

# Department of Criminal Justice

## Fall 2021 Newsletter

This volume illustrates the accomplishments of students and faculty during the 2020-2021 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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### Department of Criminal Justice Speaker Series Brings Together Top Practitioners and Students

The Department of Criminal Justice Speaker Series provided students from the entire campus community with the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of many individuals who are leading representatives of their agencies within the fields of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security. Approximately 50 students attended each of the presentations made by a wide variety of speakers, including:

#### FBI Career Panel:

Supervisory Special Agent Ryan Brogan and former Cyber Intelligence Analyst Nicole Sette spoke about their FBI experiences. Both of these incredible individuals worked within cybersecurity and have experience in other agencies, as well.

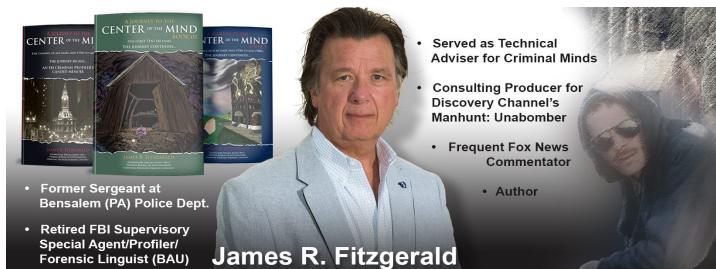
#### Homeland Security:

Christine Franchi of the New Jersey Department of Homeland Security and Preparedness spoke to students about her work related to domestic terrorism, including analysis of race-based terrorism and homegrown violent extremism.

#### CSI - Forensics Panel:

Co-hosted by the Chemistry Club, this panel included four specialists: Christopher George of the NJ State Crime Lab, and Bree Curren, Melissa Lyons, and Matthew Winters who are Forensic Specialists with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office.

#### Presentation by former FBI Criminal Profiler James Fitzgerald



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

Ariana Irizarry

B.A. in C.J., 2020

Union County Prosecutor's Office

Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy

Project Direct Administrative Assistant

Justin Golden

B.A. in C.J., 2020

Supreme Court of the United States

Police Department

Officer

Alana DeForest

M.A. in C.J., 2020

New York Police Department

Officer



## Collier Selected for New Jersey Implicit Bias Working Group

Douglas S. Collier, M.A., DEA (Ret.), Adjunct Professor and Director of Professional Outreach and Engagement in the Department of Criminal Justice, has been nominated by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General to serve as a member of a newly formed Implicit Bias & Cultural Diversity Working Group that will create uniform implicit bias and cultural diversity training for law enforcement officers throughout the State.

"This is a true honor to be recognized and selected by my peers from the New Jersey law enforcement community to help create, develop, and implement this important training," Collier said. Collier and Brian Lockwood, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Program Director of the Criminal Justice Graduate Program, are currently developing a graduate course on implicit bias using a science-based approach.

New Jersey legislation mandates that law enforcement officer training include understanding of implicit bias, as well as strategies to eliminate unconscious biases that shape behavior and produce disparate treatment of individuals based on their race, ethnicity, religious belief, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or other characteristics.

The legislation further requires all State, county, municipal, and campus law enforcement agencies provide implicit bias training once every five years, and that training course materials and online tutorials are available online to law enforcement officers.

Douglas S. Collier, Adjunct Professor and Director of Professional Outreach and Engagement



## Department of Criminal Justice Hosts Policing in Communities of Color: A Panel Conversation on Police Violence, Black Lives Matter, and Police Reform

On February 10, 2021, the Department of Criminal Justice at Monmouth University hosted Policing in Communities of Color: A Panel Conversation on Police Violence, Black Lives Matter, and Police Reform. This virtual event featured four speakers with expertise on police-community relations, racial disparities in the criminal justice system, and policing reform. The speakers included Dr. Lorenzo Boyd of the University of New Haven, Dr. Jason Williams of Montclair University, Dr. Sean Wilson of William Patterson University, and Andrea McChristian, Esq. of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

While this event was promoted as part of Black History Month, it was also relevant to the understanding and awareness of criminal justice issues by the community and students from all disciplines. The decision was made to rebroadcast the panel in March 2021 to expose a larger audience to the issues addressed in the panel, namely police violence against people of color, police reform, and the Black Lives Matter movement, and to raise awareness of “strategies for preventing and responding to crime.” Given the national debate stemming from recent controversial police actions, students were asked to write reflection papers focusing on police reform.

Many students responded and wrote papers, but far more watched the virtual presentation live and participated in verbal discussions in real time. Undoubtedly, students were impacted and called to action by the presentation. As the reflection papers indicate, students presented some very creative and innovative ideas about how to advance change in policing for the betterment of all communities. In its live broadcast, the event was attended by almost 200 Monmouth University students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members. Attendees also included students and faculty from ten other universities. On February 11, a video recording of the event was made available on YouTube.



Dr. Marie Mele, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

## Faculty Accomplishments

**Dr. Thomas Carey** authored a book chapter titled “Consequence Management and HAZMAT Incidents” in *Cultural Competency for Emergency and Crisis Management: Concepts, Theories and Case Studies*.

**Dr. Thomas Carey** authored an article titled “COVID-19 Pandemic: Reflections of Monmouth University’s Department of Criminal Justice” in the *Journal of Security, Intelligence, and Resilience Education*.

**Dr. John Comiskey** co-authored a book with J. Ramsay and K. Cozine titled “*Theoretical Foundations of Homeland Security*.”

**Dr. John Comiskey, Dr. Brian Lockwood, and Dr. Shannon Cunningham** co-authored an article with student Julie Arminio titled “The association between participant characteristics and perceptions of the effectiveness of law enforcement tactical simulator training in *Police Practice & Research: An International Journal*.

**Dr. John Comiskey and Dr. Thomas Carey** co-authored a paper with K. Hickman titled “Competency-based higher education for policing in the 21st century” in the *Journal of Security, Intelligence, and Resilience Education*.

**Dr. John Comiskey** presented his research at the Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System Symposium in Baltimore, MD [Virtual] in April, 2021 titled “Climate Insecurity: Implications for the Maryland-National Capital Region Emergency Response System.”

**Dr. John Comiskey** presented his research at the Monmouth University, Institute for Global Understanding: Human Rights and the Environment Symposium in West Long Branch, N.J [Virtual] in March, 2021 titled “Climate Insecurity: An Anthropocene Security Approach to a Sustainable Global Future.”

**Dr. John Comiskey** presented his research at the U.S. Department of Defense Northern Command, North America Defense and Security Alliance Conference in Colorado Springs, CO. [Virtual] in December, 2020 titled “Climate Security: A Pre-mortem Scenario Planning Approach to Homeland Defense.”

**Dr. Megan Forney** co-authored a paper with J. Ward titled “Unpacking within- and between-person effects of unstructured socializing and differential association on solo- and co-offending” in the *Journal of Criminal Justice*.

**Dr. Peter Liu** chaired a panel: “China’s Outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19)” at the Association of Chinese Criminology and Criminal Justice in the United States (ACCCJ) [Virtual] in January, 2021.

**Dr. Brian Lockwood** co-authored an article with B. Wyant and H. Harner titled “Gender differences and the effects of copayments on the utilization of health care in prison” in the *Journal of Correctional Healthcare*.

**Dr. Marie Mele** co-authored a study with J. McGovern and S. Ragudaran titled “Community-based research in practice: Faculty reflections on a collaborative approach to teaching CBR with a variety of community partners” in the *Journal of Higher Education, Outreach, and Engagement*.

## The Department of Criminal Justice Awards

On April 23, 2021, the Department of Criminal Justice held its annual Awards Ceremony to honor its finest students during the 2020-2021 academic year. Students were awarded for academic excellence, service to the Monmouth University community, and for joining one of the prestigious honor societies that include Alpha Phi Sigma for Criminal Justice students and Omicron Sigma Sigma, the Order of the Sword and Shield, for those studying Homeland Security. Middlesex County Superior Court Judge Sheree Pitchford served as the keynote speaker and provided some excellent words of advice for both the graduating students and those who will continue their studies at Monmouth University.

### *Student Award Recipients*

*Pamela Markowitz Award*

Presented by: John & Gail Markowitz

Emily Ciccolo

*Dr. Gregory Coram Outstanding Student Service Award*

Samantha Tucker

*Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Performance in Criminal Justice Award*

Lauren Deinhardt

*Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Performance in Homeland Security Award*

Sara Koch

*Outstanding Graduate Academic Performance in Criminal Justice Award*

Amanda Knaub

Brandon Goldy



**Keynote Speaker Sheree Pitchford,  
Middlesex County Superior Court  
Judge**

### *Alpha Phi Sigma Inductees*

Elise Brogan	Abigail Garcia	Gianna Petrone
Taylore Chacanias	Destiny Guerra	Ryan Rafferty
Payton Collander	Owen Harper	Jelissa Reyes
Lauren Crammer	Alexandra Hotaling	Brandon Spinner
William Dailey	Kristen Kane	Danielle Steff
Bruce Davis	Justin Kramarz	Sydney Strickland
Lauren Deinhardt	Miranda Landry	Alyssa Strother
Paula Echeverria	Evangeline Lappas	Ryan Turner
Shannan Edler	Brian Leight	Angelica Urbino
Shelby Eiden	Carina Luna	Brooke Vaccaro
Angelina Esposito	Jillian McDonough	Abigail Weighell

### *Order of the Sword and Shield Inductees*

President	Emily Ciccolo	Noah Evan Garber	Francis Millheim
Vice-President	Shane M. Ciongoli	Algeron Garcia	Matthew Pringle
	Alyssa Dowd	Victoria Hernandez	Gregory Scaturo
	Matthew G. Filosa	Amanda Knaub	Jessica Wisowaty
	Amy Lee Flood		



**Vice-President  
Matthew Pringle**



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

## Student Internship Experiences:

### Abigail McMillan Ocean City Communications Department

The experience of working in the Ocean City Communications department in Ocean City, Maryland as a seasonal communications operator was a valuable one that allowed me to gain insight and experience within the emergency response field. Working alongside full-time dispatchers and first responders enabled me to observe their work and gather valuable field experience that will further my career within the Homeland Security field. The most beneficial part of my internship experience was observing how an active Emergency Operations Center runs during situations that may occur in a largely populated town like Ocean City, Maryland. The feedback that the full-time dispatchers and supervisor were able to give me on my work as a call-taker and communications operator enabled me to make changes in my own technique to better the quality of my call-taking abilities. The experience of call-taking made me more confident in my ability to be a part of an emergency response team and to communicate effectively the needs of those who have been impacted by a disaster or crime.

I really enjoyed this in-field experience and recom-

mend it to other students within the Criminal Justice Department at Monmouth University. My internship allowed me to improve my communication skills during stressful situations, as well as my ability to gather necessary information from callers. It also allowed me to create connections with other people in my field of choice that could be valuable for future collaborations or job opportunities.



### Randy Showmaker Norristown Fire Department

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to intern at the Norristown Fire Department (NFD) located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. During my time there, I was able to refine my skills as a firefighter, and learn new means by which to accomplish common tasks faced on the fireground and around the station. My responsibilities varied each day, and no two days were ever the same. Every day started with apparatus checks and station clean up, but what followed was always a new experience. There were days we spent hours training and responded to very few emergencies, and other days where we would respond to five or six emergencies in the span of our twenty-four hour shift. Regardless of how many calls we responded to in a shift, the NFD consistently provided services to its community beyond the scope of many fire departments.

Firefighting proved to be a small portion of my experience at the Norristown Fire Department. The value of my experience truly evolved around

the relationships I was able to build with each shift. Spending twenty-four hours at a time with crew members certainly bonds a group and directly results in effectiveness on the fireground.

