

Sociology & Criminal Justice Department Newsletter

Old Dominion University

Volume 2, Issue 1

October 2002

Letter from the Chair,

Elizabeth Monk-Turner, Ph.D.

The past academic year was a very productive one for our department. Faculty continue to publish books, professional journal articles, present papers at professional conferences (both nationally and internationally) as well as write and receive external grants. Dr. Katarina Wegar returned from her research leave which she spent in the Boston area where she established new contacts and interviewed people for her forthcoming book on adoption.

Dr. Brian Payne, our chief departmental advisor, won the college advising award this past Spring. The department congratulates Brian on his hard work. It is difficult to fully appreciate the amount of work this job takes. Dr. Randy Gainey continues to do an excellent job as graduate program director (GPD) for the department. Our graduate program is thriving as we continue to successfully recruit students from Virginia, nationally and internationally as well. This semester will be Dr. Ingrid Whitaker's last as Internship Coordinator. Ingrid deserves much recognition and thanks for her work over the past three years. She has increased the number of internship opportunities open to students in the department. As of the Spring semester, Dr. Dianne Carmody will be taking over this work in the Department. Thanks to Dianne for her willingness to do this important job in the department. Dr. Mona Danner continues to serve as Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Letters. While an asset to the college and university, the department misses her.

Faculty are working together on a number of exciting projects. Ask your instructors about their current research projects. Congratulations to all of our faculty for their hard work and to our students whose enthusiasm and interest keep us going.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Chair's Letter
- 1 Important Readings
- 2 Student Activities
- 3 Grad School, Important Dates, Helpful Websites
- 4 Faculty Spotlight
- 4 Faculty Activities / CDA Letter

Important Readings

Department faculty were asked which two books (other than ones they have written themselves) they would carry out of their office if it were on fire. See if you can guess who picked each respective book (answers below).

1. *Population* by John Weeks
2. *Labour and Capital* by Karl Marx
3. *Missing Pieces* by Irving Kenneth
4. *No Logo* by Naomi Klien
5. *When Battered Women Kill* by Angela Browne
6. *On Wondering About Society* by Johan Asplund
7. *Constitutional Law* by Klotter et al.
8. My checkbook and the yellow pages
9. *The Wayward Puritans* by Kai Erickson
10. *Black Police in America* by Marvin Dulaney
11. *The Logic of Survey Analysis* by Morris Rosenberg
12. *Real Boys* by William S. Pollack
13. *Delinquent Boys* by Albert Cohen
14. *The Color of Politics* by Michael Goldfield
15. My Bible and my dictionary
16. *The One Minute Manager*
17. *Social Pathology* by Edwin Lemert
18. *Crime and Punishment in America* by Elliot Currie
19. *The Portable Karl Marx* by Eugene Kamenka
20. *Race, Crime, and the Law* by Randall Kennedy
21. *The Economic Emergence of Women* by Barbara Bergmann
22. *Behind Closed Doors* by Murray Straus
23. National Center for the Analysis of Crime report on Crime Scene Analysis
24. *Trusted Criminals* by David Friedrichs
25. My book of slides and my field notes
26. *The Community Justice Ideal* by Todd R. Clear & David Karp
27. My library books so they wouldn't be overdue
28. Whatever I'm reading at the time
29. *The Successful Manager's Handbook*

Answers: 1. Bouvier, 2. Monk-Turner, 3. Wegar, 4. Olseon, 5. Carmody, 6. Wegar, 7. Boyd, 8. Sun, 9. Payne, 10. Taylor-Greene, 11. Bouvier, 12. Taylor Greene, 13. Triplett, 14. Gray, 15. Time, 16. Pate, 17. Triplett, 18. Sumter, 19. Gray, 20. Boyd 21. Monk-Turner, 22. Carmody, 23. Oleson, 24. Payne, 25. Kent, 26. Sumter, 27. Gainey, 28. Smith, 29. Pate

Student Activities

NABCJ Students Attend National Conference

Four students from the ODU student chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice attended the annual meeting of the association in Jacksonville, Florida, this past July. President **Matasha Harris**, Vice President **Rebecca Boyd**, Secretary **Kideste Wilder**, and Treasurer **Lateeka Tutwiller** accompanied advisor Dr. Melvina Sumter to the conference, which was titled "The Tradition Continues: Defending Our Nation and Protecting Our Communities." Boyd presented a paper titled "Analysis of Youth's Perceptions of Stealing" as part of the proceedings.

The students attended a series of seminars, workshops, and intensive training sessions. Harris welcomed conference participants at the student reception. Attendees also met criminal justice practitioners from all over the country and from all occupations. Professionals attending the conference demonstrated a commitment to mentoring students to increase their professionalism, management skills, and leadership capabilities.

ACJA Holds Pizza Party

Kappa Omicron Rho held a pizza party on September 24th as part of its fall membership drive. More than twenty students became members at the pizza party. With an aim of forging relationships with local, regional, and national criminal justice officials, the group has grown significantly since it was first created last year.

Noted Author Speaks to Students

Sociology, criminal justice, and anthropology students were treated to an insightful and educational presentation on October 2nd by Anna Dominiqu M.L. Coseteng, a former senator of the Philippines. Her presentation centered on increasing appreciation for the arts, especially the works of those who have been ignored in the past. Sponsored by the Filipino American Center, the Sociology and Criminal Justice department, and a number of other university departments, the presentation was followed by a book signing.

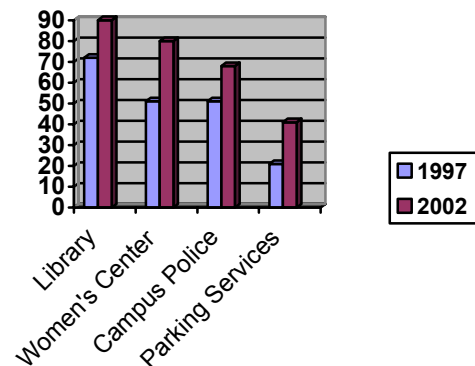
Student Attends Prestigious Seminar

Kelesha Nevers was one of six students selected to attend "The Summer Research Initiative," sponsored by the University of Maryland's graduate program. Participants spent six weeks on the University's campus, received a stipend of \$300.00 each week, and were placed under the tutelage of the faculty.

The seminars provided strategies on applying and preparing for graduate school. Kelesha worked with Dr. Ray Paternoster on a research project on capital punishment in the state of Maryland, which has temporarily seized executions, in order to provide researchers the opportunity to examine the impact of race on convictions for the death penalty. While collecting data, she was exposed to crime scene photos, autopsy reports, police reports, pre-sentencing reports, and impact statements. She was also exposed to information on the social, psychological, and criminal histories of defendants and victims. According to Kelesha, "overall, the real life experience has transcended my textbook knowledge of research in Criminology." Kelesha plans to pursue graduate studies at the University of Maryland.

Graduating Seniors Happier Now than Five Years Ago

Every year graduating seniors are asked to complete a senior assessment instrument that allows students to evaluate the entire educational experience. Questions ask about students' satisfaction with faculty, advising, courses, facilities, administration, and support services. Compared to students graduating in 1997, recent graduating seniors are more satisfied with their experience at Old Dominion University. The figure below highlights some of the greatest differences. A higher percentage of students reported satisfaction with the library, Women's Center, campus police, and, believe it or not, parking services. In fact, nearly twice as many students reported satisfaction with parking services in 2002 (41%) than in 1997 (21%). If you're interested, check out the report online at http://web.odu.edu/AO/universityassessment/odu_senior_2002.htm.



Interested in Grad School?

Randy R. Gainey, Ph.D.

Thinking about your future? Consider our graduate program in Applied Sociology. With the excellent group of faculty we have, we offer a fine masters degree program with special tracts and certifications in criminal justice and women's studies.

In these trying economic times a Bachelor's degree is often not enough and students often think about getting a second undergraduate degree. Why not? By one's senior year, you know the ropes and know you can handle it. While this is a noble pursuit, our perspective is, why not move up rather than horizontally? Our program is rich in theory, research methods, and substantive issues concerning society. Our students go on to Ph.D. programs, work in federal and state government agencies, as well as private industry. Although we receive applicants and accept students from all over the United States and the rest of the world, some of our best students were educated right here at ODU.

While in the graduate program, many of our students obtain graduate assistantships in the department, college, or university. Some students are directly involved in fascinating research projects conducted by faculty while others work on projects directed by the Social Science Research Center. Other students become more involved in assisting faculty in the classroom. All students agree that their graduate school experience at Old Dominion University is rewarding and life changing.

Students generally finish the graduate program in about two years. The last part of the degree is spent working on a thesis. We have had some high caliber theses coming out of our program. Marianne Galgon, a former student, recently won the best paper competition at the annual meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association. The winning paper was a short version of her thesis. Other thesis projects resulted in publications in scholarly journals. When former graduate students return to visit us, especially those who go on to Ph.D. programs, they consistently comment how they were far better prepared than students from other programs.

As the graduate program director, feel free to stop by (BAL 930) or send me an email (rgainey@odu.edu) to learn more about the program.

Important Dates/Reminders

- Last day to withdraw from a class—October 22
- Application deadline for May grads—November 8
- Thanksgiving break begins—November 27
- Last day of classes—December 6
- The university will no longer hold August graduations. Students will now graduate in either December or May.
- **Dr. Lucien Lombardo** has left the department for a one year sabbatical. During the year, he will be spending much of his time in prison--not as an inmate, but as a researcher revisiting his earlier study on correctional officers. During advising, his advisees will be assigned to other faculty. Check the bulletin board beside 730 BAL for more information prior to advising. In the mean time, see Dr. Payne if you have immediate questions.

Get Connected

These websites are useful for Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Anthropology Students:

- <http://faculty.ncwc.edu/toconnor/employ.htm>. Looking for a job in policing, courts, or corrections? Start here.
- <http://www.asanet.org/student/career/homepage.html> Sociology majors thinking about future careers, check out this site.
- <http://www.aaanet.org/careers.html> Do you dig anthropology? Check out the possible careers.
- <http://www.upenn.edu/museum/Overview/archyantho.html>. Kid Rock--An anthropologist? You'll have to read about famous anthropologists to find out.
- <http://www.hg.org/schools.html> Ally McBeal may be gone, but your interest in law school remains. If so, take a look at this site--it includes links to all law schools in the U.S.
- <http://www.odu.edu/al/soc-cj/grad/> Check out ODU's graduate program in Applied Sociology. If you can't trust sociologists and criminologists with your future, who can you trust?

Faculty Spotlight

Leon Bouvier: *In His Own Words*

Four score years ago I was born in a log cabin (well, not quite) in Moosup, Connecticut. My early education was not very successful. To this day, I still don't have a high school diploma! (There is an explanation for this but the details are quite complex). After moving to Southbridge, Massachusetts, I worked in a knife factory where I met the person that was going to be my spouse for 53 years and the mother of our four children. About a year later, we moved to Daytona Beach where I began my career as a full-time jazz musician. This lasted, on and off, for about 15 years.

Since I was a teenager I dreamt of going to college. Obviously it would be difficult without a high school diploma and without any funds. While playing in Biloxi, Mississippi, I made a decision that would change my life. Somewhat surprisingly, Mississippi already had a junior college system. I drove to Perkinston Junior College (30 miles from Biloxi) and talked with the president about returning to school at age 35. He was very enthusiastic and really encouraged me to do so. All I had to do is pass an exam of some sort which I did very easily and I was in college. I've never thanked that man, but he was the person who got me started.

The next semester I had a new job playing in Mobile, Alabama, in a strip tease joint. That's when I transferred to Spring Hill College and where I met Father Albert Foley SJ who really got me excited about sociology and race relations in particular. I majored in Sociology determined to become a college professor. We then headed north where I had a scholarship at Fordham. Because of financial difficulties one semester was about all I could do. Then another amazing thing happened. A former Fordham student was at Brown and got me an interview with the chairman. I received one of those National Defense grants and received the Ph.D. ten years later. Before I received the Ph.D. I taught briefly at Siena College and the University of Scranton. Then back to Brown and a job at the University of Rhode Island. I finally received the degree in 1971. I left URI after receiving tenure. I was elected to be chair and that was a good reason to leave. We moved to northern Virginia where I was later vice-president of the Population Reference Bureau and also taught part-time at Georgetown. The rest is quite simple. After retiring from PRB, I was immediately offered adjunct positions at Tulane (where I am still listed as adjunct professor) and the University of Hawaii. Needless to say I accepted both of them. Then we moved to Virginia Beach and I taught for two years here at ODU. Then we moved to Florida where I definitely planned on real retirement. After my spouse passed away, I returned to Virginia and the rest is history.

One more point: Of all the places that I have taught, ODU is my favorite. I have great colleagues and wonderful students. This is it for me.

Faculty News

Dr. Susan Kent spent the summer digging in rural South Africa near the Lesotho border. She traveled by train from Johannesburg to Cape Town to climb up to archeological sites located on the coast. Instead of the Indiana Jones movies, there could soon be an "Old Dominion Kent" series chronicling her travels.

Dr. James Oleson has nearly completed his drug trafficking movie. Preliminary reviews suggest that it is rated "G" (for great). Watch for the red carpet premier.

Dr. Melvina Sumter has been busy on the "Community Justice Ideal," a partnership with The Norfolk Police Department and Norfolk Re-development Housing Authority Youth Mentor Cadet Academy. The Community Justice Ideal is designed to provide adolescents who have limited access to human, social, and cultural capital with these essential life necessities in order to enhance the quality of their lives. The program is provided to adolescents who reside in "Oakleaf Forest," one of the inner city projects in the Norfolk area. The program consists of twenty participants who meet weekly. In addition to the educational seminars, program participants are also exposed to activities such as bowling, watching movies, attending theater events and plays, and tutoring. Dr. Sumter plans to extend the tutoring and mentoring segments of the program and is therefore in need of additional volunteers. If you want additional information about the program or are interested in volunteering, contact one of the facilitators: Matasha Harris - mharr014@odu.edu, Rebecca Boyd - rboyd002@odu.edu, or Kideste Wilder - kwild001@odu.edu or visit the program's web page - http://www.lions.odu.edu/~msumter/community_justice_ideal.htm.

CDA's Notes, Brian K. Payne, Ph.D.

Welcome back! I hope that you had a great summer and that your semester is going smoothly. I also trust that you find the newsletter to be full of useful information. I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to get involved in some of the activities going on in our department. Join the Sociology or Criminal Justice Honors Society. Talk to members of the American Criminal Justice Association to see how you can be involved in their group. Consider joining the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice. Look into an internship. No student can honestly say that the department does not have activities available.

Also, if anyone is interested in contributing pieces to future newsletters, or even editing it, please let me know. This resource is targeted to Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Anthropology students. With this aim in mind, your input will make the newsletter valuable to current and future majors.

Brian K. Payne, PhD
Chief Department Advisor
bpayne@odu.edu