**In Memoriam**

**Dr. William Bowers**, an adjunct faculty member of the UAlbany School of Criminal Justice and emeritus Professor at Northeastern University, passed away on February 1. Dr. Bowers devoted much of his professional career to the Capital Jury Project, a groundbreaking study that provided unique insights into how and why jurors in capital murder trials arrive at their sentencing decisions. Findings from this research have been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court and used extensively by other courts and legislative bodies, often as evidence that laws designed to harness and guide sentencing discretion in capital cases have proven to be incapable of doing so. His earlier work focused on the influence of race in capital cases and whether the death penalty is a deterrent to murder. With UAlbany SCJ Distinguished Teaching Professor **James Acker** and Dr. Charles Lanier, he was instrumental in founding and sustaining the Capital Punishment Research Initiative and the National Death Penalty Archive, housed at UAlbany. Dr. Bowers received the August Vollmer Award from the American Society of Criminology in 1990. He served on several PhD students’ dissertation committees at the School of Criminal Justice. Dr. Bowers’ scholarship has had a profound and lasting impact on capital punishment laws and practice, and his generosity, knowledge, and wisdom inspired legions of colleagues and the many students he taught and mentored.

**Announcements**

**Megan Denver** (PhD student) accepted an Assistant Professor position in the College of Criminology & Criminal Justice at Florida State University.

**Kirstin Morgan** (PhD student) accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Government and Justice Studies at Appalachian State University.

**Sean Roche** (PhD student) accepted an Assistant Professor position in the School of Criminal Justice at Texas State University.

**Meghan Rogers** (postdoctoral research associate) accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at University of North Carolina - Wilmington.

**Publications**


GRANTS


PRESENTATIONS


AWARDS AND HONORS

PhD student Audrey Hickert won the School’s 2017 Elizabeth Cass, Ph.D. ‘85/Michael Lynch, Ph.D. ‘83 Doctoral Student Travel Award. She will use the award to partially fund travel to Leiden, The Netherlands, to work with Dr. Paul Nieuwbeerta on his Dutch corrections data, which she intends to use for her dissertation research.

Criminal Justice major Darius Santana won the 2017 Key Bank Scholarship.

SERVICE

Distinguished Teaching Professor James Acker (PhD ’87) has been working with Rosemary Queenan, an Albany Law School professor, to plan the Theodore Jones Moot Court Tournament, which will be sponsored by Albany Law School on April 8, 2017. This is the second year of the tournament. Dr. Acker is offering a special moot court class this semester to help prepare UAlbany undergraduates for the competition.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Assistant Professor David Hureau contributed to a story entitled “America’s obsession with powerful handguns is giving criminals deadlier tools,” Fusion.

DEFENSES

Prospectus Defense

**Alumni News**

*Exile Off Main Street*, an Inside Higher Ed article, reviewed Chris Dum’s (PhD ’14) book *Exiled in America: Life on the Margins in a Residential Motel.*

**Jeffrey Seplowe, BA ’09** was promoted to Associate Director of Court Operations at [Bronx Community Solutions](#), a project site of The Center For Court Innovation in New York City. Bronx Community Solutions seeks to apply a problem-solving approach to non-violent cases in the Bronx. Its goal is to provide judges with increased sentencing options for non-violent offenses such as drug possession, prostitution, and shoplifting. By combining punishment with help, Bronx Community Solutions seeks to reduce the Bronx’s reliance on expensive and ineffective short-term jail sentences and to build public confidence that the system is holding offenders accountable and offering them the assistance they need to avoid further criminal conduct.

**Paul Sutton, PhD ’75** premiered his documentary *Straight from the Pen* at the [Socially Relevant Film Festival](#) in New York City. This was his fourth feature prison documentary. His first three films garnered five Emmys, and dozens of TV broadcasts and film festival laurels from around the world.

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Send your announcements for the next issue to Diana Mancini at dmancini2@albany.edu by April 1.