

# Undergraduate *USF Criminology*



@USFCCJ1



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Welcome to our first annual edition of the Department of Criminology Undergraduate Newsletter! It was an exciting 2016.

We hired George Burruss and Richard Moule, and after a one year experience with the FBI, Bryanna Fox returned to our department. We also hired Joni Bernbaum as our Internship Coordinator and as an Instructor.

The department will be hosting its annual Wall of Fame Ceremony on October 7th to recognize our alumni. We are also working with the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences to host a colloquium on the Effects of Incarceration on Offenders, Families, & Communities to be held October 28th.

National speakers are: Marc Mauer, Executive Director of The Sentencing Project and Jamie Fader, Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Temple University.

We welcome your feedback with regards to the Newsletter and encourage you to contact us at any time. Please do let us know what you are up to!

If you would like to donate to the Department of Criminology, please go to: <http://www.usf.edu/cbcs/criminology/about-us/donate.aspx>

**Dr. Michael Leiber, Editor**  
**Ciera White, Assistant Editor**  
**Karine Rodrigues, Assistant Editor**

## USA TODAY ranks Undergraduate Program in Top 10 List; Department of Criminology Also Ranks Top 5 Program in Faculty Article Publication

The undergraduate program in criminology at USF is designed to provide a solid foundation for students who plan to immediately join the workforce after obtaining their degrees or who wish to continue on to graduate studies.

The strong curriculum offered by the Department of Criminology provides students with the opportunity to explore a variety of topics, including law enforcement, the judiciary and corrections. Criminology majors are encouraged to view each subject from multiple perspectives so as to better understand the mindsets of both the criminal justice professional and the offender as well as society as a whole.

An important component of the quality of a graduate program is the publication productivity of its faculty. However, previous reviews of graduate programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) have failed to consider the breadth of publications in journals outside of CCJ. This has changed with the recent review conducted by Kleck and Mims (2016), who assessed the journal publication productivity of the faculty of all 40 CCJ PhD-granting programs in the United States using both CCJ journals and journals in sociology and the social sciences.

The USF Department of Criminology ranks in the top 5 of the 40 national doctoral-granting CCJ programs examined by Kleck and Mims. Equally as impressive is that once faculty productivity was standardized as productivity per faculty member (e.g., removing the bias for departments with a greater number of faculty members to generate a larger amount of publications and authorships) that USF's CCJ Department clearly secured the #2 ranking.

# ***USF Department of Criminology Proudly Welcomes:***



**George Burruss**  
Associate Professor

George W. Burruss received his Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Missouri — St. Louis in 2001. Before earning his doctorate, Dr. Burruss served as a fraud investigator with the Office of Missouri Attorney General. His research focuses on criminal justice organizations, including policing, homeland security, and juvenile courts. Also, he studies the causes and correlates of offending in cyberspace and how the police respond to cybercrime. Publications have appeared in *Justice Quarterly*, *Crime & Delinquency*, and the *Journal of Criminal Justice*. He recently coauthored a book on *Policing Cybercrime and Cyber-terror* (Carolina Academic Press).

**Bryanna Fox**  
Assistant Professor

Bryanna Hahn Fox earned her PhD in psychological criminology from the University of Cambridge in England. She is a former Special Agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), former research consultant for the FBI's Field Investigation Group in Tampa, Florida and former research fellow in the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit (BSU) in Quantico, Virginia. Her main research interests relate to the identification of psychological and developmental risk factors for criminal behavior, developing evidence-based training and tools for law enforcement, and conducting experimental field research. Her publications have appeared in *Social Forces*, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, and the *Journal of Criminal Justice*.



**Richard Moule**  
Assistant Professor

Richard K. Moule Jr. earned his PhD (2016) in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Arizona State University. His research interests primarily involve criminological theory, the role of technology in crime and crime control, gangs and deviant networks, and the micro-social processes conducive to offending. His current research projects focus on the contributions of technology to police legitimacy and interpersonal violence. His publications have appeared in the *Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency*, *Justice Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.





# Meet the Advisors



## Alyssa Dunlap

Alyssa earned a B.A. in Psychology from Boise State University in Boise, Idaho, and a M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration & Student Personnel from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. Prior to her position as an Academic Advisor, Alyssa served in the role of a Residence Life Coordinator at USF for three years. She is passionate about empowering students to discover their purpose and how they can maximize their college experience to work towards their career interests. Alyssa enjoys assisting students with their transition to USF and working with them to achieve



## Jessica McCarty

Jessica McCarty graduated from the University of Florida with her Bachelor's degree in English and started working in student services at Saint Leo University. She also continued her education at Saint Leo University receiving an MBA. While she has worked in various student affairs roles, she found her true passion advising students in 2006.

Most recently, she obtained a graduate certificate in career counseling from USF in 2015 and looks forward to continuing her education in the future. Jessica has been advising at USF since 2007 and joined the Criminology department last fall. She enjoys empowering Criminology students to achieve their academic and career goals. Outside of education, Jessica loves spending time with her family and friends in the tropical paradise that is Florida.



## Amber Oderinde

Amber Oderinde is a native of Georgetown, KY., and earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees in criminal justice from Eastern Kentucky University. Before coming to USF, Oderinde held an academic advisor position at several institutions including West Virginia University in Morgantown, W.V., Bethel University in Nashville, TN., and Benedict College in Columbia, SC. Prior to her experiences in post-secondary education, Oderinde worked in human services as a case manager for Big Brothers Big Sisters and JAG, a national high school dropout prevention initiative.

# Criminology Internships

The Department of Criminology is committed to the educational and career development of our students, and is excited to participate in the Governor's "Ready, Set, Work" challenge. We have hired a 12-month Instructor to serve as Internship Coordinator whose responsibilities include developing a network of agency partners, enhancing the variety and number of internships offered, promoting professional development and career-focused activities, establishing a stronger employer presence on campus, and promoting post-graduation services. Students will have opportunities to intern in the areas of policing, corrections, courts, victim services, cybercrime, forensics, and economic crimes - with non-profit, private, local, state, and federal agencies.

There are many important reasons for students to complete internships: 1) It is a great way for students to "test drive" their career. 2) It gives students experience, real world experience - and we know the majority of employers are expecting new hires to have experience. 3) When positions open, employers often consider interns - after all, they have already spent time training the person, they know the person's skills set, they know their work ethic, and they know if the person is a good fit for their agency. In addition, we also know internships help students build relationships and their resume. Internships help students get motivated, enhance their skills, create good work habits, gain confidence, and understand work expectations. Our goal is to provide essential workforce skills and help students make key connections that directly lead to job offers.

As we continue to provide agencies with interns who do great work and add value to their organizations, we have no doubt these agencies will continue to see USF and the Department of Criminology as a primary source to recruit outstanding future employees.

If you would like more information or your agency would like to host USF Interns, please contact Joni Bernbaum at [Joni@usf.edu](mailto:Joni@usf.edu)



## Meet Joni Bernbaum

### *Criminology Internship Coordinator & Instructor*

Joni Bernbaum, M.A. is an Instructor of Criminology and the Internship Coordinator. She began her professional career after an undergraduate internship through the USF Department of Criminology led to a full time position at a local domestic violence center. After working there for many years, she then spent 13 years as the Assistant Director of the USF Center for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention where she worked closely with community, state, and federal criminal justice agencies and organizations. Joni has over 20 years professional experience in the field of victim services, helping clients overcome the trauma of their victimization by advocating for safety, healing, restitution, and justice.

Joni holds a Master's Degree in Counseling and Bachelor's Degree in Criminology, both from USF. She is a Certified Domestic Violence Counselor from the National Board of Forensic Counselors, a Certified Instructor for Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Systems (for children and adults), and a Designated Victim Services Practitioner by the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Florida. Joni served as the Vice-Chair of the Hillsborough County Domestic Violence Taskforce, and is currently a member of that task force, and also the local fatality review team, human trafficking taskforce, and sexual violence taskforce.

Joni teaches classes on Victimology, Survey of the Criminal Justice System, Social Justice, and Leadership, and has presented on victimization, human trafficking, and sexual and relationship violence at the local, state, and national levels. She has also coordinated nationally recognized/award winning events at USF, including Walk a Mile in Her Shoes and Take Back the Night. Joni has received a lifetime honorary membership to the Golden Key International Honour Society; received the USF Department of Criminology, Distinguished Alumni Award; received the USF/Student Affairs, "Changing Lives Award"; and was nominated by students, and awarded the "Inspire by Example," USF Outstanding Faculty/Staff Leadership Award.

# Student Resources

## Academic Advising Tips

- Make an appointment early in the semester to meet your advisor
- Be on time for your advising appointment
- Familiarize yourself with DegreeWorks Audit
- Inform your advisor of special needs or circumstances so that they may assist
- Ask questions about your degree progress so that you are well informed and understand your degree requirements
- Ask how you can enhance your academic profile with internships, volunteering, and student organizations.

## Important Dates

### OCTOBER 2016

October 29

Last day to drop with "W"; no refund & no academic penalty for Fall 16

### NOVEMBER 2016

November 11

No classes & USF offices closed

November 24-25

Thanksgiving Holiday

November 30

Last day of Fall classes, Designated reading day

### DECEMBER 2016

December 1

Designated reading day

December 2

Last class meeting day of Fall semester

December 3

Final exams begin

December 10

Fall, Tampa Campus Commencement

December 26 - Jan 2

USF offices closed

### JANUARY 2017

January 9

First day of Spring 2017 classes



# Student Organizations

## Honors Program

Students in the Criminology Honors Program will have the opportunity to make their first contribution to the study of criminology and at the same time gain valuable research, critical thinking, and writing skills. Successful completion of the program will depend upon the student's ability to absorb the additional workload and produce a thesis with minimal individual guidance. The rewards upon successful completion of the program include:

- A student will receive experience in designing, conducting, and analyzing research.
- The student's transcript and diploma will, upon successful completion of the Honors Program requirements, state that the student graduated with Honors in Criminology.

The student will be eligible to wear an Honors sash at graduation.

For more information, please contact Dr. Wesley Jennings at [jenningswgj@usf.edu](mailto:jenningswgj@usf.edu).

## Alpha Phi Sigma

Alpha Phi Sigma recognizes academic excellence of Undergraduate and Graduate students of Criminal Justice, as well as Juris Doctorate students. The goals of Alpha Phi Sigma are to honor and promote academic excellence, community service, educational leadership, and unity. Alpha Phi Sigma is the only Criminal Justice Honor Society which is a certified member of the Association of College Honor Societies and affiliated with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.



The USF Chapter has raised several thousand dollars which have been donated to help support worthy causes relative to their main goal of the prevention of Human Trafficking. They also actively participated in and raised money for Race for Freedom. Members engage in a variety of team building events, community service, fundraising, and promotion of community awareness. In order to become a member of Alpha Phi Sigma, undergraduates must be a declared Criminology Major or Minor and have a 3.2 overall GPA and a 3.2 major GPA, as well as having completed at least 4 courses in Criminology. Graduate students must have a 3.4 GPA in graduate school.

# Undergraduate Spotlight



**Christiana Crowder** is a senior graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Criminology this fall. Originally, Christiana enrolled in St. Louis University in Madrid because she thought she was interested in international relations and political science. However, after her freshman year, she remembered how interested she was in criminal justice and legal matters, so she transferred to USF and declared her major as Criminology. Christiana has been very pleased with her decision ever since. One of her favorite classes is Forensic Psychology taught by Dr. Bryanna Fox.

Recently, Christiana had the opportunity to participate in the Summer Research Institute. It is a 10 week program where undergraduates from across the United States come together at USF to participate in a research project with a mentor that they were paired with during the

application process. Christiana received the opportunity to work with Dr. Rachael Powers. Participating in the Summer Research Institute has been one of Christina's favorite academic experiences while attending USF and she encourages undergraduates to get involved in research.

**Tansheem Alasfour** has always had an interest for anything dealing with law enforcement. She felt increasingly driven to learn more about Criminology. She took her first class in the spring with Dr. Nayab Hakim and it immediately captured her mind. Having the chance to learn about fighting crime and the justice system was surreal to her. However, she wanted to understand more than what the classroom offered, and thus seized the opportunity of doing research with Professor Dr. Rachael Powers.

She is currently pursuing a minor in Criminology along with dual majors in Biology and Psychology. Her goal is to continue her education and become a Behavioral Analyst. She believes it is increasingly interesting because detecting emotions is vital for detecting criminal behavior. She sees herself doing work that improves our stance as humanity. Her aim is not only to help the innocent, but to cure the criminal from his own mind.





# Alumni Spotlight



**Deputy Jihad Nassar** graduated Magna Cum Laude from USF with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. While attending USF, Deputy Nassar met with several Deputies from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office through the Criminology Department. His interaction with the Sheriff's Office Deputies led him to complete an internship within HCSO. While enrolled in the internship, Deputy Nassar realized how impressive the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is, and the experience motivated him to seek employment with HCSO. After graduation, he joined the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office where he has worked for the past six years. Deputy Nassar graduated from the HCSO SOT XI academy class earning the highest GPA award, the overall fitness award, and the overall achievement award.

After graduating from the academy, he was assigned to District II as a Patrol Deputy. He was assigned to the District II Bicycle Patrol Team and was also a part of the Republican National Convention Bicycle Response Team. He is currently a member of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) and assigned to the Recruitment and Screening Section as a Background Investigator.

Reflections: My time at USF helped to mold me into the person I am now. I was able to learn a great deal from my professors, especially Dr. Bromley and Dr. Heidi from the Criminology Department. I learned to manage my priorities and balance work and school. The techniques I learned help me to this day when I have to balance my time between my home life, primary assignment and secondary assignments within HCSO. My time at USF better exposed me to the local law enforcement agencies in Hillsborough County and allowed me to make an informed decision on my career.



**Caitlin Jewel** graduated from USF with a degree in Criminology in December of 2015. Several months later, she began the hiring process for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Throughout the whole process there was one phrase that was repeated over and over: "Be prepared for SOT." SOT, or Sheriff's Orientation Training, is a two week long residential program that lays the foundation for the rest of the training process. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is one of the only law enforcement agencies in the state of Florida that conducts this type of training. SOT tested Caitlin both physically and mentally. Tasks were designed to teach the fundamentals of being in law enforcement as well as becoming a role model in the community.

# Criminology Summer Experience 2016

In June, the Department of Criminology hosted a one week no-cost immersion into the criminal justice system for high school students from 10 Hillsborough County high schools including the Law & Criminal Justice Academy at Jefferson High School. The program was developed and designed by USF Department of Criminology faculty member, Elizabeth Cass and Assistant State Attorney, Felix Vega from the 13th Judicial Circuit. Police officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges all volunteered to bring the material to life.

Utilizing a mock traffic homicide investigation, students learned how a case proceeds from investigation to arrest and ultimately makes its way before a judge and jury. The week began at the Tampa Police Department's Training facility where students had the opportunity to study a crash scene, learn about traffic accident

participate in field sobriety tests, and drive the simulated impaired driving cart. The day was topped off with a simulated car chase/hostage taking /SWAT team demonstration by the Tampa Police Department. On Tuesday and Wednesday, students heard from USF Police on issues related to campus policy and Eric McDade of Spectra Venue Management provided a behind the scenes tour of the Sun Dome. Later in the week, students took part in a jury selection exercise, and watched closing arguments from Assistant State Attorney, Chris Castillo and private defense attorney Kim Seace. The week ended in the courtroom of Judge Lisa Campbell who gave the "jurors" jury instructions before bailiffs lead them to the jury room for deliberations.

The goal of the summer program was to provide a positive learning experience to encourage students' interest in attending college and pursuing careers in the field of criminal justice and criminology. We also hoped that interacting with criminal justice professionals would allow students to develop first hand impressions of the system. A student who thanked us for "restoring my faith in the police this week" gave us hope that we accomplished that goal.



## Criminology Associate Professor Named Outstanding Educator



Wesley Jennings, PhD, is the recipient of the 2016 Southern Criminal Justice Association's Outstanding Educator Award. This award recognizes a criminal justice educator for outstanding academic achievement in teaching, research and service. He will be presented with the award at their annual meeting on September 9th at the Savannah DeSoto Hilton in Savannah, Georgia.



# Spotlight Sessions

One of our exciting new initiatives will be holding on-site “Spotlight Sessions” in the Department. These sessions will cover a variety of job readiness/career related topics with guests from various agencies. Topics will include:

- Agency Spotlights (police departments, lawyers, federal agencies, etc.)
- Internship Spotlights (recruiting sessions)
- Job Recruitment/Interview Spotlights
- Professional Development Spotlights (resume review, interview techniques, how to job search, application processes – law school, graduate school, etc.)
- Career Spotlights (Policing, Corrections, Forensics, Law, Cyber, Social Services, etc.)

**Check Canvas & Facebook often for information on dates and times.**

## Department Events



**Guest Speaker Gil Kerlikowske,  
Commissioner of U.S.  
Customs & Border Patrol**



**Criminology Career Fair**



**Criminology Career Fair**



**Fall 2016  
Back to School Party**



**Professor Joshua Cochran  
Going Away Party**



**Inaugural Criminology  
Summer Experience**