



Department of Criminal Justice Newsletter



Greetings! Welcome to the Winter/Spring/Summer 2017 edition of the newsletter for the Criminal Justice Department! The stories in this edition include achievements from some of our current students, alumni and faculty. The Department is proud of them and congratulate them on their accomplishments. I love reading our students' memories of experience in the Department and at WSU. On behalf of the departmental faculty and staff, I thank them for their comments and kind words towards my colleagues and the Department. We wish the best for all of our recent graduates. The current edition of the newsletter also includes the reflection of Just Poetry, an event occurred in the Winter 2017 semester. It was a community-based conversation about notions, perceptions and experiences of justice, co-organized by Professor Matt Larson and graduate student Leah Ouellet. More than one hundred people participated in the event. It was a great success. A nationwide program called Inside-Out Prison Exchange has come to the Department and WSU. The course entitled Demystifying Mass Incarceration will be offered in Fall 2017. The course will create opportunities for students, inside and outside of prison, to have transformative learning experiences. Three of our faculty visited Chinese universities this summer. The Department is also welcoming a Chinese scholar to visit us in the coming year. These international exchanges will not only benefit our faculty but also our students. I hope you will enjoy reading news items in this edition. We will continue to publish our newsletters. If you have any stories you would like to share with us and our alumni, please do not hesitate to contact us at 313-577-2705 or send them to Ms. Deb Mazur at aa6438@wayne.com. Relationships with our past and current students are invaluable to us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Have a great summer.

Shanhe Jiang, Professor and Chair



Professor Steven Stack recently was informed that he is this year's recipient of the Erwin Stengel Research Award. The Stengel Award is the most prestigious international suicide research award. It has been awarded since 1977 by the International Association of Suicide Prevention (IASP). It is for outstanding "research evidenced by number and quality of publications in internationally acknowledged journals and indicators of esteem and reputation."

Starting in 1978, Professor Stack has published 331 articles and chapters, as well as 4 books, mostly on the social and psychiatric predictors of suicidality.

Professor Stack's previous awards include the Louis Dublin Award given annually by the *American Association of Suicidology* for lifetime contributions to research on suicide.

His most recent book, co-authored with Dr. Thomas Niederkrotenthaler of the University of Vienna, is: *Media and Suicide: International Perspectives on Research, Theory & Policy*, published in 2017 by Transaction Books, an imprint of the Taylor and Francis Group.

Student Accomplishments



Toycia Collins and Mackenzie Boehler

Graduates from the Master's Program in Criminal Justice

In 2015, I joined the Criminal Justice Masters cohort as a very timid and somewhat lost non-traditional student. I was sure that my academic pursuits would end when I completed the Masters. Then I took Contemporary Criminal Justice and everything changed. During my time in the program, I met some of the most dedicated professor, administrators and staff, who genuinely care about the future of students who pass their way. My professors provided opportunities for me to see what is truly possible beyond a Master's degree. They provided networking, research and mentoring opportunities that truly unveiled the limitless prospects available to students. Not only did I end up with the most amazing, practical and honest advisor, but I was fortunate enough to find a team of supporters who always had open doors (literally) and who were all too happy to help. I could walk down the Criminal Justice hallway and find open doors on any day of the week and at almost any time. This Fall I will be enrolled in a doctoral program. Two years ago, this wasn't even a dream of mine. It seemed too far-fetched. Today, I am living a dream that I couldn't even dare to have, thanks to Professors who showed me that I too was entitled to a dream.

Toycia Collins

Will be pursuing her Ph.D. at Sam Houston University in Texas

The five years I have spent at Wayne State have been extremely memorable and full of opportunities—in large part due to the generous faculty and staff within the Department of Criminal Justice. As an undergraduate, I was able to work on a research project with faculty as well as take a variety of classes to fulfill university and departmental honors. I participated in the Accelerated Graduate Enrollment program (AGRADE), which allowed me to take twelve graduate credits in my senior year of undergrad. This made the transition to full-time grad student very smooth! My final year was full of opportunity as I had the chance to work individually with multiple faculty members as a Graduate Research Assistant and Peer Mentor. Finally, one of my most rewarding opportunities was creating and administering a survey to over 300 students to collect data for my Master's Thesis. I feel that the knowledge and mentoring I've received at Wayne State has truly set me up to succeed at the next level.

Mackenzie Boehler

Will be pursuing a Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University, Ohio

Laura Rubino, 2016 Masters Program graduate,
publishes article with Professors Smith and Zalman

Laura Rubino has completed her first year in the School of Criminal Justice doctoral program at the University of Cincinnati. She joins **professors Smith and Zalman** as a co-author of an article based on her master's essay.

The article, entitled "Beyond Police Compliance with Electronic Recording of Interrogation Legislation: Toward Error Reduction" will appear in the *Criminal Justice Policy Review*. The article reviews compliance with and attitudes about a new Michigan law mandating the electronic recording of interrogations. The article also recommends that recording alone will not entirely reduce false confessions and recommends the adoption of a scientifically-based and less aggressive method of questioning suspects known as investigative interviewing.

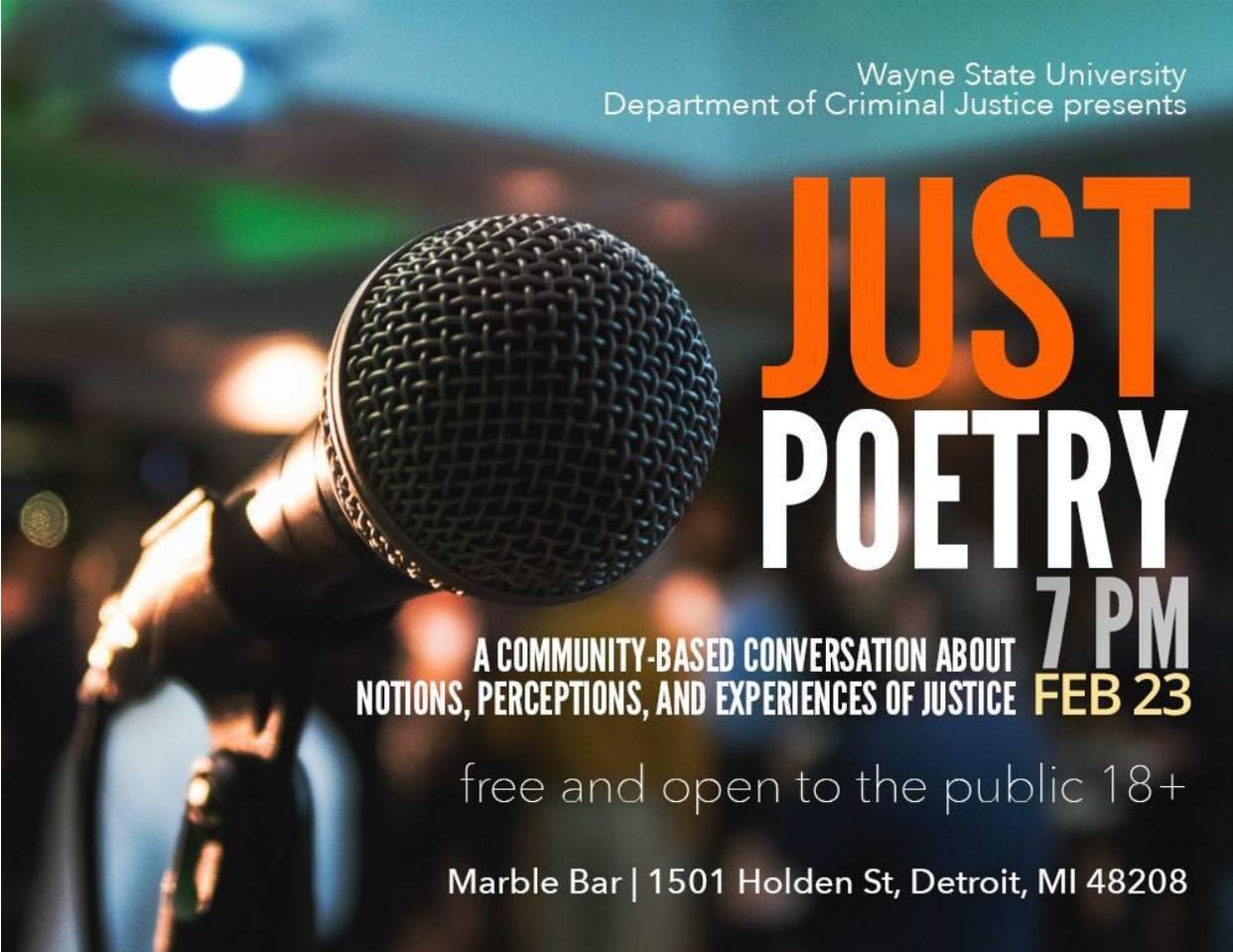
Ms. Rubino's research interests at the Ph.D. program at Cincinnati include confessions, program evaluation, the intersection of gender and ethnicity in the criminal justice system, correctional interventions, and reentry programs.

Faculty Travel to China



WSU CJ Professors travel to China as part of visiting delegation **Professors Shanhe Jiang, Brad Smith and Yuning Wu** recently traveled to China with a delegation of criminologists visiting multiple universities. The delegation of criminologists from various U.S. universities presented on Criminology/Criminal Justice in the United States and provided a sampling of their research to students and faculty from across China. WSU CJ faculty joined the delegation at five universities, including The People's Public Security University in Beijing, China Central Normal University in Wuhan, Zhejiang Police College in Hangzhou, Huaqiao University in Xiamen, Jimei and Guanzhou, and Southwest University of Finance, Economics and Law in Chengdu. The goal of the delegation, sponsored by the Association of Chinese Criminology and Criminal Justice, was to promote research on crime and justice as well as encourage cross-national student exchange. In Beijing Professors Jiang and Smith also discussed with officials from The People's Public Security University about possible future student and faculty exchange programs.





Wayne State University
Department of Criminal Justice presents

JUST POETRY

A COMMUNITY-BASED CONVERSATION ABOUT
NOTIONS, PERCEPTIONS, AND EXPERIENCES OF JUSTICE

7 PM
FEB 23

free and open to the public 18+

Marble Bar | 1501 Holden St, Detroit, MI 48208

"Understanding the emotions, experiences and goals that shape people's perception of justice is critical, so creating a platform enabling people to connect in that way was a goal in planning this event," said **Leah Ouellet**, who is getting her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and who is co-organizing the event. "If a handful of people leave having a deeper understanding of someone else's perspective, it will be a success."

Matt Larson, the faculty member leading the event, hopes it will open the doors of

communication on the topic of justice so that more people can understand the complexity of problems within the criminal justice system.

"The only way to effectively address the misunderstandings is to bring people together to share and reflect. That's what we're doing. Rather than continue talking about the importance of communication, we're building a platform to get that ball rolling," said Larson. "At the very least, poetry is a fantastic mechanism for starting a meaningful conversation, especially on a topic as sensitive and challenging as justice."

Visiting Professor from China

Visiting scholar from China **Dr. Jinpeng Zhai** received his doctoral degree in China and is professor of People's Public Security University in Beijing, China. He will visit the Department of Criminal Justice at WSU from August 2017 to August 2018. During his stay at WSU, he will work with Dr. Smith and other colleagues. He has planned to (1) study the Use of Police Force in the U.S. and compare it with China; (2) study criminal investigation in the U.S. and compare it with China; and (3) study the organized crime and extreme violent crime in the U.S.

Inside-Out Prison Exchange Course

Education through which we are able to encounter each other, especially across profound social barriers, is transformative and allows problems to be approached in new and different ways.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program increases opportunities for people, inside and outside of prison, to have transformative learning experiences that emphasize collaboration and dialogue, inviting participants to take leadership in addressing crime, justice, and other issues of social concern.

After more than one year preparation, the department has the green light to offer an Inside-Out Exchange course beginning in Fall 2017. Thanks go out to **Professor Ebonie Byndon-Fields** for her tireless efforts to make it happen. During the entire preparation process, **Professor Matt Larson** has given lots of help and support. Several other colleagues in the Department are also very supportive of this new project. The course is called: Demystifying Mass Incarceration and it will give students an opportunity to learn in collaboration with men inside of a penal institution (The Detroit Reentry Center) throughout the semester.