



# The University of Texas at Dallas Criminology

## A Word from...

**Volume 3, Issue 2  
Fall 2016**

### Special points of interest:

- We welcome two new faculty members! Also, we were honored to welcome Dr. Heith Copes and Jared Ragland this semester to talk about their research on visual criminology!
- CGSA
- Alpha Phi Sigma
- Check out our impressive list of graduates and student and faculty accomplishments!

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I am now in my 11<sup>th</sup> year here at UTD and as I transition into my new role as program head, it is amazing to reflect back on the changes I have witnessed within our vibrant campus and program. When I started here as a junior professor in 2006, there were fewer than 15,000 students on our campus. Today, we are rapidly approaching 28,000 enrolled students and we see our campus being transformed with new additions.

That theme of growth continues in our Criminology program as we welcome two new faculty members who have joined our ranks this semester—Dr. Jon Maskály and Dr. Andy Wheeler. This fall, the Criminology Program

also welcomed Rita Medford as our new graduate program assistant. Please welcome these new faculty and staff members to our program if you see them on campus.

Additionally, the Executive Justice Administration and Leadership (JAL) MS program continues to expand into new areas. This past fall, the program welcomed students in management and executive positions from various police departments (e.g., Dallas, McKinney), the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

I am very proud of the contributions that our faculty and graduate students have made to our understanding of crime and deviant behavior. As 2016

winds down to a close, I want to wish our faculty, students and staff a wonderful holiday season with your families. UTD will close to observe the winter break from December 21<sup>st</sup> until January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the Criminology Program and contact our Ph.D. Advisor, Dr. Nadine Connell, with any questions regarding the doctoral program. If you have advising questions about the MS program, please contact Nora Hernandez or Christina Rhodes, and for the undergraduate program, the EPPS Advisors. Wishing you all the very best in 2017!

*Dr. Denise P. Boots, PhD  
Program Head & Associate  
Professor of Criminology*

## Criminology Program Partners

- Editor-in-Chief of *Police Quarterly*  
Dr. John L. Worrall [Worrall@utdallas.edu](mailto:Worrall@utdallas.edu)
- Institute for Urban Policy Research  
Director- Dr. Timothy M. Bray [Timothy.Bray@utdallas.edu](mailto:Timothy.Bray@utdallas.edu)  
<http://www.urbanpolicyresearch.org>

## Faculty Spotlight



Jon Maskály earned his Ph.D. in Criminology from the University of South Florida in 2014. He joined the faculty at the University of Texas at Dallas in the Fall of 2016. Prior to UT-Dallas, Dr. Maskály worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago for two years.

Dr. Maskály has an active research agenda which revolves around the police, the community, and the relationship between the two. Of particular interest to him is how the behaviors of police officers work to erode the community's perception of trust and legitimacy in the police. He is interested in examining the characteristics associated with community crime rates. Dr. Maskály is also interested in improving the measurement of key criminological constructs using modern psychometric techniques. His work has recently appeared in *The Journal of Social Psychology*, *Social Science Research*, *Crime & Delinquency*, and *Policing: An International Journal*. As Dr. Maskály continues to develop his research group at UT-Dallas, he will now begin working with graduate student collaborators.

Since arriving at UT-Dallas, Dr. Maskály has been appointed as the Chair of the Research Committee for the Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board. Additionally, he was elected as the Treasurer for Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice. Dr. Maskály still holds a courtesy appointment at UIC and works closely with staff and students in both the Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Violence and the Center for Research in Law & Justice. Prior to attending graduate school, Dr. Maskály worked for a small police agency in Western Nevada for more than three years.

Dr. Maskály has taught numerous courses in criminology and criminal justice at the undergraduate level including introduction to criminal justice, criminological theory, research methods, statistics, criminal procedure, police and society, and crime prevention. At the graduate level he has taught courses in criminal justice administration, communities and crime, introductory statistics, advanced quantitative methods, and research design.

*"Only when you know the question, will you know what the answer means"*

~ Deep Thought, *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* ~

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## Faculty Spotlight



Andrew P. Wheeler earned his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany in 2015 and joined the faculty at the University of Texas at Dallas in the fall of 2016. His research focuses on the spatial analysis of crime at micro places and practical problems faced by crime analysts. His recent work has been published in the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *Cartography and Geographic Information Sciences*, the *International Journal of Police Science and Management*, and the *Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling*.

Much of Dr. Wheeler's research has been in collaboration with various police departments in New York. Example projects with the Albany, NY police department include predicting when and where traffic and pedestrian stops are more likely to result in arrest and contraband recovery, identifying long term hot spots of crime, and predicting which offenders known to the police are more likely to be involved with future gun violence. Example projects with the Syracuse, NY police department are analyzing traffic stops for racial bias and evaluating the effects of a gang intervention meant to reduce gun violence. He has also analyzed hot spots policing interventions by the Buffalo, NY police department, and has been involved with several projects concerning stop, question and frisk with the New York City police department. He hopes to be able to continue similar work by collaborating with local police departments in the Dallas area.

He also has published work that was motivated from when he worked as a crime analyst for several years. This includes how to tell if a series of crime are occurring at random days of the week or are clustered on certain days, which is useful for targeted interventions to catch repeat offenders. He has also published papers on effective ways to visualize geographic journey to crime data and monitor temporal trends -- both regular tasks for crime analysts. He often gives technical computing advice and data visualization tips (along with notes on other topics) on his blog, <https://andrewpwheeler.wordpress.com/>.

Dr. Wheeler has previously taught courses on GIS to both undergraduate and graduate students in criminal justice programs. He taught Seminar in Criminology Research and Analysis (CRIM 7301) in the fall of 2016, and is teaching Communities and Crime (CRIM 4323) in spring 2017 here at UT Dallas.

## Graduate Student Spotlight



Stephanie Cardwell

Stephanie M. Cardwell is a fourth year Ph.D. student in criminology. She received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology (2011) and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice (2013) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her research predominantly involves testing developmental life-course criminology perspectives utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods. Her recent publications appear in *Crime & Delinquency*, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, and *Justice Quarterly*. During her time at UT Dallas, she has been an instructor for Research Methods in Crime and Justice Studies and Crime and Justice Policy. In Spring 2017, she will be the instructor for Advanced Criminology.

Her research has predominantly used data from the Pathways to Desistance study, a longitudinal study of serious adoles-

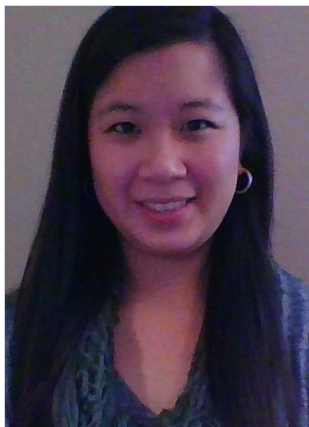
cent offenders in Philadelphia, PA and Phoenix, AZ. A paper she co-authored with Dr. Matt DeLisi and Dr. Alex Piquero titled "The Unpredictability of Murder: Juvenile Homicide in the Pathways to Desistance Study" was recently voted best paper for 2015-2016 in *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*. The study assessed whether demographic characteristics and risk factors for offending could distinguish homicide offenders from other juvenile offenders. Additionally, she is utilizing the Pathways to Desistance data for her dissertation, which is addressing the longitudinal relationships between religion, moral disengagement, and offending in the sample.

After she finishes her dissertation in the Spring of 2017, Stephanie will be moving to Brisbane, Australia where she has accepted a three year post-doc at the University of Queensland. She will

be working as a research fellow in the Life Course Centre for Dr. Lorraine Mazerolle on Project ABILITY, a randomized controlled trial addressing truancy in Australian adolescents. The project incorporates third party policing strategies and family group conferences as a means to reduce not only truancy but antisocial behavioral outcomes in adolescents who engage in truancy.

Outside of work, Stephanie enjoys watching documentaries, traveling, listening to music, reading historical fiction, quilting, cooking, and fantasy football. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends, her two cats Mr. Whiskers and Bella, and her guinea pig Belly.

## Undergraduate Student Spotlight



Tiffany Chen

Tiffany Chen was born and raised in Indiana and will be finishing her Bachelor of Arts in Criminology this December. She was recently inducted into Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and is also a member of Alpha Phi Sigma. She is currently in the fast track program and will be transitioning into the graduate program in the spring to pursue a Master of Science in Criminology at UT Dallas.

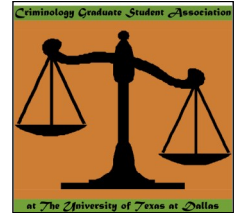
Tiffany is currently working with Dr. Nadine Connell and her team on the CHOICES research grant. As a part of this team, she travels to schools in the DFW area as a certified CHOICES presenter. Tiffany spends time discussing student's career and life aspirations and offers new decision making strategies to help the students strive towards success. She also works in the Office of Student Affairs at UTD where she plans campus-wide events and facilitates the transition for transfer students that are new to the university.

In the spring, Tiffany will be assisting Dr. Maskály in his research project that will examine the relationship between police officer's upbringing and their willingness to engage in misconduct. She is looking forward to continuing to work alongside the faculty at UTD where she hopes to develop a clearer focus of her future research pursuits.



## Criminology Graduate Student Association (CGSA)

The Criminology Graduate Student Association was started by fellow graduate students in 2008, and is advised by Dr. Denise Boots. CGSA strives to strengthen the voice of Criminology Graduate students, facilitate professional development, and foster social networking among students and faculty.



This semester the CGSA program has been active in the community by volunteering at a local food distribution point that's partnered with Martha's House to provide for those in need. We have also held two social events—one at AMF bowling and the other at Whole Foods. We look forward to our continued growth as an organization and involvement with our department, university, and the field of Criminology.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the officers: President and Risk Manager I - Amny Shuraydi; Vice President and Risk Manager II- Zach Powell; Treasurer- Bola Fenny; Secretary– Jennifer LaPrade; Social Coordinator- Jordan Riddell; Community Service Coordinator- Richard Hernandez.

## Alpha Phi Sigma



Alpha Phi Sigma

The National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Delta Psi Chapter – The University of Texas at Dallas

Alpha Phi Sigma, Delta Psi, is an honor's student organization recognizing the accomplishments of high achieving criminology and related majors in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences. The organization currently has twenty-four active members who have completed over 130 hours of community service this fall semester. Any member can run for any of the six officer positions as vacancies arise. Following our recent officer elections at the December General Meeting, the current officers are: President –Calvonah S. Jenkins, Vice President- Noel Than, Secretary – Brent Hanish, Treasurer – Tiffany M. Chu, Historian – Richard Ra, and Public Affairs Officer – Erin Wilds. Sixteen members of our Delta Psi Chapter participated in this year's Guns and Hoses Boxing Event on September 10 and helped raise funds for the children of Police Officers and Firefighters lost in the line of duty. Chapter Secretary, Noel Than, also represented the chapter in the EPPS Organizational Fair.

Any interested student may contact any of the Officers for more information about membership or they may contact the Chapter Faculty Advisor, Dr. O. Elmer Polk at [elmer.polk@utdallas.edu](mailto:elmer.polk@utdallas.edu). The National Office requires the following criteria: 3.2 grade point average overall, must have completed four or more criminology or criminal justice classes, must be an actively enrolled student at the University of Texas at Dallas and have a declared major or minor in criminology or a related field and must have completed three full semesters of college level work. Students interested in membership should talk with any of the Officers or pick up an application form outside Dr. Polk's office door at GR 2.208 and make an appointment with him to submit the form.

## Good Bad People

### A Joint Photo-Ethnography of Methamphetamine Users in Rural Alabama

When it comes to crime and criminality, the images burned into our brains are often the ones that come from television and movies. Sure, they may be exciting, but do these images do justice to the real people, their struggles and their experiences? Well now, thanks to the collaboration between Dr. Heith Copes and Jared Ragland of the University of Alabama-Birmingham, images and experiences collide to tell the story of methamphetamine users in rural Alabama, where photography and ethnographic research work hand in hand to tell real stories of real people—and blow Hollywood out of the water.



Jared Ragland: Photo by Jerry Siegel

Students and faculty got to be some of the first to see these amazing photographs and hear the stories behind them; Dr. Copes and Mr. Ragland have begun presenting these findings at conferences around the country. It was amazing to have the experience to be among the first to see and hear about the amazing new directions that visual criminology is going! Thanks for visiting!

Interested in seeing more?

Check out [jaredragland.com](http://jaredragland.com)



Dr. Heith Copes and Dr. Lynne Vieraitis catching up at ASC

Dr. Hopes and Mr. Ragland spoke to students and guests of UT Dallas Criminology on October 28, 2016. During their presentations, they shared photos of the lives of Alabama meth users while telling the narratives of a small community and the toll drug use has had on the lives of its citizens. A standing room only crowd heard about the ethical implications of visual criminology, as students learned how class concepts got applied in the real world. The scholars shared their images and their experiences working with their subjects. Concepts came to life and abstract problems became real as Dr. Copes and Mr. Ragland told the stories of their subjects.



Photo from the series GOOD BAD PEOPLE by Jared Ragland

## Criminology Fall 2016 Master's Graduates

➤ Allison Audd

➤ Traxus Broadnax

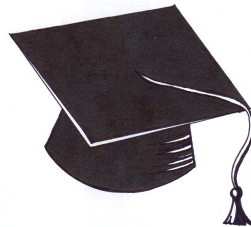
➤ Sheri Howe

➤ Rachel Kail

➤ Maria Vargas

➤ Arthur Vasquez

➤ Lauren Watkins



## Criminology PhD Graduates

➤ Dr. Ivan Wong

➤ Dr. Amanda Russell



*"There is no greater education than one that is self-driven."*

*—Neil deGrasse Tyson*

*"The principle goal of education in the schools should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done."*

*—Jean Piaget*

*"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."*

*—Anthony J. D'Angelo*

## Department Achievements & Activity

### Students

**BJ Wagner** was the project lead and co-author of a new inmate mental health screening form that helped to reduce suicides among county jail inmates.

**Stephanie Cardwell** won the Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice's best paper award for 2015-2016 for "The Unpredictability of Murder: Juvenile Homicide in the Pathways to Desistance Study".

**Richard Hernandez** won the Southwest Association of Criminal Justice's graduate student research design paper competition (2016) for "Higher Education and Police Performance".

**Turgut Ozkan** received a grant for his dissertation work from the Institute for Social Research (University of Michigan) and James Morgan Fund for New Directions in the Analysis of Complex Interactions. Implementation of SEARCH Algorithm in Recidivism Prediction.

**Powell, Z. A., Meitl, M., & Worrall, J. L.** Forthcoming. "Police Consent Decrees and Section 1983 Civil Rights Litigation." *Criminology & Public Policy*.

**Powell, Z. A.** (forthcoming). "Burnin' Down the House: The 2007 Recession and the Effect on Arson." *Deviant Behavior*.

**Womack, V. G., Morris, R. G., & Bishopp, S. A.** (2016). Do changes in TASER use policy affect police officer injury rates? *Police Quarterly*, 19(4), 410-434.

**Womack, V.G.** (2016). Policing insights on leadership [Feature]. In M. J. Giblin, *Leadership and Management in Police Organizations* (pp. 149-151). Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.

A special congratulations to **Zachary A. Powell** and **Amny Shuraydi** for being selected to attend the Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice "Doctoral Summit" at ACJS this year. It is a competitive process and the students selected receive funding for their ACJS conference and the opportunity to participate in a variety of research and networking opportunities.

### ASC Presenters:

Bola Fenny	Rachel Kail	Turgut Ozkan
Ivan Wong	Richard Riner	Wendy Jang
Michele Meitl	Stephanie Cardwell	Zachary Powell
	Stephanie Huberman	



## Department Achievements & Activity

### Faculty

**Dr. Robert Taylor** has co-authored two landmark textbooks in the field, he has also been interviewed extensively as an expert regarding the recent police-involved shootings in Baltimore, Washington, DC, New York, Charlotte, and Texas. Finally, **Dr. Taylor** was retained by Mills Production Company (London) to review one of the most infamous cases in American history, the killing and sexual assault of JonBenet Ramsey in Boulder, Colorado in 1996. **Dr. Taylor** was featured in the A&E documentary film entitled, *The Killing of JonBenet: The Truth Uncovered*, as an expert in criminal investigation of high profile cases which aired nationally in September, 2016.

Swanson, C. R., Territo, L., & **Taylor, R. W.** *Criminal Investigations, 12th edition* (New York: McGraw-Hill Publishing, 2017)

Swanson, C. R., Territo, L., & **Taylor, R. W.** *Police Administration: Structures, Processes and Behaviors, 9th edition* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Publishing, 2017)

Kim, D., Phillips, S. W., & **Wheeler, A. P.** (2016) Using “Symbolic” SWAT raids as a crime reduction strategy: Are their effects “Instrumental” in nature? *Criminal Justice Policy Review* Online First.

Phillips, S. W., **Wheeler, A. P.**, & Kim, D. (2016) The effect of police paramilitary unit raids on crime at micro-places in Buffalo, New York. *International Journal of Police Science & Management* 18(3): 206-219.

**Dr. Tim Bray, Dr. Denise Boots**, and their team at the Institute for Urban Policy Research (IUPR) completed the 2nd Annual Dallas Domestic Violence Taskforce Report this past October. IUPR has been awarded sponsored projects with partners such as Children’s Medical Center of Dallas, the United Way, and the Texas Offender Reentry Initiative/Potter’s House of Dallas.

**Dr. John Worrall** was quoted by the *New York Times* about police body cameras.

**Worrall, J. L.** Forthcoming. Investigative resources and crime clearances: A group-based trajectory approach. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*.

\*Powell, Z., \*Meitl, M., & **Worrall, J. L.** Forthcoming. “Police Consent Decrees and Section 1983 Civil Rights Litigation.” *Criminology & Public Policy*.

**Connell, N. M.** (Forthcoming). Fear of crime at school: Understanding student perceptions of safety as a function of historical context. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*.

Reingle-Gonzalez, J. M., Salas-Wright, C. P., **Connell, N. M.**, Jetelina, K. K., Clipper, S. J., & Businelle, M. S. (2016). The long-term effects of school dropout and GED attainment on substance use disorders. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. 158: 60-66. DOI: 0.1016/j.drugalcdep.2015.11.002

Grant: Freilich, J. D., Chermak, S. M., **Connell, N. M.**, LaFree, G., & Parkin, W. S. *Understanding the causes of school violence using open source data*. Funding source: National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice (DOJ). Amount: \$699,629. Duration: 2017-18

**Dr. Lynne Vieraitis** was featured on the UT Dallas NewsCenter page for her work on graffiti.

**Dr. Alex Piquero** had articles accepted in: *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Crime & Delinquency*, and several other outlets. He also received two outstanding article awards, one from the Division of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology and the other from Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice (co-awarded with Stephanie Cardwell\* a Criminology PhD student and Matt DeLisi from Iowa State University), and in February 2017 he will receive the Western Society of Criminology’s President’s Award for Contributions to the field of criminology and positive influence on the current WSC President’s Career. Finally, along with Robert Holmes Professor and Associate Provost **Nicole Piquero**, he is the investigator on a recently awarded NIJ grant on identity theft victimization, prevention, and victim services.

## Our Students, Faculty, and Alumni



Dr. Connell with Drs. McCrimmons and Clipper at ASC



Delicious beignets in New Orleans



Valerie with Drs. Zettler and Bishopp at ASC



Students at our CGSA bowling event



Our 2016 CGSA Officers

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*Visit us:*

<http://www.utdallas.edu/epps/criminology/>

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*Questions about our department?*

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Undergraduate and Graduate Student Paper Competitions
  - For more information please contact Dr. Nadine Connell at nmc110030@utdallas.edu
- ◆ The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
  - Training in Michigan this summer with scholarships available until March 31st, 2017
  - <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/content/sumprog/scholarships/index.html>
- ◆ Department Colloquium: Pre-ACJS Presentations
  - TBA in March 2017

