



## The WOU Criminal Justice Department NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015



### Professor Tighe Teaches Course in China

This past Spring Dr. Scott Tighe had the opportunity to teach Research Methods (CJ 327) at the Yantai University Law School in Yantai, China. WOU students normally complete this four-credit hour course over a ten-week term, but the 94 law students enrolled in this section were required to complete the course in just one week! The students started the course studying the foundations of research methods and then progressed through the study of research ethics, research designs, qualitative research and quantitative research, sampling, data collection, and finally questionnaire construction.

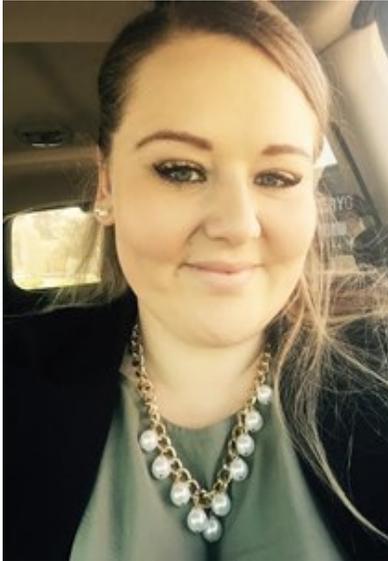
If consuming 44 hours' worth of course material over the course of five consecutive days wasn't sufficiently daunting, Dr. Tighe's students—all of whom possessed English language skills, but to various degrees--had cultural and language barriers to overcome. The class was a great success, according to Dr. Tighe, largely because the students "were dedicated, enthusiastic and disciplined" adding "the class was a great learning opportunity for me as well as the Yantai students. I'm certain all 95 of us learned not only research methods but by the end of the course we finished with a greater appreciation of our respective cultures."



### Dr. Nici Vance Joins WOU CJ Faculty

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Nici Vance to the CJ Department. Dr. Vance is the Forensic Anthropologist for the Oregon State Police Medical Examiner Division, and a Forensic Scientist for the OSP Forensic Services Division. Since 1995, Dr. Vance has been a Forensic Biologist, a crime scene analyst and an advanced bloodstain pattern analyst in addition to providing Forensic Anthropology services to the state of Oregon. She has a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Montana, a Master's degree in Anthropology from Portland State University, and a Ph.D. in Anatomy from the University of Pretoria (South Africa). Her main interests are the biomechanics of human skeletal trauma, macromorphoscopic analysis of unidentified human remains, and taphonomic processes. Dr. Vance's courses include Forensic Anthropology and Forensic Osteology.

**Practicum Scholarship Winners  
Announced**



The WOU CJ Department is pleased to announce that Stephanie Hughes and Pam Ramsey were selected as this year's Criminal Justice Practicum Scholarship winners. Ms. Hughes, a senior from Corvallis, completed her practicum with Benton County Victim Assistance. Ms. Ramsey, a senior from McMinnville, completed her practicum with the Yamhill County Juvenile Department. They each received an award of \$500 to put toward their practicum-related expenses. Congratulations to Stephanie and Pam and thanks to our faculty and alumni for their generous donations to the scholarship fund!



**Dr. Weitzel Authors Book Chapter**

Dr. Misty Weitzel's research findings reappear in the new, updated edition of *The Analysis of Burned Human Remains* (edited by C.W. Schmidt and S.A. Symes and published in 2015 by Elsevier). The abstract offers a synopsis:

The variability in fire use at Khuzhir-Nuge XIV is displayed in the color and the location of charred remains, the proportion of charred/uncharred bones, articulation, fragmentation, and pathological conditions indicating that the fires are intended to be relatively small overall, i.e., of low temperatures, and are localized at the superior end of the individual. The use of fire appears to have been more symbolic in nature. When all of the taphonomic variables associated with fire are considered with the variables associated with the mortuary context, no clear patterns emerge and a high degree of variability among charred burials is still seen with respect to where they are located within the site (outside of being located mainly at the center), chronology, and demography. Clearly the use of fire was not meant for everyone but it was not exclusive to a particular period in time, a biological age or sex, or placement other than within the center of the cemetery.

**Dr. Weitzel and Dr. Brown Publish Research Findings in the *Justice Policy Journal***

Assistant Professor Misty Weitzel and Professor William Brown recently published an article (co-authored with Robert Stanulis and WOU alumnus Kyle Rodgers) titled "You probably don't know who or what you are talking about: cultural and moral incompetence in evaluating the veteran in the criminal justice system" in vol. 12, no. 1 of the *Justice Policy Journal* (Fall 2014). The full article can be found at:  
[http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/jpj\\_brown\\_et\\_al\\_spring\\_2015.pdf](http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/jpj_brown_et_al_spring_2015.pdf).

## A Special “Thank You” to our 2015 Practicum Agency Partners

Thanks to the many outstanding professionals at each of these agencies who served as our students’ hosts, guides and mentors during the spring and/or summer terms. Your contributions to our students educational experiences are invaluable!

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Albany PD                              | Oregon Department of Corrections      |
| Benton County Victim Assistance        | Oregon DHS Child Welfare              |
| Clackamas County Community Corrections | Oregon State Correctional Institution |
| Clackamas County Juvenile Dept.        | Oregon State Police—DPSST             |
| Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office      | Oregon State Police—Salem             |
| Chelaham Youth and Family Services     | Oregon Youth Authority                |
| Corvallis PD                           | Pittsburg (CA) PD                     |
| Dallas PD                              | Polk County Community Corrections     |
| Eagle Point PD                         | Polk County Juvenile Dept.            |
| Eugene PD                              | Polk County Sheriff’s Office          |
| Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility  | Polk County Victim Assistance         |
| Honolulu (HI) Crime Stoppers           | Polk County Youth Services            |
| Hood River PD                          | Redding (CA) PD                       |
| Hubbard PD                             | Salem PD                              |
| Independence PD                        | Sanford (FL) PD                       |
| Linn County Juvenile Dept.             | Springfield PD                        |
| Linn County Victim Assistance          | Umatilla County Probation and Parole  |
| Marion County Juvenile Dept.           | US Bureau of Land Management          |
| Marion County Sheriff’s Office         | US Probation                          |
| McMinnville PD                         | Veterans’ Justice Outreach            |
| Molalla PD                             | Washington County Sheriff’s Office    |
| Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office      | Yamhill County Juvenile Dept.         |
| Multnomah County Community Justice     | Yamhill County Probation and Parole   |
| Native American Youth Services         | Yamhill County Sheriff’s Office       |

## Professor Weitzel's Forensic Anthropology Students Get Hands-On Research Experience

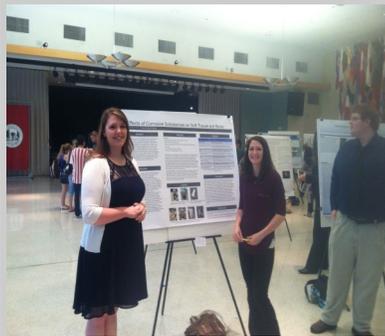
Dr. Misty Weitzel's CJ/ANTH 441 (Forensic Archaeology and Taphonomy) students presented their research projects at this year's Academic Excellence Showcase on Thursday, May 28, 2015 in the Werner University Center. Brief synopses of their projects are included below.

### ***Osteobiographical Analysis of an Incomplete Skeleton*** by Ben Lesh and Megan Reynolds

**Abstract:** One of the most important tasks for forensic anthropologists is to determine the osteobiographical information of an individual skeleton. There are many metrics that are used to determine the sex, age, ancestry, and stature. However many of these methods rely on the presence of certain bones, such as the skull or os coxa. Oftentimes, incomplete remains are found, but these osteobiographical determinations still must be made. The individual in this experiment is an incomplete skeleton consisting of twelve right ribs, twelve left ribs, the spinal column (excluding sacrum and coccyx), the sternum, and both clavicles. In this experiment we will attempt to determine the age of this incomplete set of remains by analyzing the morphology of the sternal end of the right fourth rib, as first introduced by M. Yasar Iscan et al. in 1984, and further solidified by the work of later forensic anthropologists.



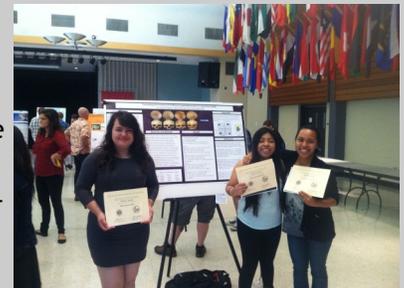
### ***Effects of Corrosive Substances on Soft Tissue and Bone*** by Carin Davis and Tiffany Powers



**Abstract:** Our research objective is to test the effects of corrosive household substances on flesh and bone. The chemicals that we will be using are Hydrochloric Acid, Lye, and an inorganic drain cleaner. Tap water will be used as a control in this experiment. Our experiment is based on a study done by Hartnett, Fulginiti, and Di Modica (2011), which shows the effects of these agents, how they differed from soft tissue and bone, and finally how they inhibit the identification process. With this study in regard, we hope to document the effects these substances have on bone and soft tissue in order to help improve the identification of human remains when corrosive agents are involved.

### ***Evaluating the Presence of Artificial Cranial Deformation in Argentinian Skulls*** by Crystalynn En- gichy, Gloria Pascual-Cruz, and Rubi Garcia Rizo

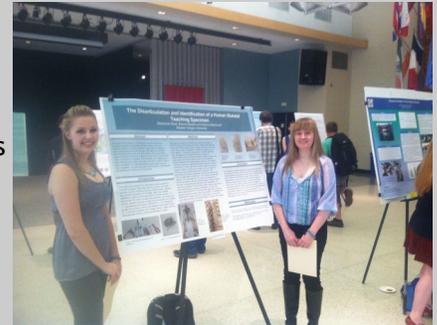
**Abstract:** Forensic anthropologists focus on the identification of human remains by constructing a biological profile. Anomalies present on the skeleton may make this osteobiographical assessment more challenging, for an example, when the skull has been subjected to artificial cranial deformation. Artificial cranial deformation is a type of trauma, a force applied to the bone, which changes or forms the cranium differently from a natural cranial form. Artificial cranial deformation starts from a young age. This practice usually has cultural meaning behind it. In our research we will determine whether a skull from Argentina exhibits artificial cranial deformation using a method developed by O'Brien and Stanley (2013).



## Forensic Anthropology Research Projects, continued.

### ***The Disarticulation and Identification of a Human Skeletal Teaching Specimen* by Brenna Murphy, Stephanie Reed, and Arianna Martensen**

**Abstract:** The goal of this project is to disarticulate a complete preserved skeleton that was previously used as a teaching specimen, and to conduct an osteobiographical assessment, sex and age of the individual. The first step was to carefully remove the wires, pins and other fastens on the specimen using a variety of common craftsman pliers and bolt cutters. Then each bone was inventoried, and labeled with specialized identification markers with the aid of clear nail polish and dark ink pens. The goal of this project is to not only to become familiar with the common practices of disarticulation, but to also apply common methods of osteobiographical assessments.



### ***The Analysis of Fire Accelerants on Bone* by McKenzie Davis and Kate Libra**



**Abstract:** The objective of this study is to identify the effect of fire on bone when an accelerant is used and to analyze the color and fracture patterns related to the accelerants. The materials used in this study are three fleshed long bones from a domestic pig (*Sus scrofa*) exposed to gasoline and kerosene. Each experiment was executed within a standardized time frame. Each bone was analyzed in terms of color and fracture patterns. The results of this experiment will be used to aid in the identification of remains that have been disarticulated by fire and possible accelerants.

### ***Physical Changes in Burned Human Remains* by Sarah Addington and Alexis McKnight**

**Abstract:** The mission of the forensic anthropologist is to help identify the individual, despite what state the remains are in. Human remains are often burned or in a cremated state, and the usual osteobiographic methods may not be employable. This project is an investigation into the changes in bones that occur when exposed to fire. Domestic pig (*Sus scrofa*) bones will be measured, weighed, and color will be assessed before and after burning. The experiment will occur in an outdoor exposed soil pit. To observe variations of burning, temperature will also be recorded during different stages. It is our estimation that variation in temperature will result in various levels of change in the skeletal material. These changes in the bones are discussed, as well as the general purposes of learning to identify charred skeletal remains.



Congratulations to these students and many thanks to Dr. Weitzel for supervising these projects and for coordinating their inclusion in the 2015 Academic Excellence Showcase!

## Western Oregon University's Women in Policing: Part II

### A Special Report by Gregory M. Willeford

Since the formation of police departments in America during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the profession has been predominantly occupied by men. The growth of women in policing has been slow and challenging. Today, women occupy 14% of sworn employees in police organizations having 100 or more officers. This percentage is less in the smaller police agency. A career in policing brings many challenges and rewards for women today. Over the years, women have been responsible for bringing positive changes to policing in America. Today, women entering a profession in policing are well educated and bring many unique talents.

Each year, Western Oregon University awards criminal justice degrees to many female graduates. While not all of these graduates pursue a career in policing, many do. This article features Part II of a two-part series on women in policing. The first article was printed in the Winter 2015 Criminal Justice Newsletter. Part II of the series profiles two graduates of Western Oregon University serving in county and city policing. Both graduates were interviewed during the summer of 2014.

The interviews serve as the basis of this article that provide interesting and informative insight into the world of being a female police officer in America today at the county and city level. The article provides contact information of the officers in the event the reader wishes to contact them for additional insight or information.

The transcripts of the interviews have been summarized and edited where necessary to preserve clarity of responses.

#### Deputy Mary Jayne - Marion County Sheriff's Office

24 Years old

Graduated Western Oregon University March 2013

Awarded four-year degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Community Preparedness

Joined Marion County Sheriff's Office September 2013

Works uniform 'day patrol' in central Marion County with 3-5 other deputies

Best thing about her job: "Everything!"



It took over a year of applying and demonstrating her knowledge, skills, and background for Deputy Sheriff Mary Jayne Patzer to land her dream job. Patzer submitted several applications to various police organizations and it was not uncommon for her to find herself testing and performing physical fitness qualification for different police organizations on the same day. In September 2013, Deputy Patzer's persistence paid off when she received formal notice the Marion County Sheriff's Office was offering her a position in uniform patrol as a Deputy Sheriff.

#### ***How did your experience at WOU and the Criminal Justice program support you in getting your career started in law enforcement?***

"The degree part of it looks nice. A lot of places I was applying were saying that they weren't going to hire people without degrees." Deputy Patzer says the four-year degree and the connections she developed in the program with faculty and the practicum experience supported her in getting hired and said it was "the degree and the connections" that made a difference. Her studies at WOU opened up new connections with police officers working in the field and they provided her with insight and "a realistic idea of what it is like." Furthermore, Patzer said the officers she met also provided her with valuable advice on the application process she faced as an applicant. This advice and insight by police insiders was valuable to Patzer in understanding the hiring process and in moving through it.

In addition to establishing useful connections and having the opportunity to network with people working in law enforcement, Deputy Patzer says the Criminal Justice program content has been useful in her new career. “Education was good. I felt like it was helpful to have the background on the paperwork side of it.” And, “the different concepts of community policing: increase your lighting, cut your bushes down, that type of thing. That has been helpful because I have seen where it actually helps. So learning those types of things there, [at WOU] that’s not stuff they teach in the academy.”

Deputy Patzer said the study habits and knowledge she learned while at WOU definitely had a positive impact on her in the 16-week police academy. “So being able to have that education background behind it to bolster what you learn at the academy.”

### ***How is it being a woman in policing?***

“I think there are good days and bad days. There isn’t any ‘hey you’re a girl and so you can’t do this’ or there isn’t any discrimination of any type. I mean there are some of the older guys that obviously have a different mindset and handle situations differently. The feeling I get from it [being a woman in policing] a lot is, ‘grateful’.”



Deputy Patzer stated she feels ‘grateful’ to be among the men in her organization and doing police work because she views herself as one of the few. At the time of this interview, the Marion County Sheriff’s Office has only 7 females working in a law enforcement role out of total of 60+ sworn members.

Like the other graduates interviewed for this article, Deputy Patzer also finds she has seen situations where being a female officer makes a significant difference in how a particular call for police service goes. She recently helped out in the investigation of a home invasion robbery involving a female victim. Patzer says that the victim was visibly more unsettled around the male officers and became much more at peace with having a female officer present. Patzer says being a female in a male dominated organization is directly contributing to her having a “great experience” and she feels “useful” and appreciated by others.

Patzer does however cite challenges for females involving having to prove yourself more than a male. She said, “going into interviews, I felt like I had to prove myself more because I was a female and I had to prove that I could keep up with everybody.”

### ***What are the rewards for women in policing?***

Deputy Patzer cited the following as the rewards for women serving in the police profession: being especially useful in key situations, helping out female crime victims, using thinking and communication skills associated with being female and, diffusing potentially volatile situations differently than male officers.

### ***What advice do you have for a female interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement and thinking about going to school?***

“I would say ‘do it’. I would say get your degree. If anything, you can get your pay increases sooner. If nothing else is valuable from your education, you can get your certificates earlier, you will have more training opportunities, you will have more information. And obviously information is power. And if you get one good thing from school, I mean that is what it will be.”

Deputy Patzer also says she would advise women to network and make useful connections with people in the police field from the contacts that will occur while studying at a university. The connections will become valuable in understanding the world of policing and how to get hired.

Another piece of advice Patzer offers: get into as many writing classes as you can. Even with four years of college classes, she had to learn a lot about report writing. In her case, she wrote way too much information in her field reports. Her Field Training Officer had to train her to reduce her writing to just the essential facts. So as much writing as a CJ student can experience the better according to Deputy Patzer including how to take useful notes while someone is talking to you.

Deputy Patzer may be contacted at [Mpatzer@co.marion.or.us](mailto:Mpatzer@co.marion.or.us)



Officer Bochler (left) with Salem Police Officer Michelle Milionis

#### Officer Elsie Bochler - Salem Police Department

24 years old

Graduated Western Oregon University June 2011

Awarded four-year degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Legal Studies

Began applying for police officer positions in 2011

Served as a reserve officer for Hubbard Police

Joined Salem Police Department in August 2012

Worked uniform 'day patrol' in south Salem with 8 other officers

Left Salem Police Department at the end of 2014 to explore other interests

***You have been in policing for three years now. How did the CJ Program at WOU help prepare you for where you are now?***

"I didn't know that I wanted to be a police officer, like the whole time I was going to college. But, it [the WOU Criminal Justice program] was pretty well rounded. It felt like the professors there were great people."

Officer Bochler liked the mix of professors in the Criminal Justice program and they provided her an educational experience of theory, research, and practical application. "It is a great program." "It gave me a broad idea of what was out there in the criminal justice world." "Western just, I felt they gave me a well rounded idea of the CJ system. It wasn't narrow minded in just law enforcement based or how to be a cop, how to be a corrections officer, it was more educational." She felt this broad approach to criminal justice study is important because, "if you don't have that mind set when you go into it, you will be really startled by what you find. It is not all about shooting guns and driving fast. It is not as sexy a job as people think it is. I think Western prepared me for that."

Officer Bochler decided to pursue becoming a police officer during her WOU practicum experience with the Marion County District Attorney's Office. Her contact there arranged a ride-along with Salem Police and came out of it saying, "hey, I think I can do this, I think this would be fun!"

WOU criminal justice management classes helped her understand how the police organization works and to cope with common frustrations officers feel with higher management staff. “It has been good to help me understand where our admin side comes from. And that’s been important because sometimes I get really frustrated and I have to remember that it’s, you know, they are kind of essentially running a business and I have to remember to try and put myself in their shoes even though I am frustrated with it.” A typical frustration with management Bochsler cited was the length of time it can take for upper management to make what she feels is an easy decision on an issue. She stated sometimes it could take months for decisions to be made on what she views as “just a simple request.”



***What do you see as challenges for women going into policing?***

“First, like, being on the street you just have that challenge of that you’re a female.” Bochsler said it is not uncommon for the people she deals with on the street sometimes appear as if they view her as not competent or as competent as a male officer. For example, responding to a domestic dispute situation, males involved in the dispute don’t necessarily want to talk to a female. “You have to prove yourself to them and you are also proving yourself to your male coworkers. So there is this really fine balance of being confident enough without being cocky or coming off as like, bitchy.” “You have to walk this really fine line and people do not understand it. I went into this job thinking, a lot of people are like, ‘oh don’t worry about it, they will treat you the same, it’s totally the same, and it is, I don’t know if it is Salem, but it is absolutely not the same. You really do have to prove yourself daily like more than any males. Does that make sense? Because when you show up my size versus you know, some dude who is six three, 220 pounds and has huge muscles, they are going to think, ‘well I would rather have him as my backup because if it goes sideways, how do I know that YOU are going to protect me versus the other coworker? And, so you have that dimension of it. And then, there are just people who think you shouldn’t be a cop in general because your are a female.” Bochsler was asked if this feeling came from inside or outside the police department, and she replied: “Inside. I have people that just flat out don’t respect me.” “You just work your way through it.” Bochsler says that working on the street she is very capable of navigating her work just fine. Internally however, she has a definite feeling she must prove herself to others working as a female officer.

***What is the most rewarding aspect of policing?***

“The most rewarding thing is when you are a female and, because I feel like we know how to communicate with people. And we know how to, not that men don’t but, we know how to smooth a situation over in a different way. And, it is great when one of my co-workers can’t get someone to talk to them or can’t get someone to calm down and they are giving up, and I step in and I am able to, just because, whatever, the words I use or just my approach, it is like really rewarding. And then, they wonder how the heck I did it! It is just a great feeling. And to conduct with victims in ways that guys can’t because it’s a child or it’s a female and they are [the victims] more comfortable. It’s just a really good feeling to play a role that male officers can’t play. And I like that.”

***What advice would you give a female considering policing?***

“Be prepared to deal with drama, rumors, and frustrations. It can be a great career if you keep your head on straight and you have confidence in yourself and you find those people who support you. Because, the ones who don’t support you are plenty vocal about it. But the ones who do support you, you have to seek them out. Because they just go do their job because they see you just like everyone else. You don’t really know how many people support you until you start asking around or you start asking for advice.”

“Another piece of advice is to keep your life private. Your work and personal life should be completely separate. You will catch a lot of flack for it but, if you can do that and you can keep them separate, it makes it so much better when you can go home and you do not think about work and not have any ties to work once you go home. I leave my work phone at home. When I am off, I am off.” “You have to see the world outside of your job. Otherwise you can become jaded really fast. It ‘s not healthy.”

Bochsler doesn't plan to make a lifelong career in policing. She has future plans of having children and settling into a more stable job with better hours. However, she does believe a position in middle management or higher in the police organization would be great. Bochsler says she very well may pursue an MBA or law degree, or both in the not too distant future.

Bochsler says policing is a rewarding job and stepping stone to other opportunities for her. She loves working with people and policing affords her that opportunity. However, Bochsler does admit she finds it personally frustrating when she attempts to help others and finds they have no interest in helping themselves. This has been a reality in her policing world that she sees all too often.

***Would you recommend Western Oregon University's Criminal Justice program?***

“Absolutely. I couldn't imagine going anywhere else honestly. I have met so many great people, not only professors but students at Western when I was there. And the people that I see working now, are still the same great people I met in college.” “Western was a great school. I learned a lot.”

You may contact Elsie Bochsler at [Elsiekorte@hotmail.com](mailto:Elsiekorte@hotmail.com)

Author's Note: Since interviewing Officer Bochsler during the summer of 2014, she decided to leave her job with Salem Police to explore other opportunities that satisfy her interests.



**About the Author:** Gregory M. Willeford is an Adjunct Instructor with Western Oregon University studying and teaching Criminal Justice. Gregory has been teaching at Western Oregon University since 2005. Gregory is a retired Deputy Superintendent of the Oregon State Police. Gregory served with the Oregon State Police for 29 years. Gregory may be contacted at: [Willefog@wou.edu](mailto:Willefog@wou.edu).

