MESSAGE FROM THE FACULTY

We would like to introduce to you our new faculty member Dr. Alexander who will be teaching this fall CCJS498E class, The Social Construction of Homicide.

I wanted to let everyone know that I am really excited about the Fall 2014 semester. As a quick introduction, my undergraduate degree is from the University of Baltimore in Criminal Justice, I hold a Master of Arts in Psychology from Hood College in Frederick, Md., a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, and received my Ph.D. from the University of Maryland @ College Park in Criminology/Criminal Justice. I have taught at Shippensburg University as well as the University of Maryland University College where I teach graduate courses in the Criminal Justice Management program. I am just starting my 40th year as a member of the Hagerstown Police Department in Hagerstown, Md. where I am a Lieutenant and I am currently the Director of Research and Grants.

Over my career, I have taught subjects in the police academy such as Physical Training, Discipline in Law Enforcement, Introduction to the Justice System, History of American Law Enforcement, Statistical Analysis, Sexual Harassment, Emergency Petitions, Ethics, Verbal Judo, and Chemical Munitions.


I hold a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, enjoy stick fighting, tai chi, and watching road cycling; especially the Tour de France. My research interests are in homicide, racial disparity within the criminal justice system, and evidence-based policing practices. I look forward to bringing my experience to the classroom as a practitioner in the field and combining it with what I consider the best academic background available; a doctorate from the University of Maryland @ College Park. I am a Terp 4 Life!

Thomas S. Alexander, Ph.D.
You want to make sure you are getting program related updates on time? Then subscribe to our blog TODAY and never miss any important announcements!

ccjsusg.blogspot.com

Did you know...
The Center for Counseling and Consultation has moved its office to Building III, Room 1134. The new entrance is located inside the Priddy Library against the left-most wall as you face into the Library from the entrance. Please refer to the map for more details. Call 301-738-6273 or stop by to make an appointment

CRIMSA: A Great Way to Get Involved
CRIMSA was established to provide students enrolled in the University of Maryland's program in Criminology & Criminal Justice (CCJS) at USG with activities that will complement their academic studies. The activities of CRIMSA may include functions and events of an intellectual, social, cultural, or charitable nature, as well as those activities that promote the academic and professional success of future, current and graduating CCJS students.

www.facebook.com/crimsausg

Course Sharing at USG

Students enrolled in the CCJS program at the Shady Grove campus have the opportunity to takes courses within the 9 different institutions offering classes at USG. In 3 simple steps, education is enhanced through this unique course sharing program.

**STEP 1**
Browse the course sharing catalog online and select courses at:
http://shadygrove.umd.edu/academics/course-sharing

**STEP 2**
Contact Program Director Dr. Wendy Stickle for permission to enroll in a course(s) at: wstickle@umd.edu

**STEP 3**
Enjoy the diversity of courses and see your grades in the UMD student portal once the semester is over.
Be an Intern for College Credit

Have you considered doing a CCJS internship?

Students in the program can earn one (1) college credit for every 40 hours of work with a department-approved employer.

Previous students have interned at local law firms, police departments, state and federal agencies, and more. Their experiences include administrative work, ride-alongs with officers, warrant and background processing, and attendance of court cases.

There’s no better way to gain experience and build your resume!

We are delighted to introduce you Melquin Ramos, senior in Criminology and Criminal Justice program at USG, who has agreed to share some insights about his most recent internship.

Where is your internship?
Six Flags America, Loss Prevention Department in Upper Marlboro, MD.

How did you get it?
I received an email from Dr. Stickle in April of 2014 about available internship opportunities. In the email, I noticed that there was an opportunity to intern in the Loss Prevention Department at Six Flags. Immediately, I thought it would be a fun and worthwhile experience. I emailed the Supervisor inquiring about the internship. At that time they were seeking to hire Investigators and Field Agents (undercover guests). Because of my interests in pursuing a career in investigations, I jumped at the opportunity. A week after I emailed Jasmine about my interest, she got back to me to set up a job and background interview. All applicants must undergo a background check. Once everything cleared, I began Departmental training for a few weekends in April and began interning full-time the first week of June.

How did this internship enhance your learning?
This experience has been extremely hands-on. If you're dealing with any filing, making copies, etc., you're doing it finalize a case you just completed. There is a lot of documentation that is involved. I had the chance to use the analytical and academic knowledge I've developed through the years and apply it first-hand. I'm sure many of us have heard that investigators require a lot of time and patience to deal with a case, which is something I went through with cases I dealt with. Having had this opportunity has allowed me to have more appreciation for learning. I was able to apply many of the things I've learned in prior CCJS academic courses to my internship experience (interviewing/interrogating techniques, civil demands, courtroom etiquette, report writing (be prepared!), search/seizure, etc.).

What would be your advice to the new students who have not yet done this internship?
I would encourage anyone to apply, regardless of whether an individual is seeking a career in investigations. Be prepared to work longs hours, but trust me when I say, the day flies by! Anyone who is interested should possess excellent written/verbal communication and writing skills, have experience with Microsoft applications, be able to prioritize and problem-solve, as well have the ability to meet deadlines. Applicants should also have flexible working hours, which include weekends and holidays. In sum, be prepared to learn. A great thing about it all is that even if an applicant doesn't have any Loss Prevention experience (I didn't), they are willing to help an individual get to a point where he/she needs to be. There are also a couple of sweet perks: free complimentary tickets, free admission on days off, bring a family/friend in for free, discounts on food and merchandise, and many trips throughout the park. I encourage all to apply. I promise that it will be an unforgettable and fun internship experience, especially for those who enjoy amusement parks as myself.

For additional information regarding internship opportunities, please contact Jasmine Taylor, Supervisor of Loss Prevention, at jataylor@sftp.com. I'll also be glad to answer any questions you may have. Don't hesitate to contact me at mramos10@terpmail.umd.edu.
Alumni Interrogation: Jae Park

Jae Park graduate of the CCJS program at USG and current Investigator at the Department of Defense, stopped by to answer some questions about his post-graduation journey. Meet Jae.

Where are you currently working? What is your job title and duties?

I am currently working as an Investigator at the Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General (DoDIG). I plan, schedule and conduct oversight reviews of the criminal investigative functions of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) and Military Criminal Investigative Organizations (MCIOs). I also plan and execute special assignments in response to requests by the Inspector General (IG), DoD, the Secretary of Defense, or other senior DoD officials. I evaluate closed sexual assault investigations conducted by MCIOs to ensure compliance with DoD, Council of the Inspector General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) and other investigation standards. I conduct Headquarter level coordination with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies such as FBI, Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) and DCIS as well as develop and maintain DoD policy addressing investigative and law enforcement matters in DoD. Lastly, I administer the DoD Contractor Disclosure Program for Defense Contractors and examine DoD-wide investigative and law enforcement operations and programs to identify opportunities to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

How did you find out about your current job? Describe the hiring process.

I found this job opportunity in the USAJOBS.com during my junior year in college. Also, the hiring process for this particular position was very similar to local and state law enforcement officer including the following steps: Application – Written test (If needed) – Foreign Language Proficiency Test (If applicants speak second language) - Structured Panel Interview – Security Interview – Background Investigation – Medical & Physical Examinations – Drug test - Final job offer.

How has the CCJS program prepared you for your career?

CCJS program not only prepared me in job related skills, but also prepared me for finding a lot of internship/job opportunities. Dr. Stickle and other CCJS staff worked extremely hard with local, state and federal agencies to provide many internship/job opportunities to the CCJS students during every semester. I personally discovered my current job from one of the job opportunity emails, which Dr. Stickle sent out to the CCJS students.

Were you able to apply and translate classroom knowledge to your current job? Can you provide an example?

Absolutely. Because I am always involved in investigating complex contractor and procurement frauds, I often need to review multiple subpoenas before they go to our General Counsel for approval. I remember one of courses that I took from the CCJS program, Criminal Investigation, CCJS 310, taught me how to prepare a subpoena/warrant request and that was very helpful when I first reviewed a subpoena package in our office.

How do you suggest current students maximize potential job opportunities after graduation?

I believe students must start looking for jobs at least a year before their graduation. However, if they have trouble finding jobs even after graduation due to the recession, it is a good idea to start applying for a paid internship position. Many paid internship positions will have chances to transition into full-time positions in the future.

What are the next steps for you, in terms of your career?

Most criminal investigations I participated now are related to computers. Therefore, I’d like to earn several computer related certifications in a next few years. In addition, I plan to pursue a computer forensics, MS program, in the near future.

Any words of wisdom for current CCJS students at USG?

Spend as much time on searching intern/job positions as studying for exams, papers, and projects. The best time to searching for an intern position is during the first semester of junior year. Attend as many career fairs and job opportunity events as you can. All students are strongly encouraged to searching for a permanent job position at least a year before their graduation. Please be advised that all law enforcement related positions require an extensive security/background investigation. As a result, the hiring process usually takes 8-12 months.
Program Highlights: Why Study Abroad?

There are multiple opportunities for the students in Criminology and Criminal Justice program at USG to participate in Study Abroad. Why and how to participate in Study Abroad? Please contact your program Director or Coordinator for up to date info. Now read on to learn about personal Study Abroad experience from the CCJS alumnus Natalia Mier.

1. Where was your study abroad and how did you apply for it.
My study abroad was in Italy. I heard of the program through an email Dr. Stickle sent out about a study abroad opportunity that related to Criminal Justice. I read more about it, learned more about the program and applied through the University of Maryland Education Abroad office. I had to fill out an application online and go through an interview.

2. What was your experience (take away) from this opportunity?
It was an amazing experience that I will never forget. Learning from experts in my field that may have a perspective different from those I am accustomed to, was an eye opening experience that has benefited me in aspects of life outside of education. It taught me to lose my sense of egocentrism and see ideas from different angles. Being immersed in another culture while learning at the same time was a new way of travelling that I greatly enjoyed; we were able to see things that a regular tourists would not.

3. Why should other students participate in Study Abroad?
All students should try and take advantage of a study abroad. It not only enhances your college experience and opens your eyes to a new way of thinking, but it makes you a more marketable candidate when searching for a job. After studying abroad, you have been exposed to more than the average student and traveler- you have been in a professional and educational setting in a completely different environment. This is attractive to employers, as it demonstrates your ability to adapt and work under, and alongside, those that may have a different way of thinking.
When choosing a study abroad, try to find one that has to do with your major and will count for some of your required credits. That way you are not only travelling and experiencing new things, but you are also meeting your credit requirements. There are several scholarship opportunities offered specifically for study abroad that are listed on the University of Maryland Education Abroad website. Some scholarships are based on what kind of Financial Aid you already receive; other may be based on subject area covered by the course.
Studying abroad is an invaluable experience that all students should participate in. Although it can be expensive, there are more affordable options, such as winter, spring, or summer trips that are easier to finance.