



Welcome to the School of Criminology and Security Studies Newsletter, Spring 2019 edition. This newsletter is designed to provide current students, staff, and faculty, as well as our alumni, with information about all the great many things going on in our school.

## CCJ Department Changes to the School of Criminology and Security Studies

We are excited to announce that we are now the School of Criminology and Security Studies. On May 10, 2019 the ISU Board of Trustees changed our name from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice to the School of Criminology and Security Studies. Our new name will aid in recruiting new students and faculty, and better reflect the growth and development of our new programs. Criminology is an ever expanding field, and we are adjusting to remain relevant and competitive. In the fall of 2018, we launched new programs that greatly expanded our focus and better addressed the threats and challenges of modern life.

Our approach has broadened, but our values remain the same. All of our programs will continue to prepare students for productive careers in public service and can be completed on-campus or online. Becoming a School will allow all of our programs to thrive and better address the challenges confronting criminology and criminal justice today.

Continued on next page.

Spring 2019—Issue 7

### Inside The Issue

- Name change...1-2
- CCJ Marketing and Recruiting...2
- Recruiting and Marketing efforts...3
- Cyber Technology Conference...4
- ISU Alum Teri Stockham...5
- Spotlight on CCJ Alumni...6-9
- ISU Career Fair...10
- Faculty news...11-12
- Alumni Corner, Facebook...13

Continued from page one.

Our award-winning Criminology and Criminal Justice program remains the University's largest enrolled program and ranks among the largest programs in the country. It is a great option for students interested in careers in criminal justice and related fields. We also offer minors in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement and Evidence, Corrections, Law and Administration, and Forensic Investigation.

Our Intelligence Analysis program prepares students to collect, process, and analyze data, problems, and threats. It is an appropriate major for those interested in careers in criminal justice, public service, the military, and other large public and private agencies. Students choose concentrations in Counterintelligence, Criminal Intelligence, Intelligence Operations, or Intelligence Collection.

Our Cybercriminology and Security Studies program prepares students to deal with a variety of security threats. Students choose a concentration in either Cybercrime or Physical Security. The Cybercrime Concentration prepares students to analyze, investigate, and respond to digital threats. Our unique social engineering approach enables our students to be distinctively qualified for today's digital challenges. Our Physical Security Concentration prepares students for the global complexities of security today. It is appropriate for those seeking careers in corporate security, retail and loss prevention, border security, travel security, and many other related fields.

We have also redesigned our graduate program to better serve our students. Our Master of Science and Master of Arts degrees allow students to focus up to 21 credits in areas of interest that result in a mentored experience and a portfolio of expertise. Our graduate degrees are appropriate for those interested in criminology, criminal justice, intelligence analysis, cybercrime, private security, national security, and many other related fields.

We thank our alums for their valuable feedback and support that keeps our programs competitive. Your comments and concerns help us to continually adjust our approach and programs. Please stay in touch.

GO BLUE!



## Marketing and Recruiting



On April 2, 2019 Instructor Travis Behem, along with Extended Learning recruiter Charles Hawkins (pictured) visited the Lafayette, IN Ivy Tech campus during their criminology and transfer day. During this event Ivy Tech and local high school students could meet with various criminology agencies to get more information about careers in the criminal justice field. Students could also meet with other universities to discuss transferring to a four year college. Several students talked with us about transferring to ISU. We would like to thank the Ivy Tech Criminal Justice Chair, Mary Mitchell for inviting us back to this years event. It was a well planned event and we look forward to returning in the future.

## Faculty Recruitment Efforts Continue

During the past few months advisors talked with students and members of other agencies about our programs, and the opportunities that ISU offers.

Instructor Gary Hartsock met with capstone classes at Ivy Tech, Terre Haute, IN. Instructor Travis Behem and Charles Hawkins attended a career and college day event at Ivy Tech, Lafayette, IN. Travis Behem and Dr. Shannon Barton, Graduate Coordinator, met with Indiana Law Enforcement cadets at ILEA in Plainfield, Indiana. Instructor Tyler Burns also visited Ivy Tech in Bloomington, IN during their transfer day. Dr. Shannon Barton and Instructor Bill Mackey met with 8th grade and Junior students at Rivet Jr/Sr High School in Vincennes, IN to discuss career opportunities and our programs.



## Police and Military Academy Graduates To Get CCJ Credits

Beginning in the fall of 2018, graduates of approved police or military academies (basic training) may receive credits for one of our majors. This may include up to 9 credit hours of undergraduate or 6 hours of graduate work. Graduates will need to submit their official information and proof of graduation to ISU and the School of Criminology and Security Studies for review. Please contact us for more information.

## 2019 Cyber Technology Conference and Policy Summit

On January 8th and 9th, multiple faculty members and students attended the Cybertechnology Conference & Policy Summit at the Conrad Indianapolis hotel, where Indiana State University was a 'Platinum Level' sponsor. Instructor Travis Behem, Instructor Bill Mackey, and Professor Shannon Barton along with undergraduate student Sam Pickens (whom is currently completing his internship with the Governor's Council on Cybersecurity, as well as working as a research assistant for the locally owned Alloy Cybersecurity), attended the conference and promoted our new majors in Cybercriminology & Security Studies and Intelligence Analysis.

The conference was far reaching and attended by significant figures in the cybersecurity world, including Thomas Wheeler (Senior Advisor U.S. Dept of Education), Sujit Raman (Associate Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice), and Gene Price (Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy). A large number of employers and federal agencies were represented, including Comcast, U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Clear Object, Pondurance, Ontario Systems, Smithville, Matrix Integration, Ni-case, and Fireeye. Over the two days, we discussed cutting edge topics such as securing our nation's critical infrastructure, the Internet of things, cryptocurrency, countering malign foreign influence on our elections, and countermeasures for hostile foreign state theft of technology, with cyber experts.



Pictured (L-R) Cybercriminology student Sam Pickens, Dr. Shannon Barton, Instructor Travis Behem and Bill Mackey

## ISU Alumni and Guest Speaker: Dr. Teri Stockham



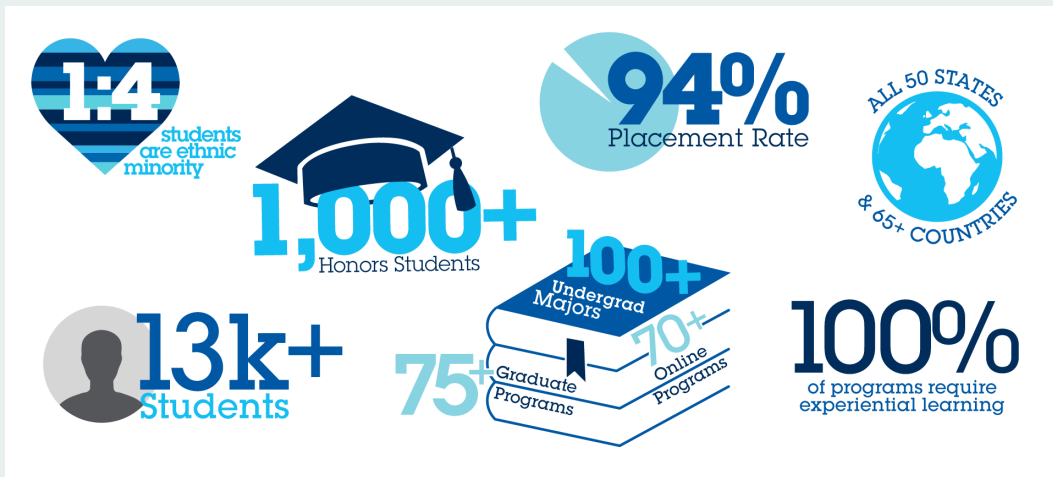
On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the School of Criminology and Security Studies welcomed Dr. Teri Stockham as a guest speaker in Professor Gary Hartsock's Criminology 200 course.

Dr. Stockham is a respected consultant, author, and lecturer in the field of forensic toxicology. She graduated from Indiana State University with her bachelor's degree as an honors student. She also obtained a master's degree from The George Washington University and a Ph.D. from the Medical College of Virginia. Her extensive education is also complimented with experience as Chief Toxicologist for Broward County, Florida. Currently, Dr. Stockham serves as a consultant to a number of law firms as an expert witness for various court cases involving personal injury, insurance defense, probation/parole, court martial, DUI, workers compensation, child custody and drug facilitated sexual assault.

Dr. Stockham provided students with a discussion of opportunities in the field of forensic science. After defining forensic science as any science used for the purposes of the law, she described what becoming a forensic scientist entails. She discussed how forensic scientists must determine which evidence is relevant and then determine the appropriate test. Forensic scientists must also interpret the results as well as be able to help others understand the results. She emphasized the ability to communicate clearly as an important aspect of the job. She also discussed of the *CSI Effect* and how it affects jury perception of forensics.

A new video release from the provost office about all the great things going on at ISU.

<https://www.indstate.edu/about>





## SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

ISU Criminology and Criminal Justice Alums represent the values of ISU and the School of Criminology and Security Studies. They have also represented the core values of ISU and criminology. In this edition we recognize Jacob Blackstone, Matt Thompson, and Ryan Sharp.

If you would like to share your story about your time at ISU and your career, we would like to hear from you. Not only does this give us a chance to recognize you, it is also good for our students to see the success of our alumni and the various career paths available to them.

For more information on how you can be a part of our Alumni connection, email: [Travis.behem@indstate.edu](mailto:Travis.behem@indstate.edu).

### Criminology Alum—Jacob Blackstone Visits Campus

On April 22, 2019, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice welcomed Alumnus and Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) Special Agent Jacob Blackstone back to ISU as a guest speaker in three classes. SA Blackstone shared his experiences as an ISU student and his career trajectory focusing on his current position as a Special Agent with DSS. He acknowledged that the DSS may be a lesser-known federal agency to many students, yet its history and purpose is older than that of the FBI. Students were intrigued to discover that DSS is part of the Department of State with origins dating back to 1916 and the Office of the Chief Special Agent. With a global force of over 2,000 agents, the mission of DSS is to ensure the integrity of U.S. travel documents and to provide a safe and secure environment for officials to conduct U.S. foreign policy. While DSS often focuses their efforts on protecting foreign diplomats, agents also conduct investigations, both in the U.S. and overseas, on issues related to passport and visa fraud.

SA Blackstone stated his journey to becoming a DSS Special Agent was not typical. It was the culmination of many experiences that influenced his current career. While earning his bachelor's degree from ISU, SA Blackstone served in the Army Reserves and worked as a correctional officer for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). After graduation, he desired additional perspective on the criminal justice system, so he left BOP to work as an Agent for the U.S. Border Patrol. While working with the Border Patrol, he decided to apply to law school and eventually obtained a JD from Valparaiso University Law. Upon graduation, he became a deputy prosecutor in South Bend, Indiana. (Continued on next page.)

He emphasized to the students that through these career choices he developed writing, communication, and interview skills which helped him obtain his current position with DSS.

He further emphasized to students that the journey to success is not always going to be easy. Continuing to move forward and learning new skills, however, is the key to obtaining a meaningful career. Students must find a way to set themselves apart from all others not only through earning a degree in higher education but also through the development and refinement of field related skills such as physical fitness, firearms training, defensive driving, and writing techniques. Those who further learn how to manage time and stress as well as develop leadership skills will be the most successful in their respective fields.

SA Blackstone has an additional connection to the CCJ Department through his father, Glenn Blackstone, who teaches as an adjunct in the program. We would like to thank SA Blackstone for taking time to return to campus to meet with students and faculty. It was great having him discuss his career and offer his advice to students about pursuing their future careers.

To learn more about the history of the Diplomatic Security Service's history check out the following document provided by the US Department of State: <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/176589.pdf>



Pictured L-R, Adjunct Instructor Glenn Blackstone, Dr. Woods—Chair, Senior Instructor Tyler Burns, CCJ Alum Jacob Blackstone, Instructor Travis Behem



## Matt Thompson—Lowe's Regional Asset Protection Director



Matt Thompson is a Regional Asset Protection Director for Lowe's corporation, a fortune 500 company. Matt attended Indiana State University from 1989-1993, graduating with a bachelor's in criminology & criminal justice with a minor in psychology. After graduating, Matt worked for a couple of years in loss prevention/asset protection. In 1996, he joined Lowe's as an in-store loss prevention specialist working on the west side of Indianapolis and quickly realized that he enjoyed this side of criminal justice and learning about business and leadership. Within 18 months, he was promoted twice and was running 30 stores as a district loss prevention manager. After several productive years in that role, he was promoted to loss prevention director and has been in that role since 2005. Matt is now responsible for 125 stores in 5 states.

Matt offered some advice for students in ISU's criminology and criminal justice program: "students should keep their options open, explore all avenues for employment and get a business minor. Many of the criminology students pigeonhole themselves into thinking they have to go into law enforcement with this degree, and that is simply not true. There are many other professions that have elements of doing investigations. I would recommend getting a business minor to everyone. I had to learn business from mentors and really did not have much of a concept of basic business, let alone how to read a financial [report] or troubleshoot problems. It makes you more marketable and in general it is good to have a baseline knowledge about business. If you are interested in the private sector get your LPC certificate before you graduate. Finally, working in the private sector can be very rewarding with great salaries, stock benefits, 401k options and bonus programs."

Other advice Matt offers college students is to, "learn business, no matter what major you are pursuing. Take leadership classes. Get any professional certifications completed prior to graduation. Leverage any career service programs on campus. These are great to teach you how to interview, how to dress and resume writing. Participate in internships, it is a great way to get some idea of what you want to do as well as network. Create a LinkedIn account and start building your network. Don't post anything on social media that could cost you a job down the road. Finally, choose a profession that you are going to love, or you will have a miserable life no matter how much you make. I am thankful that asset protection found me and I really enjoy it. It has opened doors for me, helped me develop professionally, challenged me and afforded me some great opportunities both professionally and personally."

Matt is married to his wife, Shannon and they have 3 boys: Liam (28), Connor (16), and Eli (12). All of his sons are active in sports and Matt has been coaching football, baseball, and basketball for over 10 years.

He is also the president of a non-profit called IROCC (Indiana Retail Organized Crime Coalition). IROCC is a business made up of retailers, law enforcement, prosecutors and people from the business community with the goal of addressing organized retail crime. They have been in existence since 2011 and have over 700 members.



## **Ryan Sharp—Senior U.S. Probation Officer for the Southern District of Indiana, Re-entry Specialist**



In 2003, Mr. Sharp began his career as an adult probation officer for Marion County Superior Court Probation in Indianapolis, Indiana. After four years, he transitioned to a smaller county and worked as a juvenile probation officer for approximately three years. During the first eight years of his criminal justice career, he had the opportunity to meet a few federal probation officers. Working at the federal level is a significant accomplishment for a probation officer and this became Mr. Sharp's career goal. To reach this goal, he recognized the need of pursuing further education in criminal justice. In 2007, he had the privilege to begin the Masters of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice program at Indiana State University. Mr. Sharp was a full-time professional in the criminal justice field and also had several young children at home. The ability to attend classes online was a significant opportunity offered through ISU. Mr. Sharp learned the importance of balancing work, life, and school obligations and excelled in the Criminal Justice Program. Mr. Sharp graduated in 2009 with a 4.0 GPA. He chose the emphasis in Correctional Counseling as it mirrored his professional experiences as a probation officer. He also enjoyed Dr. Polizzi's classes in this subject area. Though he enjoyed all of my professors at ISU, Dr. Polizzi is the one that he remembers the most. He offered relevant feedback that allowed Mr. Sharp to improve his writing skills and knowledge basis in the criminal justice field.

Since graduating from ISU, Mr. Sharp was quickly able to open the doors to his career goals. In January 2011, he began his career with the United States Probation Department in the Southern District of Indiana. He spent the first four years working out of the U.S. District Court House in Terre Haute, Indiana. He is now back in Indianapolis and in 2016 was promoted to Senior U.S. Probation Officer and serves as his district's reentry specialist. One of his favorite responsibilities, is being part of the Southern District of Indiana's reentry court. Earning his Master's degree at ISU also opened the opportunity to teach in adjunct capacity. Since 2013, I have taught Criminology courses through Liberty University Online. Mr. Sharp enjoys having the opportunity of sharing my professional experiences with his students as well as being able to understand the challenges facing online students as he was once one as well.

Mr. Sharp's advice for current ISU students is to take full advantage of the support and resources offered through the criminal justice program. Earning their degree will open doorways for their future career goals in the criminal justice system.

## ISU Criminology Career Fair—April 2019

On April 10, 2019, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice held its annual career fair at the Hulman Memorial Student Union, Dede II and III. Over 40 agencies were represented at the career fair. Local, state, federal agency representatives, along with various private sector companies, and military recruiters were on hand to talk with students about internships and career opportunities. We had several alumni who are now working in the field represent their agencies. Approximately 250 students attended the event. We would like to thank all the agency representatives who attended and spoke with our students about internships and careers. We would also like to thank the ISU Career Center who co-sponsored the event with the School of Criminology and Security Studies.



Pictures provided by ISU multimedia services

## Faculty News



FCC Jennifer Dean presenting to Dr. Barton

Dr. Shannon Barton was invited to be a guest speaker by the The Federal Bureau of Prison Affirmative Employment Committee and the Federal Woman's Program for the National Women's History Month Lunch & Learn of FCC Terre Haute. Dr. Barton gave an overview of her career path and research particularly focusing on the relationship between crime, education, and poverty. The discussion was enlightening and well received. Dr. Barton would like to thank the BOP Affirmative Employment Committee and Federal Women's Program for their invitation and participation. The presentation was given on March 6, 2019.



Dean Olsen (L) presenting to Dr. Schaefer (R)

Dr. Brian Schaefer, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice recently attended the Research Network for Misdemeanor Justice (RNMJ) annual meeting in New York City. The Research Network for Misdemeanor Justice is an eight-city research network under the Data Collaborative for Justice at John Jay College in New York City. Led by Drs. Preeti Chauhan and Meredith Patten the Data Collaborative for Justice and Research Network for Misdemeanor Justice uses data to share critical research about frequent interactions between community members the criminal justice system focusing on low-level enforcement.

While attending the annual meeting, Dr. Schaefer presented a paper, along with his co-author Dr. Tom Hughes (University of Louisville), examining the influence of pretrial risk assessment tools and race on a judge's decision to release defendant on a non-financial or financial bond. Further, Dr. Schaefer participated in cross-site discussions about upcoming reports involving jail populations and racial fairness in police-public interac-

Congratulations to Dr. Arif Akgul on receiving a University Research Committee grant for his study entitled "Understanding root causes of drug related deaths in Vigo County." In 2016, the state of Indiana reported 794 opioid related deaths. According to statistics provided by Indiana Youth Institute (IYI), approximately 90% of individuals with addiction in Indiana begin using illicit drugs before the age of 18. Opioid poisoning deaths have increased 500% since 1999.

The main objective of this research is to explore and understand the root causes of drug epidemic and overdose deaths in Vigo County, IN. This project will evaluate and assess the life span of individuals especially youths, who were died due to the drug overdose for the last 3 years (2016-2018). Why youths start to use / abuse drugs or what type of challenges that the addicts experience in their life span? What motivates the addicts to start drug use? How can we prevent the future drug related deaths, based on the previous cases and information? Which factors contribute the drug use more and what kind of prevention models can we develop based on the data that we collect?

*Understanding of Root Causes of Drug Related Deaths in Vigo County: A Qualitative Research (URC #19-19)* has been funded by University Research Committee of Indiana State University, which will be completed by December 31, 2020.

Dr. Arif Akgul and Dr. Avdi Avdija are the Co-Principal Investigators of this project.

## Faculty News

Congratulations to Mark Hamm who was interviewed for Adam Geller's AP article "Mosque shootings renew fears of terror by lone attacker." The article can be found at: <https://www.apnews.com/86f9980ad172454d80ca2ddff8ab1a85>.

Dr. Jennifer Murray was quoted by Ben Rowen who is the National Editor for The Pacific Standard magazine and cited her a couple times in an article that was published, titled: **Does Naming the Shooter in the Media Lead to More Mass Violence?** The article is a quick read and explores some issues that we as a society need to be thinking about. The Pacific Standard magazine looks at social justice issues and has recently been focusing its lens on mass shootings in our country and what steps we can take to reduce them.

Dr. Avdi Avdija and Dr. Arif Akgul visited the Indiana State Forensic & Health Science Laboratories located in Indianapolis, IN on Friday March 1, 2019. The state of art facility is shared by a number of agencies including the Toxicology Department, Indiana State Department of Health, and the Indiana State Police. The objective of the visit was to observe forensic capacities of the Indiana State Police Laboratory including Latent Prints, Drugs, Firearms, and Trace and Document Units. Dr. Avdija and Dr. Akgul also discussed the partnership and networking opportunities with the laboratory experts and administrators in terms of students' involvement in internship programs, careers, study tours, and research collaborations.



Pictured L-R, Dr. Arif, Dr. Avdija

Dr. Franklin T. Wilson was one of 200 scholars, entrepreneurs, civic and private leaders invited to take part in the State of Opportunity in America Summit in Washington, D.C. 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. CAO discussed at this invitation-only event the findings from its groundbreaking *The State of Opportunity in America Report 2019* published in partnership with Gallup. Information gathered from 5,800 people living in fragile communities in urban and rural areas in 49 states and the District of Columbia served as the basis for the conversation at the Summit. It also charted the course for CAO's national research agenda, drive grant programs for faculty and students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other institutions, and establish the foundation for innovative solutions to removing barriers to opportunity. Attendees listened to speakers talk about CAO's three pillars – *Education, Entrepreneurship and Criminal Justice*.



## 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.

**Indiana State University School of Criminology and Security Studies**  
207 Holmstedt Hall  
Terre Haute, IN 47809  
Phone: 812-237-2192  
Fax: 812-237-2407  
E-mail: ISU-  
[Criminology@indstate.edu](mailto:Criminology@indstate.edu)

## ALUMNI CORNER

Our alumni continue to make a difference and influence major areas in society. For example, alums may be found holding positions which include numerous local, state, federal and international police and corrections personnel, probation and parole officers, attorneys, academics, and other related jobs. Many have served in positions such as judges, wardens, sheriffs, police chiefs, directors of prominent positions such as NCIS, Regional FBI, Department of Homeland Security and various 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 graduating. Also let us know if you would be interested in coming back to campus to speak to our students. Email [Travis.Behem@indstate.edu](mailto:Travis.Behem@indstate.edu) with your story.

Watch for upcoming guest speaker events; September 9, October 2, and October 23, 2019.

Our next career fair will be April 1, 2020.

Keep up with all the current news and information from ISU and the CCJ department.

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: Graduate Assistant Reilly Teal, Dr. Barton, Dr. Woods. Contributors: Dr. Shannon Barton, Dr. DeVere Woods, Dr. Frank Wilson, Dr. Brian Schaefer, Dr. Mark Hamm, Dr. Jennifer Murray, Instructor Travis Behem, Graduate Assistant Reilly Teal.

Special thanks to the photographers of ISU for their work. Comments and corrections may be emailed to: [Travis.Behem@indstate.edu](mailto:Travis.Behem@indstate.edu).