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SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY



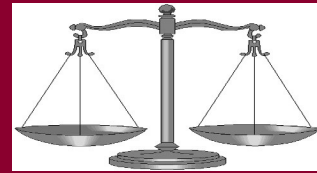
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The CJ Times

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2011



Message From the Chair

The MACJ is now in its fourth year of operation. We are proud to say that we have graduated 28 students since its inception. We expect to graduate 7 students in May 2011. The program continues to attract students eager to learn about the criminal justice system in order to make a meaningful contribution to our world. We have prepared this newsletter to provide an update on our program. We have a Facebook page and blog prepared by Robert Fasano, one of our graduate assistants. Please remember to check them for department news and updates.

Dr. Pearl Jacobs



Congratulations Alpha Phi Sigma Inductees

On April 27th 2011, the Criminal Justice Department led by Dr. Morris held its 4th Annual National Criminal Justice Honor Society Ceremony. We are please to announce that four members of our MACJ Program were inducted into this prestigious community. Melissa Craffey, Robert Fasano, Nicole Gersoa and Avaraham Levitian are now part of this society.

Congratulations Professor Tanya Grant



Professor Grant has almost completed her Doctorate dissertation entitled, "Advocates' Experiences With Victims of Domestic Violence: An Examination of Personal Biases and Attitudes and Their Impact on Service Delivery."

We further congratulate Professor Grant on the birth of her baby girl, Mia Madison Grant, this past February. When asked about balancing the roles of wife and mother while being a professor at a university and pursuing her Doctorate, Professor Grant related that her desire to be a role model to her children showing them the importance of advanced education has given her the strength to pursue her goals.

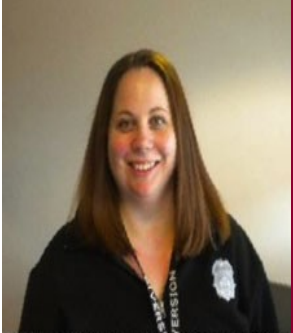
Student Reflections

Marcie Johnson, MACJ Graduate December 2010 - Drug Enforcement Agency

I graduated in 2002 from the University of New Haven with a BS in Criminal Justice. More recently I have finished my MACJ this previous December at Sacred Heart. Currently I am employed by the Drug Enforcement Administration as a Diversion Investigator. I am in my second month of a 3 month long training program in Quantico, VA and will be here until the end of May.

I primarily chose to study at SHU in the MACJ program because it was a convenient commute and the tuition cost was very competitive compared to the University of New Haven or Central CT State University. I also liked that I had the option of either the thesis or comprehensive exam, and also liked that I could be part of a new and growing program (plus new program = smaller class sizes).

Through my experiences, I have learned that with hard work and dedication, it is possible to balance going to school full time while working full time and to still do well, and that the future payoffs of the Masters Degree (and knowing I finished) are very rewarding. The MACJ program has helped me achieve my goals by giving me a head start upon entering the Criminal Justice field. By having a Masters Degree, I was able to start at a higher salary than I would have with just a Bachelors. I had also wanted to finish my Masters for several years, so it was something I could finally cross off of my "I wish I could do" list. In 5 years I look forward to not being brand new to my current position/job, and possibly teaching an undergrad course or two sometime down the road.



Melissa Craffey, MACJ Graduate May 2011

Melissa Craffey is a second year graduate student in the Criminal Justice Masters Program. She is originally from Londonderry, NH where she has lived almost her entire life. She attended Assumption College in Worcester, MA where she triple majored in history, French, and political science. After graduating Assumption in 2009, Melissa wanted to learn more about criminal justice and the law itself before attending law school. She first heard about the MACJ program at Sacred Heart University from her sister, Colleen Craffey, who is currently a Sacred Heart undergraduate. She chose to attend the program at Sacred Heart not only in order to pursue her interest in criminal justice related studies, but due to the concentrations in management and national security offered within the program.

This semester Melissa was given the opportunity to become a graduate assistant for the Criminal Justice Department. In this position, she has been able to work closely with the Criminal Justice Professors assisting with research specifically pertaining to court cases as well as the structure of police departments in CT. When asked about her experience as a graduate assistant, Melissa said "I have really enjoyed being a GA since I have further learned about some criminal justice topics that were both covered and not covered in the classroom. My goal coming to Sacred Heart was to learn as much about criminal justice as possible. I think I have reached this goal through my course work as well as being a graduate assistant. As a result, I have a better grasp on this field of study than I could have ever imagined." Melissa believes that her success in the MACJ program has better prepared her to attend law school and fulfill her dream of becoming a lawyer.



Jeff Barrett MACJ Graduate May 2009

My main focus while pursuing an MACJ degree at SHU was National Security and Emergency Management-related research. I presented research entitled *Cruise Line Security: Is America at Risk* and *An Evaluation of Emergency Notification Systems at Masters North Colleges*.

The most influential courses for me were Critical Issues in the Administration and Management of the Criminal Justice System and Methods of Research Design and Statistical Analysis. Both courses were offered by Dr. McCabe, a professor and mentor of mine who helped me realize that I could secure a Criminal Justice-related job that would afford me the opportunity to educate others. Passion and work are ideal and often romanticized. I'm grateful the combination has become a reality for me.

I decided to pursue a Master's in Criminal Justice at SHU after working as an intern in General Electric's Corporate Security Department for two years. During that time, I learned that my skill sets, particularly my communication skills could help me land a job with a state or federal agency, such as the State Department or the Department of Homeland Security. Having completed my undergraduate work at SHU, I already knew the caliber of teaching and the commitment to personal attention that the faculty share.

Looking back, I do wish the program offered more emergency management-specific courses, though I was allowed to pursue my own research interest in all of my courses.

One thing I learned that has helped me advance in my current position as Lead Coordinator of Crime Prevention and Emergency Planning at SHU is the value of performance measurement and how important it is to implement processes to measure the success of work in everyday business practice.

In my career, I aspire to be a Director of Emergency Management at an institution of higher education. I also hope to teach at the collegiate level.

In five years, I see myself having a second Masters degree (Business Administration) under my belt. I also see myself advancing in the ranks of administration at SHU. Perhaps as Associate Director of Public Safety with a specialization in Emergency Management.

MACJ Facebooking & Blogging!

Check us out on Facebook @

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Master-of-Arts-in-Criminal-Justice-at-Sacred-Heart-University/126974050687749?v=info>

And..... Our BLOG!

http://sacredheartuniversity.typepad.com/master_of_arts_in_crimina/

Name: Rob Fasano

Class of: 2009 BA in Psychology, 2011 MACJ

Degree: 2011, Master of Arts in Criminal Justice student and Graduate Assistant for the Department

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

Extracurricular Activities: Grad Assistant for the MACJ program; Intern at Chartwells; love to travel; used to live in Australia; loves to read, be outdoors, hike, swim, mountain bike, hang out with friends, and play rugby. I enjoy life.



Check out the Blogger

The Mission of the Department of Criminal Justice

The Department of Criminal Justice at Sacred Heart University is committed to and supports the goals of the University and the College of Arts and Sciences. Specifically, the Department of Criminal Justice is committed to providing its students with the proficiency, flexibility and expertise to meet the needs of an ever-changing technological and culturally diverse society. Ethical issues and concerns pervade every aspect of the field of criminal justice. It is, therefore incumbent upon the Department of Criminal Justice to provide its students with the ability to effectively deal with these issues utilizing the fundamental moral principles of Judeo-Christian tradition. This includes obtaining a thorough knowledge of various components of the field of criminal justice and how they relate to our increasingly diverse society.

The Department of Criminal Justice Goals

1. To provide students with a comprehensive knowledge of the field of criminal justice
2. To develop within each student the ability to process and apply information
3. To provide students with an understanding of the need for ethics and leadership skills in the field of criminal justice
4. To give students an opportunity to test their knowledge through internships with criminal justice agencies

Congratulations to all the new students accepted into the MACJ program and to those graduating this Spring!

MACJ Criteria for admission:

- Completed **graduate application**
- Bachelor of Arts or Science degree with a **3.0 GPA** from an accredited four-year college or university
- \$50 non-refundable application fee/\$100USD for international applicants
- Two letters of **recommendation**
- **Personal statement** addressing your career goals and interest in the program
- Current **resume**

Student Breakdown:

Graduated	
9 Male	
18 Female	
Current	
20 Male	
24 Female	

Course Offerings

Fall 2011 Course Offerings:

- CJ401 Crime Causation & Deviance
- CJ402 Administration & Management of the Criminal Justice System
- CJ403 Law, Society & Ethics
- CJ508 Capital Punishment
- CJ511 OL Emergency Management
- CJ513 OL Issues in National Security
- CJ698 Comprehensive Exam
- CJ650 Thesis

Criminal Justice Career Opportunities

Federal Bureau of Investigation; National Criminal Justice Reference Service; National Center for State Courts; The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics; The Police Officers Internet Directory; Crime Prevention Coalition of America; Bureau of Justice Statistics; U.S. Department of Justice; National Archive of Criminal Justice Data; Justice Research and Statistics Association; ACLU Criminal Justice; National Institute of Corrections; Justice Technology Information Network; United States Sentencing Commission; Federal Bureau of Prisons; Federal Judicial Center; National Fraud Information Center; The Corrections Connection; Fugitive Watch Web Sight; National Criminal Justice Honor Society; Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences; American Society of Criminology

Professors in the News

Dr. McCabe was one of the speakers on a panel on crime and safety sponsored by the University of Bridgeport. The forum was held on May 2, 2011 and had more than 100 people in attendance. The message the forum delivered was one of "preventing crime and providing a brighter future for the city's youth through a community effort." Dr. McCabe addressed former City Councilman Maria Valle's concern of increasing violence and drug crimes in her neighborhood, by noting, "that crime can literally be taken out one block at a time. If one problem house can be eliminated, it can change the whole character of the neighborhood." Dr. McCabe also touched upon the idea that petty public safety issues such as public intoxication, drug use and even noise seem somewhat trivial, but they are safety issues that can "often turn into larger issues if left unaddressed".



A complete description of the forum can be found at: <http://www.ctpost.com/local/article/At-Bridgeport-crime-forum-calls-for-more-1362550.php#ixzz1LIBzFAla>.



Criminal Justice Club

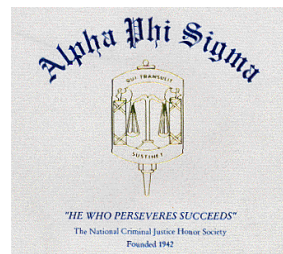
Consists of all students interested in the field of criminal justice, both majors and non-majors. Club members create a program for the semester.

They invite experts in the field to speak to the members and they visit criminal justice sites. Students may also participate in professional criminal justice conferences.

Alpha Phi Sigma

Alpha Phi Sigma is the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. The chapter here at SHU is known as Gamma Omega Delta. The Graduate requirements include a minimum 3.4 GPA on a 4.0 scale in graduate criminal justice courses. Students also must have completed a minimum of 4 courses within the criminal justice graduate curriculum at the time of the application.

Watch for the application instruction e-mails sent by Dr. Morris!



Gamma Omega Delta
SHU Chapter officers:

President: Christina Sampaio
Vice Pres: John Lemanski
Secretary: Jane Hanna
Treasurer: Lierin Kobilis

Membership qualifications and information about the National Honor Society are available at:

www.alphaphisigma.org

2011 ACJS Conference

As one of the graduate assistants in the criminal justice department here at SHU I had the amazing opportunity to submit a proposal for a poster presentation at the Annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. The 2011 conference was held in Toronto, Canada and was to focus on strengthening American and Canadian Justice Connections.

There were a myriad of round table discussions and panels on various aspects of the criminal justice system. I attended panels from corrections to juvenile justice to the relationship between federal and local law enforcement agencies. In addition to the panels, there were a number of criminal justice related activities offered. They had an employment exchange, tours of the local prisons, police ride-alongs, tours of the city courthouse and town hall, as well as Alpha Phi Sigma events.

I presented research on the crisis of addiction in regards to the effects of alcoholism on criminal behavior. Alcohol is the number one abused substance in the US for a myriad of reasons; which include alcohol in relation to: duration, legality, widespread use, indirect financial costs, psychological costs, physical costs, and links to crime. Alcohol related offenders are overwhelming the criminal justice system. Offenders whose crimes are linked to alcohol have created unwieldy court dockets, burdensome caseloads, and overcrowded jails and prisons. There are currently no national standards for essential elements pertaining to alcohol-related crime. These elements include the process of identifying offenders with alcohol misuse issues, sanctioning these offenders for their criminal activity, providing these offenders with the treatment needed, and monitoring these offenders to ensure rehabilitation.

Studies have found that alcohol problems and the effect of sanctions tend to negate each other. Sanctions reduce the chance of repeat drinking-driving offenses, while severe alcohol problems increase such chances. Traditional punishment and deterrence methods have not been significantly successful in reducing the probability of recidivism. Alternative methods to the traditional methods such as the SCRAM system may be the possible solution to reducing the probability of recidivism among offenders of alcohol-related crimes.

I was so interested in other students work that during the showcase time I wandered about discussing with peers their areas of research as well as the poster presentations they had created. Overall it was a great and rewarding experience; I would advise anyone interested to submit a proposal for the 2012 conference which is to be held in New York!



Student Thesis Presentation – Brian Taylor

Brian is currently the Chief U.S. Marshal for the District of Connecticut. The District of Connecticut (D/CT) has three offices in CT: Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford. He has been with the USMS for over 22 years and in the D/CT for over eight years. He previously worked in Manhattan & Brooklyn, NY, West Palm Beach, FL, and Bridgeport, CT and he is now in New Haven.

The following is taken from a recent interview with Brian:

I decided to go to SHU because of the reputation of SHU, compared to other schools in CT, and because of the location. I also spoke with a Captain from Bridgeport PD who recommended the program. I hoped to gain a broader knowledge in the criminal justice field. The Masters programs has helped me to foster different views, which in turn, helps me to see other people's points of views when it comes to how justice is served on defendants in the criminal justice arena.

Brian's Thesis Proposal: The goal of my research thesis will be to explore the effects of the U.S. Congress' passage of the federal Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) in 1984, which created The Federal Sentencing Guidelines and how this new law completely altered the manner in which federal defendants were sentenced for the next twenty years until the Supreme Courts' decision in *United States v. Booker* in 2005. This research will specifically examine the sentencing decisions for all federal inmates in the District of Connecticut from the years 2000-2009, for narcotic related charges and how these sentences were affected by the *Booker* case.

From all of us in the Criminal Justice Department we wish Brian the best of luck on his Thesis!



CJ Faculty

*Professor Papa, Professor Kirven, Dr. Jacobs, Dr. McCabe, Dr. Morris & Professor Grant
Rob Fasano, Avrami Levitan, Melissa Craffey, Nicole Gerosa - 2011 Graduate Assistants*



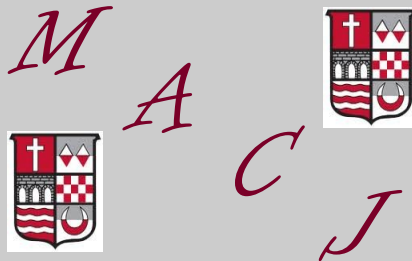
**This issue of the CJ Times
was written by:** Melissa
Craffey, Robert Fasano,
Nicole Gerosa, & Avrami
Levitan, Graduate Assistants
for MACJ

Editorial Assistance: Dr.
Pearl Jacobs, Chair, Depart-
ment of Criminal Justice



Congratulations to Professor Grant on the birth of her beautiful baby girl!→

Twins! Dr. McCabe and Avrami ↓



← The Cake from the 2011 Alpha Phi Sigma Induction Ceremony that Dr. Pearl "expert pastry chef" Jacobs so creatively fixed the 2010 to 2011



Our beloved Maggie McCranor, the MACJ Academic Program Assistant ↑

← Tom Sullivan being sworn in at the Norwalk Police Department



Congratulations to MACJ 2010 graduate Tom Sullivan on becoming a sworn member of the Norwalk Police Dept!