**Redefining Boundaries: The New Era of Criminal Justice Reform**

**Criminal Justice Association of Georgia**

**Annual Conference**

**October 4 & 5, 2024**

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**CJAG Executive Board:**

Jason Armstrong, President

Leatha Cyprian, Vice-President

Gary Killam, Treasurer

Lorna L. Alvarez-Rivera, Information Officer

Valerie Cochran, Assistant Information Officer

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Criminal Justice Association of Georgia's executive board wishes to thank the many individuals and groups who assisted in planning and implementing this year's conference. Without their collective support, the CJAG conference would not have been possible.

**Thursday, October 3, 2024 (board meeting)**

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| 7:00 PM | CJAG Executive Board Meeting |

**Friday, October 4, 2024 (conference)**

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| 9:00 –9:15 AM | President and Conference Host Welcome  |
| 9:15 – 10:00 AM | Tragedy Averted |
| 10:15 – 12:00 PM | Session 1 – Criminal Justice Education |
| 12:00 – 1:00 PM | Keynote Speaker with catered lunch |
| 1:15 – 3:00 PM | Session 2 - Deviance, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice |
| 3:30 – 4:30 PM | Tour of Albany Civil Rights Museum |
| 6:00 | CJAG Social at Merry Acres |

**Saturday, October 5, 2024 (conference)**

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| 9:00 –10:45 AM | Session 3 - Contemporary Topics in Criminal Justice Part 1 |
| 11:00 – 12:00 AM | Session 4 - Contemporary Topics in Criminal Justice Part 2 |
| 12:00 – 1:00 PM | Lunch & CJAG Membership Meeting |
| 1:15 – 2:45 PM | Session 5 - Law Enforcement & Courts |
| 3:00 – 4:45 PM | Session 6 - Corrections and Offender Typologies |

**Conference Venue Information:** This year's conference will be held at Albany State University

**Friday, October 4, 2024**

**9:00 – 9:15 AM
President and Conference Host Welcome and setting the context of the conference.**

**9:15 – 10:00 AM
Tragedy Averted – Col. Chris Owens, Lee County (GA) Sheriff’s Office**

 **10:15 – 12:00 PM**
**Session 1: Criminal Justice Education**

**Facilitator: Jason Armstrong**

1. Higher Education in Prison: Making the Case for GA Faculty and Schools to Participate: Tiffany Parsons, University of West Georgia
2. Accusations and Individual and Social Impart: Evaristus Obinyan, Middle Georgia State University
3. AI in Academia: Maximizing Efficiency and Impact, Jason Armstrong, Albany State University & Leatha Cyprian, Columbus Technical College
4. The Dark Web: Creating College Curriculum from a Faculty Learning Community Project: Wayne Gillespie, Georgia Gwinnett College
5. Reducing Issues in Law Enforcement: A Survey of GA Post Cadets: Rudy Prine, Valdosta State University & Butch Beach, Point University

 **12:00 – 1:00 PM**
**Keynote Speaker & Lunch**

**1:15 – 3:00 PM**

**Session 2: Deviance, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice**

 **Facilitator: Leatha Cyprian**

1. Gangs and TikTok: A Content Analysis of Violence Exposure on Social Media: Paige Giddens, Georgia State University
2. Adolescent Delinquency Tolerance and Durkheim’s Morality: Evaristus Obinyan, Middle Georgia State University
3. The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Later Desistance Among Serious Juvenile Offenders from a Broken Family Composition: Olivia Franklin, Kennesaw State University
4. Reexamining the "Broken Home" Narrative: A Critical Review: Beverly Reece & Olivia Franklin, Kennesaw State University
5. Racial Bias-Based Harassment or Bullying Trend in Georgia’s Public Schools: Dayanand Sundaravadivelu, Albany State University
6. Unpacking the Concept of Child Pornography in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Roger-Claude Liwanga, Albany State University

**Saturday, October 5, 2024**

**9:00 - 10:30 AM**

**Session 3: Contemporary Topics in Criminal Justice – Part 1**

 **Facilitator: Kizzie Donaldson-Richard**

1. Correlation Between Gun Control and Crime Rate: Audra Leonard, University of North Georgia
2. From Darkness to Light: A Qualitative Analysis of the Efficacy of Bluestar on Ceramic Tiles: Cara J. Giordiano, Madison Harner, Jon Hager & John Stuart Batchelder, University of North Georgia
3. Pruning Branches That Could Have Flourished." Multidisciplinary Perspectives and Strategies for Safeguarding our Schools and Neighborhoods from Gun Violence: Anthony Owusu-Ansah, Bettie Stafford, Vonda Hubbard, Kizzie Donaldson–Richard, Brandon Henry, Albany State University
4. Integration and Expansion of Cybersecurity in Criminal Justice: Patrice Morris, Georgia Gwinnett College
5. The International Criminal Court: Exploring its Origins, Importance, Challenges, and Possible Solutions: Charles Ubah, Georgia College & State University, Charles Ochie, Sr. & Patrick Ibe, Albany State University, & Evaristus Obinyan, Middle Georgia State University

**10:45 – 12:00 PM**

**Session 4: Contemporary Topics in Criminal Justice – Part 2**

 **Facilitator: Charles Ochie**

1. Roundtable - Unveiling the Truth: A Comparative Analysis of Criminal Behavior Among Immigrants and Non-Immigrant Unveiling the Truth: A Comparative Analysis of Criminal Behavior Among Immigrants and Non-Immigrants: Charles Ochie, Patrick Ibe, Roger Liwanga; Albany State University & Evaristus Obinyan, Middle Georgia State University
2. The Role of DNA Evidence in Criminal defenses cases: The case of People v. Castro: Dr. Jim Mayua, Albany State University, Grace-Juliana Liwanga, Albany State University
3. The challenge of prosecuting and preventing cybercrime: the case of United States v. Samuel Ogochi: Dr. Jim Mayua, Albany State University, Arlexis Farmer, Albany State University, Mar’kaya Artist, Albany State University

**12:00 – 1:00 PM**

**Lunch & CJAG Membership Meeting**

 **1:15 – 2:45 PM**

**Session 5: Law Enforcement & Courts
 Facilitator: Michael B. Shapiro**

1. The Importance of Defensive Tactics Training in the CJ Arena: Leatha Cyprian, Columbus Technical College
2. Achieving Social Justice An Unbias Approach when Policing the Community: Recognizing and Re-Thinking Community Relationships Implications, Impact and Solutions: Ivan Page, Albany State University
3. Policing and Marriage: Recruitment and Retention Amid Negative Media Coverage: Joseph Bacot and Daniel Underwood, Coker University
4. Front-line Supervisors: The Lynchpin of Effective Policing: A British Perspective: Johannes Oosthuizen, University of North Georgia
5. United States Supreme Court Update, 2023-2024: Michael Shapiro, Georgia State University
6. Mugshot Photos: Media, Police, and Stigmatization: Thomas Hochschild, Jr and Lorna Alvarez-Rivera, Valdosta State University

**3:00 – 4:45 PM
Session 6: Corrections and Offender Typologies**

 **Facilitator: John Stuart Batchelder**

1. Exploring Pornography Use and Hostility Against Women Among Sexual Violence Offenders: Lyda Pavlovich, University of North Georgia
2. Faith as a Factor? The Effect of Religion on Reentry: Brandon Kilby, University of North Georgia
3. The Problems of Prison Overcrowding, Areyona Hurt, University of North Georgia
4. Differences in Inmate Scores among ABE and GED Prison Education Programs: John Stuart Batchelder & Butch Newkirk, University of North Georgia
5. Adoption, Serial Killers, and Adopted Child Syndrome: A Critical Review: Shivani Yadavalli, Deerfield-Windsor High School and Jason Armstrong and Pamela Brown, Albany State University
6. What Does Motherhood Look Like for Felons in Prison? Sophia Thacker, University of North Georgia

**Program Abstracts**

**Friday, October 4, 2024**

**10:00 – 11:45 AM**
**Session 1: Criminal Justice Education**

**Facilitator: Jason Armstrong**

1. Higher Education in Prison: Making the Case for GA Faculty and Schools to Participate: Tiffany Parsons, University of West Georgia

The state of Georgia incarcerates a higher percentage of its people than any democratic country on earth.  95,000 Georgians are behind bars, and an additional 356,000 Georgians are under supervision (GDC 2023; PPI 2023).  Furthermore, GA has a recidivism rate of 30% (GDC 2023). As study after study finds that most incarcerated persons did not have access to a quality education or good jobs prior to incarceration (PPI 2021), it is no wonder that those who commit crimes related to survival and economy (property crimes) are by far the most likely to recidivate. Nationwide, opportunity-based programs, hard skills training and technical education, show little to no impact on recidivism (MacKenzie 2006), but earning a bachelor’s degree while incarcerated reduces recidivism to 6% (RAND 2018; Vera 2019).  There are 26 USG institutions and currently only one offers a bachelor’s degree in prison. Faculty in GA universities are uniquely positioned to provide quality education in prison while simultaneously reducing the state-wide problem of over incarceration and recidivism, developing an untapped pool of talent for GA’s workforce, and building stronger communities across the state in which returning men and women have improved employment prospects as well as a likelihood of higher annual and lifetime earnings.

This presentation will discuss the need for higher education in prison in GA, the rewards and challenges of teaching in prison, initiating a prison education program, and how individual faculty from various schools in GA may participate even if their school doesn’t have an official prison education program.

1. Accusations and Individual and Social Impart: Evaristus Obinyan, Middle Georgia State University & Charles Ochie, Albany State University

An accusation is a claim or assertion that someone has done something wrong or illegal. It can range from minor grievances to serious criminal charges. The panel will examine the destructive nature of accusations and allegations. We will discuss specific examples and panel members will also present personal experiences of this devil’s sauce. The process and impact of an accusation can vary greatly depending on the context, the nature of the accusation and/or allegation, and how it's handled in our society. This panel will explore the psychological and social impact on the accused.

1. AI in Academia: Maximizing Efficiency and Impact, Jason Armstrong, Albany State University & Leatha Cyprian, Columbus Technical College

Dive into the world of AI-powered academia in this concise presentation. Discover how artificial intelligence can revolutionize your teaching practices, focusing on quick-to-implement tools that deliver immediate benefits. We'll explore:

* Time-saving AI applications for assessment creation
* AI-enhanced course planning and outlining
* Tools for fostering personalized student engagement

This session will provide a rapid overview of user-friendly AI platforms, demonstrating how they can boost your productivity and teaching effectiveness. Whether you're an AI novice or looking to expand your toolkit, you'll leave with practical insights to apply AI in your academic role. Join us for this fast-paced introduction to the future of AI in higher education.

1. The Dark Web: Creating College Curriculum from a Faculty Learning Community Project: Wayne Gillespie, Georgia Gwinnett College

The Dark Web was the topic that I chose to pursue for a faculty learning community about the digital humanities during the Spring 2022 semester at Georgia Gwinnett College. Researching the dark web involves studying the unseen layers of the Internet where anonymity reigns, and illicit activities often take place. The complexity of this digital space includes marketplaces for illegal goods, hacking services, and forums that promote criminal activities such as trafficking in narcotics, weapons, and even persons. However, the dark web also serves as a refuge for privacy advocates, whistleblowers, and political dissidents. To turn my experience researching the dark web into a college course, the curriculum will cover the technical architecture of the dark web (e.g., Tor and encryption), the ethical and legal implications of its use, and the societal impacts of both its harmful and positive sides. The course will also include hands-on labs exploring anonymization tools and discuss cyber laws, ethical hacking, and criminology. By integrating technical knowledge with interdisciplinary discussions on law, ethics, and policy, students will develop a holistic understanding of this often-misunderstood digital ecosystem.

1. Reducing Issues in Law Enforcement: A Survey of GA Post Cadets: Rudy Prine, Valdosta State University & Butch Beach, Point University

This project, related to the recruitment of candidates for careers in law enforcement, is a follow up to last year’s field trial of POST cadets. A total of 515 surveys, reflecting a response rate of 89%, were completed by law enforcement cadets undergoing POST (Police Officer Standards and Training) certification. The results reflect a variety of responses to candidates’ perceptions and experiences with the recruiting process.

**12:00 – 1:00 PM**
**Keynote Speaker & Lunch**

**1:15 – 3:00 PM**

**Session 2: Deviance, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice**

 **Facilitator:** Leatha Cyprian

1. Gangs and TikTok: A Content Analysis of Violence Exposure on Social Media: Paige Giddens, Georgia State University

Internet use among individuals involved with gang activity has become increasingly prevalent in the last two decades. This usage goes beyond simply organizing or boasting about criminal activity. Rather, it has become similar to general usage of the internet including posting content that contribute to an overall image of themselves or their gang. Moreover, as social media has become more common and used among the general population, those involved with gang activity have also followed suit. Previous studies have noted several themes across social media posts made by individuals claiming to be involved with gang activity offline. These themes include violent imagery, intimidation, revenge, grief, wealth, and success. This thesis set out to fill a gap in the current literature by examining a new social media platform – TikTok. To do so, three searches were conducted using the discover feature on the application as well as specific keywords and hashtags to filter for relevant content that fell within the inclusion criteria. Using social learning theory as a framework, the possibility of violence exposure and its repercussions is discussed. Limitations, such as ability to definitively substantiate claims of gang involvement, policy implications, and directions for future research are also discussed in depth.

1. Adolescent Delinquency Tolerance and Durkheim’s Morality: Evaristus Obinyan, Middle Georgia State University

This article examines the concept of tolerance to ascertain its utility for explaining the age-old social problem-delinquency and to confirm the utility of Durkheim’s morality. As a concept, tolerance has had many uses, and a long history. Traditionally, the word is defined in terms of recognizing and respecting others’ beliefs, practices, behaviors, etc., without necessarily agreeing with the meaning of their specific interpretation. In this effort, however, tolerance is defined as having two dimensions: attitudinal and behavioral. Someone who tolerates delinquency, for example, respects delinquent behavior as a choice; others may make. This does not necessarily mean that they embrace delinquency; only that they recognize the right of others to freely choose deviance, as in the retributive tradition (Newman, 1985). In contrast, the person who does not tolerate delinquency disapproves of that behavior and rejects the right of others to act in this way. In either case, however, the attitude a person expresses toward delinquency (tolerance or intolerance) represents only one dimension of their ability to tolerate delinquency. To determine whether an individual is truly tolerant of delinquency, however, we also need an indication of how that individual reacts, or how they indicate they would react to acts of delinquency. In other words, a person who is intolerant of delinquency would not only find that delinquency is “wrong,” they would take some action against the delinquent. The following review demonstrates that the concept of tolerance has both social and individual implications. On one hand, tolerance is a personal consideration or a judgment that describes what a person is willing to accept or accommodate. Socially, collective levels of tolerance define the boundaries of diversity and difference a society is willing to accept and accommodate.

1. The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Later Desistance Among Serious Juvenile Offenders from a Broken Family Composition: Olivia Franklin, Kennesaw State University

The current study aims to contribute to the overall knowledge of desistance patterns among juveniles by exploring them among *serious* juvenile offenders who come from a broken home. Utilizing the Pathways to Desistance (PTD) dataset, this study uses logistical regression to examine the impact of family composition on later desistance while controlling for various adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) one might experience. Two research questions guide this study: (1) Does family composition (i.e., “broken homes”) impact later desistance among serious adolescent offenders, while controlling for important criminological predictors (i.e., self-control and antisocial peer influence)? (2) Is the *quality* of one’s home environment (i.e., parental warmth/hostility, ACEs) more impactful in the desistance process than family composition? Important implications for the findings of this study

1. Reexamining the "Broken Home" Narrative: A Critical Review: Beverly Reece & Olivia Franklin, Kennesaw State University

Throughout the last century, “broken homes” has been a persistent term used in many areas of research, including criminology, psychology, sociology, and education. This term is often used in the criminological literature to discuss the impact of family composition on delinquency. A critical examination of the existing literature will highlight the pervasive use of the term, “broken home”, in relation to delinquency. Further, the problematic impact that such terminology may have on the stigmatization and labeling of youth will be discussed. It is argued that moving beyond the term “broken home” would offer a more meaningful view of family structure and function and its relationship to delinquency.

1. Racial Bias-Based Harassment or Bullying Trend in Georgia’s Public Schools: Dayanand Sundaravadivelu, Albany State University

United States public schools provide data on civil rights and education concerns to the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). CRDC collects data on student access to educational programs, activities, employees, and school climate factors, such as reported bullying, harassment and student disciplined from public schools serving preschoolers through 12th grade. So, this study examines explicitly on student's harassed or bullied because of race, color, or national origin in the state of Georgia using the CRDC survey from 2011 to 2021. These findings will present the need for effective bullying prevention policies and programs.

1. Unpacking the Concept of Child Pornography in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Roger-Claude Liwanga, Albany State University

Under federal law (18 USC § 2256 (8)), child pornography refers to the “visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where: (a) the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; (b) such visual depiction is a digital image, computer image, or computer-generated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or (c) such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.”

With the development of artificial intelligence (AI), numerous AI-generated images of the sexually explicit conduct of children have been created. Some images consist of real child pictures; others are edited adult pictures to look juvenile (virtual child sexual abuse material); and some others are morphed child pictures. Despite the unquestionable illegality of actual child sexual abuse images, there is still some legal debate on the unlawfulness of other AI-generated child pornography materials. Such an unsettled discussion makes it difficult for law enforcement to prosecute some offenders, thereby leaving certain children unprotected.

This paper aims to examine the concept of child pornography, explore federal jurisprudence on child pornography, and assess the federal rulings that could apply to all AI-generated child sexual abuse images.

**Saturday, October 5, 2024**

**9:00 - 10:30 AM**

**Session 3: Contemporary Topics in Criminal Justice – Part 1**

 **Facilitator: Kizzie Donaldson-Richard**

1. Correlation Between Gun Control and Crime Rate: Audra Leonard, University of North Georgia

The rules and regulations associated with gun control are designed to prevent crime, and are effective if enforced and followed by law-abiding citizens. Information from various regions are reviewed to examine if stricter gun laws are associated with reduced crime rates. This paper reviews research on opinions surrounding firearm regulation, and other, state, federal, and local legislation effecting how the laws are enforced. The findings of this study suggest that a correlation between gun control and crime rates are subject to regional influences. This paper highlights the complexities associated with this relationship, and examines the factors associated with firearm regulation and public safety.

1. From Darkness to Light: A Qualitative Analysis of the Efficacy of Bluestar on Ceramic Tiles: Cara J. Giordiano, Madison Harner, Jon Hager & John Stuart Batchelder, University of North Georgia

This qualitative study examines the efficacy of Bluestar® to detect aged bloodstains on ceramic tiles after being cleaned by three (3) different oxidizers: hydrogen peroxide, vinegar with warm water, and baking soda with warm water and a vinegar rinse. While several studies have investigated the efficacy of commercial cleaners including bleach, Dawn dish soap, and hospital grade disinfectants, in an effort to completely remove all trace evidence of blood, the current study not only uses non-commercial cleaning products but incorporates a non-porous surface and differently aged-dried blood. These products may be used as a replacement for bleach which can cause the Bluestar® to give a positive reaction. The results showed that as the blood aged it became more reactive with the Bluestar®. Only the hydrogen peroxide reacted on the 2-day old blood, while there was no reaction with either the vinegar mixed with water, or the baking soda mixed with water.

1. Pruning Branches That Could Have Flourished." Multidisciplinary Perspectives and Strategies for Safeguarding our Schools and Neighborhoods from Gun Violence: Anthony Owusu-Ansah, Bettie Stafford, Vonda Hubbard & Kizzie Donaldson–Richard, Brandon Henry, Albany State University

Gun violence continues to plague our schools and neighborhoods, leaving children traumatized with no clear end in sight. School leaders have limited control over individual’s intent on causing harm, and the efforts of local, state, and federal authorities have not sufficiently alleviated the fears that grip our children. Schools should be sanctuaries for teaching and learning, where future leaders are nurtured—not entry points for those who wish to inflict harm. This paper will explore the existing literature and multidisciplinary perspectives on gun violence in our schools and neighborhoods and will recommend strategies to minimize its impact on teachers, students, and parents.

1. Integration and Expansion of Cybersecurity in Criminal Justice: Patrice Morris, Georgia Gwinnett College

Cybersecurity is an important and pressing area of national security that involves entities at the federal, state, and local government levels as well as the private sector. Yet, it remains one of the most understudied areas in criminal justice. Although cybersecurity is a growing and in demand field, there are currently very few criminal justice programs that offer concentrations or courses in cybersecurity. In academia, the study of cybersecurity is generally housed in information technology and computer science programs. This paper outlines the importance of studying cybersecurity from a criminal justice perspective, the benefits of including cybersecurity in the criminal justice curriculum, and the need to develop criminal justice related research in cybersecurity.

1. The International Criminal Court: Exploring its Origins, Importance, Challenges, and Possible Solutions: Charles Ubah, Georgia College & State University; Charles Ochie, Sr. & Patrick Ibe, Albany State University, & Evaristus Obinyan, Middle Georgia State University

The International Criminal Court (ICC) was established through a treaty adopted in Rome on July 17, 1998, and entered into force on July 1, 2002, when its Statute Known as the Rome Statute was ratified. According to Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute, the Court has jurisdiction over the most serious crimes of profound concern to the international community namely genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crimes of aggression. The international community intended to use the Rome Statute to bring to justice those accused of the most outrageous crimes against human rights and humanitarian law; to hold individuals and groups personally responsible for planning, ordering or committing gross crimes under international law; to prosecute those responsible for crime whether they were committed during war or peace time and regardless of whether the perpetrators were leaders or subordinates, civilians or members of the military, paramilitary or police forces; to complement prosecutions in national courts; and acting when states were unwilling or unable to effectively discharge their principle of domestic jurisdiction. Be that as it may, with the good intentions and aspirations of the Court, some serious and complex challenges exist. Therefore, this roundtable strives to explore the origins, importance, and challenges that exist with the Court and offer possible solutions to the challenges for consideration.

**10:45 – 12:00 PM**

**Session 4: Contemporary Topics in Criminal Justice – Part 2**

 **Facilitator: Charles Ochie**

1. Unveiling the Truth: A Comparative Analysis of Criminal Behavior Among Immigrants and Non-Immigrant Unveiling the Truth: A Comparative Analysis of Criminal Behavior Among Immigrants and Non-Immigrants: Charles Ochie, Patrick Ibe, Roger Liwanga; Albany State University & Evaristus Obinyan, Middle Georgia State University

This panel seeks to provide a comprehensive examination of the relationship between immigration status and criminal behavior by comparing the crime rates and types between immigrants and non-immigrants. Despite frequent political and media discourse suggesting a direct correlation between immigration and increased crime, empirical evidence often tells a more nuanced story. Our discussion will focus on dissecting available statistical data, exploring sociological and economic factors influencing crime rates, and evaluating the role of systemic biases in reporting and enforcement.

1. The Role of DNA Evidence in Criminal defenses cases: the case of People v. Castro: Dr. Jim Mayua, Albany State University, Grace-Juliana Liwanga, Albany State University

DNA evidence has revolutionized modern criminal investigations, playing a pivotal role in both convicting the guilty and exonerating the wrongfully convicted. Since its first use in the 1980s, DNA technology has become one of the most reliable tools in forensic science, offering unmatched accuracy in linking individuals to crime scenes. Organizations like the Innocence Project have utilized DNA to overturn hundreds of wrongful convictions, demonstrating its importance in achieving justice. However, while DNA evidence is powerful, it is not without challenges. Issues such as contamination, human error, and the growing reliance on DNA databases raise ethical and legal concerns. Additionally, cases like People v. Castro have highlighted the risks of improper DNA testing, leading to debates about the reliability of DNA evidence in court. This presentation will explore the strengths and weaknesses of DNA evidence, its impact on real-world cases, and the ethical dilemmas it poses, ultimately arguing for the continued refinement of forensic practices to ensure its integrity in criminal justice.

1. The challenge of prosecuting and preventing cybercrime: the case of United States v. Samuel Ogochi: Dr. Jim Mayua, Albany State University, Arlexis Farmer, Albany State University, Mar’kaya Artist, Albany State University

The research implemented examines the challenges of preventing and prosecuting cybercrimes. Cybercrime is significant not only because it is new, but it is growing so rapidly that it is becoming harder to prevent, costing America millions of dollars annually. The aftermath of cybercrime is one of the main reasons that business owners, as well as everyday people, worry. To put a stop to cybercrime, it is important to discuss how it happens, why it happens, and how it affects others. It is important to put emphasis on the amount of money lost, the amount of emotional trauma endured, and the number of reputations ruined. The Case of ***United States v. Samuel Ogoshi***has demonstrated that the prosecution of cybercrime raises significant challenges. The current publications suggest that cybercrime costs society billions of dollars throughout time and is a growing issue. Influences, trends, and contributions technology has on social media create challenges in politics and the environment. This makes it a priority to address the problems when policing those who commit cybercrime, especially since people believe that police are not properly equipped to handle these certain offenses which leads victims to hold off on reporting these crimes. This suggests that the cybercrimes that lead to sentencing will punish those who commit these offenses but the recovery from losing billions of dollars and lives will not be easy.  The issues proposed when trying to achieve these goals are proven by evidence based on the existing literature presented and several laws.

**12:00 – 1:00 PM**

**Lunch & CJAG Business Meeting**

**1:15 – 2:45 PM**

**Session 5: Law Enforcement & Courts
 Facilitator: Michael B. Shapiro**

1. The Importance of Defensive Tactics Training in the CJ Arena: Leatha Cyprian, Columbus Technical College

This study examines the impact of defensive tactics (DT) training on excessive force incidents within law enforcement agencies, focusing on the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). The research aims to determine whether practical DT training can reduce excessive force complaints and protect officers and civilians. Using a non-experimental design, a survey based on the Likert scale was administered to sworn deputies of the MCSO, excluding correctional officers. The survey, distributed electronically, yielded a 72% response rate from 60 recipients.

1. Achieving Social Justice An Unbias Approach when Policing the Community: Recognizing and Re-Thinking Community Relationships Implications, Impact and Solutions: Ivan Page, Albany State University

A new wave of social unrest has developed in our society particularly over the past several months. We are challenged to understand deep rooted behaviors of racial and social inequalities that threaten the existence of society. More than ever, we are challenged to ensure that social justice in community policing is relevant in our communities. Law enforcement agencies and the community residents must work together to create a “better society”. Racial and aggressive acts must be understood and addressed if relationships are to improve.

1. Policing and Marriage: Recruitment and Retention Amid Negative Media Coverage: Joseph Bacot and Daniel Underwood, Coker University

The recruitment and retention of qualified officers may depend on individual perceptions of law enforcement and the perceived impact of their contributions. As officer vacancies remain a reality, those employed are burden with various stressors that may alter how they perceive the importance of their profession. An abundance of negative media coverage focusing on police-citizen encounters may influence how law enforcement personnel view the desirability of policing. The perceptions, attitudes, and demeanors of both officers and citizens towards the profession, may play a critical role in police-citizen interactions as well. When facing stressful circumstances, many officers turn to various positive and negative coping mechanisms. Coping mechanisms appear to play a critical role in career success or discontinuation. This review will focus on how spousal support (marriage) may help officers mitigate the effects of negative media exposure. In addition, this review hopes to provide directional insight for future research while promoting the recruitment and retention of qualified officers amid negative media attention.

1. Front-line Supervisors: The Lynchpin of Effective Policing: A British Perspective: Johannes Oosthuizen, University of North Georgia

The first-line supervisor's role is essential in ensuring the effectiveness of police services. Despite their acknowledged importance, many first-line supervisors struggle to meet the high standards expected of them. Their leadership is crucial for maintaining tactical policy compliance and stability within any police force. A key aspect of their role involves handling subordinate performance issues fairly and impartially, focusing solely on the facts of each situation. Failure to do so can perpetuate negative police culture, such as the "old boys club," undermining the organization's professionalism. However, while the importance of these supervisors is widely recognized, there is often a lack of commitment to adequately preparing them for their roles. Many are promoted without the necessary pre-promotional training, yet they are expected to perform effectively from the start. Some may even wait months or years before receiving relevant training. This presentation will explore the challenges faced by police services in England and Wales and emphasize the need for a greater focus on performance excellence. It will advocate for the thorough preparation and ongoing development of "super-Sergeants" who are well-equipped to lead with both process and performance at the forefront of their success.

1. United States Supreme Court Update, 2023-2024: Michael Shapiro, Georgia State University

Each year the Supreme Court of the United States decides approximately eighty cases. Nearly one-third of these cases relate to criminal law, criminal procedure, or immigration. Since 2012, Michael Shapiro of Georgia State University and Peter Fenton of Kennesaw State University have provided an update of important criminal justice and immigration decisions from the recent Supreme Court term. This year’s presentation will include cases such as *Johnson v. Prentice, et al.*, where the Court addressed the extended solitary confinement of a prisoner and the failure of the lower court to use the “deliberate indifference” standard; *Sandoval v. Texas*, dealing with Texas’ “special venire” process qualifying prospective jurors in capital cases; and *McElrath v. Georgia*, holding that the jury’s verdict of not guilty on one count constituted an acquittal for double jeopardy purposes notwithstanding any inconsistency

1. Mugshot Photos: Media, Police, and Stigmatization: Thomas Hochschild, Jr and Lorna Alvarez-Rivera, Valdosta State University

What are the benefits and drawbacks of using mugshot photos of individuals accused or convicted of crimes? The authors use Erving Goffman’s theory of stigma to understand the individual and social consequences when police departments release these photos to the public, and they are subsequently used in mainstream and alternative media outlets. The authors provide a comparative analysis of police and media protocols in various countries and U.S. states.

**3:00 – 4:45 PM
Session 6: Corrections and Offender Typologies**

 **Facilitator: John Stuart Batchelder**

1. Exploring Pornography Use and Hostility Against Women Among Sexual Violence Offenders: Lyda Pavlovich, University of North Georgia

This study explores the relationship between viewing pornography and hostility against women among men who commit acts of sexual violence. Research conducted over the past 20 years shows that pornography use is frequently associated with violence. The link between those two factors, pornography use, and violence, is well-established in some findings, although the causality of this association remains unclear. Research is lacking that investigates pornography use, self-reported hostility against women, and sexual violence perpetration. This study aims to clarify the association among these factors in sexual offenders (pornography consumption and their attitudes supporting violence against women). Questions still linger whether pornography use and self-reported hostility toward women is an established risk factor for sexual violence.

1. Faith as a Factor? The Effect of Religion on Reentry: Brandon Kilby, University of North Georgia

While religious involvement can be a factor that dissuades individuals from committing crimes, it can also be a way to reduce recidivism during the reentry process. This research seeks to ascertain the effect of religiosity (the degree of religious involvement and belief) has during the reentry process and how that affects recidivism rates. We begin by examining the impact of faith has during the reentry process and after, finding that there is a relationship between religious involvement and recidivism. In other words, are there significant changes within the individual during incarceration and do those changes lead to a reduction in reoffending? Next, a comparison between various faith-based programs on reducing recidivism is investigated. While it appears that faith-based programs have an inverse relationship with reoffending, the level of attachment to one’s faith (religiosity) was not measured here. It should also be noted that these faith-based programs offer similar types of resources compared to secular programs, only employing a supplemental religious component. Additionally, religious involvement is coupled with external factors, such as economic strife, to test for recidivism. It was found that religiosity was also a consideration in parole eligibility. Mock parole board members favored those who had converted to Christianity while incarcerated, or at the very least underwent a significant lifestyle change while imprisoned. The study found that there was also disfavor to those who either had no lifestyle change or had converted to atheism while in prison. We end with a discussion regarding the various limitations surrounding this topic and considerations for future research development.

1. The Problems of Prison Overcrowding, Areyona Hurt, University of North Georgia

One of the major issues concerning incarceration rates is prison overcrowding. This persistent problem leads to many other issues among the prison population such as mental health problems, increased stress, physical health problems, and increased suicide rates. Additionally, overcrowding makes it difficult for inmates to obtain their necessities and proper medication and gives rise to obstacles that prevent them from volunteering for educational, vocational, and work programs. There are a multitude of solutions to tackle the problem of prison overcrowding here in the United States: probation programs for non-violent offenders, upgraded prisons, and other prison alternatives. Until solutions such as these are set in motion, the United States will continue to face the problem of prison overcrowding and the ongoing set of problems it brings.

1. Differences in Inmate Scores among ABE and GED Prison Education Programs: John Stuart Batchelder & Butch Newkirk, University of North Georgia

During the past two decades, the proponents of computer technology in the prison classroom have promised that its use will facilitate inmate achievement that is equal to if not better than traditional prison education programs. Some authors have concluded that inmates in Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs stand to gain more from technologically advanced teaching methods than inmates in General Educational Development (GED) programs. However, some of the optimism surrounding technology enhanced prison ABE and GED programs, typically in the form of computer-assisted instruction (CAI), is under attack owing to a lack of empirical evidence of its efficacy in the prison setting. The math, reading, and language scores of inmates using computer-assisted instruction in both ABE and GED programs were examined in a study using a true experimental design. A two-way Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) procedure was used to partial out the variance explained by level of education and treatment groups while holding constant TABE pretest scores. The results showed that the education program produced significant gains in reading scores among the students overall, but no significant gains were noted in math or language scores during the study. Likewise, the results did not support the conclusion that the use of CAI is more effective when used in ABE level classes as opposed to GED level classes.

1. Adoption, Serial Killers, and Adopted Child Syndrome: A Critical Review: Shivani Yadavalli, Deerfield-Windsor High School, Jason Armstrong and Pamela Brown, Albany State University

This paper examines the controversial link between adoption, mental health issues, and extreme criminal behavior, with a particular focus on the concept of Adopted Child Syndrome (ACS) and its potential relationship to serial killing. The review begins by exploring the historical context of adoption-related mental health concerns, including the overrepresentation of adoptees in mental health facilities and the introduction of ACS as a diagnostic concept in the 1980s. The study then critically analyzes ACS, its symptoms, and its use as a legal defense in criminal cases. We examine the contentious nature of ACS within the psychiatric community and its absence from the DSM. The review also investigates the reported correlation between adoption and serial killing, noting that while adoptees constitute a small percentage of the general population, they represent a disproportionate number of known serial killers in American history.

To further explore these connections, the paper presents case studies of four notorious American serial killers who were adopted: David Berkowitz, Ted Bundy, Kenneth Bianchi, and Joel Rifkin. Each case is examined in the context of their adoption experiences, childhood traumas, criminal activities, and potential manifestations of ACS-related behaviors.

The review concludes by discussing the methodological limitations of existing research on ACS and the adoption-serial killer connection. It emphasizes the need for more rigorous empirical studies and cautions against overgeneralizing findings to the broader adoptee population. This critical analysis aims to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the complex interplay between adoption, mental health, and criminal behavior, while highlighting areas for future research in criminology and psychology.

1. What Does Motherhood Look Like for Felons in Prison? Sophia Thacker, University of North Georgia

Educating pregnant prison inmates, and providing for their well-being, is a neglected service in female prisons, which is exacerbated by the fact that this group is largely underrepresented owing to the overall low percentage of total inmates who are pregnant. For that reason, there are few programs or resources available to benefit them. This paper examines the multiple pregnancy challenges associated with the birthing process in female prisons. Then, it explores other aspects of the mother-newborn relationship during incarceration, which is sadly diminished by the limited opportunities to engage in a mother-bonding experience. This not only impacts the infant but has a negative impact on the mother’s mental health as well. This not only impacts the infant but has a negative impact on the mother’s mental health as well. This paper concludes with a discussion about potential solutions for many of the issues faced by pregnant inmates.

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