



The WOU Criminal Justice Department NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012 / Winter 2013

WOU CJ Practicum Scholar- ship News!

Thanks to new donations from CJ faculty and alumni, the scholarship award has been raised to \$600 for 2013!

About the Scholarship

The WOU Criminal Justice Practicum Scholarship is designed to help students offset the costs associated with completing a practicum (e.g., travel, lodging).

The \$600 (2013) scholarship is funded by donations from WOU CJ faculty and alumni and is awarded on an annual basis to applicants based on merit and need.

To apply

Students completing a practicum in 2013 are eligible. To apply, submit a 1-2 page letter outlining qualifications and other relevant factors to the Department Chair by March 15, 2013.

You can Help!

To make a tax-deductible donation to the CJ Practicum Scholarship fund, please contact David Murphy at muphyd@wou.edu or 503 838-8410.

A Look Inside The Classroom

CJ 321: Principles of Criminal & Forensic Investigations



WOU Criminal Justice Professor Gregory Willeford's *Principles of Criminal and Forensic Investigations* course (CJ 321) provides students with an introduction to the exciting world of criminal investigations. Professor Willeford's experience in law enforcement, including as Deputy Superintendent of the Oregon State Police, makes him uniquely suited to the task of educating students about both historical and contemporary practices of forensic and criminal investigators. Drawing on his wealth of knowledge, students gain a more complete and realistic understanding of how criminal investigators contribute to the administration of justice in Oregon and throughout the United States.

"Even in the current economy, there is no better time for students to pursue a career in public safety" — Professor Greg Willeford

Students in this course complete different learning modules every week, giving them numerous opportunities to explore different dimensions of this ever-changing field. In addition to learning new concepts and theories, successful students develop their critical thinking skills and gain a greater appreciation for the many factors (e.g., scientific breakthroughs, politics, funding, etc.) affecting Oregon's public safety professionals. Although challenging, this class is also designed to be fun; through interactive exercises, students are given real-life examples that enhance their knowledge of investigative work while stressing the importance of solving problems with an open mind. *Principles of Criminal and Forensic Investigations* is an invaluable course for students interested in learning more about criminal investigations.

Annual WOU CJ Career Day Planned for March 6



The Western Oregon University Criminal Justice club invites local, state and federal agencies to take part in the annual Criminal Justice Career Day. This is a great opportunity for agencies to share information with students interested in careers in policing, corrections, probation and social services.

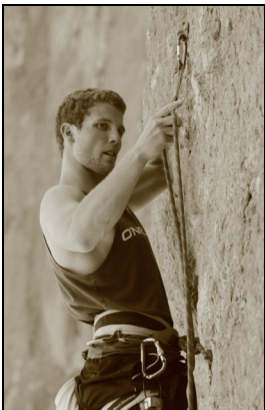
If you would like your agency to be represented at this year's event, please contact Rob Findtner at findtnr@wou.edu/(503) 838-8601 or Jennifer Hansen at hansenj@wou.edu/(503) 838-8652.

The WOU CJ Department is now on Facebook!

Visit us at www.facebook/WOUCJ

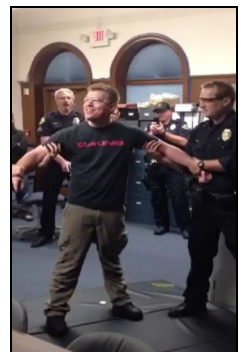
Students in the Spotlight

Ashley Gorham is from Umpqua, Oregon, and expects to graduate in June of 2013. Ashley did her practicum with the Lane County Sheriffs Office. She was able to experience and participate in a variety of different duties performed by the Sheriffs' Office, and was able to become certified in the Law Enforcement Data System, as well as volunteer with the Interagency Narcotics Enforcement Team. Ashley hopes to become a Lane County Sheriff Reserve Deputy and "then focus on which aspect of law enforcement I hope to build my career in." She would also like to obtain a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice and work with the Lane County Sheriffs Office, Oregon State Police, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



Steven South is from Hillsboro, Oregon. Mr. South has been very active at WOU participating in the Criminal Justice Association, Green Dot club and as fitness director of the Criminal Justice Association, helping CJ students train for the ORPAT testing. Steven did his CJ practicum with the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) as a mediator. Towards the end of his experience, Steven was able to mediate without assistance. Steven continues his work with VORP and plans to volunteer with the Marion County Victim Assistance program in March. Mr. South is set to graduate in June 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a minor in Spanish. Steven has considered several options for his future after graduation including attending law school, applying as a full time mediator or applying to some policing agencies/ corrections departments.

Seth Horton is from West Linn, Oregon. Mr. Horton has recently completed his Rotary Youth Leadership Awards certificate. A Rotary group sponsors a student to go to a week-long camp that stresses leadership & community involvement; he also states that he wouldn't have had this opportunity if it wasn't for his practicum mentor, Sergeant Hennelly, of the West Linn Police Department. Seth's advice for those who are about to do their practicum is to "go in there with an open mind" and a "willingness to do whatever you might be asked."



Danny Ruiz is a senior at Western Oregon University with plans to graduate in June 2013. Originally from Oregon City, Danny completed his practicum with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and currently volunteers with the WOU Mentor Project. He is also a member of the National Honor Society for Leadership and Success and has been named to the Dean's and President's Lists. After graduation, Danny would like to begin his career as a sheriff's deputy and is interested in someday working in a detective or drug enforcement unit.



Faculty in the Spotlight

Dr. Scott Tighe



Dr. Scott Tighe is an assistant professor of criminal justice here at WOU with a focus on teaching in the homeland security minor and certificate program. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Miami University (Ohio) with a double major in public administration and public policy analysis.

Dr. Tighe started his working career in the demolition industry doing heavy industrial plant liquidations. He also worked as a full-time firefighter with the Rome, Georgia Fire Department and as a volunteer with the Point Pleasant, Kentucky Fire Department. He has served as Deputy Administrator of Oregon's OSHA program, State Elections Manager and Director of the Standards and Certification Division of the Department of Public Safety and Standards and as Training. More recently, he worked as a senior program manager with the Western Community Policing Institute where he developed and delivered a variety of training programs related to homeland security and community policing.

Dr. Tighe has held faculty positions at Miami University, Northern Kentucky University, and San Jacinto College. While at San Jacinto College, he was an instructor with the Industrial Safety, Health, and Fire Technology Program teaching Environmental and Safety Regulation, Human Factors in Safety, Safety and Health Program Management, Fire Control I, Fire Control II, Introduction to Industrial Safety, Health, and Fire Technology, and Hazardous Materials and Emergency Response.

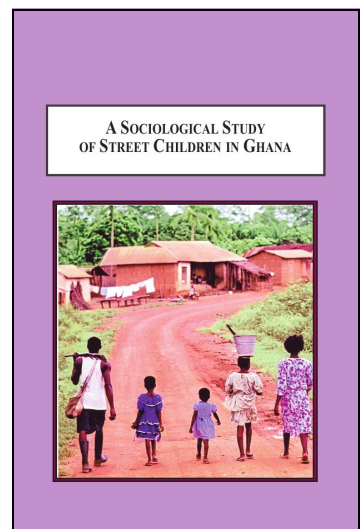
Dr. Tighe has authored numerous technical manuals and taught occupational safety and health courses including the 40 hour hazmat technicians, 24 hour operations level, and eight hour hazmat awareness level courses.

Dr. Vivian Amantana Publishes First Book

In her new book, *A Sociological Study of Street Children in Ghana* (2012, Edwin Mellen Press), Dr. Vivian Amantana analyzes the lives of young adults living in the urban settings of Ghana. Drawing on firsthand information collected from interviews during two separate visits to the country, Dr. Amantana paints a clear picture of what life on the streets is like for Ghanaian youth. She describes their family situations and the great lengths street children must often go to in their struggles to survive. This fascinating book provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of why and how the trend of "streetism" (a more accurate term for the phenomenon than street children, according to the author) continues to pose challenges for public safety and social service officials in Ghana.

Although Dr. Amantana's findings and conclusions—which include recommendations for policymakers—are based on observations made half a world away, this book will appeal to anyone interested in gaining a better understanding of street cultures and juvenile delinquency.

Dr. Amantana earned her PhD from Oregon State University and has been a member of the WOU Criminal Justice faculty since 2004.





Recent Events

WOU CJ Students Complete Tour of DPSST

On October 19th, 2012, twenty-three members of Dr. Robert Swan's Introduction to Criminal Justice and Police and Community courses were treated to a comprehensive three-hour tour of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). The mission of DPSST is to deliver high-quality, standardized public safety training to Oregon-based public safety officers (police, corrections and fire/life safety). The tour was led by Lt. Lee Farmer, a retired Alaskan State Trooper with 30 years of service. Lt. Farmer led a number of lecture-based and interactive activities, including a preview of the ORPAT (Oregon Physical Abilities Test), video-computer based firearms training scenarios, firearm training requirements and a tour of the range facilities.

Lt. Farmer imparted his many years of experience with realistic and sophisticated suggestions as well as training expertise during the tour. Students were left with a clear understanding of what is required to become--and a real-world view of what to expect as--police officers in the state of Oregon. On behalf of those who participated in the tour, the WOU CJ Department would especially like to thank Debra Ballrot (Academy Resource Scheduling, DPSST), Lt. Lee Farmer (Class Coordinator, DPSST and tour guide) as well as Captain Roger Eaton, Brandon Herring, and Lt. Don Sedlacek for contributing significantly towards the education of future law enforcement officers.



OSP Forensic Laboratory Donates Skeletal Material to WOU CJ Department

In a show of support for WOU's new Forensic Anthropology Program, spearheaded by Criminal Justice Professor Dr. Misty Weitzel, the Oregon State Police Forensic Laboratory has announced plans to donate a collection of skeletal for laboratory and classroom use. More information will be included in our next newsletter!

CJ Club Members Represent WOU in 6th Annual Domestic Violence Walk/Run

The 6th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk/ Run was held Saturday, October 13, 2012 at Minto Brown Park, Salem, Oregon. Participants had the option to walk or run the 5k event. The 10K event was strictly runners only. The course goes along a paved trail through open and wooded parklands. Participating in the domestic violence walk/run (or sponsoring a participant) helps contribute to ongoing domestic violence awareness activities and shows support for survivors.

Five WOU students from the CJ Club who participated in this event, including Bria Cunningham, Spencer Campbell, Chris Grey, Ryan Harter and Victoria Gannon.



Recent Events, continued

Dr. Brown attends American Society of Criminology annual meeting

The American Society of Criminology conference was held in Chicago from November 14-17, 2012. WOU's Dr. William Brown organized and participated in a discussion panel designed to focus attention on the plight of military veterans entangled in the criminal justice system. The primary focus of this session was to address many of the difficulties confronting defense attorneys who represent veteran defendants who have experienced war.

WOU Criminal Justice Student Association members start new running club

The WOU CJ Student Association (formerly the CJ Club) announces the formation of the new CJ Running Club. Dr. Robert Swan, the club's faculty sponsor, leads students in rigorous outdoor running activities every Saturday during the academic year. Contact Dr. Swan at swanr@wou.edu to take part in the action.

Dr. Gibbons completes evaluation of Public Safety Checklist; Presents Research

In November Dr. Steve Gibbons completed an evaluation of the Public Safety Checklist, a risk assessment tool developed by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and the Oregon Department of Corrections. His report, title "Evaluation of the Public Safety Checklist for Oregon," is available on the CJC's website: <http://www.oregon.gov/cjc/Pages/index.aspx>

In September, Dr. Gibbons presented the highlights of his recent research and outlined his future research agenda at the first annual Oregon Criminal Justice Research Conference.

Special Recognition

The following agencies hosted WOU CJ practicum students during the summer 2012 term:

Clatsop County Sheriff's Office
Federal Correctional Institution—Sheridan
Lincoln County Probation and Parole
Linn County Juvenile
Marion County Support Enforcement
Marion County Sheriff's Office
Multnomah County Community Justice Programs
Naval Criminal Investigative Services
Oregon Dept of Human Services—Salem
Oregon State Police—Salem Area Command
Polk County Sheriff's Office
Portland Police Bureau
Sandy Police Department
St. Helens Police Department
Yamhill County Sheriff's Office
Washington County Sheriff's Office

Dash Terry Investigative Services
Lane County Sheriff's Office
Linn County Courts
Marion County Probation and Parole
Marion County Victim Assistance
Monmouth Police Department
Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
Oregon Department of Corrections
Oregon State Police GHQ
Polk County Juvenile Department
Polk County VORP
Redmond Police Department
Springfield Police Department
Yamhill County Juvenile Department
U.S. Forest Service—Bend Office
Washington County Probation and Parole

Thank you for
helping to
educate and
mentor WOU CJ
students!



Alumni Updates

Attention Criminal Justice alumni!

We want to hear from you! Drop us a line at cj@wou.edu and let us know what you've been up to!



Reymundo Benavidez (left) recently accepted a position with the Oregon Youth Authority as a group life coordinator. Originally from Salem, Mr. Benavidez graduated from WOU in 2012. Reymundo expresses his gratitude to Western Oregon University for helping with his practicum placement where he had access to various career opportunities that taught him invaluable skills. Rey spends his time mentoring youth and making sure that they are in a safe and secure environment. His position with OYA provides him with opportunities to fulfill his career aspiration to have a positive impact on people's lives. In the future Rey hopes to advance into a unit coordinator position and eventually become a unit manager.

Omar Esqueda (right) graduated from WOU in June 2012. He completed his practicum with the Monmouth Police Department where he later became a reserve officer. Mr. Esqueda recently accepted a full-time position with the Medford Police Department and is currently completing his academy training at DPSST in Salem.



Mac Marshall (left) graduated in June 2012. A native of Eugene, Mr. Marshall completed his practicum with the Oregon State Police where he is currently employed as a full time office specialist. He is in the process of applying for a trooper position.

Originally from Aumsville, **Justin Swint** (right) graduated in June 2012. Mr. Swint is looking to be hired as a police officer with an agency in Oregon, and is in the process of applying for positions with several local agencies. Justin is currently working with the Salem Police Department as a part of the Graffiti Abatement Team. He attributes his preparation and eagerness to enter the work force to the education and experiences he received while attending WOU.



Marie Watkins (left) graduated from WOU in August 2012. Ms. Watkins completed her practicum with the Linn County Juvenile Department. She continues to volunteer with Linn Co. Juvenile while applying for full-time positions.

Kevin Jones (no photo) graduated in June 2012 and currently works for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He completed his practicum with the FBI during summer 2011 and continued to volunteer with the Bureau during his senior year at Western. Kevin attributes much of his success "to the professors of Western Oregon University who provided [him] with an in-depth understanding of the criminal justice system and an education [he] continue[s] to build on every day."

Think You Know WOU CJ Majors?



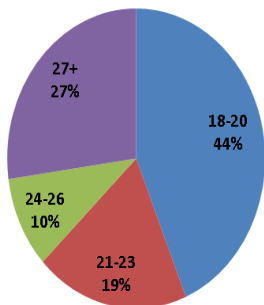
With new faculty and new programs of study in Forensic Anthropology, Crime Analysis and Homeland Security, the WOU CJ Department has grown dramatically in recent years.

Thanks in part to a wider array of courses, many of which are available online, our students' career aspirations are more diverse than ever.

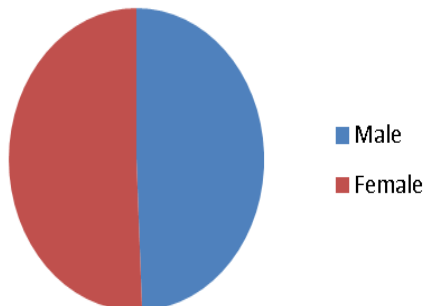
CJ Majors at WOU

	Undergraduate	Graduate
2010-2011	356	22
2011-2012	452	36
2012-2013	474	43

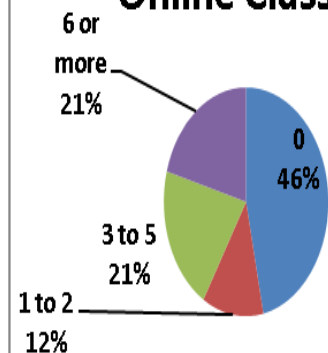
Age



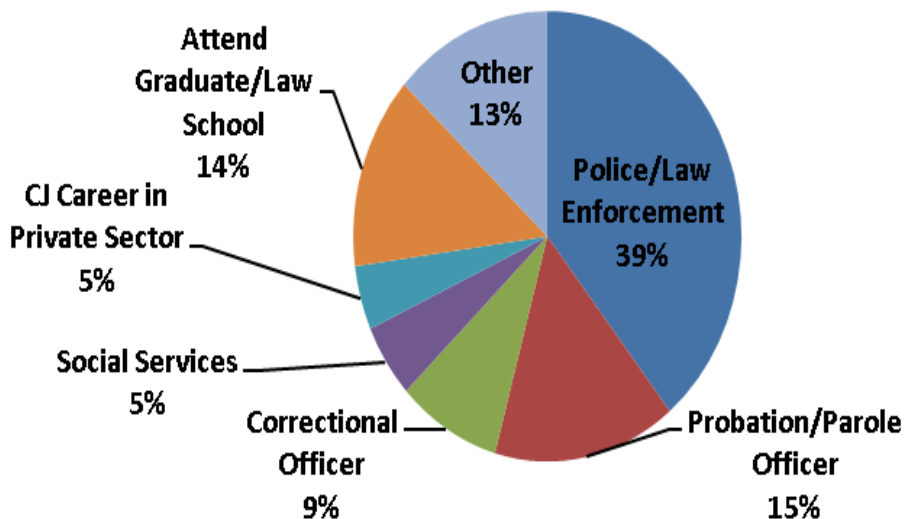
Gender



Online Classes



Plans after Graduation



This survey was conducted in the fall of 2011 (n=151)

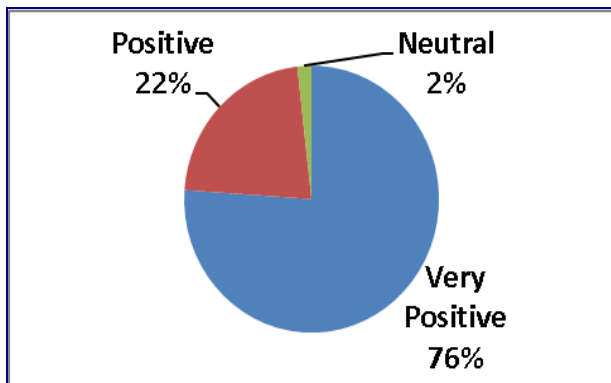
An Evaluation of the WOU CJ Practicum Program



Here are a few of the highlights from a recent study conducted by WOU professors David Murphy and Stephen Gibbons and former WOU CJ student, Wyatt Merritt.

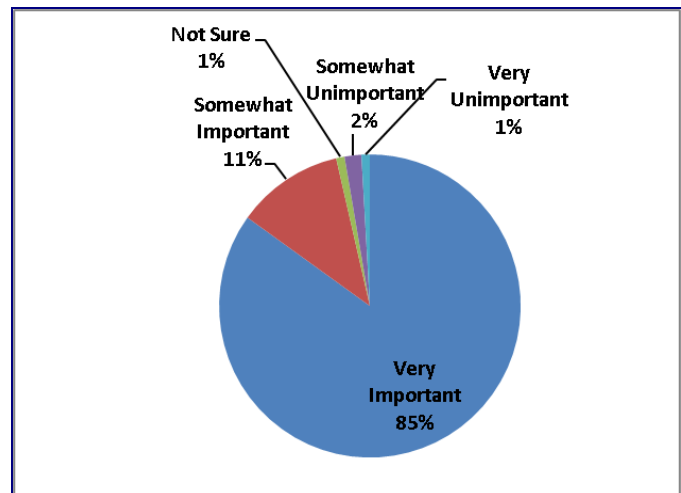
The information is based on survey responses provided by WOU CJ majors following the completion of their practicum requirements. Dr. Murphy presented these findings, among others, at the annual meeting of the Academic of Criminal Justice Sciences held in New York City in March 2012.

Overall rating of experience



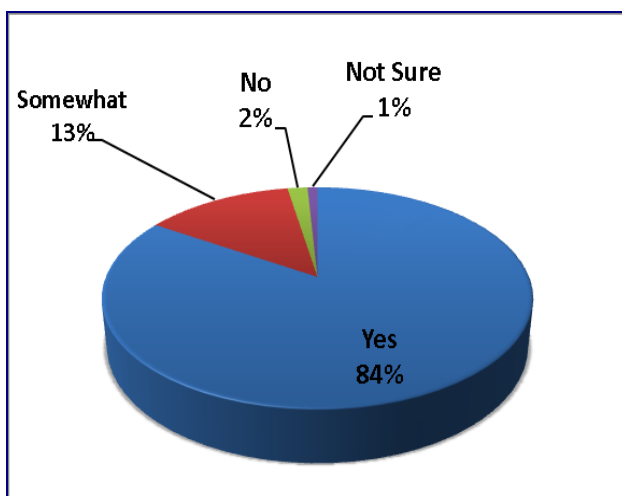
98% of students rated their experience as either positive or very positive. None rated the experience negatively.

Importance of experience



96% of students believe that a practicum is either a "very" or "somewhat" important component of an education in Criminal Justice.

Enhancing the educational experience



97% of students reported that their practicum experience enhanced their educational experience.

100% of students reported that the agency personnel they worked with during their practicum were either "very" or "generally" professional.

97% of students believe that their practicum experience helped to prepare them for a criminal justice-related career.

87% of the students said they would complete their practicum with the same agency if they had to do it over again.

71.3% of students reported accomplishing ALL of their original practicum goals. An additional 25.2% reported accomplishing more than half of their goals.

Resources for Current Students: Local Volunteer Opportunities

Benton County:

Benton County Sheriff's Office:

- Amateur Radio Emergency Services
- Corvallis Mountain Rescue
- Mary's Peak Search & Rescue
- Posse
- Trackers

Albany Police Department:

- Explorer Cadet Program

Corvallis Police Department:

- Neighborhood Watch
- Business Watch
- Cops & Robbers 101

Marion County:

Marion County Sheriff's Office:

- Cadet Program

Salem Police Department

- Cadet Program
- Radar Reader Board Team
- Disabled Parking Patrol
- Administrative Assistant
- Pawn Shop Data Entry
- Conduct Security Surveys
- Squad Car Maintenance Team
- Citizen Patrol
- Graffiti Removal

Stayton Police Department:

- Cadet Program

Polk County:

Polk County Sheriff's Office:

- Victims Assistance Advocates
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services
- Search & Rescue
- Seniors & Law Enforcement Together

Dallas Police Department:

- Clerical Work
- Decoys in Compliance Checks
- Detail & Maintain department vehicles
- Firearms range maintenance
- Role-play in scenario-based training

Independence Police Department:

- Cadet Program

Yamhill County:

Yamhill County Sheriff's Office:

- Administrative
- Cadets
- Search & Rescue (SAR)
- Volunteer Response Unit (VRU)
- Jail
- Internship

McMinnville Police Department:

- Office Work
- Code Enforcement
- Crime Prevention
- Traffic Safety
- Child Safety Events
- Bi-lingual Volunteer Program

A Look Ahead

In the next issue:

Introduction of new minor in Forensic Anthropology

Highlights from CJ Career Day 2013

More alumni updates (we want to hear from you)!



The WOU Criminal Justice Department was founded in 1968. The Department's mission is to provide high quality liberal arts courses and programs in the discipline of criminal justice. The department contributes to the campus and larger academic communities and the region's state, local and federal agencies through service and research. Criminal Justice majors are prepared for beginning professional work in local, state or federal criminal justice agencies at the juvenile or adult level.

Newsletter Contact Information

Please direct alumni updates and general inquiries to cj@wou.edu

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