

The WOU Criminal Justice Department NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013/ Summer 2013

WOU CJ Practicum Scholarship Winner Announced!

Daniel Unverferth has been selected as the recipient of the 2013 Criminal Justice Practicum Scholarship.



Mr. Unverferth, a senior, completed his practicum with Polk County Probation and Parole during the spring term. He received \$600 to put toward his practicum-related expenses.

Congratulations Daniel!

About the Scholarship

The WOU Criminal Justice Practicum Scholarship is designed to help students offset the costs associated with completing a practicum (e.g., travel, lodging). The scholarship is funded by donations from WOU CJ faculty and alumni and is awarded on an annual basis to applicants based on merit and need.

You can Help!

To make a <u>tax-deductible</u> donation to the CJ Practicum Scholarship fund, please contact David Murphy at muphyd@wou.edu or 503 838-8410.

A Look Inside The Classroom CJ 310: Professional Writing in Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice employers have routinely identified written and verbal communication skills as essential characteristics of successful CJ professionals. In recognition of this, the WOU CJ Department now offers an advanced writing course for Criminal Justice practitioners (CJ 310, Professional Writing in Criminal Justice) taught by English professor **Dr. Christine Harvey**. Over the last



year, Dr. Harvey has worked closely with CJ Department Chair Dr. Steve Gibbons and other CJ professionals to develop this class to fit the needs of future police officers, probation and parole officers, corrections officers and law and graduate students, among others.

Students in the course are provided with a diverse array of opportunities to develop their skills through exercises that require reading, writing and editing the types of reports re-

quired in the Criminal Justice field. These activities are all completed while focusing specifically on grammar and sentence structure to produce documents that are consistently clear, concise and error-free.

Recently, CJ 310 students participated in Scenario Day, where they performed the roles of police officers responsible for writing reports based on the real-world situations they are likely to encounter in the field.

Dr. Harvey would like to thank the Corvallis Police Department for participating in the Scenario Day, as well as the following WOU Drama students: John Rogers, Jodessa Chapa, Tia Laulusa, Amanda Konstantin, Mark Bennet Jonathan Jones, Kolleen Chapa, Sarah Norris, Roshelle Peterson, Clare McKay, Nick Kintz, and Chris Modrich.

Oregon State Forensic Anthropologist Speaks on Campus

Dr. Veronica "Nici" Vance, forensic scientist for the Oregon State Forensic Laboratory and State Forensic Anthropologist for the Oregon State Medical Examiner's office was a guest speaker as part of the Social Science Symposium Series at WOU. The talk was titled "The Anatomy of Death Investigation: Forensic Anthropology." Dr. Vance discussed the work she does for the Oregon State Medical Examiners Division and emphasized how skeletal biology plays a prominent role in identifying human remains along with aiding law enforcement. Dr. Vance was instrumental in arranging a generous donation of skeletal materials for WOU's new Forensic Anthropology Lab, which is being developed in conjunction with the new Forensic Anthropology (minor) program.



Student in the Spotlight

Spencer Campbell is a senior at WOU, majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in earth science. Spencer completed his practicum with the law enforcement division of the United States Forest Service, where he learned about patrol procedures and administrative duties. His hobbies include rafting, kayaking, skeet shooting, photography and traveling. Spencer's interest in the Criminal Justice system started with stories that he heard from some of his extended family who have had careers with the FBI and New York City Police Department. As vice president of the WOU Criminal Justice Association Spencer was directly involved in organizing the 2012 discussion panel on Human Trafficking. Spencer is proud of his participation in the organization of the OADP Death Penalty Exoneree Tour at WOU, where two exonerated death penalty inmates spoke about their experiences. Mr. Campbell aspires to work as a Forest Protection officer with the US Forest Service.



CJ Department News

New Forensic Anthropology Minor

Forensic Anthropology is a new 28-credit (8-course) minor option available to WOU undergraduate students. According to the Forensic Anthropology program coordinator, Criminal Justice professor **Dr. Misty Weitzel**, the Forensic Anthropology minor is designed for a diverse array of students



ranging from those simply interested in learning more about crime scene investigation to those planning to pursue post-graduate degrees in legal studies or forensic science. Thanks to the availability of unique resources, including human skeletal material, Forensic Anthropology students have the opportunity to work in a laboratory setting and use scientific techniques to do things such as evaluate the age, sex, ancestry and other defining characteristics of human remains.

Current students have great things to say about the program and Dr. Weitzel's effectiveness as an instructor. One student says, "I love anthropology and am fascinated by what skeletal remains can tell us about a person, how they lived [and] died." Another student noted that "[Dr. Weitzel's] teaching style...addresses many different types of learning capabilities/styles. I am a visual learner and like to apply what I am learning in class with a hands-on method. Dr. Weitzel's classes offer this and I really benefit because of it. Dr. Weitzel's instruction and enthusiasm for these courses influenced my choice for this as an additional minor."

More information on this minor is listed on the WOU Criminal Justice webpage (http://wou.edu/provost/extprogram/cj_online/index.php) under the "Forensic Anthropology Minor" tab.

WOU Criminal Justice Association elects new officers for 2013-2014

The WOU CJ Association (formerly the CJ Club) recently elected **Tori Gannon** as President and **Sierra Schlundt** as Vice President for the upcoming academic year. We look forward to seeing what the CJA accomplishes under their leadership! Congratulations, Tori and Sierra! Many thanks to outgoing president Ryan Harter for his tireless advocacy and valued service!





Recent Events

27th Annual Criminal Justice Career Day



Western Oregon University hosted the **27**th **Annual Criminal Justice Career Day** on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. The event featured a Career Opportunities Panel comprised of WOU alumni, each of whom is introduced below:

John Schmerber is currently a Commander for the Hillsboro Police Department, which is the fourth largest municipal department in the state of Oregon. He graduated in 1988, and, since joining the Hillsboro Police Department, has seen 23 WOU graduates employed within that department.

His job as a Commander involves many different aspects, including problem solving and critical thinking for urban policing. Cmdr. Schmerber listed the different divisions of a local police department, such as traffic, SWAT, detective, patrol, investigations, and drugs. He also emphasized the necessity of communication (both written and verbal), and said it was one of the most important aspects of his job.

Dave Kammerman is an Oregon State Police Trooper. Trooper Kammerman graduated in 1990 with a degree in public policy. After he graduated, he acquired a job with the Oregon State Police, and that is the only agency he has worked for in his professional career. The divisions within the Oregon State Police are slightly different than a local police department, as the State Police focus on patrol, major crimes, fish/wildlife, forensics, and state lottery and tribal gaming. One of the perks of being in patrol, according to Kammerman, is meeting lots of different types of people in various situations. Like Cmdr. Schmerber, Trooper Kammerman emphasized the need for students to learn communication skills, which they do through various classes within the CJ program at WOU. He also stressed the importance of a clean record for passing background investigations, as expectations are high both personally and professionally.

Kent Zwicker is a Special Agent for the Inspector General's Office Social Security Administration. As a Special Agent, he investigates crimes such as government benefit fraud. He started his career as a Reserve Deputy with Benton County and served as a cadet with Oregon State Police. Special Agent Zwicker said that, aside from communication, networking is one of the most important tools for a student to use.

Wendy Legee is a supervisor and internship coordinator for the U.S. Probation Office. As an employee of the federal judiciary, she supervises offenders who have been convicted of federal offenses and facilitates their access to programming and employment opportunities in hopes of holding them accountable and reducing recidivism. Legee discussed what prospective federal probation officers can expect with regard to recruitment, training, salary and retirement benefits.

Jeanna Antonson is a Human Resource Specialist with the United States Bureau of Prisons (BOP). She recently graduated from WOU as a non-traditional student, taking online classes to complete her degree as she was working. As a Human Resource Specialist, she oversees staffing of all positions, such as corrections officers, teachers, medical personnel, handyman/groundskeepers, chaplains and psychologists within the BOP. Antonson discussed how her education has played a key role in her success as a professional.

Exonerated Death Row Inmates Visit WOU Campus

Two death row exonerees, Juan Melendez (left) and Greg Wilhoit (right), spoke on campus on March 7, 2013. Before being exonerated, Melendez and Wilhoit spent a combined twenty-three years in prison. Speaking before a large audience of students, faculty and staff, they discussed the details of their cases, their experiences as wrongfully convicted prisoners, and the challenges they have faced since being released. This event was sponsored by the WOU Criminal Justice Association, the WOU Communication Club and Communication Studies Department and Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.



State Attorney General Speaks on Campus

On May 21st 2013, State Attorney General **Ellen Rosenblum** spoke as a guest lecturer in Professor Jess Barton's class, The American Court System (CJ 252). Attorney General Rosenblum discussed her career prior to being elected in the November 2012 general election, including her work as a judge of the Oregon Court of Appeals, as a trial court judge in Multnomah County, as a federal prosecutor and as an attorney in private practice. She also shared valuable advice for students planning careers in criminal justice.

WOU CJ Professors Publish Research Findings

David Murphy, Steve Gibbons and WOU alumnus **Wyatt Merritt** recently published their research findings in the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. Their article, "Student and Supervisor Perspectives on the Benefits of Criminal Justice Internships," was based on surveys completed by practicum students and their agency supervisors. Their findings revealed that students and supervisors strongly agree that internships are beneficial even though they tend to prioritize the benefits in different ways.

WOU CJ Faculty Research Examines Views of Oregon Police Officers

WOU professors Terry Gingerich, Greg Willeford, Steve Gibbons and David Murphy collaborated with the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, Oregon State Police, and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to survey nearly 1000 Oregon law enforcement officers on a range of topics. The executive summary of their findings, which focuses on comparisons across ranks and agency types, is titled "Contemporary Viewpoints: A 2012 Survey of Law Enforcement Officers in Oregon" and can be viewed by visiting: http://digitalcommons.wou.edu/cj_facpubs/1/.

Monmouth Police Department to get new facility

On May 21st, nearly sixty percent of Monmouth voters approved bond measure 27-106 allowing the city to issue up to \$4 million in general obligation bonds to purchase the Forest Capital building, located at 450 Pacific Avenue North (Highway 99W) and renovate it into a new station for the Monmouth Police Department (MPD). MPD officials will be working closely with an architectural firm to ensure all standards of a modern police department are met. Demolition of the current building has already begun and ground breaking is scheduled for the beginning of next year. The MPD plans to move in to the new building at the end of next year.

WOU CJ Students Present Research at Academic Excellence Showcase

Fourteen WOU Criminal Justice students participated in this year's Academic Excellence Showcase on May 30, 2013. The Academic Excellence Showcase demonstrates the importance of scholarly pursuits in students' coursework. Participants—each of whom was enrolled in one of **Dr. Weitzel's** courses—conducted independent research projects and summarized their methods and findings in a variety of formats, such as original research papers, projects, artwork, performances, and presentations. Listed below are the CJ students who participated in this year's event, along with the topic of their poster presentations. The abstracts of the students' projects can be found at http://digitalcommons.wou.edu/aes_event/2013/cj/.

Jonathan Lewis and Devin Lowrey:

"Age and Sex Estimation of an
Unidentified Human"

Jerielle Raibley:

"Ancestral Analysis of Adult Homo Sapien Skulls Using Non-Metric Methods"

Megan Barber (top photo): "Ancestry Estimation using FORDISC 3.0"

Megan Stinson and Vicki Bergquist:

"Effects of Sharp Force Trauma on Defleshed Sus domesticus Long Bones: An Examination of Channel Characteristics and Fracture Patterns"

Jake Gordon, Spencer Campbell, Lisset Lopez Urenda, Nicole Cobb, and Tamora Herrman (middle photo): "Ellis Island and Angel Island Connections to Race"

Meloni Morrison:

"Heat vs. Blunt Force Trauma on Cremated Remains"

Rita Schneider and Gregory Meza

(bottom photo):
"Defleshing Skulls:
Distilled Water vs. Sea Water"

<u>Thanks to Dr. Weitzel for</u> mentoring these students!







Alumni Updates

Attention Criminal Justice alumni! Drop us a line at cj@wou.edu and let us know what you've been you've been up to!



Omar Melchor Ayala (left) currently works for a local bank and teaches part time at WOU. He is in the process of applying for a PhD program. Mr. Melchor Ayala attended the University of Nevada in Las Vegas (UNLV) where he obtained a paid teaching assistantship while pursuing a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. He graduated from UNLV in 2011. Originally from Michoacan, Mexico Omar graduated from WOU in 2009. One day Omar hopes to work at WOU as a full-time instructor.

Jay Scroggin (Not Pictured) graduated from WOU in 1997 with a BS in Corrections. In 1995 Mr. Scroggin participated in the Yamhill County Community Corrections internship program. After graduation, he was hired as a Parole & Probation officer in Umatilla County. Mr. Scroggin has worked in various counties (Umatilla, Jefferson, and Deschutes) as a Parole & Probation Professional supervising sex offenders. In 2003 he took a management position with Clackamas County Community Corrections. Jay was hired by the state of Oregon in June 2011 as the Executive Director of the Oregon Board of Parole & Post-Prison Supervision.

Ezequiel Vasquez (right) graduated from WOU in the spring of 2012 with a major in criminal justice and a minor in Spanish. Mr. Vasquez completed his practicum with at the Marion County Juvenile Department. While working at Marion County Juvenile Department Ezequiel applied for several patrol and corrections positions. In March 2013 Ezequiel was hired full time as a deputy for Marion County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Vasquez is currently attending the DPSST Academy.

Savannah Davis (Not Pictured) started her first year at Western Oregon University as an undeclared major, up until her first criminal justice class. Ms. Davis completed her practicum with Polk County Juvenile Department with the juvenile and Independent Living Program. Savannah's practicum experience helped facilitate other career interests and options. After graduating from WOLL in June 2009 Savannah became involved in different areas of the

ing from WOU in June 2009 Savannah became involved in different areas of the criminal justice field from engaging at-risk Youth in a residential facility to working as a victims advocate. Savannah is currently a caseworker for Child Welfare. This fall Savannah plans to continue her education at Portland State University working towards a Master's in Social Work.

Tim Svenson (right) graduated from WOU in 1999 with a BS in law enforcement. Mr. Svenson completed his practicum with Yamhill County Sheriff's Office and was hired on after the completion of his practicum. In January 2012 Svenson was promoted to Captain for the YCSO's Operations Division.



Rob Persson (class of 1995) completed his practicum with Marion County Parole and Probation in 1994. He has held various positions within the Department of Corrections since being hired as a correctional officer in May 1995. He is currently the Superintendent of Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI). In addition to holding a Bachelor's Degree, Superintendent Persson completed the Certificate of Public Management program at the Atkinson Graduate School of Management-Willamette University. The best advice he received from his instructors was "to be open-minded and to embrace every opportunity. On the surface what may not appear as a stepping stone to your next career move, could actually be the perfect way to round out your experience and make you that much more valuable asset to your employer."





Alumni Updates, continued

WOU graduates are well-represented in many agencies across the state of Oregon. In what may be a record, <u>fifteen</u> WOU alumni are currently employed with the <u>Linn County Juvenile Department</u> alone! We'd like to recognize them here:

Tori Lynn, Director (BS Psychology, 1989)
Nadine Grassick, Probation Officer 2 (BS Social Science, 1993)
Kyle Kinion, Probation Officer 2 (BS Corrections, 2004)
Scott Knox, Probation Officer 3 (BS law Enforcement, 1997)
Lisa Robinson, Supervising Probation Officer (BS Corrections, 1990)
Holly Borba, Probation Officer 2 (BS Corrections, 2005)
Ron Jacobsen, Probation Officer 3 (BS Law Enforcement, 1985)
Bruce Carter, Probation Officer 2 (BS Physical Education, 1990)
Drew Crockett, Working Program Officer 2 (BS Corrections, 2002)
Rob Perkins, Supervising Probation Officer (BS Corrections, 1999)
Shanna Turner, Probation Officer 1 (BS Corrections, 2002)
Josh Gaberial, Detention Worker 2 (BS Corrections, 1999)
Scott English, Detention Worker 3 (BS Corrections, 1993)
Kim Brown, Detention Worker 2 (BS Psychology, 1991)
Nina Malcomb, Victim Assistance Coordinator (BS Corrections, 2009)

Special Recognition

The following agencies hosted WOU CJ practicum students during the spring 2013 term:

Astoria Police Department

Benton County District Attorney's Office

Benton County Probation & Parole

Bureau of Land Management-Salem Field Office

Goose Creek (AK) Correctional Center

Hood River Police Department Hubbard Police Department

Lane County Sheriff's Office—Defendant & Offender

Management Center

Law office of Jonathan Sarre Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Linn County Sheriff's Office

Marion County District Attorney's Office-Victim Assis-

tance Division

McMinnville Police Department Newburg Police Department Okanagan (WA) Sheriff's Office

Oregon State Peace Officers' Association

OSP-Department of Public Safety Standards & Training OSP-General Headquarters, Drug Enforcement Section

OSP-Roseburg Area Command

Oregon Youth Authority-Hillcrest Youth Correctional

Facility

Oregon Youth Authority-Oak Creek Youth Correctional

Facility

Polk County Child Protective Services
Polk County District Attorney's Office
Polk County Juvenile Department
Polk County Probation & Parole
Polk County Sheriff's Office

Salem Hospital

Salem Police Department
Springfield Police Department

Yamhill County Juvenile

Department

Yamhill County Sheriff's

Office

Your contributions to our students' educations are invaluable.

Thank You!

Oregon CJ Community News

Dedication Planned for Oregon State Police Fallen Trooper Memorial



"They shall neither shun responsibility, nor shrink from duty in the face of danger." This will be the inscription placed on a new living memorial in honor of the 33 state troopers who have fallen in the line of duty. The deaths of these men and women span from 1914, when a state game officer was killed, to the most recent in 2008, when trooper Bill Hakim's life was cut short in the Woodburn bank bombing.

The first Oregon State Police Fallen Trooper Memorial Committee meeting was held in February of 2011, set-



ting into motion the fundraising process. Since then, the memorial has become a non-profit organization, and the volunteer committee has raised roughly \$180,000 of the \$223,000 necessary to complete the project. The remaining funds will be raised throughout the summer, with a walk/run event in June, a golf tournament in September, and the Annual Fall Auction in November.

The memorial is being designed strictly from Pacific Northwest materials, and handcrafted by Oregon artist Jason Jones and the team of contractors from White Oak Construction. The wall itself will be formed out of basalt rock, harvested from Madras, Oregon. The plaques on the wall will also be carved out of the basalt rock, engraved with the names of the fallen troopers and their End of Watch date. In the center of the memorial, a salt and pepper granite column will stand with the top sheared off, symbolizing a life cut short.



The memorial will be placed during the summer of 2013. On August 1st, 82 years after the State Police was founded, a dedication ceremony will be held, commemorating the lives of these 33 fallen troopers. "The memorial wall will become a sacred place of remembrance and reflection, [and] serve as a symbol of Oregon art and history," says Committee President **Greg Willeford**, who served with the Oregon State Police for 29 years. "There are people that still need to heal, still need to grieve, want to reflect." This memorial will be just the place for that.

For more information, or if you would like to donate or volunteer, please visit www.ospmemorial.org.

Photo: Memorial President (and WOU CJ Faculty member) **Greg Willeford** (right) and Artist **Jason Jones** standing on top of a basalt rock prior to sculpting and polishing.





CJ Professional in the Spotlight: Detective Howard Greer of the Oregon State Police Explosives Unit



Detective Howard Greer (right) with two members of his team.

Howard Greer is a member of the 12-man Oregon State Police Arson and Explosives Unit, located in the Oregon State Police General Headquarters Building in Salem, Oregon. Detective Greer, who has 19 years of experience as a patrol deputy with Marion County Sheriff's Office, school resource officer and member of the Marion County Search and Rescue team, became interested in joining the Explosives Unit in 1999 after completing a training seminar on the topic.

Detective Greer's daily routine includes paperwork and traveling, but most of his time is spent on maintenance of equipment. He works with highly specialized tools and devices, such as the Total Containment Vessel, which must be kept in tip-top shape, and ready to use in a moment's notice. He also spends a fair amount of time training with partner agencies, and completing field training.

When a call comes in, it takes priority over everything else. Each call is unique. Some are from smaller police departments requesting advice on how to properly handle a suspected explosive device. Others come from civilians who have found suspicious materials in their mailbox, foot-

ball fields or other public places, or from farmers who have stumbled across a crate of old dynamite in the back corner of their barn. The explosive techs then have to go to the site of the call, investigate, and decide how to handle the situation.

According to Detective Greer, one of the biggest misconceptions the public has about explosive technicians is how they go about disabling explosive devices. Contrary to depictions in the popular media, explosives technicians do not swoop in at the last moment and "just cut the wire." In reality, the members of the Explosives Unit carefully investigate the case, evaluate the consequences of various response options and select the one that will be the most effective and efficient. Detective Howard Greer and the members of his team use extreme caution at all times. The majority of all actions are conducted from a great distance, not up close. According to Detective Greer, in this line of work, there is "no guaranteed success and no guarantee that you are going to walk away from it."

Detective Greer's advice for students looking to start their career is to "explore the career and find out what it really is. Go on a ride-along. Talk to people who are doing the job you want to do. Concentrate on education, because it could be the deciding factor. A degree may not be absolutely critical, but it can definitely help. Lastly, try and incorporate a plan B, just in case."



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Congratulations to our 2012-2013 Graduates!

Mary Jayne Alward Ryan Anton Shelby Baker Jakira Ballard Megan Barber Reymundo Benavidez Marissa Evans Jack Bernstein* Janna Bickle Rebecca Blees Teresa Bradley* Chris Brodniak* Joshua Buker Chad Burton Creager Cain Sarah Cain* Spencer Campbell **Travis Church** Tracey Coffman Neil Cohen Kyle Cook **David Daniels**

Danny Day

Robert Denluck

Derek Docken **Kevin Doherty** Krystal Duff* Victoria Easter* Skyler Edwards Joanna Fajardo Alvarez Brittany Fobi* Kathryn Fox* Joshua Franken* Jessica George Lee Gilgan* **Christopher Grey Daniel Grinstead** Jeremy Gunther Brett Hall Brian Halfman* Steven Hammerson Shellie Harding Robin Hawks Kavla Hickman Erik Hochhalter

Tracey Holliday Seth Horton Chelsea Howard Cady Hunt* Joshua Johnson Alisha Jones Ashley Klein Rachel Latham* Rebekah Lawrence* Kimberly Ledda* Lisset Lopez Urenda Donna Lowry* Kelvin Lowe II Ashley Matchett Steven Mathisen Jacob Matthews Sean McAndrew Tammie McCombs Christins McGilvray* Nicole Miles Katlyn Miller Lacey Miller* Dillon Neumann

Jennifer Newkirk* Jessica Odle David O'Hearn William Olsen* Arlene Pavlisick Evan Pestalozzi Casey Pierson* Brian Pisca Nicholas Powell Thomas Prescott Angelique Radford Manuel Ramirez Juarez Cecilia Rentsch Cody Richardson Allison Root Jessica Rose Kelley Ruef Daniel Ruiz Amanda Satterwhite Dale Seley*

Steven South **David Staeb** Daniel Staul Michael Stevenson **Gregory Taylor** John Teague* Darrell Terry Bryan Theis* Luke Thomas Sitanilei Tupou Daniel Unverferth Kathryn Wagner* **Brain Walton** Allison Walz Marie Watkins Lukas West Cassandra Wills* **Bryce Wolford** Victoria Wright Miao Zou

*Graduates earning MA degrees



The WOU Criminal Justice Department was founded in 1968. The Department's mission is to provide high quality liberal arts courses and programs in the discipline of criminal justice. The department contributes to the campus and larger academic communities and the region's state, local and federal agencies through service and research. Criminal Justice majors are prepared for beginning professional work in local, state or federal criminal justice agencies at the juvenile or adult level.

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