



Welcome to the School of Criminology and Security Studies Newsletter, Spring 2023 edition. This newsletter is designed to provide students, staff, faculty, and our alumni with information about all the great things going on in our school.

National Center of Academic Excellence In Cyber Defense

Indiana State University has been designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense, recognized by the National Security Agency (NSA) of the United States of America. The NSA and Department of Homeland Security jointly sponsor the CAE-CD with the goal of reducing vulnerability in our national information infrastructure by promoting higher education and research in cyber defense and producing professionals with cyber defense expertise.

In December of 2022 Dr. Jason James, an Assistant Professor in the School of Criminology and Security Studies, received the great news that Indiana State University had been recognized as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense. (Continued on the next page)



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This was a year-long process and review by the (NSA) during which Dr. James was key in working to meet their numerous requirements. Indiana State University will join only a “handful” of other universities that meet this requirement. Official letters of notification were sent to the Indiana State Governor, Members of Congress, and appropriate Congressional Committees. A formal celebration was held on June 8, 2023 in Seattle, Washington. The designation is good through 2027, after which a review will take place in order to renew the standing by the NSA.

The School of Criminology and Security Studies celebrates 50 years

On March 31, 2023 the School of Criminology and Security Studies held its 50th anniversary celebration. The school, whose history began in 1972, celebrated many milestones during the celebration. The event was held at the ISU Sycamore Banquet Center and included a formal dinner followed by guest speakers. Speakers included Dr. Melinda Roberts-Dean, Dr. Chris Olsen-Provost, School of Criminology Director Dr. DeVere Woods, Criminology Professor Lisa Decker-JD, and graduate students Carla Morales and Courtney Hughes. Keynote speakers were ISU Criminology Alumnis, Mr. Bob Casey and Mr. Dave Brant. Criminology Senior Instructor Travis Behem organized the event. We would like to thank the staff at the Sycamore Banquet Center, Sodexo, and Director of Development College of Arts & Sciences Courtney Zellars. See pictures of the event on the following page.



On March 30, 2023 The School of Criminology and Security Studies Held Its 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Sycamore Banquet Center on the ISU Campus.





Back Row: L-R, Dr. Akgul, Dr. Grimes, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Avdija, Mr. Hartsock, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Behem, Dr. James.

Front Row: L-R, Dean Roberts, Dr. Gallagher, Dr. Woods-Director, Dr. Schrink (Ret.), Professor Decker, Dr. Murray, Dr. Barton, Provost Olsen.



Criminology Alum and Keynote Speaker Bob Casey



Criminology Alum and Keynote Speaker Dave Brant

Alumni Recognition

Sheriff Steve Bush has had an extensive career in law enforcement. Sheriff Bush graduated from Indiana State University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology. He began his career with the New Albany (Indiana) Police Department in 1991 and graduated from the 109th session of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in 1992. During his time at New Albany he was a merit Corporal, Sergeant, Captain, and Detective for over 8 years. Steve was also in a command position as Major overseeing budget and payroll along with being a commander over the Detective Division. Steve was a SWAT team member for 8 years, general instructor and a field training officer. He received numerous awards as a New Albany police officer.



In 2023 Steve was elected as the sheriff of Floyd County, Indiana and retired from New Albany PD. During his first two months in office his department has been working on programming both inside and outside of the jail an effort to create and improve programs to combat mental health and addiction issues. They have instituted a program where officers are carrying Narcan in their cars, and putting education programs back in the jail and working with the courts on re-entry programs for inmates going back into society. These are just a few examples of what Steve's department is doing.

From 2004-2016 Sheriff Bush also served as a county commissioner. During that time he helped in controlling and maintaining county property, including the courthouse and jail. He helped oversee construction of roads and bridges, including planning and zoning. As a Commissioner, he received the Sagamore Award in 2016.

During his time at Indiana State University Sheriff Bush ran cross country and track and was a letterman in cross country. A highlight of his running career since leaving ISU was qualifying for and running in the 118th Boston Marathon in 2018. Sheriff Bush said, "The weather was horrible that day (41 degrees, 30 mph head wind and rain), but I set a personal record and finished the race when over one-third of the elite field dropped out."

Sheriff Bush has been married to his wife Danna for 30 years and they have two adult children, Christian 26 and Ashley 24. They have three grandchildren ages 1, 2 and 3. In March of 2023 Sheriff Bush returned to ISU with some of his staff to attend the criminology career fair. We would like to thank Sheriff Bush for his service in law enforcement and we hope to have him back to campus in the near future.



Alumni Recognition

Matt Thompson started his career for Lowes in Asset Protection (AP) in an entry level position. After learning the business quickly from a couple of great store managers and doing well in the AP role, he was promoted to a Senior AP Manager and given responsibility over several stores and was responsible for training new AP Specialist. Matt picked up the job quickly and really enjoyed the investigative responsibility, as well as his involvement in the overall business and the impact AP has on the bottom line.



After less than two years he was promoted to a District AP Manager role, managing 32 stores in 5 districts. He stayed in that role for about 8 years and was then promoted to Asset Protection Director, where he had 126 stores in 5 states and managed 11 District AP Managers. Matt was responsible for Inventory Shrink, Safety, Operations, Investigations, Hazmat compliance and overall protection of the bottom line. Matt won Director of the year 3 times during his tenure and had great success in developing people. Two years ago he was approached to do something totally different and take on the role of District Manager by his Regional Vice President. Even though he had never worked in operations or run store in his career, he decided to take a different path in his career and accepted the job. Matt now runs 12 stores in the Indianapolis market and is basically responsible for everything from sales and staffing to payroll and inventory shrink. Matt believes “that having great success in the AP role for 25 years that gave me the confidence to step out of my comfort zone and give it a try. I think it displays the versatility and opportunity in doing a retail AP job. It is a great way to learn business and can open many doors to you if you are ambitious and are willing to learn about the entire retail business.”

Matt graduated from Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and a minor in Psychology in 1993. He has been married to his wife, Shannon, for 27 years. They have 3 sons, Liam, 22, Connor, 20 and Eli, who is 16. Matt is still an

avid workout enthusiast, he loves fishing with his sons and they spend a great deal of time watching and playing sports. Their two oldest boys are football players at Wabash College and are also roommates. Their youngest son plays football and baseball and is a sophomore at North Central High School in Indianapolis, Indiana. Matt spent 20 years coaching football, basketball and baseball.



The School of Criminology and Security Student Visit High Schools Career and College Days



Dr. Chris Gallagher, and Graduate students Chase Lawhorn and Kimbra Pinnell visit Mattoon High School.



Pictured L-R, Undergrad Student Nate Walden, Graduate Student Carla Morales, Dr. Chris Gallagher, and Senior Instructor Gary Hartsock visited with students at South Vermillion High School during their career-college day.

Junior Day at ISU



Dr. Gallagher and Dr. James at the high school Juniors Day. The College of Arts and Science had faculty from various departments set up at University Hall for students to talk with faculty and get information about all the great opportunities ISU has to offer. There was a very large turnout of high school students at the event.



From L-R, Senior Instructor Travis Behem, Dr. Christian Gallagher, and undergrad students Riley Murphy and Jocelyn Astleford visited Linton Stockton High School during their career-college day. We would like to thank Linton Stockton for the invitation. We met with several students during our visit and look forward to returning in the future.

School of Criminology and Security Studies Promotions

In February of 2023 Criminology Instructor Travis Behem and Instructor Gary Hartsock were both promoted to Senior Instructor. Travis and Gary have been teaching full time at ISU for 10 years. Gary taught as an adjunct for 20 years at ISU. In 2013 Gary retired from the Indiana Department of Corrections after 35 years of service. Travis has worked as a loss prevention specialist, and was a police dispatcher and police officer for Indiana State University Police Department and a police officer for the Terre Haute Police Department. Gary teaches introduction to criminology, and introduction to corrections and is the internship coordinator for both undergrad and graduate students. Gary also assists with recruiting for criminology and serves on various committees. Travis teaches introduction to policing and report writing classes. He also oversees department recruitment, marketing, and special events such as the criminology career fair and guest speaker series, and serves on various committees. Both instructors are alumni of ISU and hold Masters of Science in degrees in Criminology . Congratulations to both senior instructors.

Student Awards

Cybercriminology and Security Studies major Nathan Walden was one of the spring 2023 recipients of the Hines Memorial Medal.

Criminology and Criminal Justice Student Emily Wolf was the recipient of the Jeffrey L. Shrink Outstanding Senior Award.

Criminology and Criminal Justice Student Arelindiana Aquino was the recipient Officer Brent Long and Fallen Officers Memorial Scholarship.

Cybercriminology and Criminology and Criminal Justice major Michaela Arn Tessonni was the recipient of the Dr. William Nardini Memorial Scholarship in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Cybercriminology and Criminology and Criminal Justice major Hayley Lawbaugh was the recipient of the Michael E. Reese Excellence in Criminology Scholarship.

Students Visit the Vigo County Juvenile Justice Center

On February 23rd and 24th, Instructor Matt Morgan took his Juvenile Delinquency class to the Vigo County Juvenile Justice Center. They met with the director, and ISU Criminology Alum Norm Loudermilk. He provided a tour of the facility and discussed the many aspects of the juvenile justice center and juvenile justice. We would like to thank Mr. Loudermilk for providing this opportunity for our students.



The Indiana State University Amateur Radio Club

Exciting news from the Amateur Radio Club. INAN Student, Rowan Eggert, President of the Ham Radio Club (Amateur Radio Club at Indiana State University or ARC@ISU - W9ISU), passed her Extra Class license exam with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This is the highest-class license available for Hams. She found that several agencies of the Intelligence Community are hiring individuals with this license (e.g. the National Security Agency or NSA). INAN students, Ashlyn Kopf and Payton Ferency also passed their FCC Technician class exams.

In April, 2023, the Sycamore Leadership Awards and the Amateur Radio Club won best Emerging Student Organization. President of the club, Rowan Eggert said, "One year ago, we still met in the conference room in HH and hoped that we could get the club off the ground for the next semester. Many more licenses and meetings later, we got a ham shack, lots of new members, and some new equipment. We are turning into the club we have always wanted to be and I'm proud to continue that effort next year."

The Amateur Radio Club at Indiana State University (ARC@ISU) held a "Parks on the Air" (POTA) event at Turkey Run State Park on Sat 9/23/2023. About two dozen members of the Club and the Wabash Valley amateur radio community (Terre Haute) attended.

POTA is a national "ham" activity in which amateur radio operators from around the world check in on various "ham" bands. The ARC@ISU set up seven radios on seven different bands and made about 40 contacts around the globe, including remote African islands, Europe, and South America. Other contacts were made from California to Maine.

The Rose-Hulman ARC joined us in sharing technology interests, hotdogs, bratwursts, and a ton of other food and beverages. The Club rented a pavilion in the Park and participants were there from around 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., making radio contacts and talking around the two fireplaces and the cooking fire.

The radio club is overseen by Dr. Bob Girod. If you would like to join the club please email him at Robert.Girod@indstate.edu.



Members of the
Amateur Radio Club.

Pictures from Turkey Run State Park during the “Parks on The Air” event. Pictures provided by Dr. Girod



ISU Students and Faculty Visit
Dayton, Ohio Hamvention

Students faculty and staff from ISU went to the Dayton Hamvention Outside of Xenia Ohio May 19, 20, and 21.

This is the largest ham fest in the world and has between 1500 and 20000 visitors every year. The Japanese, British, and German Radio societies were represented.

AMSAT Presented a forum and booth on amateur radio in space and communicating with the International space station and satellites.

Another forum was held on amateur radio and the law.

Several other forums were held in hundreds of manufactured manufacturers of other representative's filled more than 6 buildings and a flea market field.



School of Criminology and Security Studies Career Fair

On March 20, 2023 the School of Criminology and Security Studies hosted its annual career fair. We had a strong agency turnout, hosting 47 agencies. Students were able to talk with agency representatives about careers in various fields within criminology and criminal justice, as well as learn about what these agencies are looking for in employees. Pictures courtesy of ISU Photographer Tony Campbell.



Criminology Preview Days

On February 20, 2023 the admissions department hosted a university preview day. The School of Criminology and Security Studies hosted 12 students who were able to talk with faculty about our programs, and visit the Cyber-Intel and Crime lab.

On February 28, 2023 The School of Criminology and Security Studies and the Admissions Department hosted Criminology preview day. There were 40 students and their families in attendance. They were able to meet faculty, tour the Cyber-Intel lab and Crime lab, eat lunch with faculty in a student dining hall, and tour campus.

On April 4, 2023 The School of Criminology and Security Studies, along with the Admissions Department, hosted a Criminology preview day. There were 37 students and their families in attendance. They were able to meet faculty, tour the Cyber-Intel lab and Crime lab, eat lunch in a student dining hall, and tour campus.

On April 11, 2023 The School of Criminology and Security Studies hosted a group of students from Linton Stockton High School. The students were able to talk with admissions, tour the Cyber and Crime lab and meet with faculty members for lunch.

Girl Scouts Visit ISU And Cyber-Intel Lab

On March 18, 2023 the School of Criminology and Security Studies hosted a group of Girl Scouts. The Scouts worked in the Cyber lab and earned badges in Cybercrime. The Scouts were able to tour campus, listen to a presentation from admissions, and eat lunch on campus. We were happy to host The Girl Scouts, and glad they enjoyed their day at ISU. Special thanks to Jilian Bontjes from Admissions for helping organize this event. Additional thanks go to Dr. Jason James, and Jory Sejdin with the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana. We look forward to hosting a new group of Girl Scouts in the future.

Faculty Members attend Spring 2023 Commencement



Faculty News

Article provided by the ISU University Newsroom.

Franklin T. Wilson, PhD, an Associate Professor of Criminology, has received the 2022-2023 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) Outstanding Mentor Award. He is one of six to receive this year's award. Less than 100 individuals have received this award since its inception.

The international award is presented to individuals who “during the course of their career have made a significant contribution to the professional development of graduate students and junior faculty members in criminal justice.” He is also the first professor from a university in the state of Indiana to receive the award. Wilson was nominated by a former colleague and multiple former graduate students. He will be presented with the award during the awards luncheon at the ACJS Annual Meeting in National Harbor, Maryland in March.



Dean Roberts and Dr. Wilson at ACJS

This is not the first time Wilson has been recognized for his mentoring skills and knowledge of criminal justice education. In 2022, he was named a Mentor for the Center for Justice Research's [Researcher Development Institute Fellowship Program](#). The [Research Development Institute \(RDI\)](#), housed at Texas Southern University, “was established to address the lack of culturally-responsive, justice-related research training and development opportunities for students and faculty.” The fellowship program focuses on the research and professional development of Ph.D. students and new academics across the United States.

In 2019 he was a State of Opportunity in America Summit Invitee. This event is conducted by The Center for Advancing Opportunity (CAO), a Washington, D.C.-based research and education initiative created by a partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the Charles Koch Foundation, and Koch Industries. The summit focused on At Risk Communities and the role of education and criminal justice. Only 200 scholars, entrepreneurs, civic and private leaders were invited to take part. Wilson was named in the Indiana State University First Destination Survey by Classes [2020](#), [2021](#), and 2022 as having contributed to student success at ISU. In 2020, he was named one of the [top 20 Influencers in Criminology](#) by Cronycle and in 2017 he was [named one of fifteen Top Criminology and Criminal Justice Professors on Twitter](#) by OnlineEducation.com.



From L-R: Dr. Akgul, Dr. Wilson and Dr. Avdiya at

Faculty News

The ISU Sustainable Cities Program 2022

Indiana State University has partnered with the City of Marshall, IL for the Sustainable Cities program. Dr. Akgul, along with his undergraduate students, completed a project on drugs and drug addiction with the city officials in Fall 2022. The project was supported by University Engagement.



Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) Conference 2023

Our faculty and a graduate assistant attended the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) Annual Conference in Maryland on March 14-18, 2023. The title of the presentation was “COVID-19 and Policing: A Qualitative Study of Sheriff Departments in Indiana” by Arif Akgul, Christian Gallagher, Avdi Avdija, Mehmet Sozer, Robert Girod, and Kimbra Pinnell.



Pictured L-R Graduate Assistant Kimbra Pinnell, Dr. Avdi Avdija, Dr. Arif Akgul, Dr. Franklin Wilson and Dean Melinda Roberts.

National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) Conference 2023

INTEL students project on “Developing a Drug Strategy through EPIC-N Model: A Case Study” was accepted by the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). The research team received a travel grant to present this research in Eau Claire, WI in April 13-15, 2023. This project was supported by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creativity (CURC) and the Center for Community Engagement.



Dr. Akgul and undergraduate student Eliza Montgomery

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Indiana State University has as its major goal to discover new knowledge and to assist the community in solving problems while providing all of its students a sound liberal arts education with a focus on understanding criminal behavior, the criminal justice system, mechanisms of social control and their relationship to society. Students electing to major in criminology and criminal justice are prepared for careers in the criminal justice field as well as for entry into law school or a graduate program in criminology or a related discipline. The wide variety of courses offered enables each student to determine his or her program in terms of interests and aspirations. An integral part of the criminology and criminal justice program is the internship which allows students to gain a clearer understanding of criminal justice agencies.

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ALUMNI CORNER

Our alumni continue to make a difference and influence their communities. For example, alums may be found serving in numerous local, state, federal and international police and corrections positions, or working as probation and parole officers, attorneys, academics, and other jobs. Many have served as judges, wardens, sheriffs, police chiefs, or directors of prominent positions such as NCIS, Regional FBI, Department of Homeland Security and other notable positions both domestic and international. We are proud of our alumni, their achievements, and the impact they have made both domestically and globally.

We want to hear from our Alumni. Please contact us and tell us how ISU influenced your career since graduation. Also let us know if you would be interested in coming back to campus to speak to our students. Email Travis.Behem@indstate.edu with your story.

We are looking forward to bringing back guest speakers and events for the fall of 2023. Please check our webpage for future updates. [Www.indstate.edu/cas/ccj](http://www.indstate.edu/cas/ccj).

Keep up with all the current news and information from ISU and the School of Criminology and Security Studies.

Find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/indstateccj/?fref=nf>

The School of Criminology and Security Studies newsletter is produced and designed by Instructor Travis Behem. Editing: Travis Behem, Dr. Woods. Dr. Gallagher. Contributors: Professor Lisa Decker, Instructor Travis Behem, Dr. Bob Girod, Dr. Jason James, and Graduate Assistant Kimbra Pinnell.

Special thanks to the ISU photographers for their work. Comments and corrections may be emailed to: Travis.Behem@indstate.edu.