ASC Takes a Faculty Member to Vienna, Austria

Last year, I was asked to be one of the representatives of the American Society of Criminology at the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria. As a representative, it was my job to observe and report about the UN’s activities at this commission to the ASC and promote an awareness of global issues among American criminologists. It was a wonderful opportunity to see how diplomacy and criminal justice interact at the highest levels of global governance.

The experience was very illuminating in both good and bad ways. On one hand watching the slow gears of diplomacy turn as representatives from different countries quibbled about the precise wording of the commission’s resolutions was at times exhausting and aggravating. Ten minute debates about the inclusion of a specific word in a resolution, followed by a half hour of closed (secret) negotiations between diplomatic representatives was a lot to endure when suffering jet lag. Watching hours of negotiations go up in flames when, at the last minute, one powerful country insisted that the wording of a resolution be changed in a way that nobody else found acceptable was exasperating. Diplomacy has a reputation for being slow and frustrating and all of this was on full display in Vienna.

On the other hand the diplomatic maneuvers in Vienna were so complex and involved because these resolutions are important. Many countries turn to these documents as guides for how to fix their prisons, handle suspected criminals, and address global crime problems like cybercrime, terrorism, and environmental crime. The work in Vienna trickles down to Lahore, Cape Town, Paris, and Beijing, and ultimately to police precincts, jails, and courthouses around the world. While from the outside the diplomatic pace is frustrating, the important consequences of their work mean that these arguments about minutiae is a necessity. These people are involved in serious work, even if it might at times seem like you’re watching paint dry. I had the opportunity to talk with some of the diplomats off of the UN campus and got a few peeks at “back room negotiations” that the NGOs weren't privy to and understood that much of the action goes on “behind the scenes.”

Finally, the commitment and passion of the NGO community in Vienna was inspiring. I had the opportunity to attend meetings with organizations from around the world that were trying to draw attention to the rights of prisoners, the plight of the victims of crimes, and the concerns of human trafficking victims. Dealing with governments and diplomats can be a very frustrating process and these activists are diligent and passionate about reforming the world’s criminal justice systems. It was an honor to meet them and learn from their experiences.

My commitment to the ASC’s work in the UN will last for several more years and I look forward to learning more about how global criminal justice policies are developed. I will also be attending the UN Crime Congress in Salvador, Brazil this year where I will be doing similar observations and leading a panel on police relations with Muslim citizens in Western democracies.

Dr. Aaron Fichtelberg

Faculty Member Investigates Response to Haiti Earthquake

When a 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti on Jan. 12, millions of people were impacted. Hundreds of thousands of people died or were severely injured, and there was widespread and severe damage to property and infrastructure.

Within two weeks, researchers from the University of Delaware’s Disaster Research Center (DRC) traveled to Florida and the Dominican Republic to begin to understand the immense humanitarian operation underway to assist the devastated nation.

Tricia Wachtendorf, assistant professor of sociology who is co-principal investigator on this NSF study with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), explained that the destruction of or damage to critical infrastructure—such as airports, ports, roads, hospitals, and potential warehouse space—made the relief effort particularly challenging. Early efforts needed to simultaneously
Minority Mentor Lecture Series

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice hosted their 2nd annual Minority Mentor Lecture Series on October 8, 2009, entitled “Beyond Redistribution: The Deliberative Dynamics of Racial Justice in Criminal Social Control” by Dr. Geoff Ward. The purpose of the series is to address the disproportionate representation of minority scholars in the fields of Sociology, Criminology and Criminal Justice. The two-day event includes a guest lecture, reception, mentoring for minority students and a professional development workshop for all graduate students. Our past guest lecturer, Dr. Geoff Ward, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California, Irvine. His current research focuses on the racialization of criminal social control, with particular interest in the idea and practice of racial justice.

End of Semester/Grad Student vs. Faculty Competition!

The Sociology and Criminal Justice Faculty and Graduate Students enjoyed a friendly game of kick ball at the end of the spring semester. Some graduate students were dressed for serious competition but, overall, everyone had a great time and there were few serious injuries! After the game, everyone enjoyed pizza and drinks. Pictured are graduate students John Brent in front, Kevin Ralston, Emily Bonistall and Margaret Mahoney in serious eyewear, and Kathleen Kelley.

Undergraduate News

Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society Banquet

2010 AKD Inductees

The Sociology and Criminal Justice AKD Honor Society Banquet was held on Monday, May 3, 2010 in Trabant Student Center, Multipurpose room “C”.

Awards were given to:
- Heather Zaykowski – Frank R. Scarpitti Award
- Corey Forster and Mary Maston – Len Perfetti – Criminal Justice Award
- Krista Noelle and Brittany Scott – Benjamin McLuckie – Sociology Award
Study Abroad – Winter 2010

In 2010, 93 students studied abroad to take part in four courses taught by department faculty members, including:

• Sociology of Health Care taught by Dr. M. David Ermann in London;

• Alcohol, Drugs, and Crime taught by Dr. Tammy Anderson in London;

• Social Problems in Ghana taught by Dr. Lana Harrison in Ghana, Africa; and

• History of Crime and Criminal Justice taught by Dr. Joel Best in London.

Thank you to our 2009–2010 contributors
We really appreciate your support!

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Mrs. Cynthia Wright
In Memoriam

James A. Inciardi, Co-Director of the Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies at the University of Delaware and Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice died on Monday, November 23rd after a prolonged and courageous battle with multiple myeloma. Jim was born in Brooklyn on November 28, 1939 and spent his youth and young adulthood in New York City and its Boroughs. He graduated from Fordham University and had an early and varied career as a jazz drummer and parole officer for the City of New York. In the late 1960s he went to work for Carl Chambers at the New York State Narcotic Addiction Control Commission and entered graduate school at New York University.

When he completed his Ph.D. in 1973 from NYU, Jim had already relocated to the University of Miami continuing to work with Chambers in the Division of Addiction Sciences in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Miami. He relocated to the University of Delaware in 1976, and UD became his academic home for the remainder of his career, though he maintained a professional connection with the University of Miami as well.

Beginning in 1976 Jim had a remarkable unbroken record of funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) including 21 awards for which he was Principal Investigator. His studies began with the criminal involvement of drug abusers and the ethnography of street addiction in various subpopulations, and later moved to studies of drug abuse treatment for criminal offenders. With the arrival of AIDS and its disproportionate concentration among drug using populations, his research focus shifted to the epidemiology of HIV infection and transmission, and later to the development and evaluation of effective HIV prevention and treatment programs for both street and criminal justice populations. His work led to the creation of the KEY/CREST Therapeutic Community continuum of treatment for drug-involved offenders in Delaware, which became a national and international model for criminal justice treatment. His later work on HIV interventions with high-risk populations led to programs that have been instituted in probation and community settings in the U.S., Brazil, and the Virgin Islands. His work was recognized by awards from the American Society of Criminology, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the Drug and Alcohol Section of the American Sociological Association.

In 1991, Jim founded the Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies (CDAS) at the University of Delaware within the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice in the College of Arts and Sciences. The mission he established for CDAS is the production, dissemination, and utilization of scientific knowledge in preventing and treating substance abuse and other health risk behaviors among hard-to-reach populations of youths and adults. Over the years the Center has grown in both size and in the scope of its studies. It now has major administrative research offices in Newark, DE and Coral Gables, FL and satellite research offices in Wilmington, DE, Miami, FL and Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Jim was a “translational scientist” long before the term came into vogue. He was always involved in moving ideas into tested strategies and then disseminating the knowledge and practices for use in real-world settings. He also knew how to motivate research teams, mentor young scholars and share credit for accomplishments.

Jim is survived by his wife and collaborator, Hillary Surratt, by his three children, Craig, Brook, and Kirstin, and four grandchildren. A scholarship fund in Jim’s name has been established at the University of Delaware to support outstanding graduate students in the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Tax deductible contributions in Jim’s memory can be made to the James A. Inciardi Memorial Award Fund, Office of Annual Giving, University of Delaware, 011 Hullihen Hall, Newark, DE 19716, or to www.udel.edu/makeagift, and then selecting “other designations” and writing in the department’s specific purpose.

Stephen Smisson of Dover, a University of Delaware senior sociology major who would have graduated this spring, died Monday, March 29, at Kent General Hospital in Dover. He was 23.

Renee Fisher, who served as Mr. Smisson’s academic adviser while he was in the Associate in Arts program, said he was a hard-working and conscientious student. “He was very much looking forward to relocating and continuing his studies on UD’s main campus. I’m glad that I had the opportunity to know him and help guide him academically. He will be missed.”

Joanne Nigg, professor of sociology and Mr. Smisson’s adviser, said, “Stephen was a quiet, serious, respectful young man who never mentioned his medical condition as a reason for not participating as fully as possible in all aspects of his classes.... We met on several occasions to plan out his future course work and to discuss career possibilities.”

Mr. Smisson is survived by his parents, Charlie and Carol Smisson of Dover; a brother, Burton T. Smisson, of Raleigh, N.C., and a sister, Cassandra P. Smisson, of Houston, Texas.

Contributions in Mr. Smisson’s memory may be made to the American Society of Hematology, 2021 L St., NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036 or the Make a Wish Foundation, P.O. Box 749596, Los Angeles, CA 90074-9596.
Two Graduate Students Obtain Dissertation Fellowships

Two of our Ph.D. students have obtained dissertation fellowships from external funding agencies this year. Philip Kavanaugh, who is working under the direction of Dr. Tammy Anderson, received a dissertation fellowship from the National Institute of Justice for his research on victimization in Rave and Hip Hop clubs in Philadelphia. Bethany Brown, who is working under the direction of Dr. Tricia Wachtendorf, received a dissertation fellowship from the Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) and the Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado–Boulder. These competitive fellowships are awarded to doctoral students to support work on dissertations examining natural and human-made hazards, risk, and disasters. Bethany’s research examines the differential recovery of domestic violence shelters in Louisiana after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Three Graduate Students Receive Travel Grants to Conduct International Research

In 2009, Decanna Button, Gabriela Wasileski and Jenniffer Santos-Hernandez were awarded International Travel Grants from the Office of Graduate and Professional Education.

Decanna traveled to multiple cities in China to collect data for a research project that will compare and contrast Chinese and American students’ perceptions of domestic violence to further conceptualize the meaning of intimate partner violence across cultures. She traveled to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Macau collected data from Chinese students at Beijing Normal University (BNU) and City University of Hong Kong (CUHK). In addition to BNU and CUHK, Decanna was also able to visit five other universities and meet several notable international scholars.

Gabriela traveled to Greece to collect data for her comparative research examining the differential impact that regularization policies have for male and female immigrants in the U.S. and Greece. While in Greece, Gabriela interviewed many representatives from both governmental and non-governmental agencies as well immigration lawyers who provide services to undocumented immigrants.

Jenniffer conducted field work in the Dominican Republic after the earthquake in Haiti. Her research focused on how organizations responded to the needs of Haitians, particularly those who crossed the border through Malpasse, one of the main crossing points between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

2008–2009 Ph.D. Graduates
Nicholas Bakken
Nicole Bracy
Bethany Brown
Sidney Jacobs
Kristen Maiden
Raymond Maratea
D. Chanele Moore
Yuning (Bonnie) Wu

2008–2009 M.A. Graduates
Kevin Daly
Megan Denver
Terry Lilley
Brian Pitt
Philisa Weidlein

2009–2010 Ph.D. Graduates
Stephanie Albertson
Victor Argothy
Carole Evans
Whitney Gunter
Philip Kavanaugh
Manuel Torres

2009–2010 M.A. Graduates
Nicole Gonzalez
Brian Newby
Kevin Ralston
Erin Walder

New Book Releases by Faculty
Carole Marks, “Moses and the Monster and Miss Anne,” University of Illinois Press.
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