university. In order to join, interested students must have taken at least 55 credit hours of course work. They must have taken at least 15 credit hours of criminal justice courses with a GPA of at least 3.2 in those courses. Their overall GPA should be at least a 3.0. Application forms can be down loaded on-line at www.alphaphisigma.com OR www.alphaphisigma.org. They have to make out a money order (no personal checks) to Alpha Phi Sigma. Students should give the completed application, including the money order, and a copy of an unofficial transcript to Dr. Time.

Besides the additional weight membership gives to an individual’s resume, members have the chance to submit research papers for a national competition, the winner of which receives \$1,000 and the chance to present his or her paper at the annual conference of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, one of the fields top national organizations. In addition, members get to wear special regalia at graduation. Students can access the website of alpha phi sigma to see available graduation regalia and their prices. The application form for purchase of regalia can be down loaded on-line. Dr. Time has to endorse the form before any purchases can be made since only students who are already members can order regalia from the honors society.

Alpha Kappa Delta – This is an international sociological honor society. To become a member, undergraduate students must have: declared sociology as their major or demonstrated a serious interest in sociology, at least junior standing, an overall GPA of 3.0, a 3.0 GPA in sociology courses, and have completed four courses in sociology. For more information you may contact Dr. Wegar, the faculty sponsor.

Thoughts from Crystal Carey, Your Peer Advisor

As the department's peer advisor I have seen numerous students in both criminal justice and sociology majors over the past two semesters. The most common problem I have come across is that students are not able to meet with their advisor in order to be advised for the upcoming semester or even for graduation. It is very important that students plan ahead for "advising season". With the criminal justice and sociology majors growing on a daily basis it is important that students know who their advisor is, and also when their office hours are. It is also important for students to form some sort of a relationship with their advisors. Be it a two second introduction or a brief stop by during the professor's office hours. If a professor knows you and knows that you are excited about your major they will be more likely to assist you if you absolutely cannot make it to "advising season office hours".

It will also help speed up the advising process if students come to the advising appointment knowing what classes they want to take. So go ahead print out your transcripts, stop by BAL 730 and grab a curriculum sheet. Use the sheet to fill out what you plan to take and when you plan to take it, both in terms of upper and lower division requirements. Go online to see what and when classes are going to be offered or stop by the departmental bulletin board for class offerings. Once again this shows the professors that you are excited about your major and aren't just rushing through the process.

Another common question I get is, "what can I do with my major?" My answer to this is - utilize the departmental career fairs that are offered each year. These criminal justice and sociology career fairs are geared toward your major. The hard work is done for you - there are more than 30 agencies that are looking for people in your major. So bring those resumes and be ready to find a job or an internship.

On a final note, utilize the services that the department provides for you. Get to know the professors and the staff, attend departmental lecture series, join the honor societies for criminal justice and sociology, join criminal justice and sociology associations, and get to know other people in your major. These things will all help you out in the long run. Get your foot in the door!

Graduation for Graduate Students:

The Department wishes to extend its congratulations to those who have recently defended their Master's thesis. So far this semester the list includes: **Monica Washington, Gina Sajko, Crystal Carey, Fiona Blee, Azeb Berhane, and Kim Baskerville.** Congratulations on a tough job, well done.

Getting to Know the Department – L'Tanya King

Ms. King is the Senior Secretary for the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. She is an important member of the department who has been with the department for seven years. Ms. King started as Office Assistant. Her work these days, which is largely behind the scenes, involves dealing with the budget, the all important job of scheduling, and assisting the Chair.

Announcements

- **Two lectures** are being sponsored this spring by In Support of Children. On March 22, at 7:15 in room 102 of Mills Godwin, **Dr. Bruce Perry** will be speaking on "The Impact of Childhood Trauma and Neglect on Brian Development: Implications for Children, Adolescents and Adults". **Dr. Lucille Ijoy** will be presenting an "Interactive Workshop Multicultural Approaches to Creative Parenting", April 14, at 7:15 in room 104 of BAL. Both are free and open to the public. For more information call **Dr. Lucien Lombardo** at 683-3800.
- **"A Chorus of Unheard Voices --- Human Trafficking . . . Will you listen?"** Laura Lederer, Senior Advisor on Trafficking from the Office of Global Affairs, U.S. State Department, will address the topic, its prevalence in the U.S., how to recognize it and what can be done about it in a creative presentation, March 16, 2005 from 7-9:30 PM at Old Dominion University Theater, Hampton Blvd. (between 46 & 47th Streets), Norfolk. The Tidewater Sowers of Justice Women's Issues Working Group, the ODU Women's Center and the Bold Girls Theatre Group are sponsoring the program. No charge. For information, call Cathy Rudolph @ 496-3622.
- **Two internship positions** for Fall 2005 are available in the department. The first is serving as the department's peer advisor. Duties include holding office hours and answering questions students have about the department. Contact Dr. Triplett (rtripler@odu.edu) for more information. The second is serving as an intern in the Center for Family Violence Education and Research. Duties include assisting in organizing panels and symposia, advertising the Center's events and serving as a liaison between the professional community and faculty members working with the Center. Contact Dr. Payne (bpayne@odu.edu) for information.
- **Research Day** will be held April 26th in the Newport News Room in the Webb Center from 12:30-3:30. Come see what research undergraduate and graduate students have been working on!

Newsletter Contest

How many people entered the last newsletter contest? 0, 1, 3, 29? E-mail Dr. Triplett (rtripler@odu.edu) with your answer. First correct entry from a student wins a department t-shirt. Does anyone actually read this thing?

Faculty Spotlight: Dianne Carmody, Ph.D.

The summer after my high school graduation, I was engaged to my “high school sweetheart” and my mother was certain that the end of my academic career was imminent. I’d been admitted for the fall at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), but my mother was sure I’d get married and put off going to college. In fact, she used a bit of reverse psychology on me, saying, “I just know it, you won’t wait four years to get married!” Taking up the challenge, I completed my undergraduate studies in 3 years, and married Bill in 1981. As an undergraduate at the UNH, I began my studies as a computer science major, and after an incredibly long and torturous freshman year, decided that a change of major was in order. Fortunately, I enrolled in an introductory psychology class that sparked my interest in the social sciences, and I managed to finish with a BA in psychology with a minor in Spanish. After that, I worked for a couple of years in banking, and returned to UNH to pursue a Master’s degree in counseling.

One spring day, I attended a presentation offered by Dr. Murray Straus, a leading researcher in the field of family violence. I was fascinated by his work, and approached him after the talk to introduce myself and ask questions about his research. Dr. Straus quickly pulled out his calendar and made an appointment for me to meet with him later that week. I was impressed that this famous researcher was so willing to make time for a lowly graduate student. Dr. Straus was eager to discuss my future plans and when I walked out of that meeting, I had changed my degree program (from counseling to sociology) and I was Dr. Straus’ newest research assistant! The next few years were filled with challenges and wonderful opportunities. I worked on the second national survey on family violence, and computed incidence estimates from the data. I spent many days cursing SPSS and sitting through endless graduate seminars. After completing my Master’s degree, I was hired as a Research Scientist at Straus’ Family Research Laboratory. There, I continued my research on the police response to domestic violence. I also worked with Dr. Straus and Dr. Kirk Williams on the first national study on missing children. Using data from that project, I completed my dissertation on family-perpetrated abductions in 1991. Those few years at the Family Research Laboratory shaped my career. I worked closely with some of the most widely published researchers in the field. I was involved in large national studies, and able to attend national and regional research conferences. It was an amazing learning experience.

While at UNH, I also had an opportunity to teach for the first time. For years, I was certain that I’d build my career solely as a researcher, and never really wanted to try teaching. I was assigned a section of “Introduction to Criminology” one wintry January semester. On the first day of classes, I slipped on the ice and broke my wrist, causing my class to be cancelled on the very first day. Not a very promising beginning, but things did improve. I discovered that I love teaching, and can’t imagine ever giving up the opportunity to work in the classroom.

I was hired for my first “real” (a.k.a. post-Ph.D.) job at Western Washington University (WWU) in Bellingham, WA in 1991. My husband, 3 year-old daughter, Erin, and I

sold our house and moved across the country to discover this incredibly beautiful region. At WWU, I was able to pursue my teaching and also expanded my research. I completed some qualitative studies on the media coverage of domestic violence and missing children. Although we loved life in the Pacific Northwest, my family and I missed the East coast, and I accepted a faculty position at ODU in 1996. Since then, I have conducted research on domestic violence and sexual assault, juvenile delinquency and school violence. Most recently, I worked with Drs. Payne and Gainey on a study of services for rape victims in Virginia. Dr. Payne and I are currently working on a study of the domestic violence training received by Virginia social workers. These most recent projects are especially rewarding because they offer the opportunity to influence and shape policy in these important areas.

Now, my daughter is sixteen, and I’ve been married to my “high school sweetheart” for nearly 23 years. I have to wonder where I’d be now if my mother hadn’t challenged me to finish college, or if I hadn’t attended Dr. Straus’ presentation on that spring afternoon.

CDA Notes, Ruth Triplett, PhD

As the Chief Departmental Advisor, I find myself interested in things I would never have given a second thought to a year ago. Today I want to share with you an item related to transfer credit that should be important to many of you.

There is now no limit on the number of *lower-level general education courses* you can transfer to meet degree requirements. However, you must earn a grade of C or better to transfer the class in and you must have an official transcript sent to the ODU Office of Admission for evaluation before the course is counted towards graduation. Also, be aware that a class at another college or university having a similar name and/or number does not necessarily mean it will transfer to ODU. To see what classes at the institution you are planning to take a class at will transfer to Old Dominion, and as what, use Monarch Transformation, an on-line resource.

Besides curriculum, one of the other things I am most concerned with is getting students to come for advising and getting them the best advising possible. As we make our way through March and into April we have to start thinking about registration for the summer and fall. Remember that registration starts on April 15th and that you want to be advised before your registration time. Faculty will be putting up their sign up sheets those first two weeks of April so please sign up early and get advised. For the first time we are going to try block advising for juniors and seniors who are declared sociology or criminal justice majors. This is when students just drop by for advising during a given time period without having to sign up for a specific time or advisor. It can be a fun way of getting a good number of students advised. We are planning on doing block advising Thursday, March 31, 1:30-3:30.