



Our fall semester here at Wayne State is now in full swing, but before the warm air and sunny days get too far behind us I want to take a brief moment to share what our staff and students have been up to over the summer months. With a lecture by Chief James E. Craig and a summer internship program, we've stayed busy connecting many of our students to learning experiences with the Detroit Police Department. At the moment we are also training student researchers to assist in an evaluation of the Neighborhood Police Officer Program in Detroit, so be sure to look for an update about their experiences with this opportunity in our next newsletter.

There's a good chance you'll recognize the pictures of our newest faculty members below. We're quite happy to be welcoming back two faculty with ties to WSU CJ. As always, we love to hear from all of our alumni and friends of the department, so please be in touch!

-Brad Smith, *Interim Chair*



## Detroit Police Department Summer Interns 2014

A group of Wayne State University criminal justice students had the opportunity to intern at the Detroit Police Department (DPD) this summer. What was just another day at the office for DPD officers was an eye-opening experience for these undergraduate students from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students Kenneth Cockrel, Danielle Klovski and Kevin Rader were assigned to different precincts within the department.

“For part of the internship I worked in the Commercial Auto Theft Section, which is an undercover unit,” says Rader. “I was able to be in the car during a high-speed chase on the west side of Detroit. We followed the two suspects and I actually had the chance to witness that chase in action.”

Observing how DPD officers handled high-priority calls created an intense but enlightening environment for one intern.

“I was assigned to the fifth precinct detectives unit and was able to assist the detectives,” says Cockrel. “We went to a holding facility on Mound and also visited the Detroit Detention Center. We actually were able to sit in and watch detectives interrogate suspects.”

From the day-to-day duties performed to the outstanding officers and detectives these interns worked with, this internship reaffirmed their passion for criminal justice.

"I'll never forget the people I met and the lessons learned while working the Crime Scene Unit during the midnight shift," recalls Kloviski. "They let me lift DNA, take photos, proofread and write their reports. The night shift was my favorite part of the internship because it solidified everything I was taught in the classroom."

From undercover and detective units to midnight crime scenes, these interns had an inside look at what it's really like to work as an officer in the DPD. They recommend all criminal justice students take advantage of this hands-on learning experience.

"I highly suggest students in this department look into the DPD internship program," says Cockrel. "If you're interested in law enforcement, you will get a firsthand look at what this job entails."

- written by Anna Harden, CLAS PR Assistant

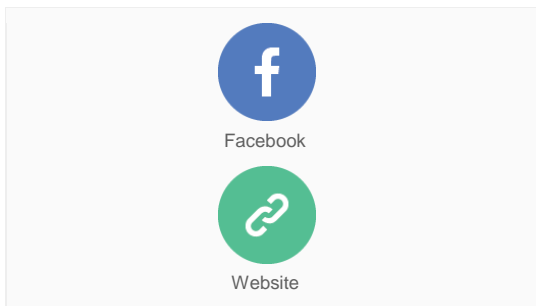


*Chief James E. Craig poses with CJ student Amy Smith after his talk on campus in April.*

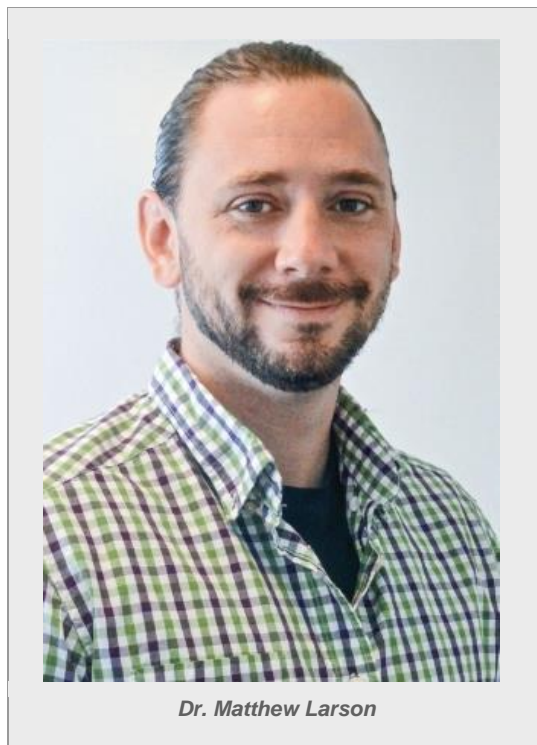
There was standing room only in the Purdy/Kresge Auditorium when Detroit Police Chief James E. Craig arrived to speak in April of this year. Students, faculty, and a few other guests piled in to hear the Chief share about his prior experiences leading police organizations and what that means for his service in Detroit. Craig actually started his police career with DPD at the age of 19, but after mass lay-offs during Coleman Young's regime, moved to Los Angeles to join LAPD. Craig shared that early in his career he recognized that in order to effectively change a police organization, one needs to lead it, and thus he aspired to eventually become a chief.

Although his initial time with DPD was brief, he carried with him a value for community policing that was quite different than what he found in the policing culture of LAPD. In the wake of the crack epidemic of the 80's, Craig initiated an operation called STRAP (Stop The Rock, Assist Police), which involved utilizing foot patrol to help drive dealers out of particularly rough area of the city. Craig steadily rose through the leadership ranks for 28 years, eventually serving as adjutant to the Chief at the time. He then accepted a position as Chief of Police in Portland, Maine where he worked to improve relations with a turbulent immigrant population. In Cincinnati, Ohio he served as both the first African-American chief and the first chief hired outside the department. He finally returned to Detroit in July 2013 to take over as Chief of DPD. Craig noted that while the nation has its eyes turned to Detroit in light of the bankruptcy, attention has simultaneously been turned to the police department and its response to crime in the city.

At the end of his talk, Chief Craig took time to answer questions from students about his vision for the future of this city. His input was insightful and we are grateful he took time to invest in our CJ students.



In light of National Suicide Prevention Week in early September, Dr. Steven Stack was invited to lecture at the VA Hospital of Minneapolis. Stack presented his risk assessment tool which can be used to identify those individuals whose suicidal ideations may lead to actual suicide attempts. Stack developed this tool based on data from a number of studies, in hopes that it will be used to determine how to allocate resources to those who need it most. As suicide is matter of particular



The Department of Criminal Justice is happy to announce that a graduate of our Master's program, Dr. Matthew Larson, has returned

concern among the veteran population, his talk was broadcasted to VA hospitals all over the Midwest.



*Dr. James Geistman*

This semester we are welcoming back Dr. James Geistman, a former lecturer for our department. Geistman obtained his Master's in Criminal Justice here at Wayne State and completed his doctorate in Omaha, Nebraska. Geistman taught Criminal Justice courses at Wayne from 2007-2009, and has taught at both Ohio Northern University and Sienna Heights University as well. In addition to teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses, Geistman is also serving as a facilitator for our new Online Master's program and has been working diligently to spread the word about this new program across the nation.

Dr. Geistman is glad to be back at Wayne because he greatly appreciates the diversity of the student body, with a wide range of ages, cultures, and backgrounds. He finds

home to Michigan to serve as our new assistant professor. Larson completed his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice at Sienna Heights University in nearby Adrian, MI, and after completing his Master's here at Wayne, left the state to pursue his doctoral degree at Arizona State University.

Dr. Larson just wrapped up a year of teaching at St. Louis University, where he taught a course on mental health and crime. He is currently focused on publishing his dissertation, which he wrote on the topic of romantic instability and criminal continuity among at-risk youth. He is also working on other research articles concerning predictors of recidivism among the severely mentally ill, differences in rates of intimate partner violence among various immigrant groups, and the impact of romantic involvement on crime across different neighborhood contexts.

As someone who cares about social justice issues and is particularly drawn to problems concerning at-risk youth, Larson believes Detroit holds unique opportunities for him to engage in research with agencies that are serving this population. He is attracted to Wayne State because of its position in a large urban center and loves the diversity of the campus. Larson says he is looking forward to coming back and establishing relationships with students.



Wayne students to be open-minded, easy to talk to, and fairly well involved.

### **Alumni Mentors Needed!**

Would you would be willing to act as a professional mentor for one to three criminal justice students for the 2014-2015 academic year? Your experiences, knowledge, and skills can make a positive difference in the lives of students! Oftentimes our students need the assistance of those with experience in the field to guide them along a path to success. As one of our current student peer mentors will tell you, "it feels great to help students who need a little extra help".

Students in the mentor program are assigned a peer mentor (CJ junior or senior with a high GPA) and an alumni mentor. Alumni mentors are asked to meet at least once a month (either in person, by phone, email, or video conference) with the students and discuss various topics, such as networking, interviewing, communication skills, and so forth. There is no set curriculum and it is up to mentors and mentees to decide what topics to cover, although we can provide some suggestions.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact Jordan Papp ([eh4444@wayne.edu](mailto:eh4444@wayne.edu)). If you have any questions about the program please feel free to contact one of the alumni mentor co-chairs: LaSondra Dawn ([ag1646@wayne.edu](mailto:ag1646@wayne.edu)) and Lisa Marshall ([lmmarshall@tejaracenter.org](mailto:lmmarshall@tejaracenter.org)).