

Department of Criminal Justice

Fall 2019 Newsletter

This volume illustrates the accomplishments of students and faculty during the 2018-2019 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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Graduate Students and Faculty Travel to London for Course on Transnational Policing and Leadership

Between July 20 and July 28, 14 graduate students and two faculty members traveled to London, England for a global education experience. The course titled “International Policing and Public Safety Leadership” provided students with the opportunity to visit and hear from senior officials within many different law enforcement and public safety agencies, including the Metropolitan Police, the London Fire Brigade, the U.S. Embassy, and several others. In a partnership with the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACP), Monmouth University professors Douglas Collier and Brian Lockwood led students on the trip with NJSACP Executive Director Mitchell Sklar. Highlights of the trip included meeting with agents of the FBI, DEA, and ICE at the U.S. Embassy and attending a lecture on a major terror attack in London tube system from one of the responding officers with the Metropolitan Police. After studying issues in international law enforcement and public safety during the prior month, students were well-equipped to immerse themselves in their selected research topics, including community policing, the use of technology, and firearm usage by officers. Students also had time to explore the city by visiting Parliament, the Churchill War Rooms, and taking a ride on the London Eye, among many other attractions.



Students and faculty outside New Scotland Yard after hearing from senior members of the Metropolitan Police.

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

Manuel Colon

B.S. in HLS, 2017

J.D. Candidate

Charles Widger School of Law
Villanova University

Jacqui DiMarino

B.S. in HLS, 2018

Regional Integration Coordinator
Philadelphia Office of
Emergency Management

Matthew Fountain

B.A. in CJ, 2017

Victim Advocate
Monmouth County
Prosecutor's Office



Criminal Justice Department Co-Sponsors “Preparing for the Unthinkable: A Symposium for School Safety”

On March 8, 2019, Monmouth University's Schools of Education and Social Work and Department of Criminal Justice partnered with the N.J. Department of Education and public safety officials to help prevent and prepare for future mass shootings by co-sponsoring “Preparing for the Unthinkable: A Symposium for School Safety.” The mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County, Florida in February 2018 that resulted in the deaths of 17 innocents and the wounding of an additional 17 persons left yet another indelible mark on American society. In response to that tragic event, as well as a litany of other mass shootings, this Symposium brought together many practitioners, including academics, school safety administrators, social work professionals, and others to discuss what can be done to reduce the likelihood of future mass shootings in school settings. Students from many disciplines across the University were able to hear from these leaders and engage them in a discussion on this important issue.



Undergraduate Student Research

Gianna Petrone and Karla Almanzar Selected to Participate in the 2019 Summer Scholars Program

Gianna Petrone and Karla Almanzar were selected to participate in the prestigious Summer Scholars program. Limited to only eight undergraduate students, the Summer Scholars program is Monmouth University's only Living and Learning Community (LLC) that allows students to live on campus together and participate in scholarly activities in order to further their research. In addition, the Summer Scholars are mentored by a faculty member and receive a stipend to support their work. Beyond presenting their work at Monmouth University's Scholarship Week next April, the Summer Scholars will be presenting their research at national and regional conferences and submitting manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals.

Gianna Petrone's project with Dr. Brian Lockwood examined the spatial patterns of police coverage on several outcomes, including crime, police use-of-force, and citizen complaints. Gianna gathered multiple spatial datasets to first map whether municipalities in the state receive police coverage from a local municipal department or from the New Jersey State Police. She then analyzed the spatial patterns of police coverage with other important variables to determine if type of police coverage is linked with both positive and negative outcomes in New Jersey.



Karla Almanzar's research with Dr. Shannon Cunningham represented an exploratory study on the efficacy and implications of New Jersey's bail reform policy, which was implemented in 2017. By interviewing individuals affected by the bail reform policy, Karla identified important aspects of the impact of the policy that have yet to be empirically examined. She will present her work at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in the Spring.

Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. John Comiskey published an article with M. Laranagga titled "Theory for Homeland Security" in *Homeland Security Affairs*.

Dr. John Comiskey presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the International Association for Intelligence Education in Jamaica, NY, in June 2019 titled "Climate Security: Implications for the U.S. Intelligence Community."

Dr. John Comiskey presented a paper at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Higher Education Symposium in Emmitsburg, MD in June 2019 titled "Climate Security: Implications for the Emergency Management Community."

Dr. John Comiskey moderated the Cybersecurity Panel at the National Homeland Security Association in Phoenix, Arizona in June 2019.

Dr. John Comiskey moderated the "Shinning a Light on the Encryption Debate" at the Privacy & Security Conference in Victoria, British Columbia in January 2019.

Dr. Brian Lockwood co-authored a study with P. Harris and H. Grunwald titled "Are they buying or selling again? Estimating the impact of neighborhood-level contagion on types of juvenile drug recidivism" in *Crime & Delinquency*.

Dr. Brian Lockwood co-authored a study with B. Wyant titled "Transformative learning, higher order thinking, and the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program" in *The Journal of Correctional Education*.

Dr. Brian Lockwood presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Baltimore, MD in March 2019 titled "The effects of the shore season on crime in New Jersey."

Dr. Brian Lockwood presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, in New York, NY in August 2019 titled "Locating litter: An exploratory multilevel analysis of the spatial patterns of litter in Philadelphia."

Dr. Marie Mele presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Baltimore, MD in March 2019 titled "An Analysis of Police Layoffs and Variations in Violent Crime."

Dr. Marie Mele developed and implemented a client survey for The Mercy Center Community Victim Witness Advocacy (CVWA) Project in Asbury Park, NJ (Spring 2019). Currently collecting completed surveys and analyzing responses for the purpose of assessing CVWA goals and objectives.

Students Present Their Projects at the Senior Seminar Research Colloquium

At the end of each semester, the Department of Criminal Justice holds its Research Colloquium to showcase the work of students who have completed the capstone course in the Department: Senior Seminar. In Senior Seminar, students are required to conduct original, empirical research on a topic of their choice by gathering data, statistically analyzing those data, and then presenting their work at the Colloquium for their peers, family, friends, and Monmouth University community. In a poster session format, the Colloquium allows students to engage with the attendees and discuss their research. At each Colloquium, one student receives the Pamela Markowitz Award, presented to a criminal justice student who exhibits an exceptional work ethic, positive attitude, and willingness to help others. The award is given in honor of Pamela Markowitz, a beloved MU criminal justice student who passed away in 2004.



Attendees engage with Senior Seminar students at the 2019 Spring Department of Criminal Justice Research Colloquium in Wilson Hall.



John and Gail Markowitz present the Pamela Markowitz Award to last year's recipients, Jenna Reilly in Fall 2018 (left photo) and Emily Meyer in Spring 2019 (right photo).

The Department of Criminal Justice Organizes 7th Annual Networking Event

On March 27, the Department of Criminal Justice held its annual Criminal Justice Networking Event for all students at Monmouth University. More than 170 students attended the event for the opportunity to hear from and meet with 70 professionals in fields that included law enforcement, community corrections, homeland security, social work, the legal system, and many others. Students were able to attend multiple panel sessions during the evening and then speak with the presenters. In its 7th year, many alumni from the Department of Criminal Justice have credited this event with helping them to achieve their career goals by introducing them to practitioners and administrators within organizations such as the FBI, Secret Service, local police departments, and many other state, county, local, and private agencies.



Professor and Department Chair Nicholas Sewitch gives his opening remarks to attendees at the 7th annual Department of Criminal Justice Networking Event



Students hear from professionals at one panel session at the Networking Event.

The Department of Criminal Justice Visits the Supreme Court and the Pentagon

The Department of Criminal Justice sponsored an experiential learning experience for students in Washington, D.C. on October 12, 2018. Professors Shannon Cunningham and Nick Sewitch accompanied a group of students on private tours of the United States Supreme Court and the Pentagon. Led by an expert docent, the private Supreme Court tour exposed participants to the history of the highest court in the nation. Students learned about past and present justices and got an inside look at how the court processes cases. We had the opportunity to see the impressive library and to sit in the courtroom where oral arguments are heard. Following the private tour, students met with members of the Supreme Court Police to learn about career opportunities within their organization. The group then traveled to the Pentagon for a tour of the facility.



Students and faculty on the steps of the Supreme Court.

Alpha Phi Sigma Raises More Than \$400 for Paws For a Cause Event

In April, Alpha Phi Sigma, the Criminal Justice Honors Society, collected more than \$400 during the Paws for a Cause event that raises funds to provide protective vests for K9 officers. Members of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office came to campus and gave a demonstration of the capabilities of the K9 officers. K9 officers from the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office respond to hundreds of calls for service each year that can include drugs and explosives, which underscores the importance of this event to ensure that the K9s have the necessary protective equipment.



Taylor Mitchell, the President of Alpha Phi Sigma (left center), stands with Sheriff Shaun Golden (right center) and Officers of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office.

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[www.monmouth.edu/school
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sciences/criminal-
justice.aspx](http://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/criminal-justice.aspx)

Student Internship Experiences:

Paula Echeverria Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office

The opportunity to intern at the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office was an exceptionally transformative experience that allowed me to foster skills I have acquired in the classroom and gain fundamental work experience in the field I hope to one day work in. For the duration of my internship, I was assigned to the Trial Teams floor; my position allowed me to work closely alongside Assistant Prosecutors and paralegal staff, an experience that both solidified and strengthened my goal of working within the Criminal Justice system. The most beneficial aspect of this experience was that following each proceeding the Assistant Prosecutors would allocate time to thoroughly explain important legal concepts and ensure that I was getting the most out of my time spent with them. As a result of the constant feedback from supervisors and the unparalleled opportunities to strengthen my knowledge of criminal law my internship allowed me to become more confident in my field of study. The individuals I met have made a lasting impact on me, and many have become valuable mentors.

I would enthusiastically recommend this internship

to any other Criminal Justice student at Monmouth University. The hands-on work experience interns receive is significant and cannot be obtained solely within a classroom setting. My internship has thoroughly allowed me to heighten necessary transferable skills such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking, all of which, I believe are skills that will prepare interns to successfully join the workforce upon graduation.



Thomas Notaro Federal Bureau of Investigation

I have had the opportunity to intern for the FBI for the past two years. I was assigned to the non-investigative assets of the FBI's Newark Division. These included SWAT, HAZMAT, Crisis Response, Evidence Response Team, Crisis Negotiation, and K-9. My responsibilities and assignments varied, with no day being the same. One of the main projects I assisted with was active shooter presentations for volunteer and career fire departments, houses of worship, and private companies. Some other projects included planning field training exercises, special event training, and emergency preparedness.

This internship has exposed me to the mission the Bureau carries out every single day: to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to protect the American people. I am nothing but inspired by the selfless dedication and professionalism of the men and women of the FBI. They are always ready to respond to ensure the safety of the American

people. Their determination for seeking justice and keeping the peace admirable and often goes unnoticed. I highly encourage any student looking for a challenging but rewarding internship experience to apply to the FBI's Honors Internship Program.

