



# WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF  
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 1  
Fall 2010

### **Criminal Justice Program Adjunct Instructor Earns Teaching Award**

In early November, Wilmington University celebrated National Distance Learning Week. The week's events culminated in a Faculty Senate presentation which highlighted the University's Distance Learning growth and future plans for supporting the online format. Faculty, nominated by online students, was recognized for their teaching excellence in the online format. Criminal Justice Program Adjunct Instructor, Rob Weaver, received a special award for his service and dedication to teaching students in this technology enhanced format.

Mr. Weaver is a Correctional Treatment Specialist with the U.S. Department of Justice – Federal Bureau of Prisons in Philadelphia and graduated from Wilmington College in the spring of 2007 with a Master's degree in the Administration of Justice. He joined



From Left: Joe Paesani, Rob Weaver, Kirk Trate

the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences as an adjunct instructor in the fall of 2007. Since that time, he has had the opportunity to teach and develop a variety of courses for both the undergraduate Criminal Justice program and the Administration of Justice graduate program.

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He has taught undergraduate courses, including *Corrections and Rehabilitation*, *Community Corrections* and *Juvenile Justice* in both the “face to face” format as well as the distance learning format. In addition, he taught a hybrid version of the *Corrections and Rehabilitation* course.

Mr. Weaver developed the distance learning version of Administration of Justice courses including: *Contemporary Issues in Corrections*, *Mental Health and the Law* and *Therapeutic Strategies for Criminal Justice Offenders*. He has taught those courses in addition to Addiction Studies in the distance learning format. He also has taught the *Therapeutic Strategies for Criminal Justice Offenders* course in the face to face format.

In making the award presentation to Mr. Weaver, Sallie Reissman, Director of Distance Learning at Wilmington University, stated, “It is the online faculty members’ dedication and compassion to educating our students that has sky rocketed distance learning enrollment.” Mr. Weaver was lauded for his personal touch with online students.

In his remarks, Mr. Weaver spoke about the influence of his mother, who is a teacher, on his decision and desire to teach, “She still answers questions and teaches me new things all the time.” Mr. Weaver described his teaching experiences as the, “best thing to happen to me after my wife and kids.” During his remarks, he credited one of his former professors, Mr. Joseph Paesani, with being a positive influence in his professional life. During the MAJ course, Issues in Corrections, Mr. Paesani challenged the students to ask the question, “What kind of leader would you be?” when confronting problems or issues.

Mr. Weaver feels that, “As technology changes and evolves in the 21st century, my belief in teaching stays the same. I always strive for my students to walk away from each class having learned something about the content of the course, and something about themselves personally. Despite the geographical location and time challenges that sometimes arise with distance education, I still find a way to personally connect with all of my students and act as a role model and an agent of change for them.”

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE WELCOMES NEW FACULTY FOR NEW JERSEY

**Sherry L. Wilson, J.D. is an Assistant Professor at Wilmington University in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the criminal justice programs.**

**Prior to joining Wilmington University, Professor Wilson was a Deputy Attorney General with the State of New Jersey for 11 years in the Division of Criminal Justice and the Division of Law.**



**During her tenure at the AG's office, she prosecuted multi-million dollar Medicaid fraud and conspiracy cases, involving multiple defendants, including high profile doctors, dentists, pharmacists and other medical providers who cheated the system. She enjoyed coordinating the efforts of detectives, legal assistants, auditors, analysts and support staff from the inception of the investigation through trial.**

**As a prosecutor, she also handled complex criminal appeals in the Appellate Division of New Jersey and the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Professor Wilson began her legal career in the Appellate Division of New Jersey as a law clerk, where she conducted extensive legal research. Before becoming an attorney, Professor Wilson was a tax analyst and cost accountant for E.I. DuPont De Nemours & Co.**

**Professor Wilson is excited about sharing her expertise, experience, talents and skills with students. She is devoted to working with the military and civilian communities at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (MDL) campus where Wilmington University offers a Master of Science in Administration of Justice (MAJ) with the option for the Homeland Security concentration. The Homeland Security curriculum has emerged from the growing focus in the national and international communities on issues such as modern terrorism, intelligence, crisis management and the U.S. Patriot Act. Professor Wilson looks forward to working with MAJ students at the Joint Base-MDL, along with a team of other dedicated instructors from various branches of the military, government agencies and law enforcement.**

**Professor Wilson is a native of New Jersey, where she presently resides with her husband and three sons. Throughout her personal and professional lives, Professor Wilson is constantly driven by one of her favorite Michelangelo quotes, *"The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark."***

# *A Note from the Dean*

**It's been a busy Fall in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. In an effort to keep our students, alumni and instructors informed of the news from the College, we have instituted a completely on-line version of our newsletter. Please take a few minutes to read about all of the great work done by our students, graduates, and faculty.**

**Through this electronic platform, we'll be able to communicate more frequently than with our previous bi-annual, printed format. The advantages are many – news from the College will be disseminated on a timely basis and we'll save our resources by not printing and mailing hundreds of paper newsletters. We're counting on your input to help us keep this newsletter informative and fresh! So, send your news stories, career updates and pictures to the editor, Prof. Lori Sitler, at:**

**[lorraine.r.sitler@wilmu.edu](mailto:lorraine.r.sitler@wilmu.edu).**

***Have a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! Best of luck with the Spring semester.***



*Photo Courtesy of Susan Gregg*

# **ODA Graduate Builds on His Strengths**

**Five years ago, Darrell Fincher was at a crossroads in his career. He held a senior position at MBNA America, but the company had been acquired, "I was ready for this change and wanted to make it a positive one to move my career in a direction where I could gain more personal satisfaction."**

**In 1996, following coursework at Morehouse College and local Delaware institutions, Fincher realized he didn't want to be an**



**Darrell is a 2007 graduate of the Organizational Dynamics**  
*Photo By: Susan Gregg*

**accountant, dropped out of school and began working in an entry level position at MBNA, "I fulfilled the dream that I had when I was eighteen – to work in corporate America - but discovered that I didn't have the level of personal satisfaction that I thought I would."**

**Darrell, the married father of two young children, dreamt about obtaining his undergraduate degree but didn't think it was an option given the traditional college format. Then he found**

**Wilmington University with its, "cutting edge, 'student-centric' programs that allowed flexibility with the support of faculty who were practitioners in the field." Fincher knew that if he went back to school he wanted to capitalize on his work experiences and find a major that he enjoyed and could build on for the future, "[Since] I was good at understanding organizational strategy and helping people manage through change, loved training,**

**relationship management and process improvement, I decided to pursue a career in Organizational Development. The Organizational Dynamics program was a perfect match.”**

**Graduating with a bachelor’s degree in Organizational Dynamics not only gave Darrell tools for the workplace but prepared him for graduate school, “First, it helped me to enhance my time management skills. Second, the program gave me the opportunity to collaborate in group settings. It mirrored what was happening in the workplace. Over the last several years, the environment that I have worked in shifted to self managed work teams. My ability to be successful at work was, in part, based on my experience at Wilmington University. Lastly, I learned a lot about my strengths and how to partner with peers to complement my abilities.” Darrell successfully completed his Master’s degree in Organizational Effectiveness Development and Change at the University of Delaware.**

**Having spent his career within the financial services industry in a variety of roles in operations and business development, he recently accepted a position at Temple University’s Fox School of Business as Associate Director of Executive Education. Darrell’s passion for education and teaching resulted in another new position – adjunct instructor at Wilmington, “I thought I could offer a unique perspective since I had completed the ODA program in the last few years. I taught my first class in the spring and loved it.”**

**Darrell credits his wife’s support and his upbringing by his “two wonderful parents” for aiding in his success, “they instilled in me at a very early age that hard work, dedication, goal setting and treating people with respect will take you far in life.” The same values he plans to share with his own children.**

## **RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO HONOR SOCIETY**

**Wilmington University's Delaware BETA Chapter of the Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society inducted 104 new members on Friday, November 12, 2010. Nearly 300 people attended the event held in the Doberstein Admissions Center on the New Castle campus.**

**Students and their families travelled from both New Jersey campuses as well as downstate Delaware to**



**attend the event.**

**Several guest speakers punctuated the evening. Former chapter officer Patricia**

**Spratley inspired students by sharing her journey of academic success in the face of adversity. Claymont Community Center's Development Director Greg Munson was on hand to accept the**



**food donated by all those who attended the induction ceremony for CCC's food closet. In addition, representatives from the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Stephanie Ferrell and Sara Mersch, were on hand to accept the used cell phones collected by honor society members this Fall.**



**In addition to inducting students, the BETA Chapter also inducted 4 adjunct faculty members in recognition of their dedication to students, emphasizing academic excellence, and helping to prepare students for future careers. Adjunct**

**faculty Scott George, Angus MacLennan, Karen Spring, and Ron Stephenson were inducted into the honor society. According to incoming President Rick Carter, "You have been role models for our students... You have responded to students in a thoughtful, sensitive manner while still maintaining academic integrity. You have shown students how to use technology**



**and emphasized the importance of using technology in the world today. By your example, you have modeled excellence in teaching and learning. These are qualities stressed by Pi Gamma Mu International.”**

**The Delaware BETA Chapter was established in 2007 at Wilmington University under the auspices of chapter advisor, Johanna Bishop. To date, over 200 students have been inducted into the DE BETA Chapter at Wilmington University.**

**Pi Gamma Mu is an honor society for students majoring in the social sciences. The mission of Pi Gamma Mu is to encourage and promote excellence in the social sciences and to uphold the ideals of scholarship and service. Membership in Pi Gamma Mu Delaware Beta Chapter is open to Wilmington University students who meet stringent academic requirements and agree to participate in service projects.**

**The philosophy of PGM is set in its basic ideals of Scholarship, Science, Social Science, Social Idealism, Sociability, Social Service, and Sacrifice.**





# Faculty Notes

## Kirk Trate

Mr. Trate attended the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) conference in Lancaster, PA this past July. Mr. Trate, along with Criminal Justice program colleague Mr. Paesani, spent considerable time in the Exhibit Hall with prospective students and police agency administrators seeking information for their employees about Wilmington University and its criminal justice program. Mr. Trate attended workshops and information sessions at the conference, as well. He and Mr. Paesani were able to provide assistance to the PCPA in better understanding online education techniques by linking some of the Wilmington University distance learning staff with the new online training director for that organization.

Mr. Trate also attended the FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA) Conference in Boston in July. This conference included various workshops and briefings and an address by the Director of the FBI, Robert Mueller. The FBINAA is an association of current and former police executives who have graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Wilmington University has three fulltime faculty members who are FBI National Academy graduates: Mr. Kirk Trate, Dr. Ed Guthrie, and Dr. Jack Cunningham. Adjunct instructors who have graduated from the FBINA include: Chief Scott McLaren, Major John Laufer, Major Melissa Zebley, Lieutenant Laura O'Sullivan, Ms. Kathy Eigelbach, and Mr. Mark Jones.

In late October Mr. Trate attended the 117<sup>th</sup> International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Education and Training Conference in Orlando, Florida. He had an opportunity to hear Attorney General Eric Holder and Vice-President Joseph Biden speak. He worked on laying the ground work for a cooperative study exchange program with the John Abbott College in Montreal. Also in attendance from the Wilmington University fulltime and adjunct faculty were Dr. Greg Warren, Mr. Bill Morgan, and Mr. Matt Coyle.



# Faculty Notes

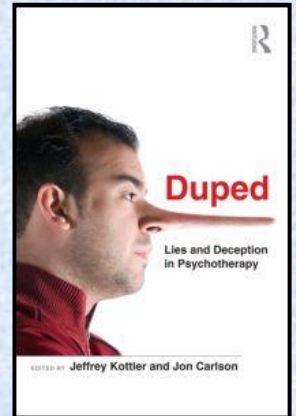
## Jim Walsh

Dr. Jim Walsh wrote a chapter entitled, "Espionage and Orphans: Lies Have Deep Truths" for a recently published book, *Duped: Lies and Deception in Psychotherapy* edited by Jeffrey Kottler and Jon Carlson.

More details about the book are available on the publisher's website at:

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415876230/>

Congratulations to Dr. Walsh on this new publication!



## Joe Paesani

Joe Paesani, Assistant Professor, was appointed by Governor Markell, to the Delaware Council on Correction. The Council is an advisory board to the Commissioner of Correction and, per its enabling legislation, considers matters, "relating to the development and progress of the correctional system in this State."

## John Malarkey

Dr. John Malarkey, professor, presented a workshop in May entitled, "Personality Disorders as They Effect Organizations," to the Association of Government Accountants, Philadelphia chapter. This year's workshop was the 10<sup>th</sup> annual presentation by Dr. Malarkey to the group.

# Faculty Notes

## **Julius Mullen**

**Dr. Julius Mullen, adjunct instructor in the Psychology program, was promoted on November 1<sup>st</sup> to the Clinical Director for Children and Families First, Inc.**

***Congratulations from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and best of luck with the new position!***

## **Lori Sitler**

**Lori Sitler, Assistant Professor, attended the National Institute of Justice's annual research conference in Washington, D.C. in June. This year's conference celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act with numerous workshops and speakers focusing on domestic violence and sexual assault. Ms. Sitler also attended a specialized training, *Child First Delaware: Interviewing Children and Preparing for Court*, which teaches an evidence-based interview protocol for cases of child maltreatment.**



## **Elisa Diller**

**Adjunct faculty member Elisa Diller made a presentation at the 2010 Delaware-Maryland American Planning Association Regional Conference called "Reality Bites: A Cautionary Tale about the New Castle County Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance." This year's conference theme was *Creating Livable Communities For All Ages: From Theory To Reality*. Diller also was appointed by Governor Markell to the Governor's Commission on Community and Volunteer Service.**



# Faculty Notes

## **Jacob Andrews and Clifton Vikara**

Jacob Andrews and Clifton Vikara, adjunct faculty members who teach in both the Criminal Justice program and Behavioral Science program, recently attended the *Advanced Practical Homicide Investigation* conference in Ocean Springs, Mississippi sponsored by the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. The conference covered crime scene investigation, bloodstain pattern analysis, interrogations, victimology, and suspect development. The training covered domestic related and stranger homicides. The main presenter, Vernon Gebreth, retired commander of the NYPD Queens Homicide Unit, has over 30 years experience investigating homicides. Other presenters included forensic pathologist, Dr. Barbara Wolf, and psychologist Dr. Richard Ovens.



Jake and Cliff agree that the training was very informative and challenging, as it covered very innovative and progressive investigative styles. The conference was geared towards advanced homicide investigation for police detectives and examiners. Andrews and Vikara are both Detectives for the New Castle County Police Department.

# Faculty Notes

## Debra Berke

**Dr. Deb Berke, along with Dr. Rona Karasik, of St. Cloud University, and Dr. Scott Scheer, of Ohio State University, presented a round table at the recent National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) annual conference, November 5, 2010 entitled "Surviving in Academia: Work-Family Fit in Hard Times."**



*Photo by Susan Gregg*

**Dr. Berke was also a discussant on a paper session on teaching online at the NCFR annual conference. This year also marks the completion of her three year term on the NCFR Board of Directors.**

# **Suicide Prevention is Everybody's Business!**

Over one million adults in the U.S. attempted to commit suicide in 2008 and over eight million seriously considered suicide according to a recent study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Young adults, ages 18 to 25 were at highest risk. Prevention alertness efforts that bring together the entire community to recognize the signs of suicide and refer to appropriate services can help reduce the rate of suicide.

In an effort to get that message out to families, educators, health professionals, community and faith-based organizations, state and local government agencies and community members, Dr. Craig Williams, Director of the Master of Science in Community Counseling (MSCC) program, co-presented a workshop entitled, "Understanding the Person at Risk" at the Fourth Delaware Suicide Prevention Conference. The September conference was sponsored by Delaware's Project LIFE (Living is For Everyone) in partnership with the Delaware Suicide Prevention Coalition of which Wilmington University's MSCC program is a member.



*Suicide Prevention Conference*

- Depression is an "equal opportunity illness" that can affect anyone, regardless of race or socioeconomic level.
- Depression is epidemic among teens today.
- Youth don't have to be clinically depressed to have suicidal feelings or attempt suicide. Even feeling extremely "bummed out" for a relatively short period of time can lead to impulsive suicide attempts.
- People who are thinking about suicide usually find some way of communicating their pain to others – often by speaking indirectly about their intentions.
- Most people who are suicidal don't really want their lives to end – they just want the pain to end. The understanding, support, and hope that you offer can be their most important lifeline.

**Information is available at:**

<http://www.mhainde.org/suicOverview.asp>.

**Crisis Intervention services available in Delaware:**

**New Castle: (302) 577-2484**

**Kent/Sussex: (800) 345-6785 or**

**Call 911.**

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