

Sociology & Criminal Justice Department Newsletter

Old Dominion University

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Chair's Letter, Elizabeth Monk-Turner, Ph.D.

This past academic year was another busy one in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Drs. Victoria Time and Ruth Triplett were awarded tenure in the department. Congratulations! Several faculty have returned from research leaves including Drs. Lombardo and White. Dr. Danner returned to the department after serving two years as Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters. Dr. Smith is currently enjoying a research leave and will return to the department in the Spring. Sadly, the department lost Dr. Susan Kent last Spring. Dr. Kent died suddenly while attending a conference in Milwaukee.

Dr. Melvina Sumter remains active as the faculty advisor for NABCJ. In January, the Department will have its first career day, which will be co-sponsored by ODU-NABCJ. Over 70 agencies have already been contacted and this event promises to be a success.

Last Spring the Department held its first Research Day. Students from our capstone course as well as graduate students and faculty shared their research. It was a well attended event and people got excited about their own as well as others' projects. We plan to continue this Research Day as a bi-annual event in the Department. Also, please keep an eye out for the ODU home page and Departmental flyers to keep current on current lecture events.

The Department features current published work by faculty (and students) on our bulletin board on the 7th floor. Come by and see what faculty have been working on lately. We also have the board on the first floor full of information on opportunities in the Department.

This Fall, we have instituted a new peer advising system. Dr. Brian Payne is the Chief Departmental Advisor until Spring semester when Dr. Ivan Sun takes charge. Dr. Payne will be on research leave in the
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Faculty Activities

Xiushi Yang continues to work on research funded by the National Institutes of Health. His current project examines the social and behavioural correlates of HIV risk and sexual and drug-use behaviors in southwestern China with a particular focus on the role that increasing migration plays in the spread of the epidemic. The study argues that migration is more than a virus carrier and population mixer; it actually breeds broader social and behavioural changes that render migrants vulnerable to socially deviant and epidemiologically risky behaviours. The population-based survey was recently completed, and data analysis is currently underway. Early results are being presented at professional conferences with two papers forthcoming in *International Migration Review* and *International Journal of STD and AIDS*, respectively. Building upon the findings from the on-going research, Yang is currently working on a new research grant proposal to develop, implement, and evaluate the efficacy of a behavioural intervention program to promote HIV risk reduction behaviors in China. According to Yang, "Until a cure or safe vaccine is found, prevention through behavior change is the best and only cure for AIDS, and positive behavior change is most likely to occur when the causes are understood and addressed through prevention programs."

Try Not to Scream, written and directed by **James Oleson**, premiered October 27th. The movie, made for about \$1,100, tells the story of a drug courier "operation" gone bad. Actors included ODU students and faculty. About 100 movie goers responded to the premier with thundering applause and a standing ovation. In case you missed it, the movie is slated to be shown during ODU's film festival next semester.

Katarina Wegar was invited to speak as part of the Shedding Light on Secrecy and Openness in Adoption Conference held at the University of Richmond this past May. She is also participating in the First Virginia Adoption Colloquium in Richmond later this month.

Aracelli Suzara organized the thought-provoking presentation, "Muslims in the prisons of Britain and France," by James A. Beckford on October 23rd. The event was co-sponsored by the department.

Cynthia Glass won the Sociology and Criminal Justice Adjunct Faculty of the year award. She teaches Social Problems, Introduction to Sociology, and will be teaching Marriage and Family in the Spring. The award goes to an adjunct faculty member with three or more years of teaching at ODU who excels in the classroom. Congratulations! Thanks to all of the adjunct faculty for your hard work!

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(Chair's letter continued)

Spring. Our goal with peer advising is to allow students to ask questions they may not be comfortable discussing with a faculty advisor. Faculty are always available in the department. Our hope is to best serve students in a variety of ways.

Ask your faculty what they are doing in their research and aim to get involved! The department is a thriving one in the College. We aim to offer our students an exciting and challenging academic environment as we balance the needs of our traditional students, evening and weekend majors, teletechnet students, and our students enrolled in our graduate program.

Dr. Carmody continues to serve as our Internship Director although Dr. Ingrid Whitaker will assume this responsibility during Spring semester 2004. Dr. Carmody will also enjoy a semester to devote to her research work. Dr. Randy Gainey continues as our Graduate Program Director. Under his leadership, this program continues to thrive and we have a healthy active graduate program in the Hampton Roads area. Check out our graduate program and think about this as a future option in your work.

Student Activities

ODU-NABCJ Going Strong

Old Dominion University's student chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (ODU-NABCJ) has been extremely busy over the last several months. ODU-NABCJ has four on-going student projects. These include executing the "Community Justice Ideal" community service project, providing an annual community justice lecture, supporting the Union Mission, and facilitating the personal and professional development of student members as well as other ODU students.

To facilitate the personal growth and development of student members, eight students (**Matasha Harris, Kideste Wilder, Misha Lars, Rebecca Boyd, Theresa Politte, Lisa Ramseur, Danita Grant, and Charmine Holloway**) attended the national annual meeting in St. Louis this past July. The students were able to meet and network with criminal justice practitioners from all across the country. As well, the students attended a special reception sponsored for them, provided volunteer assistance to conference staff for logistics, as well as presented workshops. Finally, the students attended evening events, a formal banquet, and toured the lovely city of St. Louis famous for its jazz and exquisite restaurants.

The goals developed by ODU-NABCJ are designed to enhance public safety, promote crime prevention, build committed relationships between ODU and the community, strengthen university student's personal growth and development as well as career and networking opportunities, while also addressing the University's service mission.

Make a difference--join ODU-NABCJ. For additional information, contact Matasha Harris, President (mhar014@odu.edu), Theresa Politte, Vice President (tpolitte@cox.net), Kideste Wilder, Secretary (kwilder@odu.edu), or Stacey Sullivan, Secretary (ssull1005@odu.edu), or check out their website at <http://www.lions.odu.edu/~msumter/goals.htm>.

Dean's List Spring 2003

The following students made the Dean's list this past Spring. Congratulations and keep up the great work!

Leilani Adams	Dena Agnolucci
Kim Akinyanju	Sherifatu Bangura
Domineka Barnard	Kelly Bashford
John Bean	Amanda Blakeslee
Shela Bollenbacher	Ciara Bradberry
David Brandon	Cheryl Brown
Elizabeth Brown	Shannon Carey
Tracy Chapman	Sarah Cohen
Lindsey Cole	Maria Collazo
Matthew Cunningham	Emily Dart
Babajide Delano	Jessica Delarosa
Christina Doerhoff	Ebony Ellis
Sean Ellis	Cindy Eure
David Farmer	Jason Fedish
Frederick Fripps	Tonya Gebelein
Katherine Gilbert	Benjamin Goins
Stephanie Gray	Julie Greene
Amanda Gunn	Christopher Hall
Robin Hammonds	Kimberly Hampton
Julius Hausker	Jason Hehl
Indee Hopewell	Ryan Jefferson
Barbara Jeffries	Shawn Jenkins
Christopher Johnson	Travis Johnson
Jeffrey Jones	Gregory Kallman
Megan Kay	Janie King
Natasha Knight	Cole Kracke
Kimberly Kueny	Jennifer Lacey
Christopher Logan	Stacey Luck
Amy Macia	Aprillfaye Manalang
Homer Martinez	Sarah Masterson
Christopher Matthews	P.Gregory McIntire
Regan Miller	Madeline Molina
Anna Moore	Richard Murphy
Kyle Nance	Kelesha Nevers
Sara Pastian	Kristin Pfeil
Emily Richardson	Elizabeth Rushing
Lesli Saacks-Holyfield	Ariane Segarra
Chesare Settle	Jessica Shafer
Jennifer Shaffer	Kathryn Shelton
Kamechia Sims	Jason Smith
Aaron Smithers	Amanda Spencer
Stephen Tignor	Georgina Tims
Gregory Trach	Rebecca Turner
Stephen Warren	Marissa Wilson
Ann Winfield	Passion Woodley
Rebecca Wynne	Collin Wynter

Help Wanted: A Word on Internships by Dianne Cyr Carmody, Ph.D.

Internship (Soc/CRJS 368) is a variable credit, pass/fail course that is available to Sociology and Criminal Justice majors during their junior or senior years. A maximum of 6 internship credits may be applied toward a student's upper-level major requirements. The number of credits earned is linked to the number of hours worked in the field (50 hours worked per credit earned). You may register for internship during the Fall and Spring Semesters, as well as during Summer Session. Internship students are required to submit a resume, contract, timesheet, journal, and research paper to the internship director. Currently, I am serving as the internship director until I have my research leave in the Spring. If you have any questions about internships, e-mail me at dcarmody@odu.edu.

I will host two "Internship Information Sessions" for students who would like more information. The sessions will be:

Thursday, November 6 12:30 – 1:15 BAL 105
Thursday, November 13 12:30 - 1:15 BAL 105

Students usually report valuable internship experiences. Here are some comments from recent interns:

"I do believe it is a positive experience. It allows one to work in their field of study and earn college credits at the same time. Mine did relate to my criminal law classes, and the research paper that I did helped me learn more about the criminal justice process." --**T. Kubicz**

"I did a 300-hour (6 credit) internship at the Virginia Beach Circuit Court as a deputy clerk. I was more than pleased with the experience and highly recommend this position to anyone who is interested in working with the court systems. Because the courthouse staff really needed the help from volunteers, I wasn't stuck doing paperwork every day; rather, I was in the courtroom getting not only to see and learn but also to actively participate in the courtroom process." --**L. Cole**

"I very much enjoyed my internship at the Law Office this fall. It was a very positive real world experience. I was even able to be paid for my internship through my available work study." --**E. Mead**

"My internship at the Office of the State's Attorney's was wonderful. I was able to apply what I had learned from my criminal justice classes to related situations at the State's Attorney's Office. In addition, the unit is now assisting me in finding a position with the government...I was able to network, which could assist me in the near future." --**T. Cooper**

Student Activities Continued

Jason Holbrook is the department's new peer advisor. He is here to help students organize their schedules and assist them in navigating the Sociology or Criminal Justice major or minor. He is in BAL 806. His schedule is: MWF 10:00-12:00, MW 2:00-4:00, TR 3:00-5:30. Stop by and see him!

As part of the department's first research day, **Stephen Tignor** and **Mark Pollard** presented the results of their independent study, "Forensic Science: Crime Investigation Tools," to a group of students and faculty on April 24th. Following their presentation, students from the Capstone course presented poster sessions of projects they conducted this past Spring.

The department is sponsoring a **tattoo contest**. Which faculty member has a tattoo? (A) Triplett, (B) Gainey, (C) Polonko, (D) White, (E) Monk-Turner, (F) Oleson, (G) at least two of the above. To enter the contest, send an e-mail to bpayne@odu.edu with your answer. All who get it correct will receive a department brochure and curriculum sheet. A drawing of entries will be held and the winner will receive an autographed director's cut (DVD) of *Try Not To Scream* (see page 1).

Announcements

- **Research Day** will be held December 4th from 7:00-10:00 p.m. in the Newport News Room in the Webb Center. Do students understand honor codes? What do students think about security cameras? Why do people cheat on one another in romantic relationships? What factors predict safe sex practices? Should crack be legalized? These, and other questions, are addressed in student poster sessions. The event will begin with a presentation by **Dr. Jeffrey Harlowe**, Director of ODU's Social Science Research Center.
- **Registration** for Spring semester begins November 17th. Please see your advisor to have your advising block removed. Appointment sheets will be posted on your advisor's office door. Make sure you bring a tentative schedule and a copy of your unofficial transcript to your advising session.
- The **Susan Kent Student Paper Award** will be awarded next semester for the Sociology and Criminal Justice paper that demonstrates the highest level of excellence. Preference will be given to papers focusing on some aspect of diversity. A monetary award will be included.
- **Sociology and Criminal Justice Career Day**, co-sponsored by NABCJ and the department, will be held January 28th, 10:30-2:00 in the Webb Center.
- **Preparing for Graduate School**, a presentation by **Dr. Randy Gainey** and sponsored by ODU-NABCJ and In Support of Children, will be held November 12th in 208 Spong at 4:30.

Faculty Spotlight: Katarina Wegar, Ph.D.

When writing a biographical account, it is difficult to resist creating logic and intention when there in fact was much chaos and hesitation. And yet diversions and wrong turns are generally more interesting than the straight path to a valued end point. So I could write about the time I spent in a remote Norwegian town by the Ice Sea, north of the Polar Circle, my stint at the assembly line of a Hungarian champagne factory, or the three months I more recently spent in the Republic of Korea. But I am taking the safe, and brief, way out:

Growing up in a small coastal town in Southern Finland, I could not imagine that I would end up living and working in the United States. Throughout high school I worked in a variety of jobs, most of them at the local hospital. My most lucrative job was working nights taking deceased patients down to the hospital morgue, but I also held many day jobs which allowed me to observe social relations in the hospital. This experience undoubtedly sparked my future interest in medical sociology.

Since Swedish is my first language I decided to enter Abo Akademi University, a cultural center of sorts for Finland's Swedish speaking population. I initially entertained some vague ideas about becoming a journalist, but did not particularly enjoy the classes required. The possibility of a future in academia never entered my mind. At the time, the political sciences faculty did not appear particularly receptive to women in research, and I was told that the head of the department had expressed views along the lines that "while women make great research assistants, they do not possess the independent intellectual capability that is required in science." I had already decided to move from political science to sociology when the university appointed its second female professor – to head the department of sociology. New opportunities for research experience opened up, and perhaps even more importantly, for the first time it occurred to me that being a professor was something one actually could do for a living. Dr. Riska had received her Ph.D. in the United States, and with her encouragement I applied for and won a national scholarship that paid for graduate studies abroad.

I arrived in the United States in 1988 to enter the Ph.D. program in sociology at Brandeis University in a suburb Boston. I chose Brandeis primarily because of two professors whose work in medical sociology I admired, Drs. Zola and Conrad. This was my first trip to the United States, and for the first half year, I was determined to make it brief and to make it my last. Eventually things changed. I became more fluent in English, got a social life, and became more engrossed in

my studies (and, moved out of the roach infested student housing, which definitely improved my outlook).

As a student I published work about the division of labor in medicine and the role of sociology in medical education. I decided, however, to write my dissertation about the on-going controversy about the rights of persons who were adopted to see their original birth certificates. The adoption field was at the time almost completely dominated by psychologists (it still is, to some extent), and I saw much need for a sociological, more contextual perspective on adoption.

After receiving my Ph.D. from Brandeis in 1993, I spent three years teaching in a small private college in Colorado. I arrived at ODU in 1996. It was a very different environment with a considerably more diverse student population. For me, this has made teaching a much more interesting experience.

New Addition to Department

Calisa C. Farmer was recently hired as the department's office services assistant. She comes with a number of years experience, including several years at Norfolk State University. We are thankful to her for her work and appreciate the time that L'Tany King spent recruiting for this position. Together, Ms. King and Ms. Farmer have made the business office department flow smoothly and efficiently over the last several months. We would not be able to do what we do without them. Be sure to thank them for the help they provide you!

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

I trust your semester is flowing along well. In a few weeks, we will begin planning our next semester. Several different courses are available for sociology and criminal justice majors and minors. The diversity in our course offerings is something that visiting faculty always applaud. With this diversity, however, comes great interest from students. So please make sure that you register at the earliest possible time. The early bird gets the worm, or in this case the best schedule. Waiting will only serve to increase headaches.

Also, feel free to stop by to see me this semester if I can clarify anything about your requirements. Realize that we are here to serve you. Take advantage of what we have to offer—our advice, our internship program, our student groups, and our peer advising program. Your satisfaction is our goal.