

# Department of Criminal Justice

## Fall 2018 Newsletter

This volume illustrates the accomplishments of students and faculty during the 2017-2018 academic year.

For more information, please visit our webpage at:

<http://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/criminal-justice.aspx>

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## 6th Annual Department of Criminal Justice Networking Event Brings Together Nearly 200 Students and 60 Practitioners

On March 28, the Department of Criminal Justice held its 5th Annual Networking Event. Nearly 200 students from across the University had an opportunity to hear from individuals working in more than 70 organizations that included law enforcement, the legal field, corrections, victims services, financial services, and many others. Students had the opportunity to attend several panels in which practitioners discussed their careers and how to prepare for a position in their agency. At the end of the event, students were able to meet individually with those in the field.

Agencies represented included various local police departments, the FBI, the DEA, the CIA, the New Jersey State Police, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Delaware State Police, the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, the Middlesex Prosecutor's Office, the New Jersey State Parole Board, the U.S. Coast Guard, and many other organizations.

Many students consider this event to be the most valuable of the year and several former undergraduate and graduate students credit this event with providing the initial contact for future positions that they have obtained.



Students listen as panelists discuss their careers and provide advice for students who are interested in obtaining positions with their agencies.

## Criminal Justice Department Co-Sponsors 'Life After Incarceration': Parole Reentry Conference

On October 24, 2017, the Department of Criminal Justice, School of Social Work, and the New Jersey State Parole Board co-sponsored 'Life After Incarceration': Parole Reentry Conference. The conference focused on the efforts of the New Jersey State Parole Board and its partners to successfully reintegrate ex-offenders into communities. The experiences of parole officers, Parole Board members, treatment professionals and other stakeholders tasked with transitioning parolees from prison back into society were highlighted during three panel sessions that were well-attended by students, faculty, and other stakeholders. Presenters included James T. Plousis, Chairman of the New Jersey State Parole Board, and Steve Tallard, Director of the Division of Parole and of Community Programs, in addition to several other practitioners and policymakers whose work addresses this important issue.



## Where Are Our Graduates?: Recent Positions Accepted by Department Alumni

Tara Brown

B.A. in CJ, 2012

M.S. in HLS, 2015

Special Agent

United States Secret Service



Michael Giannini

B.S. in HLS, 2015

M.S. in HLS, 2017

Detective

Hudson County Prosecutor's Office



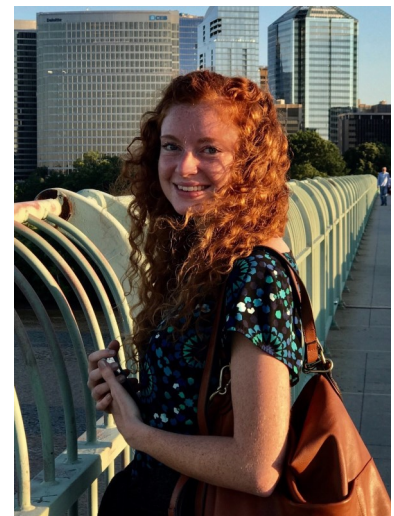
Carly Martz

M.S. in HLS, 2018

Program Analyst (PSS)

Investigative Operations Division

United States Marshals Service





## Undergraduate Student Research

### Taylor Mitchell Presents Her Research at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in Baltimore, MD

On February 24, 2018, Taylor Mitchell presented her original research at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society in Baltimore, MD. Taylor's research project is titled, "Students' Perceptions of Sexual Assault on College Campuses: An Analysis of Gender Differences" and identified some interesting findings regarding how gender can impact perceptions of this serious issue. Taylor's faculty mentor and co-author on this project is Dr. Marie Mele. Taylor has continued her excellent work as a graduate student in our department.



### Brendan Bianchi Presents His Research at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Philadelphia, PA

On November 16, 2017, Brendan Bianchi presented his original research at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Philadelphia, PA. His presentation is titled "The Links Between Project Medicine Drop and Crime in New Jersey." His work evaluated Project Medicine Drop, which allows individuals to safely dispose of unused medication in receptacles placed within police departments and other law enforcement facilities. Brendan found that municipalities that participated in Project Medicine Drop are more likely to be economically advantaged, compared to municipalities that do not participate in Project Medicine Drop. Brendan is now a first-year student at Seton Hall Law School.



## Faculty Accomplishments

**Dr. John Comiskey** published an article titled "Theory for Homeland Security" in the *Journal of Homeland Security Education*.

**Dr. John Comiskey** participated in FEMA's Science of Teaching and Learning Focus Group which identified key takeaways from the American Education Research Association's (AERA) April 2018 Conference in New York City.

**Dr. John Comiskey** served as a Panel Lead on Homeland Security Intelligence at the International Association of Intelligence Educators in Sydney, Australia in July, 2018.

**Dr. Shannon Cunningham** presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Philadelphia, PA, titled "Responses to Prosecutorial Misconduct."

**Dr. Brian Lockwood** co-authored a study with graduate student Matthew Doyle and **Dr. John Comiskey** titled, "Armed, but too dangerous? Factors associated with citizen support for the militarization of the police" in *Criminal Justice Studies*.

**Dr. Brian Lockwood** co-authored a study with undergraduate student Elizabeth Ulan and **Dr. John Comiskey** titled "Constitutional, ethical, both, or neither? An investigation of Homeland Security majors' perceptions of National Security Agency bulk surveillance programs" in the *Journal of Homeland Security Education*.

**Dr. Brian Lockwood** presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Philadelphia, PA, titled "The influences of community context on the Opioid Epidemic in New Jersey."

**Dr. Marie Mele** received a Summer Faculty Fellowship to continue her research on police layoffs and variations in violent crime.

**Dr. Marie Mele** published an article titled "Police response to domestic violence: The influence of extralegal factors on arrest decisions" in *Partner Abuse*.

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## The Department of Criminal Justice Welcomes Douglas Collier as the new Director of Professional Outreach and Enrollment for the Graduate Program

Professor Douglas S. Collier is a retired Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent with over 26 years of federal service. He began his federal career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) where he served approximately 4 years. He worked in DEA offices in New York City, Atlantic City, Paterson, and Newark. Special Agent Collier conducted investigations targeting international heroin and cocaine networks, money launderers, and organizations involved in trafficking steroids. Later as the Demand Reduction Coordinator, Special Agent Collier was responsible for DEA's drug prevention and education efforts in NJ. He also worked with the State's prevention and treatment partners and was instrumental in formulating several innovative drug prevention training programs that have been adopted by numerous substance abuse organizations.

As the Director of Professional Outreach and Enrollment for the Graduate Program, Professor Collier is working diligently to strengthen the program through

partnerships with multiple agencies, the creation of Global Studies opportunities for our students, and the development of innovative curricula, amongst many other initiatives.





## 2017 Department of Criminal Justice Student Award Winners

On April 20, the Department of Criminal Justice held its annual awards ceremony to recognize the exemplary work of its students and to induct new members into the Alpha Phi Sigma (CJ) and Omicron Sigma Sigma (HLS) honor societies. Faculty, students, administrators, and family were in attendance to show their pride for the recipients. Students receiving individual departmental awards are shown below.



New members of the Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society are inducted.

### Outstanding Academic Performance — Criminal Justice



Undergraduate Student  
Brittney Gallagher



Undergraduate Student  
David Hernandez



Graduate Student  
Mellissa Orechio

### Outstanding Academic Performance — Homeland Security



Undergraduate Student  
Brendan Bianchi



Undergraduate Student  
William Plaag



Graduate Student  
Thomas Candiloro

## The Guardian's Club

Each month, the student-led Guardian's Club brings students from the Criminal Justice Department together to hear from guest speakers and to travel to interesting locations across the area. Some of this popular organization's activities are highlighted below.

In late October, Dr. John Comiskey, Department Chair Professor Nicholas Sewitch, and Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science Dr. Kenneth Womack took students to New York City to tour Ground Zero and the World Trade Center Observatory. The group also visited the World Trade Center Museum.



During the Spring semester, Monmouth County Sheriff and Adjunct Professor Shaun Golden led a three-part series of presentations to provide students with information about how to successfully seek a law enforcement position. This series, titled "How to Interview for a Law Enforcement Position," gave students valuable insight into the interview process and how to avoid common mistakes. Mock interviews were conducted during the presentations to more effectively impart the lessons learned during the series.



Adjunct Professors and members of the New Jersey State Police, Colonel Albert Ponenti and Lieutenant Christopher Demaise spoke to members of the Guardian's Club on the work of the New Jersey State Police and how interested students can best prepare for the application process. Drawing on their experiences with the State Police and as faculty members, Colonel Ponenti and Lieutenant Demaise drew a great deal of interest from students who were considering a career in law enforcement.





## Criminal Justice Students in the Field

### Students and Faculty Tour Eastern State Penitentiary

On November 17, Dr. Shannon Cunningham, Dr. Marie Mele, and Dr. Brian Lockwood brought students to Philadelphia for a tour of Eastern State Penitentiary. Described as “once the most famous and expensive prison in the world, but stands today in ruin, a haunting world of crumbling cellblocks and empty guard towers. Known for its grand architecture and strict discipline, this was the world's first true “penitentiary,” a prison designed to inspire penitence, or true regret, in the hearts of prisoners.” The students and faculty enjoyed the guided tour of this facility that provided a great deal of insight into the history of our nation’s correctional system.



### Introduction to Homeland Security Students Tour the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office

On October 24, Dr. John Comiskey and Dr. Thomas Carey took students from their HLS 101, Introduction to Homeland Security courses to the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office for a tour of the facilities.





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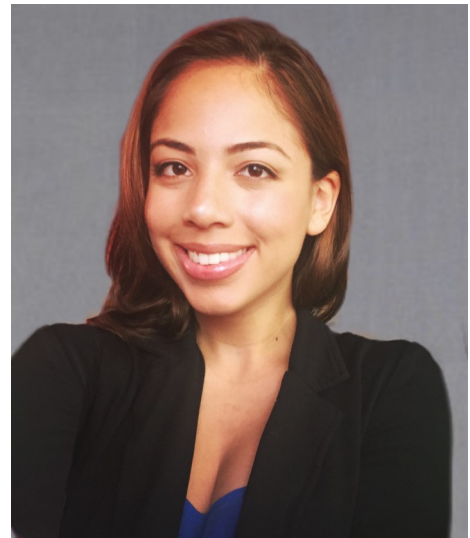
## Student Internship Experiences:

### Jienevit Abad Hudson County Probation Division (Juvenile Supervision)

Being able to intern this past summer in the Hudson County Probation Division (Juvenile Supervision) was perhaps one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. The Probation Division is located in the Hudson County Administration Building, which holds 11 other divisions including the Civil, Criminal, Family, Finance, Human Resources, and Municipal Divisions. Several other courtrooms can be found within the building which serve not only the county, but also the state of New Jersey. My internship duties consisted of a wide range of things, including aiding both the Adult and Juvenile Probation Officers with their duties, occasionally leading routine interviews with both the Adult and Juvenile parolees (under supervision of a certified Probation Officer), attending court hearings, inputting new parolee files into the system, and translating during interviews with parolees who did not speak English.

My personal experience as an intern in the Probation Division was very unique, for I was allowed to observe several different aspects of, not only the Probation Division, but every single division found in the building, as well. Probation officers, judges, lawyers, cops, and many other em-

ployees working in the Administration Building taught me a very particular set of skills I would not have been able to attain if I had not done this internship, for they are skills you simply cannot acquire from a textbook in a classroom environment. Even though it was a brief firsthand experience of how the Criminal Justice system really works, it was incredibly eye-opening. I feel this internship definitely helped me become better prepared for my professional career after Monmouth University.



### Ryan Walsh Federal Bureau of Investigation

I had an amazing opportunity this summer working for the FBI, and I have been able to experience a lot of great things that wouldn't have been possible without this internship. Most of all, I have learned a lot about hard work and dedication, and working for a cause that is bigger than yourself. Getting real-world knowledge and advice directly from FBI employees was incredible, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. My day-to-day duties varied greatly during my internship with the FBI. I had the opportunity to work on projects with agents, go to meetings and case briefings, listen in on conference calls, and go to the federal court house and sit in on trials. Specific projects included working with the Evidence Response Team (ERT), the Underwater Search Evidence Response Team, the Rapid Deployment Team (RDT), the Operational Medicine Program and the Victim Specialist Program.

