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THE CJ TIMES

Newsletter of the Department of Criminal Justice

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2010



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Message From The Chair

The MACJ has completed another successful year of operation. This May, we expect to graduate 13 students who are well prepared to begin their careers in criminal justice. The students in the program are enthusiastic, hardworking, and committed to using their education to improve conditions in our ever-changing society. As you read this newsletter you will learn more about our students and our program.



Congratulations to Masters Graduates!

Glenn Byrnes
Liliane Clark
Aida Kalapo
Nicholas Lambusta
Diaghilev Lubin
Shari Massiah
Stephanie Messina



Melissa Montanez
Lisa Nowakowski
Michael Paradis
Tiffany Shakro
Thomas Sullivan
Tiffany Teixeira

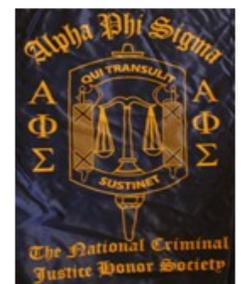
Criminal Justice Honor Society Inductees



Alpha Phi Sigma is the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. The society recognizes academic excellence of undergraduate, graduate students of criminal justice, as well as juris doctorate. The Sacred Heart University Chapter of this National Honor Society is called Gamma Omega Delta and the faculty advisor is Dr. Patrick Morris. This year, Sacred Heart University will induct 23 new members. We would like to congratulate the following students on a job well done, and reward them for their outstanding academic achievements in Criminal Justice.

Congratulations to:

Russell Atkins, Michelle Ausili, Gabriella Barretto, Liliane Clark, Kelly Considine, Stephanie Elmessaoudi, Gina Figaloro, Christopher Gradilone, Aida Kalapo, Nicholas Lambusta, Michael Lawshe, Jennifer Locantro, Diaghilev Lubin, Erica Marathas, Stephanie Messina, Melissa Montanez, Marie Muskus, Michael Paradis, Lina Quintero, Winsome Thomas-Riley, Stephanie Valentino, Virginia Weinman, Tiffany Shakro and Laura Wilson.



Sacred Heart University MACJ 2010 Spring Thesis Presentations

Liliane Clark

Child Abuse and its Connection to Later Delinquency

Some scholars argue that exposure to abuse in childhood does not always lead to crime but there is strong evidence that child maltreatment occurs with much frequency in the United States. This maltreatment may be psychological, emotional abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation or physical violence and yet, the consequences may be different across victims. The outcome can be expressed through difficulties. Others studies have proven that most youngsters who engaged in delinquency have a history of being abused. When a child is mistreated some variables such as gender, race, and mitigating factors may play a role in engaging in later delinquency. The objective of this research is to verify whether child abuse has a connection with delinquency or not.



Stephanie Messina

An Evaluation of Female Alternative Incarceration

My study examines some of the alternative incarceration methods created for the rehabilitation of female offenders. The research found attempts to define why these community correctional settings are believed to be effective in reducing recidivism rates amongst this population. An expert interview, focus groups, and secondary data analysis are collected from the three female residential alternative incarceration facilities of the Connecticut Court Support Services Division (CSSD) as part of an exploratory non-experimental cross-sectional research design.



Michael Paradis
Pawn Shops and Thievery

Pawn shops and brokers have been used as fences by both amateur and professional thieves extensively. My research looks into the possible influence pawn brokers and shops have on criminal activity. A statistical analysis of the most prolific pawn shop users compared with the average user and their criminal records is also included. Current policies attempt to limit the use of pawn shops for fencing activities but there is room for improvement and this research could be used for review and an increased ability to reduce illicit activities.



Sacred Heart University MACJ 2010 Spring Thesis Presentations Cont.

Diaghilev Lubin
Relationship Between Education and Crime

My research examines the relationship between education and the tendency to commit crime. The study will be conducted through an extensive review of the relevant literature and theories that relate to the lack of education and crime. A description of programs and policies developed in response to the relationship between education and crime will also be included.

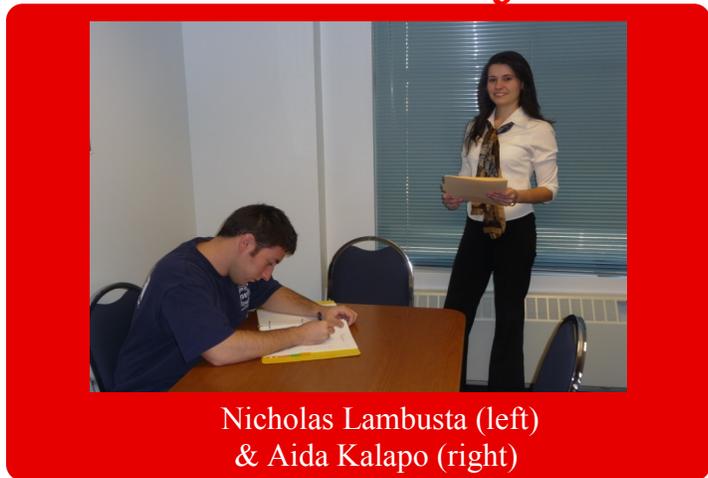


Melissa Montanez
The Effect of Closed Circuit Television on Violations in College Residence Halls

The study analyzed the effect that closed-circuit televisions had on violations in college residence halls. The violations measured in this study were alcohol violations, drug violations, vandalism, and simple assault. The data collection was done at all of the residence halls at Sacred Heart University from the Fall 2004 semester through the Spring 2009 semester. The methodologies used was a secondary data analysis of data collected from the Department of Public Safety, Department of Residential Life and Campus Operations and a self report survey sent out to all of the students currently residing in the residence halls at Sacred Heart University.



MACJ SPOTLIGHT



Nicholas Lambusta (left)
 & Aida Kalapo (right)

Spotlight on MACJ Students

Armari Levitan

What is a former Yeshiva student doing at Sacred Heart? Yeshiva is an institution unique to classical Judaism for study of its traditional, central texts comprised of Torah study and the study of Rabbinical literature. During the daily bustle of getting in and out of class, studying at the library, or visiting the Criminal Justice Department, you may have bumped into him and asked “is this guy lost?” Like all students, he has a story, but why would a Jewish Rabbi decide to attend a Catholic University?

After fighting battles with cancer, Avrami lost his two greatest role models, his father and his great uncle. With the guidance of his father and example set by great uncle Mark Richard, Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the United States of America, Levitan sought a professional calling. His father told him to seek a career counselor to find a career interest. Criminal justice was always an interest, but more because of the inspiration provided by his great uncle. Levitan recalls his great uncle assigning a secular reading list of materials to study in combination with his studies at Yeshiva.

He realized that if one enters civil service with concerns for an individual, one could make bu-

reaucracy work. In light of its continued negative portrayal, he still has faith in the prevailing justice system. When deciding on a graduate program, Levitan chose to stay local to assist his family after the death of his father. In applying to SHU, he met and interviewed with Dr. Pearl Jacobs of the Criminal Justice Department.

His main research interests are in gangs and hate crimes with aspirations of government intelligence work in these areas. The department looks forward to the fruits of his hard-working mentality, fresh ideas, and good-natured spirit. Levitan in turn admits to enjoying the professors, the learning experience, and appreciates the chance Dr. Jacobs took granting him this ability.



Armari Levitan (right) with his brother Mendy (left)

Brian Fitzgerald

Brian Fitzgerald, Lieutenant with the Bridgeport Police Department, returned to Sacred Heart University as a MACJ student after earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice in 2006. He finds the combination of online and classroom courses very convenient for professionals. Fitzgerald also finds the police management skills he learned from the MACJ program helpful in improving his leadership role. Even with 14-years of experience in the field, Fitzgerald still learned innovative skills to help him better supervise the police officers serving the citizens of Bridgeport. Fitzgerald came into the MACJ program with a “preconceived notion of how the CJ system operates from a police officer’s point of view”, but states that the MACJ coursework taught him to look at the CJ system from a different perspective.

While working full time, Fitzgerald still manages to participate in the CJ Honor Society and the Delta Epsilon Sigma Honor Society. In addition, along with other members of the Fairfield and Bridgeport Police Departments, Fitzgerald participated in the university’s Jail and Bail fundraising event to benefit Special Olympics in Connecticut. After his expected graduation in 2011, Fitzgerald plans to use his education to further his career within the Bridgeport Police Department.

Brian McLaughlin

MACJ student Brian McLaughlin earned a Bachelor's Degree from Fordham University in 1994. After working in New York City as a teacher, McLaughlin moved to Connecticut and took a job with the CT Judicial Branch as a Juvenile Probation Officer in 2000. He spent two years as an Intake, Assessment and Referral Officer in Norwalk before transferring to the Bridgeport office. While in Bridgeport, McLaughlin worked directly with the community, supervising juvenile offenders. He maintained close relationships with the Bridgeport Police Department, the Bridgeport Public Schools and many other community and faith-based organizations.

Additionally, McLaughlin was the office program liaison, overseeing all referrals to contracted programs. He had the pleasure of inviting a fellow MACJ student to intern at the Bridgeport Juvenile Probation office in 2009. Recently, he accepted a position in the Center for Research, Program Analysis and Quality Improvement at the Court Support Services Division's central office. He hopes to influence the direction of the agency's policy making in the future.

McLaughlin began the MACJ program at Sacred Heart in the fall of 2008. He expects to complete his degree by 2011. McLaughlin's thesis will be a program evaluation measuring the effectiveness of domestic violence contracted programs on offender recidivism in Connecticut. His wife, Jennifer, is an adjunct instructor of American History at SHU.

McLaughlin has enjoyed his coursework at SHU, especially working with statistics. He believes that data-driven, evidence based practice is at the heart of any good criminal justice organization, be it the police, probation or corrections. He welcomes anyone interested in juvenile justice to contact him for internships, in-

From Our Graduates

After graduating from the MACJ program at Sacred Heart University, Jeff Barrett began his professional career as a consultant to the Department of Emergency Management and Public Safety at SHU. As a consultant, he has been working to develop an online system to house SHU's emergency plan and other preparedness and compliance related documents. Barrett loves the work as there is "never a lack of work to be done" and feels like he is actually contributing to something that affects the entire university community.

Barrett said that the MACJ program at SHU helped prepare him for his current role in management and security. In particular, the thesis work helped to establish his identity and credibility in the field of university emergency management. He presented a paper at the annual Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference in Boston, MA on "An Examination of Emergency Notification Systems at Masters North Colleges." Barrett thanks Dr. James McCabe and Dr. Pearl Jacob for all of their support and advice.

Written by:

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Nick Lambusta, and Stephanie Messina; Graduate
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