Welcome to Fall2018
FROM DEAN ROD K. BRUNSON

As Dean of the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University – Newark, it is my absolute pleasure to introduce our Fall 2018 newsletter. I also encourage you to carefully browse our webpages and schedule an in-person visit to our amazing School. I am confident that you will be thoroughly impressed by the many exciting endeavors underway.

I am especially proud to announce the arrival of four exceptional faculty hires: Colleen Berryessa (Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania), Frank Edwards (Ph.D. University of Washington), Michael Sierra-Arévalo (Ph.D. Yale University), and Jasmine Silver (Ph.D. University at Albany, SUNY).

In addition to broadening and strengthening faculty expertise, we have also remodeled our Academic Programs and Student Services (APSS) offices, classrooms, and meeting spaces. Finally, the Paul Robeson Gallery has installed a new exhibit throughout our suite titled, “Cuba Today through the Eyes of Eleven Photographers.”

I wish you the best for an enriching and invigorating year!
Alumni Spotlight

DR. NANCY LA VIGNE

Before coming to Rutgers University for her PhD in Criminal Justice, Nancy La Vigne studied government and economics and public affairs. She is now Vice President of Justice Policy at the Urban Institute (Urban), a non-profit research organization that serves as a trusted source for unbiased, authoritative insights that inform consequential choices about the wellbeing of people and places in the United States. Dr. La Vigne is quoted as stating, “My colleagues and I at the Justice Policy Center aim to put objective research findings into the hands of policymakers and practitioners so they can make sound decisions about how best to improve the safety and well-being of communities across the country.”

Prior to her role as vice president, La Vigne was a senior research associate at Urban, directing groundbreaking research on prisoner reentry. Before joining Urban, La Vigne was founding director of the Crime Mapping Research Center at the National Institute of Justice. She later was special assistant to the assistant attorney general for the Office of Justice Programs within the US Department of Justice. She also served as Research Director for the Texas sentencing commission, research fellow at the Police Executive Research Forum, and consultant to the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Dr. La Vigne became interested in prisoner reentry in the late 1990s when prisoner reentry was not particularly well-known in the field. Like her research colleagues, she questioned herself, “What happens when people leave prison or jail? What makes a successful reentry and how do we know?” Dr. La Vigne finds that one of the biggest misconceptions about reentry is that it is just a moment in time, and not a process. “Reentry is a process - before, during and after incarceration it is much more than just what happens at the time of release”. Her research has found that a variety of factors – including employment history, educational attainment behind bars, and family support – can predict successful reintegration over time.

For those entering the fields of Criminal Justice, Dr. La Vigne posits that there are many ways to make a difference. She chose to pursue policy-relevant research in a non-academic setting, yet there are also so many opportunities as advocates, as practitioners doing direct service, or as program/treatment providers. All of these roles can help impact the people who are touched by the criminal justice system. Studying for her doctoral degree at Rutgers University – Newark was a rewarding experience for Dr. La Vigne. She appreciates that the program was – and remains today – highly applied: “I learned criminal justice theory, data analysis, and evaluation methods from professors who understood the real world and want to make it better, developing leaders in criminal justice who make a difference”. We wish Dr. La Vigne continued success in bringing positive change to those experiencing reentry, as well as their families and our communities that support them.
Live in Peace! Why wait until you rest?
Understanding How to Reduce Gun Violence

5th Annual Senator Ron Rice Lecture on Criminal Justice and Public Policy featuring Stefania Kaplanes, MSW

October 2, 2018
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Center for Law & Justice
Baker Trial Moot Courtroom
RSVP Required

Stefania is passionate in her quest to minimize and/or eliminate street violence.

"This has been on my mind for years, seeing the R.I.P T-shirts of young men and woman when we should put all energy in preventing the homicide outcomes and supporting, advocating and understanding peace while living...."

ABOUT OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Stefania Kaplanes MSW is the Injury Prevention Specialist at Highland Hospital/Alameda Health System in Oakland, CA. Education is prevention and she feels blessed to have the opportunity to share her knowledge/experience with the Rutgers University – Newark community.

To RSVP please go to: http://evite.me/w9JjKNeAre
Graduate Advisor, Jimmy Camacho notes, "The Office of Academic and Student Services (APSS) has moved to Room 572/CLJ. The new location is more accessible to students seeking advisement and information about the School's four academic programs. The remodeled suite is located just inside SCJ's main entrance."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Friday, September 7th with students, faculty, and administration on hand to celebrate. APSS provides critical support to School of Criminal Justice undergraduate and graduate students. The professional staff are integral to students' timely degree completion.

Appointments are the primary means for arranging face-to-face meetings with advisors. Current undergraduates are encouraged to schedule appointments online at RU-N 4 Success. Upon arrival to APSS, students must then register at one of the four advising kiosks.

The APSS team looks forward to making your educational experience seamless and rewarding!

Assistant Dean LaWanda Thomas; Associate Dean Kenya Tyson; and Jimmy Camacho, Manager of Graduate Programs and Enrollment Services