



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY

Sacred Heart University
DigitalCommons@SHU

CJ Times (Newsletter)

Criminal Justice Department


Spring 2012

CJ Times Volume 6, Issue 2

Department of Criminal Justice

Sacred Heart University, criminaljustice@sacredheart.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/cjnews>

 Part of the [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Social Control, Law, Crime, and Deviance Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Department of Criminal Justice, "CJ Times Volume 6, Issue 2" (2012). *CJ Times (Newsletter)*. 1.
<http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/cjnews/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Criminal Justice Department at DigitalCommons@SHU. It has been accepted for inclusion in CJ Times (Newsletter) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@SHU. For more information, please contact ferribyp@sacredheart.edu.



**Inside this
issue:**

Message from the Chair	1
Inside the Facts	1
Guest Speaker: John Langley	2
CJ Honor Society	2
Graduate Projects	3
Graduate Projects	4
Contact Information	5

CJ Times



Newsletter from the Department of Criminal Justice

Volume 6, Issue 2

Spring 2012

Message from the Chair

The MACJ is completing its fifth year of operation. We expect to graduate 14 students in May 2012. This brings the total number of graduates to 58. The student body is not only composed of individuals who majored in criminal justice but those who majored in a variety of subject areas including political science, psychology, and sociology. Some students have completed a degree in law and are currently enrolled in our program.



The combination of classroom and online courses makes the program more accessible. Our graduates are employed in local law enforcement, various federal agencies, as well as the private sector. This newsletter describes the interesting developments of the past semester. We invite you to visit the MACJ on Facebook and follow our blog.

Interesting facts about MACJ and its students

A survey was distributed to 28 MACJ graduate students. The students were asked a variety of questions examining such topics as why they chose the MACJ program and what they expect to gain from the program. Forty percent of the respondents stated they chose the MACJ program because of the reputation the program has. In addition, 47% of the graduate students expect to gain a criminal justice job offer after completing their degree. Of the eight graduates that are employed within the criminal justice field, six expect to gain a promotion once they obtain their degree.

The students in the MACJ completed their undergraduate degrees from a variety of universities such as: Southern, Eastern, Western and Central Connecticut, Western New England College, Shaw, Elmira, Marist, Seton Hall, University of Hartford, UCONN, University of Scranton, University of Bridgeport, and University of Guelph, with Sacred Heart University having the highest representation of graduate students.



John Langley's Visual Insight

While advocates of family loss and secrets abolishing the death penalty do not believe that acts of deviance should go unpunished, they do believe that everyone has the divine right to life.

On March 21, 2012, Scott Langley presented a Human Journey Colloquia entitled "Death Penalty - The Execution of Troy Davis." Scott Langley's interest in the topic began as a college class assignment in 1999 regarding human rights, with a focus on the death penalty. At the colloquia, he explained that the assignment allowed him to capture his topic anyway he chose. Langley decided photography would help highlight coverage of the death penalty and death row.

During the colloquia, Langley described how his project drew him to topics and events such as death penalty vigils, media sensationalization of death row,

The death penalty has been a heavily debated topic for decades. These heated debates have yielded little agreement on its morality. In 1972, the first of many court cases dealing with the death penalty occurred. *Furman v. Georgia* established that there must be a degree of consistency in the cases dealing with the death penalty. It led to a moratorium on the death penalty for four years until *Gregg v. Georgia* in 1976. The *Gregg* case reaffirmed the Supreme Court's acceptance of the use of the death penalty. The United States is built upon the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. However, capital punishment seems to go against life and liberty.

Criminal Justice Honor Society



Alpha Phi Sigma is the National Criminal Justice Honor Society for undergraduate and graduate students. Gamma Omega Delta is the Sacred Heart University Chapter. Professor Morris is the academic advisor for the Chapter.

We would like to congratulate:
 Flodyne Cayard
 Jennifer Darrow
 Robyn Haschak
 Lindsay LeVan
 Christa Menge

Matthew Powers
 Windneller Rudolph
 Deana Santoro-Dillon
 Ellen Stewart
 Ashley Whitworth

Graduate Student Projects

My name is **T.J. Whyte**, and I am currently researching “community policing.” More specifically, I am focusing on law enforcement agencies in Fairfield County that serve over 25,000 residents (Bridgeport, Danbury, Fairfield, Greenwich, Norwalk, Trumbull, Stratford, and Westport). I am trying to determine whether or not the tenets

of community policing (such as decentralized organizational structure, development of specialized units, consistent patrol beats, etc.) have been implemented in these organizations. Have these changes had any affect on the way the agencies perform their day-to-day operations? Were the changes implemented and simply discarded

when budgets were cut and manpower allocations curbed? For me personally, it has been a great way to network by contacting officers at agencies other than my own and studying how they conduct their operations.

Graduate Student Projects

My name is **Ashley Whitworth** and I am examining the relationship between alcohol consumption and sexual aggression. My study for this class is specifically focusing on Sacred Heart University undergraduates, but will be expanded to include a

greater data pool when I complete my thesis on the subject in the fall. So far, results have supported previously published research on the matter in that there is a relationship between alcohol consumption and sexual aggression. However, many of these

studies fail to take other factors into consideration (such as preconceived attitudes towards violence, social factors, history of violence, etc.), which my study will examine.



Graduate Student Projects

My name is **Matt Powers** and I am conducting survey research of police officers to analyze attitudes and gender biases of male officers toward female officers. The survey is a convenience sample of local departments in

the State of Connecticut. The purpose of the data analysis is to see if there are any significant findings about gender biases within police departments.

Graduate Student Projects

My name is **Dave Peterson** and I worked on recreation programming (RP). RP is a vital piece of the daily operations of jails and prisons in the United States. Prison recreation is looked at differently by many of the various correctional organizations throughout America. Some see prison recreation as a way to keep inmates occupied

with constructive activities, while others feel that it helps with the orderly operation of the institution and many lawmakers see it as an inmate luxury. However, does this programming assist staff in operating the prison more efficiently or does it simply have no purpose other than to offer the inmates something to do

with their time?



Graduate Student Projects

My name is **Jennifer Darrow** and my research concerns the occurrence of perjury within police departments. This is a difficult subject to examine because of the "code of silence" that is suspected to exist in many police departments. My study explores what

factors may be responsible for police perjury. Specifically, is it based upon the need for higher convictions rates, the prospect of overtime or increased promotional opportunities?

Graduate Student Projects

My name is **Anthony SanMarco** and I am currently working on a project in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity in Bridgeport. Based on the numbers of crimes in the Bridgeport area and on whether a Habitat for Humanity home is in the neighborhood, I am examining

whether or not the existence of Habitat homes reduces crime. This research topic touches upon both broken windows, social disorganization, and community justice theories. With the use of hierarchical modeling I am also able to take other crime related

factors into consideration such as economic status, unemployment, and highest school level achieved in order to ensure that it is the existence of the homes that is affecting crime and not some other factors.



Department of Criminal Justice

**CONTACT INFO:
HC SUITE 219
PH: 203-371-7941
FAX: 203-365-4892**

This issue of the CJ
Times is brought to
you by:

Anthony SanMarco,
Ashley Whitworth,
Jennifer Darrow, Dave
Peterson and Matt
Powers

(Graduate Assistants)

Editorial Assistance by:
Dr. Pearl Jacobs, Chair
of the Department of
Criminal Justice



Follow Us:

-Master of Arts in Criminal Justice at Sacred Heart
University on Facebook with Anthony SanMarco

-OR-

-Blog@[http://sacredheartuniversity.typepad.com/
master_of_arts_in_criminal/](http://sacredheartuniversity.typepad.com/master_of_arts_in_criminal/)
with Ashley Whitworth