



# DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CCJS E-NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2021



## **Opening Remarks from Gary LaFree**

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

Hi Friends, Colleagues and Graduates of the University of Maryland's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice!

This will be my last CCJS newsletter as department chair! I am finishing my three-year term on June 30. And I am delighted to say that Sally Simpson will be taking over as Interim Department Chair upon my departure. As most of you know, Sally is a seasoned veteran when it comes to running the CCJS Department (or should I say, a "recidivist"). She served as department chair from 2004-2012 and as Interim Department Chair in 2017-2018. I want to wish Sally all the best during the upcoming year.

We are also extremely pleased to be inviting Rod Brunson to the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice this fall! Rod is coming to us from Northeastern University, where he has been the Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. Professor of Public Life. Rod's long list of research publications focus especially on Police-Community Relations, Youth Violence and Concentrated Neighborhood

Disadvantage. Rod will be teaching a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses in the department and also continuing a very active research agenda, including a large new project in Baltimore.

We have had an excellent year for recruiting graduate students. We are expecting 18 new graduate students in next year's cohort. And according to current plans, we will be welcoming the new students in person! While most of our classes will be online this summer we expect to be operating in person in our newly renovated offices in LeFrak Hall this fall.

Please continue to share your stories with us at ccjs-admin@umd.edu!

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

Sincerely,

Gary LaFree  
Professor and Chair



FEATURED NEWS

## **CCJS Welcomes Interim Chair Sally Simpson**

Dr. Sally Simpson will serve as the new Interim Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJS) at the University of Maryland (UMD), beginning July 1, 2021. [Read More](#)



FEATURED NEWS

## **Renowned Scholar Rod Brunson Joins the CCJS Faculty**

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice is pleased to welcome Rod K. Brunson to the faculty. Brunson's research informs criminal justice policy and crime control practices. [Read More](#)



FEATURED NEWS

## **Ranked #1 Graduate Program in Criminology**

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJS) at the University of Maryland (UMD) is ranked No. 1 overall among the 42 criminology institutions in the United States. [Read More](#)



FEATURED NEWS

## **Department Will Now Offer a Minor in Criminal Justice**

This minor will offer students outside of the CCJS major the opportunity to learn more about the criminal justice system and the challenges it faces. [Read More](#)



FEATURED NEWS

## **Rachel Ellis Awarded a Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grant**

CCJS Rachel Ellis was awarded a Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grant for her next project on women on probation. [Read More](#)

## **CONGRATULATIONS CCJS 2021 HONORS GRADUATES!**

**The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Congratulates our 2021 Honors Program Students.**

We celebrate your hard work and successful completion of your honors thesis research. We know that graduation marks just the beginning of your journey and we look forward to watching you continue to grow in your professional careers as budding scholars. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students in the CCJS Department, we congratulate you on this major

accomplishment and wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors!

---



## **Kate Medwar-Vanderlinden**

Thesis: Perceptions of Police and Related Reform Strategies

Following graduation, Kate has earned a position with McDermott Will & Emery.

*"My favorite part about the Honors Program was getting to collect my own data, and the ensuing camaraderie that sprung from all of us data collectors wrestling with our respective statistics programs."*

---



## **Jordan Karpoff**

Thesis: Menstrual Equity in Prison

Post-grad plans: I plan to go to law school, in hopes of one day becoming an advocacy attorney.

*"My favorite part of the Honors Program is working with her peers in the program who have now become friends and will continue to be colleagues."*

---



## **Bryan Midlam**

Thesis: Assessing Progressive Prosecution in Baltimore, Maryland

Post-grad plans: I plan to work in law enforcement after graduating.

*"My favorite part about the Honors Program has been*

*learning how much time, effort, and research go into an academic paper."*



## **Skylar Johnson**

Thesis: The Impact of Smartphone Technology on Parental Monitoring and College

Post-grad plans: I plan on attending law school in the fall to pursue her dreams of becoming a public defense attorney.

*"My favorite part about the Honors program is the community we have built. This class became so much more than a class, and I am so grateful to all of my classmates for the past 2 years of learning, growth, and support!"*



## **Zoe Tesser**

Thesis: A Qualitative Research Proposal Examining the Relationship between Toxic Masculinity and Extreme Violence through the Lens of the Incel Subculture

Post-grad plans: I plan to move to Denver, Colorado and start Graduate school within the next year, while also enjoying skiing and hiking and everything else that the West has to offer. I plan to get a Master's in Social Work with a concentration in Youth and Juvenile Justice.

*"My favorite part about being involved with the Honors program has been getting the opportunity to dive deeply into a topic that I am passionate about, while also having the ability to receive immense support and individual attention from Dr. Bersani, my TA*

*Kristin Reque, and my peers. It has definitely been a challenge, but it has given me so much insight and has made me close to people who will continue to guide me for years to come."*



## **Rebecca Shankman**

Thesis: Physiology and Cops: The Effects of Physiological Impairment on Police Behavior

Post-grad plans: I am moving to Boulder, Colorado and working before applying to graduate school!

*"My favorite part of the Honors Program is working with her peers in the program who have now become friends and will continue to be colleagues."*



## **Elizabeth Pokress**

Thesis: "Say Her Name": An Analysis of Support for Black Lives Matter Among College Students

Post-grad plans: I plan to work in law enforcement after graduating.

*"I enjoyed making connections with everyone and seeing how research becomes a collaborative process. The whole group was so supportive of each other and I could not have done my thesis without them!"*



## **Shuran Chen**

Thesis: Extending Social Bond Theory to Occupational Crimes: Assessing the Role of Opportunity

Plans for after graduation: I will be working at Deloitte in the Tax team for some time. After that, I plan to apply for law school.

*"I really like how intimate the group becomes. In this small cohort, not only do we establish friendships, but we also get the opportunity to challenge ourselves academically and complete an independent research project."*

## EVENTS AND STAY CONNECTED

### 2021 American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting

Chicago, Palmer House Hilton

Date: 11/17/2021 – 11/20/2021

Theme: Science and Evidenced-Based Policy in a Fractured Era

[JOIN TODAY](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[GIVE](#)



COLLEGE OF  
BEHAVIORAL &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

2220 Samuel J. LeFrak Hall / 7251 Preinkert Drive / College Park, MD 20742  
301.405.4699 / 301.405.4733 / [ccjs.umd.edu](http://ccjs.umd.edu)



[Update Your Information](#)

You received this email because of your affiliation with the University of Maryland. [Unsubscribe](#)