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Media News



Courtesy Photo/NMSU



NMSU main campus
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Be Bold. Shape the Future.
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Criminal Justice

Message from the Department Head

I always look forward to writing my message for our Alumni Newsletter. It forces me to think about what we, as a department, are working to accomplish. So much is happening in our department and we have much to be thankful for! I am happy to report that things are back to normal on campus for the most part. Classes are now, once again, meeting in the face-to-face format with an increasing number of students on campus and participating in the many activities that are integral to campus life. We are still required to wear face masks while inside buildings, but for the most part folks have gotten used to this routine. Hopefully, by Spring, the masking requirement will be a thing of the past and we can get completely back to normal.

I had the opportunity to meet with random students a few weeks back in the Taos Café. Our Housing Office has established a “Dine with Faculty” event each year. It gives faculty members a chance to randomly meet with students and get to know them. The overarching goal of this event is student retention, but I really enjoy just speaking with these young men and women. This semester I met with four differing groups of students, and I am happy to report that I might have even convinced one student to change his major to CJ. Each of the students I spoke with had promising futures ahead of them. It was an enjoyable afternoon!

I have some good news to share with you. The department has been approved to hire two new faculty members for the 2022-2023 academic year. A number of faculty will be attending the American Society of Criminology Conference in Chicago this month to talk with prospective candidates. It is always exciting to bring new faculty on board and introduce them to our university and our outstanding students. Hopefully, in our next newsletter, we will be able to introduce these new members to our departmental family.

In other news, I would also like to announce that we have established a new Endowed Scholarship in our department. The Steve Solaja (class of 1980) Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice recognizes and honors Steve’s mission of service to his community as a Dallas Police Officer and his time as an NMSU Aggie on the gridiron as an NCAA Division I scholarship student-athlete. Throughout Steve’s life, his NMSU education and the lifelong relationships that he and his wife Vicki forged at NMSU, provided him with a solid foundation for a fulfilling life and a stellar career in service to his community and world. Ultimately, Steve’s NMSU experience fueled his desire to leave a legacy of service to society.

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As many of you know, I am a proud alumni of New Mexico State's Criminal Justice program and, in checking our transcripts, I know that Steve and I were in at least one class together, but that was back in the 70s, and to be honest, I barely remember the class, which I recall as being rather large. But I do have some background on Steve's outstanding career that I would like to share with you. In his twenty-seven years of service with the Dallas Police Department (1981-2008), Steve served in a myriad of roles ranging from patrol, traffic unit motorcycles, SWAT, and narcotics. He was an established instructor in all areas of SWAT operations and narcotics. Following his service to the Dallas community, Steve served as a United States Government contractor in Afghanistan for five-years (2009-2013) where he trained more than 350 Afghan soldiers and ran combat missions while embedded with the United States Marine Corps in the war with the Taliban. Steve lives by the adage, "*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*" The Department of Criminology is very proud to now offer this scholarship in honor of all that Steve has accomplished. Students receiving this prestigious award will help bring a legacy to our program in honor of Steve!

I do have some very sad news to pass along to everyone. In past newsletters I have mentioned Captain Greg Tracey (Retired from the California Highway Patrol) and the endowed scholarship that he established a number of years back. Greg passed away last year after a courageous battle with cancer. His legacy will continue as each year a deserving student will be awarded a generous scholarship in his name. He will continue to help students obtain their dream of a college education. Helping such students was very important to him! While I never had the opportunity to meet Greg in person, I spoke with him often. He is also the first person that I presented (by mail) a departmental challenge coin to after they were minted. He was just a wonderful person and someone that I was proud to call a friend. He cared deeply about our department and, more importantly, our students! He will be deeply missed!!

I always end my message with a request to each of you to reach out and let us know how you are doing. Every year I receive four or five emails from folks talking about their careers, their families, and fond memories of their time at NMSU. We honestly enjoy hearing from you and extend an open invitation to each of you to return to campus for a visit. We often have our alumni visit with students or make presentations in our classes. Our students love it, but it also helps them to connect with individuals who are working in the field. So please, reach out and let us know how you are doing. Our goal is to feature, as we have this semester, an alumnus from the past. Hopefully, some of you will remember Dr. Angela Gover ('90) from your time at NMSU. I would encourage you to share your experiences in a future newsletter. We all can be proud of the legacy of our department and the students who have attended NMSU.

Dennis Giever
dgiever@nmsu.edu

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Dr. Angela Gover

**Alumni of New Mexico
State's Criminal Justice
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Dr. Angela Gover

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Message from Dr. Angela Gover

A New Mexico native from Albuquerque, Dr. Angela Gover's journey as a scholar, criminologist, victimologist, and social scientist began at New Mexico State University (NMSU). Attending from 1986-1990, Gover was active on campus in Greek life as a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. After finding a real passion in studying criminal justice she joined the criminal justice academic honor society Alpha Phi Sigma, serving as President her senior year. While seeking the BCJ degree, Gover had the pleasure of taking classes from NMSU criminal justice professors Dr. Larry Mays, Dr. John Wooldredge, Dr. Tom Winfree, Dr. Fran Bernat, and Dr. Joan Crowley. This group of passionate scholars helped shape her decision to pursue graduate studies in criminal justice in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland (UMD).

Dr. Gover's scholarly interests at UMD centered on the impact of childhood maltreatment on juveniles' psychological adjustment within juvenile correctional facilities. As a Ph.D. student Gover was fortunate to be mentored by renowned criminologists including Doris Mackenzie, Charles Wellford, and Denise Gottfredson. She also worked at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Family Violence Research and Evaluation Unit for the U.S. Department of Justice, where she was a recipient of a NIJ dissertation fellowship. After entering academia in 2000, she held academic positions at the University of South Carolina and the University of Florida. In 2006 she joined the faculty at the School of Public Affairs at the University of

Colorado Denver, where she serves as a Professor today.

Dr. Gover's research is concentrated on gender and crime, victimization, and intimate partner violence (IPV).

Past studies and projects have examined the criminal justice system's response to IPV in terms of protection orders/no-contact orders, domestic violence courts, domestic violence offender treatment programs and standards, law enforcement officers' attitudes about domestic violence, factors related to dating violence victimization/perpetration, and policy responses to violence against women. Dr. Gover feels that it is crucial to shine a light on the nature and causes of IPV to understand the barriers victims face and connect them with effective services. Her main goal of teaching is to change students' lives by bringing awareness to the prevalence and consequences of violence against women.

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Gover's research has appeared in over 100 theoretical and applied journal and book chapter outlets, including *Justice Quarterly*, *Violence Against Women*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Violence and Victims*, *Women and Criminal Justice*, and many others. She has received numerous college and university awards for teaching, research, and service throughout her academic career, including the 2021 Outstanding Mentor Award and the 2017 Founder's Award from The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Most recently, Dr. Gover received The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Impact Award for 2021 CU Denver's Pandemic Research and Creative Activities that recognized her paper: "Anti-Asian Hate Crime During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Exploring the Reproduction of Inequality" published in the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* (2020). This paper examined how anti-Asian hate crimes have operated to "other" Asian Americans and reproduced inequality throughout history and today.

Dr. Gover stays active in the professional field of criminology and criminal justice by serving on editorial boards for the journals *Feminist Criminology*; *Women and Criminal Justice*; *Criminology*, *Criminal Justice*, *Law & Society*; and *Criminal Justice Studies*. She has served on numerous elected and volunteer positions and committees for the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Her current research focuses on the relationship between sexual identity, help-seeking,

and domestic violence, and the use of consistent measures of repeat, poly-, and chronic victimization when examining interpersonal violence with various longitudinal data sets. Dr. Gover will be forever grateful to her criminal justice professors at New Mexico State University who nurtured her interests in the discipline and provided a strong foundation for her continued academic studies in criminology and criminal justice.

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Dr. Sandra Trujillo recruited students at block parties in Albuquerque

The City of Albuquerque's Office of Equity and Inclusion is hosting community block parties across the City of Albuquerque throughout the remainder of 2021.

The CABQ block parties occur at select community centers and parks each weekend and are a place where neighborhood residents gather for food, games, and access to resources like emergency rental assistance, community safety, opportunities for information on NMSU Criminal Justice, and youth activities.

The NMSU Criminal Justice Department was invited to attend on October 30th at Albuquerque's Wilson Park and represented NMSU CJC at an additional ten block parties. On October 30th, application and enrollment opportunities were shared with more than 50 interested residents and discussions were had with dozens of Adult Basic Education, High School, and Middle School leaders in Albuquerque. As a department, we're honored and blessed to represent NMSU and excited about the future of New Mexico Criminal Justice and Criminology across New Mexico.



Criminal Justice Endowed Scholarships

Steve Solaja Criminal Justice Endowed Scholarship

Established in 2021, the Steve Solaja Criminal Justice Endowed Scholarship supports the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Steve Solaja (class of 1980) Endowed Scholarship in Criminal Justice recognizes and honors Steve's mission of service to his community as a Dallas Police Officer and his time as an NMSU Aggie on the gridiron as an NCAA Division I scholarship student-athlete.

CHP Captain Gregory Tracey Endowed Scholarship

The CHP Captain Gregory Tracey Endowed Scholarship was established in 2011 by CHP Captain Gregory Tracey in order to make awards to qualified and deserving students.

Captain Greg Tracey (Retired from the California Highway Patrol) and the endowed scholarship that he established a number of years back. Greg passed away last year after a courageous battle with cancer. His legacy will continue as each year a deserving student will be awarded a generous scholarship in his name. He will continue to help students obtain their dream of a college education. Helping such students was very important to him! He cared deeply about criminal justice department and, more importantly, our students! He will be deeply missed!!



We are proud of our students

Media News



Students around the
NMSU main campus
Courtesy Photo/NMSU

Bernie Jaramillo, Criminal Justice major, is awarded Highest Honors in the College of Arts and Sciences for the Fall 2021 semester. This honor recognizes the graduating senior in Arts and Sciences with the highest grade point average.



NMSU main campus
Courtesy Photo/NMSU



NMSU main campus computer center
Courtesy Photo/NMSU

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Faculty Gathering this summer

On June 6th CJ faculty and students had a cookout at Veteran's park.





Criminal Justice Department



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[Andreia Scarborough](#)
(our Administrative
Assistant)



[Alexis Renteria](#)
(student
worker/administrative
assistant)

Thank you Andreia and Alexis for taking care of student and faculty needs. Your personal touches and caring for each individual student is absolutely noticed.
Thank you both!

Please touch back to us and let us learn about your career and what you have done since you graduated.

Please send a short note or email briefly describing your careers. We might include these in future Newsletters or on our website. It would be nice for our alumni to hear from others and what they have been doing since they left NMSU.

Please check our [alumni success webpage](#)

Please visit the [CJ Giving Page](#) to see how you can contribute to the future success of Criminal Justice Students.