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Meet the Fourth Recipient of the C. Edward Keller Scholarship

Gabriel Eshelman grew up in Portage before moving to Carrolltown where he attended high school. In high school, Mr. Eshelman was the president of the Art Club, a member of the Theatre Guild, and a member of the Scholastic Quiz team that made it to the Great 8 Championship. When applying for colleges, Mr. Eshelman knew he would need a scholarship since his family would be putting him and his twin brother through college at the same time. Mr. Eshelman learned about the C. Edward Keller scholarship while applying to IUP.

The C. Edward Keller scholarship is a four-year, full scholarship awarded to an incoming freshmen. Students applying for this scholarship must also apply for the Cook Honors College. Being accepted to the Honors College, receiving this scholarship, and IUP's location all played heavily in Mr. Eshelman's decision to attend IUP. Mr. Eshelman said that the deciding factor for his attendance was the quality of the Criminology program, "I've heard nothing but praise for the Criminology department at IUP, and meeting Dr. Cooper was a highlight of my summer."

Now in his freshman year at IUP as a criminology major, Mr. Eshelman enjoys his classes, forming meaningful relationships with his professors, and joining clubs such as the Sailing and the Fencing Club. His favorite aspect of the criminology department is the faculty, "I can't give enough praise to the faculty of this department. Dr. Lewis has been very helpful and very understanding throughout this semester, and Dr. Martin was



very patient with my busy schedule when trying to plan a meeting. I also, once again must give praise to Dr. Cooper. I don't know if I'd even be in this department without him."

Mr. Eshelman's academic interests outside of Criminology include psychology, military science and Spanish. He hopes to continue developing his Spanish speaking skills and would like to further explore computer programming or finance. In the future, Mr. Eshelman plans to work in law enforcement. He says, "Hopefully my classes these next few semesters can help me decide between trying to enter the State Police, Game Commission, and FBI."

Mr. Eshelman would like to thank the department faculty, and says he feels welcomed by the department and other students he has met through clubs and the Cook Honors College.

Department Secretary: Dottie Hillard

Ms. Dottie Hillard has been the secretary in the Criminology department since March 2004 and has worked on campus since November 1999. Previously, Ms. Hillard worked in the African American Cultural Center and the School of Graduate Studies before she found her home in Wilson Hall. Ms. Hillard's main duties include preparing paperwork for faculty, acting as a liaison with the Dean's Office, working closely with the department's Advising Center director and Internship coordinator, and making sure things run smoothly around Wilson Hall.

Although Ms. Hillard works closely with the faculty, she says the most enjoyable aspect of her job is helping the students and seeing them advance in their careers. Ms. Hillard says, "Over the years, I've seen so many students go through our programs and succeed in life and obtain great job positions."

Outside of work, Ms. Hillard volunteers with a non-profit organization that does free clothing giveaways, as well as an autism support group. When she is not managing things in Wilson or volunteering, Ms. Hillard enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren. Ms. Hillard's grandchildren include Patric (25, an Assistant Manager), Julie (17, a high school senior), and Alana (7, a first grader who is on the autism spectrum and outsmarts her grandmother at times).



Department Professor Receives Outstanding Junior Teacher Award



Dr. Sadie Mummert received the College of Health and Human Services Outstanding Junior Teacher Award in May, 2018. This award recognizes non-tenured professors who exemplify outstanding teaching skills. Dr. Mummert was nominated by faculty in the Criminology Department for her excellence in teaching. A committee comprised of faculty from across the college review each applicants explanation of their teaching strategies, student and peer evaluations, course materials, and work to support students outside of the classroom. As part of the award, Dr. Mummert was honored at the college's annual awards luncheon and received funds that will allow her to continue her professional development as an outstanding professor.



American Society of Criminology, 2018 74th Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA

Comprised of approximately 3,700 members from more than 60 countries, the American Society of Criminology is a professional organization that hosts an annual conference where members discuss a wide variety of criminal justice topics in order to provide professional knowledge about the measurement, prevention, control, and treatment of crime and delinquency.

The American Society of Criminology annual meetings encourage the exchange of research findings, teaching strategies, and evidence-based practices. Specialized divisions within The American Society of Criminology include Corrections and Sentencing, Women and Crime, International Criminology, Critical Criminology, and People of Color and Crime.

Conference attendees include professors, criminal justice professionals, and students from across the United States and the globe. IUP Criminology & Criminal Justice faculty, doctoral and masters students, and alumni attended and presented papers at this conference. The doctoral program hosted its annual Alumni Reception where current and former students, and faculty caught up and networked.

If you are planning to attend the 2019 Academy of Criminal Justice Science conference in Baltimore, MD (March 26 - 30) or Northeastern Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference in Williamsport, PA (June 5 - 8), please let us know. We'd love to see you there!



Dr. Paul Lucas and Dr. Cathy Davis Marcum
IUP Alumni



Samantha Bennett, IUP Ph.D. student



Dr. Kyung-shick Choi, IUP Alumni

Preparing Future Faculty Program Now Offered at Master's Level

In partnership with the Center of Teaching Excellence (CTE) and the School of Graduate Studies and Research (SGSR), Dr. Gossett (Criminology/SGSR Dean's Associate) and Dr. Lewis (Criminology/CTE Advising and Student Success) developed a Preparing Future Faculty Certificate (PFF) certificate program that now is open to all graduate students at IUP. The PFF certificate program is an expansion of the Criminology department's nationally recognized PFF certificate doctoral program. Launched in the Fall 2018 semester, the PFF certificate program was an immediate success with at least one student from every college applying for the program.

The PFF certificate program is a one-year experience designed to provide graduate students with an opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge, to begin an academic career. To develop these skills, students are required to complete a minimum of nine graduate-level credits in their discipline, as well as a three-credit graduate level teaching/pedagogy course. In addition to the teaching class, the certificate program follows a teacher-scholar model that educates students about service commitments and research initiatives required of

college-level faculty. Students working towards this certificate guest lecture, work one-on-one with a faculty mentor, attend professional development workshops, and provide service. PFF certificate program completion is designated on the student's transcript.

Students who complete the PFF certificate program will be better prepared to teach at a community college or university. For our Master's of Arts students who wish to work in the criminal justice system and as an adjunct at a local college, this program provides a strong foundation for becoming a teacher-scholar. For our M.A. students who wish to pursue a doctoral degree, having the certificate listed on the transcript shows a deep commitment to the profession and allows students to more realistically decide if academia is a good career choice.

Currently the PFF certificate has approximately 20 graduate students begin each Fall semester. The School for Graduate Studies and Research and the Center for Teaching Excellence hope to expand the program in the future to include all IUP graduate students through an interactive online program. To learn more about the program, please visit [Preparing Future Faculty](#).



Student Spotlight

Devin Altland



Currently a graduate student, Devin Altland graduated with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology & Criminology from IUP in May, 2018. Mr. Altland decided to attend IUP for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees because of the Criminology department. His favorite aspect of IUP is the sense of community he feels on campus, in his classes, and within his department. Mr. Altland says that he enjoys the faculty at IUP because they are both helpful and know how to challenge their students. He also says, "the classroom environment is nurturing and open to opinions that allow for quality discussion, which is especially important in our field."

His research interests include juvenile delinquency, law research, and athletes and crime. Mr. Altland balances his coursework by serving as a graduate assistant for the IUP football team and working on campus. His future career goals include working for the FBI or another government agency, working with juveniles, or possibly attending law school. Mr. Altland would like to thank his parents and grandparents for their support, "Without them, none of this would be possible".

Catherine Limbert

Graduate student, Catherine Limbert continues her education at IUP after earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology in May, 2018. Miss Limbert enjoys the beauty of IUP's campus and says her classes excite her because she always feels she is learning something interesting. Miss Limbert says of the Criminology department, "Our program is dedicated to success and the professors here will do anything they can to help us."

Miss Limbert's research interests include reentry programs and recidivism. She says, "I want to develop programs that will help offenders stay out once they've been released." Miss Limbert is passionate about her research interests and plans on completing a thesis in this area. She hopes to collect data from local correctional institutions to evaluate reentry programs. In the future, Miss Limbert would like to continue conducting research and is considering earning her Ph.D.

Miss Limbert works as a graduate assistant under Dr. Mummert where she has had the opportunity to assist with research. She is also involved in organizations on campus such as Theta Phi Alpha, Turning Point USA, and Rho Tau Chi. Miss Limbert would like to thank Dr. Mummert, Dr. Phaneuf and Dr. Hawkins for teaching her so much and helping her to continue her education here at IUP.

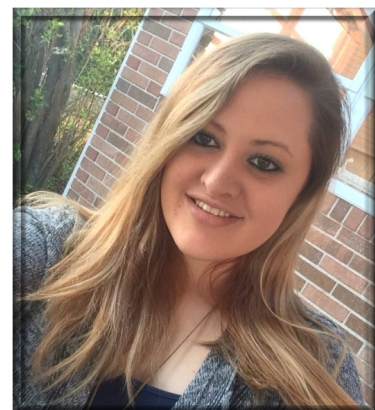


Felecia Watt

Graduate Student Felecia Watt, is currently in her first semester of the Criminology Ph.D. program. She graduated with her undergraduate degree in Criminology, Law and Society from Saint Vincent College in 2014. Subsequently, she earned a Master's of Science in Counselor Education and a Master's of Arts in Criminology from Saint Vincent College. After speaking with IUP faculty, she decided the doctoral program was the right fit to pursue her goal of becoming a professor. One of Miss Watt's favorite parts of IUP is the beautiful campus. Her favorite aspect of the Criminology department is the friendly and supportive faculty and students.

Along with wanting to become a professor, Miss Watt is interested in developing crime prevention and rehabilitation programs for adolescents. Her research interests include existential criminology, substance abuse and juvenile delinquency. She is thankful to have the opportunity to work as a graduate assistant with both Dr. Kathleen Hanrahan and Dr. Alida Merlo. In her work with Dr. Merlo, she is currently researching trauma informed care in the juvenile justice system and in schools.

When Miss Watt is not on campus, she works full-time with the Indiana and Armstrong County Open Door Crisis Center.



Department Welcomes Back Dr. Merlo



Dr. Alida Merlo returned to IUP in the Fall 2018 semester after a year on sabbatical leave (2017-2018). During her leave, Dr. Merlo co-authored two books, presented at conferences in the United States, Wales and Germany, and delivered the College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar Lecture at the University of Southern Indiana.

While on sabbatical, Dr. Merlo co-presented papers at six conferences. Beginning in June, Dr. Merlo co-presented a paper on trauma informed care in the juvenile justice system at the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference. In September, Dr. Merlo co-presented a paper in Cardiff, Wales at the European Society of Criminology Meeting. Subsequently, she co-presented papers at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Western Society of Criminology Conference in Long Beach, CA.

Aside from presenting at conferences and meeting with international colleagues, Dr. Merlo worked on two books. One is the 9th edition of her popular textbook, *The Juvenile Justice System: Delinquency, Processing, and the Law*, with her co-author Dr. Peter Benekos.

The second, Dr. Merlo's recent book, *Reaffirming Juvenile Justice: From Gault to Montgomery*, assesses the transformation of juvenile justice since the Supreme Court's Gault decision in 1967. In the past 50 years, the juvenile justice system has shifted between due process and punitive approaches, and now focuses more on early prevention, treatment, and trauma informed care. Trauma informed care recognizes that children who offend may have been victims of violence. This approach to dealing with the delinquency centers on first recognizing and treating the trauma.

Before joining the faculty at IUP, Dr. Merlo received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Youngstown State University, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Fordham University. Dr. Merlo was a probation officer and an intake supervisor in the juvenile court, taught for 20 years at Westfield State University in Massachusetts, and has been on the faculty at IUP for 23 years.

Dr. Merlo is the past president of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) and the recipient of the ACJS Fellow Award, Founder's Award, and Outstanding Mentor Award. Her body of research on juvenile justice, criminal justice policy, and women and the law has been recognized by IUP. Since 2015, she has co-authored three book chapters and eight peer-reviewed journal articles.

Though Dr. Merlo's research agenda is nationally recognized, working with students is her most important accomplishment. "I have had the opportunity to interact with, teach, and mentor undergraduate and graduate students in my academic career. It is an honor and a privilege. I am especially heartened when I hear from or see alumni and they share with me stories of their successes."

Sabbatical leave gave Dr. Merlo the opportunity to research, write, speak, travel, and collaborate with colleagues on projects. She says, "I highly recommend a sabbatical leave for everyone. It is an opportunity to re-energize, recharge, and devote significant amounts of time to research publications and scholarship."

Students Give Back to the Local Community

Doctoral students, Carley Smathers and Ronda Engstrom, were assigned a service learning project in Dr. Erika Frenzel's Doctoral Colloquium class. For their project, they conducted a preliminary needs assessment of Indiana County and found that food insecurity was a concern in the community. In fact, children in Indiana County face food insecurity at higher rates compared to other counties in the state. Ms. Smathers and Mrs. Engstrom contacted local schools to get more information on how they could help. The schools directed them to the Power Pack program, which is a part of Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP). ICCAP's Power Pack program provides children with food at times when school is not in session (weekends and holidays).

The Power Packs program was established in 2009 and aims to meet the nutritional needs of children experiencing food insecurity in Indiana County. The program serves nearly 800 eligible children in Indiana County Elementary Schools. The children receive weekend packages of food. The packages contain breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, and drinks. The program is funded by donations of food and money.

After contacting the Power Pack program, Ms. Smathers and Mrs. Engstrom decided to collect monetary donations from Criminology & Criminal Justice students and faculty. Emails and fliers were circulated to students and faculty with information about the program and the fundraiser. Along with other students, Ms. Smathers and Mrs. Engstrom set up a table in the foyer of Wilson Hall and offered free coffee and snacks (donuts, candy, and baked goods) to students and faculty. In return, people were asked to donate what they might pay for the items.

Carley and Ronda were able to donate \$685.91 to support the Power Packs Program!

A special thanks to the student volunteers including Lindsey Smathers, Felecia Watt, Alexandra Murphy, and Aaron Good, and to Starbucks for donating the coffee.

If you would like to learn more about or donate money to the Power Packs program, please visit iccap.net/powerpack/



Students and faculty treat others to coffee and donuts in Wilson Hall.



Ronda Engstrom and Carly Smathers collect donations for Power Packs.

Alumni Profile: Kyle Ward, PhD



Kyle Ward, PhD is currently an Assistant professor at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado. He received a Bachelor of Science in psychology and Criminal Justice from Lebanon Valley College. He then went on to receive his Master's of Arts degree in Forensic Psychology from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Dr. Ward started the doctoral program in Criminology & Criminal Justice at IUP in the Fall 2011 semester and earned his PhD in 2015. For him, the most rewarding part of his IUP experience was passing his dissertation defense. From concluding the three-year process of developing his idea to collecting his data and writing up the whole project, this was both an incredible feat and the most challenging part of Dr. Kyle Ward's IUP experience.

As an assistant professor, a day for Dr. Ward involves teaching classes, holding office hours, meetings with both graduate and undergraduate, and coordinating or conducting research projects. He enjoys working with students both at the undergraduate and the graduate level, helping them grasp course material or bringing them onto a research project he is working on.

However, Dr. Ward finds that the greatest joy in his career is derived from his research. He conducts mostly applied research, working with different agencies to help evaluate their programs to determine 'what works'. He is currently working on a program in two county jails in Colorado called *The Reading for Change Program*. This is a continuation of a project he worked on at the local jail while a doctoral student at IUP. The

program focuses on allowing incarcerated parents a means to maintain or build a relationship with their children. His research team goes into jails and records these parents reading children's books to their kids. The team then edit the recording and send both the book and recording to the children. Just like the program that was run at the Indiana County Jail, Dr. Ward's current project also has a research component. The research team interviews the parents to better understand the impact incarceration has on family relationships.

Along with the *Reading for Change program*, Dr. Ward and a colleague received a large grant from the state of Colorado to validate and revise the Colorado Pretrial Risk Assessment Tool (CPAT). The CPAT is used by the pretrial departments throughout the state to help judges determine bail. This tool predicts a defendant's risk to fail to appear in court or commit another crime while out on bail. This project has multiple phases that include validating the tool in its current form, gathering input from stakeholders on the strengths and shortcoming of the tool, and developing and piloting a modified tool. The pilot phase of this project is currently underway and is projected to be completed in the summer of 2020.

With such a busy and rewarding career, Dr. Ward believes that the Criminology and Criminal Justice department prepared him to be a faculty member at a university. Through the coursework and help he received from the faculty at IUP, he knows that IUP greatly influenced his career.

Dr. Ward advises undergraduate or graduate students in the Criminology & Criminal Justice department to get to know the hard-working practitioners in the field. He finds that it is useful to get to know these professionals who do the work that students read about. As jurisdictions differ vastly in how they carry out policies and program, Dr. Ward has always found it useful to get to know the police chiefs, police officers, professionals who run rehabilitation programming, and correctional officials who work in his community. Getting to know these individuals can help students understand the scope of the work they want to pursue and also build strong relationships with those in the field.

Retired Professor: Dr. Timothy Austin



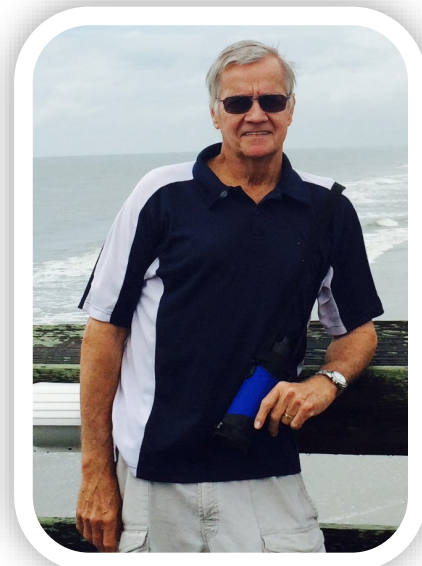
Dr. Timothy Austin retired after teaching at IUP for 34 years. Since retiring in 2018, Dr. Austin has been busy; he has co-authored a book, *Comparative Justice: Off the Beaten Path*, with a graduate of the doctoral program, Dr. Victoria Time. Dr. Austin also has been working on a second book that he describes as, “somewhat of a memoir that traces my own ethnographic field projects, both domestic and foreign.”

Dr. Austin grew up in a college town in Lakeland, Florida, where he spent a lot of his time enjoying the campus. Campus life to him, felt like a natural calling. Dr. Austin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, a Master of Science in Criminology, and a Ph.D. in Sociology. Before coming to IUP in 1984, Dr. Austin taught at three other universities. First, at Florida Technological University (now named University of Central Florida) in Orlando, FL for three years. Then he taught at North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC) for five years, and last at Montana State University for three years (Bozeman, Montana).

Dr. Austin taught many courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, but his two main courses were Theoretical Criminology

and the Comparative Study of Justice. With a love for anthropology, Dr. Austin’s research interests gravitated towards comparative criminology. “To me, cultural anthropology and conducting fieldwork, especially on foreign soil, reflected purest science, purest art, and purest adventure. I most enjoyed trying to impart these qualities in my comparative classes and in doctoral seminars in Ethnographical Criminology.”

IUP’s atmosphere on campus often reminded Dr. Austin of the college town where he grew up in Florida. In the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department, the diverse faculty and the ability to teach at all levels was an aspect that he enjoyed most. At IUP, faculty are permitted to follow their research and teaching interests, and have a strong union to back their professors. His most memorable accomplishment at IUP was assisting graduate students with career decisions and development. Dr. Austin had the privilege of directing 22 doctoral dissertations and 6 master’s theses during his time at IUP.



Congratulations December Graduates! Bachelor of Arts

Artyom Aminov

Skylar N. Archer

Taj-Aya Sharee Barnes

Joseph Nino Benetti III

Dominic C. Bertan

Brianna Marie Carter

Briana Marie Crabill

Joshua M. Dicks

Ja'Keera Mone Ewell

Hunter K. Fennell

Nicholas James Frontino

Jackson T. Howard

Mariah Katelyn Howard

Janet Juarez

Isaac Benjamin Lane

Tyler G. Lombardo

Devin Jay McCurdy

Micaela Lease Meinert

Keri Leigh Ondrejik

Austin Christopher Ortwein

Jalisse Marie Rivera

Dyshaya Sabree Ross

Aaron Sheppard

Kyle William Shrecengost

Jonathan E. Stevenson

Danielle Ryeleigh Stillwagon

Nicholas Gabriel Sycz

Vito Jason Taormina

Whitley Eugenia Thomas

Logan Frederick Watkins

Rasheem Javere White

Tory James Winters

Benjamin Michael Wodarek

BryAnna Elizabeth Nickoi Woodson

