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ISSUE NO. 2

# USF Criminology

## UNDERGRADUATE NEWSLETTER



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# Editor's Note

## Dear USF Criminology Students, Alumni, and Friends:

Welcome to our second annual edition of the Department of Criminology Undergraduate Newsletter! It has been an exciting 2017!

We are happy to announce the new Criminology Club @ USF, a unique student organization which exposes its members to topics relating to crime, criminal behavior, the legal system, and law enforcement. The club hosted several events over this past year, including "Coffee with a Cop," designed to allow students to meet and discuss questions with members of law enforcement. They also hosted two events on the death penalty, one of which was a talk by Mr. Juan Melendez, a man who spent a little over 17 years on Florida's death row for a crime that he did not commit.

Another great development has been in our internship program. Led by Internship Coordinator Joni Bernbaum, we have had over 100 criminology students enroll this year in internships.

The department will be working with the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences to host a colloquium on the Intersection Between the Mental Health and Criminal Justice Systems to be held October 6th. National speakers are: Steve Leifman, Associate Administrative Judge in the County Criminal Division of the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida, Arthur Lurigio, Professor in the Department of Psychology at Loyola University Chicago, and our very own Kathleen Heide, Professor in the Department of Criminology.

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>.

**Andrew Franz, Editor**  
**Karine Rodrigues, Assistant Editor**

## Important Dates

### OCTOBER 2017

October 28 Last day to drop with "W"; no refund and no academic penalty

### NOVEMBER 2017

November 10 Veteran's Day - No classes and USF offices closed  
November 21-22 Designated reading days  
November 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday

### DECEMBER 2016

December 1 Last day of Fall classes  
December 2 Final exams begin  
December 8-9 Tampa Campus Commencement  
December 25 - Jan 1 USF offices closed

### JANUARY 2017

January 8 First day of Spring 2018 classes  
January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No classes and USF offices closed

# *Criminology Internships*

The Department of Criminology is committed to the educational and career development of our undergraduate majors, and for the past year we have been actively participating in the Governor's "Ready, Set, Work" University Challenge. We 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, and establishing a stronger employer presence on campus. Our goal is to provide essential workforce skills and help students make key connections that directly lead to job offers. We are confident agencies will continue to see USF and the Department of Criminology as a primary source to recruit outstanding future employees.

A few highlights from the past year include:

- 140 Criminology students completed internships representing 29,400 hours of internship experience and service to community agencies.
- Partnerships have been developed and each semester over 100 different internship opportunities are offered by more than 80 agencies.
- Guest speakers and recruiters from 45 community agencies conducted onsite Spotlight Sessions for students on internships, employment opportunities, and career development.
- An additional 112 career readiness initiatives were infused into the undergraduate course curricula and delivered in various Criminology classes.
- Students were sent 158 direct messages via Canvas regarding internship and job opportunities, job fairs, career development workshops, information on graduate school, etc.
- The Criminology Majors Canvas platform has been expanded to include the following modules:
  - o Career Planning
  - o Professional Development (interviewing, resumes, attire, professionalism, etc.)
  - o Internships – process and listings
  - o Criminology Careers
  - o "Who's Hiring" (links to current job advertisements)
  - o Graduate and law school programs and processes
  - o Volunteer Opportunities

Please contact [ccjadvise@usf.edu](mailto:ccjadvise@usf.edu) for any questions regarding the internship program.

## **Spotlight Sessions**

One of our exciting initiatives continues to be holding on-site "Spotlight Sessions" in the Department. These sessions cover a variety of job readiness/career related topics with guests from various agencies. Topics 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.**

# Student Resources

## Academic Advisor

### 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 academic success.



## Academic Advising Tips

- Familiarize yourself with DegreeWorks Audit.
- Make an appointment early in the semester to meet your advisor.
- If you plan on discussing how you can improve your grade(s), bring the course syllabus/syllabi.
- Bring any questions you have to your advising appointment.
- Be on time for your advising appointment.
- 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.
- Take notes on what you discuss with your advisor.
- Check Canvas frequently for important dates and information!

# Student Organizations

## Honors Program

Students in the Criminology Honors Program 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 depends 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:

- Experience in designing, conducting, and analyzing research.
- A statement noting that the student graduated with Honors in Criminology on his/her transcript and diploma.
- An Honors sash to be worn at graduation.

For more information, please contact Andrew Franz at [afranz@usf.edu](mailto:afranz@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



**Jacqueline Nyugen** is a junior majoring in Criminology. Her interest in criminal justice and the law was always present, but it was not until starting at USF in fall 2015 that she was able to pursue that interest. Jacqueline is involved in Greek life on campus, she is a member of Sigma Delta Tau where she is currently serving as the Vice President of Scholarship. One of her favorite classes is Parricide taught by Dr. Kathleen Heide.

During the summer of 2017, Jacqueline interned with the United States Marshals Service at the District Court in Washington DC through The Washington Center. During this 10 week program, she was able to go to the shooting range, learn the duties of the Marshals, and get a greater sense of options after graduating from USF. She believes that there is much research needed to ensure all components of the criminal justice system are fair and just.

Jacqueline is on track to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Criminology in the Fall of 2018. Her plan following graduation is to continue her education by pursuing a master's degree in Criminal Justice.

**Officer Andrea Walke** is a senior on track to graduate with her Bachelor's degree in Criminology in Spring 2018. As a small child, she often dreamt of becoming a law enforcement officer and having the opportunity to serve and protect her community. In October of 2014, Officer Walke graduated from the HCC Tampa Police Academy. She is currently an intelligence-led police officer in the Strategic Enforcement Section at the USF Police Department on the Tampa campus. Because of her desire to learn more about the profession, she chose to further her education while continuing to work in the field. She has plans to enroll in the Department of Criminology's MACJA program immediately after earning her Bachelor's degree.



While taking courses to fulfill her Bachelor's, she quickly became very intrigued in the study of Forensic Psychology. Officer Walke attributes her newfound fascination to her Parricide Professor, Dr. Kathleen Heide, as well as her Criminal Investigations Professor, Dr. Bryanna Fox, both experts in Forensic Psychology. She also recognizes Instructor Joni Bernbaum, who did an excellent job portraying victims' perspectives through her Victimology course, while stressing how crucial it is to possess empathy to help with victims' recovery. Officer Walke has been assured through her courses that she is doing the job she was made to do, while reminding her why she entered this profession to begin with.

As a result of participating in the Criminology program at USF, her focus has sharpened to gleaning a better understanding of the criminal mind with a psychological approach, in hopes of identifying and evaluating risk factors which lead to certain criminal behaviors. Her current aspiration is to become an expert in the field of Forensic Psychology, which includes being able to recognize the signs and personality characteristics of offenders, with hopes that one day she can play an instrumental role in preventing traumatic events from ever occurring. Officer Walke plans to continue to work within the law enforcement profession after finishing her education.

# Alumni Spotlight

## Antoinette Romano

Antoinette Romano, a 2016 USF Criminology graduate is currently attending Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in Orlando.

Choosing which law school was a tough decision for her, but not the decision to attend law school. As she explained, "law has always been an area of interest for me. It may sound cliché, but I was obsessed with crime shows growing up and that spurred my interest initially. As an undergraduate, I was fortunate to take an array of criminology courses, including criminal law, international criminal law, and my internship with the Juvenile Diversion Program for the 13th Circuit. This combination really solidified my desire pursue a career in the legal field." Ms. Romano added, "My undergraduate experience at USF prepared me for law school by providing me with a great foundation of knowledge, study habits, and overall experience in higher education."



"Ultimately, I chose Barry because of the smaller class sizes and the various programs offered to ensure students' success, especially in the first year," Ms. Romano said during our interview.

It hasn't been easy, however, as Ms. Romano explained, "...the undergraduate experience is vastly different from the law school experience.... My first year of law school was overwhelming, exciting, challenging, and amazing all at the same time. The academic environment in law school is like nothing I had experienced before. Suddenly you realize that just being "smart" isn't enough anymore because all of your colleagues are also intelligent, college-educated individuals. The level of preparedness, knowledge, and understanding of material expected and required in law school is much, much greater, and the classroom setting requires much more interaction. Those realizations, though, are part of where the excitement and challenging nature of the law school environment comes from. I pushed myself harder and learned more than I ever have in one year before and that in and of itself is thrilling."

While law school can be ruthlessly competitive, Ms. Romano notes Barry has a reputation for being less mean-spirited. But less competition at Barry is still a relative matter, since one of the things that pleased Ms. Romano most during her first year was achieving the highest grade in torts class, which led to the offer of research assistant for her professor. She also saw positive developments in being elected to two campus organizations, the Women Lawyers Association and the Legal Advocates for Citizens with Disabilities.

When asked what advice she has for people interested in law school, Ms. Romano responded, "make sure this is the path you want to take; and even then know that you're in for a challenging though exciting ride, for which all the time and energy will be worth it in the end." Ms. Romano is keeping her own advice, enjoying the ride, allowing her ambitions to evolve. "Even after one year, I am much more solidified in the area of law I want to focus on. When I was thinking about applying to law school I knew that I wanted to do something that would be meaningful to me and would also make a difference in the lives of my future clients, but wasn't exactly sure how I wanted to do that. At this point my passion for family law has developed. In five years, I hope to be a practicing family law attorney in the Orlando area, while hopefully finding some new ways to give back to the community."

# Alumni Spotlight



## Amy Eggers

*We recently interviewed USF Criminology alumni, Amy Eggers, about her career and life.*

### ***You chose to attend USF for both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Criminology, why?***

That's correct. I completed my Ph.D. in Criminology from USF in December 2016, but I also completed my undergraduate work right here as well. My original decision to attend USF was driven by my desire to stay close to home and study Criminology. Initially, I was interested in Criminology since I planned to go to law school and then practice immigration and family law. However, after graduating with a B.A. in Criminology (2008), I was encouraged to apply for graduate school and incorporate my interest in immigration and family into a research agenda. So, I did and I graduated with an M.A. in 2010.

### ***How did your undergraduate work at USF prepare you for what you do now?***

While completing my undergraduate degree, I assumed that Criminology was related to forensic science and criminal law at the start. However, I was happily surprised to learn how diverse Criminology is in terms of real life application. In my case, I'm using the knowledge I obtained from USF to pursue a career in academia. I now have the opportunity to impart what I learned at USF to other students of Criminology.

### ***How has post-graduate work and experiences differed from undergraduate work and experiences?***

During my undergraduate studies, my focus was simply on completing my classes; whereas, in graduate school I've incorporated as much real life experience as I could into my studies. For example, I reached out to my professors to gain research experience and was assigned to work on a meta-analysis where I coded data. From there, I was awarded a Graduate Assistant-ship and continued to gain experience from my time spent preparing assessments for undergraduate courses and conducting literature reviews. In essence, post-graduate work was more "hands on" and required that I put in time and effort into my studies and responsibilities that went beyond the classroom.

### ***What are you doing now and where are you headed?***

I'm prepping courses for a new academic position. Specifically, I will be teaching Introduction to Criminology. I'm also working on finishing a few manuscripts to make sure I'm ready for a tenure track position and to become more established in an academic department. In addition, I would like to become familiar with campus and community programs and look into becoming more involved in activities outside of the classroom and office.

### ***What kind of special hurdles have you faced in your academic career?***

For me, the main components of the graduate program, such as having to go through a thesis defense, comprehensive exam, and dissertation defense posed the greatest challenges. I'm more on the introverted side, and reserved. These traits don't align with talking in front of groups of people during a defense! However, my desire to successfully complete both graduate programs was greater than my fear of speaking in public to defend my research and ideas. This is why I would like to get involved with student-focused organizations to encourage students to pursue their true interests and not be intimidated by anything that doesn't come naturally to them.

### ***Have your ambitions and your work modified or evolved since you graduated with a BA in criminology? If so, how and in what ways?***

As I progressed through USF's undergraduate Criminology program, I was set on going to law school and practicing immigration and family law. When that did not work out, I inquired about the Criminology graduate program, because I was still interested in obtaining a higher level of education. At first, as a graduate student, I struggled identifying my research interests. I initially looked to the juvenile justice system, but after some time I realized I could apply my interest in immigration and family to the study of crime. As a result, I applied to the doctoral program and pursued a career in academia.

Through my graduate research I've found immigration, family dynamics, and crime are intertwined, and have the potential to decrease a person's likelihood of victimization. These protective familial properties resonate with me because I'm very close to my family and feel they serve as a powerful form of support and protection. I think this is a large part of why I want to aid in the push for strong family ties, especially among young adults, who are often in need of guidance and support.

# Criminology Club

Criminology Club @ USF is a unique undergraduate organization which exposes students to topics relating to crime, criminal behavior, the legal system, and law enforcement. Unlike other student groups, Criminology Club does not have any prerequisites in terms of major, GPA, or class standing. The only requirement to join is an interest in criminology. Consequently, this has proven to be a very popular and active group!

As the goal of Criminology Club is to showcase current issues and careers in the criminal justice system, the club regularly hosts events that present the research that USF faculty members are conducting in criminology, current issues and debates in the field, and the work conducted by practitioners such as local, state, and federal law enforcement, crime analysts, forensic examiners, and more. These events expose students from a variety of backgrounds to topics in the criminal justice system, and allows students to meet the practitioners and academics on the front lines addressing these issues.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, Criminology Club advisor Professor Bryanna Fox spoke about her experience and research on psychopaths, and Professor John Cochran spoke about his research and how it aligns with arguments in support of and against the death penalty.

Criminology club also hosted Coffee with a Cop, a fun "speed-dating" style event designed to allow students to meet and discuss questions with members of law enforcement, including officers, detectives, and sergeants from Tampa Police Department, Pasco Sheriff's Office, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, former DEA and FBI special agents, and a former State Trooper, in an open and welcoming environment. This gave students the unique opportunity to discuss experiences this impressive group of individuals had, and helping to close the gap between law enforcement officers and the community.

The largest event to date was a talk on the death penalty by Mr. Juan Melendez, a man who spent 17 years on Florida's death row for a crime he did not commit. After raising enough funds to host Mr. Melendez at USF through multiple bake sales on campus, the resultant event was a huge success! In fact, Mr. Melendez's talk was so popular that it drew in over 100 students in majors ranging from criminology to physics and even resulted in media coverage on ABC Action News!



**Coffee with a Cop**



**Crim Club Faculty Adviser  
Dr. Bryanna Fox & Crim Club  
Executive Board with  
Guest Juan Melendez**



**Fire Station Tour**

**Follow us on Facebook for more updated upcoming events!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1104599319634777/>

**To join Criminology Club, please sign-up on our Bull Sync page:**  
<https://orgsync.com/146768/chapter>

## Wall of Fame



The Department of Criminology celebrated its 5th Annual Wall of Fame Awards Luncheon on Friday, March 3rd at the Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club. The event honored and inducted three Distinguished Alumni who have attained the highest level of professional accomplishment while demonstrating strong personal integrity, and seven Outstanding Criminology Ambassadors for representing the department in ways that promote and enhance the department's identity. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Thomas Mieczkowski for his contributions as former Chair and Professor in the Department of Criminology. Special recognition was given to Felix Vega for his work with the Criminology Summer Experience for high school students. Photo front row from left to right: Tom Mieczkowski, Joshua Lovelace, Captain Meg Ross, Major David Dalton; back row from left to right: Mike Leiber, Howard Goldstein, Eric Biel, Major Lee Bercaw, Chief Bob Siwik, and Joan Reid. Honorees not present were: Allison DeFoor, Tre' Bryant, and Nicholas Perez.

For more info on our annual Wall of Fame event, go to: <http://usfcrimwalloffame.cbcs.usf.edu/>

## *USF Researchers Present Studies on Missing Person Cases, At-Risk Youths to Pasco Sheriff's Office*



A group of undergraduate and graduate students representing USF's newly created Social and Psychological Research for Understanding Crime and its Etiology (SPRUCE) Lab shared their research into missing person cases, student-teacher sexual relationships and at-risk youths with members of the Pasco Sheriff's Office in July. The USF presentations were part of a half-day meeting scheduled to establish an official partnership between PSO's intelligence-led policing staff and Dr. Bryanna Fox, assistant professor in USF's Department of Criminology, and SPRUCE Lab's team of graduate and undergraduate researchers. SPRUCE is short for Social & Psychological Research for Understanding Crime Etiology. PSO attendees included crime analysts, school resource officers, and representatives from the agency's Child Protective Investigations Division and Real-Time Crime Center.

## CBCS Student Employee of the Year



Karine was nominated by her supervisor Amanda Rausch with supporting nominations from Dr. Elizabeth Cass and Joni Bernbaum. She has been working in the Department of Criminology since Fall 2014 and has become an integral part of the team. She anticipates department needs and is relied upon by the entire department to produce professional, accurate work. Karine is solely responsible for creating many of the marketing flyers, brochures, and website graphics - including the internship flyer and infographic and educational platforms on career readiness in Canvas. The department could not ask for a better student to represent their program, the College, and USF.

Her hard work paid off recently when she joined the department full time as a Academic Program Specialist.

## Juan Melendez on the Death Penalty

The USF Criminology Club hosted a discussion on the death penalty with Mr. Juan Melendez, who spent nearly 18 years on death row for a murder in Polk County that he did not commit.

The process through which he was falsely convicted and then ultimately exonerated, served as the basis for an important discussion. This event was very popular, resulting in the attendance of over 100 students in various majors and coverage by ABC Action News.



## Criminology Career Cruise



The department sponsored a Criminology Career Cruise: Sailing the Seas of Success workshop to prepare students to embark on internships, employment, or graduate school. The 135 "passengers" in attendance had their passports stamped as they visited each "port":

- Choosing your destination (career exploration)
- What to pack (checklist of steps for career readiness/job search; professional dress)
- Message in a bottle (résumé tips)
- Travel companions (networking)
- High roller casino (the high stakes of social media and background checks)
- Shore excursions (internships/volunteering)
- Captain's dinner (professional etiquette)





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