



# SU CJ NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2018

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### From Dr. Elaine Gunnison - **Changing of the Guard**

Greetings! As you know, Dr. Jacqueline Helfgott is stepping away from the Chair of the Criminal Justice Department at the end of the current academic year and will take on the new role as Director of the department's Center for the Study of Crime and Justice. Dr. Helfgott has tirelessly worked in this role for the past 15 years serving students, faculty, staff, the College of Arts and Sciences, and Seattle University. In her time as Chair, she accomplished many accolades for the department including the creation of specialized undergraduate tracts, creating the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, spearheading the adoption of the MACJ Program, assisting in the creation of the Crime Analysis Certificate Program and the joint MACJ/JD program, garnering new internship opportunities for students, obtaining grants to hire student workers on justice projects with local criminal justice agencies, raising the visibility of the department at both the national and international levels, and founding the Center for the Study of Crime and Justice.



During her tenure as Chair, there are so many other things, big and small, that she has done for the department that have had a meaningful impact on student learning. Our students have been well served as there are thousands of alumni working in the criminal justice field whom she has helped to support in many ways. While the Criminal Justice Department is sad to see Dr. Helfgott step down, the department is excited that the torch of the Chair role is passing to Dr. Hickman.

Dr. Hickman joined the Criminal Justice Department at Seattle University in 2007, and he has made countless contributions to the department and to our students. As he transitions into this role in July, he will continue to drive initiatives that further assist our students and raise the visibility of the department. Please take a moment if you see Dr. Helfgott to thank her for her hard work over the years and be sure to give a warm welcome to Dr. Hickman as he steps into his new role. Stay tuned for exciting new initiatives under his leadership!



# Events & Conferences

## Professionalization of Policing

Global Leadership Institute - Boston College

SUCJ Faculty and Students present to Internal Affairs Officers from Mexico on the Seattle Police Micro-Community Policing Plans initiative.

Dr. Helfgott with various Internal Affairs officers from various precincts and jurisdictions around Mexico



## Western Society of Criminology

Annual Meeting in Long Beach, CA - February

SUCJ faculty and students presented on various topics including Potential for Over-Policing, Successful Women in Criminal Justice, and Informed Consent and Individual Liberty. Additionally, Dr. Hickman was honored with the Joseph Lohman Award for Outstanding Contributions to WSC.

From the left, SUCJ students Susan Nembhard, Hannah Thompson-Garner, Emily Holdeman, Elisa Kimar, and Autumn Murtagh



## Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA - February

Faculty and students presented on Badasses: The Rise of Women in Criminal Justice, Copycat Crime, Parole Board Evaluation Methods, Victimized Perpetrators, and Policing through the Lens of Oppression. SU is proud to be behind students and faculty whose research will immediately improve the ways justice is administered and widen the lens for disadvantaged communities.

Clockwise from the top, Dr. Matt Hickman, Dr. Elaine Gunnison, CJ Alum Emily August, current students Andrew Giuffre and Michelle Newton, and Dr. Jacqueline Helfgott



# Spotlight on the Advisory Board



## Featured Board Member: Chief Carmen Best

Chief Best (left with Dr. Helfgott) at our September Advisory Board meeting last year, receiving the award for *Advisory Member of the Year*

Chief Best was promoted to Interim Chief of the Seattle Police Department in January of this year, and we asked her for her thoughts on the Advisory Board, and the impact of higher education on careers in law enforcement.

*"I have always believed in lifelong learning, and that we must take advantage of every opportunity to expand our knowledge and skills.*

*We are in a time of rapid change, and higher education has never been more important. Post-secondary education has given me a chance to broaden my horizons. It has opened more doors for me, and has been a springboard to pursuing my passion in police service. Thanks to advanced education, I believe I am more confident as a leader, communicator and decision-maker.*

*Higher education also impacts personal growth. I feel more enriched, and better prepared to take on new goals and challenges. Ultimately, I believe you derive the most benefit when you seek education for your own development, achievement and satisfaction.*

### **Favorite course:**

*Leadership courses. They are particularly relevant at this point in my career, as leadership and vision are important in my work."*

Carmen Best is among the many exemplary members of the Advisory Board who, through their leadership in Law Enforcement, help to keep our Criminal Justice program current and ahead of the curve when it comes to meeting the needs of communities and agencies all over the country.

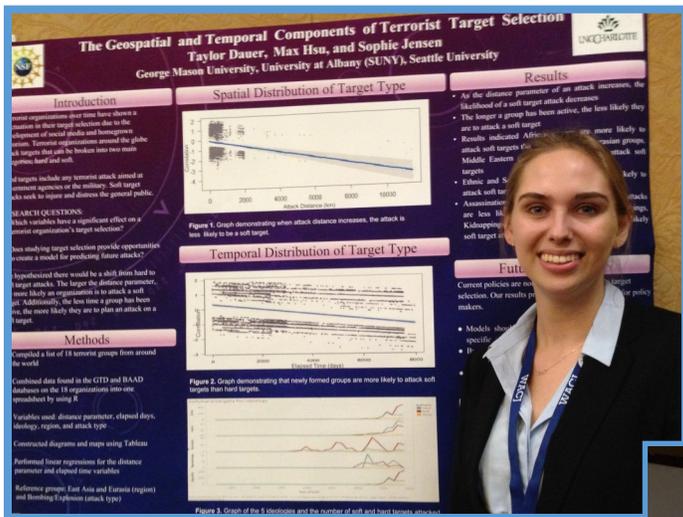
## **New Additions to our Advisory Board**

Last year, SU MACJ alum Class of '16 **Grace Goodwin** (right) began working at Starbucks' Global Security Initiative as a Risk Intelligence Analyst. Since then, she has made connections for our Advisory Board resulting in two new members: **TJ Lunardi - Director, Global Intelligence** and **Garret Petraia - Vice President, Global Security**. This move marks a positive step towards the inclusion of more private security organizations in the Advisory Board to further bring our curriculum and academic focus up to date with agency - and now *industry* - needs.

We are excited to welcome our new members and look forward to developing more connections like these.



# Spotlight on Students



**Sophie Jensen - BACJ Class of '19**  
WACJ Poster Contest

"The Geospatial and Temporal Components of Terrorist Target Selection," developed by Sophie Jensen (left) with Taylor Dauer and Max Hsu, was the WACJ 1st Place entrant in their 2017 Poster Competition. Congrats, Sophie!

## **Autumn Murtagh - MACJ**

**BADASSES: The Rise of Women in Criminal Justice**

Autumn (right) seen with this presentation, developed with Doctors Helfgott and Gunnison and MACJ student Bridgette Navejar.

*"The conference was fun and energetic. It was insightful to see the eclectic variety of presentations from all disciplines in criminal justice"* -Autumn Murtagh on ACJS '18



## **Michelle Newton - MACJ**

**Successful Women in Criminal Justice**

Michelle (left) developed this presentation for WSC '18 with Doctors Helfgott and Gunnison and MACJ students Autumn Murtagh and Bridgette Navejar.



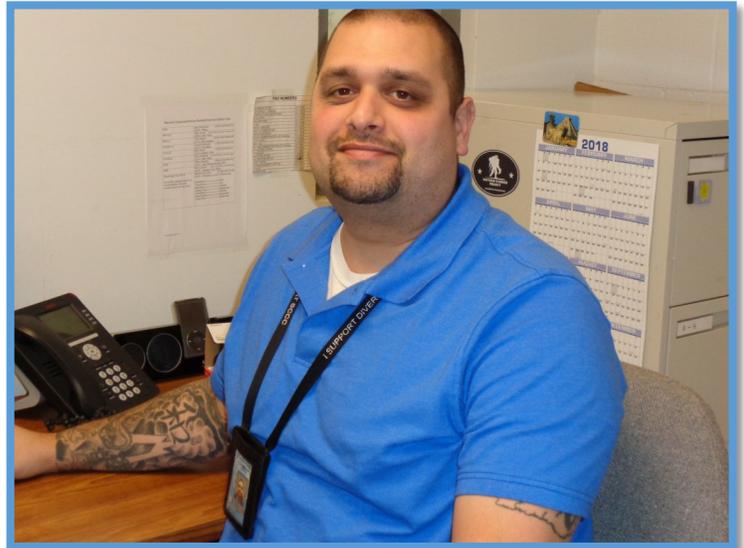
## **Andrea Giurffe - MACJ**

Andrea (right) presented at both WSC and ACJS this year. Her presentations, "Informed Consent: Autonomy Model Modernization Achieved through Respect for Individual Liberty" and "Parole Board Members' Perspectives on Modes of Inmate Evaluation," represent her interests within Criminal Justice and outline her goal to eventually pursue her doctorate and teach Criminal Justice at the university level.

# Spotlight on Alumni

## Featured Alumni: Ryan Denzer - Class of '06

I am currently a classification counselor with the WA State Dept. of Corrections and have held that position for the last 11 years. I've worked here a total 12 years. With my time in the Department of Corrections I have served as a corrections officer as well as an instructor for newly hired staff. I started my career working at the Washington Corrections Center for Women then transitioned to McNeil Island Corrections Center up until it's closing. I am currently working at Stafford Creek Corrections Center in Aberdeen, WA and loving it. My job consists of case management with incarcerated individuals. I assign their custody level based upon multiple dynamics. I look at things such as their mental health conditions, educational background, institutional behaviors, criminal history, sentence structure, security threat group affiliations and employment skills. I also help them with enrolling in vocational education classes, employment and their release planning to the community. One of the most important things I do is to establish their risk level to re-offend. The job is very fulfilling and can be demanding at times because you are required to interact with individuals with many different sociological demographics and communication skills. A lot of what I learned in my CJ classes at SU is directly applied to what I do almost every day in this business. With my time at SU I learned how to work hard and gained the essential disciplines needed to be successful not only in my career, but in life. My wife Sarah and I have one son named Tyson who I hope will eventually be a Redhawk someday too!



## Careers in Law Enforcement



Congratulations to alumni **Jessica Chandler, Brooke Fincken, and Megan Johnson** (left) on graduations from Law Enforcement Academy into the Seattle and Mountlake Terrace Police Departments.

MACJ '17 **Shannon Ro** (right) was hired by Lynwood Police Department and starts the academy soon!



BACJ '17 **Joseph Singer** (left) was hired by the Renton Police Department and is currently in the academy.

Both Ro and Singer were Research Assistants for the SU Micro-Community Policing Plan.

# Upcoming Events



## Continuing Education Event: Social Media and Crime - June 1st

Join us on Friday, June 1st on SU's campus for an all day continuing education event featuring Dr. Mary Ellen O'Toole - George Mason University, author of *The School Shooter: a Threat Assessment Perspective*, FBI Senior Profiler, and editor of *Violence & Gender* - and Dr. Ray Surette - University of Central Florida, author of *Media, Crime, & Criminal Justice* and *Performance Crime & Justice*, and numerous works on copycat crime. They will be joined by SU CJ faculty in presenting an engaging day of seminar, lecture, and breakout sessions focused on understanding performance crimes and the impact of social media on the study of criminal justice.

Cost of admission includes continuing education certificate and breakfast and lunch—proceeds benefit student research through the Seattle University Center for the Study of Crime and Research. Registration at:

[sucj.eventbrite.com](http://sucj.eventbrite.com)

## Team Research Event: Copycat Crime Research-a-thon - June 2nd

Come join us at the Department of Criminal Justice's 2nd biennial Research-a-thon! During this all-day event, undergrad and graduate students, agency leaders, mid-career professionals, SUCJ faculty, and professional researchers will participate in a collective research endeavor using open-source data on homicides in Seattle and King County. You may participate as a team (of no more than 3) or as an individual - all members will need to provide their own laptops for research and coding data.

Participating in this unique experience will afford attendees the chance to learn how to conduct homicide research alongside leading professionals, as well as the chance to compete for prizes and share their passion for improving the way justice is administered.

Interested parties should register by emailing Jonathan Bechtol at [bechtolj@seattleu.edu](mailto:bechtolj@seattleu.edu)

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## Copycat Crime Research-a-thon

Saturday, June 2 - 8am-5pm - Boeing Room, Lemieux Library

- Learn how to conduct homicide research
- Compete for fabulous prizes

**Free Admission**  
CJ Professional speakers, lunch included