IN MEMORIAM

Scott Christianson, PhD ’81 passed away on May 14. Scott was an award-winning author, Pulitzer-nominated investigative journalist, and social justice activist. He had a long career in New York State’s criminal justice system and received the School’s Distinguished Alumni medallion in 1987. A tribute to Scott’s life and tremendous impact can be found in the recent Times Union story and obituary.

HIRING NEW FACULTY

The School of Criminal Justice has two open searches for Fall 2018 faculty positions. Application review for the Assistant/Associate Professor opening begins September 1. Review of applications for the Advanced Associate/Full Professor position will start on November 29.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The School of Criminal Justice will welcome 11 new PhD students in the Fall 2017 cohort. They are Megan Alsleben, Zachariah Biggers, Maureen Darby, Alysha Gagnon, Hyun Ju Jeong, Byung Gu Kang, Matthew Kijowski, Benjamin Kuettel, Rui Li, Andrew Thompson, and Katherine Wahrer.

Doctoral Student Shao-Chiu (Joe) Juan accepted a teaching position in the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Department of Criminology, Law and Justice.

The School of Criminal Justice held its 2017 Commencement Celebration on May 20th. In total, 209 SCJ students graduated in 2016-17 – five doctoral graduates, 67 Master’s degree graduates, and 137 Bachelor’s degree graduates. The event also included presentation of two Distinguished Alumni Awards to George P. Beach II, MA ’92 and Robin Shepard Engel, PhD ’99. View our Commencement Celebration photo album.

FUNDRAISING

The School’s ongoing fundraising campaign continues to have great success. Recent gifts include a contribution from John Larivee, MA ’74 to establish The Larivee Family Scholarship in Criminal Justice and a donation from Eric Lambert, PhD ’99 in memory of Kaye Lambert. You can help support the School’s mission by visiting the SCJ Giving page.

PUBLICATIONS


**Grants**

*The M. Watt Espy Papers*, execution files on more than 15,000 legal executions in the United States since 1608, are getting a digital makeover. The work is supported through a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), which selected UAlbany to receive a 2016 Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant. As one of only 17 awards out of 144 applications nationwide, the grant will create the Digital Archive of Executions in the United States, 1608-2002.

Professor David Hureau received funding through the University’s Faculty Research Award Program for his proposal *The Role of the Dead in Social Networks of Concentrated Homicide*.

**Presentations**


Awards and Honors

Part-time instructor Steve Hogan won the SUNY-wide Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. Steve brings decades of real-world experience into the classroom through courses such as Criminal Procedure and Law and Science in Criminal Justice (which he co-teaches with Professor James Acker).

Criminal Justice majors Max Hsu and Darius Santana are two of only 10 students nationwide selected to participate in the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program in Crime Analytics at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The program is designed to provide undergraduate students hands-on research experience.

Undergraduate student Kayla James won the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence, recognizing her academic and service achievements.

Breaking the intergenerational cycle: Partner violence, child–parent attachment, and children’s aggressive behaviors, co-authored by doctoral student Shao-Chiu Juan, Dr. Heather Washington, and Professor Megan Kurlychek in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence has garnered international attention. Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety added it to their reading list.

Alan Lizotte received his Distinguished Professor medallion at a SUNY-wide ceremony on June 6th.

Raquel Moriarty Derrick’s Family Operating Base project took 3rd place in a recent Business Plan Competition hosted by the Blackstone LaunchPad Entrepreneurship Program.

Professor Cynthia Najdowski won the 2017 Outstanding Young Experimental Criminologist Award from the American Society of Criminology Division of Experimental Criminology and Academy of Experimental Criminology.

Dean William Pridemore was elected Chair-Elect of the American Sociological Association’s Section on Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs.

Incoming doctoral student Andrew Thompson received the University’s Carson Carr Graduate Diversity Scholarship.
Seven Criminal Justice students won President's Awards for Leadership. They are:

- Ashley Cummins -- Great Dane Award
- Kayla James -- Outstanding Senior Award
- Kayla Potter -- Outstanding Senior Award
- Stephany Ruiz -- Fraternity & Sorority Leadership Award
- Darius Santana -- Great Dane Ambassadors Award
- Steven Torres -- Great Dane Award
- Jessica Van Saders -- Great Dane Award

2017 Student Awards

The School of Criminal Justice celebrated its Student Awards Ceremony on May 6th. See the list of award recipients below and view our photo album on Facebook.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM AWARDS
- Bruce L. Davis Criminal Justice Scholarship presented to Lisa Dobrowolsky
- The J. Edgar Hoover Foundation Leadership Scholarships presented to Elizabeth Hollinger and Darius Santana
- The Graeme Newman Award for Entrepreneurial Criminal Justice presented to Jessica Van Saders
- Distinguished Teaching Professor James Acker/Dr. Walter Francis Award presented to Ashley Cummins
- Donald J. Newman Award for Outstanding Achievement presented to Kayla James
- Criminal Justice Valedictorian Award presented to Edwin Goicochea

GRADUATE PROGRAM AWARDS
- Lt. John F. Finn Scholarship presented to Nicholas Hess
- Steven V. DeBraccio ‘10 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award presented to Walter Shelley
- Walter M. Francis Policing Award presented to Jeaneé Miller
- Frank Remington Award for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies presented to Audrey Hickert
- Eliot H. Lumbard Award for Academic Excellence presented to Jasmine Silver
- University Distinguished Dissertation Award presented to Rose Bellandi, Ph.D. ’16

Service

Doctoral student Shao-Chiu (Joe) Juan and Professor David McDowall launched the University at Albany student chapter of the American Statistical Association. Joe is serving as the organization’s first president. See the chapter webpage for a list of other SCJ students who are involved.

Professor Cynthia Najdowski will serve as an Advisory Board Member for the Consortium for Science-Based Information on Children, Youth and Families.

In April, Dean Pridemore traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, to join a team of expert consultants meeting at the World Health Organization to conceptualize, design, and consider methodology for WHO’s second Global Status Report on Violence Prevention.
VISITORS

Karen Heimer, Professor and Chair of Sociology at the University of Iowa, delivered the 2017 Michael J. Hindelang Lecture in May. *Gender, Crime, and Violence: A Choice within Constraint View* walked through major periods of development in the field of gender and crime, discussing the contributions of each and tracing the pathways to contemporary ways of thinking about gender, crime, and violence.

James Mercy, Director of the Division of Violence Prevention in CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, gave an invited presentation at the School in April on *New Directions in Violence Prevention at CDC*.

MEDIA COVERAGE


The Story Behind Russia’s Male Suicide Problem on *Ozy.com* cites a study led by Dean William Alex Pridemore, PhD ’00.

Two articles highlighted the digitization of the M. Watt Espy Collection in the National Death Penalty Archive: [Massive UAlbany death penalty archive goes digital](https://www.dailygazette.com/article/20170428/ARTICLE/170428152) in the Daily Gazette


The National Death Penalty Archive was also mentioned in the Daily Gazette’s article [Do we need the death penalty?](https://www.dailygazette.com/article/20170327/ARTICLE/170327939).

DEFENSES

Dissertation Defense


ALUMNI NEWS

Renee Merges, MA ’12, now an Assistant Professor at Southern Vermont College, received the [2017 Unsung Hero in Government Award](https://www.albanylaw.edu/news/university-news/renee-merges-unsung-hero-government-award), one of four prestigious alumni in government awards given by Albany Law School and the Government Law Center.

Heidi Bonner, PhD ’12, now Assistant Professor & Undergraduate Program Director at East Carolina University, received the Dean’s Early Career Award in the College of Arts & Sciences at ECU. The award recognizes “exceptional performance by tenure-track Assistant Professors” in terms of research productivity.

Professor Emeritus Fred Cohen is in his second year as Monitor in the *Rudisill v. Ryan* case, wherein The Arizona Dept. of Corrections agreed to abolish racial and ethnic discrimination in housing and employment. He, assisted by Dr. James Austin, provides oversight in the implementation of the Stipulation. Fred also serves as an expert witness on "deliberate indifference" in federal litigation (§1983) involving malpractice-type claims.

Taunya Hannibal-Williams, MA '94 is the new Membership Diversity Coordinator for the New York State Bar Association. She works with member attorneys in the areas of diversity and inclusion, civil rights, disability rights, and LGBT people and the law.

Leona Jochnowitz, PhD '14 accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Johnson State College in Vermont.

Irwin Nack, BA '88 joined Deutsche Bank as Managing Director/Deputy Head of Anti-Financial Crime (Americas). He is also a member of the advisory board for UAlbany's Institute for Financial Market Regulation.

Vanessa Panfil, PhD ’13 coauthored with Angela Dwyer "We Need to Lead the Charge"—"Talking Only to Each Other is Not Enough": The Pulse Orlando Mass Shooting and the Futures of Queer Criminologies*, the lead article in the May-June issue of The Criminologist.

Thank you for a great year! We'll see you again in September with the next Dean's News.