

The Balance



A Note from the Chair: Jonathan Kremser, Ph.D.



A new academic year always brings fresh energy and excitement to Kutztown University. Incoming freshmen are excited about the start of university life, setting future goals, and the rewards of growth and learning that await them at KU. Returning sophomores and juniors are excited about their new classes, meeting new professors, reuniting with friends, and taking advantage of the many opportunities that KU offers throughout their academic journey. Seniors are excited about the completion of a rewarding summer internship experience, the approach of graduation, and a successful start to a career in criminal justice or possibly graduate studies.

The professors within the department share our students' excitement. Our faculty are dedicated to challenging the students and helping them achieve their best academically as well as professionally. This past spring, the department held its biennial Career Development Day, which provides students the opportunity to meet and network with professionals working in nearly every area of the criminal justice field. What makes the event unique is that many of these professionals happen to be KU alumni, who have volunteered to travel to campus—some even from out-of-state—to speak with the students, answer questions, and offer career advice. During this event, I spoke with many of our former students who are now state troopers, detectives, and probation officers, and noticed two similar themes emerge as they reflected on their studies at KU: how they benefited from their professors' guidance, and that the criminal justice program provided a strong foundation in preparing them for their career.

The new academic year will bring exciting events to campus. This fall, the Speaker Series will feature a

representative from the Innocence Project who was wrongfully convicted and exonerated by DNA evidence.

Starting in spring 2020, the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program will now include a Criminal Justice concentration. With criminal justice professions representing a significant number of public service employees among state and local government, this new program is poised to enhance the Criminal Justice Department and Kutztown University's contribution to public service in our region.

I encourage you to check out the department's Facebook page, which includes the latest news and events:

<https://www.facebook.com/KUCriminalJusticeDept/>

Also, please explore our new website:

<https://www.kutztown.edu/criminaljustice>





What's New?



Kevin Gruning

My academic distinction was Summa Cum Laude (Spring 2018).

My experiences with Kutztown that made it worthwhile were the intelligent and knowledgeable professors the school has to offer, along with a great Criminal Justice program. One course in particular that I found helpful was Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice as it was an open platform to discuss things you've learned throughout your degree and gave the chance to have deeper conversations on topics that stuck with you; not only this, but it allowed me to show off the presentation skills I have learned along the way as it required students to lead a one-hour discussion.

Ashley McGee

I am a Reentry Coordinator at Berks Connections. I started here as an intern in Spring of 2018, then was hired to continue my work. My job as an intern started with mostly shadowing case workers and clerical work by updating their new computer system with discharged clients from when they were using a physical file system. Doing that taught me more about what we do to help clients and how our new computer system worked. Once I felt that I understood how things were done, I was then able to meet with clients and do most of the things that our caseworkers do.

As a full-time employee, my main responsibility is to assist newly released inmates with their reentry needs, which include getting proper identification cards, creating a professional resume, and finding a job. I love my position because I am able to directly see my work paying off every time one of my clients finds a job or gets a place of their own to live. Reentry programs are something that I believe are very necessary, so I always leave work feeling like I am doing something good for others.





Student Organizations



Kutztown University *Alpha Phi Sigma* Chapter

Spring 2019 *Alpha Phi Sigma* Inductees

Alpha Phi Sigma is the only Criminal Justice Honor Society for Criminal Justice Majors. The society recognizes academic excellence of undergraduate and graduate students who are pursuing degrees in criminal justice,

On April 16, 2019, 19 students were inducted into the Kutztown University Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the national criminal justice honors society. Ms. Dena Lewis, the criminal justice department secretary organized this event and invited the inductees' family members and friends to attend. In his opening remarks, Dr. Jonathan Kremser, the criminal justice department chair introduced the new Alpha Phi Sigma members and also highlighted their stellar academic achievements. At the ceremony, Dr. Glenn Walters also presented The Criminal Justice Academic Excellence and Community Service Award to Jordan Kubinski and Garbrielle Gardas. They both graduated from Kutztown University in May 2019 and are Alpha Phi Sigma members. We wish Jordan and Gabrielle the best of luck as they begin careers with the FBI.

Dr. Lindsey Runell and Dr. Pietro Toggia are the Kutztown University chapter faculty advisors.

Congratulations to our newest Alpha Phi Sigma members named below!



Kayla Brown

Dominique Despirito

Serena Higgins

Kiersten Keen

Megan Kirn

Logan Kubinski

Aubrey Lengel

Jenna Lipowski

Brittany Macko

Paige McCurley

Matthew Melenovitch

Salvador Melo

Alyssa Oakley

Joshua Onderdonk

Ryan Rose

Hannah Schatz

Alexis Sherman

Karlee Vavercha,

Rebecca Webster

Criminal Justice Association

The Criminal Justice Association is a student organization that meets every month during the academic year. The purpose is to encourage professional growth and professional socialization among Kutztown Criminal Justice students. However, membership is open to students from all majors.

Dr. Ko-Hsin Hsu is the faculty advisor for the Criminal Justice Association.

Members of the Criminal Justice Association were involved in many events throughout the 2018-2019 academic year. Here are some of the highlights:

4.4.19

Visit with the K-9 unit at the Allentown Police Department



11.30.18

Teddy bear collection for local police departments that offer them to children in stressful situations. Collection drive: organized by Dr. Kadee Crandall.

12.1.18

Holiday card distribution to deployed military personnel.



Members of the Criminal Justice Association actively invite speakers to their monthly meetings held throughout the academic year.



Beyond the Classroom



Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Annual Meeting

Students and faculty from the Department of Criminal Justice participated in the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Baltimore, Maryland held from March 24-28. Dr. Bolger, Dr. Crandall, Dr. Garrison and Dr. Runell along with the Ms. Ashley Woods, the department graduate assistant presented: "Police Shootings and the Washington Post Database: Kutztown University Criminal Justice Department Analysis of Three Years of Data."

Dr. Bolger and Dr. Cordner presented: "Achieving Faculty Buy-In for a New or Revised Assessment Program."



Criminal Justice Career Development Day

Dr. Glenn Walters organized and hosted a Criminal Justice Career Development Day on April 24, 2019. The event featured Keynote Speaker Adam Kisthardt, who is the Director of the Information Management Division at the Montgomery County Maryland Police Department. He is also the former Director of the Training Division for the Pennsylvania State Police (retired). The event included 8 panels comprised of criminal justice professionals who work in: law enforcement, probation, parole, courts and non-profit agencies. Panelists discussed opportunities for employment along with career tips for success in the criminal justice field.

Dr. Glenn Walters is the coordinator for Criminal Justice Career Development Day, which occurs biennially.

Internships

Criminal justice majors are encouraged to pursue internships in the criminal justice field as part of their undergraduate experiences. Students can earn 6 credits toward the major curriculum requirements by successfully completing an internship during any semester period. There are vast opportunities for internships including but not limited to law enforcements, courts and corrections within the tri-state area.

Dr. Colin Bolger is the internship coordinator

Spring 2019 semester interns:

Nicole Erhart, Crime Victims Council of Lehigh Valley
Pelle Forman, Delaware County Probation and Parole
Justin Kline, Scranton Police Department
Kyle Miller, Ephrata Police Department



Criminal Justice major Nicolas Kerschner and Dr. Jon Kremser, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department. Nicolas completed his internship with the Schuylkill County Sheriff's Office in Pottsville. Behind them is the Schuylkill County Courthouse. The historic, five-story structure was built in the 1800s.

Speaker Series Fall 2019

“An Exoneree’s Story: Proving Innocence During Incarceration”

The Department of Criminal Justice invites Mr. Anthony Wright to speak with the Kutztown University community on October 29 at 11 am in Schaeffer Auditorium. Mr. Wright is a DNA exoneree and will share his journey to proving his innocence after 25 years of incarceration. He will also discuss experiences with the Innocence Project in helping to secure the release of incarcerated individuals who have also been wrongfully convicted.

Speaker Series Committee Members: Dr Philip Bolger, Dr. AnnMarie Cordner, Dr. Kadee Crandall and Dr. Lindsey Runell

Field Trip

Students from the Department of Criminal Justice, along with Drs. Buckwalter and Crandall, visited the FBI Headquarters, National Law Enforcement Museum, and National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. on Friday, April 19, 2019. Students learned about the history of law enforcement, engaged in interactive policing programs, and applied classroom material to real-world examples.





Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Ko-Hsin Hsu

Dr. Hsu earned a B.A. in Economics from the National Taipei University in 2005. She then attended the University of Maryland College Park and earned an M.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice in 2007. In 2007, Dr. Hsu was hired by the Hagerstown, MD Police Department, where she worked as a crime analyst for two years. In 2009, Dr. Hsu pursued her doctorate at Rutgers University Newark and earned a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice in 2014.

Dr. Hsu joined the Department of Criminal Justice as a tenure-track assistant professor in Fall 2015. She primarily teaches courses on Policing, Crime Analysis and Mapping, Criminology, and Senior Seminar. In her classes, Dr. Hsu encourages student participation and enjoys the interactions with her students. She also encourages students to begin thinking about their careers and their future beyond KU. Prior to arriving at KU, Dr. Hsu taught the graduate-level course, Criminal Justice Professional, at New Jersey City University in 2014. During her doctoral studies at Rutgers, Dr. Hsu taught undergraduate courses, including Contemporary Policing Theory and Crime in Different Cultures. She also instructed laboratory sessions for the intermediate statistics course for doctoral students.

Dr. Hsu's research interests are primarily on the topics of policing and environmental criminology. During her time at KU, Dr. Hsu has published several peer-reviewed articles, some in the well-

respected criminology journals. Specifically, an article on policing drug activities through environmental interventions, an article on applying environmental criminology to child sexual abuse, two articles exploring the interaction between the criminal justice system and those with special needs, and recently submitted a novel article on resource allocation to improve police performance.



Dr. Hsu received a grant of \$2,000 from the KU BEARS program from the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects in 2016. The funded project aimed to expand the use of Google Street View to drug market research and examined its benefits as a tool to collect observational data. Two KU students were sponsored during the Summer 2016 to work as Dr. Hsu's research assistants. The students observed a large sample of street blocks in Newark, NJ., using a coding instrument to tally crime- and

disorder-related objects shown on Google Street View images. This funded project was a tremendous learning experience for both the students and Dr. Hsu. The data collected from this project were analyzed and the findings were published in a peer-reviewed journal in 2017. Her expertise led her to partake in a 2017 crime analysis project for Jersey City, NJ. This project provided crime maps for the Jersey City Youth Planning Task Force, a youth and community justice initiative in Jersey City.

Dr. Hsu is also active in international academic activities. As a regular guest speaker for the Central Police University and the Graduate School of Criminology at National Taipei University in Taiwan, she gave multiple academic presentations throughout the years on crime analysis and crime maps. She most recently visited these universities again in Summer 2019 and introduced KU to students in Taiwan to facilitate an academic exchange of ideas.

Dr. Hsu maintains an active involvement in university-wide and departmental services. Her departmental committee work includes serving as the advisor to the Criminal Justice Association, the department representative to APSCUF, and a member of the CJ Curriculum Committee. She is also a member of several university-wide committee assignments, including Commission on Human Diversity and APSCUF Public Relation Committee.



Give to the Department of Criminal Justice



The support and involvement of our alumni and friends is important to us. Please consider making a gift to the Department of Criminal Justice today. No matter the amount, your gift will help

- award outstanding students for their academic achievement and service to the community
- support students interested in conducting research with faculty and presenting their research at academic conferences
- support the activities of the Criminal Justice Association and *Alpha Phi Sigma*

Donations can be made through the KU Foundation online <https://www.kuf.org/giving/give-now>

Or, they can be made by phone at 610-683-4110.

(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 Criminal Justice department —otherwise, it will be directed to the foundation's general fund.



Congratulations to Gabrielle Gardas and Jordan Kubinski, members of *Alpha Phi Sigma*, and the 2019 recipients of the Criminal Justice Department Academic Excellence & Community Service Award.

