



The WOU Criminal Justice Department NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015

Amy Stutzenberger joins CJ Faculty

We are excited to introduce Amy Stutzenberger as the newest member of the CJ faculty! She is in the process of completing her Doctorate in Criminal Justice from the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. She received her Master's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati in 2007, and her Bachelor's of Science in Justice Administration from the University of Louisville in 2006.



Since 2009, Amy has taught and facilitated a number of graduate and undergraduate criminal justice courses. She loves teaching; both in the classroom and online. Although she enjoys teaching various topics in criminal justice, her teaching interests primarily include: crime prevention theory and practice, victimology, violence, police practice, communities and crime, and criminology.

Like her teaching interests, her research interests focus on the use of theoretical frameworks in environmental criminology to analyze and address crime problems, victimization and violence in school and workplace contexts, and fear of crime.

Upon completion of her dissertation, she plans to continue focusing on her teaching at Western Oregon University and her research interests. She enjoys working with students and criminal justice practitioners, and is excited about exploring more of the Pacific Northwest!

CJ Department Welcomes Carla Menear to Front Office

Please join us in welcoming Carla Menear, the WOU CJ Office Manager!



Carla, a resident of Dallas, OR, spent the previous sixteen years working as an Accounting Technician with the WOU Division of Extended Programs. She chose to apply for this position when it opened because of her desire to work more closely with students and faculty.

Carla's many responsibilities include disseminating information about the program to prospective students and the general public, assisting current students seeking admission to the CJ program and generally facilitating their completion of program requirements. She also works closely with the CJ faculty in the areas of records management, class schedule coordination and the organization of departmental events and activities.

According to Carla, who has always enjoyed the "everybody-knows-your-name" environment at WOU, this new position offers many rewards: "it is a daily joy to meet with students reaching for life goals and helping them meet these goals to be successful graduates."

Carla's office is located on the second floor of Maaske Hall (#209) and she can be reached at menearc@wou.edu or 503 838-8733. We are delighted to have her as a member of our team!

Dr. Tighe Presents Research at American Society of Criminology annual meetings

Professor Scott Tighe presented his research findings at the American Society of Criminology annual meetings held in November in San Francisco, CA. The abstract for his paper, titled “American Indian Youth: Victims of the Drug War” reads as follows:

Today’s American Indian communities face devastating problems that threaten their way of life and drain their resources. Substance abuse is an ever-growing problem that is destroying many lives in more than 560 independent sovereign tribal communities. The National Indian Country Substance Abuse Initiative reports American Indians ages 18 to 25 years experience substance abuse at a rate twice that of non-American Indians. Between 2006 and 2008, approximately 3 times more American Indians aged 12 and older reported substance abuse versus all other U.S. ethnic groups.

An intervention program designed to break the cycle of substance abuse by American Indians, other than incarceration in jail, is the most viable alternative. This approach includes restoration of tribal cultural values and implementing a program that tackles substance abuse addictions in a community setting. The proposed intervention program would have program staff partner with local officials to identify offenders eligible to undergo community drug treatment intervention rather than experience jail time as part of a community corrections rehabilitation program. Second, program staff will collaborate with school officials to create a youth prevention program with the intent to detect, deter, interdict, disrupt, and dismantle drug trafficking organizations preying on tribal youth.

In addition to presenting his research, Dr. Tighe also served as chair of the panel titled “The Politics of Punishment”

Instructor Barton Publishes Research Findings in the *Justice Policy Journal*

Adjunct Instructor Jess Barton recently published his article titled “Home Free: Combating Veteran Prosecution and Incarceration” in vol. 11, no. 2 of the *Justice Policy Journal* (Fall 2014). The abstract offers a synopsis:

After nearly 13 years of warfare, hundreds of thousands of U.S. veterans face social problems such as unemployment, homelessness, and suicide. But from the perspective of a criminal-defense practitioner, the most pressing disorder is the one that historical antecedents foretold: veterans facing prosecution and incarceration for various sorts of conduct that may be classified as criminal. So often these social disorders are symptoms of training and experience in the military, particularly for those who saw combat and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or both. Moreover, strategic miscalculations in the war effort exacerbated these disorders, as have the facts that virtually the entire nation decided to excuse itself from physically participating in the war effort, and the nation decided that the effort was not even worth paying for. As a result of these miscalculations and decisions, the agency charged with reintegrating veterans into civilian society—the Department of Veterans Affairs—is inadequately funded. That lack of funding, coupled with the agency’s own forms of mismanagement, have left it incapable of providing hundreds of thousands of veterans the rehabilitative services that a moral society would demand. Were the nation now to accept its obligations as a moral society, it would accord the proper respect to and understanding of the demands and consequences of military service. It would find compassion, instead of antipathy, for its beleaguered veterans. Following that, the nation would provide the resources necessary to meet the demands of a moral society that is committed to aiding its beleaguered veterans in reclaiming their civilian lives.

The full article is at: http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/barton_home_free_final_formatted.pdf

CJ Careers Day set for Wednesday, March 4, 2015 10:30 - 1:45

Agencies who wish to participate in the Criminal Justice and Government Services Careers Fair should contact the Service Learning and Career Development Office at 503-838-8432 or slcd@wou.edu

School groups or classes who wish to register for the program are required to complete a Group Registration Form which can be obtained by contacting June McMillan at mcmillanj@wou.edu or 503-838-8197 no later than Monday, February 23 .

Individual non-WOU students and their guests are required to register online at http://www.wou.edu/student/admissions/previewday/register_cj.php

Current WOU students are not required to register.

Additional information can be found at:

http://www.wou.edu/student/admissions/criminal_justice_day/

Academic Excellence Showcase

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

In Remembrance

The WOU CJ Department lost a valued friend last summer. Sgt. Randy Whittaker (pictured, at left, with WOU CJ students) of the Polk County Sheriff's Office passed away in July as the result of a car accident. In addition to being a well-known and highly respected member of the local law enforcement community, Sgt. Whittaker was an active supporter of the WOU CJ program. For example, he served as our guide during numerous student tours of the Polk County Jail. For students, many of whom had never before seen the inside



Polk County Jail Tour
February 25, 2011
Professor Robert Swan's Criminal
Justice and Policing Students

of a jail, these tours were informative and memorable introductions to the "real world" of institutional corrections. Sgt. Whittaker also served in the high-demand capacity of supervisor and mentor for several practicum students over the years. His willingness to help students get the most out of their educational experiences at WOU was second to none.

(Photo courtesy of the Polk County Sheriff's Office.)

Western Oregon University's Women in Policing: Part I

A Special Report by Gregory M. Willeford

Since the formation of police departments in America during the mid-19th 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 I of a two-part series on women in policing. Part I of the series profiles two graduates of Western Oregon University now serving in the military police and state police. Part II profiles two additional graduates serving at the county and city levels of policing. All graduates were interviewed during the summer of 2014.

The interviews serve as the basis of the articles and provide interesting and informative insight into the world of being a female police officer in America today. The articles also provide 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 the intent and clarity of responses.

Sergeant Natasha Derovia-Kelly, United States Army Military Police

26 years old

Born in Kazakhstan, Russia

Family immigrated to U. S. August 24, 1990

First in family of 15 siblings to earn a college degree

Graduated Western Oregon University June 2010 earning a degree in Criminal Justice

Enlisted U.S. Army December 2010

Current position: Sergeant Military Police

Deployed to Afghanistan to train Afghani police in 2012 serving in this capacity for a full year

During the deployment in 2012, the area she worked experienced the highest level of lethal internal attacks ("blue on green" attacks - over 40 in 2012 - the highest year of such incidents during the U.S. war in Afghanistan)

Promoted to Sergeant January 2013 and now supervises other soldiers

Part of a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to provide ongoing and immediate force protection of her base

After graduating from WOU with a degree in Criminal Justice, Sergeant Kelly became a military police officer (MP) after completing basic and advanced training as a soldier. In her role as an MP, Sergeant Kelly has a very unique police position: on many days she is responsible for continual study and training for war and combat and on other days she is involved in day-to-day policing to maintain military base safety and security.



As an MP Sergeant Kelly is always training and studying. She reports living a very intense reality where “things are always changing.”

With a personal thirst for leadership and her WOU four-year degree Natasha found herself being propelled to rapid promotion and a position of higher responsibility. Only 19 months into her military service, Natasha was ‘pinned’ Sergeant. It is unusual to be promoted so quickly in today’s Army. Sergeant Kelly stated having her criminal justice degree helped her rapid advancement because having the degree qualified her for at least ¼ of the points necessary for promotion.



Derovia-Kelly during Afghanistan deployment - 2012

How did your studies at Western Oregon and your degree prepare you for where you are today?

“It prepared me to be a leader. As a leader you have to know what your doing, you have to be smart.” “It prepared me to think outside the box and to question a little bit.” As being a military Non Commissioned Officer (NCO), Sergeant Kelly receives orders on a regular basis. She has to engage in critical thinking and analysis in processing directives, policies, and highly technical information. Sergeant Kelly stated her time at WOU studying criminal justice helped her develop essential critical thinking skills and the ability to question the “why” and “how” of her work.



Sergeant Kelly has been a sergeant for just under 2 years at the time of the interview. “I have found my leadership style and having a degree provided and definitely helped me go far and beyond where other people haven’t.” Additionally, she said, “I didn’t want to be a typical soldier. If I am going to have a job, I might as well do the best of my ability. So I have pushed myself. I think that is where college prepared me. You have to push, you have to question, and you have to think, you have to be quick.”

Sgt. Kelly can be reached at:
natashakelly2015@outlook.com

What are your thoughts on ‘women in policing’?

“I definitely get treated a little bit different, that is for sure”. “It took some time, especially when I became a non commissioned officer. I felt like I had to fight twice as hard versus a male non commissioned officer, brand new promoted. Here I am an E-5 female versus a male E-5. I wasn’t treated the same. There is no way. And it is unfortunate because I have been to war with these people and like I consider them my brothers and sisters. And there is no way I would treat them differently because they are male. But, some days I get treated differently.”

Sergeant Kelly believes females being accepted in positions like hers is slowly improving. “I think it is changing, it will take time. It will definitely take time.”

What do you plan to do once you leave the military?

“I definitely plan to go back to school. I have always had that goal of that I want to get my master’s and PhD. Education is still very important to me.” With her busy military schedule of training and deployment duties, she has struggled in having adequate time to continue her education while in the military.

Sergeant Kelly plans to obtain higher degrees in the fields of psychology or law. She is unsure if she will pursue a career in civilian law enforcement after completing her military service.



Trooper Johnson on SWAT assignment in Newport, Oregon. With Lieutenant Jerry Palmer, Newport PD.

Trooper Jennifer Johnson - Oregon State Police

32 years old

As a youth, dreamed of being an FBI profiler or homicide detective
 Attended Clackamas Community College and earned lower division credits for a four year degree

After doing lots of 'research' chose Western Oregon University to study criminal justice because it has "a really good CJ program"

Graduated Western Oregon University January 2005 with degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Forensics

Joined Oregon State Police March 2008 as a uniform patrol trooper assigned to Salem Patrol Office

During first 2 of years as a patrol trooper personally investigated 8 fatal vehicle crashes

Currently a member of the Oregon State Police Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) as a Crisis Negotiator

Current assignment: uniform patrol at the Capitol Mall Patrol Office in Salem

Trooper Jennifer Johnson joined the Oregon State Police after completing her studies at WOU. Trooper Johnson cites two primary actions she took before deciding upon a career in policing: lots of research into the law enforcement sector and time dedicated to maintaining her physical fitness.

How did the criminal justice program at Western help you in getting where you are now?

"The biggest thing I took away from the criminal justice program was the hands-on, the practicum. Getting out there. That was, for me, was such a great process because, not being in the military and I obviously decided to take the college route, you don't have a lot on your resume to help you out. It got you into the law enforcement environment, ride-alongs. You got to pick peoples brains. You helped them in return. It gave you a unique perspective of like working inside even though you were a practicum student."

Trooper Johnson also cited the networking and connection with WOU Criminal Justice faculty as being a significant benefit of the program. Furthermore, she cited the different background and credentials of the various Criminal Justice staff as being very helpful and this afforded her a useful blend of academic theory and practice in the study of criminal justice. Trooper Johnson said Criminal Justice faculty are available to talk with and she found them very supportive.

What would you say are the challenges facing women in policing today in the 21st century?

"I think the challenges is that, it is like when you are a recruit when you first start out, you always have to prove yourself.

If you just take a recruit in general, and you are at that level, you have to prove yourself to your coworkers, management, other agencies, that you know what your doing. I think on the flip side, it is even a little bit more pressure being a female, because I am not so sure that ever goes away."

Similarly to the experience of Sergeant Kelly, Trooper Johnson said a female trooper must prove themselves more than male troopers of the same seniority. "Being new as a female recruit, all eyes are on you. People are watching you. Seeing how you're going to respond." (continued next page)

Trooper Johnson has been with the Oregon State Police for nearly ten years and reports this dynamic of being a female officer “does get better” with time.

What are some of the rewards and benefits of women in policing?

“Women are really good at diffusing situations.” Trooper Johnson cites what has been shown in studying females in policing: women tend to have effective communication and relational skills that diffuse conflict situations, perhaps in some situations, more effectively than their male counterpart. While not always successful, she says these skills come easier for a female than for a male and females are often able to resolve a tense situation without the use of force.



“In my career, I have taken a lot of active listening, and especially on the [SWAT] team as a negotiator, using your words, listening to diffuse a situation. So a lot of it, that is really what it is, people just want to be heard. At the end of the day I always treat people with respect and if they treat me with respect, I always tell them. I have people say, ‘I just want to thank you very much. You treated me very nicely. Even though I did these bad things and I am going to jail, I appreciate it, because not everyone is like that’. So, I think that is a huge difference.”

What advice do you have for women considering a career in policing?

“I would say first, do your research. If you can get some hands on experience, school is always a great way. That is how I got my experience [through the practicum]. For the most part, just do your research because a lot of time people have this idea of what law enforcement is and when it comes down to it, it is totally unrealistic. Like me, I wanted to be an FBI profiler. I was like, ya, me and John Douglas, we are like one and the same people. So I would say do your research, because sometimes it is not for everybody.”

Trooper Johnson gives this advice for those women considering a profession in policing: “You need to stay in shape - make sure you do that; Make sure you don’t lie - your integrity is everything that you have; and do some research if this is really something you want to do.” Trooper Johnson also advises women to take the time to personally contact the agency they are interested in and speak to someone. If possible, finding a female officer within that agency is a great step.

Trooper Johnson can be reached at:
Jennifer.j.johnson@state.or.us

Conclusion

This article provides a snapshot of what it is like to be a female in policing in America today at the military and state level. And the article ties the experience of Western Oregon University’s Criminal Justice program in supporting female students in seeking a career in policing.

This concludes Part I of a two-part series on Western Oregon University’s women in policing. Part II features two additional female graduates of criminal justice working at the county sheriff and city policing levels. Part II will be featured in the spring edition of the Criminal Justice newsletter.



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.