



Introducing

THE HOWL

Welcome to The Howl! Sociology & Criminology's new yearly department newsletter! We are pleased to share our news and events with you. So much so, that we are "howling" about it! This edition is packed with information, updates, photos, and more!

**Sociology & Criminology
Department Newsletter**

Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

From the Editor..



Benjamin Franklin said, "Without continual growth and progress, words such as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning". The Sociology & Criminology department continues to grow by meeting the needs of our students and the university, while also intentionally striving for personal excellence. Our faculty members have many publications and presentations to brag about and our student's academic achievements continue to climb.

I challenge you to accept the endeavor of Franklin's words...
Make this summer a season of personal reflection and introspection.

Wolves Up!

LaVonda

From the Chair...



Hello all!

As we quickly move towards the end of the academic year, I have begun to reflect on my first year as the Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology at A-State. While there is always some trepidation when one starts a position at a new university, I have been pleasantly surprised. Sure, there have been challenges that have been encountered, but what I have been surprised about are the faculty, staff, and students in our department. Everyone has been extremely helpful and welcoming.

I quickly learned that the faculty in the department are wonderful scholars who truly care about the success of their students as well as the success of the department. They have welcomed me warmly and are eager to work together as we develop a path to move our department into the future. The students have been equally welcoming, and I have also been impressed with the quality of the students in our department. Their work ethic, their desire to learn, and openness to learn new ideas and perspectives is inspirational. It is truly refreshing!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the value of the department Administrative Specialist, LaVonda Evans. Without doubt, this year would not have been such a smooth ride if we did not have LaVonda. She makes this department a wonderful place! I look forward to working with everyone, faculty, students, and staff, as we continue to develop a path to move our department into the future and continue to make the Department of Sociology and Criminology the best department on campus! Thanks again to everyone!

Ken Balusek

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SC Faculty Research



*Dr. Veena Kulkarni
Associate Professor of Sociology
Arkansas State University*

Dr. Veena S. Kulkarni, associate professor of sociology, co-authored an article in *Social Indicators Research* that is based on the nationally representative India Human Development Survey panel data for 2005 and 2012. The researchers analyzed changes in levels and covariates of subjective well-being and objective well-being, leading to their findings on characteristics of households that are better off in subjective well-being without corresponding improvement in objective well-being.

She is also the co-author of an opinion article published in a leading media outlet in India, *livemint.com*. The writers examine how consistently numerous violations of constitutional provisions, under both of the two varying political regimes over the past couple of decades, have resulted in the denial of justice to millions of Indians.

She is the co-author of "Beyond Intensive Mothering: Racial/Ethnic Variation in Maternal Time with Children" in *Social Science Research*.

Additionally, Kulkarni was invited to present at the SCMS School of Technology and Management in Cochin, India, discussing "Promoting Resilience, Mental Health, & Well-Being".



SC Faculty Research

*Dr. Stacy Dewald
Assistant Professor of Criminology
Arkansas State University*



Dr. Stacy Dewald joined the A-State faculty in the fall as assistant professor of criminology. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Chicago and has taught at the University of St. Francis for the past four years. Her research interests include policing, sexual assault, and problem-solving courts. A current project involves collaboration with a police department to improve police response to mental health crises.

Dewald also presented at the American Society of Criminology conference on problem-solving court personnel's perspectives on incentives, sanctions, therapeutic adjustments, and strategies for fostering collaborative researcher and law enforcement partnerships. She also presented her research on police responses to mental health-related crises at the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice annual meeting.

Along with her presentations, she co-authored an article published in *Criminal Justice Studies*. The writers describe an interdisciplinary researcher-practitioner partnership between the problem-solving courts and researchers. Collaborators reflect on the mutually beneficial relationship between researchers and practitioners that produces policy-informed research, new internships, and enriched classroom experiences. The article also provides recommendations to inform future partnerships on building and sustaining researcher-practitioner collaborations.

SC Faculty Research



*Dr. Angelo Brown
Assistant Professor of Criminology
Arkansas State University*

Dr. Angelo Brown began the academic year with presentations at the International Criminology Conference and the Southern Criminal Justice Association Conference discussing law enforcement's attempt to balance the use of artificial intelligence-based surveillance technologies with the protection of individual rights, and conducting research in a time of ethical challenges, respectively.

During Jail Resource Day in Little Rock, Brown discussed the value and impact of analytical data, what it means to the justice system, and how a university can assist in its application.

While attending the Criminology Consortium, he spoke on the transition to virtual courts and how it has impacted the justice system.

Near the end of the fall, Brown attended the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice conference in Little Rock, where he provided research he conducted on the new Arkansas laws that were enacted to combat crime, especially drug-related cases. In analyzing the implications of the new state laws, he compared the current crime-fighting strategies to prior law enforcement efforts toward fighting drug-related crime.

In the spring, Dr. Brown was a panelist for a session during Duke Law's Critical (Legal) Collective inaugural convening. He talked about the impact on academic freedom because of newly passed laws in various states. Brown also discussed cross-disciplinary strategies that university faculty members have used to support each other in teaching effectively, especially related to topics considered to be divisive concepts.

Concluding the academic year, Brown authored chapters in two new books: One is "Decolonization of Criminology and Justice," for a book published by the University of Arizona Press. He also wrote a chapter, "The Impact of Marginalization on Relations With Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System" for a book on his research interests in racial justice and social equity. Additionally, he authored a chapter in a new book on how the relationships between police departments and the communities they serve are developed. Brown's chapter is titled "How the Police Released Body-Worn Camera Footage Matters." Without a national policy, Brown explores how states and municipalities have developed their own policies regarding the legality and practicality of releasing camera footage.

SC Faculty Research



Dr. Jaein Lee
Assistant Professor of Criminology
Arkansas State University

Dr. Jaein Lee is the corresponding author of an article published in the journal *Vaccine*, "Compliance, Procrastination, and Refusal: American COVID-19 Vaccination Trust and Value Orientation." Using nationally representative data, the researchers concluded that campaigns and education about vaccine effectiveness and value orientation to protect the community from infectious diseases may possibly contribute to the higher rate of vaccinations.

He presented an invited talk, "Christianity, Academic Network, and Studying Abroad in the United States," to the Summer Colloquium of the Korean Leadership Academy. He also presented a paper on religion and suicide acceptance to the Symposium of the Korea Inequality Research Network and was a discussant for a session on economic sociology at the Korean Sociological Association meeting at Jeonbuk National University.

Additionally, Lee was chair of the conference committee and presented a research paper for the International Conference on Sociology of Korea, held at the University of Pennsylvania. A month later, he gave an invited talk at the same school's Korean studies center. Internationally, Lee recently presented invited talks on his continuing research at Korea University and Chung-Ang University, both in Seoul.

Lee has two new publications. He is leading author for an article in *Social Science Research* on how attitudes toward homosexuality in South Korea have changed over a 22-year period. He also is a co-author of an article accepted by *Population Research and Policy Review*. The researchers' findings highlight the importance of measuring and assessing dyadic pregnancy intentions to understand key racial-ethnic differences in the circumstances leading to conceptions.

Faculty Publications



Dr. Averi Fegadel
Assistant Professor of Criminology
Arkansas State University

Peer-reviewed Publications

Lynch, M. J., & Fegadel, A. R. (forthcoming). Environmental Law, Its History, Violations, and Enforcement. In *Environmental Justice Encyclopedia*. Sage.

Toman, E. L., Fegadel, A. R., & Severson, R. E. (forthcoming). An Environmental Justice Perspective for Exploring Health in Carceral Spaces. In *Contemporary Issues in Health and Punishment. ASC DCS Handbook on Corrections and Sentencing, Vol. 9*.

Fegadel, A. R. & Lynch, M. J. (2023). Native American Victimization and Resistance: An Examination of Uranium Mining in the Northwest and Northern Plains. *Safer Communities*.

Fegadel, A. R. (2023) Juvenile Involvement in Double Parricide and Familicide in the United States. In *The Routledge International Handbook of Juvenile Homicide* (pp. 343-356). Routledge.

Fegadel, A. R. (2023). Uranium Mining, Environmental Inequality, and Native American Health. In *Handbook on Inequality and the Environment* (pp. 556-573). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Conference Participation

Panel Chair: Environmental Justice and Green Criminology. American Society of Criminology annual meeting, 2023. Philadelphia, PA.

Panel Chair: Illegal Hunting and the Policing of Wildlife Crimes. American Society of Criminology annual meeting, 2023. Philadelphia, PA.



Evans Advances in Administrative Field



*LaVonda Evans
Administrative Specialist
Arkansas State University*

As an administrative professional, much is expected of you today. Good organization, management, and people skills are no longer an option -- they are an imperative.

LaVonda Evans, Administrative Specialist for the Department of Sociology & Criminology attended the 50th Annual P.A. Douglas Conference in New Orleans. In attendance were 99 other administrative professionals from across the country.

Working in teams, each member in attendance received additional training to create and improve positive work in a negative environment, coping with stress in the workplace, enhancing EQ, communication skills, influence, and developing strategies for preventing and reducing work conflict.

Evans received recognition by obtaining her Certified Administrative Professionals credential.





Class of 2027: Academic Expo "Best of Show"

Students from Arkansas State University competed in the First-Year Experience (FYE) Academic Expo. This showcase consists of research, community projects and creative works and is presented by first-year students through their Making Connections class they take in the fall. Those competing for the philanthropy category develop and execute a service project for either the campus or the surrounding community. Connections competitors create a project that will better connect them to their major or a campus resource. Focusing on their major field of study, those in the research category conduct a research-based project.

The winners of the best-in-show are the First-Year Experience Making Connections sociology and criminology majors. Their project, "Investigating the Relationship Between University Students and Opiates," led students to identify three points of reference: campus resources to combat opioid overdoses, campus drop boxes and proper medication disposal, as well as campus knowledge of opiates.

"Their project culminated with a drug drive, research paper, and connecting with campus resources. Their findings indicate that while most students on campus know what Narcan is, they do not have a clear

understanding of appropriate disposal methods for unused prescription medications. Additionally, the class identified resources on campus in the event someone may be experiencing an opioid overdose," said Evans.

The project started when the students asked Evans about her daughter who had recently had surgery. She said she explained that some of the medications her daughter was prescribed were unavailable.

"The students began talking about how the nation's crackdown on opiates may have an unintended consequence on people with a legitimate need for the medication and the impact it's having on pharmacies and patrons across the country, by denying a valid prescription," she added.

Students began reviewing literature and documentaries to better understand the opioid epidemic.

"I am extremely impressed by this group of students and this win is from their dedication, engagement, and strong efforts to see the project through to completion. I'm both honored and thankful for the opportunity to be their teacher this semester," said Evans.



Dewald's Class Visits Jonesboro Police Department



Dr. Stacy Dewald's Introduction to Criminal Justice class took a field trip to the Jonesboro Police Department. While there, they learned about motorcycle officers and K-9 units.

The officers discussed how dangerous it is for them to be on the road, describing that people will sometimes try to run them off the road. He stated that during training, the officers practice falling over to learn how to crash safely before they ever get on the road.

The K9 handler explained how the dog is kept secure while the car is in motion. Students were not allowed to touch the dog due to safety reasons. Students were shown how quickly the dog can retrieve items and used his keys as an example.

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Students were able to destress before finals by enjoying a visit from some furry, four-legged animals from the Northeast Arkansas Humane Society.

NEA Humane Society, located on E. Highland Drive in Jonesboro, brought variety of dogs to campus, not only to give the dogs an opportunity to visit with the community, but to provide information about adopting a pet.

Students across campus attended the event and the pups seemed to genuinely enjoy the attention.

Fun Before Finals



One pup in particular struck a keen liking to Mrs. Evans, and three days later, Max found his forever home with her.

Title IX



Title IX

The Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV) hosted an interactive presentation to discuss domestic violence and how to recognize signs of it. Brandy Dailey, community response facilitator at ACADV, led the seminar. The event was sponsored by the Office of Title IX and Institutional Equity for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Stacy Dewald, assistant professor of criminology, said she wanted her students to come to the event. "It's important for them to learn about domestic violence. Some of them want to work in the field as an advocate. So it's an opportunity to network and learn about things here in the community," Dewald said.

Mason Cruse, a first-year criminology major from Mountain Home, Arkansas, attended the seminar. "The biggest takeaway for me was the cause for an abuser isn't substance abuse or PTSD or any of those factors. It's the want for power," Cruse said. "I've personally experienced a little of that and seeing that it's not a person's abuse issues or religion or anything like that, because if that was the case, we'd have a lot more abuses. But that's really good to hear and kind of validate for myself."

Caroline Averitt, life editor, contributed to this report, courtesy of A-State

More from SC



Dr. Jaein Lee

Presents his research at the 2nd International Conference on Sociology of Korea in Philadelphia, PA

Sponsorship

Arkansas State University Department of Sociology & Criminology were sponsors at the 2023 Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice Conference in Little Rock, AR



ArkACRAO

Dr. Stacy Dewald and Dr. Ken Balusek attend the ArkACRAO Recruiting Event in October



More from SC



Guest Speaker

Students in Dr. Stacy Dewald's Introduction to Criminal Justice class were given the opportunity to meet with and speak to A-State Alumnus Michael Alston, U.S. Probation Officer and Cyber Crime Specialist.



Gathering on the Green

Dr. Veena Kulkarni and Dr. Stacy Dewald at the annual Gathering on the Green event. Each fall, students are invited to join in and meet with faculty and staff to learn about programs, activities, clubs, and organizations available to all students at A-State through the College of Liberal Arts and Communications.

More from SC



Presentation

Dr. Stacy Dewald presents her research in Philadelphia, at the American Society of Criminologist Conference. Problem-solving courts (PSCs) operate according to the premise that participant behavior can be modified through the use of incentives and sanctions. The purpose of this study is to explore how PSC personnel perceive the implementation of sanctions, incentives, and therapeutic adjustments; team dynamics; and program success across PSC programs within one midwestern county. Approximately twenty semi-structured interviews were conducted with PSC personnel, including program coordinators, prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, case managers, and house managers. Results suggest that most of the PSC personnel perceive a lack of incentives. More specifically, most reported more sanctions than incentives, which contradicts the National Drug Court Professionals guidelines of four incentives to every one sanction. Further, PSC personnel varied in their views regarding the effectiveness of jail sanctions, as well as in their understanding of how sanctions and therapeutic adjustments differ. Additionally, personnel believe their courts are successful, however, the definition of "success" varies depending on the personnel's role in the court (e.g., prosecutor, house manager). Our findings underscore the importance of continually monitoring and assessing use of sanctions, incentives, and therapeutic consequences within PSCs to ensure alignment with research-informed practices.

Award

Dr. Averi Fegadel won the Outstanding Article Award from the ASC Division of White-Collar and Corporate Crime. The article, titled "Green Criminology and State-Corporate Crime: The Ecocide-Genocide Nexus with Examples from Nigeria" was authored by Fegadel, along with Dr. Michael Lynch (USF) and Dr. Michael Long (OSU) and published in the Journal of Genocide Research.



AWARDS

A-State Faculty Research Award

Dr. Stacy Dewald was awarded funding of more than \$8,500 for her research entitled "Female Police Officers' Perspectives on Recruitment and Retention."

Convocation of Scholars



The Sociology & Criminology Department held their awards ceremony in April, during Convocation of Scholars month. Awards are given to both returning and graduating students based on their academic achievement. This year, nine students received awards.

Pictured from left: Christopher Pitts - Outstanding Graduate Student - Sociology; Kyla Wiersema - Criminology Book Award; Shanell Brito - John C. Osoinach Scholarship; Abigail Goforth, Sociology Book Award; Sarai Stubblefield - Sociology Book Award. Not pictured: Jessica Schurr - Criminology Book Award; Kayla Thomas - Outstanding Graduate Student - Criminology & Criminal Justice; Mykia Depriest - Outstanding Undergraduate Award - Criminology; and Destini Blankenship - Outstanding Undergraduate Award - Sociology.

Scrapbook



Great North American
Solar Eclipse
2024



Photos by
Dr. Averi Fegadel

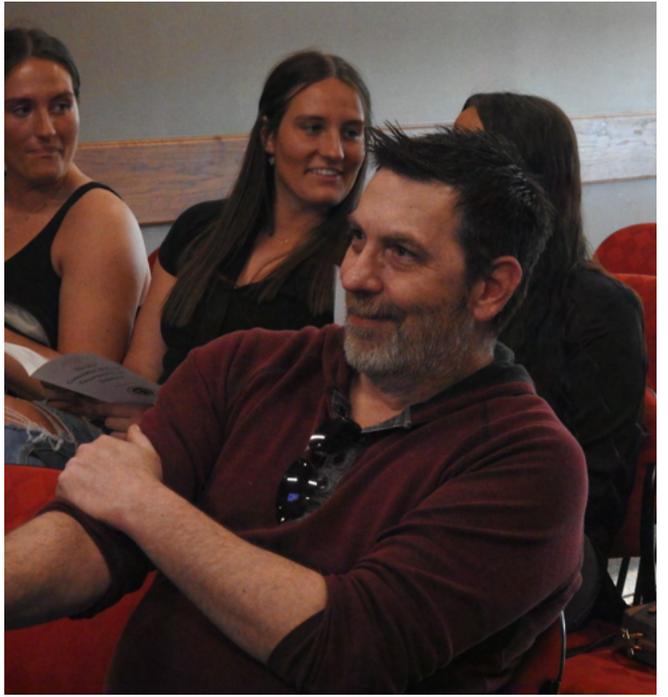




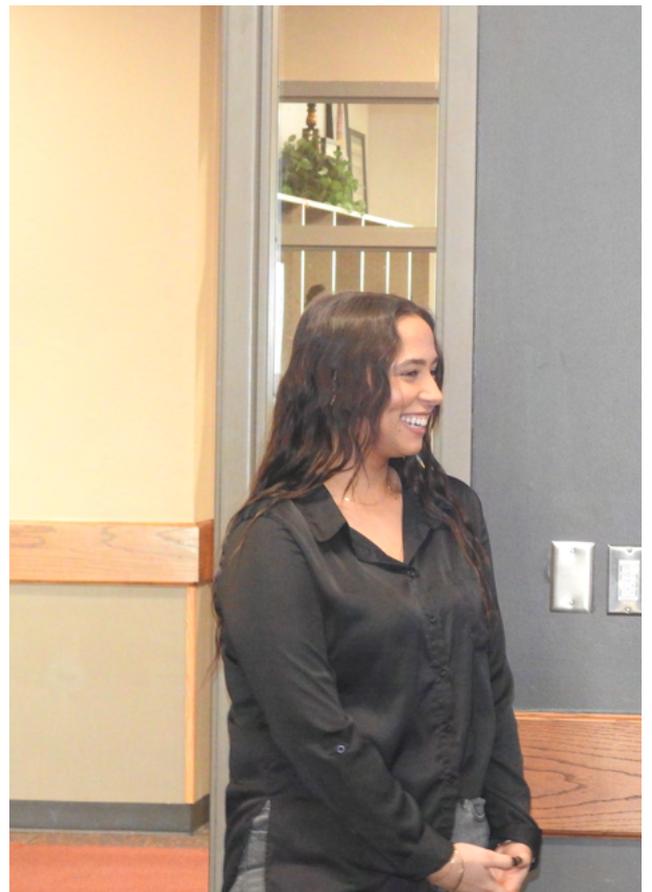
➤ Dr. Stacy Dewald, with students, Jaden and Mary, during the Clothesline Project to bring assault awareness.

▲ Dr. Angelo Brown visits with former Criminology instructor Dr. Selye Lee at SWACJ

◀ Mrs. Evans and her Student Workers, Brianna, Tre, Emma, Kayli, Nick, (Luke - Advising Center Worker), Isabel, Jada, and Sarai









Thank you for an **AWESOME** Year!