Dr. Lisa Briggs Receives Coveted UNC Teaching Award

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice embraces the concept of “engaged learning,” epitomized in the teaching style of Dr. Lisa Briggs. Her excellence in teaching was formally recognized by presentation of the UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching at spring commencement. She was one of 17 system-wide recipients following thorough committee review and observation of her teaching.

Dr. Briggs is a beloved faculty member to many students at WCU. In the words of Regina Cline, a spring 2012 graduate, “She is like a mother to me. She has supported me in all of my endeavors, and she has created and provided countless opportunities for me to grow as an...

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Dr. Jamie Vaske Recognized with Faculty Scholar Award

The Faculty Scholar Award of the College of Health and Human Sciences for 2012 was presented to Dr. Jamie Vaske at the college award ceremony on April 27. The award “recognizes outstanding scholarly activity as represented by current (within the last three years) research, publications and/or professional presentations.” The criteria for the award call for “evidence of the advancement of knowledge” and “impact of scholarly activity on the discipline/profession.”

She was presented with a plaque and a $400 voucher to be applied to professional travel this year.

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DEPARTMENT HEAD’S CORNER
DR. STEVE BROWN

This issue of The Carolina Criminologist reviews many key activities of students and faculty during the spring and summer semesters of 2012. Par for the course, students in our department have benefited from a variety of intellectually stimulating events during this timeframe along with wonderful international learning experiences. Some of them are highlighted in the pages that follow.

Rather than commenting on these recent activities and our continuation of them in the fall 2012 semester, the DH’s Corner of this issue will share news about an important proposal to be formally reviewed during the forthcoming semester. The department is now approaching its 40th anniversary as an academic unit at WCU. Over those years the department has grown in both size and quality as a result of the commitment of many different faculty members and administrative leaders. There have been a number of important changes along the way, many serving as milestones in the evolutionary path of the disciplines of criminology, criminal justice and emergency management and in the maturing of this department. In the fall 2012 semester, the institution will be processing a proposal that will be yet another critical step in the development of the department. The proposal, discussed over much of last academic year, is to relocate the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (DCCJ) in a collegiate setting better matched to the current state of the department and the university. It has been formally proposed that the unit move from the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

A number of salient reasons underlie this decision. On the one hand, the CHHS has evolved into a comprehensive health college, located on the West Campus, while the DCCJ remains within the Belk Building on the main campus. The college is now positioned to move forward in meeting the educational and service needs of health fields in WNC in ways that it never has before. The new building is state-of-the-art for learning in the health fields and also provides an opportunity for partnerships with health services. Indeed, the future of education in health fields looks very bright at WCU. At the same time, leadership within the CHHS has facilitated stalwart changes in the DCCJ in recent years. Criminal justice/criminology curricula have advanced to a cutting-edge status in the field, reflecting a strong social science foundation and interdisciplinary influence that place it at the forefront of the field nationally. The program in emergency and disaster management offers the only baccalaureate degree in the state and is growing at an impressive pace. The college leadership has also supported the department in conducting extensive national searches in filling faculty positions, allowing us to recruit additional outstanding faculty who want to teach in an engaged university, whose research agenda’s far surpass those typical of regional state universities, and who appreciate the opportunity to live in the beautiful mountain setting of Cullowhee and surrounding areas. The result is a social science department that broadly and critically scrutinizes crime, criminals, justice systems, and emergency management issues. In sum, the CHHS has brought one of its departments to a level of maturity that befits its “leaving home” to find an appropriate new home setting. A college of arts and sciences, or similar collectivity, serves as the modal “home” for such programs and that time has arrived at WCU.

How will this change matters for students? For faculty? For WCU at large? Analogous to all persons maturing and leaving their home of origin, there will certainly be challenges and adjustments, but such change is both healthy and inevitable. For students there will be the positive benefits of moving to a college that is based on the East Campus and where most students having a minor or second major within the same college, and of a collegiate identity that would more closely reflect both the substance of our programs and the more common departmental affiliation. Faculty members within the DCCJ uniformly favored the initial proposal and are excited about the prospects of developing closer research and teaching relationships with faculty in many departments within the College of Arts and Sciences. The hope is that faculty currently within the CAS will be similarly excited about those interdisciplinary opportunities. Finally, the relocation will move a department with one of the largest numbers of majors into a college that stands to benefit from that growth and the intellectual vibrancy that will accompany it.

The reorganization process is delineated in a document labeled “APR 26” and is well under way. The faculty members of the DCCJ deliberated early in the spring semester and were enthusiastic about the prospects of relocating. Dean Linda Stanford met with us and endorsed the concept and discussions with all deans and various other administrators unfolded over the remainder of the spring and summer semesters. After conversations with former Interim Dean Gibbs Knotts, I met with the department heads of the CAS and have continued discussions with Interim Dean Richard Starnes, informed by former Dean Linda Stanford and Marie Huff, now interim dean of CHHS. The proposal will be reviewed by the Faculty Senate during fall semester and then move to the provost and chancellor for their consideration.

If all proceeds as anticipated, the plan will be finalized by the end of the fall semester and become operational July 1, 2013. This year is expected to be a year of transition and looking forward. As this unfolds, we will certainly miss many wonderful colleagues we have come to know within the CHHS but will be excited about the opportunities to develop productive relations with colleagues throughout the CAS and to share in the future of a college with much more similar academic perspectives. While there will be some bittersweet elements to the shift, they will undoubtedly give way to the value and excitement of sharing a collegiate environment with a variety of disciplines, including several of keen interest to our students and faculty.

Please do not hesitate to share any thoughts or direct any questions about this likely reorganization.
I was delighted to learn, in the spring 2012 semester, I was selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants to complete a full time internship with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). I worked in the Camp LeJeune field office in Jacksonville, the busiest field office within NCIS. For instance, in the four months I was there, the agency had almost 400 active cases.

NCIS interns get a diverse set of experiences in the field with the agency’s special agents. During my tenure in the internship, I was among three interns at Camp LeJeune. We were placed on one-month rotations served between the Special Operations Unit, which included working on cases classified as general crimes, family and sexual violence and counter intelligence/counter terrorism.

I gained firsthand experience of how the NCIS operates. For example, I went to several autopsies. Two of them left lasting impressions. The first involved a very young child and the second involved a corpse that was in the advanced stages of decomposition. I learned, among other things, an autopsy can take a few hours; the longer ones are if the cause of death is not certain.

I was also given the privilege to visit a couple of crime scenes, where I assisted in searches and processing evidence. While at the scenes, I could not touch any of the evidence. Instead I would assist the agents by passing items to them or documenting what items were found. Once we returned to the office, I helped process the evidence by assisting the agent with adding the full label to the evidence bag and fully sealing the bag. The other interns and I also frequently made photo templates for case reports.

We also were given the opportunity to learn the layout of the case files. We primarily accomplished this in our routine of reviewing many files. A significant amount of time was also spent making copies of cases for reports to help the case move along.

Agents were generally happy to talk to us about the different cases they were working on, especially when they asked us to do something or were about to do an interview that we could all watch from the next room through the security camera. We watched many interviews during our time there, learning many different interview techniques and the necessary procedure before talking to anybody.

 Twice I was able to help the evidence custodian with the destruction of evidence. Once a case has been closed and any trial has been finished, evidence is either returned to the owner or the family; however, many times there is evidence that cannot be returned – mostly drugs, but there was quite a variety.

One day during my time there, the agents had a field-training day. The interns were invited to participate in the training activities which included running, pushups, sit-ups, handcuffing techniques and dealing with a violent situation. The agents also qualified with their firearms that day; the interns did not get to participate in this portion, but afterward an agent pulled us aside, demonstrated his weapon and supervised us as we fired it.
ENGAGED LEARNING AT WCU

Engaged learning is the mantra of WCU and the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, which excelled in providing a host of learning and service experiences to students during the fall semester, both on and off campus. These activities are what distinguish our programs from those of other colleges and universities. Take the opportunity to participate in as many as you can and be sure to select a variety of activities from among engaged scholarship, community service, participating in field observations of the justice system, international learning, and learning applied skills through extracurricular activities. There is so much available at WCU to have an astonishingly well-rounded learning experience. Take advantage of all you can and be a step ahead of your peers attending other institutions.

THE HUNGER GAMES’ COME TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Inspired by the WCU Poverty Project, a campuswide initiative to raise awareness about poverty both locally and globally, criminal justice students launched a food drive competition to benefit Asheville food banks. Students used “The Hunger Games,” a popular book that became a blockbuster movie, as the theme for the food drive competition. To launch the food drive, criminology students attended a private viewing of the film at Quin Theaters in Sylva. Over the next three weeks, students brought in canned food to participating classes, and at the end of the competition, Dr. Caravelis Hughes’ social justice class was declared the winner. Overall, more than 500 cans of food were donated to those in need.
CJ Club Visits Facility for Transitioning Incarcerated Women Back into Society

Dr. Vaske and seven criminal justice students visited Swannanoa Women’s Correctional Facility. Ms. Shareé McPeters arranged the tour and allowed students to speak with clients regarding their criminal histories and incarceration experiences. Senior criminal justice student Tracy King said, “It was just so moving to know that there are jobs out there where you can really help people get back on track.” Many students noted that they were surprised that Swannanoa was not a “scary” place, where people are “yelling at you and being mean.” Swannanoa is a cottage-style facility for women who only have a short period of time left on their sentence and who are getting ready to transition back into society. Its environment is one that is focused on rehabilitation and supervision rather than solely on incarceration. Ms. McPeters invited people to volunteer their time with the clients. Dr. Vaske will be taking a group of students back to Swannanoa in the spring, where she plans on donating a large number of books to the new prison library facility. If you would like to donate books to the facility, please contact Dr. Jamie Vaske to arrange a time and date to drop off the books.

Summerton Serves as Student Ambassador at EMI Conference

Ms. Sarah Summerton, an emergency and disaster management student, attended the 15th annual Emergency Management Institute’s (EMI) Higher Education Conference in Emmitsburg, Md., in June 2012. Ms. Summerton had the opportunity to work at the conference as a student ambassador. She and other students assisted EMI staff with facilitating the conference. During the conference, Ms. Summerton also had the occasion to co-present, with Dr. Thomas Johnson, a paper titled “Use of WebEOC to Create an Authentic Learning Environment.” Ms. Summerton augmented Dr. Johnson’s research findings with her own perspectives as a student who participated in the WebEOC class exercises.

Dr. Lisa Briggs Receives Coveted UNC Teaching Award continued from cover

Indeed, Dr. Briggs, a faculty member at WCU since 2002, is renowned for engaging students in learning activities in the classroom, criminal justice environments and in the community. Her students have worked on projects as diverse as homicide “cold cases,” human trafficking conference planning, domestic violence, rape prevention and animal abuse. She has led students in European study-abroad trips, serving the elderly in our community and enhancing domestic violence shelters. Her victimology course is among our most popular classes, routinely filling far in advance and always delivering a challenging community service component.

Dr. Briggs was presented with the UNC Board of Governors award at a spring undergraduate commencement ceremony, and she delivered the address for the Graduate School. The students and faculty of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice laud the engaged teaching of Dr. Briggs, as recognized by the Board of Governors. She serves as a role model for countless students and stimulates her colleagues in creating an engaged environment.
Dr. Jamie Vaske
Recognized with Faculty Scholar Award
continued from cover

Dr. Vaske epitomizes the intellectual curiosity, work ethic and academic values that underlie outstanding scholarship. Her dedication to seeking knowledge and her selflessness in investing in the scholarly interests of students and colleagues stands out as one of the finest examples on campus. Her efforts and successes are nothing short of remarkable. Over the course of her first three years at WCU she has published some 25 papers in journals such as Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Justice Quarterly, Criminal Justice and Behavior, Criminal Justice Review, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Development & Psychopathology and Psychiatry Research. During the past three years she has also presented 18 papers as national conferences and sponsored 36 student research projects resulting in public presentations.

Widely acclaimed for interdisciplinary scholarship and collaboration with colleagues at many institutions, Dr. Vaske is undertaking cutting edge research examining interactions between genetic polymorphisms and environmental factors impacting deviant behavior. She is at the forefront of the rapidly evolving biosocial perspective within the field of criminology. Her work is also quite statistically sophisticated, frequently utilizing latent growth models, meta analyses, and other powerful strategies.

Recognition of Dr. Vaske with the Faculty Scholar Award represents an excellent decision for on the part of the awards committee. She is passionate about her scholarship and often points out that it defines her as a person. Students and colleagues in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice know that her passion for research is contagious. She has motivated scores of students to seek answers through application of the scientific method and sets a wonderful example for other faculty through her dedication.

Students, Faculty Travel to Raleigh for Conference, Intelligence Center Tour

On Feb. 15, seven faculty members and three students from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice headed to Raleigh for the annual North Carolina Criminal Justice Association conference. The conference was tasked with bringing together criminal justice researchers, practitioners, and decision makers to discuss important topics in criminal justice and criminal justice education in North Carolina. Students presented information on a variety of topics from the constitutionality of sentencing offenders to religious-based programming (Nicholas Tuttle) to the risk factors that predict changes in youths’ violent behavior (Teeairia Shell). Elizabeth McEwan, a senior in the criminology and criminal justice program, presented results from a case study conducted with Professor Maggie Orender’s classes on students’ writing and researching skills. Her presentation, titled “Undergraduate Criminal Justice Students’ Writing: Papers are a “Reel Waist” of Time for Educators to Grade,” detailed the Writing Fellows program at Western Carolina University and the successes that Professor Orender had employing the program with her “Theories of Crime” courses.

Students and faculty also had the chance to tour the Raleigh Intelligence Center (RIC) of the Raleigh Police Department and to meet with Chief Harry Dolan, an alumnus of WCU’s criminal justice program. At the RIC, Lieut. Huffman showed students and faculty how threat assessment specialists, crime analysts and detectives work together to identify “hot spots” and “hot offenders” in order to direct resources to those areas. When asked why they enjoy their careers, the crime analysts noted that they liked being part of the action and being able to make a difference through “smart” policing. Chief Dolan also spoke to the importance of smart policing and discussed the various research projects that RPD has participated in. In particular, he spoke of their research on performance based management systems,
issues with stop sticks, and the effects of officers’ uniforms on police performance and the public’s perception of officers.

In addition to touring RIC and meeting with Chief Dolan, students and faculty got a chance to meet with RPD recruiter Officer Anthony Kerensky and participate in night-shift ride-alongs. Officer Kerensky stressed the importance of physical training and solid writing skills prior to joining the police force. He also noted that applicants should have a good working knowledge of the Raleigh Police Department, as they will be asked questions regarding RPD. Officer Kerensky set up ride-alongs for two faculty members and two students to tour the area of Raleigh surrounding North Carolina State University. Information on Raleigh Police Department can be found at raleighnc.gov/safety/content/Departments/Articles/Police.html.

List of presentations

“Identifying and addressing predictors of changes in violent juvenile delinquency,” by Teeairia Shell

“Issues implementing multi-systemic therapy,” by Dr. Jamie Vaske

“Bridging the gap between researchers and practitioners,” by Dr. Cyndy Hughes, Dr. Albert Kopak and Dr. Tom Johnson

“Choosing church or jail for misdemeanor offenses: Is it constitutional?,” by Nicholas Tuttle

“Undergraduate criminal justice students’ writing: Papers are a ‘reel waist’ of time for educators to grade,” by Elizabeth McEwan and Professor Maggie Orender

“Teaching statistics in criminology & criminal justice: An outcome assessment,” by Dr. Stephen Brown, Dr. Albert Kopak, and Dr. Jamie Vaske

“Police victimization and its effect on organizational commitment: A Korean case,” by Dr. Hoon Lee

EDM Students Earn Scholarships to Asheville Workshop

The Western Carolina University Emergency and Disaster Management Program faculty and students were invited to participate in the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA) workshop that was held in Asheville from June 15-17. JoAnnah Michaels and Mark Phillips received scholarships worth $125 each to participate in the conference. Ms. Michaels volunteered to provide staffing for conference registration. In addition, Mr. Phillips was offered a scholarship to cover the cost of membership to DERA, worth an additional $50.

Senior Seminar Spring Speakers

Officer Kelly Holder and Officer Joey Dykes of the Swain County Probation Office and Macon County Probation Office visited the Senior Seminar class to discuss their responsibilities as probation officers. They also briefed students on the recent Justice Reinvestment Act (House Bill 642), which was enacted Jan. 1, 2012. This act expanded probation officers’ responsibilities to include cognitive behavioral therapies and to provide post-release control for all felony offenders being released from prison. More information on the Justice Reinvestment Act can be found at doc.state.nc.us/JusticeReinvestment/. Information on job opportunities with the corrections division of the Department of Public Safety can be found at doc.state.nc.us/recruit/.

Professor David Moore visited Dr. Vaske’s Senior Seminar class to discuss the process of background investigations for federal employment positions. Professor Moore talked with the class about the dangers of posting inappropriate pictures and statements on social media websites, such as Facebook. He also discussed with students why it is critical that they make wise choices while in college, because many of them will be competing against seasoned job candidates who may have years of experience, a degree and a clean record.

Associate Professor Patricia Foley from the Department of Forensic Sciences came to the Senior Seminar course to present information on a child homicide case that she worked on while serving as a forensic DNA analyst at the Baltimore County Police Department. She explained to the class how she analyzed high velocity blood splatters with DNA analysis, and how this information was used in the courtroom to convict the child’s mother and father. More information on the Department of Forensic Sciences can be found at wcu.edu/4429.asp.

Recruiters from the Raleigh Police Department (RPD) visited various courses in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice in January. The recruiters explained to students the five-year strategic plan of the department, the numerous opportunities available at RPD, and the benefits provided to officers of the department. They noted that the police force will be growing over the next five years, and so students should actively apply to RPD. More information on the Raleigh Police Department can be found at raleighnc.gov/safety/content/Departments/Articles/Police.html.

Lindsey Harper returned to Western Carolina University to discuss her current role as a case manager at Centerpoint Health, an affiliate of Talbert House in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ms. Harper graduated from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at WCU in 2011 with her Bachelor’s of Science degree in criminal justice and a minor in psychology. She explained to the students her responsibilities as a case manager for offenders with substance use and mental illness disorders. She also showed the students examples of case notes that she is required to complete on a daily basis, and snapshots of the various agencies she works with to help her clients receive services. More information on Centerpoint Health and Talbert House can be found at talberthouse.org. Dr. Vaske encourages other graduates of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice to visit the Senior Seminar course. She can be reached at jvaske@email.wcu.edu.
First Student Research Poster Competition a Success

The first annual Criminology and Criminal Justice Student Research Poster Competition took place in conjunction with the Spring Undergraduate EXPO. The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty sponsored a total of 42 research posters which students presented at the 14th annual Undergraduate Expo hosted by the Honors College on March 26. Students who attended the event cast ballots for the top poster during the session, which was held in the University Center Grandroom. Sandra Seiler and the Catamount Clothing and Gifts store provided generous donations for the first-, second- and third-place posters. The department plans to make this spirited scholarly competition an annual event. See page 10 for the winners of the inaugural competition.

Posters presented by students at the Undergraduate Expo reflect the QEP goals of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice:

1. **fostering effective communication skills**;
2. **solving complex problems through application of research and analytical skills**; and
3. **clarification of values, appreciation of diversity and inculcation of global awareness**.
Forty-Two posters were presented by criminology and criminal justice students at the 14th annual Undergraduate EXPO, March 26 in the University Center Grandroom.
An impressive 42 posters were presented by students during the March 26 Undergraduate Expo. This commitment to undergraduate research reflects the department’s identification of “solving complex problems” (scholarly research) and “communicating effectively” as QEP priorities for learning. Ten outstanding posters were selected for a special display of student scholarship at the Chancellor’s Installation event on the following day. In addition, two students made presentations of research papers on March 26.
Do not miss our next Defensive Tactics Workshop featuring Armando Basulto, black belt in Gracie Jiu-Jitsu.

October 22, 6:30-8:00 in Reid 112.

Pre-registration is required. You may register in the Department office by completing the registration form, signing the liability waiver, and paying a registration fee of $5 to the Criminal Justice Club.

The registration fee is waived for those who attended the all-day workshop last December.
Dr. Hawley Enthralls Brownbag Luncheon with Miller Talk

Dr. Frederick Hawley had an audience of criminology faculty on the edge of their chairs with his scintillating and enthusiastic address “Walter Miller: From Fame to Footnote” on Feb. 8, 2012, in Belk 210. For those who have never had a theory or juvenile delinquency class under Dr. Hawley, Walter Miller was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1920 and died in 2004 at his home in Cambridge, Mass. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, various versions of subcultural notions became prominent in criminology and sociology and even became influential in informing policy makers of the era. The strain-influenced ideas of Cloward and Ohlin and Albert Cohen were especially well-known. The subcultural notions of Walter B. Miller, once among the most cited of explanations of juvenile delinquency, are less known today and, in fact, are given short shrift in current opuses on theoretical criminology. Essentially Miller’s research led him to suggest that lower-class culture had developed from historical factors over centuries and was not solely a response to lack of opportunity or a reaction against middle class culture or political oppression. Accordingly he was not sanguine about well-meaning attempts to “end poverty,” rightly suggesting that such attempts were, at best, simply naïve and doomed to failure due to imprecise, ideologically grounded concepts and flawed operationalization. Perhaps most problematically, Miller’s work, notable for its value-free and anthropologically based cultural relativism, is challenging to those policy makers and social scientists who insist on attaching positive values to middle-class standards and derogating lower-class culture as a pathological reflection of middle-class culture or as a reaction to it. Basically, Miller suggests that those in the lower-class may be reacting to subcultural behavioral imperatives rather than to economic factors. This stance has always been difficult to those who were educated outside of the ethnographic tradition or who had preexisting conflicting policy agendas. Accordingly, Miller was attacked from both left and right throughout the late 1960s and 1970s. Today his ideas’ seeming lack of currency and salience may be attributable to the fact that many young criminologists are focused on developmental and life-course explanations of crime and find both culture and history irrelevant.

Miller also made notable contributions on ideology and criminal justice and continued as a prominent gang researcher well into the 1990s. He was almost alone in continuing gang research and surveys in the 1970s when general criminological interest in those subjects had seemingly waned. His incomplete colossal masterwork, City Gangs, replete with historical, geographical and ethnographic detail, remains unpublished. It is, thankfully, available at Arizona State University’s website.

Miller’s major contribution to criminological theory is the construct of the lower-class as a discrete cultural entity. Central to his construct is that focal concerns, often confused with “values,” by students and criminologists alike, are central standards or behavioral complexes around which lower-class existence is centered. Lower-class culture is a longstanding historical and cultural tradition that represents a merger of lower-class white European traditions with those of poor Afro-Americans and Hispanics over centuries of immigration and internal migration, a notion Miller developed further in the City Gangs. It is not a race-specific notion, although much of Miller’s research centered on Afro-Americans in the Boston area. Furthermore, in Miller’s ideation, lower-class culture is not a reaction to middle-class values or lack of opportunity. It is a subculture with its own discrete values and cultural
Miller worked in various administrative and research capacities for city, state governments for his entire career. He held significant federal positions dealing with gangs and juvenile delinquency and worked with government and political officials throughout his tenure in those positions. He also made important contributions to the study of ideology and crime and in the neglected area of middle-class delinquency.

The Impact of Neighborhood Crime Levels on Police Use of Force:

**Does Location Really Matter?**

**This Presentation in the Brownbag Series Was Made by Dr. Hoon Lee**

Use of force by the police has always attracted public attention. In particular, police brutality in high-profile cases is the leading factor that promotes distrust in the police and tension between minority communities and law enforcement. For the last several decades, a great deal of research, in an effort to control police brutality, has focused on finding factors that can contribute to police use of force. The general consensus among researchers in the field is that there are two major aspects that determine police use of force: (1) legal perspectives and (2) social science perspectives.

First, the legal perspectives explain that police force must be guided by state law, departmental policies, and federal and state court cases because of its detrimental impact on citizens. In Tennessee v. Garner (1985), the U.S. Supreme Court held that police use of deadly force against a nonviolent fleeing felon is unconstitutional. Furthermore, the court under Graham v. Connor (1989) ruled that police use of force must be objectively reasonable under the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. These two landmark decisions allow police officers to use objectively reasonable force only if there is an immediate threat or danger to other citizens or themselves. This means that police use of force can be justified when citizens resist the police or use physical force against the police or innocent others.

On the other hand, the vast majority of research based on social science perspectives has examined the influence of extralegal factors on police use of force, including individual, situational, organizational and neighborhood contextual variables. Many scholars have reported that those extralegal factors often determine the levels of police force even after citizens’ resistance to the police is statistically controlled. For example, police officers are more likely to use higher levels of force against young males or citizens showing disrespectful demeanors to police officers.

More recently, a paucity of research has investigated the relationship between neighborhood crime levels and police use of force. Researchers hint that higher crime rates in neighborhoods may invite higher levels of police force based on Shaw and McKay’s social disorganization theory and Black’s theory. In contrast, the stability of punishment assumption develops an opposite hypothesis that police officers may use less severe force in higher crime areas because officers seldom apply vigorous formal authority in districts with higher levels of crime.
The Impact of Neighborhood Crime Levels on Police Use of Force: Does Location Really Matter? continued

Although the overall findings support the first hypothesis, previous studies cannot avoid criticisms for several reasons. First, most studies have failed to investigate the relationship between all types of crime and police use of force; rather, they have selectively investigated partial types of crime: violent crime or homicide. Second, prior research has primarily examined the relationship only at the macro level, which fails to obtain substantial variations across neighborhoods. Yet, no research has been conducted to examine the relationship at the street level. Lawton (2007) said “future research into levels of police force must consider location of a necessary measure toward understanding the outcome of police-citizen interactions” (p. 180). With the advent of geographic information systems, it is possible to measure different types of neighborhood crime levels at the micro level.

The data for the current study were obtained from a police department in Texas. First, the police department mandates its officers to complete a use of force report whenever they apply force against citizens. Each report also contains the information about the location where police force was used, which was later geocoded. The present study used a total of 1,464 police use of force reports between 2006 and 2007. Second, the police department keeps all reported criminal incidents as well as their geographical information. The current study also utilized a total of 513,455 crime incidents between 2005 and 2007.

Utilizing the two sets of data, the present study could measure four different types of neighborhood crime at four different micro levels. Among various GIS mapping techniques, radial buffers have been widely used when calculating the number of criminal incidents within buffer areas. The current study created four radial buffer zones (500 feet, 1,000 feet, 2,000 feet, and 3,000 feet) around every location where police officers used force. Then, the current study counted the total number of violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault), property crimes (burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson), property crimes except larceny and drug-related crimes (possession, delivery, and manufacturing of controlled substance/narcotics, synthetic narcotics and marijuana) that occurred within each of the four radial buffer zones for the last 12 months before each police use of force incident occurred. For the comparison purpose, the current study also adopted hierarchical linear modeling to see if those four neighborhood crime levels at the macro level affect police use of force. For the analysis at the macro level, the current study used four types of crimes rates (violent, property, property except larceny and drug-related crime rates) in each of the nine command areas.

The findings of the current analyses can be summarized as follows:

1. The total number of violent crimes that occurred within the four buffer zones for the last one year has a significant effect of increasing the chances of using higher levels of police force.

2. The total number of property crimes at the micro level also has a positive and significant effect; however, it becomes non-significant when larceny is removed, especially within the 500-feet buffer zone.

3. The total number of drug offenses at lower levels of aggregation has a significant effect of increasing the odds of using higher levels of police force.

4. Unlike at the micro level, neighborhood violent crime rates at the macro level do not show a significant effect of increasing the chances of choosing higher levels of police force despite its positive sign.

5. Neighborhood property crime rates except larceny at the macro level have no significant relationship with police use of force.

6. Neighborhood drug crime rates at the macro level show a significant effect of increasing the odds of applying higher levels of force. Among the four different types of crime, drug crime rates are the only significant determinant at the macro level.

7. Regarding the individual and situational factors, the current study shows no discrepancy with prior research. Citizens’ resistance to the police has a significant effect of increasing the probability for police officers to use higher levels of force. Neither citizens’ race nor officers’ race affects police use of force.

The impact of neighborhood crime levels on police use of force has been often tested; however, no study has simultaneously examined the role of neighborhood crime at the micro level and at the macro level. In addition, previous studies have solely focused on violent crimes. The present study attempted to bridge the research gap by (1) adopting GIS techniques to examine the impact of neighborhood crime at the micro level on police use of force, (2) using multilevel analyses to measure the impact of neighborhood crime at the macro level and (3) expanding the limited definition of neighborhood crime to violent, property, and drug crimes. By doing so, the current study concludes that neighborhood violent crime at the micro level, neighborhood drug crime at the micro level, and neighborhood drug crime rates at the macro level explain increased levels of police force.

Ideally, extralegal factors should not affect police use of force. Responding to a neighborhood with higher levels of crime does not justify enhanced levels of police force. As the current study found, however, police officers have a tendency to use higher levels of force in areas with higher violent crimes or drug-related crimes. In this regard, police administrators, supervisors, and officers must make an extra effort to reduce the role of extralegal factors in police use of force. Most large police departments in the United States are now equipped with crime analysis tools. As shown in this study, these techniques also can be used to analyze the patterns of police force. By pinpointing high-crime areas as well as locations inviting higher levels of police force, police organizations must examine the relationship within their neighborhood context and their officers’ use of force behavior in an effort to reduce unnecessary use of police force.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HONORS COLLEGE
Bell, Savannah
Cline, Regina – magna cum laude
Foster, Christina – summa cum laude
Hollar, Ashley – cum laude
Long, Jonathan – magna cum laude

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Andrews, Erin
Bell, Savannah
Campbell, Travis – cum laude
Causby, Matthew
Cline, Regina – magna cum laude
Coggins, Chelsi
Cook, Matthew
Cook, Michael
Davis, Justin
Davis, Tamara – cum laude
Dodson, Adam – cum laude
Dupree, Amanda
Foster, Donnille – summa cum laude
Fountain, Chelsea
Frye, Derick
Glatte, Melissa
Grandy, Jeffrey – cum laude
Greene, Nakristin
Groesser, Cody
Hansen, Mark
Hensley, Kari – magna cum laude
Hernandez, Daniel
Hollar, Ashley – cum laude
Holmes, Cameron
Holshouser, Kevin
Hunt, Alexandra
Hunter, Jason – magna cum laude
Jones, Taylor – cum laude
Kemper, Jamie – cum laude
King, Tracy
Ledbetter, Dustin
Ledford, Charles
Lickteig, Kyle
Livingston, Brandon
Long, Jonathan – magna cum laude
Loucks, Melissa
Lusk, Bryan
McEwan, Elizabeth – cum laude
McNeilly, Ethan
Moore, George
Norman, Ashley
Owens, Brian
Rawls, Samuel
Rhome, Teddy
Riddle, Jonathan
Rubinic, Christopher
Sandlin, Brian
Shell, Teearia
Spangler, Taylor
Swayngim, Joshua
Tripp, Jordan
Wilkerson, Matthew
Williams, Clarence

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM
Blalock, Christina
Combs, Forrest – summa cum laude
Daley, Jeremy
Estep, Christi
Finucan, Charles
Fox, Jataime – cum laude
Gardner, Rodney
Greenwood, Kim – cum laude
Harvey, Joyce
Helton, Jonathan
Hottle, Jessica – summa cum laude
Kerley, Sybil – summa cum laude
Lewis, Angela – summa cum laude
McCurry, Melissa
Piantino, Heather
Pinney-Tourtellotte, Andrew
Price, Rachel – summa cum laude
Sharpe, Shannon – summa cum laude
Smith, Amber
Wagner, Chris
Wilhelm, Douglas – summa cum laude
Wolford, Ronald

EMERGENCY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Anderson, Brittny – cum laude
Dover, David – magna cum laude
Grooms, Jason – magna cum laude
Jopson, Alan – magna cum laude
McCorquodale, Christie – cum laude
Parnell, Brian
Smith, Malcolm – cum laude
Studley, Anissa – cum laude
Swift, Jerry
Woomer, Amanda – summa cum laude
Regina Cline

Was a senior graduating with a 4.0 in program GPA and a 3.87 overall GPA. She double-minored in clinical forensics and psychology. She was both a full-time student and employee and was very involved in extracurricular activities on campus, such as the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band, the Cathouse Pep Band, Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) and an on-campus ministry. She also was highly involved in many service opportunities including the Red Zone Project, Soles for Souls, Restorative Justice and The FBI Human Trafficking Conference. Regina states, “I think that it is very important to give back to the community and to help those in need in any way that you can. I am honored to be a part of this outstanding Criminal Justice Department and to have the numerous opportunities to share what I have learned with the community.”

Forrest Combs

Employed since 2007 as a campus police officer for Davidson College in Davidson. He previously was employed by a major airline for 22 years before taking an early retirement. Forrest received an associate of arts degree from Mitchell Community College in Statesville in 1977 and returned to the academic world in the summer of 2009 to pursue a degree in the criminal justice field. Graduated from WCU in spring 2012 summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice.

Forrest and his wife, Sherry, reside in Statesville and have been married for 34 years. They are the proud parents of two sons (William & Tyler) and three grandchildren (Tyson, Lauren & Cade).

Tamara Davis

A member of Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity, Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honors Society, Phi Beta Delta International Honors Society, Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Services, vice president of the Criminal Justice Club, secretary of the Phi Beta Delta International Student Club, and mother of two children. Her major is criminal justice and her minor is psychology. She is graduating with a 3.458. She studied abroad in the Netherlands, Belgium, England and France in the summer of 2011 with Dr. Lisa Briggs and other WCU students from the Criminal Justice Department. She plans to continue her education through a master’s program in psychology.

Christina Foster

Senior double-majoring in psychology and criminology and criminal justice. She graduated summa cum laude with a GPA of 3.91. She has recently been accepted into the graduate program at UNC Wilmington for a master’s degree in public sociology and criminology and has been offered a teaching assistantship. As an undergraduate, she attended seven conferences across the United States and presented research for topics such as negative consequences of alcohol use among college students, sex offenders and human trafficking. Christina also was selected to participate in the first alumni shadowing/mentoring day in Atlanta and was previously awarded the Dani West Morgan Scholarship. Currently on the Dean’s Advisory Board for the College of Health and Human Sciences. She ultimately plans on working with at-risk youth, ensuring that they learn pro-social skills and responsibilities in the hopes of them being able to achieve many of their ambitions and goals.

Elizabeth McEwan

Born and raised in Parsonsburg, Md., with her older brother and younger sister. Her family moved down to North Carolina in 1998. She graduated from South Point High School in 2008, and spent her freshman year of college at UNC-Charlotte before transferring to WCU. She declared criminal justice as her major and social work as her minor after a year at school. Elizabeth’s hobbies include reading and writing, playing soccer, rock climbing, hiking, camping and hanging out on campus near the fountain on a beautiful day.

JoAnnah Michael

Manager of the Pastors’ Office for the senior and coordinating pastors serving First Baptist Church of Asheville’s 1,750-plus members since January of 2005. She’s a skilled graphic artist with a global clientele, an event coordinator and a manager of three “no price tags” clothes closets. She began her education at the University of Central Florida/San Diego State in the early ’70s and came to WCU at midlife after raising her family. At home on horseback, motorcycle or with SCUBA tanks, JoAnnah’s EDM academic focus has been on major disaster response in coastal areas, especially on pet and animal rescue. She is an American Red Cross Disaster Action Team (DAT) volunteer in Asheville and also deploys on national disaster relief operations.
In these alumni contributions, Elizabeth Caveny Snyder, class of 2008, describes how her research methods studies prepared her for working as a social research analyst in the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness at WCU. Officer Jacob Deal, WCU Police Department, also class of 2008, describes his transition from the student role to serving and protecting on campus.

Elizabeth Caveny Snyder

There was never a doubt in my mind that I would major in criminal justice, and I knew a small mountain school would be a perfect fit for me. Much to my mother’s dismay, Western Carolina was the only university I applied too. Why waste money on application fees when I knew where I would go anyway? I knew the caliber of the criminology program, and I knew WCU was a good fit for me. I could not have been more correct on both counts.

During my three and a half years as a student at WCU, I felt my interests and career focus shifting. I took an introduction to sociology class and realized study of broader social issues was an extension of my interest in crime and criminal justice. I wanted to seek a broad education but certainly was not willing to give up my first love (criminal justice), so I decided to double-major and continue pursuing my Spanish minor as well. The majors really complemented one another and speaking a second language is something that I valued.

My junior year is when my perspective began changing. I took two research methods classes – one with Dr. Lisa Briggs in criminology and criminal justice and another with Dr. Anthony Hickey in sociology. I loved both classes and something about research really spoke to me. I love investigating and seeking explanations for social matters and developed concrete skills in these courses – practical skills that could be applied in the research process. I became particularly interested in prisonization and juvenile issues, and I would still love the opportunity to delve more deeply into these topics.

As I pondered my graduation in December 2008, pending marriage and the need to remain in the area until my fiancé graduated from nursing school that May, I began to think about career options that I had not previously contemplated. That was all well and good, but I had decided that law enforcement was not for me. I lost count of how many applications I mailed out to different places, never even getting interviews. Once I finally got one for a telecommunications position (just to get my foot in the door), I did not get it because I was not local and would have to relocate.

At that point, my husband accepted a position in Asheville, so I had to look closer to there and stop expanding my search. On a whim, I checked out the human resources page for WCU. There was one position listed for a social research assistant position in the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness. I applied Labor Day weekend and started work on Oct. 1.

Now, I cannot imagine myself doing anything besides institutional research. When I started, I was responsible for completing the institution’s “common data set,” which contains different information about the university (enrollment, other statistics, information about faculty, etc). I also completed external surveys, in which outside sources such as U.S. News, Businessweek, College Board and others ask for information about WCU that they can publish. I also administered CoursEvals, our online course evaluations.

I still work with the CoursEval process, but now I also work with space on campus and do more internal surveys. I also provide data to departments who request it; for example, I’ve provided the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice information regarding student credit hours, class sizes, etc. A typical day for me could include running numbers, answering questions, going to a meeting or two, or doing a software installation. It’s different every day.

This definitely is not a job I saw myself in when I first started at WCU in 2005, but now I cannot imagine being anywhere else. It may not fit the “typical” professions you think of when you hear that someone majored in criminal justice, but I still am able to use the things I’ve learned – time management, research, how to deal with people. I also feel very strongly that I never would have wound up here if it had not been for my professors and friends at Western Carolina. The joke at our house is that I love this place so much I will never leave!
LEARNING AND SERVING AT WCU: EXPERIENCES OF TWO ALUMNI

Jacob Deal

The transition from student to employee at Western Carolina University has been an amazing journey. As a student at W.C.U., I enjoyed the full on-campus experience. I lived in the Residence Halls, ate at the cafeterias, and spent my time getting as much out of the University as I could. At Western Carolina University, I was able to build relationships and lay the groundwork for my future in Law Enforcement.

My experiences as a Criminal Justice major still resonate with me as I continue my Law Enforcement career as a Police Officer at Western Carolina University. I was able to learn from a staff of well-rounded and knowledgeable Professors within the Criminal Justice department. I also had the opportunity to participate as an intern with the Western Carolina University Police Department. The internship not only allowed me to get an inside look at the functions of a Police Department but provided me with many contacts for my future career. I enjoyed being part of the Criminal Justice program and was fortunate to have Professors who were always eager and helpful in guiding me in the right direction. They had a huge impact on my overall success of becoming a Police Officer.

As I graduated from WCU, I was faced with the very real dilemma of how to pursue my career in Law Enforcement and how best to achieve my goals. With my degree in hand, the next step was to attend Basic Law Enforcement Training and work towards finding my first department. I attended B.L.E.T. the summer after I graduated. Once I completed the course, I began my search for a job. I recalled the relationships I had built while working at the W.C.U. Police Department. I spoke with the Officers and they offered advice and information about any job openings in the area. When I was notified that a position had opened at the Western Carolina University Police Department, I jumped at the opportunity to return. My wonderful memories and experiences as a student at W.C.U. naturally made me very comfortable with the idea of becoming an employee at the University.

The transition from student to employee at Western Carolina University was surprisingly easy. I was very familiar with the processes, geography, and people at the University. Many of the same people I knew as a student were still in their same positions. They likely did not expect to see me walk through the door in uniform and as a member of the University's faculty/staff. Most remembered me as the student they came to know, but quickly began to regard me as a colleague. It has been a wonderful experience becoming a new employee. I have enjoyed having the benefit of knowing so many people and so much of what goes on as W.C.U. conducts business each day.

As an alumni and current Police Officer at WCU, I have many benefits that help me do my job to the best of my ability. I remember life as an on-campus student and often pull from my own experiences as I interact with students and other community members. In my position I sometimes deal with people who are in a challenging moment or have made a poor decision. More often than not, I have the opportunity to help someone and guide them in the right direction. To do that I sometimes apply lessons I learned as a student and try to educate the person to make better decisions later when faced with the same scenario. My experiences as a student also help me to be more aware of issues and dangerous circumstances that I often can address before they present themselves and become more serious.

The Police Department at Western Carolina University is unique. It often provides Police Officers the opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of those we encounter at the University. Our Officers continually work with campus groups and organizations to make sure our community is safer. Throughout the time I have worked at W.C.U., I find that I have already built many positive relationships with students and faculty alike.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my experiences as a student, alumni, and most recently an employee of Western Carolina University. As a University Police Officer I have a great responsibility to my community to keep our campus safe and help when I am called upon. My time as a student has helped to shape me into the Police Officer I have become.

Alumni Updates

Tom Ammons, ASAC 1993
North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation
Western District

Daran Dodd 2001
Law Enforcement Agent
Unauthorized Substances/Drug Tax Division
N.C. Department of Revenue

Christine Deslandes Dodd 2002
Zoning Enforcement Official/Planner
Johnston County NC Planning Department

William Hawkins 1985
Corporate Security & Investigations
TD Bank, America’s Most Convenient Bank

Justin M. Robinson 2009
Probation/Parole Officer II
North Carolina Department of Public Safety

If you would like to share your current position or other news with fellow alumni or students through this forum, please email information you would like included to: Dr. Cyndy Caravelis Hughes at caravelis@wcu.edu or to Dr. Steve Brown at browns@wcu.edu
Self-described “typical academic liberal” Dr. Gary Kleck, David Bordua Professor of Criminology at Florida State University, took on a number of gun control/gun ownership myths, most of them stereotypically “liberal,” in his speech “Gun Violence: Good Guys vs. Bad Guys” on March 5 in the University Center Grandroom.

The 400 audience members heard a tightly constructed dissection of various anti-gun arguments and a critique of various policies pertaining to limiting the use and carriage of weaponry that have been suggested over the years. Kleck paid special attention to the issues pertaining to gun use by “good guys,” that is, legitimate gun permit holders and those protecting life, limb and property from “bad guys.” Appropriately, he also discussed contexts in which criminals (“bad guys”) used guns illicitly and how laws aimed at discouraging gun use by bad guys simply don’t work because criminals ignore them. Of particular interest was his discussion of the application of concealed carry laws and how they might affect academe if students were allowed to carry guns on campus. In short, Kleck felt that student carriage of guns on campus would have little impact beyond making faculty rather uneasy. He also stated that, in general, new laws impacting gun ownership and use were not needed. A lively and interesting question and answer session followed with community members, as well as students, participating. A small reception for faculty and staff was held in Illusions following the presentation.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Kleck held a symposium for faculty members in which he discussed how his initial research had led to new research interests and had opened new avenues of discussion and discovery. In this context he elaborated about how his own career had been shaped by the direction of his research and suggested that such a path was not atypical in academe. He also spoke to Dr. Steve Brown’s theory class and elaborated on many of the themes that were presented in his earlier speech. Both members of the general community and students found this visit and topic intellectually engaging, and faculty and students reported that classes in the week following often began with a discussion of the speech and its implications.

Thanks go to the Office of the Provost’s Visiting Scholar Program, the College of Health and Human Sciences, and the Department of Political Science and Public Affairs for proving funding. The Criminal Justice Club did a great job providing logistical support. This Visiting Scholar event, as others in the past, provided extraordinary opportunities for students and faculty to interact with a notational expert in an area.
DR. STEVE BROWN

DR. FRED HAWLEY
Co-authored “Family warmth and delinquency among Mexican American and White youth: Detailing the causal variables” in the Journal of Juvenile Justice, 1(2), 52-67, with Dr. Kopak. Dr. Hawley contributed “Guns in the South” (with Mary Amelia Turner) to The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture and entries on “Cultural Violence Theories” and “Walter Miller” to the Encyclopedia of Theoretical Criminology.

DR. CYNDY CARAVELIS HUGHES
Made a presentation at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Association with Drs. Johnson and Kopak on “Research, Law Enforcement Agencies, Best Practices, and Bridging the Gap.”

DR. TOM JOHNSON

DR. AL KOPAK
Has had four papers published or accepted for publication since the last issue of The Carolina Criminologist. He was second author along with S.L. Proctor and N.G. Hoffman on “Compatibility of Current DSM-IV and Proposed DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria for Cocaine Use Disorders” published in Addictive Behaviors, 37(6), 722-728. He was first author, joining with Dr. Fred Hawley, to publish “Family warmth and delinquency among Mexican-American and White youth: Detailing the causal variables” in the Journal of Juvenile Justice, 1(2), 52-67. He also has two encyclopedia entries forthcoming: “Divorce and Marriage in the United States and Abroad” in Cultural Sociology of Divorce and “Prescription Drug Abuse” (with Dr. Fred Hawley) in the Encyclopedia of Theoretical Criminology.

Dr. Kopak also made five presentations during the spring semester. “Innovations in information sharing: An example provided by the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office” was presented (co-authored with A.M. McCord) at the North Carolina Criminal Justice Association annual conference, Raleigh, in...
February. At the same conference he teamed with Drs. Johnson and Hughes to present “Research, Law Enforcement Agencies, Best Practices, and Bridging the Gap” and with Drs. Brown and Vaske to deliver a paper titled “Teaching statistics in Criminology and Criminal Justice: An outcome assessment.” He presented a poster on “Ecodevelopmental Protective Factors against Substance use among Multiethnic Gang-Affiliated Youth” at the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center annual conference in Phoenix, Ariz., in April. Finally, he presented a poster (with S.L. Proctor and N.G. Hoffman) on the topic, “Are the Criteria Compatible: Examining Current DSM-IV and Proposed DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria for Cocaine Use Disorders” at the American Society of Addiction Medicine annual conference in Atlanta in April.

**DR. HOON LEE**


**PROFESSOR CARLIE MERRITT**

Was lead author (with Robert Crow) on a book chapter titled “Sounding the Alarm: Emergency Managers Learn in Second Life” for a book titled *Virtual Worlds in Online and Distance Education*.

**PROFESSOR MAGGIE ORENDER**

Presented “Undergraduate Criminal Justice Student’s Writing: Papers Are a “Reel Waist” of Time for Educators to Grade” (with Elizabeth “Eli” McEwan) at the North Carolina Criminal Justice Association annual meeting in February 2012. Ms. Orender also prepared all ancillary packages to accompany the eighth edition of *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*.

**DR. JAMIE VASKE**

Is lead author on a manuscript (co-authored with Danielle Boisvert and John Wright) accepted for publication in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* and titled “Genetic and environmental contributions to the relationship between violent victimization and criminal behavior.” Dr. Vaske also contributed “Genetic theories of criminal behavior” (with Danielle Boisvert) to *The Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*. She revised and updated two chapters for the eighth edition of Brown, Esbensen, and Geis’ *Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context*: Chapter 6, “Individual Theories of Crime: Biological and Biosocial Perspectives,” and Chapter 10, “New Directions: Integration and a Life-Course Perspective.” At the North Carolina Criminal Justice Association annual meeting in Raleigh, Dr. Vaske made a February presentation on “Issues Implementing Multi-Systemic Therapy.”
CJ Professors to Lead Students on South Africa Study Abroad Opportunity

During the spring 2013 semester, Dr. Caravelis Hughes and Dr. Kopak will lead students on an epic journey to South Africa that will expand their understanding of race relations across continents and cultures. In Johannesburg, students will visit the Apartheid Museum and the Mandela Museum and will tour several historic sites related to the Apartheid movement, such as Soweto, the location of a youth uprising movement against the Apartheid regime.

Students also will visit a South African prison to learn about offender re-entry programs and will meet with community group leaders to discuss local efforts to reduce police corruption, prostitution and human trafficking.

Other notable activities include a visit to Pilanesberg National Park to go on safari and a cross-country train ride to Cape Town. While in Cape Town, students will tour Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years.

Students interested in being a part of this adventure will need to enroll in “Social Justice and the Law” (CJ 305), “Minorities, Crime and Social Policy” (CJ 438) or “International Studies in Law and Society” (CJ 475). Contact Dr. Caravelis Hughes or Dr. Kopak for more information.
I had the incredible opportunity to go on an alternative spring break this year to Jamaica. We started our week as tourists in Montego Bay on Friday, and then Sunday, we made the thrilling but life-threatening bus trip four hours across the island to Kingston. During the week, we visited two schools, where we read to children; a home for young, unwed mothers, where we held babies and gave their mothers a chance to tell their stories; and finally traveled to an orphanage. Part of our group painted a stairwell in a dorm while the other part played games and connected with the children.

At the second school we visited, Iris Gelly, I met a little girl who asked me if she could come home with me and told me she wanted me to be her mom. She held my hand, took numerous pictures with me, and never let me go the entire three hours we were there. It was one of the most touching things I have ever experienced, and she will never be forgotten.

On Thursday, our group had plans to travel to the Peace Corps office, but I was afforded another opportunity: I was able to visit a police department. Along with my faculty adviser and one other student, I first traveled to the Half Way Tree Police Station, where a deputy inspector gave us a tour. After he had shown us the station and the holding room, we walked over to the jail. As he introduced us to the staff, the deputy inspector’s supervisor arrived. He chastised Deputy Inspector Jarett for showing us around without permission and said that we personally had to receive permission from their associate commissioner of police, or ACP.

When we arrived at ACP Taylor’s office, he asked a series of questions, including what our specific areas of interest were. When I replied “homicide and major crimes,” he said he would set up a meeting with the head of the Criminal Investigation Branch, or the CIB. This organization is equitable to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the U.S., as it receives the crimes from all across the country. I was thrilled. All I had expected to do on this trip was volunteer work, and now I was given the opportunity to speak with the head of the CIB in Jamaica!

I could barely contain my excitement as we drove to the Ministry of Justice’s south tower. When we arrived, Mr. Powell allowed me to ask any questions I could think of, and I asked about everything from sex trafficking to the homicide clearance rate. Below is a short summary of what I learned:

- The homicide clearance rate last year was 44.8 percent. This was a good year. Usually, it’s around 30 percent.
- 70 percent of the homicides committed in Jamaica are gang-related.
- There were only 300 traffic fatalities last year.
- Cocaine is the biggest drug being imported and exported, with crack cocaine becoming an ever-increasing problem.
- Organized crime is a huge concern.
- It takes two to three years for someone to go to trial in Jamaica.

This service trip to Jamaica was the most incredible experience of my life. I had so many amazing opportunities and experiences that will truly never be forgotten. I had the chance to parasail in the Caribbean, eat goat for the first time, I received an offer to be bought from a security guard outside of Pizza Hut, and I had the chance to walk the neighborhoods of such an incredible place with some of the most amazing people I have ever met, not to mention the connection I made with the WCU students who went. I definitely made some lifelong friends on this trip. Even though there was so much poverty everywhere we went, I have never seen more pride, love and community than I did in the communities in which we traveled. The people of Jamaica are truly inspiring, and I can only hope I made as big of a difference in their lives as they did in mine. One love, Jamaica. One love.
A group of students in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice studied abroad in Korea between June 16-July 16. The Korean trip consisted of two parts. First, the Korean Studies Summer Program (KSSP) at our sister institution, Hannam University in Daejeon, Korea, has a long history. The WCU International Programs and Services (IPS) facilitates students from any major having the opportunity to enroll at HU for this 3-hour course. Due to the strong commitment of our department to developing a diverse range of international experiences, WCU sent a record number of students to HU this past summer.

The second phase for our students studying abroad was the delivery of the department’s CJ 475: “International Studies in Law and Society,” led by Dr. Hoon Lee. The eight students participating in the department’s first study abroad foray into Asia were: Freedom Critcher, Michael Eid, Brittany Emerson, Brittany Gartz, Jamal Hyrams, Samuel Rawls, Nicholas Stamp and Candis Watterson. Thanks to Dr. Lee, not only for planning and arranging all of the visits to criminal justice sites that comprised this course, but for volunteering to chaperone WCU students for the three-week course at HU.

Participating in the KSSP at HU provides all international students an opportunity to learn about the country and its culture, highlighting history, arts, fashion, language, cinema, music and cuisine. In addition to providing a total experience of Korean culture in historical and contemporary social contexts, the KSSP promotes awareness of Korea’s unique status in East Asian cultures. The program included a variety of experiential learning activities: field trips, martial arts, pottery making, movie night, karaoke night and sports. The participants visited Hankok Village (traditional housing), National Central Museum, War Memorial of Korea, DMZ, Everland and Gyeongbok Palace across the country.

As none of the KSSP participants can speak Korean, all students and even chaperons were matched to Korean buddies who are students at Hannam University. During the entire stay in the country, these buddy students help each foreign student from the airport on the arriving day to the departure day. These invaluable companions volunteered to travel together, stay at dorms with international students and provide support and assistance. The friendship between WCU and HU students continues as one of the Korean buddies, Heewon Chae, is coming to Western Carolina University this fall to study for one year. One of the goals of our department is to develop closeness with other universities around the world to facilitate such relationships.

After the three-week-long KSSP was over, our eight criminal justice students were led by Dr. Lee in CJ 475: “International Studies in Law & Society,” a course designed to offer students an opportunity to make first-hand observations of justice systems around the world, the Korean system in this case. The Korean version exposed our students to every facet of criminal justice in that country.

On Monday, July 9, the class visited the Korea National Police University (KNPU) and stayed overnight at the university with freshman students. The KNPU, the highest police education organization in the country, was established in 1979 with the purpose to train and educate elite law enforcement officers with pure faith in patriotism and a mind for public service. All KNPU students receive full tuition waiver for four years as well as additional supplies, clothing and allowance. Upon graduation, KNPU students are commissioned at the rank of inspector, which is equivalent to lieutenant in the U.S. system. Dr. Lee is a graduate of the KNPU, enabling him to arrange an exceptional level of access to both the university and working relationships throughout the country. Consequently, the class was privileged to meet with the director general of faculty, Inspector General Kyung-Min Park, his staff, and Dr. Sunghoon Roh to learn about the Korean police training system. In the afternoon, our students visited a local police substation, Suji Gigudae, where approximately 60 police officers are dispatched. After the captain’s briefing, they had an opportunity to ride along with
Korean police officers. At night, Dr. Roh of the KNPU hosted a dinner for WCU students meet with KNPU students.

On Tuesday, July 10, the students headed to the National Forensic Service (NFS) in Seoul, the capital city of Korea. The NFS offers full scientific intelligence by analyzing any evidence or evidentiary material related to a crime through scientific investigation and experiments upon the request of national police or prosecutors. In addition, the NFS provides forensic training to police officers and investigators through internal and external lecturing. The current visitation was arranged by Chief Medical Examiner Youngshik Choi Ph.D. Dr. Choi allowed the WCU students to observe two autopsy cases and explained the entire procedure. Another medical examiner, Nak-Eun Chung, introduced the mass identification system using DNA, which can be used to identify victims of earthquakes and other natural disasters. Dr. Choi hosted a lunch for the WCU students.

In the afternoon, the students visited the Constitutional Court of Korea in Seoul. In 1987, the Constitutional Court was established as a new independently specialized court based on the European Model. The Constitutional Court decides on the constitutionality of laws, rules on competence disputes between governmental entities, adjudicates constitutional complaints filed by citizens, gives final decisions on impeachment cases, and makes judgments on dissolution of political parties. Before the establishment of the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Korea dealt with those cases. A constitutional research officer in the Court provided historical backgrounds of the Court to the students.

On Wednesday, July 11, the WCU students visited the Daejeon Correctional Institution, one of the biggest prisons in Korea. The Daejeon Correctional Institution is one of the two prisons in the country that holds foreign inmates. Warden Jeong-Soo Jee explained to the WCU students the overall operation of Korean corrections. The students learned not only about correctional programs but also about the overall crime trends and recidivism rates. After the briefing, the students had a tour of the prison, observing central command center, cells for domestic inmates, cells for foreigners, medical facilities, and factories. During the visit, many students were stunned to see the amount of pride correctional officers feel toward their work. Mike Eid, a participating student, observed, “In South Korea the correctional officer is proud of his work;
nothing is more honorable than reintroducing a lost person back into society.” Eid continued, “The pride they feel in their work is exceptional in comparison to the outlook a correctional officer in [the U.S.] may have.”

Finally, on Thursday, July 12, the students went to Busan, the second-biggest city in Korea, to explore the Korean police system. The student group visited Busan Metropolitan Police Agency (BMPA), Busanjin Police Station and Seomyoun Gigudae. In BMPA, the students were welcomed by the Chief of Police Administration Division, Senior Superintendent Nomyoun Park, and Chief of Foreign Affairs Division, Senior Superintendent Jun-Hyeong Lee. The WCU students undertook a tour of the agency, including 112 Crime Report Center, Traffic Control Center, Crime Scene Investigation Division, Crime Investigation Division, and simulation shooting training facilities. In particular, Korea has a unique relationship between police officers and prosecutors. Unlike in the U.S., prosecutors in Korea control police departments with respect to criminal investigations. The WCU students had a discussion with several criminal investigators over the police-prosecutor relationship. In Busanjin Police Station, the third-biggest police station in the country, the WCU students met with chief, Senior Superintendent Myoungdal Kwak and toured the police custody section. At 9 p.m., the students went to Seomyoun Gigudae, the busiest district in the country, and had another chance to ride along with police officers on patrol.

Brittany Gartz, one of the participants, concluded, “For four weeks, the opportunity to experience South Korea proved to be more than a chance to study abroad. It was a chance to delve into a totally different culture by trying diverse foods, exploring historical sites, meeting exceptional people, and gaining as much knowledge as time allowed about a place that made headlines in our textbooks, news stories, and television broadcasts.” With respect to the delivery of CJ 475, Gartz said, “the fourth week of this experience granted the privilege of visiting locations relevant to criminal justice studies, all of which were teachers of a criminal justice system both similar and different from America. When comparing the American police, courts, and corrections to that of South Korea, one may be slightly surprised by features that are both alike and different and fun facts which almost seemed unheard of in their native country.”

The Department of Criminology & CJ has long strived to offer its students opportunities to study abroad. Aimed at developing student exchange, an agreement is expected to soon be formalized between WCU and the Korea National Police University (KNPU), subject to the government’s authorization. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two universities, once effective, will allow up to three students per year to attend for one semester at the KNPU. Both universities expect to exchange students as early as Spring 2013 (the KNPU spring semester starts in March).

The KNPU, one of the most competitive government-funded universities in Korea, accepts 120 students (12 females) for each class who will be appointed as an inspector (lieutenant) after graduation. The KNPU takes the lead in cultivating police elite and providing innovative police education. Currently, the KNPU offers four majors: police law, criminal investigation, police administration, and public order. The KNPU is conveniently located only 20 miles south of Seoul, the capital city of Korea.

Details on the exchange program with the KNPU will be disseminated once the MOU is finalized. For any question or inquiry, please, contact Dr. Steve Brown browns@email.wcu.edu or Dr. Hoon Lee hlee@email.wcu.edu.
Globalization has not only affected politics and economics but also crime. From human trafficking to money laundering, from pornography to the drug trade, national borders are becoming less relevant as some criminals cast a more global net. Because of this, future criminal justice practitioners will increasingly be called upon to understand the operations of foreign justice systems and interact effectively with practitioners from other countries. Global crime calls for a more global response. It is for this reason that the curriculum in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice contains a course titled “Comparative Criminal Justice Systems” (CJ354). This course will be offered on a routine basis.

Students will first analyze the broad modern legal traditions that exist and then look at representative countries from around the world within each respective category. Approaches to general social control, criminal law, policing and corrections will be analyzed and will include countries in both the Eastern and Western hemispheres. Students will also have the opportunity to pick a country and focus on a specific aspect of that country’s criminal justice process.

The course will often be taught by Dr. Allen F. Anderson, a professor emeritus from Indiana University who has been teaching as an adjunct in the department since spring semester 2012. He has researched HIV/AIDS policy and control in the People’s Republic of China for more than 20 years and has been a consultant to the Chinese Ministry of Justice and the Chinese Ministry of Health during this period. He has worked extensively with Chinese corrections officials in developing policy for HIV control in the prison environment. Since HIV/AIDS control in China has involved a criminal justice component, his background in both criminal justice and public health allowed him unique access to the problem. He has made 19 trips to the Chinese mainland in his work.
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