

FALL 2025 | VOLUME 13

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEWSLETTER

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY STUDENTS ARE FLANKED BY THEIR INSTRUCTORS: JAMES HARRISON, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY (LEFT), RYAN IMKEMEIER, VP OF OPERATIONS (RIGHT), AND DR. THOMAS CAREY (CENTER)

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LEARNING IN ACTION: HOMELAND SECURITY STUDENTS VISIT NEW JERSEY FIBER EXCHANGE (NJFX) FACILITY AND APPLY THEORY TO PRACTICE

Homeland security majors enrolled in Critical Infrastructure Security (HLS 320) visited the New Jersey Fiber Exchange (NJFX) facility in April as part of their course work. Located on a 58-acre campus in Wall Township, the facility serves as a New Jersey-based data center and subsea cable landing station. The company services several subsea cables connecting the United States to Northern Europe with colocation services to business customers.

Upon arrival to the facility, the class was broken down into two groups: One receiving a tour while the other group attended classes on company mission, facility operations, and security. Both groups swapped positions and were given equal time to complete each activity. The NJFX Director of Security James Harrison shared his knowledge of the organization while discussing pertinent information toward the course capstone: the security vulnerability assessment. At the conclusion of the event, the NJFX staff moderated a Q & A period for the students. Dr. Thomas Carey supervised students attending the event.

STUDENTS IN INTERNATIONAL POLICING AND PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERSHIP COURSE VISIT IRELAND



STUDENTS IN CJ 582 AT LEINSTER HOUSE, PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



**THE CLASS VISITS THE GARDA COLLEGE
AT MCCAN BARRACKS, TEMPLEMORE**

Graduate students taking CJ 582: International Policing and Public Safety Leadership spent a week in Dublin, Ireland in July to learn about law enforcement and security operations in Ireland. Dr. Brian Lockwood, Professor Douglas Collier, and Mitchell Sklar of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) led the trip that included visits to the Irish Garda College, the Regional Control Centre, the Irish Parliament, and the Criminal Courts of Justice. Students also met with members of the National Criminal Intelligence Office, An Garda Síochána (National Police Service of Ireland), and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

ALUMNI IN THE FIELD



KAYLEE BADURIA
B.A. IN CJ, 2021
M.A. IN CJ, 2025
DETECTIVE
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



FRANCIS MILLHEIM
M.A. IN CJ, 2024
GIS COORDINATOR
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SECTION
NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE



PAULA ECHEVERRIA
B.A. IN CJ, AND PS, 2022
J.D., RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL
LEGAL ASSISTANT
APPELLATE DIVISION - MONMOUTH
COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



HEIDI VAN DEN HEUVEL
B.A. IN CJ, 2024
PROBATION OFFICER
SUPERIOR COURT OF NJ



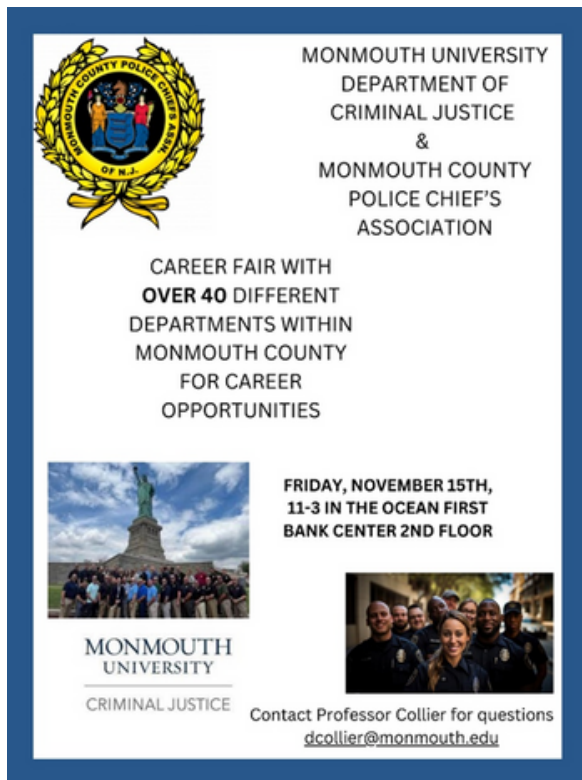
JENNIFER VAVREK
M.A. IN CJ, 2025
INVESTIGATOR
NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE



MICHAEL E. BEEKMAN JR.
M.A. IN CJ, 2024
SENIOR AML INVESTIATOR
STANDARD CHARTERED

THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE HOLDS LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER FAIR

The Department of Criminal Justice partnered with the Monmouth County Police Chiefs Association and hosted a Career Fair on November 15, 2024. The Career Fair was held in the Ocean First Bank Center, 2nd Floor, with over 40 local police organizations attending. The Career Fair offered students the various opportunities in the local Law Enforcement career field. Students were able to network with representatives and gain insight as to how a career in a local agency can be achieved. In addition, they were able to initiate professional connections for future opportunities. More than one hundred students attended from all disciplines at Monmouth University. Additionally, the Department of Criminal Justice sent invitations to other local universities and colleges to join the career fair so students from other schools did attend.



STUDENTS NETWORK WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTITIONERS

HOMELAND SECURITY STUDENT SIERRA POOLE WINS FIRST PLACE AT THE NEW JERSEY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ASSOCIATION'S (NJEPA) HIGHER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

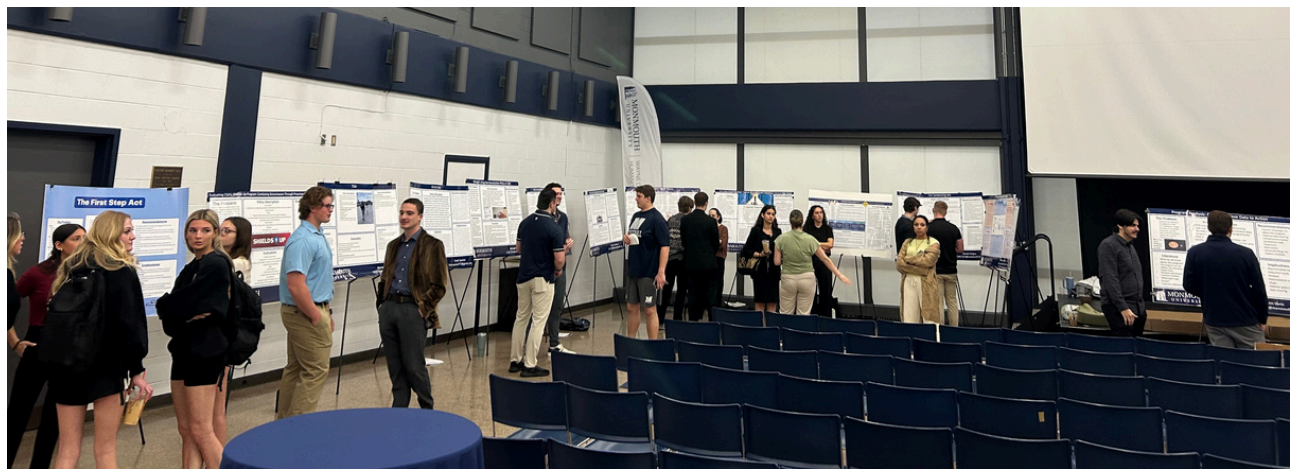


SIERRA POOLE WINS FIRST PLACE AT THE NEW JERSEY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ASSOCIATION (NJEPA) HIGHER EDUCATION CHALLENGE FOR HER PRESENTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.

Homeland Security major Sierra Poole was awarded first place at the New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association's (NJEPA) Higher Education Challenge on April 8th, 2025, held in Atlantic City, NJ. Sierra received a \$1,500 Scholarship Award for her presentation "Mental Health for First Responders to Terrorism Events." She represented her group capstone project, which was completed with students James Gentles, Brandon Benati, and Greta Valvo, under the direction of Professor Meg Forney.

Homeland Security major Anthony Sogluizzo also presented his research project, "The Practical Application of the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Model to a Municipality" at the conference. Anthony earned a spot as a finalist in the Challenge against other competing universities.

DEPARTMENT HOSTS SENIOR SEMINAR POSTER PRESENTATIONS EVENT



STUDENTS PRESENT THEIR WORK IN CJ/HLS SENIOR SEMINAR

On April 23, 2025, more than 30 students presented their work at the Department of Criminal Justice Senior Seminar Poster Presentations event. As part of their work in the Senior Seminar course, each presenter evaluated a policy or program within the CJ or HLS systems. Topics included body-worn cameras, recreational marijuana laws, opioid prescribing regulations, disaster relief programs, and many other policies and interventions within the fields of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY WITH THE NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE

On March 5, 2025, the Department of Criminal Justice facilitated Professional Development Day at the New Jersey State Police Regional Operations Intelligence Center located at their headquarters in West Trenton, New Jersey. The students gained insight into potential careers in intelligence, homeland security, law enforcement, and leadership. MU CJ alumna, Katherine Musa, discussed her experiences with both MU's Bachelor's and Master's Programs and how they prepared her to work as an Intelligence Analyst with the NJ State Police. Professors Douglas S. Collier and Nick Sewitch traveled with the students.



**FORMER STUDENT AND CURRENT
INTELLIGENCE ANALYST KATIE
MUSA SPEAKS TO STUDENTS**



**STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT THE NEW JERSEY STATE
POLICE REGIONAL OPERATIONS INTELLIGENCE CENTER**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND POLICING COURSE BRINGS STUDENTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL



**PROFESSOR DOUGLAS COLLIER (2ND FROM LEFT)
WITH STUDENTS IN CJ 598**

Professor Douglas Collier offered CJ - 598: Community Engagement and Policing during the Fall 2024 semester, which brought graduate students in contact with students from Amerigo A. Anastasia School Middle School in Long Branch, NJ. This unique course embedded our students within the community, and more specifically, within a diverse youth population in order to understand some of the new and emerging issues that future practitioners within the CJ and HLS fields will undoubtedly encounter. The course culminated with a Community Outreach Program (for parents/guardians of the middle school students) presented by our CJ graduate students on the topic of social media safety and awareness.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

Professor Douglas Collier's Community Engagement and Policing graduate course partnered with Amerigo A. Anastasia Middle School in West Long Branch, NJ to present research on Internet and Social Media Safety to students and parents at the school, during the Fall 2024 semester.

Dr. Thomas Carey and **Professor James Kinard** presented their research "Experiential Learning Pedagogies: Combining Service Learning & Internship Models through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)" during a roundtable discussion at the Federal Emergency Management Agency - Region II Conference at Monmouth University in December, 2024.

Dr. John Comiskey authored "Before shots are fired: Safety's role in addressing active shooter and other violent threats in the workplace" in *The Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health*.

Dr. John Comiskey was a panelist on the "Intelligence and Homeland Defense: Empowering the Analyst-Protecting the Citizen" panel at the Homeland Defense Symposium, at the U.S. Army War College, in Carlisle, PA in February, 2025.

Dr. John Comiskey presented his research "The Extremism-Terrorism Continuum: Implications for the Intelligence Community" at the International Association for Intelligence Educators Conference in Valletta, Malta in September 2024.

Dr. Giuseppe M. Fazari was the Plenary Speaker and presented his research "Artificial Intelligence: AI Governance and the Justice System" at the International Association for Court Administration Annual Conference in Singapore in June, 2024.

Dr. Giuseppe M. Fazari published a book chapter titled "Technology in Judicial Administration: Past, Present and Future" in *Criminal Justice Technology in the 21st Century (4th Ed.)*.

Dr. Giuseppe M. Fazari published an article titled "From Classroom to Courtroom: Engaging Today's Students to Become Tomorrow's Court Professionals" in *Trends in State Courts*.

Dr. Meg Forney, Dr. Brian Lockwood, and Dr. John Comiskey co-authored a paper with Jamie Nappi and Michael Cronin titled "Old school is out: How Crisis Intervention Team training is reshaping policing" in *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*.

Dr. Meg Forney authored a report titled "Uniform Crime Report 2018-2023: Trends in detainable offenses" for the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission in 2024.

Dr. Meg Forney presented her research "Does Crisis Intervention Team Training affect Officer's Perceptions of Mentally Ill Individuals?" at the American Society of Criminology in San Francisco, CA in November, 2024.

Dr. Brian Lockwood presented his research "An Investigation of the Spatial Patterning of the Shootings of Juveniles in Philadelphia" at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Orlando, FL in September, 2024.

STUDENT INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES

GABRIELLA DIMATTINA **RICHMOND COUNTY** **SUPREME COURT**



This summer I had the opportunity to intern at the Richmond County Supreme Court in Staten Island New York, under Judge Porzio. Judge Porzio primarily handles medical malpractice cases, as well as car accidents and slip and fall cases. I observed Judge Porzio's everyday tasks, including his work during trials. I was able to sit in on everything the Judge did, take notes, and observe the drafting of different documents like memos which gave me a real-life perspective on court proceedings.

Reflecting on my internship from this summer, I can truly say that I have learned so much. My understanding of the criminal justice system has increased and my professional skills have sharpened. I have truly grown so much as a person just because of a couple of months being in court and watching Judge Porzio. My internship at the Richmond County Supreme Court has provided me with endless opportunities. I have met many different people, as well as received a lot of amazing advice. I have gained so much knowledge and experience that can't be taught in the classroom. It has been great to see how attorneys and judges work together every day and to picture myself in that environment when I'm older. I'm so grateful to have had the chance to experience this internship!

NICK ROSSINI **HSI DIVISION** **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

This summer, I interned with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), specifically their Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) division. My internship site was within their HSI SAC New York office in downtown Manhattan. The process of applying took roughly six months, but once assigned, I was put on the Document Benefit Fraud Task Force (DBFTF). This unit specializes in the use of legal documents such as marriage certificates, visas, passports, etc. for personal gain. During my first few weeks being with DBFTF, I was tasked with simple work: making copies, filing paperwork, filing our forms for agents, and food runs for the team. However, as time went on and my work ethic was recognized, I was tasked with bigger duties, such as filling out official documents for cases and even assisting in cases by going through evidence.

The internship with the HSI SAC New York - DBFTF task force was one I would do again in a heartbeat. I gained more than just an education; I gained real world insight. I saw how agents would talk to victims and witnessed the real stress of the job and how everything can change in a day. Being able to take my education out of the classroom and apply it in the field was something people can only dream of when in college. The team of agents I was with everyday became more than "mentors" or "teachers" - they became friends and close ones at that.

