The past year has been challenging for Kutztown University faculty, staff and students. Severe budget cuts by Governor Corbett and the State Legislature have forced our administration to make difficult decisions. But I am pleased to report these cuts have not undercut the efforts of our faculty and the quality education our students are receiving.

The past year has, in fact, been highly eventful. A new general education model was introduced for all incoming students, including criminal justice majors. Course competencies in a variety of areas—writing, quantitative literacy, computer literacy, visual literacy, cultural diversity and critical thinking—were added to make certain KU students receive a solid liberal arts education. A new data system (PeopleSoft) was introduced to handle administrative records: transcripts, course listings, registration, graduation clearances. And, the faculty and administration are in the process of implementing a new teaching evaluation instrument to improve the quality of instruction (IDEAs).

I am most pleased to report that applications for admission into our department from high school students and transfer students have reached an all-time high. Nearly 800 students applied to become criminal justice majors. Transfer students from community colleges and other universities, as well as current Kutztown University students who would like to declare criminal justice as their major, must have at least a 2.5 overall grade point average to be considered for admission. And, we have raised the minimum SAT cutoff scores and required class rank for high school applicants. The administration has responded to this high student demand. Despite fiscal constraints, we hired two new tenure track faculty members: Dr. Arthur Garrison ’90 and Dr. Glenn Walters. Dr. Garrison’s teaching responsibilities will focus primarily on criminal law and criminal procedure. Dr. Walters will be teaching courses that focus on corrections and research methods. They are both excellent scholars and fine classroom instructors—to be sure, welcome additions to our faculty. (A more detailed profile of their backgrounds and achievements can be found on page 3.)

The Department of Criminal Justice Awards ceremony was, once again, the highlight of the year. Seventeen students were inducted into Alpha Phi Sigma, the national honors society of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Two students, Alan Leiby ’12 and Zachary Wise ’12, received the Criminal Justice Award for Academic Excellence and Outstanding Community Service. Alan graduated with a 3.87 grade point average. He is a certified emergency medical technician and has completed ACT 120 Municipal Police Officer Training. Zach graduated with a 3.92 grade point average and completed a summer internship with the Ocean City Police Department. Both students would like to pursue a career in law enforcement. The Outstanding Alumni Award was presented to Arenda Wright Allen, a 1982 graduate of our program, who is a federal United States District Court judge in the Eastern District of Virginia. (An extended profile of Judge Allen and her accomplishments can be found on page 4.)

After 19 years as program coordinator and four years as chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, I will be stepping down from my administrative position and returning to full-time faculty status. Dr. Mahfuzul Khondaker has been elected to serve as the new department chair. Dr. Khondaker has the complete confidence of our faculty and will, no doubt, move the department in a positive direction. (Dr. Khondaker is the featured faculty member, page 2.)

In closing, I would like to end my final chairnote by thanking our wonderful faculty for their continued support. They are all dedicated classroom instructors and excellent scholars and, above all else, wonderful people. I would also like to thank KU’s leading administrators—Dean Anne Zayaitz, Provost Carlos Vargas and President Javier Cevallos—for their continued support. Their encouragement and support has allowed the department to expand and, more importantly, achieve regional and even national prominence—a promising trend that will, no doubt, continue in the future.
Dr. Mahfuzul Khondaker’s long journey from his native country, Bangladesh, to the United States, and ultimately to Kutztown University, has focused on one central theme: the pursuit of higher education.

Dr. Khondaker received his BSS and MSS degrees in Sociology from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh. From 1996-1999, he served first as a lecturer and then as an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at Shahjalal University. His interest in pursuing an advanced degree led him to apply to universities in the United States. Based upon the advice of several professors, he decided to change his academic focus and pursue a degree in criminology. He came to the U.S. in 1999 to study at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, receiving his master’s degree in 2000 and Ph.D. in 2004. From 2002-2004, he was a teaching associate at IUP, assuming responsibility for a number of undergraduate classes.

Dr. Khondaker’s first teaching job in the U.S. was at Fayetteville State University, one of the nation’s first HBCU schools. Although he enjoyed working with the students and faculty at FSU, he liked Pennsylvania and felt a debt of gratitude to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) for expanding his intellectual and academic horizons. An opening in our department afforded him a unique opportunity to return to Pennsylvania and become part of the PASSHE. In fall 2006, he was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at KU. He was promoted to the rank of associate professor in fall 2011.

Dr. Khondaker’s areas of expertise cover a wide range of areas: policing, prisons, juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, gang violence, crime causation, crime prevention, research methods and the death penalty. His research and publications have analyzed crime and criminal justice in a variety of countries, including Bangladesh, China, Canada, Nigeria and the U.S. He has conducted research on immigration and culture conflict and on perceptions and misperceptions about the relationship between religion, Islam and terrorism. The international focus of Dr. Khondaker’s work has made important contributions to understanding comparative crime and criminal justice systems. In 2008, he was elected vice president of the South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology.


Dr. Khondaker has provided expert testimony on national and international radio and television interviews on the topics of crime and criminal justice. He serves as an associate editor for the International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences (2009-present) and an editorial board member of The Prison Journal (2005-present).

Dr. Khondaker has made important contributions to Kutztown University. He has guided a number of faculty searches for our department, a time-consuming and significant activity. He is a member of the department’s Assessment Committee and has served as our comprehensive examination coordinator. He is a member of the General Education Committee (2010-present), which revised KU’s required liberal arts course requirements. He served as chair of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee (2008-2012), chair of the Student-Faculty Judicial Committee (2008-2010), and organized International Mother Language Day, which featured Bangla in 2009, Arabic in 2010, Chinese in 2011 and Spanish in 2012. He is an active member of the Board of Directors at Berks Connections/Pretrial Services (2009-present), an organization that provides assistance to accused defendants awaiting trial and convicted criminals who are returning to the community.

It is not surprising, then, that Dr. Khondaker has received recognition for his academic and professional achievements and contributions to the community. In 2009, he received the APSCUF-KU Outstanding Faculty Award for teaching and service to the university. He was recognized with the Berks Justice Hall of Fame Award in 2010 for his volunteer work with Berks Connections/Pretrial Services. The Kutztown University Commission on the Status of Minorities honored him with their Distinguished Service Award in 2011.

Dr. Khondaker is a valued and respected member of our faculty. In the fall of 2012 he will become the chair of the Department of Criminal Justice. The members of the criminal justice faculty are confident he will provide valued leadership to our department and, above all else, enhance the education of our students.
The faculty of the Department of Criminal Justice faced a tall order in replacing Dr. Marc Renzema and Dr. Deborah Sieger, who retired last year. Dr. Renzema is one of the country’s leading experts on electronic monitoring and technological surveillance. He received the Chambliss Award in 2010—Kutztown University’s Outstanding Researcher Award. Dr. Sieger served as the chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Social Work for 19 years, mentoring students and faculty, and setting the foundation for our current program. The faculty is pleased to announce the addition of two, new tenure track faculty members who will continue their work: Dr. Arthur Garrison ’90 (pictured above) and Dr. Glenn Walters.

Dr. Garrison received his undergraduate degree in political science in 1990 from Kutztown University. He received his master’s degree in criminal justice from West Chester University in 1995 and his doctorate in Law and Policy from Northeastern University in 2011. Dr. Garrison has held a number of positions in the field, including Criminal Justice Planning Director with the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office in Atlanta, and Criminal Justice Planning Coordinator in Wilmington, Del.

Dr. Garrison’s areas of interest and scholarship focus on federal civil liability, constitutional law, legal history, criminal law, forensic psychology, terrorism, the use of social science research in criminal trials, as well as terrorism. He is the author of “Supreme Court Jurisprudence in Times of National Crisis, Terrorism, and War: A Historical Perspective.” He has published twenty-five articles, written 28 professional reports, evaluations and policy papers, and presented several dozen papers at professional conferences, including the leading academic organizations in our field: the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Dr. Garrison will be teaching courses dealing with criminal law, criminal procedure, criminology, as well as terrorism and homeland security.

Dr. Glenn Walters received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Lebanon Valley College in 1976 and his master’s degree in clinical psychology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1978. He received his Ph.D. in counseling psychology, with a minor in neuroscience, from Texas Tech University in 1982. Dr. Walters worked as a prison psychologist in the Federal Bureau of Prisons for 29 years, including: the United States Penitentiary and the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Leavenworth, Kansas, and more recently, the Federal Correctional Institution at Minersville, Pa.

Dr. Walters is a nationally-known scholar. He has written 17 books and monographs and over 200 articles. His publications have appeared in a wide range of well-respected criminal justice, criminology and psychology journals, including: Criminology, Crime and Delinquency, Criminal Justice and Behavior, Law and Human Behavior, Journal of Forensic Sciences, Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology, Behavioral Sciences and the Law, and the Journal of Clinical and Experimental Psychology. Dr. Walters will be teaching courses dealing with corrections, community-based corrections, criminology and research methods.

Dr. Garrison and Dr. Walters have completed their first year as members of our department. They are excellent teachers, scholars and mentors. We look forward to working with them in the future!
Arenda L. Wright Allen ’82, Federal District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, is the recipient of the 2012 Department of Criminal Justice Outstanding Alumni Award.

Judge Allen, a native of Philadelphia, graduated from Kutztown University in 1982. She received her law degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law in 1985. She served as a Judge Advocate Officer in the United States Navy between 1985 and 1990 and as a Reserve Officer between 1992 and 2005. She retired at the rank of Commander.


President Barak Obama nominated her for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in December 2010, and he re-nominated her again in January 2011. The Judge’s professional and personal background was examined thoroughly by the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee prior to her interviews with individual Senators. This process resulted in an outstanding committee report. The committee report referenced the Judge’s profound integrity and professionalism, and commended her for her “respectful demeanor, as well as her fairness in handling matters.” The committee recognized that she “possesses the requisite fairness and temperament to serve as a judge on the U.S. District Court,” and concluded by giving her the committee’s highest recommendation.

Virginia Senator Mark Warner recommended her to the full United States Senate by citing her impressive record as a federal prosecutor and a federal public defender. He emphasized that her “exceptional qualities” distinguished her from the many strong candidates he and Senator Jim Webb had interviewed. The U.S. Senate -- acting with rare but well-deserved unanimity -- confirmed her nomination on May 11, 2011 in a resounding 96-0 vote. Judge Allen is proud to serve as the first African-American woman on the federal Bench in Virginia.

Judge Allen has received too many honors and awards to cite here. She has lectured on a variety of academic topics on campuses including Old Dominion University, Regent University School of Law, and William & Mary Law School. She is also active in the community and at her church and has worked with high schools and at-risk children. She has served on the Board of Directors for Park Place Family Life Center in Norfolk, Va, and has volunteered with a number of charities to help the hurting and less fortunate. She is married to Delroy Allen and is especially proud of her sons, Yanni and Nyle.

Judge Wright Allen’s contributions to servicing justice and her community service are inspiring. The faculty of the Department of Criminal Justice was most pleased to select her to receive the 2012 Outstanding Alumni Award.
MATT BELICASTRO ('10) is working as an EMT in Kutztown. He is also applying for positions in law enforcement. He is particularly interested in securing a position with the New Jersey State Police, but is also considering positions at the local level.

JAMES BENCIVENGA ('10) is working on his master’s degree in forensic psychology at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. James is a research assistant on a national project focusing on prison escapes. He expects to complete his degree in December 2013 and is exploring post-graduation academic and professional opportunities.

SUSAN (BREWER) MUMBER ('87) is a psychotherapist and certified life and career coach in private practice in Sellersville, Pa., for the past 15 years. She specializes in drug and alcohol addictions, codependency, self-esteem, gambling and life and career coaching. She currently runs a Young Women’s Group for ages 18-27 to assist them in finding direction in their life. Prior to going into private practice, she worked as an addictions counselor at various adolescent chemical dependency treatment facilities.

BRITTANY CATONA ('11) has been accepted to graduate school at the University of Colorado at Denver. She will be studying criminal justice with a concentration in federal law enforcement and white collar crime. Brittany is looking forward to moving to Colorado and to working on her master’s degree.

RASHAUN COPELAND ('09) completed the Pennsylvania State Police Academy. He is stationed to the barracks in Fogelsville, Pa., where he is working with several other graduates of our program, who are also state police officers. Rashau is enjoying the challenges posed by his new career in law enforcement.

CHARLES GUNDRUM ('07) earned a teaching certificate and master’s degree in education in 2012. He teaches criminal justice and world history at the I-LEAD School in Reading, Pa., an alternative high school that focuses on high risk youth. Chuck finds the work extremely challenging but, at the same time, very rewarding.

KEVIN HARDEN ('07) is an Assistant District Attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office. He prosecutes approximately 100 misdemeanor trials and preliminary hearings in Philadelphia per week. He is a 2010 graduate of the Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia and a member of the Pennsylvania Bar.

ED LESAGE ('96) is working as a probation/parole officer for the First Judicial District (Philadelphia County). There are many types of supervision in Ed’s office, allowing him to work with a wide range of offenders. Ed’s step-daughter has been accepted into Kutztown University this fall.

KELLI (METZGER) KNERR ('07) graduated from Dickinson School of Law at Pennsylvania State University in 2011. Kelli received an annual $20,000 from Dickinson to support her studies. She is currently practicing with Buzgon Davis Law Offices. Her cases focus on family law, social security disability, and various aspects of business. Kelli is married to Travis Knerr, a 2007 graduate of KU.

RICK MILLER ('93) has been employed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons since 1995 as a correctional officer and case manager. Rick has also worked at the United States Penitentiary in Allenwood, the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia, and the Federal Correctional Institution in Minersville, Pa.

SAMANTHA MUSE ('12) has been accepted to the MSW program at Kutztown University. She is currently serving as graduate research assistant to Dr. AnnMarie Cordner and Dr. Gary Cordner. Samantha is working on a project that deals with police recruitment and human resources—particularly, racial and gender issues in hiring.

ALDONA PAJACZKOWSKI ('10) is a paralegal with Karpf, Karpf and Cerutti in Bensalem, Pa. Aldona’s work focuses on employment and civil rights law—FMLA and FLSA violation cases, along with age, race, gender and pregnancy discrimination law. She thoroughly enjoys her work.

CHRISTINA PUHALLA ('06) has lived in a number of states since she graduated. She is currently working on a master’s degree in education at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. She is exploring a number of post-graduation options, including applied behavior analysis therapy.

ASHLEY REMLEY ('10) is working in the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General in Harrisburg. Her job contains two parts: she is an insurance fraud analyst and she assists the Attorney General on the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons. Ashley graduated with a master’s degree in criminal justice from Pennsylvania State University-Harrisburg in May of 2012. She is engaged to fellow Kutztown University alum, Matthew Bleacher, and will be married in October.

KARISSA RODRIGUEZ ('09) is in her second year of study at Temple University’s Law School. Karissa received the Fox Memorial Law Scholarship from the Berks County Bar Association, which was based upon outstanding scholarship. Karissa completed an internship with the FBI when she was a student at KU and graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

NICK STRAMARA ('11) is currently enrolled at the police training academy in Howard County, Md.—one of 19 cadets hired from over 1,200 applicants. He will complete the academy in January 2013. Nick completed an internship with the United States Marshalls when he was a student at KU. He is thoroughly enjoying his rigorous training and looks forward to beginning his career as a law enforcement officer.

KATIE TURNER ('09) works for Berks Corrections/Pretrial Services in Reading, Pa. Before that, she worked for a year at Lebanon County MH/MI/EI as a support coordinator for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This fall, she will enroll in the master’s in social work program at Marywood University. Katie is looking forward to her graduate studies and, in particular, doing an internship at Sacred Heart Hospital’s Older Adult Inpatient Unit in Allentown.

RAY YANUZZI ('06) served as a graduate assistant football coach for Kutztown University while earning his master’s degree in education. In 2008 he was named offensive line coach and football academic coordinator, a position he has held the past five years. In KU’s 2011 season, the team set a school record for victories while winning its first PSAC Championship and NCAA playoff game. Additionally, Kutztown set school records for points (487), passing touchdowns (41), total touchdowns (68), rushing yards (2,576), and total offense (6,048).
CALL FOR HELP

The Department of Criminal Justice is seeking donations to fund the Academic Excellence and Community Service Award. We would also like to establish a scholarship fund for deserving students.

If you would like to contribute to one of these funds or make a larger donation that will completely sustain a scholarship in someone’s honor, please contact us.

Donations can be made through the KU Foundation online at: www.give2ku.org. Or, they can be made 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; otherwise, it will be directed to the foundation’s general fund.

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, a 3.2 QPA in criminal justice, and completed one-third of their criminal justice credits are eligible for induction. Seventeen outstanding students were inducted into Alpha Phi Sigma during the past year:

· Casey Behrendt
· Ryan Branch
· Patrick Joseph Brehm
· Thomas Burke
· Jace Conklin
· Gregory L. Crawford, Jr.
· Sarah Lynn Detweiler
· Emily Falko
· Hilary Faust
· Erica Garcia
· Joshua Olen Hayes
· Lindsey Hilbert
· Kaitlin T. Lobman
· Contessa Marie Marino
· Samantha Muse
· Kyle J. Reeser
· Tony Shah

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