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Department Chair's Introduction

I hope that everyone has had a great summer. I am happy to write to you at the start of the 2024-2025 Academic Year to introduce our latest Departmental newsletter.

The start of 2024 brought sadness with the passing of Rick Rosenfeld in January, of course. It also offered an opportunity to recognize Rick's immense contributions to criminology and his impact on the careers and lives of those associated with UMSL CCJ. Given that, it is fitting that his work, [including a new and definitive book on dynamics in crime trends](#), has continued to come out in print in the time since. We have planned two special sessions at the American Society of Criminology meetings in San Francisco that will celebrate Rick's contributions. Those are scheduled for Wednesday November 13th starting at 3:30PM. More details on those panels are below. Our annual UMSL CCJ social event will be held later that evening.

The newsletter highlights a selection of the many important accomplishments that have occurred over the last year! We hope that you find it insightful. Please keep in touch with us to tell us about the great things that you are doing. We continue to look for ways to connect our alumni and friends with current students and to recognize the successes of those affiliated with UMSL Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Remembering Rick Rosenfeld



Richard Rosenfeld, Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, passed away peacefully on Jan. 8, 2024, leaving behind a loving family and countless friends and colleagues across the globe.

Rosenfeld was one of the nation's most influential criminologists. His research interests ranged widely across the discipline, but he is best known for his work on the relationship between economic conditions and crime trends. He published more than forty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on the topic and chaired a National Academy of Sciences roundtable convened to study this issue.

Most recently, Rosenfeld has worked with the nonpartisan U.S. Council on Criminal Justice to produce timely and rigorous assessments of crime trends in cities throughout the United States. These reports have become indispensable tools for policymakers seeking impartial information on changes in crime and the socioeconomic forces underlying those changes.

In addition to his research on crime trends, Rosenfeld and his long-time collaborator Steven Messner formulated one of the most important modern theories for understanding cross-national differences in crime rates—Institutional Anomie Theory. Developed in numerous articles and multiple editions of their book *Crime and the American Dream*, this theory links patterns and levels of crime to the balance and functioning of social institutions, such as the economy, family, and the educational system. Institutional Anomie Theory brought attention to the important role played by the social-welfare state in buffering the impact of economic hardship on crime. Rosenfeld also advanced the study of contemporary crime-control policy, bringing empirical research to bear on policy debates over issues such as racial disparities in police stops and searches, the impact of police enforcement strategies on crime and disorder, and prisoner re-entry and its effects on community crime.

As a public intellectual, Rosenfeld was dedicated to responsible and informed engagement with the public and policymakers. He served as an important resource for the media on issues related to crime trends and police activities, including the strengths and limitations of extant research on these issues. His careful analyses routinely appeared in national, international, and local media outlets such as NPR, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Post retirement, he published an additional 40 articles and three books, including his final book, *Crime Dynamics: Why Crime Rates Move Up and Down Over Time*, which will be published shortly by Cambridge University Press.

Rosenfeld played a key part in building what was to become one of the nation's strongest criminology and criminal justice PhD programs. He did so not only through force of his own scholarly reputation but also by his commitment to bringing out and celebrating excellence in his students and colleagues.

During his career, Rosenfeld's sterling research, teaching, and service brought him wide acclaim from both the discipline and the university. He was an elected Fellow of the American Society of Criminology, served as the Society's President, and received its highest honor, the Edwin H. Sutherland Award, for his outstanding scholarly contributions to criminology. At UMSL, Rosenfeld received all three of the major Chancellor's Awards for Excellence (Research, Teaching, and Service) and in 2016, the UM System awarded him the Thomas Jefferson Professorship, the highest honor it can bestow on a faculty member.

No short review can do justice to a life, especially one as full and well lived as Rosenfeld's. Suffice to say that we will not see his likes again. He is survived by his wife, Janet Lauritsen; two sons Jake Hoffmann Rosenfeld and Sam Hoffmann Rosenfeld; his two daughters-in-law Erin McGaughey and Erica De Bruin; his brother Robert Rosenfeld; and his three grandchildren, Ida May, Henry, and Frankie. His loss will be felt by everyone lucky enough to have known him including his former colleagues, students, and friends.

Read more [in the UMSL Daily](#)

There will be two panels honoring Rick's legacy at the American Society of Criminology meetings in San Francisco:

Curiosity and Criminology: Reflections on Dr. Richard Rosenfeld's Scholarship
Wed, Nov 13, 3:30 to 4:50pm, Golden Gate B - B2 Level

Legacy in Mentorship: Reflections on Dr. Richard Rosenfeld's Enduring Impact
Wed, Nov 13, 5:00 to 6:20pm, Golden Gate B - B2 Level

Decade since Ferguson unrest has brought changes for criminal justice system and those who study it

Professor Lee Slocum talked to UMSL Daily about criminal justice reforms and changes in criminal justice research that have occurred in the past 10 years.

[Lee Slocum](#), a professor of [criminology and criminal justice](#) at the [University of Missouri–St. Louis](#), learned about the civil unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, a decade ago while watching international news from across the ocean.

At the time, Slocum was on research leave in the Netherlands. From this vantage point, it was a bit surreal to take in images of the protests roiling along West Florissant Avenue, less than four miles from her campus office, in the wake of the [killing of teenager Michael Brown by a Ferguson police officer](#).

“One of the few things we could watch in English on TV was the news,” Slocum recalled. “My husband and I were watching it, and we saw all the civil unrest. It was a different experience for me because I wasn’t on the ground. I heard about it the same way that the rest of the world did.” She frequently found herself being asked by those around her to share some insight on what was happening.

At the moment, she couldn’t have known the extent to which those conversations would continue in the years ahead as the [U.S. Department of Justice](#) conducted two investigations – [one into the circumstances of Brown’s death](#) and [another into the practices of the Ferguson Police Department](#).

Those investigations would inspire some significant changes to the criminal justice system and for those like Slocum who study it. With the world set to mark the 10th anniversary of Brown’s death this Friday, UMSL Daily spoke to Slocum about the legacy of Ferguson in efforts to reform policing and the impact it has had shaping research.

[Read the conversation in the UMSL Daily](#)



Dr. Kyle Thomas returns to UMSL CCJ in Spring 2025!



We are happy to welcome Kyle Thomas back to the department as an Associate Professor. His work focuses on offender decision making, the influence of peers on offending, and testing criminological theories. Thomas’ work has routinely appeared in top criminology journals over the last several years, including a recent publication on [preferences for crime, identity, and desistance theories](#) with alum [Jennifer O’Neill](#). He is also a frequent collaborator and mentor to several UMSL alums.

Marisa Omori elected as Executive Counselor



Dr. Marisa Omori was recently [elected as an Executive Counselor](#) for the American Society of Criminology. Her term starts in November 2024. She joins Dr. Chris Sullivan, who is [currently serving as an executive counselor](#) through 2025. Omori was also nominated for the [UMSL Hero Award](#), which recognizes “efforts to transform the lives of UMSL students and the communities in which we serve” in her capacity as the PhD Director for the department.

UMSL CCJ researchers partner with community organizations and local officials on violence prevention

Faculty members Lee Slocum and Chris Sullivan, along with a research team, are working with [city](#), [county](#), and [regional](#) partners to better understand and respond to community violence in St. Louis. In Fall 2023, the group was funded by NIJ to conduct a [comprehensive study of implementation and outcomes](#) of the city’s new violence prevention office as part of that work.

MA student John Ampomah brings focus to scholarship through past athletic and professional experiences

John Ampomah won the [Edward G. Longinette](#) Scholarship, which is provided to honor outstanding graduate students. Ampomah is no stranger to bringing excellence across multiple roles, including being an Olympic javelin thrower representing Ghana in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, as well as being a silver medalist at the All-African Games and the African Championships. As Ampomah notes, “I am confident that this award will profoundly impact my academic goals here at UMSL.” His research interests are in examining vigilante justice in Ghana, based in part on his previous experience working for the Ghana Police Service.



Faculty continue to produce top tier scholarship



Valerie Anderson and colleagues provide insight on [paternalism towards justice involved girls](#)

Adam Boessen investigates [neighborhood safety ties and perceptions of collective efficacy](#)

Kelsey Cundiff publishes articles on [teenage work quality and delinquency and city-level violent crime trends](#)

Dave Klinger co-authors article on [unintended consequences of technology in criminal justice](#)

Rebecca Lennox publishes recent findings from her study of [how race, class, and gender interact in women's responses to crime prevention messages](#)

Marisa Omori and colleagues report on [findings on coercive penal care](#)

Lee Slocum co-authors articles with UMSL doctoral alumni, [Dale Dan-Irabor](#) and [Stephanie Wiley](#)

Students gain applied experience through internships and a career fair

MA students not only get foundational knowledge in theory and research through the program, but they also gained experience through internships. The internship program, which allows students to work with agencies, gives students a chance to apply their skills in the workplace. This past year, students have interned at federal and local agencies and organizations. This includes federal government agencies such as the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives](#) and the [U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Probation and Parole](#), county and non-profits such as the [Tap In Center of St. Louis County](#), [Heat Up St. Louis](#), the [St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department](#), the [St. Louis County Police Department](#), and the [Crime Victim Center of St Louis](#), as well as a [law firm](#).

These internships were also facilitated by the department's career fair, which was hosted in December. The career fair drew about 20 agencies and organizations representing criminology and criminal justice-related jobs in the greater St. Louis metro region and beyond. In addition to many of the agencies and organizations listed above, there was participation from federal agencies, such as the [U.S. Postal Inspectors](#), as well as state- and local- criminal justice agencies, such as the [Victim Service Division of the St. Louis Prosecutor's office](#), several police departments, [the Division of Youth Services for the State of Missouri](#), as well as nonprofit organizations and private companies, such as [Behavioral Health Response](#). About 50 undergraduate and graduate students were able to attend and network with these agencies, bringing light to the wide variety of careers available to CCJ majors. Building on this past year's success, the department is planning on hosting another career fair this upcoming academic year.

Graduate Student Scholarship



Ph.D. students celebrate award wins

Congratulations to [Victoria Inzana](#), who was awarded the [NSF Law and Science Dissertation grant](#)! The grant is supporting her dissertation, where she examines identity and role-taking among incarcerated people involved in a theater program using ethnographic observations. Inzana is slated to complete her dissertation in Spring 2025, and has research interests in rehabilitation and identity changes within corrections and reentry.

Inzana also recently won the [Charles G. Huber, Jr. Endowed Dissertation Fellowship](#) and the Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice award to support her project.

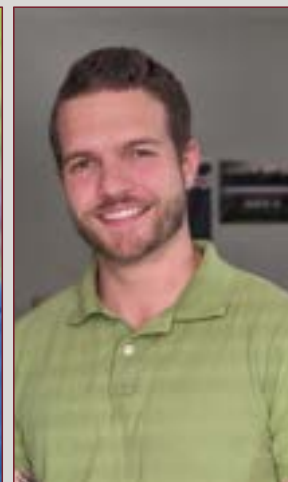
Ellie Lyne won a [National Institute of Justice Travel Grant](#), enabling her to attend the National Institute of Justice's annual conference. Additionally, Lyne won the [3 Minute Thesis Competition](#) and was also awarded with the People's Choice Award this past spring. Lyne's research interests include courts, judicial decision making, gender, and virtual technology.

Sarah Kirk won 2nd place at the [Graduate Research Fair](#)! Her project focused on the effect of marital status on illicit substance use. Kirk's research interests are in life course criminology and peer influence, and she is currently working on her dissertation proposal, which examines the effects of prosocial and antisocial influence on the desistance process from illicit substance use.

Ph.D. students Ernesto Lopez and Bobby Boxerman lead public reports on crime trends

As part of the Council on Criminal Justice, Ph.D. students [Ernesto Lopez](#) and [Bobby Boxerman](#) released a report on [Crime Trends in U.S. Cities](#). The report, focusing on crime changes across 39 cities between 2018 through June 2024, was featured in multiple news outlets, including the [Washington Post](#) and the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#).

Along with Assistant Professor [Dr. Kelsey Cundiff](#), they also released another [report on shoplifting trends between 2019 through 2022](#).



Congratulations to our recent PhD graduates!

Ben Hamilton graduated with his Ph.D. in December 2023. Dr. Hamilton's dissertation examined decision-making and perceptions of rewards, risks, and costs on criminal behavior. He is currently working on a paper examining the functional form of the moderative link between impulsivity and the perceived (dis)incentives to crime. Hamilton also recently published a solo-authored article in the Journal of Quantitative Criminology.



Lauren Morgan completed her Ph.D. in May. Her dissertation research examines the organizational properties of the juvenile justice and foster care systems in the Midwest and their impacts on “crossover” or dual system youth. Lauren is also involved in projects that explore the mechanisms underlying criminal justice reform and the effects of criminal justice policies on crime. Over the past two years, Lauren has been a part of the Research Assistantship Program at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) working on projects related to corrections, reentry, and police officer training techniques.

Faraneh Shamserad graduated with her Ph.D. in May. Dr. Shamserad's dissertation focused on the idea of “digitally empowered claim-makers” and how this shapes punishment of immigrants in the United States. Shamserad will be working as a National Secure Data Service Policy Fellow, where she will be analyzing research projects and identifying gaps in research agenda coverage as part of the National Science Foundation. She also published an article in Youth & Society.





ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Alum Cherrell Green recognized with VIP fellowship

Dr. Cherrell Green won the 2024 Violence, Inequality, and Power (VIP) Fellowship from the University of San Diego. The fellowship supports research and ideas to shift inequalities that reinforce cycles of violence. Green's project includes interviews with 20 Black men 18 years and older across the United States, who have suffered a gunshot injury to understand how they navigate life and healthcare, criminal legal system, and other systems post-injury. The goal of this project is to support the development and implementation of strategies, programs and policies aimed at addressing how Black men cope with exposure to gun violence. The completion of the research will result in a policy brief that will outline proposed changes in how to develop culturally competent programs for Black men to cope with gun violence as well as proposed additions and modifications of policy to accommodate the needs of victimized Black men with criminal histories.

Green, who [graduated with her Ph.D. in 2022](#), is currently [the Associate Director of Engagement and Assessment at Everytown for Gun Safety](#). In this position, she spearheads the development and implementation of a targeted grantee engagement strategy, steering team strategy, enhance capacity-building initiatives, and refining project development. Green also cultivates strategic relationships with city-wide leadership, local organizations, community members, and government officials to support the implementation of violence prevention programs and initiatives.



Dan Isom named to the Chancellor's Council

Dr. Dan Isom was recently named to the [Chancellor's Council](#), which provides advocacy and assistance to the University. Isom earned a BS, an MA and a PhD from UMSL's highly acclaimed [Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice](#). He currently serves as the vice president of corporate safety, security and crisis management at [Ameren](#). Isom spent 25 years with the [St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department](#), rising through the ranks to become the city's 33rd chief of police in October 2008. He held that post until his retirement in 2013. After he retired, he returned to his alma mater and served as the E. Desmond Lee Professor of Policing and the Community. Isom was also honored in the [60 alumni for the University's 60 year celebration](#), and also spoke at the [Fall commencement ceremony](#).

[Read more in the UMSL Daily](#)