



UNC CHARLOTTE  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Fall 2015

# The Crime Chronicles

Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**Welcome back to a new semester.** The Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology has been very busy this past academic year and has another exciting year planned. This past academic year we graduated a total of 277 undergraduate and 10 graduate students. Our faculty produced a total of 2 books, 41 journal articles and 6 book chapters. Impressively, our graduate students co-authored 17 of these articles and chapters.

Our students were also honored in a number of other ways. For example, Adam Duso and Victor Ononogbo were both selected for membership in the Pinnacle Honor Society, which recognizes the success of adult students. Kevin Price became the first recipient of the new Kristin Champion/Jeremy Lewis scholarship through the Office of Disability Services. Christina Neitzey, the president of our Pre-Law Society, was selected as the Outstanding Student Organization Leader and was awarded the Newman Civic Fellows award.

This fall we welcome 157 new premajors, including 74 freshmen and 83 transfers to the department. We also welcome Professor Divita, who is now a full time lecturer in the department (see page 4 of the newsletter for more information). We are hosting the annual Constitution Day celebration this year on September 16 at 9:30 am in McKnight Hall. Entitled *Deadly Force: the Rights of Suspects and Police Officers*, this year's panel promises to be an exciting and informative one. Come join us and hear CMPD Chief Kerr Putney and Professor Kami Simmons from Wake Forest University discuss the police use of force.

Make sure you check your UNC Charlotte emails



*Image: Courtesy of Megan Sims; "Day of Convocation"  
New Pre-Criminal Justice students meet  
with the Chair and other faculty members*

regularly for both important information regarding deadlines and departmental policies as well as invitations to our events and other happenings on campus.

I challenge you to take charge of your future - get involved and make a difference. To our alumni, we would love to hear from you. Please send us your updates via:

<http://uncc.surveymshare.com/s/AYASQNC>.

Best wishes on a successful semester,

Dr. Beth Bjerregaard, Chair

# WELCOME ANNA DIVITA



The Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology is pleased to welcome Anna Divita. Professor Divita has been teaching as an adjunct for the past year and is now joining the department as a fulltime lecturer. She comes to us from the Skokie Illinois Police Department, where she served on the Tactical Mission Team as a juvenile officer, a narcotics investigator and as a patrol officer. Interestingly, she was the first female in the history of the department to serve on the Tactical Mission Team. In addition, Professor Divita earned her Master's in Criminal Justice (graduating with distinction) from Boston University. Professor Divita is looking forward to sharing her knowledge with the students and inspiring in them a passion for the field she loves. We wish her much success.

*Images: Courtesy of Anna Divita*

*Below: Enjoying a cave in Aruba*

*Right: Skiing in California*



## RECENT NEWS

**Congratulations to Lawrence Blydenburgh, Susan Hodge & Joseph Kuhns** for their recognition of teaching excellence from the *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*.

**Professor Blydenburgh** was selected as a finalist for the *Outstanding Teaching by a Part-Time Faculty Member* award.

**Professor Hodge** was selected as a finalist for the *Outstanding Teaching by a Full-Time Lecturer* award.

**Dr. Kuhns** was selected as a finalist for the *Integration of Undergraduate Teaching & Research* award.



*Pictured (left to right): Finalists Dr. Kuhns, Professor Hodge and Professor Blydenburgh with Dr. Bjerregaard*

# CONGRATULATIONS

**Congratulations to the academic advisors** of the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology. The department won the **Provost's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising** for the 2014-2015 academic year.



*Image: Courtesy of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department*

## **Criminology Alumnus Named Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Chief**

UNC Charlotte alumnus Kerr Putney has been named as the new police chief of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department effective July 1, 2015.

“I am extremely proud to announce the first internal promotion to the position of CMPD police chief,” City Manager Ron Carlee said. “Putney has the desired characteristics we want in a police chief including strong leadership, listening skills, an understanding of diversity and the ability to build relationships with the community. He will provide the continuity that is critical for building on the success of CMPD in protecting the life and property of people in our community and

building highly effective police-community relations.”

Putney, who currently is deputy chief with CMPD, earned his bachelor’s degree in criminology in 1992. He received his master’s degree in criminology from East Carolina University in 2008.

“I am deeply honored and humbled by the city manager’s decision to appoint me as the next chief of police of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department.” Putney said. “Throughout my career, I have always strived to seize all available opportunities for personal and professional growth to better prepare for the position of chief. I consider it an honor to lead the exceptional men and women of this agency. I look forward to working with the community to build strong, deep partnerships that foster a sense of greater understanding and mutual trust as we continue to make Charlotte-Mecklenburg one of the safest communities in the country.”

The city manager consulted with Chief Rodney Monroe, the deputy chiefs, mayor, city council, elected officials, neighborhood leaders, institutional leaders and the law enforcement community during the selection process. The results of these conversations led to an internal search because of the strong candidates within CMPD.

“Deputy Chief Putney’s long-standing leadership in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police

Department along with his strong community relationships in our city makes him an excellent choice to be the next police chief.” Mayor Dan Clodfelter said. “He has proven himself to be an effective and engaged leader and I am confident this will continue.”

Putney joined CMPD in 1992. He has held a variety of patrol, training and specialized assignments at various ranks within the organization. He was promoted to deputy chief in 2007. He is currently assigned to managing CMPD’s administrative services group. He also supervises the computer technology services bureau, the training bureau and the communications bureau.

“As the department transitions into new leadership under Chief Putney, I have the utmost confidence in his abilities as a leader,” Monroe said. “He is visionary and has a thorough understanding of law enforcement practices and its principles. I hold him in high regard and view him as an outstanding professional who has a great deal of talent and high ethical standards. My hope is that the community will support him in his new role as he continues to build upon existing relations and strategies that best serve all segments of the community.”

Putney was officially sworn in on Monday, June 29, 2015.

*Written by: Lynn Roberson*

# RECENT NEWS



Courtesy: Tyler Harris, CLAS Student Communications Assistant

## **Criminal Justice Alumnus Retires After Over 30 Years' Service**

After over three decades in the criminal justice profession, Concord Police Chief and UNC Charlotte alumnus Guy Smith retired on March 1, 2015.

"Once I got into law enforcement, that was it, I never thought about leaving," Smith said. "It's been a very good career for me and I feel very fortunate and blessed to be where I am today. Growing up in and working for the City of Concord, I wouldn't have changed anything that I did."

Smith graduated from UNC Charlotte in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Undecided until his sophomore year, he became interested in the criminal justice field as he learned more about its impact on the community.

"Probation, parole, prison and law enforcement all started appealing to me," Smith said. "My experiences at UNC Charlotte helped me learn criminal justice

was my niche and that it was the direction I wanted to continue."

## **Career Grows Over the Years**

Smith began his career with the Concord Police Department as a patrol officer in

1982, spending much of his next five years as a field training officer. He was promoted to detective in 1987 and assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division. In 1992, Smith became Lieutenant, supervising all criminal investigations, vice narcotic operations, and the daily activities of the evidence and property control.

He later served as Captain over Support Services; Major over Patrol Operations, Criminal Investigations, and Support Services; and as Deputy Chief from 2001-2011. He was named the interim Chief of Police from 2000-2001 and from April through September of 2011 before being officially promoted to Chief on October 3, 2011.

"Chief Smith's commitment to the City of Concord and the Concord Police Department has been exemplary," said City Manager Brian Hiatt. "He developed leadership skills in the community where he grew up, and to which he devoted his entire career. He has worked hard to make sure

Concord continues to be a great place to live and do business during a period of significant growth, and has been a steady force in keeping our City safe."

One major change since he joined the force in 1982 is the city's growth, Smith said. "When I was hired, we had 41 officers and a population of under 17,000 people," he said. "Now I've got 170 officers with a population of over 83,000. The workload has increased, and there is a lot changing in our nation today. But it's been the best career for me."

For his outstanding contributions to the law enforcement profession, Smith received the Robert J. Eury Memorial Award in 2004.

## **Studies Lead to Well-Rounded Professional**

His UNC Charlotte courses helped him become well rounded, Smith said. In his work with people and communities, he has drawn upon his knowledge from the criminal justice classes and from courses including psychology and sociology.

"Have fun but be conscious of your decisions because they can affect you when getting a job down the line," Smith said he would advise today's students. "Becoming fluent in Spanish and literate with computers gives you a solid background that will help you in most fields."

After earning his degree from UNC Charlotte, Smith continued his education in law enforcement. He is a graduate of the North

# RECENT NEWS

## Robert Brame Wins Alumni Hall of Fame Award

The UNC Charlotte Alumni Association honored eight individuals for embodying the core principles of the University and for distinguishing themselves through their outstanding service to UNC Charlotte, their chosen field and humanity.

The 2015 awards were presented at the Alumni Awards Banquet on Tuesday, March 17, at UNC Charlotte Center City.

“All of our awardees have achieved so much, both personally and professionally, in their lives, and we are proud to have them as a part of our 49er family,” said UNC Charlotte Alumni Association President Deborah Pittman.

### Robert Brame Jr., Ph.D. '88, '91

Robert “Bobby” Brame graduated cum laude from UNC Charlotte in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice in 1991. He completed his Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice in 1997 at the University of Maryland.

Upon graduation, he was awarded a prestigious postdoctoral research fellowship at the National Consortium on Violence Research at the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University. After completing the fellowship, he was invited to become a member of the consortium, a considerable honor as membership includes fewer than 90 scholars and is both international and multidisciplinary.

### Criminal Justice Alumnus Retires After Over 30 Years' Service (continued from page 7)

Carolina Justice Academy Management Development Program, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Carolina Command College, and the Cabarrus Regional Leadership Experience.

Smith has remained involved in youth and community organizations. Over the years, he has worked closely with Concord High School, the Cabarrus County Boys and Girls Club, Rock Grove United Methodist Church, Hartsell Athletic Association, Concord Athletic Youth Association, Cabarrus County Human Relations Council, and the Cabarrus Regional Leadership Experience.

With retirement, Smith will continue his community engagement, and he looks forward to coaching T-ball. In addition, he plans to tend to his farm in Rowan County and stay involved with UNC Charlotte through the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department and cheering on the university's athletic teams.



In addition, he was invited to be an associate for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice.

A full professor at UNC Charlotte (2007-13), Brame is a distinguished professor in the University of South Carolina's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, where he has helped to establish the department's Ph.D. program.

Currently, Brame is considered one of the top criminologists in the nation. He has had a positive impact on his students, served as a mentor to fellow faculty members and significantly impacted the field of criminal justice and criminology.

*Excerpt taken from: Inside UNC Charlotte*



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

## Professor Sue Hodge



I was born and raised in Graham, North Carolina. After graduating from Graham High School, I went to Appalachian State University and received my Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice along with minors in Political Science and Sociology. I interned at the District Attorney's office in Watauga County during my senior year at Appalachian. As part of this experience I went on a "still bust". Yes, I do mean "still" as in a moonshine still and it was a pretty crazy experience on a freezing dark December morning in the middle of nowhere in the mountains of North Carolina!

After graduating from Appalachian in 1981, I immediately moved to Charlotte to attend graduate school at UNC Charlotte. The Criminal Justice Masters program was brand new and we were definitely the guinea pigs! While working on my masters, I was also a legal assistant in a downtown law firm. However, I must say the academic experience in this department was fantastic and certainly helped me determine that my career path should be in academics.

After graduating with my Masters of Science degree in Criminal Justice, my first teaching job was at Central Piedmont Community College in the Department of Public Safety. During this time, I was also a Certified General Instructor for the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and conducted many training sessions for law enforcement officers. I was also a Rape Crisis Companion for the Victim Assistance Program and served on the Board of Directors of the Children's Law Center.

For many years, I continued to teach as an adjunct at CCCC, UNC Charlotte and Pfeiffer College while raising my two children. Once my daughter Jenny was enrolled at UNC Chapel Hill and my son, Clay was in high school, I decided to return to academia as a full-time Lecturer and the rest, they say, is history.

I feel very fortunate that I was able to determine and pursue my professional passion early in life and have been doing so ever since. I love my job here at UNC Charlotte as both a Senior Lecturer and Academic Advising coordinator and I believe because of my passion for the job, I have received awards acknowledging my work here at UNC Charlotte. Since 2012, 69 students have recognized me as "the one person at UNC Charlotte who has made the most significant, positive contribution to their education." In addition, I was selected as the guest coach at a UNC Charlotte Men's basketball game (that was a blast!). Recently, our advising department was recognized by the Provost for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising. And the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences selected me as a finalist for the Outstanding Teaching Award by a Full-Time Lecturer in 2015.

Now that my husband and I are "empty nesters", I enjoy reading, watching and playing golf, going to Appalachian State football games and dog sitting the grand dog, Molly.

### FUN FACTS:

When I was a child, what did I want to be when I grew up? *Veterinarian*

How would I like to be remembered? *As someone who cared about others.*

What's the weirdest thing I have ever eaten? *Wild boar, elk, and buffalo*

If my house caught fire, what's one thing I would save? *It did and I saved my laptop and cell phone.*

What is one random fact about me? *I was an all-conference athlete in hurdles on my high school track team.*

Who are some famous people I have personally met? *Jim Lovell (astronaut), Kerri Strug and Dan O'Brien (1996 Olympians)*

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

## Ms. Sarah Morton

### What is your favorite memory of UNC Charlotte?

My freshman year, most of my classes were in Fretwell. I lived off campus and didn't have a dining plan but my parents would put money into my account monthly to buy food on campus. It was in that first year that I developed my love for coffee. I would blow through my monthly allowance in about a week at the coffee shop on the bottom floor of Fretwell. I spent all my free time there studying, spending time with friends and playing brick-breaker on my Blackberry.

### What is the best thing you gained/learned from your degree?

I truly believe that at the time I graduated, I had the tools to go into any field of criminal justice. I got a job just out of college working in a federal residential re-entry center (corrections) and thrived there, as my degree prepared me to understand the offender experience, the barriers to successful re-integration and the likelihood of recidivism. Eventually, I found my true passion of working with victims and started working in the field of victim advocacy. This passion originated in classes at UNC Charlotte on Domestic Violence and Victims in the Criminal Justice System.

### What is your job title/description of what you do?

Domestic Violence Counselor/Volunteer Coordinator at the Domestic Violence Healthcare Project (DVHP). My program provides safety assessments, safety planning, photographic/written documentation of injuries, emotional support and explanation of options to victims within Carolinas Medical Center. Additionally, I am the Chair of the Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT), a team of domestic violence professionals and survivors that look closely at domestic violence homicides in domestic violence and based on these victim/offender experiences, make recommendations to prevent future domestic violence. We have initiated legislative changes, protocol development within law enforcement's response to domestic violence and the creation of community resources for victims, among other successes.



*Image: Courtesy of Sarah Morton*

### What is the most exciting part of your job?

I sometimes get called into the hospital in the middle of the night to meet with a patient who has been assaulted by an intimate partner. Their injuries can range from minor to life threatening. Being able to serve as an advocate for them during such a terrifying time reminds me why I entered into this work and reignites my passion for it.

### What is the best way to prepare for a job similar to yours?

I started with my program as a volunteer advocate. I was a volunteer for 2 years before being offered an on-call staff role. Within a year, a full time position became available and I was contacted to apply. Looking for opportunities to get involved in your desired field by interning or volunteering can really increase your chances of gaining employment in that role.

### What advice would you give to current students?

Your work ethic, or lack thereof will always impact your advancement in your career. We live in a world where everything is made to be quick and simple, never use this as an excuse to take the easy route.

# CHECKING IN WITH CJC ALUMNI

**Jordan Anderson (BA '09)** is a deputy clerk for the Clerk of Superior Court.

**Diana Bailey (BA '09; MS '13)** is a quality assurance specialist for the McLeod Center.

**Jeff Brackett (BA '85)** is a senior instructor/investigator with CACI, Inc. He retired from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in December 2012.

**David Bryson (BA '95; MS '99)** is retired from Workforce Florida which is the legislative entity that oversees and manages the Florida workforce system.

**Michael Cooper (BA '94)** is a probation/parole officer with the NC Department of Public Safety.

**Junotia Douglas (BA '13)** is a probation/parole officer with the NC Department of Public Safety.

**Chris Dozier (BA '93; MS '03)** is a Captain with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD).

**Michael Gammon (BA '06)** received a Masters of Public Administration in 2009. He is the Budget and Special Projects Manager for the Town of Garner, NC.

**Roderick Golding (BA '89)** is a Captain with CMPD.

**Chad Henderson (BA '13)** is a police recruit with CMPD.

**Randy Horton (BA '93)** is a Detective Sergeant with the Crime Scene/Laboratory of the Iredell County Sheriff's Office.

**Charles Huddleston (BA '11)** is a cryptologic technician with the US Navy and received the USS COLE (DDG-67) 2014-2015 Ballistic Missile Defense Deployment Mediterranean Sea Navy and Marine Achievement Medal.

**Nandiyel Jamison (BA '03)** is an AVP with the Financial Intelligence Unit with LPL Financial handling anti-money laundering (AML) issues and also works with Fraud Prevention.

**Jonathan Jones (BA '94)** is an insurance fraud investigator and has the NC Private Investigator Advanced Law Enforcement Certification.

**Amanda Kegley (BA '09)** is a police officer with CMPD and received the Life Saving Award in 2015.

**Graham Kuzia (BA '07)** works at Duke Energy as a Department of Homeland Security Compliance Analyst.

**Christina Neitzey (BA '14)** is a current law student at Stanford Law School.

**Abbra Roberts (BA '03; MS '06)** is a paralegal with Mills & Levine, P.A.

**Michael Roman (BA '94)** is a supervisory special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration with 20 years of service as of July 2015.

**Molly Springs (BA '10)** earned her law degree from Elon Law and is the owner of Springs Law, P.A. which focuses on personal injury auto/trucking accident's and social security disability.

**Daniel Truhitte (BA '12)** works for State Farm in Operations.

**Stephen Warden (BA '96)** is the chief probation/parole officer with the NC Department of Public Safety.

**Audrey Williams (BA '00)** is a probation officer with the NC Department of Public Safety.

**Shane Worrell (BA '11)** is a deputy clerk of Superior Court with Mecklenburg County.

\*Congratulations and good luck to all of our amazing alumni! Share your success with us and let us know how you are doing by completing our Alumni Survey found at this link: <http://uncc.surveymshare.com/s/AYASQNC>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Join us for Constitution Day!

On September 16, 2015 from 9:30 – 10:45 am in McKnight Hall in the Cone Center, Kerr Putney, Chief of Police at CMPD and Professor Kami Chavis Simmons of Wake Forest School of Law, an expert on police practice and race, will examine police use of force and other policing, civil rights and race issues at UNC Charlotte's annual Constitution Day celebration. The topic of *Deadly Force: The Rights of Suspects and Police Officers* will examine use of force policies, grand juries and police oversight as well as police shootings and relations between minority communities and officers. What makes Constitution Day a unique event on campus is that it addresses a criminal justice topic that is hot in the news and the program is moderated entirely by students.

The panel discussion will be moderated by student leaders from the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology's graduate program, Alpha Phi Sigma, Pre-law Society and Levine Scholars Program. Constitution Day (or Citizenship Day) is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. Constitution Day is free and open to the public and is sponsored by UNC Charlotte Academic Affairs, the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology and the Pre-Law Society.

## CONSTITUTION DAY – 2015

**Wed Sep 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 10:45 AM McKnight Hall/Cone Center**

### **Deadly Force**

#### ***The Rights of Suspects and Police Officers***

##### Panelist

**Kerr Putney**

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg  
Chief of Police**



##### Moderators

**Criminal Justice & Criminology  
Graduate Program  
Pre-Law Society  
Alpha Phi Sigma  
Levine Scholars Program  
HOST  
Kathleen Nicolaides, JD  
Department of Criminal Justice  
& Criminology**

##### Panelist

**Kami Chavis Simmons**

**Wake Forest University  
School of Law**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Undergraduate Admissions Essay

**Friday,  
September 18  
at 1 pm**

**Location:  
Fretwell 113**

To declare the Criminal Justice & Criminology Major, students must pass the Undergraduate Admissions Essay (UAE). The UAE is administered to ensure that students are prepared to succeed as CJC majors. The UAE is offered multiple times, twice during the Spring semester and twice during the fall semester. For the dates, times and locations of future UAE administrations, check the News and Events section of the CJUS website regularly. This information will also be available on Twitter at UNCC\_CJUS.

For more information on how to prepare for the UAE and the dates of administrations and review sessions, check out this link:

<http://criminaljustice.uncc.edu/undergraduate-program-information/undergraduate-admissions-essay-information>

**Save the Date: Wednesday, October 21**

**Join us at the  
Criminal Justice Career Fair**

**Sponsored by Alpha Phi Sigma**

**Wednesday,  
October 21 from  
10 am — 2 pm**

**Location:**

**Lucas Room;  
Cone Center**

# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



*Words & Images:*

*Courtesy of Michael Roth, Pre-Law Society President*

## PRE-LAW SOCIETY VISITS WASHINGTON, D.C.

In May, 2015, fifteen members of UNC Charlotte's Pre-Law Society traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit our nation's capital. This annual 4 day trip affords Pre-Law members the ability to see our nation's greatest landmarks, meet politicians face-to-face, and tour some of the best law schools in the country. The itinerary was packed with tours, meetings and events. The trip started with simply getting to Washington, which can be an experience in itself thanks to traffic and construction. Members carpoled up I-95, leaving Charlotte around noon and arriving in the evening. Once arriving at our hotel Sunday night, we found ourselves anxiously waiting for morning to come. Our hotel sat just past the banks of the Potomac River overlooking Georgetown University and downtown D.C. It was not until the morning at breakfast in the top-floor restaurant that members could appreciate this view and see the size of the city.

Monday morning opened with tours of major landmarks and tourist destinations. Navigating to the museums was not nearly as difficult as one would expect, even within the hustle of a major metropolis. Our first tour was of the Holocaust Museum. Each year the trip has had unplanned highlights; in past years members have walked the halls of Congress and suddenly found themselves walking alongside U. S. senators or Supreme Court Justices. These spontaneous parts have always enhanced the experience in D.C. This year's trip proved just the same. As we walked into the Holocaust Museum, I found artifacts from my own late grandmother, who survived the Auschwitz concentration camp. After requesting to meet the museum curator, I found entire interviews and articles written about her. This surprise alone made the trip worthwhile.

We then toured the U.S. Supreme Court where we sat inside the actual court room for a tour. The guide told us about the architecture and history of the building before explaining the significance of where we sat. She explained that merely feet away, the finest lawyers in the country present cases before the highest court in the land. We then learned there is a basketball court located above the courtroom and how that is actually the 'highest court in all the land'. That joke was probably told hundreds of times. We then took the opportunity to visit the National Mall and see the Lincoln Memorial, White House and other major landmarks.

After finishing tours in the evening, we crossed the Potomac River into the upscale neighborhood of Georgetown to meet UNC Charlotte Alumna Wendy Grubbs for dinner. Ms. Grubbs sat with each and every student, asking personally about their goals and law school ambitions and offering advice for all. She then shared stories with us about her impressive career and experiences in Washington. After dinner members split up to explore the Georgetown neighborhood filled with shops, cafes and boutiques.

# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



A few members took an early trip to visit the U.S. Capitol Building that night. As they walked directly up to the building they met a D.C. Metro police officer who gave tips about visiting the city. At night the building looked like a scene from *House of Cards* and made for some memorable photos.

On Tuesday, the Pre-Law Society met with representatives of Senator Burr and legal counsel for Representative Hudson in their respective offices. Each representative offered advice on starting legal careers in D.C. and then brought the members on a private tour of the Capitol. We entered through an underground tunnel directly from the offices to the Capitol. Walking along the tunnel we were passed by Congressman Paul Ryan. Within the Capitol we saw parts from the public tours and our own private section. This included the walkway the President Elect walks to inauguration (which we all took turns walking). On the Metro subway ride back to the hotel I sat behind a man holding a binder with the seal of the U.S. Congress. Intrigued, I start a conversation with him to find out he is a former intern on Capitol Hill who now works as a lobbyist for one of the largest law firms in the city. He offered his business card and his personal experiences for the duration of the ride.

In a city full of lawyers, you never know who you can meet that easily.

On our final day we toured both George Washington (GW) and Howard University law schools. Each tour was guided by admissions officers who offered sincere and candid advice along with fee waivers and their contact information. At GW, we spent time in their moot court room and classrooms. GW also offered to visit UNC Charlotte and meet with students. At Howard, as we walked the halls, the building emanated the history and character of the lawyers who once walked those same halls. There were busts of the late Justice Thurgood Marshall and murals depicting the history of the school.

While Howard was the last leg of our D.C. trip, it was an impressive end leaving each of us excited to return and maybe apply to those schools. This year the Pre-Law Society hopes to again visit D.C. and continue building on experiences of past trips. Pre-Law is also working to improve and add new benefits to members which can be found at [unccprelaw.com](http://unccprelaw.com). The Society is extremely thankful to the Criminal Justice & Criminology Department, Student Government Association and Dean Nancy Gutierrez for their support.

*Written by: Michael Roth,  
Pre-Law Society President, 2015-2016*



# MEET OUR FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology welcomes its 11 newest graduate students to the Master's program. Hailing from Florida (by way of New Jersey), Iowa, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Vermont and Virginia, these First Year Graduate Students—or FYGS—came to UNC Charlotte's graduate program with undergraduate degrees in Criminal Justice, Criminology, Justice and Law, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology. Collectively, they completed their undergraduate training with an average GPA of 3.56, and had an average GRE score of 301 (Quantitative + Verbal). Read on to find out more about each new FYG.

*Compiled by Dr. Lyn Exum*

**Adrianna Bradt** of Albany, NY graduated from UNC Charlotte where she majored in Criminal Justice and completed a double-minor in Psychology and Sociology. She first became interested in Criminal Justice after seeing her mother graduate with her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY Albany. One of the things Adrianna likes most about UNC Charlotte's Master's program is its small class size. She likes that she will be able to get to know her classmates and professors better, and feels that the small group settings are ideally suited for her as a student. She is primarily interested in theory, policy and corrections, and after graduation she plans to pursue her Ph.D. in Public Policy. Adrianna is obsessed with the show *Law and Order: SVU*, enjoys listening to 80s hair band music while writing papers, and—as a true New Yorker—makes a great homemade pizza. When asked what she would do if she won the lottery, Adrianna admits “buy a black 1980 Chevrolet Camaro.”



**Josie Cambareri** of Holly Springs, NC completed her double major in Criminal Justice and Political Science at UNC Charlotte. While in high school, Josie took a *Law and Criminal Justice* class, which first sparked her interest in the field. After completing her undergraduate degree, she knew without question that she wanted to attend graduate school. Josie applied to UNC Charlotte's Master's program because she liked the program's small size and the opportunity to work closely with faculty on research projects. Her interests range from theory-and-methods to courts-and-policing to criminal justice policy. As she explores these substantive areas more fully in graduate school, she will determine her future plans after graduation. Josie is a self-

proclaimed Type-A person who feels that—in another world where she's not such a realist—she would have a MFA in theatre, creative writing and dance. She also has a weakness for “good” chocolate chip cookies and, if she sees them, must eat a minimum of three.



# MEET OUR FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Cathy Dahlinghaus** of Greensboro, NC graduated from the University of South Carolina where she was a double major in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Although Psychology was her first major, she came to love Criminal Justice more—thanks in part to courses such as *Criminal Law*, *Terrorism*, *Policing*, and *Drugs and Crime*. Always wanting to live in a big city, Cathy had planned to move to Charlotte after completing her undergraduate studies. Along the way, she also decided to apply to the Criminal Justice Master's program in order to give her an advantage when she begins pursuing her career. After graduation, Cathy wants to work for the State Bureau of Investigation, and perhaps one day work for the FBI or CIA. An avid long distance runner, Cathy hopes to soon qualify for the Boston Marathon. When she's not studying (or running), you will find her watching one of these shows on Netflix: *Gray's Anatomy*, *The West Wing*, *How I Met Your Mother*, or *Family Guy*. Although she hates chocolate, Cathy is quick to point out that she always has great checkups at the dentist.



**Adam J. Duso** of Charlottesville, VA graduated from UNC Charlotte with a degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Biology. Although he once considered a career in medicine, his latent interest in law led him to take an *Introduction to Criminal Justice* course—and he became hooked almost immediately. He enjoys the study of theory and its intersection with law and policy. After graduation, he plans to attend law school. From 2009-2013, Adam served as a medic in the Army. He was stationed at Fort Bragg and was deployed once during Operation Enduring Freedom. In his spare time, Adam plays golf (poorly—by his own admission) and is a closet computer geek. He also enjoys hiking, camping, and watching serial dramas such as *Game of Thrones* and *House of Cards*.

# MEET OUR FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Holly Hall** of Kings Mountain, NC completed her double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice at UNC Charlotte. She became interested in Criminal Justice after taking a course in *Criminal Procedure*, which ultimately led her to add Criminal Justice as a second major. Holly was drawn to UNC Charlotte's Master's program because she felt the program was "tight knit" and offered her opportunities to form strong connections with faculty. Her interests center on theory and law, and after completing her Master's degree she plans to attend law school. When she is not in class or studying, Holly enjoys playing the guitar, shooting pool and reading science fiction.



**Alyssa Jones** of Charlotte, NC is dually enrolled in UNC Charlotte's undergraduate program (double majoring in Criminal Justice and Political Science) and graduate program. She traces her interest in Criminal Justice back to her childhood, where she wanted to be a crime-fighting superhero. Although she never developed mutant powers, Alyssa remained interested in crime prevention and ultimately selected Criminal Justice as one of her college majors. She was drawn to UNC Charlotte's Master's program in part because of the University's Early Entry Program, which allows students to begin working on their graduate degree while still completing their undergraduate degree. Alyssa enjoys studying criminal justice policy, and after graduating with her Master's degree she would like to work in federal law

enforcement (and in her distant future perhaps even earn her JD). Alyssa loves the outdoors, is an avid hiker, and enjoys rock climbing as well. Although she never believed in Santa Claus as a child, she cried when her parents told her that WWE wasn't real.

# MEET OUR FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Ashleigh LaCourse** of Barre, VT completed her undergraduate degree in Justice and Law from American University. She also completed her MEd in Counseling and Development from Winthrop University. Ashleigh stumbled upon her interest in Criminal Justice after taking an *Introduction to Criminology* course in which her professor (a defense attorney) challenged the class to consider what punishments were appropriate for certain offenders. That class, coupled with a few others, piqued Ashleigh's interest in the causes of criminal behavior and in treatment/rehabilitation. Eventually, Ashleigh would like to pursue a PhD—but until then she would like to work in probation/parole or in an agency for at-risk youth. She also has an interest in pursuing a MFA in Creative Writing. If there were ever a Hollywood movie created about her life, Ashleigh says that it would be called "The Perpetual Grad Student" and star Emma Stone. Ashleigh has worked as an intern at the Mecklenburg County Jail, studied abroad in Copenhagen, and has studied Spanish, French, Russian and Danish. In her spare time she enjoys playing ping pong, binge-watching Food Network shows, and reading true crime books.



**Emily Luc** was born in Edison, NJ but grew up in Fort Myers, FL. She graduated from the University of South Florida double majoring in Criminology and Psychology. While in high school she enjoyed watching crime shows on TV, but knowing that they were not wholly accurate she decided she wanted to learn more about crime and the criminal justice system. She applied to UNC Charlotte's graduate program in part because one of her undergraduate advisors was familiar with program and recommended it. Also, Emily liked the fact that the Master's degree could be completed in a 12-month period. After graduation, Emily intends to apply for an Officer's position in the Air Force. She is also entertaining the idea of completing her PhD and entering the police academy.

Her ultimate goal is to work for a federal agency such as the FBI. A passionate runner, Emily recently started competing in triathlons. When she's not studying, she enjoys knitting, reading ("but none of this ebook stuff") and binge watching TV on Netflix. Her favorite animal is the monkey and for a long time she wanted one as a pet. She now admits, "I have recently come to my senses and just want a tortoise instead."

# MEET OUR FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Brianne Moore** of Council Bluffs, IA graduated from Iowa State University with a double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice. While always interested in Criminal Justice, it was her *Deviant Behavior* course (and professor) who opened her eyes to the possibility of pursuing a career in the field. Brianne is most interested in victim advocacy. After graduation, she hopes to work in federal government for a period of time before returning to school to earn her PhD in Social Psychology. Her ultimate goal is to be in a position to best help victims of crime. When Brianne is not studying or working for UNC Charlotte's Department of Housing and Residence Life, she loves cuddling with her cat, Mitchie ("He is my baby"), watching sports, and taking naps. She is left handed and proud of it, will watch the *Toy Story* series anytime, and goes by the name Bri (rhymes with "she") because most of her professors mispronounce Brianne.



**Cheryl Peace** of Charleston, SC completed her undergraduate degree in Sociology (concentration in Criminology) and a Women's Studies minor from Winthrop University. She became interested in Criminology/Criminal Justice while in high school where she participated in a Youth Court program. In college, she was drawn to the study of Victimology, which along with Corrections and Domestic Violence, remains as one of her primary areas of interest. Cheryl applied to UNC Charlotte's graduate program after hearing great things about it from her faculty at Winthrop; also, the campus reminded her a lot of Winthrop and so it felt more "like home" to her. After graduation, Cheryl may pursue a PhD. Her ultimate goal is to work in victim's advocacy or teach at the university level. Cheryl is German, Egyptian and African American, and has a strong creative side. In addition to writing spoken word poetry, she loves to paint and draw.



# MEET OUR FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Chanté M. Russell** of Creedmoor, NC graduated from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke with her major in Criminal Justice and a minor in Terrorism Studies. Growing up in a household where both parents were federal law enforcement employees, Chanté was introduced to the field of Criminal Justice at a young age. After taking her first Criminal Justice class in college, she knew Criminal Justice was the right major for her. She was drawn to UNC Charlotte's Master's program because of its size and for the opportunities that come with living in a large city. She is primarily interested in terrorism, policy, and law, and after graduation her ultimate goal is to work for the Department of Homeland Security as a Special Agent. When she's not studying, you'll find Chanté eating ("I'm always eating something"), watching *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*, or at a trampoline park. If she won the lottery, Chanté says she would donate money to domestic violence centers and travel all over the world "just to eat!"  
PS: She is TERRIFIED of spiders!



## Did you know the Department offers early admission to our Master's in Criminal Justice program?

This allows exceptional students who have completed at least 75 hours of undergraduate coursework and who have a 3.2 GPA to apply.

Those receiving early admission can enroll in up to 6 graduate credits as an undergraduate, and then have those credits "**double count**" toward the completion of both the undergraduate degree and the M.S. degree. This can shorten the time required to complete the program (which is only a year). Undergraduate students also pay undergraduate tuition to take graduate classes with early admission.

You can get more information about this exciting opportunity on the Graduate School's webpage (<http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/future-students/programs/early-entry-graduate-programs>). Dr. Exum, our graduate coordinator, is also available to answer any questions you might have.

# AWARDS BANQUET - APRIL 2015

In April of this year, Criminal Justice & Criminology students were honored at the 18th Annual Awards Ceremony hosted by the department. Students who applied for CJC sponsored academic scholarships and awards were presented with monetary awards and acknowledgments at the event. The Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology will again be accepting applications for these awards in January 2016 for the upcoming academic year. The deadline will be Tuesday, March 1, 2016. For more information on available awards, visit the website: [criminaljustice.uncc.edu/opportunities-students/scholarships](http://criminaljustice.uncc.edu/opportunities-students/scholarships).

## 2015 Award Recipients:

### **The Alumni Board of Governors Outstanding Senior Award**

Undergraduate: Ms. Josie Cambareri

### **The Dean Reep Scholarship**

Undergraduate: Mr. Michael Browne

Undergraduate: Mr. Justin Kosobucki

### **The Julie F. Beeman Recognition of Excellence**

Undergraduate: Ms. Chelsya Cook

### **The North Carolina Sheriffs' Association Undergraduate CJ Scholarship**

Undergraduate: Mr. Sawyer Baucom

### **The Law Enforcement Memorial Scholarship**

Undergraduate: Mr. Travis Higgs

### **The Criminal Justice & Criminology Research Award**

Undergraduate: Ms. Emily Bent

### **The Wade H. Stroud Scholarship**

Undergraduate: Ms. Katherine Acosta

### **Justice Initiatives Award**

Undergraduate: Ms. Lashieka Hardin

Graduate: Mr. Adam Duso

### **The Robert Lassiter Outstanding Paper Award**

Undergraduate: Ms. Lydia Cozart

Graduate: Ms. Amber Sanders

### **The Barnes & Noble/UNC Charlotte Bookstore Award**

Undergraduate: Ms. Claudia Kuete

### **The Gray's College Bookstore Award**

Undergraduate: Ms. Patrice Bagby

# AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**Alumni Board of Governors  
Outstanding Senior Award:  
Ms. Josie Cambareri  
With Professor Derrick Lail**



**Julie F. Beeman  
Recognition of Excellence:  
Ms. Chelsya Cook  
With Mrs. Julie Beeman**

# AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**The Wade H. Stroud Scholarship:  
Ms. Katherine Acosta  
With Professor Kathleen Nicolaides**



**The Criminal Justice & Criminology  
Research Award:  
Ms. Emily Bent  
With Dr. Joseph Kuhns**



# AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**The North Carolina Sheriff's Association Undergraduate Criminal Justice Scholarship:  
Mr. Sawyer Baucom  
With Dr. Bruce Arrigo**



**The Law Enforcement Memorial Scholarship:  
Mr. Travis Higgs  
With Dr. Matthew Phillips**

# AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**Justice Initiatives Award:  
Ms. Lashieka Hardin  
&  
Mr. Adam Duso  
With Dr. Anita Blowers**



**The Dean Reep Scholarship:  
Mr. Michael Browne  
&  
Mr. Justin Kosobucki  
With Dr. Charisse Coston**

# AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**The Robert Lassiter  
Outstanding Paper Award:  
Ms. Lydia Cozart**



**The Robert Lassiter  
Outstanding Paper Award:  
Ms. Amber Sanders**

# AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**The Gray's College  
Bookstore Award:  
Ms. Patrice Bagby  
With Professor Sue Hodge**



**Barnes & Noble/UNC Charlotte  
Bookstore Award:  
Ms. Claudia Kuete  
With Kathleen Hicks &  
Cheri Griffith**

# CONGRATULATIONS SPRING 2015 GRADUATES

## BACHELOR'S

Abrahamse, Abraham  
Arnette, Todd  
Bagby, Patrice  
Baker, Brett  
Ballentine, Jessica  
Barrett, Andrew  
Beaudoin, Hilary  
Belk, Jason  
Bent, Emily  
Billings, Kathryn  
Blackwell, Tammy  
Booher, Kelly  
Boyd, Jared  
Boyles, Wesley  
Bradt, Adrianna  
Bridges, Wendi  
Brown, Michael  
Brown, Tremel  
Burgess, William  
Caddell, Tevin  
Cambareri, Josie  
Campbell, Alonzo  
Carpenter, Christopher  
Chavis, Lauren  
Cheek, Gerome  
Choice, Timothy  
Christensen, Jenna  
Clark, Brittany  
Confroy, James  
Cooper, Whitney  
Craft, Lois  
Craig, John  
Cruz, Noemi  
Dalton, Lakasha  
Daye, Terran  
Dentamo, Getisso  
Drayton, Clarence  
Dupree, Gabrielle  
Duso, Adam  
Eagle, Christopher  
Eller, Donelle  
Eudy, Kasey  
Evans, Brandon D.

## BACHELOR'S

Evans, Brandon G.  
Fernandez, Mayra  
Fields, Dijon  
Forney, Devon  
Foust, Byron  
Friedman Ceraso, Anthony  
Frontis, Tal'meisha  
Gail, Brandon  
Garrett, William  
Garrido, Holli  
Gonzalez, Anthony  
Grassmann, Shaelynn  
Gratton, Earl  
Green, Amelia  
Griffin, Brittany  
Harrison, Sade  
Haslett, Kyle  
Hatley, Meredith  
Hernandez, Jessica  
Hersek, Jana  
Hodge, Jessica  
Howard- Moreno, Hannah  
Hoyte, Novia  
Hughes, Donna  
Huntley, Haley  
James, Rachel  
Jaramillo Aguirre, Daniela  
Jarvis, Jessica  
Jones, Jazmyne  
Jones, Marcus  
Keefer, Collin  
King, Trevor  
Kirchner, Rebecca  
Klaver, Samantha  
Kumah, Emmanuel  
Lee, Melody  
Leonard, Natalie  
Leonard, Nicole  
Long, Amanda  
Mann, Chad  
Martin, Brian  
Mccoy, Adora  
McCoy, Justin

## BACHELOR'S

McNeill, Ka-Dijah  
Mendenhall, Landon  
Mojica, Johnny  
Murphy, Erin  
Nance, Courtney  
Newman, Sean  
Parcell, Jonathan  
Pendergraph, Michael  
Phung, Nelson  
Pierre - Louis, Philip  
Pittman, Mandoline  
Plyler, David  
Price, Tevin  
Price, Wesley  
Rankin, Olivia  
Reece, Ashlyn  
Riegel, Juli  
Rodriguez, Wiynter  
Ross, Jason  
Ross, Tenille  
Royster, Ellis  
Sabato, Carly  
Savage, Matthew  
Schehr, Michael  
Schneeberger, Adam  
Schroeder, Melissa  
Scott, Elizabeth  
Scott, Jessica  
Sejdic, Alen  
Sharpe, Daniel  
Showers, Abby  
Skinner, Katelyn  
Slonski, Kelsey  
Smith, Aaron  
Smith, Kendall  
Smith, Ryan  
Stevens, April  
Stone, Evan  
Stone, James  
Storey, Brandon  
Szynarowski, Jonathan

## BACHELOR'S

Tann, Rohit  
Tate, Ryan  
Taylor, Brittany  
Thomas, Jessica  
Thompson, Camilya  
Turner, Verdetta  
Ung, Dianna  
Velazquez, Chelsea  
Villagrana, Ana  
Wagoner, Tyler  
Watkins, William  
Watson, Brooke  
Watson, Kyle  
Webber, Andrew  
Wells, Zachary  
Whitaker, Jordan  
White, Brady  
White, Nieka  
Williams, Deanthony  
Williams, Terrence  
Wimberley, Cara  
Woods, Hannah  
Wyllie, Patrick  
Xiong, Brenda  
Yataco Uribe, Rosa

## MASTER'S

Franklin, Justin  
Hunter, Katie  
Kamen, Emily  
Morris, Holly  
Palmer, Zachary  
Sanders, Amber  
Smith, Willa

# CONGRATULATIONS SUMMER 2015 GRADUATES

## **SUMMER I BACHELOR'S**

Albertson, Dylan  
Badis, Aaron  
Bernard, Rachael  
Chopelas, Amber  
Fetterolf, Cory  
Gutierrez, Paulina  
Hofstetter, Derek  
Jamieson, Matthew  
Little, David  
McClure, Jessica  
McCrary, Joel  
Mina, Philopateer  
Mooneyhan, Victoria  
Villarroel, Gloises

## **MASTER'S**

Boykin, Alecia  
Semeniuk, Kurt

## **SUMMER II BACHELOR'S**

Gilliam, Tanner  
Grier, Cammy  
Lane, Spencer  
Lewis, Joshua  
Malone, Ashli  
Massey, Aaron  
McNeill, Jacob  
Never, Dustin  
Raji, Amirah  
Reed, Heather  
Tagoe, Nii  
Yager, Jesse

# CHANCELLOR'S LIST — SPRING 2015

Baucom, Sawyer  
Berga, Michael  
Browne, Michael  
Caune, Thomas  
Christensen, Jenna  
Cotto Miranda, Byron  
Dalton, Lakasha  
Drayton, Clarence  
Fiallos, Victoria  
Garrido, Holli  
Garzon, Gerson  
German, Casey  
Guzman, Karen  
Holland, Erica  
Johnson, Kevin  
Klaver, Samantha  
Klinck, Lindsay

Kosobucki, Justin  
Martin, Brian  
McKinney, Kallie  
Moses, Sarah  
Polefko, Shane  
Rhoades, Amy  
Rinehardt, Madeline  
Scott, Brandon  
Scott, Elizabeth  
Scott, Shana  
Smith, Rebecca  
Tran, Tam  
Vargas Guadalupe, Veronica  
Vo, Long  
Weber, Meagan  
Woods, Hannah

*"A full time student must earn a GPA of at least 3.8 in 12 or more semester hours. A part time student must earn a combined fall and spring GPA of at least 3.8 in 12 or more semester hours."*