Nearly 130 alumni, students, faculty and staff attended the School of Criminal Justice 40th Anniversary Celebration in October. The events began with a demonstration by the School’s award-winning Moot Court Team. Since its inception in 2004, the Moot Court Team, led by Distinguished Teaching Professor James Acker, has sent 30 two-person teams to the regional event. Ten of those teams earned slots in the National Tournaments. In preparation for the 2008 American Collegiate Moot Court Association’s Eastern Regional Tournament, the team argued a hypothetical case in which a college student claimed that her First Amendment and Due Process rights were violated by a university policy confining students’ demonstrative speech to designated “free speech zones.” The debate was then critiqued by a panel of judges – Alumni Association President Robert Burstein ’72, Dr. Sharon Kantor ’73, and Dean’s Advisory Board Member Maureen Helmer ’79.

Later that evening, alumni, faculty and current students gathered for Happy Hour at an Albany institution - Washington Tavern. On Saturday, the School hosted an Open House and Student Research Poster Session. PhD students Elizabeth Brown, Leona Jochnowitz, Carter Rees, Maria Tcherni, and Gregory Zimmerman presented large format posters highlighting their current research projects. Brown and Zimmerman have since completed their doctoral studies and have secured tenure-track positions at Niagara University and Northeastern University, respectively.

The Open House concluded with a panel discussion involving members of the first class of students admitted in 1968 (above). John Laub, PhD ’80 served as moderator – to the extent the group would accept moderation. Topics spanned 40 years of criminal justice education, including reminiscence of the School’s history and hope for its future.

As the last-minute preparations got underway for the Anniversary Gala, the ‘first class’ convened a pre-Gala reception at Kelsey’s in the Crowne Plaza. Much to their delight, Eliot Lumbard joined them for the festivities. In the early 1960s, Lumbard was charged with modernizing the criminal justice system by Governor Nelson Rockefeller. The result of his project became the idea behind the School of Criminal Justice.

The highlight of the weekend was the 40th Anniversary Gala. Held at The State Room in downtown Albany, the event will long be remembered as much for its elegance as its warmth. As guests arrived, they were greeted with champagne and strawberries. It wasn’t long before the room was buzzing with old friends and new acquaintances. Following brief greetings from University President George Philip and Dean Julie Horney, guests enjoyed the music of the Chris Dunn Band and a sumptuous dinner… including the much-celebrated mashed potato ‘martinis’.

After dinner, the evening’s program – a tribute to Professor Hans Toch – commenced. Toch ‘retired’ at the end of the fall semester. That is, retired so much as he possibly could while still coming into the office every day. Professors James Acker, Alan Lizotte and David Duffee reminisced about their colleague and alumni Kathleen Heide, PhD ’82 and Julius (Jay) Wachtel, PhD ’82 shared tales of their student experience under his tutelage. The Dean also read letters of congratulations from former SCJ professor Shadd Maruna and New York State Governor David Paterson.

When Professor Toch took the stage, he brought down the house. He explained that he had consulted the Internet for the proper way to write a retirement speech and proceeded to follow the instructions point by point, adding his own hilarious twist along the way. As he wrapped up, he imparted an Alaskan tradition in which the ‘most delicious part of the moose’ – the nose – is saved for the eldest member of the tribe.

The 40th Anniversary Celebration was made possible, in part, by the generous support of our sponsors.

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Dean’s Message
This past fall, we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the School of Criminal Justice. The occasion gave us an opportunity to reflect on the School’s proud history – the paths this School has forged, the careers it has molded, and the ways in which it has forever changed our discipline. The weekend’s events brought together 40 years of alumni, faculty and students from all of our degree programs. It was exciting to see our current students gathered with members of the first class ever admitted and to overhear exchanges between our young faculty and some of the School’s founding fathers.

The Anniversary was also an opportunity to reflect on my own SCJ experience. In my seven years with the School, every day has brought surprises and challenges and untold rewards. I have been delighted by the warmth of our alumni, the enthusiasm of our students, and the dedication of our faculty.

As many of you know, I am stepping down from my position as Dean of the School of Criminal Justice and leaving the University at Albany for a faculty position at Penn State University. I look forward to returning to my research agenda and to new challenges that lie ahead, but I will always look back on my time at SCJ as some of the best years of my career. It has been an honor and a great pleasure to serve this School, and I will take with me many special memories.

The University is conducting a national search for a new dean of the School. Starting July 1, Professor Alan Lizotte will serve as interim dean until that search is concluded. In his able hands the School will continue to serve as a model of excellence, as it has over the past 40 years.
Bayley Tours India

Professor David Bayley did a three-week lecture tour of India in February, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. During the 21 days he was there, he gave 23 speeches and seminars and stayed in 11 hotels. He spoke about terrorism, police discipline and accountability, and evaluation research on the police.

Among the high spots, he was the “Chief Guest” and keynote speaker at the graduation of police officers with advanced degrees from the Punjab Police Academy and he met with the American Ambassador to discuss America’s agenda for providing assistance to India’s police. He also spent hours discussing counter-terrorism with the chiefs of police of Mumbai and Kolkata and their senior officers.

Bayley has visited India several times before, including living there twice for extended periods. His Ph.D. dissertation was about India. “Altogether,” he reports, “this trip was exciting, instructive, and exhausting.”

Congratulations!

McDowall Named ASC Fellow

Professor David McDowall has been selected as a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology (ASC). The honor will be announced and a certificate presented at the ASC Annual Meeting in November.

Lizotte Recognized for Excellence in Research

Professor Alan Lizotte received the University at Albany Excellence in Research Award. The award was presented at a campus-wide celebration in May.

Apel Wins MacNamara Award

Professor Bob Apel's paper, “Youth Behavior, School Structure, and Student Risk of Victimization,” published last year in Justice Quarterly, has been selected to receive the MacNamara Award for Outstanding Journal Publication from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Apel coauthored the paper with Dr. John Burrow, University of South Carolina.

Want more Faculty News?

Check out The CJ Chronicles, the School of Criminal Justice internal newsletter, at www.albany.edu/scj/InternalNews.htm.

New Faculty Join SCJ Team

Professors Jamie Fader and Allison Redlich joined the SCJ faculty in fall 2008. Both have already begun making their marks in the School, at the University, and in the field.

Jamie Fader

Dr. Jamie Fader received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2008. Her research interests include youth incarceration, prisoner reentry, desistance from offending, and the collateral consequences of mass imprisonment. She is concluding a longitudinal, ethnographic study of young, Black men returning to Philadelphia from a juvenile correctional facility designed to address “criminal thinking errors.” Her project has documented their lives as they navigated the dual transition from confinement to community and adolescence into young adulthood.

Fader has been awarded seed funding through the University’s Faculty Research Awards Program to conduct an interview-based study in Philadelphia entitled: “Selling Smarter: Risk Assessment and Apprehension Avoidance Strategies Among Drug Sellers in Urban Communities.” She will begin data collection this summer.

Allison Redlich

Dr. Allison Redlich comes to us from Policy Research Associates in Delmar, NY. Redlich is pursuing two main lines of research. The first concerns interrogation methods and their potential to produce false confessions, particularly as related to vulnerable populations (juveniles and persons with mental impairments). Her second research interest concerns mental health courts (MHC). She is investigating whether MHC clients make knowing, intelligent, and voluntary enrollment decisions, and whether informed decision-making at the outset predicts future MHC success.

Redlich has been invited to join the Advisory Board of the newly formed Center on the Wrongful Conviction of Youth, operated through the Northwestern University School of Law. She has also been asked to serve on the editorial board of Law and Human Behavior. In November, she gave an invited address on false confessions to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at their Major Crime Conference.

Redlich earned her Ph.D in Developmental Psychology from the University of California - Davis and completed post-doctoral training in Psychiatry and Juvenile Justice at Stanford University School of Medicine.
John Laub, Ph.D. ’80

Ask John Laub about the time he spent at the University at Albany School of Criminal Justice and you’ll hear words like transformative and extraordinary. “It was a time of intellectual excitement. The faculty were doing cutting-edge research and the training was extraordinary. It was a transformative experience,” Laub explains. “It was what graduate school should be all about. It was about more than the content of criminology and criminal justice. We were being taught to be professionals, taught the value and importance of the field, and taught respect for the discipline - the past, present, and future.”

Laub, who was recently named Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, has truly made the most of his SCJ education, evident in his tremendous professional success. “I’ve had a blessed career,” he admits, “I’ve reached heights I never dreamed of. There are many people out there doing great work and making important contributions, and I’m humbled by the recognition I have received.”

One of his most prized honors came in 1997, when he was selected to receive the School of Criminal Justice Distinguished Alumni Award. “Whatever I’ve achieved in my career is due to the five years I spent at Albany,” he says, “I wouldn’t trade my Albany experience for the world.”

Laub was named a fellow of the American Society of Criminology (ASC) in 1996 and served as its president in 2002-2003. Among the many highlights in his career are the numerous book awards he and collaborator Robert Sampson, Ph.D. ’83 have received. Their books Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70 and Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points Through Life have both won the Albert J. Reiss, Jr., Distinguished Book Award from the American Sociological Association, the Outstanding Book Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the Michael J. Hindelang Book Award from the ASC. Currently, Laub has three new projects in the works. The first looks at neighborhood change and crime rates in the District of Columbia, a topic that reflects back to his dissertation research. Another program studies the transition from adolescence to young adulthood among serious juvenile offenders in Philadelphia, PA. His third project examines spirituality, morality, and crime using data from the Peterborough Adolescent Development Study (PADS+) directed by Per-Olof Wikstrom.

A fourth area of interest was rekindled during a recent sabbatical. Laub ‘rediscovered’ his love for reading and writing poetry. He makes an effort to read poetry on a regular basis and has tried his hand at writing too, although as he says “generally unsuccessfully. Writing poetry takes enormous time and commitment. Every phrase, word, and sequence needs to be dissected and analyzed.”

This past October, Laub returned to SCJ for the School’s 40th Anniversary celebration and agreed to serve as the moderator for a panel of alumni from the very first class of Ph.D. admits. The event was a great, if raucous, success. Laub reflected on the significance of the anniversary, “I care deeply for the School. It is at a crucial point in its history, and I look forward to seeing where it will go.”

Carolyn Smith, PhD ’91 (left) is Professor and Chair of the Ph.D. Program in the School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany. After 15 years as a social worker, her interests in troubled and antisocial youth led to a dissertation focused on the family causes of delinquency. Beginning with her dissertation research, Smith has enjoyed a long association with the Rochester Youth Development Study (RYDS). She has been a visiting scholar both at Cambridge University and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She has written over 45 refereed articles and book chapters, and is a co-author on the prize-winning book Gangs in Developmental Perspective: The Origins and Consequences of Gang Membership. Currently, she is Principal Investigator on a federal grant to investigate the long-term consequences of family violence. In 2008, Smith was awarded the University at Albany’s Excellence in Research Award.

Harvey Goldstein, MA ’71 is the Director of the New Jersey Intensive Supervision Program (ISP). He is responsible for managing the close monitoring of nearly 1,400 state prison releases. Having spent 35 years in Probation work, he has been responsible for research, training, program development, and administrative services. Under his direction, New Jersey’s ISP has maintained a 96% employment rate and has resulted in a graduate recidivism rate below twelve percent. Goldstein is also a national leader in developing victim services. He was Chairman of the Board and President of the American Probation and Parole Association and has served on Advisory Boards to the FBI and the National Institutes of Justice and Corrections. He has published widely and has taught courses in Ethics, Research, Probation and Child Support. Harvey was unable to attend the award ceremony, but his daughters, Jessica and Kerry (right), accepted on his behalf.
Nicole Rafter, PhD ‘78 won the 2009 Edwin H. Sutherland Award from the American Society of Criminology. The award recognizes “outstanding contributions to theory or research in criminology on the etiology of criminal and deviant behavior, the criminal justice system, corrections, law, or justice.” In 2010, Rafter will serve as Fulbright Distinguished Professor at Johannes Kepler University in Austria.

Laura Hess Horvath, MA ‘82 is currently the Accounting Manager for REO Real Estate. She also owns her own homemade baked goods business - Cookies by Laura. Since leaving the Watertown Police Department in 1993, Cynthia Shelmidine, MA ‘90 has been an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Jefferson Community College. She is currently the Department Chair of Public Safety (including CRJ and Fire Protection programs). In May 2008, she received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. The award recognizes “consistently superior service contributions of teaching faculty.”

Mark Chaires, MA ‘94 has been named Police Chief for the City of Schenectady.

Thomas Mauro, MA ‘95 retired in January 2006 from the NYPD as a Captain after a 20-year career. He has since been appointed as Director of Exercises and Training for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Bureau of Emergency Management. He also teaches part time as an Adjunct Professor in Criminal Justice at St. John’s University. In his ‘free’ time, Mauro coaches the Academy of St. Dorothy’s U8 boys soccer team.

Jenny Rizzo, MA ‘98 married Dana Irwin on September 20, 2008. She currently promotes tennis programs as a Tennis Service Representative for the United States Tennis Association. Irwin received his MBA from the University at Albany in 1999.


Andrew Costello, MA ‘99, a Captain with the NYPD, married Lori Workstel in the Bahamas on May 3, 2008.


Rebekah Nellis Kennedy, Esq., BA ‘04 recently became an Associate at D’Agostino, Krackeler, Baynes & Maguire in Menands, NY and was previously with the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, 3rd Department.

Thomas Lebel, PhD ‘06 contributed two chapters to How Offenders Transform Their Lives, published by Willan Publishing. They are “Looking-glass identity transformation: Pygmalion and Golem in the rehabilitation process” (with S. Maruna, M. Naples and N. Mitchell) and “The use of advocacy/activism as a coping orientation by formerly incarcerated persons in the reentry process.”

Matthew Laroche, MA ‘07 and his teammate Peter Mancuso took first place in the John J. Gibbons Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition at Seton Hall in March. Laroche was named Best Preliminary Round Oralist and Best Final Round Oralist. In addition, Laroche has been elected as the Editor-in-Chief of the Albany Law Review effective in the new academic year.

Maureen Helmer, member of the Dean’s Advisory Board, has joined the Albany Office of Hiscock & Barclay. She is the Co-Chair of the Regulatory Practice Group and focuses her practice on energy and telecommunications law as well as corporate and professional ethics and the New York State Legislature.

Leigh Nakama Bates, PhD ‘08 and her husband Steve welcomed their daughter, Maisie Midori, in August 2008. Maisie weighed 7 lbs 5 oz and was 18 inches long.

Lucas Kordzek Griffin was born to Andrea Kordzek-Griffin, MA ‘99 and her husband Weston in February 2009. He weighed 6lbs.14oz. and measured 19 inches long.

Lyn Markham, MA ‘89

Lyn Markham, born in Grand Rapids, MI to Marv and Hilda Markham, passed away on October 28, 2008. She is survived by her husband, Larry L. Tiffit and their son, Skye Markham Tiffit. She also leaves behind her parents; siblings Cheryl Mastenbrook and Roy Markham; nephews Brian Markham and Lee Mastenbrook; a niece, Amanda Mastenbrook; and the extended Tiffit family. She enjoyed working at the Baskettree and at her antiques business housed at St. Germain Antiques, both in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Andrew L. Goldberg, MA ‘92

Andrew Louis Goldberg was born in Baltimore, MD on September 28, 1968 to Richard and Rita Goldberg. He died on March 24, 2009 at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was 40 years old. He worked in Washington, D.C., as a program manager for the National Institute of Justice. He is survived by his parents.

Submit Class Notes

Visit the alumni page at www.albany.edu/scj
Or
Send a note to mancini@uamail.albany.edu
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Mail the form on page 8
Commencement

On May 16 & 17, the School of Criminal Justice celebrated its annual Graduate and Undergraduate Recognition Ceremonies. Since last year’s commencement exercises, SCJ students have completed 111 degrees - 75 Bachelor’s degrees, 31 Master’s degrees and five Doctoral degrees.

Graduate Awards

Eliot H. Lumbard Award for Academic Excellence
Bob Edward Vasquez

University Distinguished Dissertation Awards
Christine Englebrecht and Gregory Zimmerman

Lt. John F. Finn Scholarship
Heidi Bonner

Walter M. Francis ‘79 Policing Award
Tanya Meisenholder

Frank Remington Award for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies
Giza Rodick

Undergraduate Awards

Valedictorian Award
Eric Martin

Donald J. Newman Award for Outstanding Achievement
Christopher Bzduch

Student Highlights

SCJ Students Take IFW Awards

The Initiatives For Women (IFW) program presented its 2008 awards over the summer break. Three of our current PhD students were among the recipients: Gina Penly Hall, Giza Rodick, and Jeanna Mastrocinque (as seen to the right).

Gina was presented with the Initiatives For Women Endowment Award. She is investigating the gap between the understanding of offender motivations and traditional explanations for the spatial distribution of crime. The award will partially cover travel expenses so she can present her preliminary findings at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology.

Jeanna and Giza received Presidential Awards. Jeanna will use her award to defray travel costs associated with her dissertation research, which deals with crime victims’ experiences in the criminal justice system and strategies for forming better U.S. policing policy. Giza will also use her award to cover travel costs to Colorado and Oregon. She will collect data from aid-in-dying organizations for her dissertation, which addresses the legal framings of the Right-to-Die movement in the United States between 1906 and 2006.

SCJ has a long history of IFW award recipients. In 2007, Yumi Suzuki received the Initiatives For Women Endowment Award. Christine Englebrecht, Ryang Hui Kim, and JoAnne Malatesta all took Presidential Awards in 2006. Elizabeth Brown, Lisa Sacco, Maria Tcherni, H. Catherine Bailey, Marie L. Balfour, Ellen Hauschen, and Myla Valor were 2005 IFW awardees.

The Initiatives For Women program has supported the educational and professional goals of University at Albany women in a variety of ways since its inception in 1993. For additional information on the Initiatives For Women program and awards dating back to 1996, please visit http://www.albany.edu/ifw.
Decker Delivers Hindelang Lecture

Scott H. Decker, Ph.D. delivered the 8th Annual Michael J. Hindelang Lecture on May 6. The lecture was entitled “Drug Smugglers on Drug Smuggling.” Decker is Professor and Director of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University in Phoenix. He earned his Ph.D. in Criminology from Florida State University.

Decker’s research interests focus on criminal justice policy, gangs, violence, and juvenile justice. Among his most recent publications are *Criminology and Public Policy: Putting Theory to Work* (with Hugh D. Barlow), *Lessons from the Inside: Drug Smugglers on Drug Smuggling* (with Margaret Chapman Townsend) and *A Guidebook for Local Law Enforcement Strategies to Address Gang Crime*. He has served on the editorial boards of several journals, including *Criminal Justice Review* and *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, and is currently serving as the Associate Editor for *Criminology*. Decker has presented more than 200 papers and chaired or participated in over 80 panels at professional conferences offered regionally, nationally and internationally.
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