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Department  
 of Criminology,  
 Sociology, &  
 Geography

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



**Visiting Poinsett  
 County Jail**

Students in Dr. Rukus' Social Justice class had the opportunity to experience the incarceration system process by visiting the Poinsett County Jail. Students were given a tour of the jail and they were able to experience the

actual process of being detained. The class was taken to every section, from mugshots to solitary confinement. The current focus of the Social Justice class is on the lack of mental health treatment in local jails.

**ASU begins jail mental health study**

**BY PAT PRATT**  
 Sun Staff Writer  
 JONESBORO — Arkansas State University Department of Criminology, Sociology and Geography, along with the Craighead and Poinsett counties' sheriff's offices, will work together on a study to explore issues rural jails face in housing the mentally ill.

Announcement of the study comes as Craighead County is currently in the process for a mental crisis stabilization unit, a prototype facility that will provide immediate support to people experiencing a mental health issue and never as an alternative to incarceration.

Craighead County Sheriff Mary Beard, who has been a proponent of the crisis unit since funding was announced earlier in the year, applauded the implementation of the ASU study. He said mentally ill suspects facing incarceration, rather than treatment, is a problem here and nationwide.

"It is a problem in rural Arkansas, our state population is rural and nationwide," Beard said. "Arkansas is lagging behind a lot of other states in how we deal this problem, but we are taking major steps we have never made before. So I do see a light at the end of the tunnel. And a study like this will increase the effectiveness of what we are trying to accomplish."

Dr. Joseph Rukus, director of ASU's graduate programs for criminology, sociology and geography, said the issue of the mentally ill facing incarceration rather than treatment dates back to the late 1960s and the closing of asylums.

"The need has been one that has been around for a very long time," Rukus said. "When the asylums closed in the late 1960s early 70s — which, by the way were not open at the time — we had nothing to replace them."

Please see **STUDY 1 A2**

The Criminology, Sociology, and Geography department is partnering with two local jails, the Craighead County and Poinsett County, which have agreed to be involved in the study. They are hoping that the study can shed light on the current issues jails face with inmates with mental health issues. Dr. Rukus is front and center in this research. He believes it will be beneficial from the standpoint of studying rural communities, since most studies focus on bigger cities. Metropolitan cities offer more programs than smaller ones, so they tend to have different outcomes.



## A Letter From The Chair:

The 2017-2018 academic year is well underway and is progressing well for us here at the department of Criminology, Sociology, and Geography. We will have 50 undergraduate students walking to receive their diplomas in the upcoming commencement ceremony on December

9<sup>th</sup>. As we know, the advising season for Spring 2018 is ongoing. The enrollments appear strong. Additionally, the interest seen in the various recruiting events indicate expanding enrollment numbers at both undergraduate and graduate levels. We have had very useful discussions throughout the semester on plausible revisions in the undergraduate and graduate curricula and on listings of the courses on the advising check sheets. The town hall for the graduate students provided ideas with the potential to make the program sustain and grow with rigor in quality. We will continue working in the spring on the procedural steps required for these proposals to come to fruition in the upcoming academic year. The semester's meet and greet sessions of the Criminology, Sociology, and Geography Club were well attended.

Also, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the four new personnel members: Administrative Specialist, Brianna Brown; Advisor, Anita Marshall; and faculty members, Turgut Ozkan and Matthew Wright. The report on scholarly productivity is very encouraging with recent and forthcoming publications by Matt Costello, Sarah Kendig, Turgut Ozkan, Bill Stroud, Matthew Wright, and Veena Kulkarni. We were well represented at the recently concluded American Criminology Society Meeting in Philadelphia with presentations by Matt Costello, Turgut Ozkan and Joe Rukus. Additional applause are due to Turgut Ozkan, Monika Myers, and Joe Rukus. Turgut's application for the Nathan and Deutsch Development Fund was favorably assessed by the university's Faculty Research Awards Committee. Monika delivered an invited talk titled, 'Secrets Sociologists know about how to make a happy family life' at the Women of Light Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Joe's interview on his collaborative project on the assessment of the need for mental health facilities in Arkansas jails appeared on the front page of the *Jonesboro Sun*. I invite you to visit the website that will continue to be regularly updated. As we gear up for finals, I would like to wish you the best for a successful completion of the semester. And of course, greets to all for a very happy and a fulfilling holiday season.

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](mailto: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 and Staff



## Dr. Turgut Ozkan

Dr. Ozkan is a strong believer of work/life balance. He likes travelling, and has traveled to 26 countries in total. His first thing to do is to visit the museums whenever he visits a new place. He enjoys watching and playing tennis, and as for musical preference, he likes pop music but he enjoys listening to classical music when he is working. He is an avid reader of science and technology in general.



## Dr. Matthew Wright

Dr. Wright grew up in Indiana and spent his whole life in the Midwest. He then decided to move to Arkansas in August 2017 from Bowling Green, Ohio. In his free time, he enjoys going to state parks in the area to enjoy nature trails with his wife. He is a diehard baseball fan and regularly attends major league baseball games with his family. He has also found a new passion of international travel. After going to Europe twice, he is looking forward to expanding his horizons by traveling to South America.



## Anita J. Marshall

Anita is the new Academic Advisor for our department. She is a native of Hot Springs. She completed her Master of Arts degree in Sociology from Arkansas State University. She also holds a B.S. degree in Accounting from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a Master of Accountancy degree from the University of Arkansas. Anita is married and has four children, twelve grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. She is active in Business & Professional Women and founded the BPW at A-State organization when she was a graduate student at A-State. She loves to read, garden and grow and cook with herbs.



## Brianna Brown

Brianna is the new Administrative Specialist for our department. She graduated from Arkansas State University in May, 2017 with a degree in Sociology and Criminology. She is originally from Newbern, TN. After graduating, she decided to stay in Jonesboro because of all it has to offer. She is currently busy planning her wedding that is in April and so that leaves little time for hobbies.



## 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](mailto:brbrown@astate.edu)!

## *Current Faculty Publications*

### Peer –reviewed:

#### **Dr. Rebecca Barrett-Fox**

Guest Editor, *Journal of Hate Studies*, “Hate and Heritage” Special Issue. May 2017.

#### **Dr. Matt Costello**

Costello, Matthew and James Hawdon. “Online Routines, Social Groups Identity, and the Perpetration of Hate.” Forthcoming at *Violence and Gender* (special issue on social media and violence).

#### **Dr. Sarah Kendig**

Crosnoe, Robert, Sarah M. Kendig, and Aprile D. Benner. 2017. “College-Going and Trajectories of Drinking from Adolescence into Adulthood.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 58(2): 252-269.

#### **Dr. Veena S. Kulkarni**

Kulkarni, Vani S., **Veena Kulkarni** and Raghav Gaiha. 2017. ‘Double Burden of Malnutrition’: Reexamining the Coexistence of Undernutrition and Overweight among Women in India’, *International Journal of Health Services*, 47:108-113.

#### **Dr. Turgut Ozkan**

Ozkan, T., Worrall, J., Zettler, H. (2017) Validating media-driven and crowdsourced police shooting data: a research note. *Journal of Crime and Justice*. DOI:10.1080/0735648X.2017.1326831.

#### **Dr. Joseph Rukus:**

Rukus, J., Warner, W., & Zhang, X. (2017). Community policing: Least effective where need is greatest. *Crime and Delinquency*, early view DOI:10.1177/0011128716686339

#### **Dr. Bill Stroud**

“Innovative Potable Water Saving Techniques at Cape Coral,” *Florida Water Resources Journal*, Vol. 68, No. 4, 2017, pp. 12 – 16 (with Mary K. Kilmer).

#### **Dr. Matthew Wright**

Brown, Susan L., and Matthew R. Wright. 2016. “Older Adult Attitudes toward Cohabitation: Two Decades of Change.” *Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences* 71: 755-764. (Editor’s Choice article).

# CSG Club



*Left: CSG members participating in homecoming week 2017*



## Student Spotlight



VanKe'via Garner is in the spotlight because she presented at the SURE Research Symposium on June 29, 2017. Her focus was *Social Isolation and Suicide: 13 Reasons Why*.



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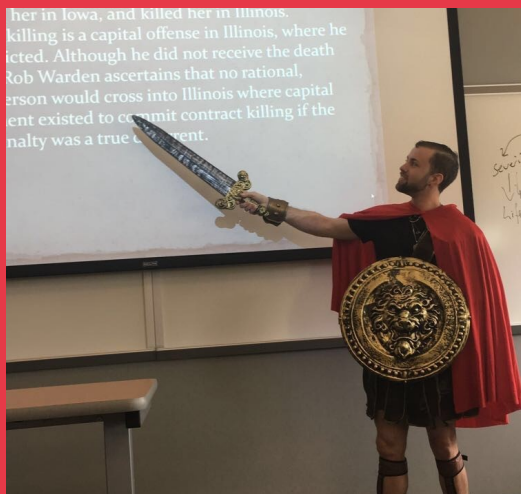
## SURE SYMPOSIUM

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### OFFICE OF DIVERSITY SPONSORS SYMPOSIUM

The Sure Symposium was held on June 29, 2017 in the Black River Room in the Reng Student Union on the campus of Arkansas State University. The purpose of the symposium was to introduce exceptional undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds to the rigors of graduate study and to prepare them for entrance to graduate programs according to the SURE webpage on the A-State website.

# TOWN HALL MEETING



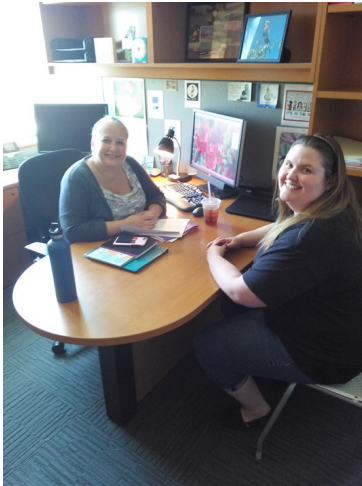
## FUN IN THE CLASSROOM

Dr. Turgut Ozkan's student dressed up for his class on Halloween themed class.

## Tail Gate Program at ASU



## Glimpses of the CSG Dept. at work.....



## Current Research

### Dr. Matt Costello:

Dr. Costello's work focuses on online hate and extremism and political violence. He is currently engaged in a project examining how youths react to encountering hate material online, and a project that explores the social, political, and economic factors fueling political rebellion around the globe.

### Dr. Joseph Rukus:

Dr. Rukus is currently working with Dr Kulkarni on doing a mental health needs assessment at the Poinsett and Craighead County Jails .

### Dr. Rebecca Barrett-Fox:

Dr. Barrett-Fox is currently co-editing - The Encyclopedia of Hate Studies with Dr. John Shuford at Portland State.

### Dr. Turgut Ozkan:

Predicting Sex Offender Recidivism: Article manuscript in progress, to be submitted for publication in Fall 2017. Reducing Recidivism Through Inmate Classification: Article manuscript in progress, to be submitted for publication in Fall 2017.

### Dr. Veena Kulkarni:

Dr. Kulkarni has multiple research projects going on. Currently Dr. Kulkarni is researching: Extension and Earnings in Asian Households: Exploring the Role of Nativity Status, Educational Assortative Mating and Acculturation and Health: Exploring the Role of Language Preference in Reporting Self-rated Health Status for Immigrants in the United States, and Household Extension and Earnings among Foreign Born Asian and non-Hispanic White Households'

### Dr. Bill Stroud:

Dr. Stroud has been working on many different geography projects in various states across the country. In South Florida Dr. Stroud is working on two projects: Using Water Reclamation to Sustain Cape Coral's Dual Water System and Rehydrating A Failed Subdivision: The Case of South Golden Gate Estates. In Oregon Dr. Stroud is working on: The Use of Urban Growth Boundaries to Protect Rural Land in Oregon.

### Dr. Sarah Kendig:

Dr. Kendig specializes in social demography and social psychology and broadly focus on how family roles and relationships structure health and well-being across the life course in ways that reflect and reproduce inequality. Some of her current projects include exploring variation in adolescent mothers' post-childbirth educational pathways and examining the daily time use of teen mothers and their children.

### Dr. Matthew Wright:

Dr. Matthew is working on A Cohort Comparison of Gray Divorce: Two Decades of Change." , The Rise of Cohabitation among Older Adults: A Cross-National Perspective., and Depressive Symptoms following Gray Divorce and Widowhood .





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. Todd Fuist 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. Matthew Costello is the Faculty advisor for the Alpha Phi Sigma chapter at Arkansas State University.