



# DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CCJS E-NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2020



## Opening Remarks from Gary LaFree

### Welcome to the University of Maryland Criminology and Criminal Justice Newsletter!

Hi Friends, Colleagues and Graduates!

I am sure that it will come as no surprise to anyone reading this newsletter that the CCJS department went through wrenching changes during this semester as a result of the COVID-19 virus. By the time spring break was announced the week of March 15, it was already clear that the department was going to have to move all of its courses online. We spent the week of March 22 making arrangements. Laure Brooks, our undergraduate coordinator, worked diligently to make this transition and I want to praise our dozens of full-time and part-time faculty that made the transition go so smoothly. Given the suddenness of the transition, it went remarkably well.

In the meantime, all of our front office staff Charlene, Abby and Jessica as well as our advising office Nicole and Diane have been continuing to work offline. We schedule frequent online meetings, phone calls and email exchanges. And again, I would say that while the process

is far from perfect, on balance it is working better than I would have guessed.

Of course, there has been some fallout. We have had to put on hold our plans to do a major renovation of the department this summer. Our China MA program for next year has been put on hold. We are working closely with authorities from the state and university to monitor the situation and are fully committed to resuming regular international activities just as soon as it is safe to do so. Also, we were unable to do an open house for a new group of graduate students this spring. Instead, all recruitment had to be done online.

But despite these challenges, it has also been a remarkable year. Perhaps most importantly, we will be bringing five new faculty members to CCJS next year. Bobby Brame will be joining us from the University of South Carolina, Rob Stewart will be coming on board from the University of Minnesota, Rachel Ellis is joining us from the University of Missouri St. Louis, Brooklynn Hitchens from Rutgers will be coming on board for a one-year postdoc followed by a full-time appointment. And finally, Zubin Jelveh will be joining us (with a shared appointment in the Information School) from University of Chicago. I am happy to report that we will have 6 new PhD students and 3 new MA students joining the program in the fall. And kudos to Charlene Werner and our faculty for turning in a record number of grant applications this semester.

And now we are facing the next steps in the process of dealing with the health crisis. The department is already developing contingency transition plans for all CCJS summer courses and is working closely with the university and college to develop plans for the fall semester.

I think it is safe to say that we are all very much looking forward to the day when we can return to a more familiar academic environment!

Please continue to share your stories with us at [ccjs-admin@umd.edu](mailto:ccjs-admin@umd.edu)!

Very best wishes and above all else, please stay safe!

Sincerely,

Gary LaFree

Professor and Chair



#### FEATURED NEWS

## **CCJS Faculty Win Prestigious ASC Awards, Recognition**

Three faculty members in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice have recently received awards and recognition from the American Society of Criminology (ASC). [Read More](#)



#### FEATURED NEWS

## **A New World for Higher Education**

The CCJS department in particular has a unique perspective on this international crisis and continue to make use of technology as we work remotely.

[Read More](#)



#### FEATURED NEWS

## **#1 College for Criminology 2020**

Based on the 25 schools that offer the top Bachelor's degrees in Criminology, the University of Maryland - College Park has the highest median salary.

[Read More](#)



#### FEATURED NEWS

## **John Laub to Represent the American Sociological Association on the Board of Directors of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics**

John Laub was recently invited as an at-large member to the Board of Directors of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS).

[Read More](#)



FEATURED NEWS

## Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice Administration

The new online graduate certificate is designed to prepare criminal justice professionals for the next level of career advancement. [Read More](#)



FEATURED NEWS

## National Institute of Justice Awards \$1.5 Million to START for Work on Radicalization and Reintegration

The National Institute of Justice recently awarded nearly \$1.5 million to START researchers for two new projects examining violent extremists' radicalization, mobilization and reintegration. [Read More](#)

## FEATURED VIDEOS



### Dr. Gregory Midgette

As an installment in our Criminology for the 21st Century video series, Professor Gregory Midgette, discusses data challenges for studying the opioid market.

[Watch now!](#)



### **Dr. Lawrence Sherman**

As an installment in our Criminology for the 21st Century video series, Professor Lawrence Sherman, discusses evidence-based policing.

[Watch now!](#)

## **IN MEDIA**

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**Jan 30**

Gary LaFee was featured in an article in [Homeland Security Today](#) which reviewed recent work Gary and colleagues at START have done on violent extremism for the National Institute of Justice.

**Feb 10**

Sally Simpson was interviewed for a [Huffington Post](#) article on "The Golden Age of White Collar Crime".

**Mar 29**

Lauren Dugan was interviewed by the [Baltimore Sun](#) on the side effect of coronavirus leading to more domestic violence and fewer victims seeking help.

These are some of the many notable media mentions.

For more, please visit our [website](#).

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