

Legal Studies Newsletter

<http://legalstudies.olemiss.edu>

Summer 2016

Letter from the Chair

Greetings! Welcome to the 2016 edition of the newsletter for the Department of Legal Studies in the School of Applied Sciences at the University of Mississippi.

The purpose of the Department of Legal Studies is to provide a quality learning experience for students. The Department of Legal Studies offers a minor in Legal Studies, a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, a Bachelor's degree in Paralegal Studies, and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. Dozens of classes are offered in the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms each academic year to meet the needs of students. I commend the Legal Studies faculty for their dedication to teaching. If you know of potential students for the Paralegal Studies or the Criminal Justice programs, please have them contact me at eglamber@olemiss.edu. We are always looking for people interested in studying the fields of Criminal Justice or Paralegal Studies. Both are dynamic and constantly changing fields that offer a wide array of rewarding career options. In addition, many students from both programs go on to graduate or law school.

The department takes great joy when students are successful in their academic endeavors and careers. Since arriving to the Department of Legal Studies in August 2013, I have had the opportunity to meet many alumni of the program. Many of the department's alumni work hard each day to make our communities a better place for all – kudos to our alumni for their dedication! To all of the graduates of the departmental programs, I commend you for going out each day to help improve the world. Collectively, everyone's efforts to help others and improve the community make a huge, positive difference. If you are a graduate of the Department of Legal Studies, please stay in touch. All of the members of the department are thrilled to hear back from graduates from the program.

Another goal of the Department of Legal Studies and the University of Mississippi is to conduct cutting-edge, high quality research that will ultimately improve the fields of Criminal Justice and Paralegal Studies and make a difference in the lives of others. By conducting relevant research, faculty members add value to the fields of Paralegal Studies and Criminal Justice, which can either directly or indirectly improve society.

I would also like to welcome Dr. Kimberly Kaiser to the Department of Legal Studies. Dr. Kaiser recently completed her doctorate from the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University. Dr. Kaiser will start in August of 2016 as tenure-track Assistant Professor.

A key goal of the Department is to increase amount of scholarship funds available for Legal Studies students. There is a great demand among our students for financial support. Your donation will make a positive difference in the lives of Legal Studies students! Donations of any amount are appreciated. For more information on how to give to the Department of Legal Studies, please contact Matthew Porchivina, Development Officer for the School of Applied Sciences, at mporchi@olemiss.edu or 662-915-1756. Working together, we can raise funds to help students pursue their education. Your generosity will help students and make a positive impact in their lives.

Again, welcome to the 2016 newsletter for the Department of Legal Studies. I invite you to become more active in helping the program strive to become even better. Your participation and support make a difference, especially in the lives of students. Working together we can build a better tomorrow for our students, alumni, and our community. I wish you and your loved ones the best wishes. Please stay in touch and Hotty Toddy!

Eric Lambert
Chair & Professor of Legal Studies





Criminal Justice Project Takes First Place in National Meeting

Alpha Phi Sigma is the national honors society for Criminal Justice, and Linda Keena, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator in the Legal Studies Department, oversees the University of Mississippi chapter.

On March 31, 2016 at the annual Alpha Phi Sigma Conference in Denver, Colorado, the University of Mississippi chapter, Mu Rho, presented a video of its annual service project in the national Outstanding Chapter Service Award competition. Lamar Yeates and Zachary Buckner, graduate students in the Master of Criminal Justice program, made the formal presentation. The University of Mississippi chapter was awarded first place in the highly competitive event. They received a \$200 cash award and bragging rights.

When Mu Rho members were trying to decide on a Community Service project for the 2015-16 academic year, they used a Utilization Focused Evaluation process to determine the needs of the local juvenile rehabilitation program, the Exchange Club Family Center. Dr. Keena and the students asked the Director,

University of
Mississippi's Alpha Phi
Sigma Chapter
receive award for
project.

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Criminal Justice students at the 2016 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and Alpha Phi Sigma meeting in Denver. Left to Right: Erin Smart, Zachary Buckner, John Lamar Yeates, Colton Vanderford, and Michael Davis

Mr. Johnson, what could be done for the Center. Director Johnson stated that the Center, which operates on community donations, needed some therapeutic recreation programming. Yet, they did not have a location to even exercise outside.

Mu Rho set out to solicit donations to create a basketball court on an adjacent parking lot. First, the lot had to be cleared of debris including trash, abandoned vehicles, and weeds. Then, the students received donations of a commercial basketball goal and professional basketballs. Mu Rho purchased paint and stencils to form the court and to restore the Center's sign. In addition, Alpha Phi Sigma members recruited students from other University departments and the men's basketball program and football program to help with developing programs.

While the sign has been refurbished and the basketball court

completed, the efforts of Mu Rho continues with weekly therapeutic programming. The youth have been assigned mentors, resulting in healthy relationships between the youth and university students. The legal studies department is extremely proud of the community service project, which has heightened the community's awareness of the Center's needs.

Furthermore, it provided a first-hand experience of how juvenile offenders think, feel, and behave. Most community service projects are perfunctory and provide little understanding of what goes on inside a juvenile center and how it affects behavior. By enabling the students to participate in this service project, the opportunities to learn and understand grew exponentially.

The U. S. Secret Service



**The Nation's Oldest
Federal Investigative Law
Enforcement Agency**

*Instructor Ralph Kennedy
and Graduate Assistant
Emma Burleson*

History

The U. S. Secret Service is one of the most elite law enforcement agencies in the world. It was founded as a branch of the U. S. Treasury in 1865 to combat counterfeiting and is the oldest federal investigative law enforcement agency. The Secret Service took on its presidential protection role in 1901, after the assassination of President William McKinley at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, NY.

In March 2003, the Secret Service became a component part of the newly created Department of Homeland Security. The Secret Service's dual missions of protection and investigations remain integral to the Department of Homeland

Security's efforts to protect the nation from harm. In 2015, the agency celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Today, the Secret Service has approximately 3,200 special agents, as well as 1,300 officers in its Uniformed Division, and more than 2,000 professional, technical, and administrative personnel. Agency personnel are assigned to the over 100 field and resident offices in the U. S. and 16 international field offices spread around the globe.

Duties and Responsibilities

Today, the Secret Service protects the president, vice president, visiting foreign heads of state and their spouses, former presidents and their spouses, children of former presidents until age 16, and major presidential and vice-presidential candidates and their spouses. In addition, the Secret Service has the responsibility of planning security for events designated as National Special Security Events by the Department of Homeland Security. While protecting the president is its most visible mission, it's far from the only one.

On the financial side, the

Secret Service investigates violations of laws relating to counterfeiting obligations and securities of the U.S.; financial crimes include, but are not limited to, financial institution fraud, false identification documents, credit card and access device fraud, computer and telecommunications fraud, electronic funds transfers, and money laundering as it relates to the agency's core violations, and computer-based attacks on the nation's financial, banking and telecommunications infrastructures.

The Secret Service's 2014 annual report indicated the agency prevented \$3 billion in fraud losses, seized \$120 million in assets, recovered \$58 million in counterfeit U. S. currency worldwide, and broke up 188 counterfeit manufacturing plants. In response to the globalization technology-based threats, the Secret Service's investigative mission abroad continues to grow. The Secret Service Uniformed Division, established in 1922 as the White House Police, provides physical security for the White House Complex and the Vice President's Residence at the Naval Observatory. It also provides security for

the Treasury Department and foreign diplomatic missions in Washington, D.C. Other specialized units include: Canine Unit, Emergency Response Team, Counter-sniper Team, Motorcade Support Unit, Crime Scene Unit, and Special Operations Section.

Basic Special Agent Requirements

To be considered for a special agent position, candidates must be a U.S. citizen and age 21 to 37 at the time of appointment. Other employment requirements include possessing a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. In addition, the applicant must qualify for a top secret clearance and undergo a complete background investigation to include in-depth interviews, drug screening, medical examination, vision examination (uncorrected vision no worse than 20/60 binocular; correctable to 20/20 in each eye), and polygraph examination. Lasik, ALK, RK and PRK corrective eye surgeries are acceptable eye surgeries for special agent applicants provided specific visual test are passed. The following are the waiting periods before visual tests are conducted

after the surgery: Lasik surgery – three months; PRK – six months; and ALK and RK – one year.

The Secret Service prohibits employees from having visible body markings (including but not limited to tattoos, body art, and branding) on the head, face, neck, hand, and fingers (any area below the wrist bone). If you have visible body markings, you will be required to medically remove such visible body marking at your own expense prior to beginning duty with the Secret Service.

Training

During the first year of employment, special agents receive several months of formal classroom, fitness, firearms, and simulation training. Newly appointed special agent trainees attend an 11 week general investigative course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, GA. The basic training course at FLETC is followed by an 18 week advanced training course at the Secret Service's James J. Rowley Training Center (JJRTC) in Beltsville, MD. Training at JJRTC is tailored to all aspects of the agency's protective

and investigative missions. Upon graduation from JJRTC, trainees are sworn in as special agents of the U. S. Secret Service.

Career Path

The Secret Service offers qualified men and women a challenging and fulfilling career, and recruits personnel of the highest caliber to carry out its dual mission. Newly-appointed special agents may be assigned to field offices anywhere in the U.S. Frequent travel and reassignments to a variety of duty stations (investigative and protective), occasionally including liaison assignments in foreign countries, are some of the unique opportunities that await special agents.

How to Apply

Detailed information on how to apply for Secret Service positions can be found:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/>
<http://www.secretservice.gov>

Sources

U. S. Secret Service, Special Agent, brochure

U. S. Secret Service, Uniformed Division Officer, brochure

<https://www.usajobs.gov/>
http://www.secretservice.gov/join/careers_agents.shtml



UM-DeSoto Student Wins Highest Award from Legal Studies Department

SOUTHAVEN, Miss. – Though emailing in class is generally frowned upon, McKinley McCarty hoped for an exception when she learned that she had won the Columbus B. Hopper Scholarship.

"I just couldn't sit there and contain my excitement," said McCarty, a senior paralegal studies major at the University of Mississippi at DeSoto Center-Southaven. "As soon as I received an email about the award from the chair, I had to send one back. I copied my professor, so he knew that I sent it during class."

The Hopper Scholarship is the Department of Legal Studies' highest honor. Recipients are full-time legal studies majors who are classified as seniors and have obtained at least a 3.75 GPA. The \$1,250 scholarship honors Columbus Burwell Hopper, professor emeritus of sociology, who died in 2015.

An luka native, McCarty is a full-time student and full-time employee. "I am definitely a nontraditional student," she said. "I am 28 – I did not start college until seven years after graduating high school. I entered the workforce and soon realized that I needed to do something else with my life. I wanted to advance my options and my knowledge." Before pursuing a degree in legal studies, McCarty worked for a small law firm in downtown Memphis, assisting attorneys with domestic law matters, bankruptcies, foreclosures and third-party collections.

"I don't take anything
for granted, no matter
how small or how big." -
McKinley McCarty

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She continued to work for the firm while attending Northwest Mississippi Community College. She received her paralegal studies associate degree in 2014 and enrolled at UM-DeSoto that fall. She then began working for Olive Branch's city attorney. "I have held a 9-to-5 job for all five years I've been in school," McCarty said. "I attend night classes. This is my sixth year of being in the legal field and fifth year of education in the legal field. I believe that my work experience has served as an advantage during my studies."

Not only does McCarty excel in her studies, but also she is passionate about service and honor societies. She made it a point to take advantage of any opportunities that came her way, taking part in Gamma Beta Phi, Phi Theta Kappa, Lambda Epsilon Chi and, most recently, Phi Kappa Phi. "I was afraid of not having a 'traditional' college experience," she said. "I quickly learned that there are so many opportunities to get involved at UM-DeSoto and the main campus as well. Through Gamma Beta Phi, I drove down to Oxford in early April to participate in their largest service event. I really have enjoyed

opportunities like those."

Faculty and staff at the UM regional campus are like family, McCarty said: "Everyone is so close here," she said. "The staff have pointed me in the right direction. They've helped guide me to make better choices. Pat Coats (UM-DeSoto coordinator of academic support services) has been so influential. She wants you to get the most out of this experience that you possibly can."

McCarty is thankful for support from Robert Mongue, associate professor of legal studies, who nominated her for the award.

"I've had Professor Mongue throughout the two years that I've been at Ole Miss," she said. "He isn't afraid to put me on the spot – I even taught one of our recent classes. Dr. Mongue didn't get to where he is today by just scraping by. That rubbed off on me and I now expect more for myself." Mongue said he was impressed with McCarty's dedication to her studies. "McKinley has obtained a high GPA while taking classes, sometimes alone, through compressed video from our Southaven campus," he said. "She maintained the focus

"It was a moment where I realized that everything I'd been doing was paying off."

necessary to obtain good grades and engage in class participation while staring at a monitor and buzzing into the discussion via the desk microphones."

When thinking about what the award means to her, McCarty said it is hard to put her feelings into words. "I don't take anything for granted, no matter how small or how big," she said. "Out of all the students who qualified and were eligible for this award, I'm not sure what made me stand out. "The only thing I can compare it to is when you find out something so joyous and you feel unworthy, you cry. That was my first reaction. It was a moment where I realized that everything that I'd been doing and struggling for is paying off." After graduation, McCarty said she plans to take a year to pursue personal goals and then continue her studies, possibly by attending law school.

Housed in the DeSoto

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Center in Southaven, the regional campus offers undergraduate (junior and senior) and graduate programs for traditional and nontraditional students. For more information, visit <http://www.olemiss.edu/desoto> or call 662-342-4765.

Additional Student Awards & Accomplishments

In the fall 2015 semester, John Martin and Joseph "Drue" Alldredge received the Graduate Student of the Month Award and the Undergraduate Student of the Month Award, respectively, from the School of Applied Sciences.

At the time of the award, Mr. Martin was a second year student in the Master of Criminal Justice program. He is also a 2014 graduate of the Bachelor of Criminal Justice from the University of Mississippi. He has served as a reserve officer for the Oxford Police Department and a volunteer for the Boy's and Girl's Club of America. Dr. Linda Keena, an Associate Professor in the Department of Legal Studies, said, "John's internships with the United States Probation Service and the United States Marshal's Service made him a perfect candidate for the Student of the Month. He is involved with a number of on-going research projects and has been key in the efforts to form a chapter of the Sword and Shield Homeland Security Honor Society at the University of Mississippi."

At the time of the award, Mr. Alldredge was a senior in the Bachelor of Criminal Justice program. He graduated in May and began active service in the U.S. Marine Corps, with a goal of becoming a naval aviator. Dr. David McElreath, Professor in the Department of Legal Studies, said, "Drue is an outstanding student with an impressive

background. He volunteers with the local humane society and mentors young ROTC Midshipmen on campus. His service in the Marines reflects his leadership skills both in and outside of the classroom."



John Martin



Joseph "Drue" Alldredge

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In the spring 2016 semester, Megan Stidd received the Student of the Month Award from the School of Applied Sciences. At the time of award, Ms. Stidd was a senior in the bachelor of Criminal Justice program. At the end of the spring semester, Ms. Stidd successfully defended her honors thesis as part of her undergraduate studies. Her thesis was entitled "The Attitudes and Awareness of Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence, and Bystander Intervention of Undergraduate Students." To collect data for her thesis study, she surveyed undergraduate students. "Megan had little experience with conducting research before starting her thesis project, but she sought and incorporated feedback," said Dr. Linda Keena, Associate Professor in the Department of Legal Studies and chair of Ms. Stidd's thesis. "Throughout the process, she maintained a positive outlook. Megan demonstrated adaptability, growth, and consistent curiosity, and it will serve her well for the future." Dr. Mark Loftin, Associate Dean in the School of Applied Sciences stated in terms of her thesis, "This experience will prepare her well for employment and other advanced academic degrees. She is fortunate to have the expertise and guidance from the faculty at legal studies and the University of Mississippi" Ms. Stidd indicated, "I originally came to Ole Miss as a forensic chemistry major, but soon found out that it wasn't for me," she said. "I changed my focus to criminal justice to have more interaction and communication with other people. . . . My time at Ole Miss has been greatly improved by all the experiences I've gained between the legal studies department and Honors College."



Alumni News

Jarquita Williams, a graduate from the Department of Legal Studies and who is attending the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, recently emailed Dr. Linda Keena, an Associate Professor in the Department of Legal Studies, about her fellowship with the program Equal Justice Works. Ms. Williams indicated, "I am assigned as a Northwest Justice Project Rural Summer Legal Corps Fellow. I will spend 8-10 weeks in Wenatchee, Washington providing legal assistance to immigrant victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in a highly isolated region. I will also help ex-offenders get back some necessary

items such as driver's licenses, social security cards, and legal representation to help aid them in avoiding further convictions. I will gain hands on experience with client interviewing, pleading preparation, and legal research. I will also be a part of a "court watch" program, where I will attend court regularly, along with attorneys and their clients." Ms. Williams thanked Dr. Keena for her continued help after she had graduated from the University of Mississippi.

Faculty News

On June 3, 2016, the Oxford Eagle published its Best of Oxford 2016 feature. Dr. Linda Keena, an Associate Professor in the Department of Legal Studies, was named Best University Professor. Included in the list of nominees was Dr. Lorri Williamson, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Legal Studies. Congratulations to Dr. Keena and Dr. Williamson.

INTERESTED IN DONATING TO THE LEGAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT?

Individuals and organizations interested in contributing to the department can send checks with *Legal Studies* noted in the memo line to the University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38677. For more information, contact Matthew Porchiva, Development Officer, at 662-915-1756 or mporchi@olemiss.edu.

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