

The Balance

The Official Newsletter
of the Kutztown University
Department of Criminal Justice



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A Note from the Chair: Dr. Al Pisciotta

Another eventful year has passed. Hopefully, this third edition of **The Balance** will provide you with an update of important events and new trends in the Department of Criminal Justice.



The annual awards ceremony was one of the highlights of the academic year. Eleven students were inducted to Alpha Phi Sigma,

the national honors society for criminal justice. The Academic Achievement and Community Service Award went to Amanda Guthro, who graduated with a 3.7 GPA, and Ashley Remley, who graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Guthro is pursuing a variety of employment opportunities. Remley is applying to graduate school. They are both exceptional students. No doubt, they will follow the path of our graduates listed in the “Blast from the Past” section of the newsletter, making important contributions to the field of criminal justice and society as a whole.

The Outstanding Graduate Award was, once again, a very difficult decision. We have many outstanding graduates. After much deliberation, this year’s award went to Mark Baldwin (‘86) who served as the Berks County district attorney from 1991-2008. Currently, he is the chief deputy legal counsel for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. His achievements and contributions to the field of criminal justice — outlined in the profile of his career—are truly exceptional.

A five-year program review conducted in April 2010 by Dr. Jack Greene, Northeastern University; Dr. John Conley, California State University-San Bernadino; and Professor Jack Gasper, Lehigh Carbon Community College, was very favorable. The review team reported that our program “now stands as an exceptional academic department.” They went on to note: “Simply put, the Department of Criminal Justice at Kutztown University is extremely well positioned to provide high quality education programs at the graduate and undergraduate levels of instruction, contribute to policy and theoretical research in criminal justice and criminology, and build effective outreach to justice agencies in Central Pennsylvania and throughout the country. Such a range in capacity can no doubt greatly enhance the reputation of the department as well as Kutztown University.”

Applications for admission to the program have greatly increased over the past year. Applications to KU were up eight percent for the year. However for criminal justice, freshman applications increased 33 percent and transfer applications 40 percent. This explosion in applications is, no doubt, largely a result of the good work being done by our graduates as well as the criminal justice faculty.

The criminal justice master’s program proposal is still awaiting approval from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. We hope the next issue of **The Balance** newsletter reveals a favorable response. As the external reviewers noted, the approval of the master’s program will allow us to expand our individual and collective academic and professional horizons—the central mission of Kutztown University.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Pietro Toggia

Dr. Pietro Toggia joined the faculty of the Department of Criminal Justice in 1998. He received his B.P.A. in Public Administration from the University of District of Columbia (1988), and his master's degree (1994) and Ph.D. (1998) in Justice Studies from Arizona State University. However, Toggia's journey to the United States and to our department was a long, difficult and, at times, dangerous journey.

Toggia, who was born in Ethiopia, moved to the United States in 1981, fleeing political oppression in his native country. He settled in the Washington, D.C. area securing employment with the Ethiopian Community Center, assisting political refugees in a variety of ways: housing, employment, legal counsel and political asylum.

Toggia took classes at the University of District of Columbia, studying math and physics. However, his interests gradually moved to other areas, including public administration and criminal justice. His undergraduate academic record was exceptional. Following the completion of his degree, he received a full scholarship to study crime and criminal justice at Arizona. There he received awards for writing the outstanding master's thesis and the outstanding dissertation.

Personal experiences have played an instrumental role in guiding Toggia's research. He has presented many papers on genocide, transnational justice, anti-vagrancy laws and police abuses and reforms at major conferences, including the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. His articles have appeared in *African Identities*, *Journal of Developing Societies* and *African Insight*. His book "Crisis in Terror in the Horn of Africa: The Autopsy of Democracy, Human Rights and Freedom (2000)," co-edited with Pat Lauderdale and Abebe Zegeye, focuses on human rights violations and genocide in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Djibouti, as well as on 'stateless societies' such as Somalia. He also serves as the book review editor for the journal *African Identities*. Toggia's research examines the political, economic, social, cultural, religious and legal forces that have shaped the modern history of Sub-Saharan Africa—very timely and important topics.

Toggia has made important contributions to the department by chairing many faculty search and faculty evaluation committees, serving as advisor to Alpha Phi Sigma, coordinating the comprehensive examination, and serving as the department's union representative. He also has served Kutztown University in a variety of capacities: director of

International Studies, University Promotion Committee, University Senate, KU APSCUF Representative Council, Commission on Human Diversity, Faculty-Student Judiciary Committee, and the Taskforce on International Conferences. In 2005 he conducted, with Dr. George Muggi, a three-day workshop for high ranking police officers at Kenyatta University. In 2009, he established a student and faculty exchange program with the University of Teramo (Italy) on transnational organized crime.

However, Toggia is recognized, first and foremost, as an excellent classroom instructor who is thoroughly dedicated to the academic, personal and professional development of his students. We are fortunate to count him as a member of our faculty.



Outstanding Alumni Award: Mark Baldwin

Mark Baldwin received his B.S. degree in criminal justice in 1984, after graduating in just three years with an exceptional 3.6 GPA. He received his juris doctorate degree from Widener University in 1987 and went on to become an assistant district attorney in Berks County from November 1987 through December 1991. He researched case law, prepared motions and petition orders, as well as trial and appellate briefs. However, most of his attention was focused on trials, including homicide, burglary, drug enforcement, public corruption and child abuse.



In 1991, Baldwin was elected to serve as Berks County district attorney—at 29, the youngest district attorney in Pennsylvania history. He was charged with the responsibility of managing a \$7 million dollar budget and supervising more than hundred full-time employees, including assistant district attorneys, county detectives and support staff. The office handled more than 10,000 cases each year. In addition to supervising the handing of criminal cases, he guided day-to-day personnel administration, recruitment, training, discipline and promotions, as well as budgeting and strategic planning.

Baldwin continued to maintain an active caseload, focusing his attention on particularly challenging cases, including murder, armed robbery, aggravated assault, child pornography, drug trafficking, computer crime, public corruption and white collar crime. Baldwin supervised wiretaps, complex criminal investigations and argued cases before the Superior and Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania. Moreover, he secured death penalty verdicts in seven cases—to be sure, a sobering legal and personal endeavor.

In January 2008, he entered private practice. In December 2008, he was appointed deputy chief counsel for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB). He provides legal advice to PLCB board members as well as bureau directors and the chief legal counsel. Beyond that, he supervises and manages staff attorneys, drafts board opinions, reviews contracts and real estate leases, grants applications and awards, handles employment actions, and represents the PLCB in appeals from agency decisions in state and federal courts. His duties also include serving as the PLCB liaison to the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement.

Baldwin's contributions to his field have been exceptional. The faculty members of the Department of Criminal Justice are proud of his achievements and public service, and most pleased to grant him the Outstanding Graduate Award.



2009-2010 Academic Awards

The Criminal Justice Department received two academic awards over the past year—one by a student and one by a faculty member.

Luke Dillon ('10) received the Outstanding Student Paper Award at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences. Dillon's paper, "Does How We Measure 'Rural' Matter? An Analysis of the Relationship Between Inequality, Unemployment and Crime Using Two Definitions of Rurality," was presented at the June 2010 conference held at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Dillon's paper uses nationwide county-level data to demonstrate that the operational definition of 'rural' does, indeed, affect empirical results. His paper calls for the use of uniform definitions in future quantitative studies.

The last issue of **The Balance** featured Dr. Marc Renzema. The 'Faculty Spotlight' article noted that he is "one of the world's foremost experts on electronic monitoring and technological surveillance." Renzema's expertise and contributions to national and international criminal justice have been recognized on campus. He received the Chambliss Award, which is given to two Kutztown University faculty members each year, for outstanding research. In fall 2010, Renzema will give the Chambliss Lecture. His talk will focus on the diffusion and impact of electronic monitoring, technological surveillance and social control.

Congratulations to Luke Dillon and Dr. Renzema!

Blast from the Past – Where Are They Now?

LINDA (EPLER) BAUER ('83) has been working in a variety of capacities for Lehigh County since 1986, including Adult Probation Officer and as a caseworker in the Human Services Department (Crisis Intervention and Mental Retardation Unit). For the past nine years she has been a service coordinator for Early Intervention, a home-based family education program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays. One of her sons, Doug, is currently a KU criminal justice major.

TODD BARNES ('99) received his law degree from Temple University in 2002. Barnes has worked as a judicial clerk at the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, as a Judicial Clerk at the Commonwealth Court, and also in private practice.

ANDREW BEKY ('97) married **GENA KASKUS ('98, '02)** in 2003. Beky was a member of Allentown's Emergency Response Team (SWAT) when he received the Allentown Police Department's Purple Heart commendation for valor in May 2007. Beky currently works at the Allentown Police Academy, where he is responsible for firearm training for academy recruits and for the department. The couple lives in Lower Macungie and have two children, Michael (4) and Matthew (1).

KRISTA (KELLY) CARBONE ('03) is working for the Administrative Office of the Courts Family Practice Division (CFPD) in Trenton, N.J. She was part of the Domestic Violence Assistance Team that assessed the implementation of New Jersey's domestic violence laws, as well as a member of the team that wrote the Domestic Violence Procedures Manual. She is now working in the Municipal Division of the CFPD, coordinating the pro bono system and assisting with newly appointed Municipal Court judges training. Carbone lives in Tabernacle, N.J. with her husband and 5-year-old daughter.

JEFF CONTINO ('97) is a manager with the Bucks County Department of Corrections Community Corrections Centers in Doylestown, Pa. He assists in overseeing the operation of the men's and women's corrections centers, which are minimum security work release facilities. He also oversees intermediate punishment programs, including the House Arrest and Day Reporting programs. He has been with the department for 10 years. Previously he was a Philadelphia County probation/parole officer for one year.

BARB DANCY ('94) has been a juvenile probation officer in Berks County since 1995. Dancy is a drug and alcohol specialist with an intensive high-risk caseload. Most of her clients were involved in selling as well as using drugs. Dancy speaks before audiences at schools and social clubs — a particularly enjoyable aspect of her duties.

CORI DOUGHTY ('94) has been employed with Lehigh County Probation since 1998 and is currently an adult probation/parole officer II. She is also the DUI/intermediate punishment coordinator. Doughty received her master's degree in criminal justice from DeSales University in 2007. She is currently an adjunct professor at Northampton Community College and at DeSales University. Doughty has a wonderful 12-year-old son, Austin.

DENNIS DREISBACH ('03) started out at the Northampton Detention Center as a youth care worker and is now a supervisor. He is interested in pursuing a career as a juvenile or adult probation officer.

KEVIN HARDEN ('07) graduated from Temple Law School in May 2010 and will be working as an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia. Harden says that selecting the B.S. in Criminal Justice/Paralegal option provided essential preparation for law school, increasing his professionalism and confidence.

STEVE KALNAS ('98) did his student internship with Lehigh County Adult Probation and Parole and, as a result of his outstanding performance, was hired on a full-time basis. He has served in a variety of roles with the agency. During his first year, he was an electronic monitoring officer. For the next six years he worked in the Intensive Drug Unit. For the last three years, he has served as an institutional parole officer.

KAREN KNOUSE ('00) has been a juvenile probation officer in Berks County since 2001. Knouse is a line officer with a regular caseload. In addition, she is the liaison for Community Youth Aid Panels in Reading and the Wyomissing area. The CYAP program allows Knouse to work with a wide range of offenders and groups, including victims and volunteers from the community. She enjoys her work: "Although the work can be challenging, it is also very rewarding when I see the many successful outcomes from both aspects of my job."

ADAM KISTHARDT ('88) has served as a Pennsylvania State trooper, a criminal investigator, criminal law instructor at the State Police Academy, a crisis negotiator for the State Police Special Emergency Response Team, as well as a patrol sergeant and station commander. He is a captain in the State Police and is director of the Dispatch Operations Division, overseeing the work of 160 employees. He directs The Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network section of the State Police, which connects Pennsylvania's law enforcement agencies to the FBI information network. Kisthardt directs the Statewide Radio Implementation Office, which administers the department's new digital trunked radio system; he oversees the TRACS Office, which is charged with automating reporting systems; and, he directs the Mobile Implementation Office, which designs and implements computer packages for State Police vehicles.

Blast from the Past (continued)

TIFFANY MILLER ('07) took a seasonal job with the Ocean City, Md., Police Department when she was a student. She attended the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy and gained valuable experience working as a booking officer. After graduating, she attended the Allentown Police Academy. Miller currently is employed by the Kutztown University Police Department and looks forward to a career in law enforcement.

LUIS RESTO ('90) has worked in corrections for 20 years. He has been the regional director for the Bureau of Community Corrections (region 2), the central part of the state, since 2007. Prior to that, he was the regional director for region 1, which includes the five county Philadelphia area. Resto has worked as counselor, center director, contract family coordinator and deputy regional director. In May 2010 his peers recognized his contributions by awarding him the Community Corrections Association of Pennsylvania's "Professional of the Year"—a distinct honor.

JACK SCHONELY ('83) has devoted his career to serving as an officer in the Los Angeles Police Department in a wide range of specialized units, all recognized as national models. Shonley is currently a pilot in the department's Air Support Division. He has published numerous articles and a book on ground/air tactics in which

he is recognized as one of the country's leading authorities, and provides instruction to law enforcement agencies across the country.

SCOTT SCHWARTZ ('84) is in his 25th year at KidsPeace. He has worked as a staff counselor and as the supervisor in residential programs in Orefield and Bethlehem, Pa. For the past 10 years he has been coordinator of Employment Services, in charge of hiring direct care, support service and administrative/executive staff. In 2007, he earned his master's degree in Education from Alvernia College.

MIKE SILESKI ('01) received his juris doctorate from the Widener University School of Law, with a concentration in health law. He was president of the Widener Health Law Society and editor of the Widener Health Law Institute newsletter. He received his master of Healthcare Administration degree from Seton Hall University and has served as a consultant and attorney on a range of issues related to contracts, compensation, plans, mergers and regulatory matters.

Would you like to be included in the next issue of The Balance? Please forward your personal information (class, current job, and any other information you would like to share) to Dena Lewis at lewis@kutztown.edu

Alpha Phi Sigma Inductees

Alpha Phi Sigma is the national honors society of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Criminal justice majors and minors who have a 3.2 QPA overall and a 3.2 QPA in criminal justice and have completed one-third of their criminal justice credits are eligible for induction. Eleven outstanding students were inducted into Alpha Phi Sigma during the past year:

Brian Buhman
James A. Celi
Magdalena M. Majka
Nicole Manley
Kaler Marshall
Chelsea Marie Melrath
Christy Orzulak
Andrew David Weiss
Jamey Welch
Laurie A. Wenz
Andrew J. Zinger



CALL FOR HELP

The Department of Criminal Justice is seeking donations to help fund the Outstanding Graduate Award. We also would like to start a scholarship fund for CJ majors.

If you wish to contribute to one of these funds or make a larger donation that will completely sustain an honorary scholarship in someone's honor, please contact us.

Donations can be made through the KU Foundation online at www.kutztown.edu/foundation, or by phone at 610-683-1394 (Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted methods of payment). You can also contribute by mailing a check to: KU Foundation, P.O. Box 151, Kutztown, PA 19530.

Please specify that you want your donation to go to the Department of Criminal Justice!



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