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SPRING

Department
of Criminology,
Sociology, &
Geography

Arkansas State University
**Criminology, Sociology, and
Geography Newsletter**



Outstanding Undergraduate Student
in Criminology—**Kara Austin**



Outstanding Undergraduate Student
in Sociology—**Tomomi Hashimoto**



Outstanding Graduate Student
in Criminology—**Justin Gibson**



Outstanding Graduate Student
In Sociology—**LaVonda Evans**



**CSG Awards
Ceremony
2019**

Heather Wojtarowicz was awarded
the John C. Osoinach Sociology
Scholarship

CSG holds Annual Awards Ceremony



Chancellor Damphousse stopped by!



Justin and Sarah Gibson



Kara Austin and her dad.



Dr. Donaghy and Becky enjoy the ceremony.



Heather and her friend and Tomomi



Heather



Dr. Wright and Dr. Panageotou





A Letter From The Chair:

We are drawing very close to a busy and eventful Spring 2019 semester. With 63 of our students walking to receive their diplomas at the upcoming Commencement Ceremony, we continue the tradition of having a significant presence in the graduating cohort. Four among these, Kara Austin (Outstanding Undergraduate

Student in Criminology), Tomomi Hashimoto (Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Sociology), Justin Gibson (Outstanding Graduate Student in Criminology), and LaVonda Evans (Outstanding Graduate Student in Sociology) are our departmental awardees for the best students in the undergraduate and graduate degrees in Sociology and Criminology. Heather Wojtarowicz is the recipient of the John C. Osoinach Scholarship. The success of our students was prominent beyond the department. Payton Binns is one of the two ASTATE recipients of the Fulbright fellowship for the year 2019-2020. Tomomi Hashimoto made the list of 4.0 GPA scholars. Congratulations to all! It is indeed very encouraging to see our vision of combining quality with quantity that I have echoed on multiple occasions getting realized.

On the faculty side, Sarah Kendig was the college nominee for the Outstanding Advising Award. On the front of scholarly production, it has been an active semester with several of us having managed to publish and present at competitive avenues. I would like to make a special mention of our graduate student, Evelina Eriksson for her presentation at the Midwest Sociological Society meetings.

We are making strides in strengthening our graduate and undergraduate curricula. Dr. Selye Lee will be joining us as the new Criminology faculty member in this endeavor. Also, our efforts to bolster our alumni group are shaping up well.

As quite a few of you are aware that that at the end of this term I am stepping down as the chair to assume college level duties and responsibilities in the Dean's Office, albeit I remain a faithful member of the department. I am very hopeful that my successor will facilitate a smooth transition and continue the upward and onward trajectory.

Would like to sign off with wishes for a pleasant and a productive summer.

Veena



Interested In Graduate School?

Are you interested in graduate school at Arkansas State University? The department of Criminology, Sociology, and Geography has two great graduate programs! You can get a Master's in Sociology or Criminal Justice. There are many benefits to graduate study including:

- Better job prospects
- Now more than ever upper-level jobs are requiring graduate degrees.
- Small class sizes
- Greater interaction with professors.
- A chance to get real world experience in academia with a graduate assistantship.

Contact Dr. Joseph Rukus (jrukus@astate.edu), Director of Graduate Programs for Criminology, Sociology, and Geography for more information. The deadline to apply for Fall 2018 is May 1st.

New Faculty



Dr. Selye Lee

Selye Lee earned a Bachelor's degree in Police Administration from Kyonggi University, a Master's degree in Sociology from Sungkyunkwan University in Korea, and a Ph.D. in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests lie in policing and the community, the developmental and life-course features of criminal behavior, juvenile delinquency, and comparative criminology. Apart from school, she enjoys watching movies, exercising, reading, and relaxing. She also loves to travel, meet new people, eat new food, see historical sites and museums, and experience new things. She is originally from South Korea

Faculty Research

Dr. Rebecca Barrett-Fox

In Press:

"Moral Frameworks in the Legislation of Public Expression of Religion." *Legislating Morality in America: Debating the Morality of Controversial U.S. Laws and Policies*. Edited by Donald Haider-Markel. ABC-CLIO.

"Defying Stereotype: Christian Romance Novel Readers." *The Ashgate Research Companion to Popular Romance*. Edited by Eric Selinger, Hsu-Ming Teo, and Jayashree Kamblé.

Kulkarni, Veena

In Press:

Kulkarni, Veena. 'Household Extension and Earnings among Foreign Born Asian and non-Hispanic White Households', *Journal of Family Issues*.

Rukus, Joseph and Veena Kulkarni. 'Easier Said than Done: Methodological Challenges in Exploring Prevalence of Mental Health Illness among Rural Jail Inmates in the United States', *International Journal of Rural Criminology*.

Kulkarni, Veena, Vani S. Kulkarni and Raghav Gaiha. 'Has Disability Risen among the Elderly in India?', *Economic and Political Weekly*.

Dr. Joseph Rukus

In Press:

Rukus, Joseph and Veena Kulkarni. 'Easier Said than Done: Methodological Challenges in Exploring Prevalence of Mental Health Illness among Rural Jail Inmates in the United States', *International Journal of Rural Criminology*.



Alumni

We Want To Feature You

Our department would not be where it is without all of the alumni who have graced our classrooms over the years. If you are a recent or not so recent alumnus of the Criminology, Sociology, and Geography Department we want to feature you in our next edition of the newsletter. Please send us the following information so that we can share your story with current, future, and past students of the program.

- Your name
- Your graduation year
- A brief write-up about what you have been up to in the Criminology, Sociology, or Geography world lately.
- A square photo of yourself to feature alongside your snippet.

Please send all this information to the department at brbrown@astate.edu!

Current Faculty Publications

Dr. Matthew Wright

In Press:

Brown, Susan L. and Matthew R. Wright. Divorce Attitudes Among Older Adults: Two Decades of Change. *Journal of Family Issues*.

Lin, I-Fen, Susan L. Brown, Matthew R. Wright, and Anna M. Hammer-smith. Depressive Symptoms Following Later-life Marital Dissolution and Subsequent Repartnering. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.



Student Spotlight

Tomomi Hashimoto



Tomomi is from Japan. She will be graduating in May 2019 with her B.A. in Sociology. She came to the US to study because she wanted to go somewhere after high school. She had no idea where that was. Her study abroad counselor in Japan helped her narrow it down to two schools. She checked them out and decided to come to A-State. So, at 18, she came to the US to A-State to study. It took her a while to narrow it down to Sociology. Her Intro to Sociology class convinced her that Sociology was the major for her.

Tomomi feels that A-State is very helpful and supportive to international students. She became a member and got involved with HOLA (Hispanic Outreach and Latino Association). She has worked with them for two years and serves on their board.

Tomomi has had much success at Arkansas State University. She was recognized as a CLAC 4.0 Scholar in the College of Liberal Arts and Communications, was awarded the John C. Osoinach Scholarship for two years, and was Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Sociology in 2019.

After graduation, she will attend Sussex College, which is just south of London. She will be pursuing a Master of Art in Human Rights. In the future, she would like to help vulnerable populations and she is interested in gender issues.



Payton Binns, CSG Student, wins National Award

Payton Binns, Criminology Major, was selected as a Fulbright Scholar. Binns, a May 2019 graduate is from Cabot. Her Fulbright will enable her to study International Crime and Conflict in the Netherlands.

During her undergraduate experience, Binns did an internship at the State Crime Lab as well as a Study Abroad experience in Costa Rica, where she studied Spanish.

She is a member of Sigma Delta Phi, the Spanish Honor Society and the ASU Environmental Club. She says Costa Rica is a mountainous region that is very Eco Friendly. She toured two coffee farms while she was there.

After graduation, Binns, who is interested in the courts, plans to work as a paralegal for a bit before she makes a decision on a Masters Degree, possibly in Forensic Science.

Congratulations to
Dr. Sarah Kendig
for being the College
of Liberal Arts and
Communication
nominee for
**Outstanding
Advising Award!**



The CSG Department Out and About



Faculty enjoy the celebration for Sarah's tenure party.



Kelly enjoyed attending her mom (LaVonda's) award ceremony.



The CSG Club toured Grimes and MacPherson prisons.

Dr. Kulkarni and Dr. Rukus attended the Delta College Attainment Network Networking Night in Little Rock where 80 high school students met with professionals in higher education to seek information on the college admission process.



Students from Sheriff Kevin Molder's class work a crime scene



Alpha Kappa Delta



Alpha Phi Sigma

Learn More About Alpha Kappa Delta

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) is the International Sociology Honor Society.

The Mission Statement: Alpha Kappa Delta seeks to acknowledge and promote excellence in scholarship in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition.

The purpose of Alpha Kappa Delta is to seek to acknowledge and promote excellence in the scholarship in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition.

Alpha Kappa Delta is a non-secret, democratic, international society of scholars dedicated to the ideal of Athropon

Katamanthanein Diakonesin or "to investigate humanity for the purpose of service."

Membership is open to undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty members from active chapters who meet the minimum standards. Currently, there are more than 120,000 members in Alpha Kappa Delta and over 660 chapters.

Dr. Steven Panageotou is the Faculty sponsor for the Alpha Kappa Delta Chapter at Arkansas State University.

The Beta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, here at ASU, sponsors many activities for students, such as faculty/student celebrations, the annual research symposium, and various other scholastic activities.

Learn More About Alpha Phi Sigma

Alpha Phi Sigma recognizes academic excellence of Undergraduate and Graduate students of Criminal Justice, as well as Juris Doctorate students.

The goals of Alpha Phi Sigma are to honor and promote academic excellence, community service, educational leadership, and unity.

Alpha Phi Sigma is the only Criminal Justice Honor Society which is a certified member of the Association of College Honor Societies and affiliated with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Dr. Joseph Rukus is the Faculty advisor for the Alpha Phi Sigma chapter at Arkansas State University.