Message from the Chair, Dr. Charles E. Reasons

Welcome to the Department of Law and Justice. The Law and Justice major and minor prepares students for professional employment in the criminal justice and legal systems and for entry into graduate or law school. Our major also allows people in legal- and criminal-justice-related professions who return to school an opportunity to get their degree for career advancement. The Law and Justice major and minor is offered on campus in Ellensburg, as well as at four of our university centers: Des Moines, Lynnwood, Pierce, and Yakima.

I am quite pleased to introduce you to the new Master of Science Law and Justice Program at CWU at Kent. The MSLAJ program will admit twenty students who may choose either the basic or advanced professional specialization. Classes will be held during evenings and weekends. If you know someone who is interested in this program, please have them contact me.

Through our curriculum, in both the master’s and undergraduate programs, students gain a background in the history and philosophy of the legal and criminal justice systems while exploring current trends in law and society with an emphasis on race, ethnicity, culture, and gender. We stress critical thinking and analysis of legal issues in our curriculum, as well as an exploration of the ethical implications of criminal justice professions and research.

I am proud of the Law and Justice Department faculty. The Faculty are strong academics who also have practical experience in the law and criminal justice professions, which they share in the classroom and through advising. They are active researchers and are involved in community service at the local and state level. There is opportunity for students to collaborate with faculty in their scholarly endeavors—a cornerstone of a CWU education. Some of the faculty are highlighted in this newsletter. Please join me in thanking them for their outstanding contributions to this department.

CWU at Kent Introduces Law and Justice Master’s Program Beginning Fall 2011

Beginning fall 2011, CWU at Kent campus began offering a master of science in law and justice. The degree focuses on effective research methods, current law and justice policy, advanced critical thinking skills, and the ability to assess, develop, and recommend law and justice policy.

“We are excited to offer this new master’s degree,” said CWU Professor and Program Director Charles Reasons. “Students enrolling in this program are likely to pursue careers in court administration, social services, and law enforcement, to name a few. Many students will already be professionals who wish to advance their education and career.”

The MSLAJ program is the first graduate program on the Kent campus, which was chosen for its proximity to surrounding undergraduate LAJ programs, as well as community-based organizations that support law and justice. The MSLAJ program will admit twenty students who may choose either the basic or advanced professional specialization. The Advanced Professional Specialization, which is completed in 45 credits, is aimed at those already in law and justice careers who want to further their education and do hands-on research in their field. The Basic Career Specialization, which is 60 credits, entails internship opportunities and is aimed at those wishing to start law and justice careers.

For more information, visit www.cwuce.org/mslaj/.

LAJ Students Attend Vancouver, B.C., Criminology Conference

In early February, three Ellensburg law and justice students gave presentations at the annual Western Society of Criminology conference in Vancouver, B.C.

presented “Farrakan v. Gregoire: Racism Without Racists.” Congratulations Anahi, Aurtoru, and Vincent! Professor Charles Reasons chaired a session titled “Race/Ethnicity, Crime, and Justice,” and presented a paper with Brian Burtch (Simon Fraser University) and Rodrigo Murataya (CWU LAJ), titled “Homicide, Race, Class, and Gender in North America.”

In addition, nine students from the CWU at Lynnwood Law and Justice Club attended the conference. Organized by Professor Bob Moore, the students who attended were Jessica Lawson, Price Hozjan, Trevor Shelton, Riley Cornett, Leila Ford, Chelsea Cornwell, Ashleigh Erue, Keri Manchester, and Rogelio Jamero. Carpooling and sharing hotel rooms to keep costs to a minimum, the group arrived on Feb. 3 and enjoyed exploring Vancouver. They then attended both days of the conference, Feb. 4 and 5. All of the students were actively involved in the conference and attended many of the sessions, as well as the Saturday luncheon. Seven of the students are in Moore’s Research Methods class, and had a special interest in the research presented at the conference and gaining an understanding of how it related to their classwork. Moore says that all the students he has talked to greatly enjoyed the experience.

Alumni Spotlight: Michelle Bennett
1986 CWU law and justice graduate Michelle Bennett has worked for the King County Sheriff’s Office for 20 years. She presently serves as the police chief in the city of Maple Valley (a Seattle suburb). In 2007, Bennett started work on a program to focus public attention on the growing problem of electronic bullying in secondary schools (a recent study showed at least one in four children is harassed online or via text message). The Take a Stand Against Cyber-bullying program is designed to empower citizens, parents, students, and staff to stamp out bullying whenever and wherever it occurs. The program suggests several courses of action (including legal and enforcement angles) in order to address the growing problem of bullying by electronic means. Bennett’s 2008 doctoral dissertation at Seattle University also focused on bullying intervention programs in secondary schools.

Bennett has been recognized by the city of Maple Valley as an exemplary officer and police chief. By working closely with the Maple Valley City Council and Public Safety Oversight Committee, she and the council were able to fund an increase in the city’s police services at a time where many other cities are being forced to cut services. With an obvious enthusiasm for the job, respect for others, and sense of humor, she is highly respected both by her peers and by the citizens of Maple Valley.

Alumni Spotlight: Alex Straub
2001 CWU law and justice graduate Alex Straub is currently a military attorney (judge advocate) for the Washington National Guard, where he serves as legal counsel to military commanders and provides legal assistance to members of the National Guard. While he normally works in Tacoma, last year he was selected for admission to an LLM (master of laws) program at the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia, which he is currently attending. His wife of two years, Heather Straub, has joined him in Charlottesville, and they are really enjoying their time on the East Coast, especially with the many historical sites located nearby.

“I reflect fondly back on my time at CWU, especially the Law and Justice Program. The faculty and fellow students
were great and the experience really helped prepare me for law school. At the time, I was working a full-time job at the post office and was limited to taking evening courses available in the south sound region. Fortunately, Central had an evening program on the west side and I was able to complete my bachelor of arts degree. The faculty at CWU were instrumental in assisting me with navigating the law school admission process so I could pursue my goal of becoming an attorney.

“I really enjoy being an attorney and appreciate the many opportunities it provides to serve my country and community. Since graduating from CWU in 2001 and Seattle University School of Law in 2005, I have become a member of the bars of Washington State, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2009, I received the Washington State Bar Association’s Community Service Award for developing a pro bono program serving Washington National Guard members and their families.”

About the Outstanding Alum Award
Both Michelle Bennett and Alex Straub are recipients of the CWU Law and Justice Outstanding Alum Award. Each year the Department recognizes outstanding alumni who have graduated from our programs in the Seattle area and in Ellensburg. If you know a colleague who you think warrants this special recognition, please forward the nomination information to Charles Reasons (Ellensburg) at charles.reasons@cwu.edu or Mary Ellen Reimund (CWU at Des Moines) at reimundm@cwu.edu. Criterion are that the nominee must have graduated more than five years ago and has made significant professional or community contributions. The nomination deadline is May 1, 2011.

Alum-Student Connection Spotlight
CWU-Des Moines student Sergio Mendoza has been interning with CWU alumnus and Seattle Police Department Officer Jim Ritter at the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum. Here, he shares some of his experiences and impressions.

As a first-generation college student in the law and justice major at Central Washington University, I’ve prided myself in my ability to positively represent my peers, university, and family. Life for me has been filled with hardships and challenges. I am eternally grateful that I had the knowledge and power to persevere, yet I recognize that my outcome in life would be different without the guidance I’ve received along the way. My motivation, desire, and will to overcome adversity and hardship is firmly rooted in my goal to one day change the world in a positive way as a police officer. I look up to Officer Jim Ritter and the many other brave and modest people that have assisted me along the way. They are my heroes; because of their countless hours of dedicated work I have grown in knowledge and share their passion as leaders in the community. I believe that the relationships between law enforcement and communities are stronger and smarter with the compassion of law enforcement officers such as Officer Ritter.

Officer Ritter has been a police officer for 31 years, has served with the Seattle Police Department for 28 years, and founded the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum 15 years ago. In the few months that I’ve worked with Officer Ritter as an intern, I’ve been privileged to witness the commitment, hard work, and empathy he has for the community. As the founder of the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum, he has worked hard to allow the community to view their local police history.

I began my internship at the beginning of the 2011 winter quarter and would like to continue for another quarter and after I graduate. This internship has left an everlasting impression on my life. I cannot stress how significant and meaningful this experience has been. It has taught me the tangibles and intangibles of policing. As a student of law I wanted to ensure that along with my education, I would also learn about the social aspects of policing. For me, Officer Ritter’s desire to connect with the community has become the epitome of the community policing model.

Community policing is the notion that the police officer doesn’t have to be disconnected from the community. By building partnerships and interacting with the community the officer and the public can collectively control crime, reduce fear, and combat social disorders.
As a police officer I want to build strong ties between the community and law enforcement agencies.

Officer Ritter showed me how an officer can exercise the community policing model during a beat I walked with him in Pioneer Square on a Saturday morning. During his usual rounds, a Union Station staff member notified Officer Ritter and me of an individual trying to sneak onto the train. As Officer Ritter escorted the young man off the train, the young man said that he was lost and had no way to pay for the expensive ride back to California. I thought Officer Ritter was going to cuff him and write him a citation for trespassing. Instead, Officer Ritter listened to him, talked to him, and was genuinely concerned. After letting him go with a warning, we proceeded to stop at the Bread of Life Mission homeless shelter. A leader there told us they had a program that paid for entire bus fares. Officer Ritter looked at me and said ‘Let’s go look for the young man.’ I was both shocked and happy. I had read and heard of the community policing model, but had never experienced it firsthand. The young man was just as shocked as I was when we located him and explained his options and that he had a way back home. I was humbled and realized that being a police officer is more than just carrying a badge or a gun. It’s about taking time out of your day to do something small, but yet so big in the grand scheme of things.

The Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum recently restored two beautiful vintage police cars that have been displayed at a wide variety of community fairs and police functions. Officer Ritter is in the process of restoring another vintage police car from the Washington State Patrol and asked if I wanted to work on it as part of the internship. I was thrilled and jumped at the opportunity. I was raised in a family where restoring vintage muscle cars is the norm, and I was glad to be part of something so valuable to the Washington State Patrol. There were times when working that I took a step back just to take in everything the car had to tell me. This car has been around longer than I have, and while at first glance you would think it’s just a beautiful machine, there are many things that set this car apart from others. Looking at the car I thought of all the different times it was used and involved in police work. This car took me into the past and helped give me an appreciation of all the work the original officer had done along with the car.

“As an aspiring police officer, one day I would like to mentor students and teach them how important it is to preserve and value their community. I want to take the knowledge and compassion I have been given and return the favor to anyone that has the time and will to change their life. This internship has taught me the importance of preserving our local history and the transitions in modern policing. As a leader in my church and community I’ve always said that there is always something to learn, no matter where you are or what your current circumstances might be. I encourage anyone who has the will and courage to change their life in a positive way to begin by learning the historic value of police culture, history, and the events that led to our present time. If you are a CWU student, a law and justice graduate, or anyone ready to learn, I would encourage you to take a small portion of your day and visit the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum. You will soon realize how far law enforcement has advanced and how important events have changed the course of history.”

Law and Justice: Social Justice in Action
Dr. Charles Reasons recently completed work with a group of Washington law and justice professionals as part of a task force on race and the criminal justice system. The report, Preliminary Report on Race and Washington’s Criminal Justice System, was presented to the Washington State Supreme Court on March 3 by task force co-chairs Judge Steven C. González and Professor Robert S. Chang (Seattle University School of Law).

**Center News**
The CWU at Des Moines Law and Justice Club has been busy these past few months. In November the club toured the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum (www.seametropolicemuseum.org). In December, the club sponsored two children in need, contributing gifts and gift cards so the children would have a merry Christmas. January saw the club sponsoring a law school information panel for students considering law school, and a food drive in February collected over 200 pounds of food for a local food bank!

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**Ellensburg Law and Justice Club**
The Ellensburg Student Law and Justice Club provided a cardboard display of the Scottsboro Case for Bearing Witness to Segregation, a three-day exhibit in the SURC for Black History Month.

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**LAJ Program Third Largest at CWU**
According to Institutional Research data from fall 2010, the Law and Justice program is the third-largest major at Central Washington University, with roughly 650 students! The second largest is business administration, with elementary education taking the top spot.

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**The Law and Justice Advisory Board**
The Law and Justice Advisory Board is comprised of 19 alumni and community partners. The board meets every two to three months on the west and east sides of the state. The board assists the Department of Law and Justice chair in a variety of ways. Most recently, the board worked with the chair on defining its role concerning the master of science law and justice. Many opportunities flow from these meetings, including contacts for internships and future job prospects for current students.

For more information on the Law and Justice Advisory Board contact Charles E. Reasons, chair of the Department of Law and Justice at charles.reasons@cwu.edu or 509-963-1779.

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**Faculty Updates**
A warm welcome to the LAJ department’s newest faculty member, Cody Stoddard, assistant professor. BA, criminal justice administration, Boise State University; BS, political science, Boise State University; MA, criminal justice administration, Boise State University; PhD candidate, criminal justice, University of Cincinnati. Stoddard has taught policing and courts in the criminal justice system at Boise State University and court-related courses at the University of Cincinnati. His dissertation focuses on utilizing an ecological and organizational perspective in order to improve models explaining police decision making. Stoddard published “Recent Legal Developments: Criminal Justice Decisions of the United States Supreme Court, 2009 Term” with Craig Hemmens and Valerie Bell in Criminal Justice Review, 2010. Stoddard and Hemmens also published “Writing a Manual for Police Officers: The Supreme Court Revisits the Vehicle Search Incident to Arrest Rule in Arizona vs. Gant” in Criminal Justice Studies, 2010.

Please join us in congratulating senior lecturer Bob Moore on being chosen as fall quarter 2010 co-operative education partnership in excellence faculty advisor of the quarter! We and CWU Career Services commend his efforts and dedication to our Co-operative Education Program by providing CWU at Lynnwood student Erica Redding with such wonderful support! Redding said that after all the help, support, and mentoring Moore provided her throughout her internship, which resulted in a richer learning experience, he definitely deserves the recognition.

Associate Professor Sarah Britto is working on two projects while on sabbatical. Using quantitative data from Washington state, she is analyzing several different models of fear of crime, using media consumption, economic inequality, neighborhood disorder, collective efficacy, and protective measures as variables. In a second study of Defense Initiated Victim Outreach (DIVO), she is analyzing qualitative interviews of victim-outreach
specialists and attorneys in several southern states about their experiences with DIVO in capital cases.

Assistant Professor Teresa Francis recently published “Tough Times for Academe: Survival Tips from Historically Black Colleges and Universities” in the journal Race and Justice Scholar, 2010.

Professor Rodrigo Murataya presented a paper with Professor Charles Reasons and Brian Burtch (SFU) titled “Homicide, Race, Class, and Gender in North America” at the annual Western Society of Criminology conference in Vancouver, B.C.

Krystal Noga-Styron, CWU at Lynnwood LAJ Center director, published “The Top Two Primary in Washington State” in the National Civic Review in late 2009, and has authored a chapter titled “Crime and the Great Recession” for the upcoming Looseleaf book Hot Topics in Criminal Justice.


Department Chair and Professor Charles Reasons chaired the session, “The Social Reality of Crime: Forty Years Later!” at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting last November in San Francisco. He, Assistant Professor Teresa Francis, and graduate David Kim published “The Ideology of Homicide Detectives: A Cross-National Study,” in Homicide Studies: An Interdisciplinary and International Journal, 2010. He was also inducted into Linfield College Athletic Hall of Fame as a member of the 1965 Champion Bowl team, which played for the NAIA football national championship.

Mary Ellen Reimund, CWU at Des Moines LAJ Center director, was re-appointed as the secretary for the section on Restorative and Community Justice for the International Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, March 1-5 in Toronto, Ontario. She also presented a paper titled “Brady Cops: Dishonesty and Discovery.”

When Key Sun, CWU at Pierce County LAJ Center director was on a leave of absence last fall, he completed the drafts of two new chapters for his book, Correctional Counseling (2nd ed.), a journal article on racial profiling, attended two conferences in Portland, Oregon (including the 2010 Annual Meeting of Council on Social Work Education), and presented his paper, “Three Methodological Problems Associated with Use of White vs. Nonwhite in Criminological Research” at the Annual Meeting of American Society of Criminology in San Francisco. Sun also presented his paper, “A Cognitively Based Critique of Critical Criminological Theories” at the International Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, March 1-5 in Toronto, Ontario.

Contribute to the Women in Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund

The high percentage of young women participating in the Law and Justice Program at CWU provides an opportunity to increase gender equality in Washington State law enforcement agencies. Currently, women account for only 13 percent of police officers in law enforcement agencies across the country, according to surveys conducted by the National Center for Women & Policing.

Your contribution to the Women in Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund will achieve three goals: 1) Honor women in Washington State who have given their lives in the line of duty. 2) Promote equitable representation of women in law enforcement agencies. 3) Encourage and support individual young women as they prepare for a career in law enforcement.
Please help support the Women in Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund. Contact Brian Jacobsen, development officer, College of the Sciences, at 509-963-2147 or jacobsen@cwu.edu to give your support or with any questions.

All contributions to the CWU Foundation are tax deductible to the extent provided by IRS regulations. Thank you for supporting the CWU Foundation. As required by law, the CWU Foundation is registered with the Washington State Charities Program and financial information may be obtained by calling 800-332-4483 or 360-725-0378. Central Washington University is an AA/EEO/Title IX Institution. For accommodation: CDSrecept@cwu.edu.

Call for Internships
Are you part of the law and justice alumni and know of internships available in the field, or a student currently doing a law and justice internship? If so, please contact CWU’s Career Services at www.cwu.edu/~career/cms or e-mail at career@cwu.edu and provide feedback on your current internship or give career services the details of internship availability announcements. Current and future students will love to have more opportunities to explore the fields that they are studying!

We Want to Hear From You!
Do you like reading updates from other alumni? You could be featured on this page in the next edition!

There are a couple of ways to submit updates for the newsletter: Complete the back page of this newsletter and mail it to CWU, or simply send that same information via e-mail to laj@cwu.edu any time during the year.

About the Editors
This edition of the CWU LAJ Alumni Newsletter was compiled and edited by Christine Henderson and Michael Hanscom.

Michael Hanscom just completed his bachelor’s degree in law and justice, graduating magna cum laude, and is looking forward to crossing the stage with his fellow class of 2011 CWU at Des Moines graduates at this June’s commencement ceremony. Immediately following spring quarter, he moved to Ellensburg to join his partner, Prairie Brown, director of the CWU Writing Center, and has just started to explore his post-graduation opportunities.

Christine Henderson has worked in the law and justice field over the past 12 years for federal, state, and local government and several non-profit agencies. In the past she taught legal research at Central Washington University in the Law and Justice Program at the CWU at Des Moines campus. She will be teaching at Seattle Central Community College during the fall of 2011. She has a master's in public administration from Seattle University and a bachelor's in law and justice from CWU. She serves on CWU’s Law and Justice Advisory Board and received an award from CWU as one of the outstanding alumni.

Christine has dedicated her life's work to social justice and is highly motivated in working to effect positive social change. She is a volunteer for the Homes of Hope in the southern province of India. As a volunteer she has taught English and more importantly has provided love and care to many orphaned girls. Along with Judith Hennessey, assistant professor in CWU’s College of Sciences, she developed a study abroad program and accompanied 17 CWU students to Cochin, India, in June 2010. Christine has a desire to share her knowledge and experience with all.
What about you?
We want to hear from and about you!

Please fill out this form and mail it to Central Washington University, Department of Law and Justice, 400 E. University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7463 or e-mail laj@cwu.edu.

Name: ___________________________ Maiden/Former Name: ___________________________
Mailing Address: ___________________________
City: ___________________________ State: _____________ Zip: _____________
Home Phone: ___________________________ E-Mail: ___________________________
Current Employer: ___________________________ Job Title: ___________________________
Year Graduated: ___________________________
News and Comments: ___________________________

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Stay involved with the CWU Department of Law and Justice!

I’m interested in visiting CWU to (check all that apply):

☐ Present a seminar
☐ Give career advice to students
☐ Serve as a judge at SOURCE
☐ Other suggestions:

We appreciate all the ways you continue to support us and want to keep in touch with you!