Thanks to the addition of several new instructors in recent years, WOU CJ students have more course options to choose from than ever before. This is especially true for students interested in concentrating their studies in the area of crime analysis. These students now have course options that include CJ 342, Strategic Crime Analysis with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the third class in a three-part sequence of GIS courses for Criminal Justice students.

This class, taught by Instructor Sarah Cain, focuses on specific applications for GIS in data-led and predictive policing. CJ 342 students use crime mapping software (ArcGIS) to analyze and visualize core theories in criminology for purposes of applying statistical approaches to crime analysis. For example, students use techniques such as cluster analysis, hot spot analysis, kernel density estimation, distance analysis and spatial distribution to visualize crime trends, patterns and relationships. According to Instructor Cain, the goal is to prepare students to use crime mapping and geospatial statistics to investigate the underlying environmental and social causes of crime for the dual purposes of prediction and prevention.

More about Sarah Cain:
Before coming to Western, Instructor Cain spent 12 years working as a research assistant and lab technician in the applied field of agricultural research. In 2009, she graduated from Western Oregon University with a B.S. in biology and a minor in anthropology. Two years later, she returned to Western to pursue interests in criminology, law, ethics and social issues through the completion of a master’s degree in criminal justice. She chose crime analysis as her area of concentration as it represents a natural intersection between various areas of interest in the natural sciences and social sciences.

Instructor Cain’s current focus is on teaching GIS courses to undergraduate criminal justice majors as part of Western’s crime analysis certificate. In fall 2014, she will begin pursuit of a Ph.D. in Science and Math Education at Oregon State University. Her goal is to become an active participant in the research and development of improved pedagogical models for teaching GIS and other analytical subjects, and to promote the use of geospatial technology as a tool for seeing the world in spatial terms.
On Thursday, May 29, a record number of fourteen Forensic Anthropology students presented their undergraduate research projects at WOU’s annual Academic Excellence Showcase. These students were enrolled in CJ 442, Readings in Forensic Anthropology, taught by Dr. Misty Weitzel. Abstracts to each of these projects can be found by visiting [http://digitalcommons.wou.edu/aes_event/2014/cj/](http://digitalcommons.wou.edu/aes_event/2014/cj/). Many thanks to Dr. Weitzel for her tireless work as session chair and faculty sponsor for each of these projects!

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<tr>
<th>“Ancestry Estimation of Five Human Crania”</th>
<th>“Curation of Human Skeletal Remains”</th>
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<td>Fabiola Rivera and Crystalynn Engichy</td>
<td>Sarah Addington and Zoë Zellers</td>
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<th>“Ancestry Estimations Using Fordisc 3.1 Versus Morphological Traits”</th>
<th>“Morphological Analysis of a Human skeleton as a method for Identifying Sex”</th>
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<td>by Hustin Franzwa (not pictured) and Nicole Cobb</td>
<td>Nick Murphy and Sierra Schlundt</td>
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<th>“Human Postcranial Stature Estimation Using Fordisc 3.1 and Isolated Regression Formulas”</th>
<th>“The Preparation and Identification of Nonhuman Skeletal Remains”</th>
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<td>Carin Davis, Devin Lowrey and Meloni Morrison</td>
<td>Jared Aguiar, Keshia Field and Arianna Martensen</td>
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Recent Events, continued:

Dr. Tighe Publishes Research Findings
Dr. Scott Tighe recently published the findings from his study of discrimination experienced by Native American Indians caught up in the criminal justice system. The study, based in part on data collected from inmates incarcerated at the Marion County jail, examines the factors associated with the overrepresentation of Native American Indians in correctional settings. The article, titled “‘Of Course We Are Crazy’: Discrimination of Native American Indians Through Criminal Justice,” appears in the most recent issue of the Justice Policy Journal. A free, full-text copy can be found at this address:

Dr. O’Connor Coordinates Prison Exchange Experience for CJ Students
Dr. Tom O’Connor and Rabbi Avrohom, one of the prison chaplains at the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) in Salem, have set up a prison exchange experience for WOU CJ students. Students can sign up to go into the maximum security prison on Mondays from 1pm to 3:30 pm and take part in a conversation/class on Restorative Justice that is run by 15 men who are serving time in the prison. The men are working to help Oregon develop alternative approaches to criminal justice that are more beneficial to the people harmed by crime, to the community, and to the people who commit crime. The men on the inside gain a great deal by having community members to engage with, and the outside men and women gain a great deal by having a first-hand experience of working and studying in a prison context. This is a simple one afternoon commitment, with no follow-up expectations, that benefits both parties. These weekly discussions are ongoing, so if you are interested in helping others and having a real-life prison experience please contact Dr. O’Connor (oconnort@mail.wou.edu) for more details.

Dr. Weitzel’s CJ 442 Students Tour Portland Metropolitan Forensic Lab
On Wednesday, April 9, Dr. Misty Weitzel’s ANTH/CJ 442 (Readings in Forensic Anthropology) students completed a tour of the Oregon State Police Portland Metropolitan Forensic Crime Lab. The group of 14 students learned about crime scene processing and the analysis of controlled substances, DNA, firearms and toolmarks, and latent fingerprints. Thanks to everyone at the lab for making this event possible!

Dr. Murphy presents research at Western Society of Criminology Conference
In February, 2014, Dr. David Murphy presented the findings from two research projects at the annual meetings of the Western Society of Criminology, held in Honolulu, HI. One study, based on findings from a survey of death row inmates in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, explored the attitudes and personal wishes of death row inmates on the topic of organ donation. The other study, based on surveys completed by WOU practicum students, found that the vast majority of students report significant benefits and experience few, if any, significant problems during the course of their practicum experiences. Study abstracts can be accessed by visiting http://www.westerncriminology.org/conference.htm
Practicum Scholarship Winners Announced!

Gerrad McElroy (left) and Dolan Kasnick (right) are the recipients of the 2014 CJ Practicum Scholarship! Gerrad will be completing his practicum with the Cavazos Center and Dolan will be completing his with the Independence Police Department. Each receives an award of $500 to apply toward his practicum expenses. Congratulations to Gerrad and Dolan and best wishes on a successful practicum experience!

WOU CJ Practicum Students Benefit From Your Support

After receiving more applications than ever, we were able to award TWO $500 CJ Practicum Scholarships this year! Although the scholarship fund has grown over the past three years, the number of deserving students continues to exceed the available resources.

The CJ Practicum Scholarship Fund, which is designed to help offset the recipients’ travel and other practicum-related expenses, is supported by donations from WOU CJ faculty, alumni, partners and friends—and we need your support!

Regardless of the amount—whether it be $5, $25 or $100—every single donation makes a big difference for our students. All donations go directly toward scholarships and are fully tax-deductible. If you’d like to make a contribution, we would sincerely appreciate hearing from you.

For more information or to make a donation, please email David Murphy at murphyd@wou.edu or call him at 503 838-8410. Thank you!

For additional information about the WOU CJ Practicum Scholarship, please visit http://www.wou.edu/provost/extprogram/cj_online/scholarship.php
I graduated from Western Oregon University in 1998 with a B.S. in Law Enforcement. Like many students, I pondered about career options before commencement and several months thereafter. I frantically applied to various agencies in an attempt to secure employment. I was prior enlisted in the U.S. Army before I attended Western Oregon University and knew what the military offered. So, after I graduated, I realized that I qualified for Officer Candidate School, or OCS. Probably the best decision I could have made after I graduated was to see an Army Recruiter. Recruiters are available to help students and to provide enlistment options. Since I already served a regular enlistment, I wanted to join the ranks of the Officer Corp and lead Soldiers in my profession. Even though I was not guaranteed what specialty I would be assigned, my degree was a determining factor for my selection in the Military Police Corp. Today, I’m a Major serving in a joint position at Nellis AFB, Nevada. I recently moved here after serving three years as the Executive and Operations Officer for a MP Brigade serving the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

As an Army Officer, I was immediately thrown into leadership positions. As a result, I learned very quickly how to lead soldiers. Additionally, I received invaluable training when I went to the Military Police Officer Basic Course, located at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. I not only learned battle focused training, which is paramount for any military leader, but I was exposed to a variety of positions offered to Military Police Officers. I became a “specialist” in my field when I began working in various assignments. I encourage you to review my LinkedIn professional profile to obtain an understanding of the variety of positions I held. My experience ranges from leading Soldiers in the performance of their duties, which includes police and correctional settings, training, advising, to overseeing and directly managing operations. I also had the opportunity to work in recruiting and test development. Undoubtedly, my military experience has allowed me to excel in my field. I have become a much more rounded professional readily available to adapt to any assignment, successfully achieving the requirements and demands placed on today’s military leader. It’s these demands and experiences that make professionals such as myself more marketable in today’s workforce.

The military, not just the Army, offers unique incentives such as tuition assistance for furthering education and in some instances, college loan repayment programs. The funding for my graduate degree was primarily paid using tuition assistance. I’m convinced, due to excessive expenses, that I probably wouldn’t have pursued my graduate degree if it wasn’t for the Army’s tuition assistance program. Additionally, and what some recruiters won’t tell you since it’s not an enlistment incentive, is that officers qualify and have the opportunity to attend Academic Civil Schooling. The Army will not only pay for your entire tuition toward a particular graduate program, but will continue paying your regular duty pay in the grade that you hold. In essence, you are being paid to attend traditional classes. Although I never took advantage of this particular program, it is available and a great opportunity. Remember, the Army has already invested a lot of time with you and they want to keep their professionals in Arms. Although other organizations out there may have continuing education incentives, I can’t think of too many off hand that are willing to fund graduate level education for their professionals.

After I graduated, like today, college graduates can enlist directly into the Army’s Officer Candidate School. Upon successful completion, candidates are commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. Other military services have similar programs, but I’m more familiar with the Army’s OCS program. I encourage you to explore not only what the Army has to offer, but what the other services offer as well. I have helped several applicants as an Army Recruiter Commander in developing their OCS packet and been impressed with their level of commitment during assessment interviews. Since I enlisted to attend OCS fourteen years ago, I never thought then that I would chose the Army as a career until I realized all the opportunities that the military has to offer. I am no longer in recruiting command nor am I getting any special recognition for writing this submission. As a former Western Oregon University graduate, I care about students who have already made the decision of making the criminal justice field a viable career path. I encourage you to consider every possibility that may be available to you. I’m proud to be a part of the criminal justice profession. It is an exciting and increasingly growing career field. Furthermore, I’m glad I chose the Army to help me succeed in my endeavors. I’m honored to have served my country over the last eighteen years and love to share my experiences with others. Whatever organization you choose, however, I encourage you to stick with it and pursue your passion. Best wishes and good luck.

If you have additional questions and/or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me at my LinkedIn account (www.linkedin.com/pub/eric-deforest/95/835/827) or email me at eric.deforest@mail.com.
Since graduating summa cum laude with a focus in Criminal Justice in 1991, Polk County Commissioner Jennifer Wheeler has spent the vast majority of her career serving the residents of Polk County. Much of her work requires an extensive understanding of the criminal justice system. In addition to being the Vice Chair of the Public Safety Steering Committee for the Association of Oregon Counties, Commissioner Wheeler is a member of the Polk County Court Security Committee, Polk County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council and the Polk County Local Law Enforcement Executive Committee. She also serves on the Boards of Directors for Sable House and the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (as Vice President). Attending Western is a tradition in Commissioner Wheeler’s family; her fellow alumni include her parents, two siblings, a niece and a nephew!

Danielle Stone (class of 2014) recently accepted the position of Crime Analyst with the Frederick (Maryland) Police Department. Originally from Tigard, Danielle graduated from Portland Community College before transferring to WOU in the fall of 2011. In addition to majoring in CJ and completing her practicum with the Salem Police Department’s Crime Analysis Unit, she earned a minor in Computer Science and a Certificate in Crime Analysis.

After spending the first two years of his career as a Security Officer II at Spirit Mountain Casino, Ben Hatch (class of 2012, pictured at left with his wife, Marianne and their daughter, Madison) recently accepted a position as Audio/Visual Specialist with the Oregon Judicial Department’s Telecommunications Division. His professional responsibilities include providing technical support for the circuit courts, Court of Appeals and the Oregon Supreme Court.

Contact Information

The WOU CJ Department Newsletter is a collaborative endeavor on the part of numerous faculty members, alumni and current students.

We want to hear from you! Whether you’d like to submit an alumni update, donate to the WOU CJ Practicum Scholarship Fund, volunteer your agency to participate in our practicum program, ask a question or simply say “hello,” please email us at cj@wou.edu or visit us on the web at: http://www.wou.edu//provost/extprogram/cj_online/index.php