Letter from the Chair

In this newsletter, you will be reading about our faculty and students’ international experiences. The university, our college, and our department have set for the goal to create global citizens. CJS offers and supports exciting and life-changing opportunities to experience different cultures and countries. Student with whom I speak about their trips have emphasized how fortunate they were to be given the chance to study abroad. They share stories of personal transformation, cultural enlightenment, and the desire to continue traveling.

I have been fortunate throughout my career in that my research has taken me to numerous countries around the globe, including Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland, Austria, Thailand, Brazil, Chilé, and to some of the most remote areas of Canada, including Arctic areas above Baffin Island. In April 2013, I travelled to Austria, specifically the Vienna International Center—the home to a number of United Nations organizations, including the UNODC—in order to present my research on reducing the illegal trade in endangered species. Because this transnational crime was up for discussion, experts from around the world were invited to share their research and proficiencies in order to help shape policy.

Because of the complicated nature of the United Nations (UN) and the assumption that this complex organization deals only with international matters, the role of the UN in addressing crime is often understudied and overlooked in American criminal justice education. However, issues pertaining to crime prevention and criminal justice are the topic of regular UN conferences. Every five years since 1955, congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice have been held in various locations around the globe. Congresses are intergovernmental fora that have influenced national and international policy by way of information exchange, as well as technical knowledge. Further, they promote international cooperation in making policy and promoting innovative responses to complicated crime-related issues—nationally and internationally.

The UN Commission on Crime and Criminal Justice, which meets annually, sets the agenda for each Congress in advance. The Commission is tasked with introducing, debating, and adopting resolutions for the Economic and Social Council and the UN General Assembly to consider. Resolutions provide the foundation for a program of work and action. The UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is responsible for carrying out the work as outlined in the resolutions.

Thank you to all of you who have made our students’ experiences possible through your donations!

Best,
Andrew Verdun graduated from Illinois State University's Department of Criminal Justice Sciences in 2001. After completing his internship with the U.S. Customs Service in Miami, he extended his enlistment in the Illinois Army National Guard for one year in order to deploy to Europe in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon returning from Europe, Verdun served as a special agent with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Seattle. From 2003–2006 Verdun conducted criminal investigations in the Seattle area and also taught criminal justice courses at ITT Technical Institute.

In 2006, Verdun was offered an opportunity to support U.S. military counterintelligence operations in Iraq. He spent nine months supporting the U.S. Marines on Al Taqaddum Air Base, Iraq, by conducting screening operations on all local and third country nationals in order to identify and eliminate threats to U.S. and Coalition forces. In 2007, he was sent to Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, for 16 months to supervise a 13-person team supporting the U.S. Army. Verdun’s team screened the 2nd and 4th Iraqi Army divisions and was able to successfully identify and remove Iraqi soldiers working for different insurgent groups.

In March 2009, he was offered a job supporting U.S. Army counterintelligence on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Verdun was responsible for screening all local and third country nationals on Camp Bondsteel in order to identify threats to U.S. and NATO forces. While working in Kosovo, he completed his master’s degree in strategic intelligence and terrorism studies from American Military University, graduating in June 2012.

In March 2012, he was offered a team leader position supporting the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) counterintelligence operations on Al Dhafra Air Base, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. He supervised a five-person team screening all local and third country nationals on Al Dhafra attempting to identify threats to U.S. and Emirati forces. Verdun departed the United Arab Emirates in April 2013 and returned to Camp Bondsteel as the team leader at the end of June 2013.

Garrett Anderson ‘10 began his career in the US Army in 1998. He served there until 2001, and in 2004 he enlisted in the Army National Guard. He was deployed to Iraq in May of 2005. On October 15, 2005 Anderson was severely injured when an IED detonated underneath the Humvee he was driving. After an 8-month recovery, which included an amputation and facial reconstruction surgery, Anderson returned home to Champaign, IL. Later, he was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury. Anderson had to appeal his initial VA rating, and eventually won his fight to receive repayment of his enlistment bonus. Anderson earned his BS in criminal justice sciences at ISU. During his time at ISU he interned with Senator Chapin Rose. Currently, he is a Constituent Services Representative for Congressman Rodney Davis. He works with Wounded Warriors and, along with his wife, Sami, encourages attorneys across the state to assist veterans in their claims for VA benefits. Click here to read the Illinois State magazine article about his family’s Redbird legacy.
2013 Distinguished Young Alum - Chris Miller BS ’04, MS ’05

Christopher Miller BS ’04, MS ’05, has served as a special agent in the United States Secret Service since 2006. He received both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University. During his tenure with the Secret Service, Miller has completed multiple assignments including his current role as the Secret Service liaison to the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force and a previous assignment to a multi-disciplinary identity theft task force based in Oakland, California. Additionally, Miller has completed dozens of protective and investigative assignments, has served as one of the San Francisco field office’s senior firearms instructors and has provided training to both governmental and private organizations on topics such as threat assessments. Prior to his work with the Secret Service, Miller served as an Intelligence Operations Specialist with the Illinois Air National Guard. Miller currently resides in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, Chelsea.

More Alumni Updates

Adrian Acevedo ’08 is currently employed with the U.S. Army.
Camilla Adair ’09 is currently employed with the U.S. Marshal Service.
Jim Agnew ’91 is currently employed with the Kansas City Police Department in Kansas City, MO, as a Master Detective.
Charlie Ahmad ’96 is currently employed with the U.S. Marshal Service.
Jason Aiello ’00 is currently employed with Wells Fargo.
Clayton Barnes ’09 is currently employed with the R.R. Donnelley in Chicago, IL, as a Router/Broker.
Alan Belski ’07 is currently employed with the Iowa Department of Corrections in Des Moines, IA.
Andrew Bill ’09 is currently employed with the U.S. Army.
Louis Bladel, III ’80 is currently employed with the FBI Counterespionage Section as a Section Chief.
Ellis Bower ’07 is currently employed with the U.S. Capi tal Police in Washington, D.C.
Josh Bubinas ’02 is currently employed with the Transportation Security Administration as an Inspector.
Maureen Cairns ’75 is currently employed with the Schaumburg Police Department in Schaumburg, IL.
Chris Chambers ’00 is currently employed with the Champaign Police Department in Champaign, IL.
Kent Crutcher ’10 is currently employed with the Branson Police Department in Branson, MO, as the Chief of Police.
Mike Emery ’03 is currently employed with the McLean County Sheriff’s Office in Bloomington, IL, as the Sheriff.
Josh Grimwood ’10 is currently employed with G4S Security.
Tami Haukedahl ’80 is currently employed with the Elgin Community College Police Department in Elgin, IL, as the Deputy Chief.
Margaret Healy ’12 is currently employed with Americorps.
Travis Huff ’08 is currently employed with State Farm.

Josh Johnson ’10 is currently employed with the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Department in Everett, WA.
James Knodell ’78 is retired from the United States Secret Service, where he served as a Special Agent.
Brad Kurtzweil ’09 is currently employed with the Village of Bolingbrook Police Department in Bolingbrook, IL.
Robert Landers ’73 is retired from the Department of Family Services, Cheyenne, WY, and Wyoming Department of Corrections.
Brad Lauer ’05 is currently employed with Securitas Security Services USA, Inc. as an Area Vice President.
Peter Lynch ’81 is currently employed with Cozen O’Connor, PC in Chicago, IL, as an Attorney.
Sheamus Mannion ’99 is currently employed with the Chicago Police Department in Chicago, IL, as a Sergeant.
Greg Patton ’78 is currently employed with District 87 in Bloomington, IL, as a Criminal Justice Instructor.
Alex Payne ’84 is currently employed with the FBI as a Special Agent.
Ashley Petrey ’06 is currently employed with the Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office in Miami, FL, as an Attorney.
Timothy Simulus ’13 is currently employed with the Fairbury Police Department in Fairbury, IL.
Nick Spurgash ’12 is currently employed with the Palos Park Police Department in Palos Park, IL.
Kathy Starkovich ’95 is currently employed with the DuPage County Court Services in Wheaton, IL.
Samuel Stevens ’09 is currently employed with the U.S. Army.
Virginia Sudbury ’79 is currently employed with the Law Office of Virginia Sudbury in Salt Lake City, UT, as an Attorney.
Randy Wikoff BS ’85, MA ’07 is currently employed with the Bloomington Police Department in Bloomington, IL, as a Sergeant.
2013 Faculty Publications/Awards/Presentations

**Publications:**


**Conference Presentations:**

"Per Curiam Opinions in the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals," Paper presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2013, co-author: Stephen L. Wasby, University at Albany, SUNY

"Examining the Use of Per Curiam Opinions in U.S. Supreme Court Criminal Procedure Cases," Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, August 29, 2013. Co-author: Ethan D. Boldt, Illinois State University/ The University of Georgia

**Publications:**


**Publications:**


** ** Jeremy Braithwaite is a graduate of the CJS Graduate Program.
# 2013 Faculty Publications/Awards/Presentations (cont.)

**Publications:**


**Shane Dixon is a graduate student in the CJS program.**

**Publications:**


**Jeremy Braithwaite is a graduate of the CJS Graduate Program.**

**Publications:**


**Shane Dixon is a student in the CJS Graduate Program.**

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### Students Present at Women & Gender Studies Symposium

This past April, CJS seniors Genoa Cole and Mia Gilliam participated in the Spring 2013 Women and Gender Studies Symposium. Cole and Gilliam worked with Dr. Shelly Clevenger to research and present on rape myths. While taking CJS 342 (Victimology) with Clevenger, Cole and Gilliam learned about the various societal myths that surround rape. They presented actual facts and statistics in an attempt to educate the public and hopefully dispel these myths. One such myth is that the majority of rape claims are false. The reality is, only about 2% of reported rapes are false. Another myth is that it’s easy to prosecute rapists; when in actuality, only 1 out of 16 rapists will spend time in jail. Approximately 1 in 4 women will be raped in her lifetime. Society needs to stop blaming women for these attacks, and accept that women have the right to dress how they want and walk where and when they want, and not be raped.
Breaking Barriers

Faculty and staff in the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences have started an initiative, Breaking Barriers, to address the declining number of women enrolled in criminal justice sciences majors and resultant occupations. Breaking Barriers is dedicated to increasing the participation of women interested in careers in criminal justice sciences by connecting women with mentors in criminal justice fields who encourage them to take applied sciences classes, show them that criminal justice careers are fun, exciting and challenging, and share experiences to help them overcome concerns and barriers. To that end, Breaking Barriers held panel discussions to address issues commonly faced in the workplace. The events introduced students to women leaders in the fields of policing, corrections, courts and private security and started a dialogue about the contributions of women and minorities to these male-dominated occupations.

The following year students took field trips to various agencies such as the McLean County Circuit Court, and met with female managers within those agencies. At this point it was decided to begin a mentoring program within Breaking Barriers. All participating juniors and seniors were contacted to seek interested in being a mentor and all incoming freshmen girls and transfer students were asked if they would be interested in taking advantage of having a mentor. Monthly meetings and activities took place with this group of students during the academic year. Several events are planned for next semester to introduce incoming students to Breaking Barriers and help them make important connections to mentors in the field. We will also continue the mentoring program and work to expand upon it throughout the year.

2014 Social Sciences Internship/Career Fair

Leading up to 2011, we saw a dramatic decrease in the number of criminal justice related agencies attending the University-wide internship and job fairs. The state of the economy hit our organizations, much like the rest of the disciplines, and budgets which previously paid for these types of events were quickly cut. This left our students in a position where they could not do as much career exploration as was needed. In the spring of 2011, the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences entered into a partnership with the School of Social Work, and the Departments of Psychology, Sociology and Politics and Government to begin hosting a Social Sciences Internship and Career Fair back. The fair provides an opportunity for students from the social to walk into the fair and know that almost every agency represented are possibilities for internships and/or career options. Was it mentioned that this fair is free to employers?

The Social Sciences Internship/Career Fair will be held Thursday, January 23, 2014 from 1:00-4:00pm in the Bone Student Center Brown Ballroom. If your agency would like to be represented at the fair please contact criminaljustice@illinoisstate.edu. If you would like to attend the fair, please do so! A list of attending agencies will be available on the Criminal Justice Sciences website beginning December 15, 2013.
2013 Department Award Winners

Vincent V. Vitucci Memorial Scholarship

Jason Smith

Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship

Mia Gilliam

Departmental Scholar - Native

Ethan Boldt

Department Scholar - Transfer

Samuel Suddarth

Outstanding Graduate Student

John Navarro

Outstanding Community Service Award

Alishia Pointer
Washington, D. C. Internship Program

In an effort to provide students with meaningful professional practice experiences, the College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST) is continuing a scholarship program for high achieving students who wish to complete their internship in Washington, D. C. Students from nearly all majors within CAST have the opportunity to intern with an agency that is closely related to their chosen field.

Genoa Cole - Metropolitan Police Department

My favorite part about this internship was the field trips I got to take. Because of my position and success as an intern, I was granted a lot of opportunities. I have been over the police academy multiple times, which afforded me the opportunity to observe the academy, the area, and the recruits. I have been over to the polygraph unit in Reston, VA. There, my supervisor arranged for me to experience part of a polygraph test so I learned how the polygraph works and how they monitor physiological responses. Another day, I went to a recruit graduation, where 30 recruits graduated to be police officers. This was a truly amazing and personal experience for each one of those officers and after seven months in the academy, they were finally out. I was able to assist in helping the department build their new Tactical Village and provide input. My internship gave me the opportunity to sit in on interviews for full time positions, as well as assist with photo shoots for marking campaigns. I have been over to the 6th District Building as well as headquarters and command rooms. I went on a ride along in the 1st District, 2nd District and 6th District with an experienced officer.

The only negatives about this internship were the other interns I worked with. They made this really challenging. A lot of the office work defaulted to me because I was consistent with my hours. I approached this experience as a full time job and treated it as such. My work was always complete in a timely manner, I was consistent with my hours, and I worked hard. The other interns did not treat their internship as such.

The best part of living and working in D.C. was experiencing everything that an internship in Illinois could not offer me. There is a lot of culture and history in Washington D.C. and being able to experience that on days off added to the internship. I loved that there was so much to do in the city. From free concerts, to museums, to walking around and experiencing food, as interns we were always busy and had something to do.

I have had in college. I was afforded the opportunity to live and work in a new city. It is difficult to move away but in the end, the experience was worth it. I would tell anyone to go for it.
During the summer of 2013, Criminal Justice Major Julia Luchtenburg did her internship in Washington, D.C. with the organization Innocents at Risk. Innocents at Risk was founded in 2005 by activist Deborah Sigmund. This organization was created to raise awareness of the crime of human trafficking, both locally and internationally, and its primary goal is “Protecting Women and Children from Human Trafficking.” Innocents at Risk is primarily an organization aimed toward raising awareness and lobbying for the passing of anti-trafficking legislation. It works closely with a large number of influential groups and government agencies to achieve its goals. On the grander scale, Innocents at Risk has connections with members of the US Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Health and Human Services, which provide information and guidance on how to combat human trafficking.

Innocents at Risk uses social media to communicate with a large number of its partners in order to spread awareness and generate interest in events that they host. Twitter, Facebook, and email updates are all very important avenues of communication that Innocents at Risk relies on to keep the community informed on news and events involving human trafficking.

During her internship, Luchtenburg was responsible for making connections with potential donors and organizing fundraising events for the organization. She was called upon to design fliers and publish them on Facebook and through email blasts to promote events that were being held to benefit Innocents at Risk. Luchtenburg also worked endlessly on putting together the mission trip to La Romana, Dominican Republic. “It was my responsibility to get donors to sponsor and contribute items to our cause. I was also in charge of getting all the paperwork for hotel accommodations for our group members,” said Luchtenburg.

They were headed to Ninos de Cristo, an orphanage in La Romana that Director Deborah Sigmund supports. Ninos de Cristo houses boys and girls who have been rescued from human trafficking situations. “The mission trip to La Romana, Dominican Republic, was an incredible experience,” said Luchtenburg. “There were 187 children ranging in ages from 1-18. We saw their church and school, as well as got a tour of the inside of the orphanage. More importantly, we just played and talked. I enjoyed every minutes of the time I got to spend with the children.”

“This internship was the best experience of my college career,” Luchtenburg stated. “The benefits of coming out to Washington, DC - living and working in the heart of America’s capital - cannot be counted. I learned so much about the organization and its members, but I learned even more about myself.”
New CJS Courses

The CJS Department is always trying to improve its curriculum. Part of that is adding new courses. This year, Drs. Ralph Weisheit and Philip Mulvey were able to introduce their new courses to students.

Criminal Justice Policy - CJS 489
Philip Mulvey

Criminal justice policy is at the forefront of many of our society’s most challenging debates. This class examines contemporary criminal justice policies and their impact on society. The course will be taught in an informal seminar format and will consist of a series of class discussions pertaining to some of the most important and most controversial policy topics in the contemporary criminal justice system. The course material will center on four popular monographs (all available for download online), research articles, and popular press readings that will be posted electronically by the professor. The primary assignment for the class will be a term paper on a single criminal justice policy of the student’s choosing. Each week the class will discuss questions on particular policies posed by the instructor as well as class members. The goal for the class is to help students become more informed about criminal justice policy and to more critically consider the ramifications of policy on their current/future work in the criminal justice system.

Criminal Justice Ethics - CJS 289
Ralph Weisheit

Every day criminal justice practitioners face ethical challenges. This course challenges students to think about ethical decision making by using real world examples: What if a police crackdown on crime in a neighborhood causes local residents to mistrust the police and refuse to cooperate when they witness crimes? Should jail inmates be required to pay the cost of their confinement? Should elected judges hear cases involving major contributors to their campaign? How do defense attorneys justify representing terrorists or people they know committed murder? Through examples such as these students learn about ethical standards in the criminal justice system and are encouraged to think about their own values.

The CJS Department needs your help!

Do you have any memorabilia from your days as a CJS major? The Department is looking to build up its collection in the ISU Archives. If you have anything that you would be willing to let us display in the department, or anything that you would be willing to donate to the Archives, we’d love to hear from you! E-mail criminaljustice@illinoisstate.edu.
Thank you to our donors!

Each year, the CJS Department gives awards to its top students. These awards would not be possible if not for our donors. Thank you all for your generosity!

James Agnew, Jr.          Jan & Jeffrey Gray          Jacqueline Schneider
Christine & Brett Ahring   Jason & Rebecca Hahn          Marco Serrano
Laura & Finn Amble         Laura & Robert Hanner          Tory Shields
Donna Appelhans            Kathrine Johnson               Victoria Sims
Ronald Baietto             Daehoon Kwak                 Jaimie Smith
Mary & Thomas Benson       Robert Landes, Jr.            Michael & Laura Taets
Robert & Toni Bentel       Rebecca & Joshua Larson         Judith & James Taff
Christopher Bentley       George & Mary Long              Katie Taylor
Charlene Beringer          Karen & Mark Lowery             The Pampered Chef - Julie R. Gizzi
Amy & Thomas Bower         James Lyons                    Shawn & Angela Trent
Mark & Crystal Bronke      Cory McNicol                   Trent & Tricia Vandersnick
Michael & Pamela Brown     Donald Mead                    Vincent & Marlene Vitucci
Kelli Christopher          Theresa & Eric Mitchell             Cathy Waltz
Dakota Cisco               Joshua & Catharine Myers       Michael & Michelle Weghorst
Kevin & Kim Croke          Leigh & David Opdy               Tracy & Mason Wehrle
Anne Davis                 Mark Pratten                   Ralph & Carol Weisheit
Joseph A. Dehn             Janice Quattrocchi             Lloyd & Anna Wells
Bradley Elmer              Cara Rabe-Hemp & Jason Hemp       Bradley Widmer
Beth & Steven Ewaldt       Dina Raya                      Randall & Marcy Wikoff
Shirley & William Finn     Cortney Ritter                  Isaiah Williamson
Justin & Katherine Fitzgerald Jeffrey Salsbery          Crystal & Michael Young
Mark & Samantha Franklin

May 2013 Graduates

Kaitlin Altieri          Nicholas Hammonds          Michael Mendyk
Michael Appelhans        Daniel Harney             Joseph Meyer
Christopher Batzel       Brian Harrison            Mark Miljan
Meredith Beard           Andrew Henderson          Heather Miller
Darius Bedford           Mitchell Hendrick           Keegan Morgan
Matthew Beer             Scott Hill               Matthew Mullins
Matthew Berman           Michael Hokinson          Callie Nixon
Erik Blomberg            Mary Hurtenbach*          Kelsey O’Donnell
Ethan Boldt**           Jerry Jarrett              Declan O’Neill
Brian Bruesch            Kyle Jensen               Armando Onorato
Stefani Carr-Turnbough  Catherine Johnson         Mandy Owens*
William Chambers         Nicholas Just              Allison Palmer
Kevin Chathas            Michael Kane              Robert Polodna
Kelli Christopher        Chelsey Keyes              Mary Prasnikar
Dakota Cisco             Edward Koenig III       Mark Pratten
Courtney Cole            William Konovsky            Timothy Price
Vincent Dillard          Brittany Krepak            Cristy Ramirez
Andrew Duckworth         Michael Kurotobi            Fernando Rangel
Tyler Dunkman            Jessica Laughlin           Donald Rathje
Amber Engelkes           Vania Lott                 Samantha Rittoc
Jacob Faivre             Lauren Martin              Robert Robbins Jr.
Nicholas Frisella        Bridget Mason            Terrence Rose
Timothy Furman           Derek Mason               Austin Rott
Jonathan Garrity         Steven Melton             Martin Santoyo

Dominic Savino
Octavia Scott
Austin Self
Marco Serrano
Blake Smith
Katelyn Smith
Kyle Snisko
Ray Snisko
Matthew Stadler
Aubry Stapleton
Nicholas Storck
Joshua Stringer
Samuel Suddarth
Brandon Taylor
Victor Velazquez
Isaiah Williamson
Ebony Withers
Benjamin Zehr

*Graduate Student
**Dean’s List
Summer 2013 Graduates

Thomas Apperson II
Matthew Benson
Nick Bonaringo
Karen Brandt
Matthew Correa
Robert De La Rosa
Andrew Fiscella
Samantha Hart
Summer Hart

Andrew Kaefer
Michael Kehoe
Jonathan Kristensen
Jason Lund
Cory McNicol
Jillian Myers
Brian O'Shea
Phillip Quattrocchi Jr.
Michael Quigley

Michael Rudolph
Jaimie Smith
Jason Smith
Mike Soto Jr.
James Wienand III
Kimberly Wilfinger
Zachary Wych

*Dean’s List

ROTC Commissioning

Zach Boyd - May 2013

William Konovsky (right) - May 2013

Michael Kehoe (right) - August 2013
CAST Going Global

CJS Vision: The Department of Criminal Justice Sciences aims to be a program that is recognized regionally, nationally and internationally.

Dawn Beichner

Dr. Dawn Beichner is one of many CJS faculty members to have taken part in the CAST Going Global Initiative, which seeks to globalize the curricula and expand international travel opportunities. Dr. Beichner is currently representing CAST on ISU’s International Strategic Planning Committee. She is working with colleagues across the ISU campus to develop a university-wide plan that enhances the internationalization of the campus and curriculum.

Over the past three years, Dr. Beichner has been an invited lecturer or hosted students on study abroad experiences in four different countries—Germany, Croatia, South Africa, and The Netherlands. In 2010, she lectured at The University of Kiel, Germany in the Department of Social Work and Health. In 2011, she was an invited lecturer in the 3rd African Post-Graduate Course of Victimology, Victim Assistance, and Criminal Justice at Monash University in Johannesburg, South Africa. For the past four summers, she has lectured in a Post-Graduate Course of Victimology, Victim Assistance, and Criminal Justice at the Inter University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia. In May 2012, she participated in The World Society of Victimology conference in The Hague, The Netherlands. Several CJS undergraduate and graduate students have joined her over the years.

Dr. Beichner plans to continue her international pursuits and to provide study abroad opportunities to ISU students. May 2013 was the thirty-year anniversary of the Dubrovnik, Croatia Post-Graduate Course of Victimology, Victim Assistance, and Criminal Justice. Also, in the Fall 2013 semester, she is teaching a collaborative course on South Africa, which will include an optional two-week study abroad component, including travel to Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, and Robben Island. Among other excursions, student travelers in the fall course will visit the Apartheid Museum, The University of KwaZulu-Natal, and the maximum-security prison, where Nelson Mandela was held.

Click here to learn more about the CAST Going Global Initiative!
This summer I spent 15 days in Cambodia with 10 amazing people. We traveled half way around the world to volunteer our time, knowledge and strength. The first week we spent time teaching English to children in Kro Bei Riel a Self Help Community Center. The village was small, with no electricity or plumbing. The hut I was assigned to teach in had three walls, a blanket, and a cupboard with knives and a cutting board. The Reach Out Volunteers would alternate between teaching for an hour and working on the house. It was blistering hot and the water was room temperature but never did anyone complain. After our work was done each day we would have time to play with the children, go to dance classes or play soccer. When we got back to our hotel we had plenty of free time. Nights were mostly spent eating at restaurants, going to history lessons or night markets and taking long walks. Everything in Kro Bei Riel was cheap; the American dollar is very powerful in Cambodia. You can get to most places in a Tuk-Tuk and will probably cost you $1-$2. On Thursday we had a tourist day and were able to visit Angkor Wat, which are Cambodia’s biggest temples. Thursday was the most informational day and definitely my favorite. We learned of Cambodia’s history and their struggle with religion and freedom. Our final day in Siem Riep we finished the house, had a “Thank You” party and danced the night away with the locals.

The second week I was in Cambodia we traveled twelve hours into the jungle. My team and I lived in the dead center of the prettiest jungle in the world. We woke up each morning to fresh fruit and crepes! During the day we hiked down into “Heaven” a part of the jungle where the elephants hang out and started building a bamboo plantation. We did heavy garden work for two days and finished what we needed to. The other days we spent spending quality time with beautiful elephants. We helped bathe them, feed them and teach them how to interact with humans again. It was the most amazing experience of my life, and it has definitely changed me. I highly encourage anyone who is interested in traveling abroad to do it, but especially do it to help out. Reach Out Volunteers offers plenty of programs to get you around the world, with a purpose. Cambodia, I will see you again.
Ben Cook

My name is Ben Cook and I am going into my junior year in the Criminal Justice program at ISU. This past semester I studied abroad at Griffith University in Gold Coast, Australia. I have wanted to visit Australia for as long as I can remember, so when the opportunity approached I jumped at it. While I was there one of the classes I took was called International Justice and it had to do with Security threats and theories. I was surprised how even on the other side of the world many topics we discussed related back to events that happened in the United States.

While I was there I got to travel along the whole Eastern Coast of Australia. Some of the highlights that I experienced were scuba diving the Great Barrier Reef, off-roading on Frasier Island, touring the Sydney Opera House, and driving the Great Ocean Road in Melbourne. I also got to visit New Zealand where we went downhill skiing in June, and experience the remarkable views that the beautiful country had to offer.

Throughout this experience I met so many amazing people from all over the world and made great long lasting friends in the process.

It really was an amazing semester and is something that I will remember for the rest of my life. I am very thankful I was able to check this experience off my bucket list and wouldn’t trade it for the world.
My trip to India was an experience that I will never forget. The reason I went to India was because of a class I had with Dr. Sesha Kethineni. Right after she handed me information about the trip in class, I wanted to go. I had no idea what to expect of India. As soon as we began sightseeing, I was overwhelmed with surprise. The country was full of history dating back 1,500 years. We saw many temples and sights that are a part of Indian culture. An important image I will never forget is the Taj Mahal. Its beauty is so overwhelming that there are not enough words to describe it. My favorite cities that we visited were Jaipur and Udaipur. Jaipur is known as the “Pink City,” because all the buildings are painted pink. Jaipur was beautiful because it was a city by water and surrounded by mountains. One of the most beautiful sites in Jaipur is the Lake Palace, a palace that is 266 years old surrounded by water. My favorite sites from the trip were seeing all the forts. It was amazing to be able to witness structures that have withstood the test of time. Each fortification is unique in its own way in architecture and placement.

For one week we studied at the University of Madras in Chennai. There, we heard research presentations given by professors and students. The student presentations were very interesting. All of the students who presented were working on their Ph.Ds. in Criminology. We got to meet some very interesting professors who had years of research and experience in the field. We had the honor of meeting Dr. C. L. Ramakrishnan, who is the head of the Criminology department. He gave us an introduction to the criminal justice system in India. It was surprising to learn that some aspects of the Indian criminal justice system are similar to ours. Another professor, Dr. M. Srinivasan, gave us very interesting information about the position of victims in India. The topic of his presentation was the limited trust of police by the Indian people. There are many programs implemented in India to increase public trust of police. These programs are similar to the ones that we have in the U.S. In India, community policing is a very powerful initiative. We also had the opportunity to explore criminal justice facilities outside of the classroom. We visited the Tamil Nadu police station, which is the state in which Chennai is located. It was very unique to see the differences in our police stations compared to stations in India. The greatest opportunity we had was when we visited the Tamil Nadu Police Academy. It is probably the most professional institution I have ever seen. One of the greatest things about India was the hospitality of its people. This was something that I had never encountered. People welcomed us into their homes, lavishing us in cookies, delicious mangos, and the best Indian Chai tea. The best part of India was the culture shock of the locals. As I roamed the streets at 6’4”, I felt like a movie star. People stared and would stop me and want to take pictures as I towered over them.

The person I think that deserved the most credit for making this trip phenomenal was Dr. Sesha Kethineni. It’s a different experience being in a class with a professor, then going on a trip with her. She was an easy person to travel with, and made the trip three times as fun because of her charisma and jokes. By the end of the trip I could tell she was very exhausted from the constant traveling and the heat, but somehow she always found enough energy to make sure this adventure was one that we would never forget.
Homecoming is a great time for us to reconnect with alums! Each year, the College of Applied Science and Technology hosts a tent during the Homecoming Tailgate on Game Day (October 5th). All CJS alums are invited and encouraged to stop by! Join us September 30-October 6, 2013 for the Alumni Association’s 150th Anniversary!

Click here for more Alumni Events!

Do you know an alum who deserves special recognition? Nominate him or her to the CAST Academy of Achievement or the CAST Hall of Fame!

What are you doing now? The CJS Department wants to know! Send your updates to criminaljustice@IllinoisState.edu!

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