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Upcoming Events:

- April 30th: SHU will celebrate the accreditation of the Criminal Justice Master's Program
- Applications for the Master of Arts Program are being accepted on a rolling basis.
- Registration for fall semester graduate courses will begin **April 28th** and will continue through the summer.

Graduate Students Present Research at the annual ACJS Conference

Three graduate students from the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program presented their research at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Cincinnati, Ohio. Academics, professionals, and others in the field of Criminal Justice shared their research with colleagues from around the world from March 10th-15th. Tom Harper, Floyd McIntyre, and Jeff Barrett presented their research in a panel on Border Security and Terrorism. Harper presented *Bioterrorism: The Threat is Everywhere*.

"Throughout my graduate studies here at Sacred Heart, I have been given the opportunity to examine areas of interest pertain-

ing to Homeland Security. I wanted to take a closer look at how vulnerable our nation is to a biological attack, particularly with regard to contamination of food and water supplies." McIntyre presented *Controlling the U.S. Mexican Border*. "There is a great deal of controversy and a sense of insecurity regarding the U.S.-Mexican border; and I thought this would be the perfect topic to explore further." Barrett presented *Terrorism Onboard: Is America at Risk?* "At first, I wanted to examine the evolution of Cruise Line Security post 9/11," said Jeff, "but then I came across the issue of piracy and wondered if a cor-

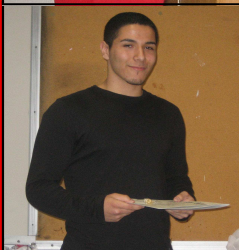
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SHU Awarded Accreditation for year-old Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Program

Sacred Heart University's Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program, launched in the fall of 2006, received accreditation from the Connecticut Department of Higher Education in November of 2007. "I'm still on a high from the news of the accreditation—it's been wonderful," said Dr. Pearl Jacobs, associate professor and chair for the Department of Criminal Justice. "The idea for the program came about four or five years ago, and the fact that we actually have done this is magnificent."

The endorsement came amid unprecedented growth for the university's entire Criminal Justice program, which became its own department on July 1, 2007. The program was previously part of the De-

partment of Sociology and Social Work. SHU currently has close to 200 undergraduate students majoring and minoring in Criminal Justice. The department is staffed by five full-time faculty who all have field experience in criminal justice. Dr. Jacobs said that the master's program was designed to differ from competing programs at other universities. "I noticed that most master's programs are geared for individuals who have already been working in the field, but very few were designed for students with undergraduate degrees in Criminal Justice but who have little or no work experience," she said. "Our idea was to develop a program that would assist both those types of students."



National Honor Society Members (top to bottom): Mike Paradis, Christina Jurasek, Aida Kalapo, Hugo Villacrez.

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relation existed between terrorism and an increase in pirate attacks in the Mediterranean and around the Horn of Africa."

Professors from the Department of Criminal Justice at Sacred Heart University also presented their own research at ACJS. Dr. Pearl Jacobs, chair of the Criminal Justice Department presented *Criminal Justice Internships for the 21st Century*. "I wanted to broaden the scope of the Internship Course and include a seminar segment that prepares students for their

professional careers. My hope is that the seminars will give students a clearer idea of what they want to do when they graduate, said Jacobs." Dr. James McCabe presented *Social Dominance Orientation and Police Attitudes*. And Dr. Dennis J. Stevens presented *CSI Effect, Prosecutor Discretion, and Wrongful Convictions*. This year's ACJS contingent from Sacred Heart nearly doubled

in size. The growing number of students presenting at the ACJS conference speaks volumes to the Criminal Justice Program's continuing development. "The graduate student presentations were excellent. They generated a great deal of interest and discussion among the attendees. We were proud to have them represent the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, said Jacobs."



SHU Criminal Justice National Honor Society: Spring '08 Ceremony

The Sacred Heart Criminal Justice Department is proud to announce the induction of 8 new members to Alpha Phi Sigma, the nationally accredited honor society for criminal justice students. The spring '08 inductees include: seniors Craig Jordan, Jessica Masse, Michael Paradis, Jerry Russo, and Tom Harper (MACJ), as well as Juniors Christina Jurasek, Sarah Olschan, and Hugo Villacrez. Graduating seniors who were inducted last year also received their honor cords at the ceremony: Jennifer Cardillo, Aida Kalapo, Winsome Thomas-Riley, Casey Bertollo, Sara Dastoli, Alexandra Roberto, James Mortimer, Kevin O'Brien, and Megan Dutcher.

Both undergraduate and graduate criminal justice students are eligible to apply. The undergraduate require-

ments include the completion of one third of the required credits for graduation, a 3.2 overall G.P.A. The student must also have taken at least four CJ courses and have a 3.2 G.P.A. in criminal justice courses. The graduate requirements for eligibility consists of completing at least four CJ with a 3.4 overall G.P.A. Students who meet these requirements and are interested in joining should contact the Honor Society Advisor, Professor Patrick Morris at morrisp@sacredheart.edu or applications can be obtained online at <http://www.alphaphisigma.org/>. Being a member of the Criminal Justice Honor Society not only looks great on resumes, but also gives the student a sense of accomplishment and gratification.

Sacred Heart University Hosts Lecture By Author Andrew Skotnicki

On Wednesday, April 30, 2008, Andrew Skotnicki delivered a lecture titled "Sin, Delinquency and the extent of the Carceral Net" to students and faculty in the Schine Auditorium. Skotnicki is an associate professor of religious studies at Manhattan College, and author of the books "Criminal Justice and the Catholic Church" and "Religion and the Development of the American Penal System" Prior to his address, Skotnicki was asked to comment on the purpose of his lecture. "I'll be looking at the

blurring of the lines between crime and sin in the U.S. that has produced not only the highest imprisonment rates in the world, but also the deliberate targeting of marginal populations," Skotnicki said. "All of this violates the letter and spirit of Catholic teaching regarding criminal justice." The ensuing address was energetic, captivating, and thought provoking. The lecture series was part of a celebration of the inauguration of the University's accreditation for its Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Program.



The Criminal Justice Department Graduates It's First Master's Student

On Saturday, May 17th, 2008, the Criminal Justice Department will honor their first graduating student from the newly accredited Master's Program. This year's recipient is Tom Harper. Tom attended Sacred Heart University as an undergraduate and received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 2006. While an undergraduate student, Tom played on the Junior Varsity Ice Hockey team here at Sacred Heart. He continued on to the Master's Program in the fall of 2006 when the program first began.

While in the Master's Pro-

gram, Tom completed an independent study on Port Security and the vulnerabilities of a terrorist attack at a U.S. port. He was given the opportunity to present this work at the ACJS conference in Seattle, Washington in 2007. Tom also presented his research work on Bioterrorism at this year's ACJS conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Recently, Tom completed his Master's Thesis on the Secure Border Initiative and its impact on border security and illegal immigration within the U.S. His thesis was a program evaluation, as well as a research study, that analyzed the apprehension rates of ille-

gal immigrants nation wide.

Tom has had an interest in law enforcement and criminal justice since he was a little kid. During his undergraduate years, he completed an internship with a private investigator. He enjoyed this so much that he began searching for a career in this business and is currently working for Discreet Investigations as an investigator. Tom will graduate this Saturday with a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in National Security which he hopes will eventually land him a job with the Department of Homeland Security.

The Criminal Justice Club Wants You!

Are you bored on campus? Want to get involved with on and off campus activities? If the answer is yes, then the Criminal Justice Club is for you! Each year, the club sponsors on campus events including guest speakers from various federal, state and local agencies to come and speak with interested students. This semester,

an FBI polygraphist has been scheduled to speak with students. The CJ club also plans off campus trips for club members each semester to tour prison facilities, local police headquarters, and even a trip to Washington, D.C. "The Criminal Justice Club is a great way for students to get involved and be a part of some-

thing on campus", CJ Club President Matt Napolitano. The Criminal Justice club is open to students of any major and is always looking for new members to join. If this sounds like the club for you, contact Matt Napolitano or keep your eyes open for the next CJ club meeting.

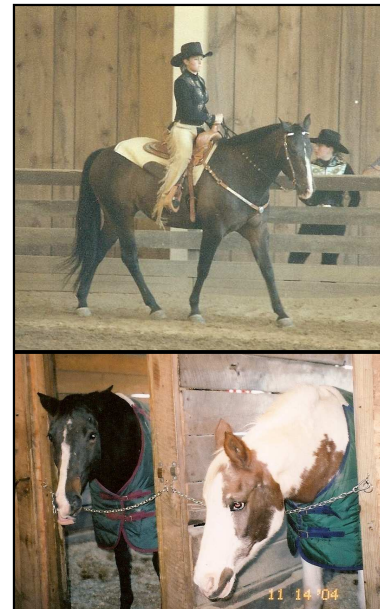


Student Spotlight



This edition of the CJ Times would like to recognize the accomplishments of Nicole Souza. Along with Nicole's outstanding academic performances during her undergraduate studies, Nicole also excelled outside of the classroom. Nicole has been riding horses since she was 2 years old and was on the SHU equestrian team from 2000-2004. She rides both english and western styles and competes in Connecticut for the Connecticut Horse Shows Association.

Today, Nicole manages the barn where she keeps her horses in Wallingford, CT. Her duties include delegating barn chores, feeding, stall cleaning, and scheduling appointments with farriers to trim and shoe the horses. Nicole also enjoys teaching lessons at the barn. Currently, she has three students ranging in age from 6-20 years old. These students take one lesson per week and compete in approximately 5-8 shows per year.



Nicole and her two horses,
Dixie and Susie

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**Come Join the
Mock Trial Team**

The Sacred Heart Mock Trial Team is looking for new members for the upcoming school year. Every year, the Mock Trial Team, advised by Professor Matt Semel, competes against schools from around the nation in the annual American Mock Trial Association competition. Members of the team get to compete in a mock case acting as attorneys and witnesses. Being a member of this team is not just for aspiring lawyers; anyone who as even the slightest interest in the court system will gain invaluable experience and knowledge that can be put to use in any career.

Sacred Heart University is pleased to offer students the best academic experience possible. Our Criminal Justice Department faculty have a wide variety of backgrounds that encompass virtually every aspect of the criminal justice field. The knowledge acquired in the classroom along with outstanding internships and hands-on experiences surely will place students at the next level. For those students who wish to continue their education after receiving a Bachelor's degree, the Criminal Justice Department also offers a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Written by Thomas Harper and Jeffrey Barrett, Graduate Assistants for the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice
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