Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies

CCJS News

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MAY GRADUATION 2014!
From the Chair’s Desk

As we approach the end of my first year as department chair and my sixth year at Sonoma State, I’ve spent some time reflecting on the time that has passed. I distinctly remember standing in front of my 8:00 a.m. Constitutional Law on the third floor of Stevenson and wondering how different teaching at SSU was going to be. After telling a student to turn around his Yankees hat so I didn’t have to look at the logo of the evil empire on my first day, I soon realized that my students here were just as bright and engaging as my students had been at the so-called elite schools where I had taught on the east coast.

Although that fact has not changed in the least, I could not have imagined on that first day the changes our department would go through. We had just under 200 majors when I arrived in the fall of 2008. We now have 430. We welcomed an amazing new Professor into our community three years ago and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Professor Emily Ascencio this fall. Our students began presenting their original research at the Western Society of Criminology’s annual conference and have seen the Pre-Law Society and Criminal Justice Forum become vital parts of our department. We saw the budget at SSU take hit after hit and had to declare impaction, but we still continue to offer our students an exceptional educational experience, giving them the tools they need not only to be great employees, but to be great citizens as well.

Looking ahead, I am very hopeful for what the next few years will bring. We remain steadfast in our belief that our students’ education should always come first and will continue to make changes as needed to foster that. We hope that even more students will join us at future academic conferences and that our clubs will foster a greater sense of community in our department. Most of all we look forward to watching our students push themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of and achieving their dreams.

It is an exciting time to be the department chair and I look forward to facing the challenges and successes that the future brings. Together.

Eric J. Williams
Chair
Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies

In the news: here is a link to Eric’s op-ed piece in the Press Democrat earlier this semester: http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20140406/opinion/140409778.

Congratulations!

The Faculty of the CCJS Department congratulate Chair Eric Williams, this year’s co-recipient of the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, SSU’s prestigious award for teaching.

Advising and Registration. Registration is now upon us. The schedule is at The Fall schedule is online at http://goo.gl/Cc3iMD. Assigned advisors are at http://bit.ly/1izvac8.

Peer Advisor. Your peer advisor can help you with GE. Nicole Bravo can answer questions about General Education Requirements, the Academic Requirements Report (ARR), the Transfer Credit Report, etc. but can’t answer major specific questions or sign any paperwork. Phone: 707.664.2731. Her office is in Stevenson Hall 2070 Room L (in the Political Science Office) on Monday 2-4, Tuesday 9-11, Thursday 9-11. For email and related information go to the CCJS web pages at http://goo.gl/ASqot4.

Graduation. You’ll find graduation/commencement information at http://www.sonom.edu/uaafairs/commencement/.

Summer Classes. Registration for four core Summer 2014 classes is currently open:
- CCJS 370 Seminar in Research Methods – N. Reyes, 11 mtgs: M-Th, May 27-Jun 12, 1-6:30pm
- CCJS 405 Rights of the Accused – E. Williams 16 mtgs: M-Th, Jul 14-Aug 7, 9am-noon.
- CCJS 420 Seminar in Criminology – P. Jackson 11 mtgs: May 27-Jun 12, 8am-noon.
In photo from left: L-R: Vihn Bui, Cory Backovich, Michael Dowdell, Anthony Perez, Renee Olsen, Kayla Wieder, Sarah Decker, Nicole Arends

Fall into Winter Graduates with Distinction
Every semester some students merit special distinction at graduation. This is a university-wide practice. In CCJS during Spring 2014 Department faculty have identified eleven students.
Our Spring 2014 students who graduate with Distinction include (in alphabetical order).
Nicole Arends
Cory Backovich
Vinh Bui
Sarah Decker
Michael Dowdell
Renee Olsen
Anna Ostrowechea
Anthony Perez
Kayla Wieder

The CCJS Faculty congratulates each of these students.

What Impaction Is and isn’t
CCJS is an “impacted” major. Today impaction status is used by the CSU system to mean that a program is at risk of not having enough resources to meet student demand and must therefore restrict the number of students who can major in it. This is a fact of life for many majors as budgets have decreased and student demand has increased. This is more true for a major as popular as CCJS.

Being impacted means that the Department is permitted to use “supplemental criteria” to manage student admission. We rely on a cumulative grade point average, a cumulative 3.0. This means that all applicants for the major (freshmen, transfer, current SSU students) who want to declare CCJS must meet this 3.0 cumulative GPA requirement. Even if you have been at SSU for two years the same rule applies. Students may request entry anytime they meet the GPA requirement.
CCJS forum
by Courtney Adams, Club President 2013-2014

The CCJS Club is having a great time this Spring semester! We have heard from different guest speakers, such as FBI agents and CHP officers. Our goal is to become informed about all the possibilities that we have with Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies degrees, as well as producing a foundation that allows us to form networks into our fields of interest. We have taken advantage of the opportunity to tour San Quentin and we are hoping to be able to do more next semester. It was an eye opening experience for many of the members of the club.

We also interact with other clubs including pre-law and the kinesiology club for friendly competitions in events such as bowling.

We have designed t-shirts for all CCJS majors for $12. If you are interested in a shirt, come join our meeting so we can get an order started. Come join our meetings held the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 12 pm in room 2081 of the new Student Center to get involved! We are looking forward to the Fall semester.
Pre-Law Society

What We’ve Been Up To
by Ricky Frankel – SSU Pre-Law Society President

Over the course of this semester, the Pre-Law Society has accomplished quite a bit. We had our Treasurer, Dan Lyman, give an overview of LSAC.org and because of the huge success we had with last semester’s UC Hastings trip we used our meetings to plan other trips to tour law schools in the Bay Area. The semester consisted of two trips; one to University of San Francisco in mid-February and the other trip was to Golden Gate University in late-March. We also had an admissions representative from Golden Gate give a presentation and Q & A here on campus for one of our meetings as well. Also, Dr. Eric Williams gave his Personal Statement Workshop and gave general graduate school advice to our members. Finally, we bowled with the CCJS Club on April 18th to end the year right.

Warren Court Prize

The Warren Court Prize is given to students who provides essays that demonstrate matters of ethics, justice, and constitutional law. It is funded by a generous donation from Ken Marcus, pictured below, who is a Professor Emeritus of SSU, formerly a member of the CCJS faculty, chair of the academic senate and very active in faculty governance for decades.

The Center for Ethics, Law & Society has awarded the first Warren Court competition winners to Ken Ricky Frankel, who won first prize ($500) and Dan Lyman, who won second place ($250). Two applicants received honorable mention: Adam Brashears and Katherine Merrell. A ceremony for the winners will be held, April 29, noon-12:30 p.m., Bennett Valley room.

The flyer advertising the event was very nice, available at this link: http://bit.ly/1jeZrcw.
Going to professional meetings to share research findings or learn about the latest research and policy changes is one of the most important things that faculty and prospective graduate students can do. And it’s one of the best ways for undergraduates to see what the real world of academics is like.

In February several faculty and students journeyed to the 41st annual conference of the Western Society of Criminology meetings, which met on Feb. 6-8 at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu, Hawai‘i. Both faculty and students presented papers, attended the award luncheon, connected with other students, faculty and practitioners in the field.

At the awards luncheon, Professor Barbara Bloom received the Meda Chesney Lind Award, which is given to someone for their “significant contributions to scholarship or activism on the intersection of women and crime.” Congratulations to Professor Bloom!!!

It was actually Renee Olsen’s second trip to present a paper at the WSC meetings. Her paper was entitled “Perception of White-Collar Crime Among Students at Sonoma State University.” Renee commented on what these experiences have meant to her during her education at SSU.

Alex Pech also made the trip to present her work on the development of resiliency among children of prisoners.

CCJS faculty likewise chaired and also presented papers on varied topics, which students may recognize from their classes with faculty. Professor Napolean Reyes served as Chair of the session on “Current Studies Assessing White Collar Crime,” presented a paper in that session, “Big Brother in Reverse? Impact of Social Networking on Government Corruption,” and was a discussant on the panel entitled, “Thinking, Teaching, Learning, and Student Perceptions” in which both Renee Olsen and Desirae Sanchez presented papers.

Desirae Sanchez. I am truly thankful to have been given the opportunity to present my research on the under representation of Latinas in law school and as Lawyers. Presenting at the conference was very intimidating and nerve wrecking, since I have never done anything like this before. But with the faculty’s support, other students and I were able to enjoy this experience. I am also grateful to have Eric Williams as my mentor who guided me through the research and presenting process. Overall, it was awarding and reassuring to hear from professors and those interested in criminal justice on how much of an impact my research can make since it is not a topic often researched. Being given the opportunity to present enhanced my passion to do further research on this topic and to continue my journey onto law school.”
Students Speak Out About WSC

*Renee Olsen.* I first learned about the WSC Conference through an announcement Professor Reyes made during class. I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to meet new people and to apply what I was learning to the real world. After I volunteered to participate, I learned just how much work had to go into presenting at a WSC conference. I was hesitant because there is a lot of extra work involved but I decided to anyway. I am incredibly glad I made that choice.

For the first conference, I co-conducted a study with another student. We surveyed over 200 Sonoma State students about their perceptions of white-collar criminals. When the time came to present, I realized that the entire CCJS faculty was in the audience. It was so encouraging to see all of them there, supporting us students. That is why, when the time came for the next conference dates to be announced, I volunteered again. This time, I presented an analysis of my previous data, and wrote a paper which was submitted for publication consideration. Of course, the fact that the conference this year was held in Hawai‘i didn’t hurt.

So, in short, here is what I learned after presenting twice at the WSC:

Presenting at a conference is hard work. It takes hours, days, weeks, even months of preparation. It may seem daunting at times, and sometimes you might want to give up. However, if you even remotely want to attend a conference, I strongly suggest that you do. When the professors tell you that you will gain experience, meet new people, make connections and that it will help further your education, they’re right. I met some of the most amazing people at these conferences. I made connections, some that I am utilizing currently. If you are considering pursuing graduate school, a conference is a great place for you. If you find a topic within criminology or criminal justice extremely interesting, but aren’t able to investigate it fully in any of your classes, research it for a conference. If you think it will be too much work for you, just remember that the hard work will pay off. It is a once (or twice in some cases) in a lifetime opportunity that will not let you down.

The CCJS faculty will help you every step of the way. Although I spent months of my own time working on the presentations, I would not change a single thing. I am so glad that I volunteered to present at the WSC conference.

*Alexandria Pech also attended the WSC meeting and her contribution is also a segway to the McNair Program at SSU. She writes:* As a McNair Scholar majoring in Human Development, my senior year has been filled with great opportunities to further my education. In February, I was invited to present my research at the Western Society of Criminology Conference in Honolulu, Hawai‘i, in which I discussed my research to date. The conference was attended by criminologists and students from across the United States.

*Alex Pech and Barbara Bloom at a McNair Scholar event*

As part of the McNair Scholar’s program at SSU, we are required to conduct a research project with a faculty mentor. My mentor, Dr. Barbara Bloom, and I developed a research design for an exploratory study titled, “Exploring the Role of Resilience in the Life Experiences of Children of Incarcerated Parents.” (See the poster presented at the McNair Scholar event at this link: http://goo.gl/OveIOE.) As a graduating senior, I look forward to starting the doctoral program at the University of Arizona and continuing my research on this important topic. I have been fortunate to get to know the faculty and students in the CCJS department. I am so grateful for the overwhelming support and guidance from the department and my faculty mentor, Dr. Bloom.
Varied Forthcoming Professional Criminology Conferences

70th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology
November 19-22, 2014
San Francisco Marriott Marquis
For more information
http://asc41.com/annualmeeting.htm

42nd Anniversary Annual Conference of the Western Society of Criminology
February 19-21, 2014
Phoenix, AZ
For more information, go to http://westerncriminology.org/conference.htm

67th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences
February 16-24, 2015
Hyatt Regency Orlando
Orlando, FL

52nd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
March 3-7, 2015
Orlando, FL For more information, go to http://www.acjs.org/

Association for Criminal Justice Research (California), meets twice a year in Northern and Southern California.
80th semi-annual meeting in
Sacramento, CA, date TBA
For more information: www.acjrca.org

Critical Criminology & Justice Studies Conference
Feb. 18, 2015.
Meets once a year before the WSC Conference (see above)
Students are admitted for free!

On the windward side of Oahu, a scene of major world surfing competitions. Photo by P. Jackson
Interns in Spring 2014
CCJS students explore the world of theory and practice

Kristin Dean @ So Co DA’s Office
During the Fall 2013 semester I had the pleasure of doing my internship with the Sonoma County District Attorneys Office, specifically the Criminal Division of the Bureau of Investigations. I was involved with trials, investigations, interviews and the victim restitution process, which goes into being an investigator. I was able to work closely with advocates, investigators, lawyers and other personnel which work behind the scenes to do their best in bringing justice to the victims they are trying to protect.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone in the DA’s office and would recommend this internship to anyone who is interested in investigations or as a lawyer. A specific highlight was working with the Victim Restitution Specialist who allowed me to handle cases and find past victims so that they could finally get the money they had been owed. This has been a growing problem throughout our country with paperwork not being filed correctly and victims being awarded money they never receive. I felt like I was making a real difference finding these people, because it shows them that our system has not forgotten about them.

I have a greater respect for those within this system and could not be more proud, ready and willing to start to do my part to help make a difference within not only my community, but hopefully my small part will have an impact on criminal justice as a whole. Kristin sends along this link to the news article about victim’s restitution: http://www.insideceder.ca.gov/2013/04/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-victim-restitution-analyst/.

Cody Hoffman-Brown @ 600 Morgan Street
I am a Student Intern at Catholic Charities’ Homeless Services Center near downtown Santa Rosa. This facility functions as more of a business than a shelter, but is acts as a main hub for the local homeless community. Once signed up with HSC, clients can take a shower or wash their laundry, which only costs a quarter to wash and to dry. They can also use the address and phone number to receive mail and messages. In addition to these services, breakfast and snacks are available, as well as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, clothes and shoes.

My role as an intern is to help new clients through the intake process; filling out the paperwork and notifying them of the different services we have available. Catholic Charities also has a six-month transition shelter named Sam Jones Hall, and HSC is responsible for managing the waitlist (which is roughly 6-8 weeks long).

Over the last few months, Catholic Charities has been running a couple of emergency programs during the cold temperatures. There was an overnight shelter housed within Sam Jones, and a safe parking program located at the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds that continues until the end of April. It has also been my responsibility to help get people enrolled for those programs, including the Sam Jones waitlist.

As a double-major in CCJS and Psychology, this internship appeals to both of my fields of study. A large percentage of the people that HSC serves has previously been incarcerated and/or is currently on parole or probation. At least three people I have
signed up came straight to HSC after being released from jail. Our services are available to everyone regardless of a criminal record, so convicted drug dealers, murderers, even registered sex offenders come in and out of HSC every day. Even if they haven’t been to jail, nearly all homeless people have encountered law enforcement at some point and have experiences and opinions about the criminal justice system they are more than willing to share.

Many of our clients also suffer from a myriad of mental illnesses, from depression and anxiety to schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder, which certainly makes for a constantly changing environment.

I spend about 12 hours a week at HSC, from 6am-noon twice a week. Despite being an early start time, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time there and look forward to new experiences every week. The staff has enjoyed having an intern available, so if you can handle the early hours and endless paperwork, I urge you to contact Catholic Charities to get involved. You will certainly learn a variety of communication skills by working with a wide range of personalities.

Sonia Xirum@Restorative Resources

Sometimes students deserve a second chance even though as an over all society we judge them and label them as screw-ups. Interning with Restorative Resources at Lawrence Cook Middle School I have noticed that students need that chance. Restorative Resources focuses on restorative justice, instead of being suspended students get referred to the program and face the reality of their wrongdoing. When a student is referred to the program they are set up to attend a restorative conference to address the harms and come up with solutions to prevent future misbehaviors.

The main goal of Restorative Resource’s practice of restorative justice is to involve everyone with a stake in the issue to come together to make things right.

At the moment this program is pilot testing at Cook Middle School and at Elsie Allen High School. My duty as an intern is to come up with a storybook. The storybook will contain teachers’ students’, administrations, and the assistance principle’s opinions about the program. I have had the opportunity to interview some students about their experience with the program. According to the assistant principle at Cook Middle School, there has been a decline on suspensions because of the program. This program also provides students a place to refer to when they need help.

I have had the opportunity to assist training for students to become peer facilitators (person who runs the conference). In fact, a few students that successfully completed the program had the chance to become peer facilitators and are doing great in schools. In addition to writing the storybook, I help students write apology letters, and I observe and participate in conferences.

Interning with Restorative Resources has been a great experience. Not only are the people who work there genuinely nice, but also, they care about everyone that comes to the program, making the internship more enjoyable. I was doubting my decision of working with at risk youth, but this program has helped me realize that I want to work on prevention and continue helping this population. During my internship I have learn more about different ways I can help youth at risk. I am looking forward to attending Restorative Conferencing Facilitator Training and becoming a licensed Conference Facilitator!

Kevin Angelo Brown@Federal Probation

I was able to Intern at the Federal Probation office in Santa Rosa. This was a great experience for me. We had a wide variety of clients to work with, from international drug deals, to sex offenders, many dealing with drug dependency, bank robbers and many other types of criminals. Some were career criminals and some had just made negative mistakes that landed them in the federal court system.

I was able to work under two Federal Probation Officers, one who retired during my time there. She worked with mentally ill cases since she was a specialist. I was able to see what type of therapy and medication fit certain people from bipolar to PTSD, and many other types of mental problems. I was able to interview clients from the first day of their probation and see people on their last day of probation. After she retired though my learning experience suffered a lot...
since the other officer I was under was rarely in the Santa Rosa office due to his caseload making him do lots of visits, hours away and court appearances in the city or even San Jose.

I wasn’t given much training but learned hands on experience from my mentor. I was able to do a wide range of referrals, search warrant request, and all the things the Probation Officers do in the office. If I decide to go into this field I now know what I’m getting myself into and know how to get the job done.

The only thing I haven’t experience is field work which is due to liability since it’s a safety hazard for me. Probation Officers have a wide range of responsibilities and duties they do. They are at times like police officers, and other times detectives, and also mentors and even counselors at times. They are put in dangerous positions at times especially during a search of a residence and illegal items are found, the client knows there going back into incarceration and may decide to use violence to try and keep their freedom. Many of the people on probation have had issues with drugs which can make people unpredictable.

Being able to see how this job takes lots of people skills and patience is one thing I learned. Men and women in general have many different issues coming out of prison and should be treated in a way that makes them comfortable. A simple example of this is female officers will help pee test them for drugs if it’s a female client and vice versa. Also greater percent of people on probation have mental illness and other issues that can be frustrating to deal with than the average person. When a client is off their medication they can create a hassle for the officer to handle. It is important that we make an effort to assist them in getting medication since many of them don’t have health care.

I felt like I understood why people fell into the system and what made them do the crimes they did this is something I also never learned in class. Mostly all offenders I talked with have great excuses and rationalization for the reason they did what they did. Many seemed very focused and sorry for what they did while being interviewed but I could tell they were just playing the system especially when a few weeks later they come up with a bad drug test or have a new arrest. It’s frustrating to see some people don’t think at all rationally for some reason and seem to not care about their lives.

But I have also seen people who are very determined to take their experience in prison and benefit society such as Michael Santos who got his Masters in Prison and wrote many books including chapters we use in our CCJS 450 class. There are people who you can see make no excuses and turn all their reports in on time and pay all the fines and restitution on time. These people are benefiting society and are why prison should be the last resort. Some offenders have been coerced into their crimes such as women who have been beaten and drugged by their boyfriends to transport drugs through the borders. Many offenders have been victims themselves and truly need professional help that we get them. But also I have seen time after time people saying they have an alcohol or drug problem due to marijuana. Some of the time these people are using this as complete excuse to go to a half way house instead of prison. I have truly witnessed that you can’t help a person unless they want to be helped no matter what you do.

I have heard that probation was useless and this internship really change my mind. It’s very important to our entire society. Without probation this people would be in prison which would be a great tragedy to the families who they support. Also millions more would be in prison which would cost us billions upon billions of dollars which we do not have. Our country is already in debt this is a way that we have save a lot of money for a good cause. Probation is far from perfect and I have sent the frustrations at times with client and officers who can be stuck in a rock and a hard place in certain situations.

Federal Probation officers work with local law enforcement to help share information training and tactics as well as working with other federal agencies who are investigating our clients for new crimes such as FBI agents, Federal Financial Special agents, and work with foreign country’s to get back people who get arrested in foreign countries. We also work with US marshals who transfer soon to be probationers from different prisons. This helped learn about new agencies and decide which one fits me best in the future.

Vinh Bui@Verity

My name is Vinh Bui I am a senior at SSU in the school of Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies. I chose to do my internship at Verity, and I believe it was probably one of the best experiences of my college career. Verity is Sonoma only rape crisis center and is
to actually be in it on a daily basis is completely different.

Something that I did when I first started at the department is something that I would recommend everyone do in their internship; ask everyone you meet what they would do differently if they could do it all again. I have received some very helpful answers. I am in the AB 109 unit which has incorporated one CHP officer and one Sheriff’s detective into the unit, so not only have I been able to experience probation but also have unlimited access to ask the two officers questions about law enforcement. The connections and knowledge I have gained from my internship have made me feel entirely confident in graduating and moving on to a career in probation. Without it I can honestly say I don’t think I would have any idea what I would be doing after college.

Ryan Lowe @ Forget Me Not

This semester I participated in the Forget Me Not Farm’s internship program. The Forget Me Not Farm is an Animal Assisted and Horticulture Therapy program for children who have been either abused and/or neglected. The goal of this program is to teach positive interactive and emphatic skills to the children that will forego any abusive behavior experienced at home. Throughout my internship, I assisted my program coordinators Max and Teresa in setting up group activities for the children and feeding and preparing the resident animals for the children to interact with.

Throughout the duration of the semester I interacted directly with the children and youth participants, as well as their agency staff and other volunteers. The amount of time I spent with the children had just as much of an impact on my life as did it theirs. To know that the time I spent with these children meant as much to them as it did made me realize how much our at risk youth obtain from the social services programs we have instilled for them. Not a day passed that
I felt as if I did not have an impact on one of the children’s lives in a positive way and in retrospect them on mine. What we do to help our youth through the Forget Me Not Farm Program is beneficial to these children’s futures and is an asset to our community.

Riley Howard @ Petaluma Police Department

My internship with the Petaluma Police Department (PPD) has been an exciting place to get my feet wet before starting my career in law enforcement. There is no better way to learn about being a peace officer than to explore the career with a hands-on experience. I am extremely fortunate to have this opportunity accessible to me as a student: the opportunity to experience the inside and outside of a top-notch police department. PPD is providing an amazing opportunity to Sonoma State University CCJS students, like me. PPD is dedicated to community building and policing: their goal is connecting with the community and building positive relationships. I believe in community building and policing because I feel it is important for the community to be connected with their police officers in order to build trust and maintain low crime levels.

Currently, I am working under the supervision of the administrative staff Sergeant Marlin Christensen. Sgt. Christensen and the department have provided me the opportunity to participate in: the completion of their citizens’ academy, DUI checkpoints, ride-alongs, town hall meetings, police academy days and report reading. These experiences have really built upon my classroom education at Sonoma State.

PPD is full of passionate officers and is surrounded by a close-knit community. Everyone I have encountered has treated me with a positive attitude and is very supportive of my dream to pursue a career in law enforcement. They believe it is a remarkable career choice and a positive experience. I want to thank the Sonoma State internship program for providing the resources it took to get hired as an intern by Petaluma Police; also, another thanks the Petaluma Police Department for providing me with the opportunity to work as an intern during my 2014 spring semester at Sonoma State.

Juan Pantaro @ California Youth Outreach

I decided to do my internship at the California Youth Outreach of Santa Rosa. Being in a position where I got to work with at risk youth definitely challenged me in many ways. I would help these youth in their homework, college applications, sports, and give them advice. Many of these kids have been in some sort of trouble, and it was my job to be a mentor and give them some advice. I would also take the youth to outdoor activities like parks doing on field trips that consisted of team playing and looking out for each other. We would supervise these kids and made sure they had a good time, and we would teach them positive hobbies that will help keep them busy during free time.

This internship has helped me understand the field even better due to the fact that many people need to get hands on experience working with “at risk youth” who at times get in trouble due to gangs and bad behavior. This internship has helped me with my social skills and how to interact with kids from such a background. Because the majority of these kids are on probation I was able to gain insight as too what programs are actually working that help these kids succeed and become positive contributors to society.

Michael Brigham @ Ward Investigations

My internship with Wards Investigations Incorporated, supervised by co-owner Maghen Ward, has been an extremely fulfilling learning experience as a CCJS major. Being the first accepted intern, I have been able to obtain a better understanding of the skills and legal requirements it takes to establish a private investigative agency with a substantial amount of individual attention and guidance. Many of the duties include surveillance, detailed report writing, business marketing, serving legal documents, client consultation sit-ins, as well as others.

I cannot recommend this opportunity more and advise future applicants to practice proficient interview techniques, especially regarding hypothetical and theoretical questioning. One of the notable benefits I found in this internship was the flexibility and in-depth involvement offered from Maghen Ward. As a recent Sonoma State University graduate and young entrepreneur, she will ensure that any potential intern will be able to experience all aspects of private investigation.
What’s Trending in CCJS

Women and Realignment
contributed by
Barbara Bloom

In April, 2011, the California Legislature passed the Public Safety Realignment Act (AB 109) which transferred responsibilities for supervising non-serious, non-violent, and non-sex offenders (“triple nons”) from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to the 58 California counties. As of October 1, 2011, low-level offenders began to be sentenced to county facilities in lieu of state prison. Under Realignment, counties have been encouraged to develop “evidence-based” sanctions, programs and supervision strategies. These include, but are not limited to, day reporting centers, drug courts, home detention with electronic or GPS monitoring systems, restitution and community service, drug and mental health treatment programs, community-based residential programs, educational and vocational programs, and mother-infant programs.

The legislative findings in AB 109 declare that “California must reinvest its criminal justice resources to support community-based corrections programs and evidence-based practices that will achieve improved public safety returns and that “evidence-based practices will improve public safety outcomes among adult felons and facilitate their reintegration back into society.” Moreover, the Legislature envisioned that Realignment would “generate savings that can be reinvested in evidence-based strategies that increase public safety.” AB 109 defines evidence-based practices as “supervision policies, procedures, programs, and practices demonstrated by scientific research to reduce recidivism among individuals under probation, parole, or post release supervision.”

A primary goal of Realignment is to reduce recidivism through treatment and supervision of low-level offenders at the local level, not simply to shift the location where offenders serve their sentences from state prison to county jail. The Legislature encouraged counties to invest AB 109 funds in community-based programs that utilize evidence-based practices that can reduce reoffending, improve the life chances of offenders, and enhance public safety in the communities where they live. However, counties retain considerable discretion in terms of how they spend these funds. For example, some counties are investing heavily in alternative sentencing and community-based programs and services, while others are expanding jails.

Recent indicators show that women have been significantly impacted by Realignment. Women’s prison admissions were reduced by 60 percent between 2011 (pre-realignment) and 2012 (post-realignment). In comparison, male prison admissions during this same time period were reduced by 31 percent. Since women are significantly represented in the population of low-level offenders targeted by Realignment, many of the components articulated in AB 109 should be included in women-specific and effective gender-responsive approaches that include appropriate assessments, re-entry plans, community placement, treatment, and supervision. Therefore, to make a significant impact on California’s female offenders, it is clear that the Public Safety Realignment efforts should include innovative and focused interventions that address these differences and target the specific risks and needs of criminal justice-involved women.

Dr. Barbara Bloom is working with Californian’s for Safety and Justice to develop a Women’s Toolkit. This Toolkit is designed to provide sheriffs’ departments, probation departments, practitioners and community stakeholders with a blueprint for addressing women who are under local supervision. The goal is two-fold. The first goal is to help counties develop strategies that can reduce their women’s jail populations by considering the least restrictive alternatives to custody consistent with public safety. The second goal is to provide information on research-informed community-based programs and services for women who are involved in county criminal justice systems.
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.

Many thanks to Kaitlin Nicolls for her work in organizing and formatting these references.

These include hardcover or e-books


of Michigan Press.


**Suggestions**

If you have any ideas for books, videos or other library materials please let us know. We can post them here and, better yet, ask our library to obtain copies for everyone to use.
Apps of (Possible) Interest

Here are a few apps for smart phones, desktops and tablets. One comes close to crime in real time, within a day or two, and the others can be used to analyze crime data or imagine about what it would be like to manage a prison.

**CrimeMapping.com Mobile**
Crime Mapping at Your Finger Tips. Map out crime activity near your current location; other features

**PoliceStreamFree**
PoliceStreamFree provides what it suggests: live dispatch of publicly available calls for service. See if this app for androids serves your area:
Free, supported by tolerable ads
There are 4000+ mostly US police/fire/ems stations streams almost in real time
Streams come from independent providers and may be on/off line

**Geogebra**
Free
This is an app for performing some statistical data analysis on your Mac, Windows, and Adroid devices. There’s also a plugin for Chrome.

Cost: $.99
The aim of Police Tool is to provide assistance to police. Tools include Sex Offender Registry, Social Security Number Analyzer, 10-Code List, Miranda Warnings, White Pages, List of Gangs, Missing Children, Most Wanted List; Case Law; Drug Tools; Traffic Tools; DUI/OWI tools; Language Translator; United States Laws civil and criminal; Police Videos.

**Prison Architect**
Fantasy, entertainment. This game asks you to manage a prison. It simulates possibilities and blurs reality and fiction/fun. The hype is that it is still in beta. Not nearly the extremes of Grand Theft Auto.
Cost: $30
[http://www.introversion.co.uk/prisonarchitect/](http://www.introversion.co.uk/prisonarchitect/)
Instant access to the Prison Architect Alpha _(PC, Mac and Linux).

Send us a link to your favorite app on crime.
Successful Recruitment of a New Faculty Member

The CCJS Department had a most successful search for our new assistant professor, Emily Asencio, in the area of criminology/delinquency, who will begin in the Fall. The CCJS Department was one of three in the School of Social Sciences which conducted searches for a new tenure track faculty member. There will be more to come on our new faculty member.

In the Office

Cara Stevens is our dedicated staff person who you see when you come into the department. Say hello to Cara!

Alyssa is our student assistant. Lisa Kelley is our office administrative coordinator.

Thanks to all of our staff you can usually find someone to answer your questions.

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/ccjsnews

Our digital dog, Mr. D., tries to keep life calm during the hectic time of registration. These are challenging times!

Dusk on the shoreline at Waikiki

Dusk on the shoreline at Waikiki