Editor’s Note:

Welcome….

… to our third annual edition of the Department of Criminology Newsletter! It has been an exciting 2012. Dr. Thomas Mieczkowski has retired and was awarded Professor Emeritus. We thank him for his service and collegiality. While we miss him, we know he will successfully venture into a new phase of life. Dr. Chris Sellers has stepped down as Associate Chair. Thank you for all of your hard work. Chris is currently on a one year sabbatical. We have hired Joshua Cochran from Florida State University and Bryanna Hahn Fox from Cambridge University as Assistant Professors. Both will join us in the Fall of 2013. Welcome!

Dr. OJ Mitchell was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Congratulations!

The department experienced another productive year in terms of publications and grant productivity. In addition, both faculty and graduate students attended meetings at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association, the Southern Criminal Justice Association and the American Society of Criminology. There were over 30 people from the department who presented at the American Society of Criminology meeting in Chicago.

The Department of Criminology continues to house three refereed journals. Mike Leiber is the editor of the Journal of Crime & Justice (Jennifer Peck is the assistant managing editor); Wesley Jennings is the editor of the American Journal of Criminal Justice (Brandy Henderson is the assistant managing editor); and Lorie Fridell and Wesley Jennings are co-editors of Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management (Mathew Lynch is the assistant managing editor).

Dr. Elizabeth Cass has been assigned as the graduate coordinator; Bethany Miller has been hired as an undergraduate coordinator, and Loren Fernandez as office assistant. Welcome aboard!

Dr. Margaret Zahn has joined us as a Visiting Professor for a semester. She will be teaching two graduate-level courses; one course will be dealing with gender and programming and the other violence. More information on Margaret can be found in the Newsletter. We look forward to getting to know her better both professionally and personally.

In the Fall of 2012, we held our first “Wall of Fame” ceremony to acknowledge the contributions of our alumni to academia and the community. More on the Wall of Fame can be found in the Newsletter.

We continue to attract students both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. We have over 1,200 undergraduate majors and more than 50 graduate students. The Department continues by most rankings to be among the top 10 criminology and criminal justice programs. The Department also houses the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration (MCJA) program which is specifically designed for practitioners with an emphasis on administration and management within the criminal justice system. The undergraduate major coordinator is Ms. Lisa Landis, llandis@usf.edu. The graduate director is Dr. Lorie Fridell, lfridell@usf.edu. The coordinator of the MCJA program is Dr. Max Bromley, mbromley@usf.edu.

We welcome your feedback with regards to the Newsletter and encourage you to contact us at any time. Please do let us know what you are up to!
Faculty in Focus: Dr. John Cochran

**John K. Cochran** is a Professor of Criminology at the University of South Florida; he joined the faculty 1994. Prior to his arrival he was in the Department of Sociology & Social Work at Wichita State University (1986-1989) and the Department of Sociology at the University of Oklahoma (1989-1994). He earned his B.A. (1980), M.A. (1982) and Ph.D. (1987) in Sociology at the University of Florida. He served as the department’s Associate Chair for ten years (1997-2007) and as the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the College of Arts & Sciences for the past six years.

John has taught both graduate and undergraduate level courses for the department in the areas of criminological theory (both micro and macro-social), quantitative research methods (both basic and applied), and capital punishment. Naturally, these are also areas of his research interests.

John has been an active researcher from early into his experience as a graduate student to the present day. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles/book chapters and consistently includes his colleagues and, particularly, graduate students on his works. He has published in some of the top scholarly journals in the discipline, including, Criminology, Justice Quarterly, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, and many others.

He is perhaps best known for his research into the relationship between religiosity and deviant behavior; a source of twenty of his peer-reviewed articles and an area of inquiry initiated while a graduate student as his dissertation project and into which he continues to dabble, though with less frequency. Two of his most widely cited studies derive from this research interest (see Cochran and Akers, 1985, JRCD and Cochran et. al., 1994, JRCD).

His major professor, Ron Akers, is fundamental for influencing John’s strong scholarly interest in testing mainstream criminological theories, an area for which he has over fifty published articles and for which he continues to make contributions to the discipline. These works are evenly distributed between tests of micro-social theories of criminal behavior such a social learning theory, theories of self and social control, and strain theories and tests of macro-social theories of crime and crime control -- the latter of which stems from his collaborations with Mitch Chamlin when both were at the University of Oklahoma. Again, John’s work in this area is well-regarded and widely cited (see, for example Akers and Cochran, 1985, Deviant Behavior; Chamlin and Cochran, 1995 and 1997, Criminology; and Cochran et al., 1998, Deviant Behavior).

John’s current primary area of scholarship examines issues surrounding the death penalty. This more emergent area of interest began during is waning day at Oklahoma but continues strong today. Here he has already amassed close to twenty publications (see Cochran and colleagues, 1994, Criminology; 2000 and 2003, Justice Quarterly as examples). He also has a book project (his first) in progress. In this monograph, John plans to apply the “evolving standards of decency” and “dignity of man” tests for cruel and unusual punishment as established and applied in the Furman decision to the empirical realities of the death penalty in the current post-Gregg era.

John and his wife Anne have been married for 32 years and are the proud and loving parents of their much adored daughter, Alden. John has spent his life living all over the country, but has been in Tampa longer than anywhere else. The reasons are obvious – he loves his work, his colleagues and students, and the Tampa Bay area. After six years as the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Cochran is looking forward to his return to the faculty in the Fall of 2013.
Faculty in Focus: Dr. Christine Sellers

Christine S. Sellers is in her 23rd year as a member of the faculty in the Department of Criminology at the University of South Florida. She earned her B.A. in Sociology from the College of William and Mary in 1978, her M.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Iowa in 1980, and her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Florida in 1987. Prior to her arrival at USF, she was an assistant professor for two years at Louisiana State University and for another two years at Northern Arizona University. After earning tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in 1994, Christine became Director of the Master’s Program in the Department of Criminology, a position she held until 2003. In 2005, she served again as Graduate Director, this time directing both the Master’s and Doctoral programs. In 2007 she began serving as the Department’s Associate Chair, a position she recently vacated in 2012.

Christine’s scholarly accomplishments include dozens of peer-reviewed articles published in many prestigious journals in the field of criminology and criminal justice. Her articles have appeared in journals such as Criminology, Justice Quarterly, Sociological Quarterly, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Evaluation Review, and the International Journal of the Addictions. Christine’s research focuses primarily on testing the claims of criminological theories. She has investigated the explanatory power of social learning, general strain, and control theories in a variety of contexts, including juvenile substance use, delinquency, and intimate partner violence.

Her current research explores the role played by sex and gender in the explanation of criminal behavior. She is currently examining gender similarities and differences in explanatory concepts drawn from extant criminological theories, with the aim of modifying, where necessary, both the conceptualization and operationalization of theoretical explanations of criminal behavior.

Christine’s expertise in criminological theory also extends to her numerous book chapters and encyclopedia entries on social learning theory, as well as her contributions as co-author to the 4th, 5th, and 6th editions of the highly regarded Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application, published by Oxford University Press. Additionally, she is currently working on a second book with Oxford University Press on the integration of gender into criminological theory.

Christine enjoys teaching graduate and undergraduate students, both in the classroom and through individual study and research. She teaches criminological theory at the undergraduate and graduate levels, research methods, and a seminar on gender and crime. She has served as chair, co-chair, or member of 14 dissertation committees and innumerable thesis committees. Through her administrative roles as well as her university service assignments she has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Department of Criminology and the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences (CBCS). She recently served as Chair of the CBCS Faculty Council and oversaw the process by which the CBCS Tenure and Promotion Guidelines were approved and implemented. In service to the profession, she serves on the editorial boards of Crime and Delinquency and Women & Criminal Justice.

Christine has been married for 26 years to Dr. Neil Rogers, who holds a Ph.D. in History and Political Science and who retired as a Colonel from the U.S. Army. They are proud parents of their 11-year-old daughter Claire, who attends Corpus Christi Catholic School, where Christine serves as a member of the School Advisory Board. The family enjoys spending time at the beach and trips to Disney World.

Home to Journals

**American Journal of Criminal Justice**

Wesley G. Jennings, Editor

**Journal of Crime & Justice**

Michael J. Leiber, Editor

**Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies & Management**

Lorie Fridell & Wesley G. Jennings, Editors
Jon Maskaly is a fourth year doctoral student currently working on his dissertation. Jon’s dissertation tests the independence of explanatory models used to predict fear of crime. Specifically, Jon examines fear of crime in unincorporated Hillsborough County, looking specifically at the role of informal social control and neighborhood level variation. Jon received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada where he worked primarily with Dr. Emmanuel Barthe. While at the University of Nevada, he served as a graduate assistant on two grant funded projects that spurred his interest in getting his Ph.D. One project examined the effects of peers and religion on jury decision making; for his role in the project Jon was awarded a $2000 grant from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues in 2009.

The second project was an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Reno Police Department’s methamphetamine interdiction strategies where he first used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to investigate the geographic distribution of crime and the displacement of meth dealers.

At USF, Jon has continued investigating his interests in policing, neighborhoods, and GIS. In first three years at USF, he worked with Dr. Lorie Fridell and a team of policing scholars from across the country on the National Police Research Platform, longitudinally studying the career-course of newly promoted police supervisors. Jon’s current research interests focus on the relationships between the police and the environments where they work; specifically the reciprocal relationships between the police and the community that can inhibit effectively addressing neighborhood crime problems. In addition to his dissertation, Jon is currently working on projects examining the development of cynicism towards the community in new police recruits and job satisfaction; both of which are directly related to perceptions of contact between the police and the community. Jon is also working on a project with Dr. Lyndsay Bogess examining the veracity of the Broken Windows hypothesis; which has been used to support aggressive policing strategies that often damage the relationship between the police and the community. The results suggest that aggressive targeting disorder will yield negligible crime reductions for the police. In the future Jon wants to more directly examine the reciprocal relationship between the police and the community using data from the Platform Project and other sources as well.

In addition to his studies at USF, Jon has worked as a Guardian ad Litem for the 13th District of Florida since 2009. As a Guardian ad Litem, Jon works to advocate for children that have been removed from their homes due to allegations of abuse and neglect; Jon has played a role in advocating for more than 25 children since first starting.
Melissa Lugo is currently a second-year Criminology Master’s student at the University of South Florida and is wrapping up her last semester. She is also working as a graduate assistant for visiting professor Dr. Margaret Zahn.

Before entering the Criminology M.A. program, Melissa received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology and Anthropology at the University of Florida. Once she has received her Master's degree, Melissa plans on continuing her education by pursuing a PhD in Criminology. She intends to stay in academia by becoming a professor and incorporating elements of psychology and white-collar crime into her research.

At this time, Melissa is working on her Master’s thesis, which examines the relationship between self-control, attitudinal beliefs and white-collar crime intentions utilizing mediation and moderation analyses. Also, she is attending the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Dallas, TX and will be on a panel with Dr. Michael Leiber, Dr. Donna Bishop, and Jennifer Peck presenting a paper titled The Drug Offender and Juvenile Court Outcomes.

Aside from her academic interests, Melissa enjoys going outdoors and observing squirrels; her favorite animal. Downtime usually consists of exploring the hidden treasures of Tampa and taking advantage of her Disney World annual pass.

Congratulations 2012 Graduates!

**MA - Spring 2012**
- Gerald Benfield
- Melissa Barham
- Charles Stickeler

**MA - Summer 2012**
- Nicholas Branic
- Markia Jennings

**PhD - Spring 2012**
- **Heng Choon (Oliver) Chan.** “What propels sexual homicide offenders? Testing an integrated theory of social learning and routine activities theories.” Major Professor: Kathleen Heide; Committee Members: Shayne Jones, Eric Beauregard, Wade Myers, Wesley Jennings.

**PhD - Summer 2012**
- **Shelly Wagers.** “Power and Control Motive”: Developing and Assessing the Measurability of Internal Power. Major Professor: Christine Sellers; Committee Members: Shayne Jones, Kim Lersch, Wilson Palacios.
Featured Alumni: Dr. Kathryn Branch

Dr. Kathryn A. Branch is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Tampa (UT). She also serves as the Coordinator of the Criminology Internship Program at UT. Dr. Branch received her Ph.D. in Criminology from the University of South Florida (USF) in 2005. She received an Outstanding Criminology Ambassador Alumni Award from USF’s Department of Criminology in fall 2012.

Dr. Branch’s research focuses on forms of gendered violence including dating violence and sexual assault. Her recent work can be found in Feminist Criminology, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, and Violence Against Women. She is a member of the American Society of Criminology’s (ASC) Division on Women and Crime and an Executive Board member of ASC’s Division on Victimology. Dr. Branch is also a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences’ Division on Victimology.

Dr. Branch is an active participant in community efforts to raise awareness about sexual assault and dating violence. Dr. Branch serves as a mentor for Teens in Action, a 10 month youth development and civic engagement program that teaches high school youth the social and emotional concepts and skills that will help ensure their success in all aspects of their lives, both as youth and as they become adults. For the past two years, her youth were paired with the Spring of Tampa Bay and hosted Priceless Prom, an interactive event that creates awareness and educates the community about adolescent dating violence. Dr. Branch also serves as an Editorial Board Mentor for One Student, an initiative that provides students and their allies with programs, resources and opportunities to address sexual violence. In addition, Dr. Branch is a member of the Sexual Violence Task Force of Tampa Bay and the University of South Florida Bar Bystander Project Community Action Team Advisory Committee and participates in Take Back the Night.

Additionally, for the past two years, Dr. Branch has participated in Operation Freefall: the boldest, highest-altitude, and most daring event organized to put an end to sexual assault. She recruited three of her undergraduate students to participate in Operation Freefall earning her an Outstanding Student Involvement award from her college. When someone asks Dr. Branch what she does for her cause, she proudly proclaims: “I jump from airplanes!”.

Visiting Professor - Dr. Margaret Zahn

The College of Behavioral and Community Sciences’ Department of Criminology at the University of South Florida is honored to have Dr. Margaret Zahn join the faculty as a visiting professor in Spring 2013.

Dr. Zahn has been a Professor of Sociology at North Carolina State University since 1995, and has served in the past as the President of the American Society of Criminology, the Acting Deputy Director of the Office of Research and Evaluation, and as the primary investigator for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Girls Study Group: A Study of Social Causes of Female Delinquency. Dr. Zahn’s research interests include gender and delinquency, and violence and terrorism.

Dr. Zahn has served in many academic capacities throughout her career, including Acting Center Director of Crime, Violence, and Justice Policy Division at RTI International, Division Director of the violence and Victimization Division of the National Institute of Justice, and the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at North Carolina State University. Zahn has received many honors, including the Fellowship in the American Society of Criminology, induction into the Honors Society of Phi Kappa Phi at North Carolina State University, and the RTI International Award for Highly Published Authors.

The College of Behavioral and Community Sciences and Department of Criminology welcome Dr. Margaret Zahn to the faculty and community!
Wall of Fame

Inaugural Ceremony - September 14th, 2012

The first annual “Wall of Fame” event recognizing distinguished alumni and outstanding criminology ambassadors in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the USF Department of Criminology.

Additional information, details and photos [http://usfcrimwalloffame.cbcs.usf.edu/](http://usfcrimwalloffame.cbcs.usf.edu/)

Wall of Fame Inductees

**Distinguished Alumni**

Denise Paquette Boots, PhD
Carl W. Hawkins Jr., PhD
R. Gil Kerlikowske
Rick Ramirez, MA
Jennifer Wareham, PhD

**Outstanding Criminology Ambassadors**

Kathryn A. Branch, PhD
Heng Choon (Oliver) Chan, PhD
Jennifer H. Peck, MA
Gail Reddick, MA
Tara N. Richards, PhD
Lauren A. Shumate, BA
Welcome New Graduate Students!

**PhD**
Jennifer Leili
Nicholas Perez
Julie Siegel

**MA**
Hyojong Song
Khara Tallman
Lindsey Uy-Johnson

Maude Beaudry-Cyr
Ian Hayes
Norair Khachatriyan
Nicole Larosa

Chris Longino
Joshua Lovelace
Jeremiah Moberg
Jaquala Riggins

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**Student Organizations**

**CGSO**

The Criminology Graduate Student Association (CGSO) is a student-led organization committed to professional development advocacy of graduate students and to giving back to our community. In 2012, The CGSO was recognized as the Outstanding Student Organization Award by the University’s Office of Student Affairs. The award acknowledges the CGSO as being one of the best (of more than 1000) student organizations across the University. This year, the CGSO organized three widely attended professional development workshops with foci on grant writing, teaching, and applying for academic faculty positions. In addition, members of the CGSO gave back to their community 10 members participated as volunteers in the Oktoberfest in St. Petersburg, FL. The CGSO also facilitated the Criminology Department's holiday service project by collecting canned food for Metropolitan Ministries; donating approximately 100 pounds of food to Feeding America Tampa Bay. The CGSO also appointed their first ever Community Service representative (currently Julie Siegel), and also made an effort to collect and donate school supplies to children in foster care; collecting enough school supplies for more than twenty children in the Tampa Bay community. This year, the CGSO mourned the loss of member Tony Madias who was killed in a vehicle accident. To honor Tony’s memory, the CGSO collected money for his family to make a donation in his name to one of his favorite charities (Tampa Bay SPCA). The current CGSO officers include Jon Maskaly (President), Kim Barrett (Vice President), Brandy Henderson (Secretary), and Wyatt Brown (Treasurer).

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**APS**

Alpha Phi Sigma is the only Criminal Justice Honor Society for Criminal Justice Majors. The society recognizes academic excellence of undergraduate, graduate students of criminal justice, as well as juris doctorates. The mission of Alpha Phi Sigma is to promote analytical thinking, rigorous scholarship and life long learning; to keep abreast of the advances in scientific research; to elevate the ethical standards of the criminal justice professions and to sustain in the public mind the benefit and necessity of education and professional training. In order to become a member of Alpha Phi Sigma, undergraduates must be a declared Criminology Major or Minor and have a 3.2 overall and major GPA; have completed at least 4 courses in Criminology; rank in the top 35% of their class. Graduate students must be enrolled in a graduate program; have completed four courses; have a minimum GPA of 3.4 on a 4.0 scale or rank in the upper 25% of their class. To apply go to www.alphaphisigma.org and click Membership Applications. Complete the application and bring it to the advising office for certification of grade point average.
Student Activities

Back to School Gala (left to right): Jenn Leili, Julie Siegel, Kim Barrett

SCJA (left to right): Wyatt Brown, Melissa Lugo, Dr. Max Bromley, Brandy Henderson, Averi Fegadel

ASC Chicago (left to right): Lane Kirkland Gillespie, Chris Donner, Jen Peck

Spring Picnic (left to right): Wyatt Brown, Melissa Lugo, Kim Dandeneau, Brandy Henderson, Jenn Leili, Kimberly Barrett, Brian Sellers, Jennifer Peck, Lane Kirkland Gillespie

Christmas Party (left to right): Veronica Winters, Joy Camacho, Jenn Leili, Nick Perez, Julie Siegel, Kim Dandeneau, Brian Sellers, Chris Donner, Brandy Henderson, Melissa Lugo
Brian Sellers serves as writing coach to students in the MACJA program and teaches a senior seminar in the Sociology Department. At FMHI, he is research assistant to Dr. Annette Christy for a project on justice-involved veterans and Veteran Treatment Courts. In 2012, he co-published articles in the International Journal of Forensic Mental Health, Psychology of Addictive Behaviors, and Psychiatry Research. He also published five articles in Social History of Crime & Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia and one article in The Encyclopedia of Clinical Psychology. He co-presented three papers at the APLS and ASC conferences, and at USF’s Mini-Conference on Co-Occurring Disorders and the Justice System. In fall 2013, Brian will join the Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology Department at Eastern Michigan University as an Assistant Professor.

Douglas Wholl is a doctoral student who advanced to candidacy in spring 2012. He is a teaching assistant for Dr. Heide’s Crime and Justice in America course; he is also shadowing Dr. Boggess’ Death Penalty course in preparation for teaching his own course in the Criminology department. His manuscript on Qualitative Meta-Ethnography is currently under formal review and he is working with Dr. Cochran on manuscripts concerning the death penalty. He is also working on his dissertation prospectus involving secondary victims of the capital punishment process.

Amy Eggers is a research assistant to Drs. Mitchell and Heide. She assists in the following courses: Race and Crime as well as Crime and Justice in America. She presented papers at two research conferences. The first was at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences titled: “The Effects of Birth Status and Sociological Influences on Violent Victimization among Hispanic Youth,” which was later submitted for publication with Dr. Jennings. The second was: “Testing the Ethnic and Racial Generality of Self-Control Theory” at the American Society of Criminology (with Dr. Jones). She is working on a third manuscript with Dr. Boggess. She was also selected to be a Graduate Student Ambassador to work alongside the Dean.

Kimberly L. Barrett is a fourth year doctoral candidate. In 2012, she successfully defended the prospectus for her dissertation entitled, “The Relationship Between Hotspots of Lead and Crime,” chaired by M.J. Lynch. Kimberly also sole-authored, “Bethlehem Steel at Lackawanna: the state-corporate crimes that continue to victimize the residents and environment of Western New York,” a manuscript forthcoming in the Journal of Crime and Justice. Additionally, Kimberly collaborated with L.N. Boggess on a presentation at the annual American Society of Criminology conference examining environmental justice and school segregation in Buffalo, NY. This fall, Kimberly looks forward to joining the faculty in the Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology Department at Eastern Michigan University as an Assistant Professor.

Jason Dobrow is a research assistant to Dr. Wesley Jennings working on a variety of research projects and undergraduate course curriculum. He co-authored an encyclopedia chapter on Dr. Terrie Moffitt and was part of a recent manuscript accepted for publication in the journal of Deviant Behavior. He also has two article submissions to the Encyclopedia of White Collar Crime pending. Finally, Jason was selected as a representative of the College of Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Criminology to the Dean of the Graduate School's student advisory committee, a committee design to help advise the dean on issues relevant to graduate students.

Brittany Poyer is a first year Masters student. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from the University of South Florida.
Jennifer Peck is a doctoral student who had three articles accepted for publication in Crime & Delinquency (with M. Leiber), Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice (with M. Leiber), and Deviant Behavior (sole authored). She was invited with Dr. Michael Leiber to present at the University of Minnesota’s Journal of Law and Inequality 2012 symposium. She also presented papers at the ACJS, MCJA, and ASC annual conferences. She was inducted into the department’s Wall of Fame by receiving an Outstanding Criminology Ambassador Award. Jen continues at her position as the Assistant Managing Editor for the Journal of Crime & Justice, co-teaches two undergraduate courses, and also serves as the student representative on the department’s faculty search committee.

Nicholas Perez is a first-year Doctoral student beginning in the fall of 2012. His main research interests include hazing violence, sociological theory testing, and drugs/alcohol and crime. In his first year at USF, he has begun work with Dr. Cohn in her Behavioral Health Research Lab. He is currently serving as Project Coordinator in her longitudinal Smoking and Alcohol Study. He also works as a lab assistant in her other on-going studies and will be presenting a poster at the upcoming Research Society on Alcoholism conference in June. Nicholas has also conducted data re-coding to assist Dr. Leiber with an upcoming research project.

Stephanie Bramm is a master's student who will be graduating in May 2013. She co-authored the following poster which was presented at the American Society of Criminology's annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois: Mitchell, J.N. and Bramm, S.M. “The Cost of Reporting: Examining Social Support and Comorbidity on Tangible Costs to Rape Victims.” She worked as a research assistant to Dr. Brett Hagman on his bar bystander sexual violence prevention project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Florida Department of Health. She currently works as a research assistant in Dr. Amy Cohn's lab on projects examining sexual assault, alcohol/drug use, and smoking behaviors among college students and members of the local community.

Jennifer Leili is a first year Ph.D. student. She completed her Master's degree at the University of Central Florida. She is currently pursuing research interests in juvenile victimization under the direction of Dr. Ráchael Powers.

Rhissa Briones Robinson is a research support specialist to Dr. Richard Dembo on the Brief Intervention for Drug Use and HIV/STD Risk Prevention Among Truants, a NIDA-funded a experimental, longitudinal study. In 2012, she co-authored 3 papers associated with the project that appear in the Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse and in the Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. She was also a recipient of the Primm-Singleton Pre-Doctoral Travel Award and presented a poster entitled Psychosocial problems among truant youth: A multi-group, exploratory structural equation modeling analysis at the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD).

Stephen VanGeem is a doctoral candidate currently working on his dissertation—a mental health court evaluation for the First District Court of Cache County in Logan, UT. He currently works as a Visiting Lecturer at Utah State University where he teaches Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminology, Social Deviance, Research Methods, and Social Statistics. He was awarded the 2012-2013 Lecturer of the Year at Utah State University. He co-authored and presented a research paper entitled, “Autobots or Decepticons?: Theorizing American Criminal Justice Through The Transformers” at the International Crime, Media, & Popular Culture Studies Conference in Terre Haute, IN.
Mathew Lynch is the assistant editor for Policing; An International Journal for Policing Strategies and Management. He assists in managing the journal’s daily functions, reviewing manuscripts, assigning reviewers, and developing issues for publication. He is also a graduate student ambassador and a scholar for the Translational Research Institute on Adolescent Behavioral Health funded by NIDA. Mr. Lynch’s research interests include Drugs and Crime, Corrections, Incarceration Treatment Alternatives, and Sentencing Reform. Currently, he is working with the Florida Department of Corrections to evaluate an inmate developed/facilitated program. Recently, Mr. Lynch presented a talk entitled, “A New Direction: Evaluating a Prison-Based Reentry Program's Impact on Pre-Release Offending” at the ASC annual conference in Chicago, IL.

Maude Beaudry-Cyr is a second-year MA student currently working as a teaching assistant to Dr. M. Leiber’s Race and Crime course. In 2012, she co-authored a forthcoming entry for the Encyclopedia of Theoretical Criminology entitled “Rational Choice”, and worked as a teaching assistant to Dr. W. Jennings. She is currently working on her thesis and plans to complete her master’s in fall 2013. Some of her research interests include the relationship between mental illness among inmates and recidivism, group dynamics and the effects of peer influence on criminality, and the overlap found between victims and offenders characteristics.

Brandy B. Henderson is a third year Ph.D. candidate in the Criminology program and an active member of USF's Criminology Graduate Student Organization (CGSO). She has been enjoying her position as the managing editor for the American Journal of Criminal Justice. Her research interests include multiple homicide offending, sex offending, corrections, and drugs and she currently has two articles under review and another two ready for submission. Three of these have been presented at the ASC, ACJS, and SCJA criminology conferences. Perhaps her biggest accomplishment to date has been surviving the comprehensive exams process and moving forward to begin work on her dissertation on Psychopathy.

Lane Kirkland Gillespie is a doctoral candidate currently completing her dissertation which examines the role of social structure and place in understanding intimate partner homicide. She is co-author on three journal articles currently in the revision process, and presented two papers at the American Society of Criminology (ASC) conference in Chicago. Lane works as a research assistant on the North Carolina Capital Sentencing Project and teaches in the Criminology department. She also serves as the student representative on the department’s undergraduate committee and is an active member in the ASC's Division on Women and Crime.

Carl Root is a third year doctoral student who advanced to candidacy in 2012. He currently serves as the student representative on the USF Criminology Graduate Committee. Recently, along with developing a dissertation prospectus comparing the Occupy Wall Street movement and critical criminology, he has worked on and co-written two manuscripts currently under review, one on criminological verstehen and victimization and another on environmental justice and the siting of medical marijuana dispensaries. Soon, he hopes to bridge the gap between an undergraduate Art degree, graduate training in criminal justice and criminology, and correspondence with incarcerated artists in a book detailing the lived experience of those artists and others from therapeutic, economic and identity perspectives.

Averi Fegadel is a master's student currently working on her thesis under Dr. Heide entitled "Juvenile Involvement in Double Parricide and Familicide in the US: an Empirical Analysis of 19 Years of Data." She is also working on a manuscript for publication with Dr. Jennings entitled "Assessing the relationship between psychopathy, IQ level, and violent offender type in a sample of male offenders."
Jon Maskaly completed his comprehensive exams and is now working on his dissertation which examines causal models of fear of crime in unincorporated Hillsborough County. This year Jon was co-author on a manuscript, appearing in the Journal of Social Psychology, which examined the effects of various types of apologies on mock-jurors ratings on culpability measures in different settings. Jon also worked, with other students and faculty from USF, on the Platform Project’s final NIJ report and multiple manuscripts examining data collected during the project. Additionally, Jon is working with Dr. Boggess on various projects, including on examining the broken windows hypothesis. He also taught Criminological Theory, Research Methods, and Statistics courses this year at USF.

Caridad Jimenez is a teaching assistant to Dr. Wilson Palacios and a former research and graduate assistant to Dr. Shayne Jones. She presented “The Relationship between Different Operationalizations of Costs and Salience on Antisocial Outcomes” at the American Society of Criminology’s annual conference in Chicago, Illinois alongside Dr. Shayne Jones and other graduate students. Caridad has interned at University Area Community Development Corporation (UACDC) as a community engagement research coordinator. Her job at UACDC was to help implement and bring “Cure Violence”, a violence reduction program formerly known as “CeaseFire”, to the University Area. Caridad is currently working on her thesis and working full-time for the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office Child Protective Investigations Division. On her free time, Caridad volunteers at AMI Kids as a Life Skills Tutor.

Melissa Lugo is a second-year master’s student and works as a graduate assistant for visiting professor Dr. Margaret Zahn. She will be presenting on a panel at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Dallas, TX. She is currently working on her thesis, which examines self-control, attitudinal beliefs, and white-collar crime intentions.

Joy Camacho is completing her last semester in the master’s program. She gave her first presentation last September at the Southern Criminal Justice Association conference and will also present at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences conference in March. Currently, she is working on her thesis entitled "The Tattoo: The Mark of Subversion, Deviance, or Mainstream Self-Expression." She is also working with Dr. Lynch as a TA for his undergraduate course entitled “American Corrections Systems.” Since her first year in the program, Joy also has volunteered her time with two local non-profit agencies. She is working with the Mid-Florida ACLU and Florida Immigrant Coalition on immigrant rights and racial profiling within Tampa Bay and Collier County.

Julie Siegel entered USF in 2012 as a first year doctoral student. She recently graduated from Boston College with a B.A in sociology. Julie has done work for Dr. Michael Leiber and looks forward to continuing at USF.

Christopher Donner is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Criminology and is currently finishing his dissertation entitled "Examining the link between self-control and misconduct in a multi-agency sample of police supervisors: A test of two theories". This past year, he presented papers at national conferences for both the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. He co-authored a NIJ final report entitled "National Police Research Platform: Phase 1 Final Report" and had a paper on Fourth Amendment case law accepted for publication by the American Journal of Criminal Justice. Chris teaches courses on criminological theory, statistics, and American law enforcement, and he is an active member of the Criminology Graduate Student Organization. He recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Fayetteville State University starting August 2013.
The Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration (MACJA) is a specialized program of study specifically designed for practitioners with an emphasis on administration and management within the criminal justice system. The program is a highly concentrated and structured course of study taught on Saturdays over five consecutive semesters. Since 2006, 134 students have graduated from the program. These students represent 50 different criminal justice agencies located throughout the Tampa Bay area. A “Capstone Project” is developed over the five semesters of coursework. It is designed to propose a solution to a problem in the student’s current agency that could potentially be implemented. Dozens of graduates of the MACJA program have been promoted after being in the program and numerous Capstone Projects have been implemented by their agencies. For those interested in the program, contact Max Bromley: mbromley@usf.edu

Masters in Criminal Justice Administration Program (MACJA) Highlights:

A cohort-model weekend program developed specifically for criminal justice professionals completed in 5 consecutive semesters.

The primary goal of the program is to develop problem-solving skills in criminal justice practitioners. A considerable number of graduates have had their “problem-solving proposal” partially applied in their agencies.

Since its inception in August 2006, 134 students have graduated with an average cohort enrollment of 22. Twenty-five more students are on schedule to graduate Spring of 2013.

Fifty different criminal justice agencies have been represented in the MACJA program.

Approximately 50% of the MACJA students are from law enforcement agencies while the other half is distributed among corrections, probation, juvenile justice, and a variety of criminal justice service providers.

Local, state, federal, and private criminal justice agencies have had students in the MACJA program.

MACJA graduates serve in a variety of agency leadership positions and past or current students have been elected as presidents of the Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association (Dave Romine, Rick Ramirez and Rob Vincent).

In the cohort that graduated in the Spring of 2012, nine of the students had job advancements or promotions while in the MACJA program. Another graduate was accepted to a doctoral program (Katherine Gomez).

Demographic characteristics of MACJA graduates include: 52% female, 48% male; 71% White non-Hispanic, 29% minority; age range 22-57; average 9 years since completion of their bachelor’s degree; student’s level within their agencies: 49% entry, 38% mid, 9% upper level.
John K. Cochran has now fully realized the near fatal impact of full-time administrative work on his research productivity; he had only one article accepted for publication and presently has only one manuscript under review. Justice Quarterly accepted his paper with Andrea Bingham, Denise Paquette Boots, and Kathleen Heide and it should appear in print early this year. He served on the department’s Graduate Committee and on the traditional/take-home Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Committee; he also reviewed 38 manuscripts for 24 different journals, continued to serve on the editorial board of four scholarly journals, and served as an external Tenure and Promotion reviewer for the University of Louisville and on the disciplinary committee as an external reviewer for a Distinguished University Professorship for Central Washington University. He is currently completing his final academic year as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the College of Arts & Sciences and is looking forward to his return to the faculty.


Dr. Richard Dembo published four articles, a commentary, and a book chapter; and was involved in presentations at six national conferences. These articles, book chapter, and presentations address at-risk youth substance use and other risk behavior. He also had two NIH grant projects extended, and was involved in the preparation of two other NIH grant applications. He was appointed to the Scientific Committee of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health, and received an Honorable Mention in News Digest International on August 28, 2012 for the work of his staff and himself in Hillsborough County, Florida. He also continued his vary active involvement in community services for troubled youth and their families.

Dr. Elizabeth Cass joined the faculty in 2012 as Graduate Coordinator and Instructor after having taught at the Lakeland campus for a year. As Graduate Coordinator she will be providing mentoring to our graduate students as well as coordinating admissions and working to get the new Ph.D. curriculum approved. In addition, she will be teaching two classes a semester including Research Methods, Senior Seminar and Crime and Justice in America. She continues her longtime volunteer work at the Metropolitan Ministries, a local organization that serves poor and homeless families.

Dr. Michael Leiber was awarded a grant from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), entitled, “Race and Juvenile Justice Court Processing and Case Outcomes: Fluctuation or Stability?, to analyze secondary data. He has a forthcoming sole authored article in Crime & Delinquency and a published co-authored (with Lyndsay Boggess) article in the Journal of Youth Violence & Juvenile Justice. He was invited (along with Jennifer Peck) to present at the University of Minnesota’s Law School as part of a 2012 symposium on Law & Inequality. Leiber also provided consulting services related to race and juvenile justice to the state of Massachusetts, in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). He has also been appointed as a Monitor of the reform of Shelby (Memphis) county’s juvenile justice system by the US Department of Justice. He is the editor of the Journal of Crime & Justice, a journal of the Midwest Criminal Justice Association and serves as Interim Chair of the Department of Criminology.

Dr. Christine S. Sellers co-authored (with Angela Yarbrough, Shayne Jones, Christopher Sullivan and John Cochran) an article in 2012 in the International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology 56 (2):191-202. She also published a co-edited volume (with L. Thomas Winfree, Jr. and Ronald Akers) entitled Social Learning for Volume 5 of the Theoretical Criminology series published by Ashgate, an international publishing company in the United Kingdom. Also appearing in print in 2012 was the 6th edition of the highly regarded Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application (co-authored with Ronald Akers). She presented two papers and one poster at national conferences in 2012. In late summer of 2012 she stepped down as Associate Chair, a position she held for 5 years. She spent the Fall 2012 semester on sabbatical, for which she engaged in research investigating the role of sex and gender in theoretical explanations of criminal behavior.

Dr. Lorie Fridell received funding for two projects in 2012, totaling $450,000. This brings to over $1.5 million the total amount of funds she has brought into USF since joining the department in 2005. The National Institute of Justice funded Phase II of the National Police Research Platform, which is overseen by Dennis Rosenbaum at the University of IL at Chicago and includes a partnership with USF. The US Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (“COPS Office”) provided a third round of funding to support Dr. Fridell’s work to address biased policing. Dr. Fridell involved police experts and the social psychologists who study human biases to create the Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP) perspective and training program. Several states are moving toward wholesale adoption of the FIP perspective, including Kansas, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and South Carolina and this perspective is recognized as best practice by the Civil Rights Division of USDOJ.

Dr. M. Dwayne Smith was co-author of two articles accepted during 2011-12 that are pending publication, one in Crime & Delinquency (with Tara Richards, Wesley Jennings, Christine Sellers, Sondra Fogel, and Beth Bjerregaard), the other in Violence Against Women (with Lane Kirkland Gillespie, Tara Richards, and Eugena Givens). He prepared a poster (with Beth Bjerregaard and Sondra Fogel) for the American Society of Criminology meetings, and co-chaired a completed Doctoral Dissertation (Tara Richards). He also continues to serve as Senior Vice Provost of the university.

Dr. Michael Lynch published 5 articles, 2 book chapters and a review essay during 2012. In addition, he published three short articles on the Critical Criminology Website, coauthored seven conference papers presented at 5 different conference venues, and wrote a series of eight papers for USF's non-faculty union entitled, "The War Against the Working Class." Professor Lynch organized and helped design a website for the International Green Criminology Working Group, and raised $ 2,365 in private donations using Kick-starter to construct and operate the site. In addition to department services, he served on three University Committees.

Dr. Ráchael Powers finished her doctoral dissertation and moved to the sunny state of Florida to begin life as a professor. In 2012, she published two articles in Journal of Interpersonal Violence. The first of these concerns trends in intimate partner violence as a function of employment and race. The second of these examines the use of self-protective behaviors among a group of incarcerated women. In addition, she published an encyclopedia entry on help-seeking among sexual assault victims in Sexual Violence & Abuse: An Encyclopedia of Prevention, Impacts, and Recovery. She is currently working on several projects related to victimization in areas such as self-protective behaviors, public opinion, and domestic violence. She is also branching out and beginning projects related to alternatives to traditional incarceration such as corporately owned re-entry centers and diversionary programs for veterans.

Dr. Wilson R. Palacios has three articles under review and revised and resubmitted a fourth. In addition, he is co-editing, with Dr. Jody Miller, a volume of original essays for the Advances in Criminological Theory Series; its tentative publication is the fall of 2014. He also submitted two federal grant applications and has a publication in press focusing on the role of Syndemic Theory as both a teaching and research tool for training the next generation of HIV/ AIDS researchers; the impetus for this publication stems from his continual collaboration at Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University. On a personal note, the Palacios household was blessed with a new addition, Ethan Alexander Palacios, in December of 2012.
Dr. Max Bromley continued to administer and teach in the MA in Criminal Justice Administration (MACJA) Program in 2012. During the Fall and Spring semesters, Dr. Bromley advises and mentors 40-50 active MACJA students. Upon request, Dr. Bromley provides advice and assistance to local criminal justice agencies that are led by students who have graduated from the MACJA program. Dr. Bromley also continues to be an active member of the Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association. He attended the November meeting of this group where two MACJA graduates were placed on the Association’s Board of Directors after serving as their terms as Presidents of the group. A third MACJA graduate was sworn in as the new President at the same meeting. Wyatt Brown, a doctoral student who works with MACJA, program is working with Dr. Bromley on analyzing exit data collected from graduating MACJA cohorts. During the year Dr. Bromley also reviewed several manuscripts being considered for future publication at the request of publishers. He also authored a revised chapter in Fisher and Slogan (Eds.) about campus crime.

Dr. Kathleen Heide's 4th book, Understanding Parricide: When Sons and Daughters Kill Parents, was published by Oxford University Press. This book is the culmination of Professor Heide's research and clinical evaluations of parricide offenders over nearly 30 years. Dr. Heide also had three articles published in peer reviewed journals and two others accepted for publication. Published articles included Male and Female Child Murderers: An Empirical Analysis of U.S. Arrest Data (with Brian Sellers, lead author) and Male and Female Juveniles Arrested for Murder: A Comprehensive Analysis of U.S. Data by Offender Gender (with Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, Eldra Solomon, and Oliver Chan), both published in the International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology and Juvenile Involvement in Fratricide and Sororicide: An Empirical Analysis of 32 Years of U.S. Arrest Data (with Jennifer Peck, lead author), published in the Journal of Family Violence. Invited presentations given by Dr. Heide included her research on animal cruelty and human violence at the American Psychological Association Annual Meeting, a plenary address on parricide at the Forensic Rights and Treatment Conference sponsored by Drexel University College of Medicine, and a synopsis of her work on juvenile female homicide offenders to the FBI.

Dr. Amy Cohn was the recipient of two federally funded grants. Dr. Cohn is principal investigator on a grant funded by the American Cancer Society, is to designed to use daily diary phone technology to examine the daily smoking and drinking patterns that lead to cessation efforts in a high-risk group of heavy drinking smokers. The second grant, on which she is co-PI, is funded by the Florida Department and the Centers of Disease Control and seeks to develop a bystander training intervention for bartenders and employees to reduce alcohol-related sexual assault in bar settings. Dr. Cohn also published several articles in areas related to substance use and intimate partner violence. A sample of these publications: Cohn, A.M., Zinzow, H.M., Resnick, H., & Kilpatrick, D.G. (2012). Reasons for not reporting rape in a national sample of victims of drug-or-alcohol facilitated/incapacitated and forcible rape: The role of rape tactics and rape characteristics. Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Hagman, B.T., Cohn, A.M. (2012). Understanding DSM alcohol use disorder criteria in a sample of non-college bound young adults: Implications for DSM-V; Journal of American College Health; and Ehlke, S., Hagman, B.T., & Cohn, A.M. (2012). Assessing DSM-V alcohol use disorder diagnoses in a national sample of non-college bound young adults: Validating the new criteria; Substance Use and Misuse. She is currently mentoring eight graduate and undergraduate students from Psychology, Criminology, and Public Health.


Dr. Lyndsay Boggess currently has three manuscripts under review investigating different aspects of neighborhoods and crime. She presented a paper on the reciprocal nature of neighborhood structural changes and crime at the American Society of Criminology conference in Chicago and has submitted to (hopefully) present at the American Sociological Association meeting in New York City in August. She continues to work closely with the Tampa Police Department and is beginning a new research agenda analyzing crime patterns in the City of Tampa. She is the Co-Chair of Jon Maskaly’s dissertation and a member of Lane Kirkland and Kim Barrett’s dissertations. Dr. Boggess recently got married in October, 2012.
Andrew Franz, aside from teaching seven courses and moving from Pittsburgh during the summer of 2012, published a book chapter entitled, Climate Change and the Courts: A U.S. and Global Perspective which appeared in Climate Change, Crime and Criminology, edited by Rob White and published by Springer. In the spring, he presented at the International Symposium for the Study of the Social Sciences, at University of Central Florida, on the topic: “Using the Concept of Environmental Justice as a Multi-Disciplinary Teaching Tool. In the fall, Andrew was a guest speaker at the state conference of Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, held at the University of South Florida, speaking about developments in Due Process law and the climate of law enforcement strategies. Instructor Franz was also the recipient of full tuition grant from Environmental Law and Policy Scholarship Program at Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT, where he attended an intensive two week course on International Instruments for the Control of Environmental Degradation, studying environmental issues before the G-20, GATT and the WTO and other international bodies.

Dr. Scot Boeringer taught 10 courses on the Lakeland campus for a total of 939 student credit hours and 313 students. His primary assignment area was in Criminology, where he taught seven courses, with a secondary assignment in Interdisciplinary Social Science, where he taught three. Scot continued teaching several of the CCJ 4934 Senior Seminar courses which are required for majors in that area (and which are used by several other Lakeland majors as capstone courses), adding to the diversity of options in this graduation requirement and contributing to the Lakeland/Polytechnic "teach-out" efforts. He was also a reviewer for Violence Against Women and the Journal of Family Issues. He is currently engaged in preliminary work on a research project that focuses on behavioral, attitudinal, and cognitive effects of consumption of online pornography.

Dr. LeGrande Gardner has a forthcoming book chapter titled "Law Enforcement and Prosecution Strategies" in S. McQuade's (ed) Cybercrime: Issues, Cases, and Responses, 2013, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. In 2012, he attained recertification as a Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE) from the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS) and as a Certified Examiner on AccessData's Forensic ToolKit software suite. He also attained certification as an E-Discovery Specialist from the Association of Certified E-Discovery Specialists (ACEDS) and certification as a Cellebrite UFED Mobile Device Forensic Examiner. He served as an IACIS Training Coach/Mentor to candidates seeking CFCE certification. He maintains active memberships in and engages in committee service to IACIS, ACEDS, the High Tech Crime Consortium (HTCC), the Consortium of Digital Forensic Specialists (CDFS), and the American Society of Digital Forensics and e-Discovery (ASDFED). In 2012, he was invited to serve as a subject matter expert on the doctoral dissertation committee of a law enforcement practitioner student at the New South Wales University, Australia, who conducted groundbreaking research on the applied aspects of criminal investigations in the trafficking and digital concealment of child pornography (steganography). As part of continuing research for an ethnography focused on the American 1% Biker, Dr. Gardner spent over three weeks during 2012 attending national-level motorcycle events known to be well-attended by 1%'er American motorcycle enthusiasts.

Dr. Leonard Territo, Professor Emeritus, has had another very productive year. In addition to serving as a fulltime faculty member at St. Leo University he has co-authored two books scheduled for release in 2013. One entitled the Criminal Investigation of Human Trafficking in the United States may be the first on this particular topic. The second, is the third edition of his popular book entitled Stress management in Law Enforcement. The co-authored Criminal Investigation book that DR. Territo has been involved in for the past 35 years has just gone into its 11th Edition. It is the leading book of its kind in the United States and has recently been translated into Chinese for use by Chinese criminal justice students and Chinese law enforcement officers. In addition, the 8th Edition of his co-authored Police Administration is also on the current market. Before moving to an academic position at USF, Dr. Territo was a homicide investigator with the Tampa Police department, Chairman of the criminal justice department at St. Pete Community College and served as the Chief Deputy Sheriff in Leon County, Fl where he was part of the investigative team that arrested mass murderer Ted Bundy.

Dr. William R. Blount, who officially retired in 2007 and was awarded Professor Emeritus that same year, continues to teach (Methods/Statistics) in the MACJA program where he has taught every cohort since the program’s inception. He teaches in the CJMA program at Saint Leo University. After 40+years it is just too much fun to stop. He is on the Board of Directors of THUSFAR, (The USF Association of Retired Faculty and Staff) which is an amazing collection of colleagues old and new who, in addition to providing intellectual stimulation in a wide variety of areas, also supports scholarships for USF students. He is one of the founding members of the Florida School of Addictions Studies, and having recently completed his second term as President, remains on the Board of Directors in this their 31st year of providing education and training (and CEU’s) to alcohol and drug counselors across Florida. Ever interested in research and action programs which have a lasting benefit to society, he continues as a consultant to the Jim Walter Partnership Group’s Anti Crime initiative completed in the area just west of USF, and with the Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc’s Non Custodial Parent Program operating in Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas and Dade counties.
Welcome New Hires for Fall 2013!

Bryanna Hahn Fox is a doctoral candidate at the University of Cambridge in England, and a research fellow in the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit. Bryanna's research focuses on offender profiling and psychological criminology, with the goal of scientifically developing and testing new profiles for offenders in the United States. Additional areas of interest are biosocial theory, experimental research, policing, statistics and research methods, and developmental criminology. Bryanna's articles can be found in Criminal Justice and Behavior, International Journal of Conflict and Violence, Security Journal, and Social Forces. She is looking forward to joining the USF Department of Criminology this fall.

Joshua Cochran is a doctoral candidate in the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University. His research focuses on the effects of punishment, prison experiences, perceptions of justice, and the causes of offending. Josh’s dissertation work examines prisoners’ visitation experiences and the implications of those experiences on prison social order and future criminal behavior. Recently, he completed work on a federally funded project sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention with Drs. Daniel P. Mears and Avinash Bhati examining juvenile justice sanctioning. He recently received three awards, including the ASC Division on Corrections and Sentencing Dissertation Award, the ACJS Michael C. Braswell/Anderson Publishing Student Paper Award, and the Graduate Research and Creativity Award for the Social and Behavioral Sciences from Florida State University.

Thanks to our USF Criminology Staff!

Chandra Davis: Office Manager
Lisa Landis: Undergraduate Coordinator /Student Advisor
Nadine Priester: Program Assistant
Loren Fernandez: Office Assistant
Courtney Lewellen: Academic Advisor
Bethany Miller: Academic Advisor

We appreciate all that you do!
The Wisdom of Socrates for Today

Recently we have heard of mass shootings and the tragic death of innocents, talk of gun controls, budget shortfalls and fiscal cliffs. We can expect these events to influence legal policies, the practices of law enforcement and demand for scholarship and should not be blind to them. I propose, however, that despite all the drama and turmoil of the day, we would be well served to appreciate crime and criminal law’s remarkable stability and justice’s fragility, and to thereby maintain a wise and balanced perspective on the impact of contemporary matters on criminological thought. Despite the news of the day I strive to live life and to teach my classes in a manner reflecting three of my core criminal justice beliefs: 1) that good law must be equal parts legitimacy, coercion, and aspiration; 2) that as much as I know we need law enforcement to protect us, I would prefer to live in a society where law enforcement played a minimal role because citizens behaved themselves; and 3) the law enforcement personnel of this great nation need to be well educated in order to reflect the front-line aspirations of civility so many of us hold for it. The wisdom that acknowledges law’s relative stability and justice’s fragility requires us to not forget the distant as well as the more recent past and to reflect that no matter how dangerous these days are, there have been many places and times where it was the same or worse. When pondering the question “what should we do today?” I ask students and peers to consider the past, particularly to how the ancient philosopher Socrates might have approached the debate.

Socrates did not talk about budget shortfalls or gun control policies, but he knew about violence and he was well ahead of his time in knowing enough about law to know that law was not and never could be the ultimate fix to the ills society faces. Experience taught him that although law played a fairly stable function in a changing society, justice was a fragile institution that could quickly do more harm than good if not checked by good citizenship and not applied with the greatest care regarding moral judgment and humane wisdom.

Socrates’ life and teachings, contained primarily in Plato’s Apology, Phaedo, Crito and Euthyphro contain much criminological wisdom and have inspired contemporary scholarship on many criminological subjects. In the Euthyphro, another man’s criminal trial is the subject and a raw nerve is exposed pertaining to how societal conventions of justice and popular morality too easily conflate with the self-interest of law enforcers. The dialogue forces those who enforce law to confront destabilizing truths underlying justice; that too frequently, popular legal practices are based on normative assumptions easily manipulated to front as distractions for hate, profit, brutality, or employment security above a criminalization process—perhaps a hidden desire for means to be better integrated to ends. The rational evidence for this blind obsession are the large numbers of morality-based—as opposed to utility-based—crimes we process as “justice,” and the “inhumane” difference in the respective rewards and punishments meted out. Euthyphro’s inconsistent and indefensible logic leads to this sort of legal extremism. It leads to a justice more concerned with what offenders or upholds the dignity of the sacred sovereign than it is with what is the best good for humankind. It lead to situations where the primary moral concerns are whether the arrest was proper or the case is properly before the court instead of rigorously and critically asking “Who is this law being enforced for and why?” Failing to ask such questions, by law makers, by law enforcers, by law abiders and even by law breakers ensures the maintenance of laws that irrationally keep us coerced in fear and engenders expectations of reward as the entitlement of power. That many highly destructive collective practices are not prosecuted or criminalized, much less defined by law, or that there is a strong likelihood that prevailing moral norms of society are derived from the will of a small cadre of elites is of no account to convention. We are led inevitably to situations where the role of human agency is artifically minimized and where the resultant individual cases of injustice can be viewed as unproblematic. Instead of inspiring admiration and impartiality, under these Hobbesian conditions, the law creates an obsessive-compulsive society habituated by the worst sort of ignorance—that which thinks itself wise simply because it categorizes and classifies specializations within it. Despite our nation’s great powers, failing to love our laws because they are beautiful, efficient, rational and elegant, we will not be a civilized people of rational discourse.