

# SOCIOLOGY, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND CRIMINOLOGY NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

October 2016

Welcome to the University of Scranton and our Sociology, Criminal Justice & Criminology Department!

We are very glad that you are considering the University of Scranton and our Department as a possible choice to continue your education. While you are in this very important process, we would like to tell you a little about the current accomplishments of those affiliated with our Department. Hence this brief news-letter. Please consider what we believe distinguishes us from other types of similar academic institutions and programs.

- We provide outstanding internship opportunities; we have revised our majors to encourage students to choose a minor or double major,
- We have developed collaborations with the Chemistry Dept. (Forensic Chemistry track), Business (Forensic Accounting track), Business (5yr BS/MS program), and Counseling (MS program in Rehabilitation counseling with a concentration in criminal justice counseling),
- We have faculty that are nationally and internationally known in their fields and with experience in the criminal justice profession. We have an active Criminal Justice Student Club i.e., brings speakers to campus, off-campus trips, conferences, etc.
- In February 2016 we earned the distinction of being one of the nine criminal justice undergraduate programs in the United States to obtain certification from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS).
- We are a Catholic and Jesuit University that is based on a 450 year-old intellectual tradition that strives for excellence and cares for each and every student.

We hope your brief stay on campus is a positive experience. If I can be of assistance in any way please feel free to contact me at [james.roberts@scranton.edu](mailto:james.roberts@scranton.edu).

Yours in Justice,

James Roberts, Ph.D, Professor and Chair

## Criminal Justice

A degree in criminal justice at the University of Scranton can prepare you for a career in federal, state, and local law enforcement, community and institutional corrections or for advanced study in law, criminology, and public administration.

## Sociology

Sociology majors also have a strong background in writing, critical thinking, theory, and research.

These skills, along with the understanding of the nuances of human interaction, are essential to a number of different occupations in areas such as: research, administration, public health, human services, business, counseling, corrections, law, politics, and public relations.

Visit our website below:  
<http://www.scranton.edu/academics/cas/soc-cj/index.shtml>

## UNIVERSITY STUDENTS STUDY PRISONER RECIDIVISM

Students at the University of Scranton want to know why some people return to the Lackawanna County Prison — and what can be done to prevent it. Loreen Wolfer, Ph.D., along with her students, will begin the second year of a multiyear project to study recidivism, with assistance from the Employment Opportunity and Training Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

“One way to reduce recidivism — or people relapsing into criminal behavior — is to offer learning opportunities and programs that inmates may use,” Dr. Wolfer said. During the 2015-16 school year, the first year of the study, students conducted a needs assessment.

Students learned about research methods and literature reviews and put together a survey taken by 260 inmates. “The top concern for inmates upon release is finding employment with a living wage,” Dr. Wolfer said. Transportation issues are also a concern.

Now, in the second year of research, students will study EOTC program usage. The 40 students in two classes — research methods for the social sciences and statistics for the social sciences — learn how to take a broad topic and break it down into components that are concrete. During the last couple of years of the survey, students will look at recidivism and relate it to the fears expressed in year one, as well as program attendance.

“Not only does the study provide students with real-world experience, it is consistent with the university’s Jesuit mission of helping others,” Dr. Wolfer said. Alexandra Petrullo, a senior sociology major, helped conduct the research last year. She plans to pursue a master’s degree in social policy and become a lawyer. “It went so far beyond just textbook work,” she said. “As we were learning the methodology, we were applying it to a real problem right here in Scranton.”



**Criminal Justice Professor Michael Jenkins Ph.D.**

Michael J. Jenkins, Ph.D., is headed to London where he will go on the beat with the city's Metropolitan Police Service to study how they police their communities and maintain order.

Dr. Jenkins, was awarded a coveted Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant this year. His four-month research project will get underway in January 2017.

In London, Dr. Jenkins will assess similarities and differences in U.K. and U.S. police tactics, whether lessons can be learned in the application of broken windows theory, as well as officer and community safety and engagement. This research will complement his third book titled *Policing the World: The Practice of International and Transnational Policing*.

### A Professor's Perspective: Revitalization in 'The Electric City'

Meghan Ashlin Rich, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and women's studies, examines how cities use arts and culture-based strategies to renew blighted areas.

The city of Scranton is the latest topic of her research.

"If Scranton relies on its strengths and 'authentic' culture, it not only becomes a more attractive city for newcomers, but improves the quality of life for those who already call this city home," she wrote in an essay for the online Scranton Journal.

Read her perspective at: [Scranton.edu/scrantonjournal](http://Scranton.edu/scrantonjournal)



### RECENT FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Dr. James Roberts** began his tenure as Chair of the Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Criminology Department this fall. The department is grateful to Dr. Harry Dammer for his previous 12 years of service as Chair.

**Prof. David Friedrichs** gave the opening lecture – along with an additional lecture – at the State Crime course for graduate and post-doctoral students at the University of Marburg, Germany, June 13 -17, 2016, and an Invited Keynote address at the *Critical Criminology Network Inaugural Event*, University of Leicester, England.

**Dr. Michael Jenkins** along with two students, published two articles on broken windows policing and the founder of modern policing—Sir Robert Peel—in a forthcoming book *The Use and Abuse of Police Power in America*. He is also the new editor of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Police Section's publication *Police Forum*.

**Dr. Loreen Wolfer** published an article "No Social Issues, Sex or Politics on Facebook: Young Adults' Views of Inappropriate Facebook Posts" in the *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention*.

**Dr. Harry Dammer** conducted a program review of the New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons (NJ-STEP) program. The program provides college education and post-release assistance to over 1,000 former offenders.

Also, he visited the University of Notre Dame in March to collaborate with their *Center for Social Concerns* to research the impact of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) on the post-graduation lives of college students at ten Catholic colleges including Notre Dame, Fairfield, and Scranton.

**Dr. Meghan Ashlin Rich** and William Tsitsos published "Avoiding the 'SoHo Effect' in Baltimore: Neighborhood Revitalization and Arts & Entertainment Districts," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.

She was also the Invited Keynote Speaker at the *State and Local Economic Development Policy Conference*, at Rutgers, University. "Revitalization of Rustbelt Cities: Lessons from Scranton, PA & Baltimore, MD."

In August 2016, she presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA. The title of her presentation was "New Urban Regimes in Baltimore: Higher Education Anchor Institutions and Arts and Culture-based Neighborhood Revitalization."

The following students were inducted into **Alpha Phi Sigma**, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society:

- Kipp E. Adcock
- Hugh J. Doyle
- Krysta L. Horocofsky
- Jessica E. McAleer
- Kaitlin E. Moloney
- Kelsey H. Rynearson
- Victoria Spagnolo
- Ariele M. Williams
- Jeffrey James Schlasta

The following student was inducted into **Alpha Kappa Delta**, the International Sociology Honor Society:

- Jeffrey James Schlasta

### Internship Opportunities

- U.S. Marshals
- DEA
- Retreat (PA State Prison)
- Scranton City Police
- Bergen County Sheriff's Department
- U.S. Secret Service
- Office of Local Judges
- County Probation (Juvenile and Adult)
- Numerous Law Firms
- FBI Summer Program
- J.P. Morgan

### Where are our Alumni?

- U.S. Secret Service
- U.S. Marshals Service
- FBI—Counterterrorism
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Private security analysts
- Local & state police and corrections departments
- Federal corrections
- Public defenders office
- Private defense attorneys