

# Sociology & Criminal Justice Department Newsletter

## Old Dominion University

Volume 6, Issue 1

October 2006

### Chair's Note, Brian K. Payne, PhD

During the summer months when I was in college, I use to work in a bottle factory to help pay for my education. Many of the shifts seemed to take forever, with the eight hours feeling like an eternity. I suppose the lack of excitement made the workdays feel so cumbersome. Working with my colleagues in the Sociology and Criminal Justice department, I have had a completely different experience—so many exciting things have been going on that the days, months, and semesters are just flying by. In this newsletter, you will have a chance to see many of the exciting things going on. It is our hope that you will see these items in the same way that we do—as signs of excellence that characterize our department, our faculty, and our majors.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Graduation Celebration** – To honor its graduating seniors, the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice will have its Graduation Celebration December 15<sup>th</sup> from 1-3:30 in the James Lynch Room at the Webb Center. The Department invites graduating seniors, family and friends to come, visit with faculty, and celebrate their achievements.

**Research Day** – Research Day has become an important semester event for the Department. This is the day when Capstone classes present the findings from their research projects and faculty and students alike get to quiz the capstone groups on their projects. This semester, research day promises to be as interesting as ever it has been. **Lee Bouvier** is very excited about the capstone projects his groups are working on. He reports that the focus is on TV advertising and TV news. **Garland White** is teaching two other sections of capstone. His group projects include one on tipping in restaurants (examining whether people tip more when the server is of the opposite gender), and use of MySpace (measuring what proportion of students spend time on MySpace and why).

This year Research Day is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30-2:00 in the Portsmouth/York Rooms at Webb Center. Please come out and see what the projects the students have completed. A special thanks to Dr. Garland White and Dr. Leon Bouvier who worked hard to guide the students in the capstone groups through the completion of their projects.

**ODU-NABCJ Career Fair** – We are all very excited about the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair sponsored by ODU-NABCJ and the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. This year it is scheduled for the end of January. Employers from several dozen agencies will be there.

**Senior Scholar Lecture - Lou Lombardo** presents as part of the Senior Scholar Lecture Series on November 1. His talk will be in Chandler Recital Hall at 4:00 (with a reception at 3:30). All are invited to attend.

### Faculty News

Congratulations all around - **Lou Lombardo** is this year's winner of the Burgess award for excellence in research and creativity. Lou has also been nominated for the prestigious SCHEV award. **Melvina Sumter** was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, and **Ruth Triplett** was promoted to Full Professor.

**Xuishi Yang** received a \$1.5 million grant from NIH for a project entitled "HIV Intervention among Women at High Risk". He is also organizing (ODU co-sponsoring) an International Symposium on Urbanization, Gender, and Public Health, to be held in Shanghai, China in December.

**Brian Payne** and **Randy Gainey** developed the City of Suffolk's Youth Violence Prevention Plan. They also worked with the Social Science Research Center to develop the Commonwealth's Strategic Plan for Youth Violence Prevention.

**Alan Thompson** was named the editor of the *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*. That makes two journals currently being edited in the department – the other is the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* edited by **Brian Payne**.

Congratulations to **Katarina Wegar** on the publication of her book *Adoptive Families in a Diverse Society* by Rutgers last month. And to **Garland White** on the publication of his book, *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design: How Investing in Physical and Social Capital Makes Communities Safer*.

**Daniel O'Leary** will be giving a paper entitled "Farmland Protection and New Enterprises for Farm and Community" at American Farmland Trust's National Conference in November. In the paper, he develops a quantitative assessment tool to help rural populations in Western North Carolina understand the forces that affect them by identifying the benefits that farmland provides in the region.

**Brian Payne** and **Dianne Carmody**, The Center for Family Violence Education and Research, organized a special event focusing on Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse. The project was funded by the Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities and more than 300 social workers from across the state participated in the event.

### Department Ranked in Leading Journal

In a 2006 article by Steiner and Schwartz published in the *Journal of Criminal Justice*, the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Old Dominion University was ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in publications per faculty during the years 2000-2004. The department was ranked above some, to remain nameless, PhD granting departments at other universities. The ranking is the result of the incredible productivity of all the faculty but **Brian Payne** deserves special mention. Dr. Payne is one of only 10 faculty members in the country to publish four or more articles in leading criminology and criminal justice journals between 2000-2004.

## FACULTY WORKING WITH STUDENTS

Last semester, **Karen Polonko** worked with five students – **Deeanna Button, Sarah Gibson, Will Davis, Thomas Lopez, and Resi Paige** as part of an extra, uncompensated class. The class focused on international child abuse and neglect. Karen and her students, along with **Lou Lombardo**, presented a paper at the International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect last month in York, United Kingdom. This is the most prestigious conference in the world on research on international child abuse and neglect. Congratulations!

**Deeanna Button** – a graduate student in the Applied Sociology program – is the recipient of the 2006 Southern Criminal Justice Association's Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year award. The award was given in September at the conference in Charleston, South Carolina.

**Libby Monk-Turner** continues to publish research articles with graduate and undergraduate students. Recent articles include:

Elizabeth Monk Turner with Tiffany Kouts, Kevin Parris & Cynthia Webb. Forthcoming. "Gender Role Stereotyping in Advertisements on Three Radio Stations: Does Musical Genre make a difference?" *The Journal of Gender Studies*.

Elizabeth Monk Turner with Debra Babylon. Forthcoming. "Should Incurable Patients Be Allowed to Die?", Omega: *The Journal of Death and Dying*.

Elizabeth Monk Turner, Ruth Triplett and Kim Green. 2006. "Criminology/Criminal Justice Representation in the Discipline of Sociology." *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*.

Elizabeth Monk Turner with James Oleson, Paul Cortez, Daniel Dean, Cole Kracke, Jennifer McTague, Peter Restituto, and Greg Trach. "Gender Disparity in Criminal Offenses among Persons of High IQ." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

Big changes have happened in the Department since last Spring. We are growing by leaps and bounds and not just in the number of students. Programming has taken on a whole new look:

**On-Line Program** – In Fall 2006 the department launched an on-line Criminal Justice program. The program continues the university's standard for high quality, excellence and innovation in Criminal Justice education, while providing additional flexibility and convenience. This fall **Donald Smith**, our hero, offered CRJS 320 – Law and Social Control, CRJS 416 – The American Jury and CRJS 426 – Criminological Theory online, teaching over 300 students including a large number of students we have never been able to reach before.

**PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice** – In September of 2006, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approved a new PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Brian Payne, the chair of the department says that "This approval reflects the quality of our faculty who, all along have provided a top-notch program which can continue to grow and meet the needs of the Commonwealth and the nation." The program will be launched in the fall of 2007 and is now accepting applicants (contact Randy Gainey for more information, [rgainey@odu.edu](mailto:rgainey@odu.edu))

**Staff and Faculty** - In addition to programs, the Department has been fortunate this year in terms of staff additions. We are happy to welcome two new faculty – **Kelly Cheeseman** and **Daniel O'Leary** – and a new office services assistant – **Rabiyyah Traynham** to the department. Kelly Cheeseman comes to us from Sam Houston State University where she completed her PhD. Daniel O'Leary comes to us most recently from teaching in Asheville, NC. He is completing his doctoral work in social science at Syracuse University.

## BAL Renovations and the Department Move

The renovation of Batten Arts and Letters is underway. Sometime in November Faculty and Staff now on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor should be moving up to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. When the move happens (we are the first to move and the target date for the move to start is Nov. 6), the main office will be BAL 6000. Faculty office assignments will be as follows:

Bouvier, Lee	BAL 6012
Carmody, Dianne	BAL 6024
Chappell, Allison	BAL 6006
Cheeseman, Kelly	BAL 6046
Danner, Mona	BAL 6034
Gainey, Randy	BAL 6014
Gray, Charles	BAL 6044
Lou Lombardo	BAL 6040
Monk-Turner, E.	BAL 6018
O'Leary, Daniel	BAL 6042
Payne, Brian	BAL 6002
Polonko, Karen	BAL 6028
Smith, Donald	BAL 6047
Sumter, Melvin	BAL 6004
Thompson, Alan	BAL 6016
Time, Victoria	BAL 6032
Triplett, Ruth	BAL 6045
Wegar, Katarina	BAL 6022
Ingrid Whitaker	BAL 6010
Garland White	BAL 6030
Yang, Xuishi	BAL 6020

We all thank **Dianne Carmody** for seeing us through the first move and thank her in advance for the help in getting us through the final move.

## Student Organization in the Spotlight – In Support of Children

In Support of Children is a non-partisan, non-profit service organization that was founded in 1992 by Dr. Karen Polonko and the students of her Child Welfare class and was later joined by Dr. Lou Lombardo.

ISOC has at its purpose to advocate for an end to all forms of child maltreatment, especially physical punishment of children, and the promotion of positive parenting techniques. Its objectives include:

- To educate ISOC membership about the extent, causes and consequences of child maltreatment.
- To increase student and community awareness of issues and information related to child maltreatment.
- To promote student involvement of ISOC activities.
- To develop, produce and distribute educational materials related to the group's activities.
- To sponsor educational programming related to the group's purposes.
- To establish connections with other student and community organizations to enhance the effectiveness of ISOC's work.

In striving to achieve its objectives in the areas of education, ISOC has taken the lead in partnering with the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters, and many programs in the Colleges of Arts and Letters, Health Science, Sciences and Education to gather resources to support its Speaker's series. In 2005-2006 featured speakers included:

- **Bruce Perry, M.D., PhD.** – Founder of the Child Trauma Academy in Texas, author of over 300 journal articles, book chapters and scientific proceedings, recipient of numerous professional awards and honors.
- **B. Bryan Post, PhD, LCSW** – Founder of the Post Institute for Family-Centered Therapy in Oklahoma, author of "For All Things A Season", "Dr. Post's New Family Revolution System," and co-author of "The Forever Child" series.

In addition, ISOC has produced numerous materials that have been used to spread its cause including: Directory of Resources pamphlet, Parenting from the Heart pamphlet, T-Shirts & Pants, Bumper Stickers & Buttons

This year look for the following events:

- **October 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 12:30-1:30, BAL 234** – *Conflict Resolution and Children* by Heather Mathews
- **November 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 7:00-9:00, North Cafeteria at Webb Center** – *See Jane Hit: Girls and Violence* by Dr. James Gabarino
- **February 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 1-4 Location TBA** – *Childhood Matters: Understanding the Relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adult Health* by Dr. Robert Anda

## Getting Ready to Register for Spring Classes

Registration for Spring classes will be here before you know it. In order to be able to register, you have to have your advising block removed. The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice has over 800 majors now so advising for registration is a major event. Below find a few helpful tips for preparing for registration as well as some important dates.

- **Know when you will be able to register** – Pre-registration begins November 13<sup>th</sup> and runs through November 17<sup>th</sup>. All currently enrolled students will have a time ticket posted on Leo On-Line which will tell them when they can register during this period. Open registration begins Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. At that, time all admitted students are eligible to register.
- **Get advising before your registration date** – Each semester, students have advising blocks on their accounts. To get the block removed students must see their advisor. Students who have declared Sociology or Criminal Justice as their major have been assigned a faculty advisor in the department. About two or three weeks before registration begins, faculty advisors will post advising sign up sheets outside their offices. Simply find your advisor's office and sign up. If you can't remember who your advisor is check the list posted outside the main office, BAL 500 (but remember to check the 6<sup>th</sup> floor if we have moved). If you fail to get advised and have your advising block removed, you won't be able to register on time.
- **Come prepared for advising** – When you come to your advising meeting, please come prepared. Bring a current transcript (unofficial is fine), a list of classes you hope to sign up for, and a list of questions, if any. This will help your advisor do his or her job more effectively.

Note that there are several topics courses listed on the schedule. Leoonline may only allow you to register for one or two topics classes. However, the department will allow you to add additional topics courses. See the instructor of the course, or Dr. Payne or Dr. Triplett, if you need added into a topics course.

## So you want to be a Sociologist?

Alpha Kappa Delta, which is an international sociological honor society, is developing a new series of talks. Look for announcements to come of a series of talks by sociologists on their careers. If you are an undergraduate student who is interested in becoming a member of this prestigious organization you must have: declared sociology as your 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. Katarina Wegar** ([kwegar@odu.edu](mailto:kwegar@odu.edu)), the faculty sponsor.

## Study Abroad

The past two summers, **Dr. Victoria Time** has led study abroad courses. More than two dozen students have benefited from trips to London and Amsterdam. Another course is in the planning stages for the upcoming summer. So, if you want to spend a few weeks in another country, learning about various criminal justice issues in those countries, watch for upcoming announcements about these courses. Feel free to contact Dr. Time ([vtime@odu.edu](mailto:vtime@odu.edu)) additional information.

## Faculty Spotlight – Dr. Allison Chappell

Hello! My name is Allison Chappell and I am a (relatively) new professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Dr. Triplett asked me to write a “blurb” for the newsletter, and since I already got out of it once last year (Thanks, Garland!), I decided it was time to start writing! So here goes:

I grew up right around the corner in Virginia Beach and attended Kellam High School. I didn’t actually remember this until recently, but I took a year of Sociology at Kellam and loved it! Strangely, however, when I went to East Carolina University, I had a really tough time figuring out “what I wanted to do with my life.” I tried several different majors and didn’t like any of them. Finally, I took a sociology course as part of my “social science” requirement, and even though I only earned a “C” in the course, I fell in love with the subject. Then I took a social problems course with Dr. Mooney. She often told stories about her dissertation research, which involved living in an inner-city impoverished neighborhood and how she assimilated with the residents. Her stories intrigued me so much that I took every course she offered. She really helped me to see the world in a completely different way. At that point, I not only decided to be a sociology major, but because I was so inspired by Dr. Mooney’s passion, I decided to get a Ph.D.

I applied to several different graduate programs, and University of Florida seemed to be the best fit (plus, I got in!). It was a sociology department with lots of faculty who studied crime and law. I also met my now-husband during those first few weeks as a graduate student. We ended up dating almost right away (after I broke up with the Virginia boyfriend!), and we were married in March 2006. Anyway, I earned my M.A., and then went on to do the Ph.D. I was offered the opportunity to work on a funded research project as a 2<sup>nd</sup> year M.A. student that involved observing police recruit classes and collecting data at the local police academy. The funding ended up falling through, but by that point, I had become so intrigued with it that I asked my advisor if I could continue the research on my own. This turned into my dissertation research. This project kept me out of the classroom until I was a second year Ph.D. student (which was good because I was afraid to teach!).

I started applying for academic jobs in the fall of 2004. I applied to 25 or 30 jobs all over the country. The ODU application was due on November 1. I *really* wanted to work at ODU because it was a sociology and criminal justice department (I wanted to be in a department that had both), and I wanted to be closer to home. Well, the phone rang on November 4<sup>th</sup>, as I was watching Oprah (and I honestly don’t even watch Oprah, but I was that day!). I casually answered it because I thought it must be someone I knew from “home” (same area code). I was wrong. It was Dr. Whitaker calling to do a phone interview! I was shocked and afraid and so nervous! I felt like I said all the wrong things, but lo and behold, I got a “real” interview! When I came to Norfolk for my interview, I just knew this was where I belonged (we truly have the greatest group of faculty). When I was leaving, Dr. White dropped me off at the airport, and a few minutes later, the phone rang. It was the Dean—offering me the job! I finished my Ph.D., and I started at ODU in August, 2005.

Graduate school was a great experience. I not only learned “material” from my professors, but some of them became great mentors and friends—people I really look up to and hope to emulate in my career. I always had so much appreciation for my professors, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, because they took the time to educate and mentor me.

Now, I feel like it is my turn to “give back” to the community: by inspiring undergraduate students and encouraging them to see the world from different perspectives, as well as working with graduate students...just the way my professors did for me.

In terms of practical information, I teach *The Criminal Justice System*, and *Police in American Society*. In the spring, I will be teaching a new course on *Crime and Inequality* and I plan to eventually teach something like that at the graduate level. I’m excited about it because this course will allow me to integrate my sociological perspective with substantive crime and criminal justice issues. My research focuses on community policing, police training, occupational socialization, organizations, and the “behavior” of law.

Well, that’s about enough about me, but I would really like to meet **you**! Please come by and tell me about yourself! I look forward to meeting you!

## Getting Ready to Graduate? Please Read

If you are expecting to graduate in May 2007, there are a few things to check on beyond your major requirements:

- Make sure that you will have completed 120 or more credit hours by the end of the Spring 2007 semester.
- Sign up for, take, and pass the Writing Exit Exam. The best advice is to take it now if you have not already done so just in case you do not pass it the first time.
- Make sure your overall GPA is 2.0 or above and that your major GPA is 2.0 or above.
- Check with your minor advisor about the completion of your minor.
- Take the senior assessment (go to the home page, click on “current students,” click on “university assessment”)

### Important update on graduation and commencement applications

– First, news on graduation applications. The latest news from the Registrar’s Office is that the university is returning to paper applications for graduation. We hear that students will receive letters/e-mails from the university and will be required to send in a hard copy of the application.

Now for commencement news. Starting May 2007, there is a separate application for commencement. Note that beginning with the May 2007 graduation ceremony, students wishing to attend commencement must have a student ticket to enter the robing room. In order to receive commencement tickets, all participating students must complete the Commencement Participation Form. Please check out the website for commencement central for the form and for more information ([www.odu.edu/ao/unievents/commencement](http://www.odu.edu/ao/unievents/commencement)).

After you graduate, make sure you remember us back in BAL. Keep in touch with us and let us know how things go. If you are still looking for a job after graduation, make sure you come by the career fair in January. After all, an employed graduate is a happy graduate!

Please contact the newsletter editor, Dr. Ruth Triplett ([rttriplett@odu.edu](mailto:rttriplett@odu.edu)) if there are items you would like to include in future newsletters.