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Running to Do the Walk

It’s that time of the year when classes are speeding to their conclusion, registration for Fall 2013 is nearly done, and a good portion of CCJS seniors know that this is their last ride before they walk at commencement. There’s a lot to celebrate. And then there is summer.

Graduating with Distinction

Each year CCJS faculty select students to graduate with distinction, a university wide designation made by a department to students who are deemed to have made a significant contribution to their discipline and the university. In Spring of 2013 these students include:

Lauren Ground
James Grunewald
Lisa Hoggan
David Hutton
Andrew McManus
Alexis Pomush
Jennifer Quinlan
Alexander Rockich
Anthony Valdivia

The Department congratulates all of these students.

Commencement

Very soon--May 11 to be exact--CCJS graduating seniors will join other SSU students at commencement. This is a beautiful event that occurs on the lawn between the two large ponds north of the dining commons. Nearly all of our majors are planning to come. There’s more information at this URL: http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/commencement/.

Department Matters

From Chair Barbara Bloom

As the spring semester quickly comes to an end, I want to tell you about some changes in the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies (CCJS) Department. After nearly 14 years at Sonoma State, I will be starting the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) in August. I will also be ending my three-year term as Department Chair at that time. I’m not retiring completely and I’ll be back in spring of 2014 to teach three CCJS courses.

Professor Eric Williams will be the incoming CCJS department chair and he will be available for student advising and other CCJS activities beginning on August 1st.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Sonoma State, particularly teaching and getting to know CCJS majors and minors. For those of you who are graduating on May 11th, I’m looking forward to sharing this significant accomplishment with you and your families. I hope that you all have a wonderful summer break and I’ll see you next spring.

Warmest regards,

Barbara Bloom

Retirement Celebration!

Students, faculty, staff and friends are invited to Barbara Bloom’s retirement gathering on Thursday, May 2nd, from 3-5 p.m. in the Terrace Room, located in the SSU Commons, across from the ponds. Food and drink will be provided. Not to be missed!

Summer Classes in CCJS

The department is offering two core courses this summer, CCJS 370 and 450, taught by Professors Reyes and Williams. These classes satisfy two of the core requirements of the major.

Our Graduates

The CCJS Department will have over 70 graduates in academic year 2012-13, and most will go through the Commencement ceremony.
At the Conference

Last February seven CCJS students, with no prior experience in such an event, traveled to Berkeley and joined other professionals in the field by participating in the 40th annual conference of the Western Society of Criminology, a major regional professional criminology association of scholars and practitioners in the Western region of the U.S. The meetings were held in Berkeley. Our department was one of the largest groups to attend the meetings, including students Joseph Fitch, Nicole Guice, Renee Olsen, Kim Kristin, Kathryn Kahawaii, Ngoc Vinh Nguyen Bui, and Cherilyn Jones. Separately and together they contributed substantially to the intellectual vitality of the meetings. The SSU contingent took advantage of the opportunities to attend other sessions, meet other students and professionals and attend several events/festivities. Professor emeritus Ken Marcus generously supported the students by covering their conference registration fees.


CCJS faculty also contributed to the meetings: Professor Bloom was a panelist on the Future of Feminist Criminology and presented a paper on gender responsive planning under realignment. Professor Grant chaired a roundtable on using current events in teaching. Professor Macallair conducted a workshop on “The Positive Youth Justice Initiative” in California. Professor Reyes presented a paper on the cross-national role of internet and mobile phones on corruption. And Professor Jackson chaired a session on innovative methods for studying crime and presented a paper on how photo-elicitation interviewing methods can be best used in understanding whether and how foster youth understand animal assisted therapy.

Next year the meetings are in Honolulu, Hawaii, and we hope to have an even larger group there. Put it on your calendar: Feb. 6-8, 2014.
What CCJS Students Think About their WSC Experiences

Renee Olson

I haven't had the opportunity to have an internship yet, but the conference exposed me to topics within criminal justice that I had not heard of before. I think this will help with finding an internship because I now know of more programs available. I will also be able to show that I participated in a conference, which may set me apart from others looking for similar internships.

During the conference we met new people from across the country who shared our interests for criminal justice. We were able to listen to students and professors share their research. It was a great opportunity to make connections. I learned that there is a tremendous amount of time and effort that goes into research. There is a network of people who are willing to share their research and ideas with others.

I have been interested in pursuing a law degree after graduation. I was able to meet people who have studied law or are currently lawyers. Attending the conference introduced me to people I otherwise would not have met. It provided me valuable connections for future endeavors in the field of criminal justice.

The faculty were extremely supportive of the students participating in the conference. It was a great experience to see our professors speak about their own research and share their passion for the subject outside of the classroom.

Ngoc Bu

The process of going through an experience like the WSC can only be described as mind blowing. I admit the opportunity was at first very intimidating, it was something I had never done before and it would let me meet face-to-face with people who are the leaders of the field that I am about to enter. I don’t think I could have ever done this by myself. Luckily I had the support of my professors as well as my research partner, Joseph Fitch. The overall workload was enormous; I have never done anything like it or have since. The grunt work of researching the various countries and finding articles pertaining to each was a huge effort that took both time and patience. Once the work was complete however came the hard part: presenting.

The conference itself was an experience that I was thankful to be a part of. It opened my eyes to opportunities that I had never considered before. I got to converse with professors outside of the classroom and peers from all throughout the United States as well as Canada, and got to learn about the many aspects of Criminology. If I could do this over again, given all the hard work, the late nights, early mornings, and anxiety, I would in a heartbeat. It’s an amazing experience that I hope that more students will take advantage of. I would like to thank Professor Reyes especially for giving me this inspiration and motivation to complete this task. Thank you.

Nicole Guice

In the spirit of complete honesty, I have to confess that the idea of presenting research at an academic conference was daunting. After all, conferences are for professors, for people with numerous letters after their names and years of experience under their proverbial belts. What
could I, as an undergraduate, possibly have to offer a group of accomplished academics? However, after deciding to take the opportunity to complete research and present it at the annual WSC conference (with the help of very supportive professors in the CCJS Department and a stellar research partner), I can safely say that it turned out to be one of the most rewarding and enriching experiences of my undergraduate career.

This is not to say that the whole process—obtaining IRB approval, conducting research, compiling data, and creating a coherent presentation—was not challenging. Just as with a high-stakes class project or term paper there were many hours of work and research involved, as well as a fair amount of stress and even a bit of frustration. But there was also a tremendous feeling of accomplishment and pride, and elation at having done something important that would contribute to the collective knowledge of a subject about which I am passionate. By the time my partner and I arrived at the conference itself we had been completely immersed in our material for months, and the actual presentation was more exciting than nerve-wracking. The level of support we received as students was extraordinary, and the introduction to the world of academic research was something I may not otherwise have received for a few years to come. Professors and professionals alike were delighted to see students attend, offering only the most constructive input. The encouragement I received was further supplemented by the excitement I felt at being able to listen to the research of others; I am certain that I gained just as much insight into the practical application of criminology and criminal justice in the few days at the conference as I would have in a full semester of reading text-books and taking exams.

Conference attendance is not always a focus in undergraduate studies. In fact, it is often seen as the exclusive territory of the graduate student and the professor. However, the advantages of the conference experience can be invaluable at every level. The skills that a conference fosters are essential not only in an academic setting but in any professional endeavor: everything from writing grant proposals to creating an engaging PowerPoint presentation, from creating an effective research design to successful networking with professors and practitioners in the field. And yes, there is stress and hard work involved, but the end result is more than worth the effort. I now can say I have not only a richer understanding of the field I chose to study in, but also experience which will give me a distinct advantage when applying to and attending graduate school. The conference experience was initially intimidating and labor-intensive, but I would do it over again in an instant if given the opportunity. For every student in every major with aspirations to continue their academic careers (or even those who just want something that looks really, really good on a resume): go if you can, as often as you can. You will not regret it.

**Varied professional criminology conferences**

**69th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology**
November 14-17, 2012
Palmer House Hilton Hotel
Chicago, IL
For more information, go to http://asc41.com/annualmeeting.htm

**40th Anniversary Annual Conference of the Western Society of Criminology**
February 6-8, 2014
Honolulu, HI
For more information, go to http://westerncriminology.org/conference.htm

**65th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences**
February 17-24, 2014
Seattle, WA, Washington State Convention Center

**50th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences**
February 18 – 22, 2014
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For more information, go to http://www.acjs.org/

**Association for Criminal Justice Research (California),** meets twice a year in Northern and Southern California.
76th semi-annual meeting
Meeting date TBA
Sacramento, CA
For more information: http://www.acjrca.org
The meeting will be in Sacramento.

**Critical Criminology & Justice Studies Conference**
Feb. 6, 2014.
Meets once a year before the WSC Conference
Students are admitted for free!
Round 2: Off to the U.S. Supreme Court

“We went to oral arguments today and spent over an hour with Justice Thomas in chambers...he was warm and generous and really focused on the students. He kept telling them about the importance of education and learning how to think for yourself. It was a wonderful experience for them and for me. I know Natalie and Alexis will never forget it.” -Eric Williams

And so it was getting this text from Professor Williams on that March day. While the rest of us in CCJS were catching up during Spring Break, Natalie, Alexis and Professor Williams sat in oral arguments before the high court and later went to visit Clarence Thomas in his chambers. Natalie tells the story, which began during a March 2012 trip to D.C. in which five CCJS students met with Justice Sotomayor, “a once in a lifetime experience for us as undergrads and I truly appreciated the opportunity, but the failed attempt to meet Justice Thomas was a disappointment.”

Natalie “ended up contacting Justice Thomas’s chambers in late November (2012) as it was my final semester as an undergrad at Sonoma State. Dr. Williams told me if the Justice agreed to meet with us for a second time we could head over to Washington D.C. during spring break with several students. Justice Thomas accepted my second request for a meeting and when he found out we had never attended oral arguments before he offered us his three personal seats in the courtroom.” Alexis Pomush, a CCJS senior headed to UC Hastings law school this coming fall, and I were the only students permitted on the trip due to the court’s limited seating. We attended oral arguments on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 and met with Justice Thomas that afternoon.

“Justice Thomas is an engaging and genuine individual. From the moment we walked into chambers all preconceived stereo-types of who he is as a person were shattered. He welcomed us in and began an hour long conversation with topics ranging from constitutional law to college football. He stressed the importance of teaching students how to think, rather what to think. This is a concept both Alexis and I, along with countless other students who have walked through Dr. Williams’ classrooms, are all too familiar with.”

Read more about Natalie’s story and their visit to the U.S. Supreme Court at this link: http://goo.gl/EUTSE.
CCJS students explore the world of theory and practice

Interns in Spring 2013

Interns Set a Record

During the past three years we have averaged about forty students per semester in the internship, although this semester it is around fifty. Their placements include local, county, state and federal agencies dealing with law enforcement, juvenile and adult probation, law and courts, social services, and others. Usually we have interns in Sonoma, San Francisco and Mendocino County Probation Departments as well as police or public safety departments in Rohnert Park, the SSU Campus, Cotati and Petaluma as well as Sonoma County and Marin County Sheriffs.

This semester we actually have about ten interns in the Petaluma Police Department, which is more than we’ve ever had in any single law enforcement agency. Even so, most of our interns are not in law enforcement. In social services our interns work with and receive training in agencies such as Verity (formerly United Against Sexual Assault), the Boys and Girls Club Juvenile Hall Re-Entry Program, Community Youth Outreach, Forget Me Not Children’s Services, the YWCA, and others. In law our interns work in Legal Aid of Sonoma County, the Family Justice Center, several private law offices, and the Sonoma County Superior Court. Other interns gain valuable experiences in different situations: one works in a bail bond agency, a few supervise court mandated youth in a charter school, and others work in a private nonprofit agency that supervises people on court supervision.

Some students find it challenging to decide where to intern. After settling on possibilities it is then a question of finding an optimal placement for their four-unit internship in light of classes, work and other obligations.

What is encouraging is that most students find one or more possible internships before they actually choose one, that they end up feeling their internship is a worthwhile learning experience that allows them to evaluate possible careers, and that the experience they have in their internship helps them to understand social change. Finally, most feel that their experience is consistent with their written internship agreement and that they also have a good relationship with their supervisor.

This Spring 2013 semester there are about fifty interns out in the real world actively engaged in their internships in a wide range of areas: social services, law, probation, law enforcement, and related areas.

Students & Their Internships.

In this newsletter we look at how a few interns in a small number of internship placements are faring in their experiences.

Brandon Hansen

I am currently interning in the investigations unit under Lt. Lyons and Sgt. Salizzoni at the Petaluma Police Department. The department is a great place to intern due to its recent change to a more community involved department; they are doing a great job making me as an intern feel appreciated.

With the new focus on volunteers I’ve had many opportunities to participate in a variety of tasks. Some of these tasks include recording pawn slips, updating case files for records, ride-a-longs, and creating a stats sheet for minor decoy stings. In the near future I hope to participate in DUI checkpoints, academy training days with Lt. Lyons and volunteering at a bike challenge fundraiser for the Rotary club. All of these things are great experiences and have furthered my knowledge in law enforcement but the most rewarding part of this internship for me has been the people I have worked with and the relationships I have made thus far.

I am glad I chose a placement within the Petaluma Police Department. I feel that their community involved philosophy was a perfect fit for me and as I get closer to graduating this has helped me realize that these values are very important to me and I hope that the department I end up in shares similar values. I am thankful for the CCJS department internship program. Without this program I would have never been in the position I am in today.

Jessica Perry

Isolation, fear, stress…these are all things I expected to feel while interning at juvenile hall, mainly because of the emphasis our society puts on how “scary” juvenile halls are. With shows like Beyond Scared Straight, most people would expect there to be inmates with the “I don’t care” attitude around every corner. After starting my internship with the Boys and Girls Club inside juvenile hall, I have realized how beyond the
Before starting, I thought that the internship requirement was going to be a waste of time and I felt that there were better things I could be doing with that time. But now, after completing my internship, I have realized what a great opportunity this internship program really is. Not only have I gained experience in the field of law enforcement, but I have opened up doors for a possible career in probation.

As an intern my duties were to help write reports, to observe Court proceedings, participate in juvenile hall programs, and go with probation officers for in-the-field assignments. Through my involvement with this program, it has opened my eyes to the problems this small town community is facing. Learning about these problems has me wanting to pursue a career in this field to help restore the community back to the way it was when I grew up. This internship has helped me get closer to attaining my goals and it has created new goals along the way.

Kayla Weider

When I decided to take an internship with Verity, I thought it would just be answering a phone and directing people to other places. But going through the training, I learned so much more than I could have ever imagined. Learning about different cultures and their way of life, understanding how humans think and internalize messages that society perpetuates, and how the simple task of listening to someone can completely change their life are just a few of the amazing things I took away just from the training.

Coming to SSU I knew I wanted to do something related to the criminal justice field but wasn’t exactly sure what. My internship has opened my eyes to so many potential career fields that I never would have known about had it not been for Verity. I am extremely grateful that I was given the opportunity to work with such an amazing foundation, and can’t wait to see where it takes me in the future.

Kyle Harrison

From the beginning of my internship at a private defense attorney’s office I have seen how the justice system works on a hands on level. The attorney I work for, Omar, specializes in cannabis law, for the defense of those normally charged with cultivation, possession and sales of marijuana; the majority of clients are medical marijuana patients. Before I started working at the law office, I was feeling anxious and worried to see what I would be responsible for. I quickly learned the ropes of the justice system and became aware how defense attorneys “police” the police.

Over the semester, I have become accustomed to the Sonoma County clerk’s office and the district attorney’s office. I’ve learned the order of paperwork that is filed after the client is raided or arrested by police. Part of my job is reading over police reports and investigating whether police are violating rights of the people and whether they are ethical and upholding the Constitution. The United States is not a police state and everyone, even the most hated among us, deserves a fair trial. Working on motions, memos and discovery requests for the district attorneys and going to court with Omar has been an incredible experience and has educated me on how the “sausage is made” in the criminal justice system.

Max Brazil

I began my internship at the Mendocino County Probation Department about four months ago.
Laws and Policies

Gun Control

Certainly one of the most significant national discussions relating to criminology and criminal justice has been the issue of gun control in the wake of mass killings in Newtown, Aurora and elsewhere. Overall the discussion revealed the powerful role of money, lobbyists and the NRA in conservative lawmakers’ decisions to refuse to support any federal legislation.

California continues to maintain its position as one of the leading states with controls on access to high power weaponry, but New York, Connecticut and Colorado have also passed significant legislation in the past few months. Amazingly, with overwhelming U.S. citizen support for universal background checks on weapons purchasers, the attempt to even debate the issue was stopped in the Senate by mostly Republican opposition. There is no surprise that unfavorable public opinion of Congress is now at the lowest point it has ever been measured by pollsters (see PEW 2013 at http://goo.gl/jnLYy).

Realignment

The saga of court ordered transfer of inmates from state prisons in California to county jurisdictions continues despite opposition from the Governor and the appearance of relatively minor local opposition. The Federal panel of judges ordered a continuation of inmate release. There is general agreement that realignment has been implemented in the sense that inmates have been transferred from prison to local jurisdictions, there has been funding to support the transfer, and local authorities are now and have been adapting to these changes.

As with past efforts to move prison inmates to the community, research is continuing to be conducted on these changes even though the realignment legislation did not provide specific funds for this purpose.

Gay Marriage

The 9th Circuit Court struck down Prop. 8, which limits marriage to a man and a woman. This case has since been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court and oral arguments took place in March on it and a challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996. There is considerable speculation about why the court took the California case and also how the high court could rule in June, see, e.g., http://goo.gl/cY1tW.

Did you know...

The U.S. and the Phillipines are the only countries in the world to use commercial bonds? Researcher John Goldkamp says that “It’s really the only place in the criminal justice system where a liberty decision is governed by a profit-making businessman who will or will not take your business.”

A photo of bail bond businesses from the lobby of the Sonoma County jail
Alumni we’ve heard from recently.

Both Elizabeth Oseguera and Manny Rodriguez recently graduated from SSU and are now a part of California’s highly regarded Capital Fellows Program, on the web at http://www.csus.edu/calst/capital_fellows_programs_overview.html. Both visited campus recently and wrote to let us know what they’ve been up.

Elizabeth Oseguera

I am placed with the Department of Corporations, which license and regulate a variety of businesses, including security brokers and dealers, investment advisors and financial planners, and certain fiduciaries and lenders. The Department also regulates the offer and sale of securities, franchises and off-exchange commodities. The Department also has a call center where consumers can call and file a complaint against our licensees. Also, the education and outreach division provides presentations and materials on financial education and fraud prevention to consumers.

As a fellow, I have been working with the executive team, and have been able to participate in meetings where employees who have worked in the Department for years are not able to attend. I have also been very lucky to witness how two state departments, the Department of Finance and the Department of Corporations, work together for the Governor’s Reorganization Plan. I have learned about the different aspects that the executive team must take into consideration when merging two departments. I am also working on bill analysis, and I have a great mentor that has been helping to learn the process.

Most of the executive team is composed of lawyers, which is great for me as my goal is to become an immigrant lawyer. Working alongside lawyers, specifically the Enforcement team, I have received assignments that have strengthened my legal writing. The Chief Deputy of Enforcement has given me the opportunity to draft mock desist and refrain orders and subpoenas to help me prepare for law school. I have also been learning about securities law and the Corporations Code that is used to prosecute those who commit financial fraud to California consumers. I also have been working with the Public Affairs team where I receive media and outreaching assignments. For example, I am a part of the planning committee for the Oportunidades Tour, which is an event focused on teaching Latinos about financial literacy. During the event I will be giving a speech that I wrote in Spanish on how to protect yourself from financial fraud.

What I love most about my fellowship experience is that I am able to work on assignments that meet my goals and interests, and I have mentors guiding me along. By the end of my fellowship I will be an expert on bill analysis, and have the necessary skills to be successful in my future endeavors.

Emmanuel “Manny” Rodriguez

At the moment I am in the State and Consumer Services Agency (SCSA), which is one of the biggest if not biggest State entities with a wide array of functions. Our mission statement is to “protect the consumer of California and also deliver efficient, cost-effective, and responsive services to external and internal State clients.” What that means is we have two main functions, first to protect the people of California and assure that professions and businesses are licensed correctly and not scamming or cheating the public and second to assure that all clients of the State, whether internal (other State agencies) or external (State contracted workers), receive efficient and responsive services.

As a fellow I am placed under the wing of Communications and have done a lot of work around Communication such as writing speeches, talking points, media responses, press releases, as well as staffed Gubernatorial Cabinet Secretary Anna Caballero at various events. I have also had a chance to dip my hand in other branches such as Legislation where I have analyzed over 10 proposed legislative bills which affect our Agency or our Departments work load. I’ve been able to meet and work with our Investigative and Enforcement Division who go out and do stings or audits of pharmacists, doctors, veterinarians, cosmetologist etc. and assure their licensing is up to date and that all State laws are being followed. Our fiscal/budget division has given me the opportunity to see and witness the budgetary process of State government first hand, how it is calculated, how to make Budget Change Proposals (BCP’s) and witness the Legislative committee hearing where we defend budgetary needs.

Overall, my experience is barely half way through and I feel that I have already walked away with an amazing learning experience. I have met some of the most inspirational individuals who have encouraged
Alumni (cont.)

me and even asked me to apply to their office or Department for a job after the Fellowship.

What I love most about my Fellowship experience is that I have been placed in an Agency that has given me the opportunity to see the working of state government from all perspectives and policy areas. I’ve learned so much about green technology, media outreach, the budgetary process, legal implications of policies, public management and implementation and I am only half way through with the program.

**Faculty & Staff**

Professor Williams is currently working with several students on his newest project, an encyclopedia called *Lockdown Nation: Controversies in the American Prison System* to be published with ABC-CLIO in 2015. He also continues his work on prison management and leadership and plans a trip to Minnesota this summer to spend time with several wardens there. He also is working with the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, helping to facilitate their Warden Peer Interaction Program, which brings together wardens from across the nation and will be teaching a training program for CMIT in both May and August. This program will teach critical thinking skills to senior level criminal justice leader from prisons, jails and probation for both adults and juveniles.

**Michael Hooper**, pictured above, has been teaching in the CCJS Department for over a decade. Most often he teaches introduction but he has also taught policing and a writing class for CCJS. As noted in our last newsletter, Professor Hooper is the director of California’s POST.

**Professor Macallair**, pictured above, is Director of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco and at the center of highly significant work in California on realignment and varied policy issues facing the state of California. He is now completing a book about the history of juvenile corrections in California.

**Around the Office**

Cara Stevens is the newest member of our office staff. Welcome Cara!

Katie Musick has moved to the Office of the Dean of Social Science

**About CCJS News**

*CCJS News* is a newsletter of the CCJS Department at SSU, organized by Pat Jackson with the help of department faculty, students, alumni and staff. On the web: http://www.sonoma.edu/ccjs/

**CCJS on Facebook**

Our Facebook page is definitely in need of care and development, which we hope to get to during Fall 2013. Visit us at http://www.facebook.com/ccjsatssu
Social Work Advisor

If you are considering a career in social work or considering applying to Masters of Social Work (MSW) programs, Linh Huynh is available to discuss your specific questions regarding social work careers and applying to MSW programs. E-mail her for an appointment: linh.huynh47@gmail.com

Linh Huynh, MSW, is a lecturer at Sonoma State University. She is currently the Chief of Staff at College Track, a national nonprofit organization that empowers students to achieve their dream of a college education. Previously she served as a social worker with the Department of Children and Family Services, where she provided counseling and case management services to youth in foster care.

New Library Acquisitions

This is a sample of book titles that have been recently acquired by the Schultz Information Center. Search for the title through the library catalog.

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Do you have a favorite book or books you would like to see here? We would like to know your own favorites. Please email them to Prof. Jackson at jackson@sonoma.edu.