

Making Waves:

Highlighting the Graduate Programs in the
Department of Criminal Justice

NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2022 | Issue 3



A New Normal? Changing Work Routines in the Post-Pandemic Era



The Covid-19 pandemic made institutions of higher education and organizations alike pivot to adopt new technology to maintain operational continuity at speeds that (at times) were nothing short of heroic. This switch displayed a level of organizational and personal agility that burst traditional stereotypes regarding an organizations' ability to change. Some new arrangements, especially flexible work arrangements, have challenged

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traditional relationships of employees and employers, teachers and students, work time vs. working hours, and the boundaries between work and life. For many, the “convenience” of working or learning remotely has confounded the boundary between home and office. As a result, people are experiencing pronounced amounts of prolonged stress, anxiety, and uncertainty as we continue to move forward.

Ironically, many of us experienced these highs and lows *together* despite being apart. On a positive note, for some, glass walls that previously separated our work and personal lives were broken. The constant video conferencing calls have hopefully made many more empathetic to the personal demands that our colleagues and students deal with on a daily basis, which were often overlooked because they were simply out of sight. More importantly, ongoing conversations are being held about productivity, flexibility, support, mental health, and what a healthy work-life balance could look like down the line.

The primary benefit from the MAJJ hybrid program is that it provides the flexible participation that students are looking for because it employs a carefully planned blend of both traditional classroom instruction and online learning activities. Students are able to make meaningful connections with their instructors, as well as other students, and yet they are no longer required to travel to campus on a regular basis in order to attend courses because the majority of the coursework can be completed on the Internet. Hybrid learning is

helping to change the way we think of education and is removing many of the barriers that have traditionally existed. Not only can it provide students with a greater degree of flexibility and freedom to choose how to learn, but it can also expand access to education too.

Dr. Melissa L. Ricketts

MAJJ Program Coordinator



Greetings from the MCRJ Program Coordinator!

Another successful academic year is coming to an end. I feel blessed to have worked with so many talented graduate students this past year. Most of our students are balancing tremendous job responsibilities and personal/family obligations, while attending graduate school. To all of our graduate students, I want to extend my deepest appreciation. You have made this journey worthwhile!

If you have any stories you would like to share with us for our 2022 Fall/Winter newsletter, please contact me at anmadero@ship.edu

Dr. Arelys Madero

Academic Calendars

MCRJ Program

Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
Term A: May 16– June 24	Term A: August 22 – October 14	Term A: January 17 – March 10
Term B: June 27 – August 5	Term B: October 17 – December 9	Term B: March 13 – May 5



MAJJ Program

Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023
Term A: May 16 – June 24	Classes Start: August 22	Classes Start: January 17
Term B: June 27 – August 5	Semester Ends: December 9	Semester Ends: May 5



Fall 2022 MAJJ Weekend Classes:
August 27-28
October 1-2
November 12-13

Graduate Commencement:
December 10, 2022
May 5, 2023

Alumni Spotlight: Greg Day

- Ship graduate, Class of 1994 and 2021
- Awarded the Outstanding MCRJ Student Award by the CRJ faculty in 2021
- Sworn Police Officer in Pennsylvania, 1996 to present
- Promoted to the rank of Detective in 2005 and Sergeant in 2011. Supervised both Criminal Investigation Section and a patrol platoon
- Crisis negotiator and assistant team commander of the Dauphin County Crisis Response Team, 2001 to 2022
- Guest lecturer at Shippensburg University, the Pennsylvania State Police Academy, and FBI Academy
- Greg Day and his son, Nathan Day, are both graduates of Shippensburg University's Criminal Justice Department

Greg Day holds an M.S. in Criminal Justice from Shippensburg University



“Since its inception, Ship’s CRJ department is one of the best in the state, if not the country. The undergrad program prepared me for my criminal justice career. The MCRJ program is relevant, flexible, and affordable and broadened my analytical, practical, and leadership skills. Education in law enforcement is paramount to one’s success and legitimacy. Ship’s programs provide you with those skills and a network of criminal justice colleges across the country. We have access to the most professional and qualified teachers in the profession. Ship prepares you for the challenges and success of becoming part of the criminal justice family, and you will always be part of the Ship family.”

MAJJ Graduate Student Spotlight: Lauren Painter

Q & A

1) Where are you from?

Harrisburg, PA.

2) What is your current position in the field? How long have you worked in that position?

I am currently a Juvenile Probation Officer in Cumberland County, PA. I have been in this position for 5 years in June.

3) Why did you decide to enroll in the MAJJ program?

I decided to enroll in the MAJJ program to further my professional knowledge in the world of Juvenile Justice, and become better equipped to work with juvenile offenders and their families. Many of my co-workers went through the program and discussed how beneficial the program was in their day to day workings with youth. Furthermore, it was a personal accomplishment of mine to obtain a master's degree. It was an added bonus that it was specific to juvenile justice.

4) What are 3 things that you learned in the program that you utilize in the workplace?

- The MAJJ program gave me a foundational perspective on how the juvenile justice system was derived, and how far it has come since it was created. It was important to learn the nuts and bolts of the system's creation to understand how far we have come. It further gave a wealth of knowledge on the implementation of, and success of current practices.
- The program strengthened my knowledge on a personal and professional level to more effectively communicate with clients, attorneys, co-workers and providers in the field. The program provided different perspectives from juvenile justice professionals across the state within my cohort. The program not only provided professional connections, but also lifelong friendships!
- Lastly, the program taught me to be more self disciplined both in the academic setting which then carried over to the professional setting. It has taught me to meet challenges that were presented, and effectively work through meaningful resolutions.



Shippensburg University Career Center Blog:

Five ways professionals can use social media positively

By Victoria Kerr, Director of Career, Mentoring, and Professional Development Center

Greetings! Happy May from the SU Career Center!

As we close out the 2021-2022 academic year, we look back on a successful but still unusual year – one that brought a return of students to campus but also one in which the uncertainties of Covid led to a continued virtual recruiting process. Online networking was key and so was social media!

Social media is a powerful tool that connects you with professionals, alumni, recruiters, and organizations. Here are five ways professionals can use social media positively:

1. Do create positive content. Make a good impression online.
2. Don't post questionable photos of yourself anywhere on the Internet.
3. Do Google yourself. See what you find out about yourself.
4. Don't post negative status updates or tweets.
5. Don't make your online presence all about you. Make connections. Build community.

The key element to using social media is to focus on connecting with people, not just finding a position. Start by creating and maintaining up-to-date comprehensive profiles on one of the four most-commonly used social media sites, such as **LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest**. Keep in mind the benefits of social media include:

- Demonstrating to employers that you are well versed in current Internet and social media practices.
- Creating and showcasing your “personal brand” or your online profile.
- Connecting you to opportunities that aren't posted on job boards.
- Building your networking contacts. We know that 92% of employers use LinkedIn, 70% use Facebook, and 63.7% use Twitter (NACE Recruiting Benchmarks Survey Report, 2013).
- Researching industries, companies, and positions of interest.
- Increasing your visibility to hiring managers, recruiters, and professionals in your areas of interest.

Finally, do not forget that Shippensburg University is here to help you network with the greater SHIP community. **SHIP Connects** is the place to interact with SU alumni, faculty, and staff for professional networking and development. Once you create your profile in **SHIP Connects**, you can choose to be contacted by current SHIP students who are seeking advice and information to help them in their own career journey. To get started, go to <http://shipconnects.ship.edu/>

Don't be a stranger and feel free to reach out to the SU Career Center at career@ship.edu and/or (717) 477-1484.

Further Reading: [5 Do's and Don'ts for College Students Using Social Media | Higher Education | US News](#)

MAJJ Practicum Projects

Congratulations to our MAJJ students for the successful completion of their **Practicum Projects (AJJ 551 and AJJ 552)** in Fall of 2021!

The quality of this cohort's projects was impressive. We trust that the knowledge they gained in this endeavor will continue to bring evidence-based practices (EBPs) to the field of juvenile justice across the Commonwealth. As their time at Ship is soon coming to an end, join us in congratulating:

- Crampton, Danielle "The Impact of Morals and Values on Juvenile Delinquency"
- Hibbs, Zachary "Juvenciles' Length of Stay in Placement and the Effects on the Likelihood to Reoffend"
- Konas, Alyssa "Predicting Criminal Behavior through ADHD Diagnosis"
- Mowers, Michaella "Does Targeting Top Criminogenic Needs in Case Places Reduce Recidivism?"
- Painter, Lauren "African American Youth in Juvenile Justice"
- Rodriguez, Keysla "A Comparative Analysis of SVC Offenders, Non-SVC Offenders, and Recidivism"
- Stanzione, Matthew "Complex Trauma and its Effects on Recidivism in the Juvenile Justice System"

Award Announcements

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the:

Outstanding Masters in Criminal Justice Student Award



Greg Day (2021 Winner)



Garrett Myers (2022 Winner)

For their academic excellence and commitment to the criminal justice profession, congratulations!

Left: Cam Strohe, 2021 MCRJ Graduate and Student Athlete. Right: Dr. Sara Grove, Department Chairperson and Mace-Bearer at the Graduate Commencement Ceremony



MAJJ Graduates with Faculty and Staff at the JCJC Banquet, Spring 2022



From left: Garrett Myers, Kate Matrisciano, and Lauren Fuerst at the Graduate Commencement Ceremony, Spring 2022



From left: Greg Day, Dr. Madero, and John Packard at the Graduate Commencement Ceremony, Spring 2021

Criminal Justice Faculty/Staff Kudos

Dr. Laura Beckman

- ★ Dr. Beckman was elected as Representative to the University-Wide Curriculum Committee (UCC). Dr. Beckman is serving as Secretary of this important committee which oversees curricular developments and changes in programs across the entire university.

Dr. Arelys Madero

- ★ Dr. Madero was elected to the executive board of the **Criminology Consortium**, a non-profit corporation dedicated to the dissemination of research and best practices in criminology and criminal justice. Dr. Madero co-chaired [CrimCon's 2021 conference](#).

Dr. Melissa L. Ricketts

- ★ Dr. Ricketts attended a 3 hour training on February 9, 2022 entitled, “**Becoming Trauma-Informed: Moving from Vicarious Trauma to Your Own Personal Resilience Plan.**”

Dr. Carlos Rojas

- ★ Dr. Rojas published a book chapter titled “**Inequalities in the Criminal Justice System at the Intersection of Race/Ethnicity and Crime.**” The chapter was co-authored with Dr. Arelys Madero and featured in the book “[On Inequality and Freedom](#)” by L. M. Eppard & H. Giroux (Eds.)





Meet Our Faculty

Department of Criminal Justice



Dr. Laura Beckman

Areas of expertise:

Race, ethnicity, and immigration in the juvenile justice; criminal justice systems.



Dr. Arelys Madero

Areas of expertise:

Victimology; crime prevention; communities and crime; race/ethnicity.



Dr. Matthew Fetzer

Areas of expertise:

Measurement of crime and delinquency; hate crime; violence and juvenile justice.



Dr. Melissa Ricketts

Areas of expertise:

Intimate partner violence; substance abuse; school violence; correctional issues.



Stephanie Jirard

Areas of expertise:

Constitutional law; capital punishment; race and gender in popular culture.



Dr. Carlos Rojas

Areas of expertise:

Race, ethnicity, immigration, and crime; environmental criminology.



Dr. Cynthia Koller

Areas of expertise:

Juvenile justice; white collar crime; judicial corruption; sentencing disparities.

Interested in one of our Masters Degrees?

MCRJ Program

Be the change you wish to see in the world with a Master of Science in Criminal Justice. This program is a 100% online program and meets the needs of both traditional graduate students and working professionals. Full-time students can earn their degree in one (1) year, while part-time students can do so in two (2) years.

What will I learn?

The program's major strengths are its applied perspective and strong emphasis on theory, policy, research and analysis. Courses provide you with the knowledge and skills to undertake independent, critical investigation of issues related to crime control and justice policy.

What are the requirements?

- A bachelor's degree in criminal justice, administration of justice or related social science field from a regionally accredited college or university.
- Minimum grade point average of a 2.75 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with less than a 2.75 undergraduate GPA will be required to take the Graduate Requisite Examination (GRE) and provide a sufficient score before they are eligible for admission. They may also take the Millers Analogies Test (MAT) and provide a sufficient score.
- A statement of interest (500 words or less) indicating your reasons for pursuing this program, your professional goals and how this degree will help fulfill said goals.
- A resume is optional.

Ready to Apply?

Go to <https://www.ship.edu/programs/criminal-justice-ms/>

Questions?

Please contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Arelys Madero, via email at anmadero@ship.edu or call (717) 477-1773.

MAJJ Program

The Master of Science in Administration of Juvenile Justice program represents a unique collaboration between the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, its Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research and the Criminal Justice Department of Shippensburg University. This one-of-a-kind program offers classes through a hybrid format, combining face-to-face sessions and online course content. Classes meet three weekends each semester during the fall and spring semesters. During the summer terms, all coursework is completed online.

What will I learn?

The program is competency-based. The faculty who teach in the program are committed to providing a high quality education that will prepare you to provide evidence-based services that are ethical, impartial and effective in a rapidly changing and increasingly diverse society.

What are the requirements?

The program is available to full-time county juvenile probation officers in Pennsylvania who graduated from an accredited college or university with at least 18 credits in the behavioral or social sciences, and who have been, or will be, employed in the juvenile justice system for at least two years prior to admission. As space allows, county juvenile detention staff (and other juvenile justice professionals, on a self-pay basis) may be admitted to the program upon the recommendation of the Juvenile Court Administrative Judge.

Students must agree to attend the program continuously for two calendar years and to maintain their current employment status for the duration of the program and for at least two years after graduation. Students who fail to meet these conditions will be required to reimburse the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for all, or a portion of, tuition costs paid on their behalf.

Ready to Apply?

Go to <https://www.ship.edu/programs/administration-juvenile-justice-ms/>

Questions?

Please contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Melissa Ricketts, via email at mlricketts@ship.edu or call (717) 477-1550.