

Criminal Justice and Legal Studies

N e w s l e t t e r

Fall 2007

October 14, 2007

This is our second department newsletter for the Fall of 2007. The department has some timely news to share with you in this newsletter, and we hope you find it useful. If you have any questions about the information in this newsletter, please contact the receptionist in Criminal Justice and Legal Studies at 407-823-2603.

If you know of someone who would like this information, please feel free to forward it on. If you know of someone who is a CJ or LS major or a CJ masters student who is not receiving this letter, please let them know that we send this list to all registered students in those programs as recorded by the Registrar's Office. If a student does not have their current e-mail address with the registrar, they cannot receive this e-mail directly from the department. We do also have printed copies available in HPA 311.

To ALL Criminal Justice Seniors:

If you are planning to complete ANY Criminal Justice Certificate (Crime Analysis and Crime Mapping, Criminal Profiling, Security Management, Crime Scene Investigation, or Victim Advocacy) from Spring 2008 FORWARD, you must declare this in the Office of Undergraduate Student Services, HPA 2-115, as soon as you know you are intending to complete the certificate. This does not apply to Fall, '07, Certificate Program graduates who have already declared your certificates on your intent to graduate.

To All Criminal Justice and Legal Studies Seniors:

Starting in the Spring, 2008 term, all aspiring graduates will file their intents to graduate online. Please watch for additional information regarding this process. The information will be sent to you via e-mail from the Registrar's Office, at the end of October.

A New Member of the Family

Students should be sure to congratulate Dr. Brandon Applegate and his wife on the birth of their first child, a boy!

UCF Victim Services

Victim Services works to promote crisis intervention to students, staff, and faculty for crimes that occur on/off campus. Most of these crimes are related but not limited to

domestic/dating violence, muggings, stalking, and sexual assault. Our mission is accomplished through crisis intervention, educational workshops, promotional/special events, and presentations. October 17th 2007 we will be hosting our annual Domestic Violence Awareness event, Strike Back. This event will be held at the Student Union on UCF's main campus from 11-3:30 pm. Our department is looking for volunteers to donate their time to our event, and in helping us to educate the UCF community about dating/domestic violence they will be able to enjoy the array of events that we have planned throughout the day. For additional information or any questions you may have about our Domestic Violence Awareness event, Strike Back or Victim Services in general, you can contact Shalane Hall by phone 407-823-4502 or by email: vsoutreach@mail.ucf.edu.

Criminal Justice Study Abroad in Russia

The Russia Study Abroad program has been scheduled for next summer. The trip is scheduled to take place in early July, 2008. The program consists of 4 days in Moscow, then by overnight train to Volgograd (was Stalingrad) where cadets and faculty members from the Volgograd Law Academy will host the group. The program includes visits to significant cultural sites, criminal justice agencies, and Academy faculty presentations pertaining to Russian history, culture, issues related to substance abuse, delinquency, and a detailed overview of the Russian criminal justice system. The Russian police (MVD) will provide support and assistance in Moscow.

The course will be limited to 20 students. If you are interested, and as long as seats are available, a \$500 deposit is required no later than February 28 th, 2008. This is a 3 credit-hour course and is open to all majors. There are undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral course sections available. More information is available from the main CJ office, Ms. Marva Ellington, Ms. Debbie Phillis, Dr. Mary Ann Eastep at 407-823-2603, or the program director Dr. Mike Reynolds, kreynold@mail.ucf.edu . Dr. Olga Semoukhina is available to meet with you or provide information: semoukhina@yahoo.com .

If you think you may want to go and do not have a passport, you should apply NOW. It is important to get on the list as first come first serve. The class is limited to 20 students.

Criminal Justice Study Abroad in Costa Rica

Good news! The Costa Rica program is now posted and open for enrollment! You can access it at the following link: <http://www.studyabroad.ucf.edu/display.php?id=39> Costa Rica is a beautiful country. The national motto is, "Pura Vida," or pure life, and the Costa Ricans try to keep their country clean and the natural environment as sound and pure as possible. You will see a virtually unspoiled natural habitat on the Pacific Coast, in the small fishing village of Nosara, where the group will be staying. Monkeys swing freely from the trees and there

are more species of birds in Costa Rica than any other place in the Western Hemisphere.

The course for this study abroad is called "Social Justice" and is a Service-Learning course. Thus, if you are considering an S-L Certificate, this one counts toward your S-L course work. And, although this is an upper-level criminal justice course, it is open to all majors. If you are looking for an interesting elective, this would be an excellent choice. There is also an option to register for three additional lower-level SOW credits (electives) through Brevard Community College, if you need additional elective hours.

While in Nosara, students will be working at a community agency, so you will have the opportunity to understand the lives of the citizens and to feel a bigger part of both the local and the global community. Discussions will include some of the implications of rapid development and issues that arise from a population influx (such as the one experienced in this region). The discussions should lead the group to question some fundamental assumptions about justice and its philosophical underpinnings. Dr. Eastep wants to personally welcome you to consider this unique travel, study and service opportunity. The budget, which is highly dependent on airfares and a few other significant variables, is currently under construction. It is expected costs will be kept under \$2500, with two students per room, and including airfare and breakfast each day.

Criminal Justice and Legal Studies Student Organizations

Get involved!! As a criminal justice or legal studies major or minor you can develop your skills in your chosen career path! Learn more about these organizations!

LAE Criminal Justice Pre-Professional Fraternity

Lambda Alpha Epsilon invites all Criminal Justice majors, minors, and students interested in Criminal Justice to get involved in one of the most active criminal justice organizations anywhere! Participate in ride-alongs, jail tours, the UCF Career Fair, criminal justice crime-scene competitions, and volunteer at events (such as SWAT roundup). Everyone is welcome to attend, feel free to join us to learn more about exciting opportunities in our national pre-professional criminal justice fraternity. Contact our faculty advisor, Dr. Mark Winton at mwinton@mail.ucf.edu or LAE chapter president Dave at ucfbarkeep@cfl.rr.com for more information.

APS Criminal Justice Honor Society

Students interested in the Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society can visit the web-site www.alphaphisigma.org and can contact Dr. Cory Watkins at 407-823-2603 or at rwatkins@mail.ucf.edu for more information. Benefits include: 1) Access to job opportunities, 2) Association with other like minded serious criminal justice students, 3)

Involvement in a nationally recognized professional organization, 4) Exposure to a wide range of criminal justice related activities outside of the academic environment. The following are the requirements for Alpha Phi Sigma Membership:

Undergraduate students must maintain a minimum of 3.0 overall GPA on a 4.0 scale, a 3.2 GPA, on a 4.0 scale, in criminal justice courses. The student must also rank in the top 35% of their classes and have completed a minimum of four courses within the criminal justice curriculum. The Honor Society is open to those with a declared criminal justice major or minor. Graduate students are required to maintain a minimum of a 3.4 GPA in both Criminal Justice courses and overall courses, on a 4.0 scale. Student must have completed a minimum of four courses within the criminal justice curriculum.

PAD Legal Studies Pre-Professional Organization

Phi Alpha Delta is a professional, co-ed fraternity geared to those people wanting to enter the legal field. We participate in a variety of activities, including those necessary for admission to law school such as: community service, leadership opportunities, law school visits, and introductions with the deans of admissions. We also go on conventions, sit in on law school classes, compete in mock trial competitions, and have socials. Other benefits include: \$100 off Blackstone LSAT Prep class (Join PAD and get \$10 back!) To sign up for PAD, you can get an application and newsletter in the Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies in HPA1 311. Applicants should submit an application form along with a \$90 check (\$60 national + \$30 local). You do not need to attend all events or all meetings to join; you can participate as much or as little as you like. Phi Alpha Delta meets every Wednesday at 5:00 P.M. in ENG 1-116. For more information see the website at <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~pad/>. Should you have any other questions please feel free to contact our faculty advisor, Dr. Kathy Cook, at 407-823-2603.

The UCF Mock Trial Team

The Mock Trial Team at UCF holds try-outs for team membership. For more information, Contact Dr. Margarita Koblasz at 407-823-2603 or at mmruiz@mail.ucf.edu

Criminal Justice and Legal Studies Alumni Club

Are you graduating soon? The CJ/LS Alumni Club would like to remind you to keep in touch when you graduate. There are plenty of leadership opportunities available. You receive automatic membership in this club when you join the UCF Alumni Association (NO EXTRA DUES!). Contact Debbie Phillis at phillis@mail.ucf.edu for more information, or call 407-823-2723.

Omicron Delta Kappa

ODK, one of the nation's premier Leadership Societies has a chapter at UCF which can be accessed on the web at <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~odk/> . Dr. David Gray Ross of the Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies is one of the advisers to the UCF Chapter and invites all students to review the qualifications and consider learning more about this wonderful organization. Dr. Ross can be reached at dross@mail.ucf.edu to answer your questions.

Are You Ready For Fall And Spring Classes?

We encourage all students to speak to an academic advisor as often as necessary to ensure their academic success, but no less than once a year. Make an appointment with a faculty member or program advisor today, by contacting the Criminal Justice and Legal Studies office at 407-823-2603.

Write Better! Free Guide on Grammar

The book "Grammar, etc: The handbook for writers," contains all the basic information on punctuation, research papers, and grammar. Once published by McGraw-Hill, the book is now available as a free download through Freeload Press, Inc. The book can be ordered as a print text for \$14.95 or downloaded free of charge. To download:

Go to <http://www.freeloadpress.com/bookDetail.aspx?bId=1091>

Register (information provided is confidential)

Download (PDF format); it comes in groups of chapters since the book is lengthy.

Need Help On Your Research?

Students can get an individual appointment with a librarian at

<http://library.ucf.edu/Reference/ResearchConsultations/Default.asp>

OUR DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies at the University of Central Florida provides excellence in teaching, research, and service. Dedicated to our students, the faculty delivers outstanding instruction at the undergraduate and graduate levels, incorporating learning, service, and inquiry. We conduct quality research and pursue local, state, and federal funding to advance knowledge in our disciplines. By actively developing meaningful partnerships we provide exemplary service to the university and the broader professional and academic community.

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