

**2020 Robert F. Borkenstein Graduate Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement
Department of Criminal Justice, Indiana University Bloomington**

I am honored to present the Borkenstein Graduate Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement to Caitlin Ducate, a truly deserving doctoral student in our Department of Criminal Justice. I nominated Caitlin for this award and am thrilled that her achievements to date are being officially recognized by this great honor.

A greater appreciation of the significance of bestowing this award requires some knowledge about the award's namesake, Robert F. Borkenstein, an iconic figure in criminal justice. Borkenstein is most well-known for developing the infamous Breathalyzer in 1954. His invention emerged from his work with the Indiana State Police Crime Lab, where he was hired in 1936 and rose to Captain in charge; in that position, he also helped develop and became a preeminent expert in applying the polygraph and, in collaboration with an IU professor, developed an early version of the Breathalyzer in 1938 known as the Drunkometer.

In 1958, Borkenstein completed a Bachelor of Arts degree (A.B.) from IUB, retired from Indiana State Police, and was hired as professor and chair of the new Department of Police Administration at IUB (our current Department of Criminal Justice). He served as chair until 1971, when he transitioned to founding Director of the Center for Studies of Law in Action until his retirement in 1983.

Again, Professor Borkenstein made important lasting scientific contributions to applied policing and drug/alcohol prevention and control. Often overlooked yet also highly important was Borkenstein's vision of moving our department – and the field – beyond police training curriculum to an interdisciplinary and theoretically integrative study of crime and justice. To this point, I would like to read you the opening of a letter that Borkenstein wrote in 1965 as part of a proposal to establish a Center for the Forensic Sciences at IUB. I quote:

“In 1886, that wise man of law and life, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, presented an exciting vision to the students of Harvard College:

“Your business as thinkers is to make plainer the way from some thing to the whole of things; to show the rational connection between your fact and the frame of the universe. If your subject is law, the roads are plain to anthropology, the science of man, to political economy, the theory of legislation, ethics, and thus by several paths to your final view of life... To master any branch of knowledge, you must master those which lie next to it.”

“Today more than ever before we should take heed of Holmes' far-sighted recognition of the relationship of law to the other disciplines. During this age of ever-expanding complexity of life's problems and of ever-growing specialization, areas of learning have tended to drift apart. To be sure, some intellectual counter-influences are operative; but it is clear that there is pressing need of patterns of integration, designed to draw together the various islands of knowledge that have broken off from all-embracing Philosophy in

its literal sense of “the love of wisdom.” One the other hand, information is becoming so detailed and many-faceted that we are compelled, also, to cling to specialization. The answer must be a compromise consisting of several patterns of intellectual integration, each with a different focus and emphasis but each also not isolated from relevant neighboring disciplines necessary to the informed and just solution of the manifold problems of life laid on the doorstep of the professions...”

Robert F. Borkenstein Papers; Archives Online at Indiana University
http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/findingaids/view?doc.view=entire_text&docId=InU-Ar-VAC0762#

In his ambitious proposal, Borkenstein explains the need for an interdisciplinary academic unit that avoids the narrow focus and potential biases associated with professionally dominated centers. In contrast, he proposed “a program in the forensic sciences be established on a multi-disciplinary basis, intimately woven into the academic fabric of Indiana University” and to “assemble a multi-disciplinary faculty capable of coordinating and supplementing existing resources in the humanities, arts, and sciences and applying them to the problems of crime and criminal prevention....”

I cannot help but think that Caitlin Ducate would be exactly the type of scholar that Borkenstein would have advocated to hire for his proposed Center.

Before joining IUB, Caitlin earned two Master’s (MSc) degrees in the UK – one in forensic psychology at the University of Kent and another in psychology at Leeds Metropolitan University. While at IU, she has begun finding fruitful and creative ways to merge her past training in psychology with her chosen area of expertise in criminal justice. For example, her background with implicit measurements using lexical decision tasks (LDTs) has led to ASC presentations, a sole-authored manuscript under review, and a collaborative research project with me in which we are using LDTs and experimental vignettes to study cognitive schemas and reactive responses to conflict scenarios (e.g., with police interactions). Substantively, Caitlin’s primary area of expertise on intersectionality and intimate partner violence; she has successfully defended her qualifying exam and is currently developing a dissertation proposal in this area in which she is integrating ideas from multiple disciplines including sociology, psychology, and criminal justice.

Methodologically, Caitlin has challenged herself to take courses from many of the top statistical minds at IUB. She is now as well-versed as any student that our department has graduated in recent years in a variety of statistical methods, including classical frequentist and Bayesian linear modeling, network analysis, structural equation modeling, and causal inference. Even more impressively, in pursuing our collaborative research, Caitlin has ambitiously taken the initiative to teach herself advanced coding skills in multiple interfaces and coding languages, including R, MTurk, psiTurk, and JavaScript. As a result, she is well on her way towards emerging from our program as a strong scholar with a unique and valuable skillset who should be quite competitive in academic and non-academic job markets alike.

Moreover, Caitlin is bright, motivated, hard-working, diligent, and highly reliable – a combination that has put her skillset in high demand among our current faculty (myself

included). We rely on her for so many things: as an essential collaborator in research projects; to complete important grant work; to provide superb teaching assistance; to teach her own valuable courses as instructor of record; to represent our department for graduate recruitment and other departmental events requiring student representation; and to serve as a liaison between faculty and graduate students.

Caitlin is an especially worthy recipient of the Robert F. Borkenstein award. In inventing the breathalyzer, Professor Borkenstein creatively applied technology to measure the previously unobservable (alcohol in the blood) in the service of controlling a difficult social problem (drunk driving). Caitlin's research is reminiscent of Professor Borkenstein's legacy: Her work also leverages technology (advanced computer coding and lexical decision tasks) in innovative ways to measure the otherwise unobservable (implicit cognitions) in the service of identifying causes and potentially controlling a social problem (interpersonal violence).

I cannot think of a more deserving student for an award recognizing outstanding academic achievement honoring Professor Borkenstein's namesake. So, without further ado, it is my distinct honor and privilege to present the 2020 Borkenstein Graduate Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement to Caitlin Ducate.

Sincerely,



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