

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 a productive one in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Dr. James Oleson will be on leave next year. See the story under faculty activities for more detail. Also, the Department is instituting a new track in its criminal justice undergraduate major. Students may now have a concentration in the major titled law and society. Look for details of this opportunity on our Web pages.

Congratulations to Dr. Ivan Sun for assuming the responsibility of Chief Departmental Advisor. Dr. Sun began this work during the Fall. Please book appointments with Dr. Sun via Ms. L'Tanya King (3795 or lking@odu.edu).

The Department hosted a very successful "Career Day" in January. The event was organized by Drs. Sumter and Payne and brought over 25 agencies to the University. Both employers and students were very positive about career day. Look for Career Day again in January 2005.

The Department will hold its bi-annual Research Day on April 20 in the Hampton/Newport News Room of Webb from 12:30 to 3:30. Capstone students and others will present their findings to interested students and faculty. This has been an exciting event in the department. Students realize that the research process can be adventurous indeed.

Melvina Sumter remains active as the faculty advisor for NABCJ. Dr. Sun is active as the faculty advisor for the ODU chapter of the National Criminal Justice Association. The objectives of this organization are to increase awareness of the criminal justice community and to improve the understanding of the field of criminal justice through educational activities. Drs. Polonko and Lombardo continue their work with In Support of Children. They sponsored a second lecture event this past Fall which explored cultural differences in child discipline. Dr. Randy Gainey continues as our Graduate Program Director. Talk to Dr. Gainey about graduate opportunities in the department. Remember that the department offers the MA in Sociology with tracks in basic Sociology, or Women's Studies, as well as our most popular Criminal Justice concentration.

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. Many faculty are active publishing papers in academic journals with undergraduate and graduate students. Talk to faculty about your research interests and explore what opportunities exist.

Dr. Carmody continues to serve as our Internship Director although Dr. Ingrid Whitaker assumed this responsibility for Spring semester 2004. Drs. Carmody and Payne are enjoying a semester devoted to their research. We look forward to their return!

Faculty Activities

James C. Oleson received one of four 2004-05 fellowships with the Supreme Court of the United States. The fellowship, which begins this fall, is a one-year appointment with the Administrative Office for the U.S. Courts in the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building in Washington, D.C. Fellows have participated in events with individual justices, members of Congress, law professors, leading attorneys and executive branch officials, including the attorney general, the solicitor general and the director of the FBI. Oleson applied for the fellowship out of an interest in the federalization of crime and punishment. "The expanding role of the federal courts in adjudicating criminal matters and the structured sentencing under federal guidelines presents society and the federal courts with a number of socio-legal challenges," he said, adding, "I was eager to gain a closer view of crime and punishment in the federal courts."

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

Karen Polonko moderated the presentation "Preventing Child Abuse: Multicultural Perspectives," featuring clinical psychologist Christine M. Chao, a nationally recognized author on Asian children and families. Held on December 3rd this past semester, the presentation addressed cross-cultural strategies for reducing the amount of child maltreatment occurring throughout the world.

It's easy to confuse them with Brad Pitt, with all of their press coverage and all. **Lucien Lombardo, Donald H. Smith, and James C. Oleson** spent much of the fall semester fielding questions about the sniper trials. Combined, they made more than 50 television appearances on news programs in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., as well as many live and recorded radio appearances in the D.C. area. The professors were also quoted in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, New York Newsday, Seattle Times and Washington Times, as well as in stories distributed by the Associated Press.

Mona Danner was the recipient of the University Women's Caucus Award for her "significant contributions to improving the situation of women at Old Dominion." She was presented the award by the Women's Caucus president, **Ruth Triplett**, at a luncheon held on January 29th in the Webb Center.

Kideste Wilder and **Matasha Harris**, two adjunct faculty and graduates of our undergraduate and graduate programs, were accepted into the PhD program at John Jay College. Congratulations!

Student Activities

Sociology and Criminal Justice Research Day Held December 4th in Webb Center

About seventy students and faculty members attended the Sociology and Criminal Justice Research Day in the Newport News room in the Webb Center, December 4th. The event featured eleven poster sessions that described research conducted by Sociology and Criminal Justice students over the fall semester.

This is the second research day hosted by the department. The department's first research day was held this past April. "Last semester, we realized that students had much to gain by opening their research projects up to the community," said Elizabeth Monk-Turner, chair of the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department.

Among the different poster sessions was a study that examined how Old Dominion University students felt about installing security cameras at ODU. Results of the project--conducted by **Leslie Martin**, **Theresa Ritter**, and **Erin Panzano**—suggest that students opposed strict security measures. "They don't want security cameras because they think it's an invasion," Martin speculated.

In another study, **Michelle Herbert**, **Kariva Cross**, and **Erin McClellan** studied whether individuals with white and black sounding names would receive different estimates for cars they inquired about over the Internet. The students submitted inquiries about car prices using names such as Justin, Kristin, Ebony, and Tyrone.

They found that names generally given to white males received the lowest estimates on average. Conversely, those with names usually associated with black females received the most expensive estimates for high end cars. Herbert warned that their findings should be interpreted cautiously because they are based on just fifty-six inquiries.

Students conducted their research in groups, which were supervised by faculty members. "This gives students the opportunity to learn about group work and about research," said Garland White, associate professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice. White has been supervising these projects for several years. He supervised eight of the research projects featured at Research Day.

Department faculty also recognized that the event symbolizes a transition in students' lives. "You are now social scientists. Use your tools wisely," Brian Payne, chief department advisor of the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department, told the students to begin the event.

To mark this transition, Monk-Turner noted that the department's research day will become a semester event in upcoming semesters.

Sociology and Criminal Justice Career Fair

On Wednesday, January 29th, about two dozen criminal justice and social services agencies were at Old Dominion University to discuss careers and internship opportunities with students as part of the inaugural Sociology and Criminal Justice Career Day. The event was sponsored by the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department and Old Dominion University's student chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (ODU-NABCJ).

"Ultimately, our success is determined by whether our students are able to find jobs after they graduate. We will do whatever we can to help them to do just this" said Elizabeth Monk-Turner, chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

The event was organized by faculty advisors and ODU-NABCJ.

"Our students have worked hard in organizing this event and I think their hard work ethic will be apparent to employers," said Melvina Sumter, faculty advisor of ODU-NABCJ.

Agencies that attended included local, state and federal criminal justice agencies such as the Hampton Sheriff's Department, the Norfolk Sheriff's Department, the Portsmouth Commonwealth Attorney's Victim-Witness Program, the Newport News Police Department, the Virginia State Police as well as social service agencies including Norfolk's Department of Human Services, the Urban League, and a number of treatment programs.

"We worked with the Career Management Center to make sure that our initial effort in this area is as successful as possible," Sumter said.

Besides helping students find possible internships and jobs, the career fair also helps showcase Old Dominion University. "This is certainly an opportunity to show these different employers the high caliber of students and future professionals that Old Dominion University has to offer," said Chandra DeSilva, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

Other News:

Jason Holbrook is the department's 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. Stop by and see him!

Sociology major **Aprilfaye Manalang** was accepted into the University of Chicago's graduate program in Sociology. As you likely recall from your theory courses, the University of Chicago has a rich history in breaking new theoretical ground. It is one of the premier sociology programs in the nation. Congratulations April!

How Well Do You Know the Faculty: Fact or Fiction

Below are a number of statements about Sociology and Criminal Justice faculty. Read each statement and decide if the statement is a fact or a piece of fiction. Answers appear to the right.

1. Dr. Oleson is related to the Oleson twins--Mary Kate and Ashley.
2. Dr. Payne met his wife at a Star Trek convention in Reno.
3. Dr. Gainey used to work with members of the band Queensryche.
4. Dr. Sumter worked in corrections before finishing her PhD at the University of Iowa.
5. Dr. Polonko was the first ODU professor to ever win the Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.
6. Dr. White has a tattoo that says crime on his right shoulder.
7. Dr. Triplett used to manage a tavern on Bourbon Street in New Orleans before deciding to go to graduate school.
8. Dr. Wegar worked in a morgue when she was a graduate student.
9. Dr. Time and Dr. Payne got their PhDs at the same university.
10. Reviewing Dr. Taylor-Greene's edited book on Amazon, one reviewer writes, "To understand crime fully, the perspectives advanced by these scholars must become an integral part of discussions about who is a criminal and which public policies will best control crime."
11. Some students tend to confuse Dr. White and Dr. Smith with one another.
12. Dr. Danner used to work as a forklift driver before going to graduate school.
13. Prior to coming to ODU, Dr. Carmody worked on the New York Stock Exchange.
14. Dr. Whitaker recently published a book titled *Child Social Well Being in the United States*.
15. For the last several years, Dr. Yang has brought in more research money than any other faculty member in the College of Arts and Letters.
16. Prior to finding his calling in life, Dr. Bouvier played jazz music in strip clubs.
17. Dr. Suzara serves as the director of the Filipino-American Student Cultural Center.
18. Dr. Monk-Turner once wrestled an alligator while on vacation in the Everglades.
19. Some of the faculty try to get the word "cool" in all of their publications.

Answers:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. Fiction | 2. Fiction | 3. Fact |
| 4. Fiction | 5. Fact | 6. Fiction |
| 7. Fiction | 8. Fact | 9. Fact |
| 10. Fact | 11. Fact | 12. Fact |
| 13. Fiction | 14. Fact | 15. Fact |
| 16. Fact | 17. Fact | 18. Fiction |
| 19. Fact | | |

Announcements

- **Research Day** will be held April 20th 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! The **Susan Kent Student Paper Award** will be awarded at the event. To enter a paper in this contest, send a paper you wrote about women or culture to Dr. Monk-Turner (eturner@odu.edu) by April 10th. A monetary award will be given to the winning paper(s).
- **Center of Family Violence Education and Research Student Paper Award**-- Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to submit projects (including research papers, essays, literary pieces, poems, etc.) they wrote as part of their requirements for a course taken at ODU between Fall 2002 and Fall 2003. The projects must focus on some type of violence, preferably a type of family violence. The student's name should appear on the title page only. Contact information and information about the course should be included on the title page as well. One graduate student and one undergraduate student project will be selected as the winner of the award and the winning students will receive a monetary award. In addition, papers will also be selected to receive honorable mentions. Students will be presented the awards during a candlelight vigil held as part of National Victim's Rights Week on April 19th. During the vigil, students will be given the opportunity to read a portion of their paper. Papers should be sent electronically to Brian K. Payne (bpayne@odu.edu) by 5:00 p.m. April 10th.
- **Two internship positions** for Fall 2004 and Spring 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. Sun (isun@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.
- Watch for **James Oleson's** movie, *Try Not to Scream*, which will be showcased in this year's (7th) annual ODU film festival. It will play at 3:00 on Friday, March 26th, in MGB 102. Reviews from last semester's debut gave the movie five stars and two thumbs up.

Faculty Spotlight: Victoria Time, PhD, JD, LLM

Thanks to Judge Victoria I became a lawyer; and well thanks also to my parents for what I inadvertently became-- a teacher. Judge Victoria who became our neighbor when I was five years old always looked imposing in her black robe and grey wig. Even though I had no adequate understanding of what her job entailed, I told my parents I would be like her someday. She is still alive today and proud of me even though I took somewhat of a different path in life – never became a judge.

My father in all his working life was an educator, and my mother at some point was also an educator. The emphasis on education in our household cannot be amply stated. I studied in both the French and English systems, and my first and second law degrees from the University of Cameroon, as well as my interest in the English classics, reflect this heritage. I had wanted to study International Relations at the University of Pittsburgh (my father's alma mater), instead I wound up at The George Washington University Law School– I don't regret that. Just being a lawyer was not very fulfilling to me. I very much enjoyed the distinguished title of "Dr." Consequently, I went on to get a masters degree from American University in Justice, Law, and Society, and then went on to IUP for the doctorate in Criminology.

I always had a penchant for a job with the United Nations as an advocate for displaced persons worldwide. I had to pass on the only opportunity I had to possibly fulfill my heart's desire because I was still in school. Those missed opportunities as I now know seldom come around twice. I have since learned to heed Shakespeare's counsel in Brutus' speech:

There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries
On such a full sea [I am] now afloat;
And [I] must take the current when it serves,
Or lose [my] ventures (Julius Caesar, Act IV, Scene III).

It is almost seven years since I started teaching at ODU, and I am making the most of my stay here. What next? I don't know. And so it goes....

Recent Faculty Publications

Monk-Turner, E. and C. Turner. "The Gender Wage Gap in South Korea." *Journal of Asian Economics*.

Monk-Turner, E. and C. Turner. "Sex Differences in Earnings in the South Korean Labor Market." In *Progress in Economics Research*.

Monk-Turner, E., V. Blake, F. Chniel, S. Forbes, L. Lensey, and J. Madzuma. "Helping Hands: A Study of Altruistic Behavior." *Gender Issues*.

Monk-Turner, E., P. Ciba, M. Cunningham, P. Gregory McIntire, M. Pollard and R. Turner. "A Content Analysis of Violence in American War Movies." *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*.

White, G.F. "Home Ownership: Crime and the Tipping and Trapping Processes." *Environment and Behavior*.

Yang, X. "Are Temporary Migrants Escapees of the One-Child-Per-Family Population Policy." *Social Biology*.

Monk-Turner, E. "The Benefits of Meditation: Experimental Findings." *Social Science Journal*.

C. Turner and **E. Monk-Turner.** "The Return to Education and Degrees." *Educational Research Quarterly*.

Oleson, J.C. "The Worst of All: A Study of Criminal Behavior in Genius-level IQ Populations." *Caribbean Journal of Criminology and Social Psychology*.

Oleson, J.C. "You Make Me [Sic]: Confessions of a Sadistic Law Review Editor." *U.C. Davis Law R*

Oleson, J.C. "Sipping Coffee with a Serial Killer: On Conducting Life History Interviews with a Criminal Genius." *The Qualitative*

Taylor Greene, H. "Do African American Police Make a Difference?" Chapter 11 in *Racial Issues in Criminal Justice*.

Taylor Greene, H. "Women in Policing." in *With for All: Minorities and Women in Criminal Justice*.

Taylor Greene, H. and S.L. Gabbidon. "African-America Scholarship in Criminological Research Published in the 1990s: A Co Education.

Payne, B.K. and B.L. Berg. "Perceptions about the Criminalization of Elder Abuse." *Crime and Delinquency*.

Payne, B.K. and **R.R. Gainey.** "Ancillary Cons Employee Theft." *Journal of Criminal Justice*.

Payne, B.K. "Justifications for Punishing Crimes the Elderly." *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*.

Jarjoura, R. and **R. Triplett.** "From Violent Juvenile Offenders to Dangerous Violent Criminals: A Test of Athens' Theory." *Sociology of Crime, Law and Deviance*.

Triplett, R., R. Gainey, and I. Sun. "Institutional Strength, Social Control and Crime Rates." *Theoretical Criminology*.

Sun, I., R. Triplett, and R.R. Gainey. "Neighborhoods and Crime: A Test of Sampson and Groves' Model of Social Disorganization." *Western Criminology Review*.

Payne, B.K., R. R. Gainey, R. Triplett, and M. Danner. "Justifications for the Probation Sanction among Residents of Virginia: Cool or Un-Cool?" *Federal Probation*.

Triplett, R., D. Carmody, and P. Plass. "Gender and Delinquency: Females Doing Crime." in *Controversies in Juvenile Justice and Delinquency*.

Payne, B.K., R.R. Gainey, R. Triplett, and M. Danner. "What Drives Beliefs?" *Journal of Criminal Justice*.

Payne, B.K. "Punishing Abusers." *Offender Rehabilitation*.

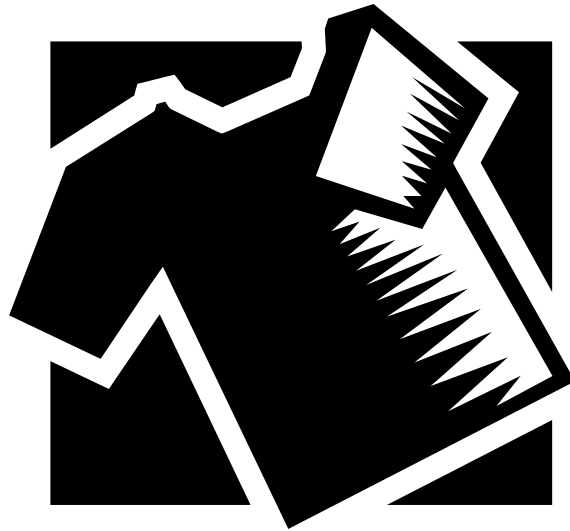
Triplett, R. and **B Payne.** "Problem Solving as Reinforcement." *Journal of Criminal Justice*.

Sun, I., R. Triplett, and R.R. Gainey. "Social Disorganization, Legitimacy of Local Institutions and Neighborhood Crime." *Journal of Crime and Justice*.

Engen, R., **R.R. Gainey,** et al. "Discretion and Disparity Under Sentencing Guidelines." *Criminology*.

Time, V. and **B.K. Payne.** "Accomplices and Liability." *Journal of the American Criminal Justice Association*.

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For Additional Information Contact:

Matasha Harris	mlharris@odu.edu
Kideste Wilder	kwilder@odu.edu
Misha Lars	mlars003@odu.edu
Gia Dyke	gia2583@cswebmail.com
Misty Waytes	mwayt001@odu.edu
Shawn Jenkins	sjenk005@odu.edu

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National Crime Victim's Rights Week

April 18th-24th

Monday, 4/19

“Victims’ Issues: Voices from Victims” Candlelight Vigil
6 pm, Kaufman Mall

Tuesday, 4/20 – A Day to End Sexual Violence

“Sex and Violence”
12:30 pm, Chesapeake/Portsmouth Room – Webb Center
Presented by Dr. Tammy Hatfield, Counseling Services

“Developing Approaches to Help End Sexual Violence Against Women”
3 pm, Counseling Services Conference Room
Presented by Dr. Anthony Bradford, Men’s Center

“Danger! It’s Not the Stranger in the Bushes”
7pm, Hampton/Newport News Room – Webb Center
Presented by Becki Fogerty, Women’s Center, and
Kim Birdwell, Response Sexual Assault Crisis Services

Wednesday, 4/21

“Victims’ Issues: Voices from ODU Faculty”
2 – 3:30 pm, Constant 1002
Presented by Dr. Dianne Carmody, Dr. Lou Lombardo,
Dr. Johnathon Appel, Dr. Stacy Plichta, Dr. Karen Polonko
Moderated by Dr. Thomas Socha

“Victims’ Issues: Voices from the Field of Justice”
7 pm, Hampton/Newport News Room
Presented by Lt. Ray Greenwood, Sgt. Steven Duke, and
Wyndy Woods
Opening remarks by Portsmouth Commonwealth’s Attorney Earle C. Mobley

Thursday, 4/22

“Victims' Issues: Voices from Direct Services”
6 – 8 pm, MGB 101
Presented by Mandy Busse-Gesme *The Dwelling Place*,
Linda Douglas *Women in Crisis of the YWCA*, Winter
Freeman *The H.E.R. Shelter*, Grace Orsini *Samaritan House*

Sponsored by the ODU Women's Center and the
Center for Family Violence Education & Research

FMI: 683-4109