

# COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SPRING 2024 HONORS AND AWARDS

## OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD

*The most prestigious award conferred by the College of Criminal Justice and recognizes exceptional achievement by a graduate.*

Recipient: **Jeffrey T. Walker** (PhD'92)  
Professor and J. Frank Barefield Jr. Endowed  
Chair of Communities and Crime, University of  
Alabama, Birmingham



## OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION

*The Outstanding Dissertation Award recognizes a student who has completed a doctoral degree in the College of Criminal Justice whose doctoral dissertation reflects superior scholarship.*

Recipient: **Taylor Robinson, PHD**  
(May 2023)

Dissertation Co-chairs:  
Shelly Clevenger and Cassandra Gonzalez



## FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*Recognizes extraordinary engagement by a faculty member own effort to support the community using their leadership efforts and expertise in the field to "build a bridge between the university and community".*

Recipient: **Elizabeth Hartsell**  
Assistant Professor, Dept of  
Criminal Justice and Criminology



## FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

*Recognizes a faculty member whose research demonstrates a record of excellence in scholarly and research productivity and has a positive impact upon the research community and the field.*

Recipient: **Eric Connolly**  
Associate Professor, Dept of  
Criminal Justice and Criminology



## FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

*Recognizes extraordinary and impactful service that is above and beyond that expected by a faculty member.*

Recipient: **Mary Breaux**  
Associate Professor of Practice,  
Dept of Victim Studies



## FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

*Recognizes outstanding teaching by a faculty member based on professional development related to teaching, inclusive teaching practices, high impact teaching practices, and student evaluations.*

Recipient: **Katie Ratajczak**  
Assistant Professor, Dept of  
Victim Studies

## FACULTY STUDENT IMPACT

*This award recognizes a faculty member who has made a positive impact on student success to transform the student experience inside or outside the classroom through teaching, research, mentoring and/or service.*

Recipient:  
**Magdalena Denham**  
Professor of Practice, Dept of  
Security Studies



## DAVID B. HOUSTON OUTSTANDING LECTURER

*The award was named in honor of David Houston and acknowledges his lasting impact in the college. This award recognizes outstanding and high impact teaching practices by a lecturer in the College of Criminal Justice.*

Recipient: **Diana Kukua**



## BETO ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP

*This award is dedicated to the professional development and mentorship of graduate students and to outstanding doctoral research and education by a faculty member in the College of Criminal Justice.*

Recipient: **Stuti Kokkalera**  
Assistant Professor, Dept of  
Criminal Justice and Criminology



## STAFF EXCELLENCE

*This award recognizes an outstanding staff member in the College of Criminal Justice or the Criminal Justice Center whose work demonstrates a record of extraordinary commitment to excellence.*

Recipient: **Doris Pratt**



## DEFENSOR PACEM MEDAL

*Award given to an individual in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Criminal Justice Center in pursuit of its mission on behalf of the people of the state of Texas.*

Recipient: **Doug J. Dretke**  
Former Director of the  
Correctional Management  
Institute of Texas (CMIT)



Recipient: **Rita J. Watkins**  
Former Director of the  
Law Enforcement Management  
Institute of Texas (LEMIT)

