The 2008-2009 academic year has been one of change and challenge. Our esteemed colleague Mona Lynch took a prestigious position at UC Irvine, and I was elected to take over as Chair of Justice Studies. SJSU welcomed new president Jon Whitmore, who came to us from Texas Tech, and the College of Applied Sciences & Arts (to which Justice Studies belongs) welcomed a new permanent Dean, Charles Bullock from the University of Nevada, Reno. And, of course, the nation saw a remarkable change in November with the election of our first African American President.

Change inherently includes challenge and opportunity, and we are doing much to take advantage of the opportunities that come our way, and to meet challenges head on. The entire California State University system has experienced increasing enrollment coinciding with declining funding from the state legislature. As a result, SJSU and most other CSUs declared campus-wide “impaction” beginning in Fall 2009, which limits the number of new and transfer students who will be accepted. While we are concerned about limiting access to deserving prospective students, we also recognize the need to maintain quality in our educational programs. JS is in a good position for Fall 2009; like many other departments on campus we will be offering fewer courses next year for budget reasons, but we expect that most of the 1,000 JS majors will be able to continue normal progress toward their degrees.

As for opportunities, this year we welcomed two new tenure-track faculty, Dr. Alessandro De Giorgi and Dr. Danielle Harris. We continue to update the JS curriculum, adding an honors program, and expanding our outstanding internship program. As discussed in the following pages, JS faculty have also seized opportunities to engage in cutting-edge research continue to work on a society, we owe the next generation a solid foundation in their childhood, which means providing assistance to youth and families in need.

As the accompanying article by JS Distinguished Alumnus Harry Mullins so poignantly demonstrates, it doesn’t require a state mandate or an army of police or probation officers to put a wayward youth back on the right track. Often times, it is simply a sincere confidence in young people that inspires them to strive for a positive goal in life and to achieve success.

As you will see in this edition of JustNews, the faculty and alumni of the JS department have been involved in a variety of projects to help youth succeed, especially “at risk” youth. If you are involved with youth or promoting social justice, please let us know so we can share your activities with our readers in our next edition!
Over the past couple of years of semi-retirement, I have been asked several times why I invest so much time and energy working with at-risk kids. So I sat down and pondered the question seeking a response that is neither mundane and cliché filled nor self-aggrandizing or back patting. It hasn’t been an easy endeavor.

Why do we do anything? I served in the law enforcement profession for thirty-four years. I was blessed with doing something I loved, and in fact, would do another thirty-four years if I were physically able to do so. As I matured from an adrenaline junkie young street cop to an investigator then on to supervision and management, I realized that police work is just the finger in the dike.

Law enforcement can not, will not, and truly does not even try to address the underlying societal challenges that feed the increasing level of crime in our cities and the escalating use of violence as the first option to settle a conflict. The reasons for this societal phenomenon are myriad and complex. However, the root cause at the center of the systemic societal failures, is poverty induced hopelessness.

I experienced poverty growing up. I spent my last year in high school living a life style that would be called homeless now. I survived through the help of friends, shoplifting, and burglary. At 18 years of age, I was arrested by a detective. He talked to me and offered me a break on the condition that I use it to make something of myself. I took up the challenge and in my own modest way, made something of myself.

While working my way through college and living in a basement, during a holiday break, I mentioned to a friend that I had eaten rice, powdered gravy, and unsweetened Kool-Aid for Christmas. She made me a member of their family. Following Christmas they made me a member of their family.

Three people entered my life at times when I was at my lowest ebb. They gave me hope, respect, and a sense that I could do more with my life than I believed I could.

It is now my turn to attempt to pass on the support and affirmation that was given to me. I know of no greater responsibility a society owes to its children than to raise them in a caring, nurturing, supportive environment. It is up to us to raise the next generation who will inherit what we leave behind. If we do not step up and meet these challenges then the drug dealers, child molesters, and societal predators will do it for us and we will reap the harvest.

Therefore, I do what I do because I believe that one person can make a difference, even if only in one life; because I believe that it is my obligation to not just identify and discuss the problem but to try to help address the problem. I do this because I know that I am not alone. There are thousands of honest concerned people who try at many levels to help address some of the ills of our society. I feel a sense of pride and fulfillment in being one of their numbers.

Book Club cont. from page 1

WHY DO THIS?

by 2009 Distinguished Alumnus - Harry J. Mullins, PhD

may be in custody for two weeks or two months. Dorian wants to bring the joys of reading to kids who have never read by flashlight under the covers or loved a book so much they parcelled out only a few pages to read each day to delay finishing it.

Each week Dorian and JS student Carlos Navarrete arrive with boxes of books and magazines. Some of the books have been requested by the kids, some are chosen by Dorian and Carlos based upon what was discussed the week prior. Favorites have included everything from Harry Potter and Artemis Fowl to Reynaldo Sanchez and Dean Koontz thrillers. Dorian and Carlos facilitate discussions either with the group as a whole, in two’s and three’s, or individually, depending on who has read what. After five books have been read and discussed with Dorian or Carlos, a certificate of appreciation is awarded along with a gift card.

The group named themselves The Freedom Readers with the motto “Reading to free the mind.” Enthusiasm has been running high. After they read the Da Vinci Code, Dorian brought in material from the Da Vinci exhibit at the Tech Museum hoping to pique some interest. Not only did they pore over the illustrations with amazement, but they asked to use the postcards of Da Vinci’s art as bookmarks. Participants are awarded a special book of their choice when they return to the community.

Dorian is planning to create an internship with the JS Department to ensure the program continues and expands. She is also working with staff to develop a library housed within Juvenile Hall and is seeking grant support to fund book purchases. The program has been so successful that there are plans to develop a standard protocol for initiating reading groups in Juvenile Halls throughout California.

The Freedom Readers pose with their books
A former foster child who had nothing to look forward to but a grim life on the streets of Oakland, Justin Willis is truly a success story. Justin has lived in 23 separate foster homes or family group homes. Now he is a 21 year old SJSU student, on a full four year football scholarship, with a 3.3 GPA. He is on the advisory board of Court Appointed Advocates for Children (CASA) and is writing a book about his life.

Danielle Harris invited Justin to come share his story in her Family Violence class on Thursday, February 19, 2009.

Willis credits CASA with saving his life. When he was eleven years old, Justin was removed from his home after his mother beat him with an extension cord. He was placed in the foster care system. According to Justin, “Those years of my life were filled with disappointment after disappointment when my mother didn’t visit me or cooperate with attempts to return me to her care. I moved so many times that I lost track of exactly how many foster homes, group homes, and treatment centers I lived in. With every move came a new school. I was smart but hyperactive, and my behavior got me into special education classes. I was angry that I didn’t have a “normal” life. I was also strong and athletic with an energy that I used in the wrong way. I knew I deserved a better life, but I didn’t know how to achieve it.”

When he got his advocate volunteer from CASA, his life changed. His advocate, Pat Miljanich, spent a lot of time with him, listening to his frustrations and problems, and enthusiastically supporting him as he talked about his dream of playing football, being in a regular high school program, and maybe even going to college. Her support and belief in Justin empowered him to demonstrate to the adults in his life that he deserved their support to reach his dreams.

Although his path to SJSU was a difficult one, he credits his persistence in following his dreams to Pat and the support of the CASA mentors. Although he is very busy as a student, football player, and member of the advisory board to CASA, Justin tries to see his mother occasionally; he is trying to help her be a better parent to his twin 15 year old sisters. Justin’s older brother is in prison.

His presentation was part story telling and part recruiting, as Justin stressed to the class what a powerful impact a Court Appointed Special Advocate can have on the life of a child. Foster parent Diane Oldham attended Justin’s presentation and shared how they got Justin into a good high school and ultimately into SJSU. She summarized by saying, “Everyone in this room has the potential to touch lives in the way that Justin’s has been.”

Justin was an animated presenter and is planning to pursue a career in motivational speaking. Based upon the enthusiastic response from Danielle’s class, Justin is well on his way to achieving that goal!
On Thursday, September 25, 2008, the College of Applied Sciences & Arts (CASA) hosted the Collaborative Response Conference. This conference was the result of the ongoing Collaborative Response Project initiated by the late Inger Sagatun-Edwards and which was featured in our last edition of JustNews. The conference was co-chaired by Associate Dean Barbara Conry and JS faculty member Maureen Lowell.

Attendees included faculty, staff, and students from a variety of departments within CASA as well as professionals. Kathy Lemon-Osterling and Laurie Drabble from the School of Social Work presented their research on models of collaboration and factors which enhance or hinder collaboration in the field. JS faculty members Maureen Lowell and Danielle Harris were joined by students who shared their experience of collaborative field work. JS graduate student Ruben Chavez presented his work in India with advocates and law enforcement agencies as well as non-professional community members. (see Justin’s story on page 10)

The keynote speaker at lunch was the Honorable Leonard Edwards, formerly the presiding judge in Juvenile Dependency court and a visionary in collaboration and improving the lives of families. Edwards with his late wife, Dr. Inger Sagatun-Edwards, Dean of CASA, were advocates of the Collaborative Response Project.

Presenters Dan Nishigaya, SCC District Attorney’s Office and Shawne Smith from Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence discussed victim’s rights and the importance of victim advocacy.

The First 5 system of care, with examples from Santa Clara County’s Family Wellness Court was presented as a model collaboration project in the community.

Dr. Geoffrey Liu (SJSU, Library and Information Science) presented ideas on effective and efficient information exchange in case management using technology to enhance collaboration. The conference concluded with a panel of experts who fielded questions from the audience about developing and sustaining collaboration in real time, troubleshooting issues that professionals had encountered, and highlighting potential partnerships.

This conference was the first of its kind to emphasize the importance of collaboration in every profession and to prepare students to work with a variety of organizations to accomplish their professional goals, regardless of the career they plan to pursue. The message to students was clear: In public service, whether it be social work, nursing, or law enforcement, no one accomplishes their goals alone. As professionals, they will rely on many other disciplines to provide effective services for all victims of crime, children, spouses, or the elderly.”

This spring over 90 Justice Studies Masters students and undergrads participated in the convocation ceremony. Friends, family, and faculty members came to celebrate. Convocation speaker Andrea Flint, Public Defender Santa Clara County (left) gave the grads five tips for success as they enter the field of criminal justice.

The students at River Glen Middle School got a taste of the Justice Studies program thanks to the generous loan of materials from the JS Department at SJSU. River Glen is one of many middle schools in the San Jose area that is home to the “After School All-Stars”, a state-funded program that provides a safe and educational after school environment.

Kyle Perry, a JS major and after school youth leader, wanted to bring his newly-acquired knowledge of crime scene investigation to his students at River Glen. He borrowed fingerprinting materials and spent a week teaching the students about the characteristics of fingerprints, the history of fingerprinting, and how to dust, lift, and examine latent prints. The students loved the hands-on experience, and it opened their eyes to careers in the justice field.
Justice Studies Scholarships 2009

This year we awarded over $22,000 in scholarships to outstanding JS students! Our scholarships are funded by endowments and donations from alumni, family, and friends of Justice Studies. Those who have funded or endowed scholarships have put forth considerable effort to fund their scholarship. The JS Department and students sincerely appreciate their support in helping our students succeed in attaining an outstanding college education. Tuition for a full-time student this year is $3,992 dollars; next year it is expected to be well over $4,000. Now more than ever, these scholarships provide vital support for our hardworking students. We are grateful to our donors for their continued support of these scholarships funds.

Congratulations to the following JS Scholarship winners:

CAC McLaughlin Endowment for Biology and Chemistry Students
2009 Winners: Marissa Meininger and Linda Le
This scholarship is up to $2,500.00 to support the education, training and research of forensic science students in biology & chemistry. It was funded by Sergeant Alfred ‘Reed’ McLaughlin and his wife, Virginia. McLaughlin was a latent print specialist with LAPD in the 1950’s. Like many crime scene investigators of his era, he used benzidine, to detect minute quantities of blood. Sergeant McLaughlin died of cancer that was linked to using benzidine with his bare hands.

Theresa Edel Memorial Scholarship
2009 Winners: Miguel Ruiz, Margarita Contreras, and Melissa Cerda
Theresa Edel graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration in 1979, and received her Masters degree in Business Administration in 1986 from San Jose State University. Theresa was a public safety investigator and crime prevention specialist for the San Jose State University Police Department. She planned to teach in the Administration of Justice Department.

Jeffrey Fontana Memorial Scholarship
2009 Winner: Marilyn Epp
Jeffrey Fontana graduated with honors in May 2000 with a degree in Administration of Justice from San Jose State University. He was a bright young man who aspired to be a police officer since he was a young boy. Upon graduating from SJSU, Jeff was hired by San Jose Police Department and planned to pursue a career as a detective. He was tragically slain in the line of duty October 28th, 2001.

While at San Jose State University, Jeff was awarded the 1999 Daniel P. Lomio Scholarship from the Administration of Justice Department for his outstanding scholarship and desire to pursue a career in Law Enforcement. Jeff planned to return to San Jose State University to continue his education. He had hoped to teach in the Administration of Justice Department after receiving his Master’s Degree in Administration of Justice.

Paula Stone Hubbell Memorial Scholarship
2009 Winner: Nistha Jolly
Known as “The First Lady of Parole”, Paula Stone Hubbell worked for the California Department of Corrections for 30 years, during which time she mentored future agents and students in the Administration of Justice Department. She received her degree in Criminology from U.C. Berkeley and her M.S. in Administration of Justice from SJSU. She was honored as the “Graduate Student of the Year” in 1980.

Willard “Huck” Schmidt Memorial Scholarship
2009 Winners: Clarissa Trogdon and Nistha Jolly
Willard “Huck” Schmidt was a former faculty member and chair of the “The Police School” in the Post War Era, 1946-1963. At the time the purpose of the police school was to provide professional training for the student who has a definite interest in and adaptability to a police career.

Charles “Pat” Casey Memorial Scholarship
2009 Winner: David Gutierrez
Scholarship is open to students transferring from a community college into the Justice Studies or Forensic Science degree program.

Daniel P. Lomio Memorial Scholarship
2009 Winner: Alejandro Gaeta
Daniel P. Lomio graduated in 1978 with a major in Law, History, and Criminal Justice from San Jose State University. Following graduation Daniel became a police officer with the San Francisco Police Department, and was promoted to criminal investigator with the department. He was awarded the Bronze Medal of Valor posthumously in June 1986.

Gene Simpson & Gordon Silva Memorial Scholarship
2009 Winner: Cassandra Borjan
Officer Gene Simpson and Gordon Silva, both members of the San Jose Police Department, were killed in the line of duty January 20, 1989. To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must be an undergraduate student majoring in Justice Studies and involved in Intercollegiate Athletics.

Kristofer Boaz Claspill Memorial Scholarship
2009 Winner: Phat Vu
Kristofer Boaz Claspill was an adventurous San Jose State University senior in the Justice Studies Department. He was a young man who aspired to be a police officer since he was a young boy. His life was tragically cut short on September 16, 2006 at the beginning of his senior year. As Kris did not have the opportunity to complete his last year at the university, The Claspill family has established this scholarship in their son’s memory to provide full tuition for a student majoring in Justice Studies in his/her senior year.

SJSU’s Office of Planned Giving offers you opportunities to impact students, programs and departments that are important to you. By leaving a bequest in your will or living trust or establishing an endowment, you can influence future generations with your generosity. For more information on how you may leave a gift to SJSU in your estate plan or to establish an endowment, contact Tina Daniels, Director of Planned Giving, at 408.924.1123 or tina.daniels@sjsu.edu
Award Winning Record Clearance Project Continues

By Margaret Stevenson

As we reported in our last edition of JustNews, the Record Clearance Project won the prestigious Collaborative Project Award at the SJSU Provost’s Community Engagement Awards Reception. We are pleased to report that JS faculty member Margaret Stevenson has continued her innovative project. In November 2008, JS students attended a special court session where a judge dismissed misdemeanor convictions from ten people’s records. On May 5, 2009 the judge dismissed eleven convictions at a similar hearing.

Alvarez came to class twice to help students with the process. Students prepared 26 petitions for 12 individuals (each conviction requires a separate petition) for the May hearing. The judge granted all petitions for eleven people and deferred consideration of one person’s petition to a time following a DMV hearing.

In making her decisions, Judge Shawna Schwarz spoke to each of the petitioners regarding the changes they had made in their lives. Drug and alcohol addiction were a common factor leading to convictions for many. Most credited the birth of their children with giving them the motivation and perspective to overcome their addictions and change their lives.

Deputy District Attorney Katharina Wells presented her concerns in some cases, and her congratulations in others. “We need more people like you,” she told one former gang member who now counsels young people in jail to turn their lives around.

Adult Probation Supervisor Jill Ornellas presented background regarding each of the petitioners’ records, including recommendations to grant the petitions in some cases. Deputy Public Defender Jaime Alvarez represented seven of the petitioners; the others represented themselves.

Students prepared the petitions filed in these hearings. The petitions explain why the dismissals were warranted. This involved writing declarations for the petitioners and gathering documentation, such as letters of support, to demonstrate the petitioners’ progress since the time of their convictions. Deputy Public Defender Jaime Alvarez came to class twice to help students with the process. Students prepared 26 petitions for 12 individuals (each conviction requires a separate petition) for the May hearing. The judge granted all petitions for eleven people and deferred consideration of one person’s petition to a time following a DMV hearing.

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These court officers, as well as court clerks, volunteered their time at the hearings, which were held on Tuesday evenings to coincide with the Courts and Society class.

Most students find enormous educational benefit in the project. One student commented, “I think this process had a huge impact on all of the students who worked on the petitions. I know that I personally learned a lot by doing all of the paperwork and going through the process as a whole.” Her statements were echoed by many others.

Part of what makes the experience a powerful one for students is the real, important effect on the clients. One client said, “The record clearance program is a great opportunity. It has changed my life and opened multiple doors for my family and my future. I would like to thank the students and others involved for all their time and hard work.” Several of the petitioners hugged the students who had helped them afterwards.

The gratitude of the people assisted extends beyond the hearing: a client whose convictions were dismissed in November called the students who drafted his petition recently, thrilled to let them know that he had gotten a job since his two convictions dating from 1991 and 1996 were dismissed!
Featured Undergrad Student: Silvia Tellez

Born in Costa Rica, Silvia lived with her single mother and older brother. She didn’t have a stable home until her father who lived in the US sent for her when she was nine years old. Although it was better than living in the slums of Managua, Nicaragua, Silvia and her family lived in a run-down, gang infested housing project in San Francisco.

Her life took a turn for the better when her family moved to Redwood Shores and she enrolled in Carlmont High School. It was at Carlmont that she became involved in AVID*, which inspired her to seriously consider going to college. AVID taught Silvia how to succeed in college. After shadowing a friend at SJSU, she knew this was the school for her. She appreciated the interest and support the faculty at SJSU demonstrated toward their students, in stark contrast to what she saw at the other schools she visited. Silvia had decent grades during her first three years in high school, but her grades plummeted during her senior year when she started working two jobs as she began to save for college. She was worried that she would not get into SJSU.

When she was accepted, she was ecstatic. She applied to the Educational Opportunities Program (EOP) which she had learned about through AVID. As an EOP student, Silvia was eligible for the Summer Bridge Program to help her adapt to college life and learn about the many resources SJSU has to support students. All EOP students are assigned a mentor. Silvia’s mentor is Adam Castañeda, also a Justice Studies major. Adam spends much of his time on the fifth floor of MacQuarrie Hall meeting with his mentees, helping them cope with challenges of college life – including academic issues, time management, and personal problems.

When asked why she selected JS as her major, Silvia said “The reason I moved from Costa Rica is that I was taken away from my drug-addicted mother by the Costa Rican equivalent to Child Protective Services and sent to live with my aunt in Managua, Nicaragua. My mother was murdered a year later and my father, who lived in the US, sent for me. Although I was fortunate to be able to move to the US, we lived in a poverty and crime ridden neighborhood in San Francisco. Good fortune followed me and my family and we moved to a nice neighborhood just before I started high school. I know that I have been extremely fortunate throughout my life. There are many children born in similar circumstances that are struggling to survive today.”

“I am interested in justice studies because I have always felt that the laws in Costa Rica do not protect women, and I want to be in a position to be able to help women who need the support of an outside agency, which my mother never had. I look forward to being able to make a positive difference in the lives of those less fortunate than me.”

Silvia has been accepted as an intern with Justice Corps, where she will be able to learn more about the law and how it impacts citizens.

Fontanas join JS faculty and alumni at SJSU football game

On Friday, Oct. 24, 2008 the College of Applied Sciences & Arts hosted an evening at the SJSU football game against Boise State. It was a fun evening of great food, great football (the Spartans almost won!) and a chance to catch up with our friends and alumni.

* AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

The purpose of the AVID program is to prepare traditionally underserved students for four-year college eligibility. AVID provides what first generation college students may lack: high expectations, encouragement, day to day help, a vision of college as attainable, an advocate, and guidance in how to negotiate the system. AVID involves students in a strong group of peers and adults who share a commitment to academic achievement.

(Taken from the AVID website at www.rimsavid.org)
How to describe Harry Mullins? A man for all seasons. Harry attended SJSU when it was still San José State College. He came from an environment which today would be considered underprivileged. He had no free government support, received no special financial treatment, no stimulus or bail-out packages. He was a street kid who struggled to pay for tuition, books, room and board. As he admits, he found purpose and brotherhood in Chi Pi Sigma, the police fraternity. The friendships he made in the fraternity have lasted over 40 years.

Harry began his law enforcement career with the San José Police Department in 1967 as a reserve police officer working his way up to Sergeant. Always searching for new experiences, Harry applied his street smarts acquired as a youth and as a patrol officer when he worked as an undercover investigator for the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in Los Angeles. Harry then moved to Oregon in 1980 and became a deputy at Douglas County Sheriff’s Office. He worked his way up to the Chief Administrative Officer of the Sheriff’s Office.

Throughout his career Harry has been a teacher as well as practitioner. At the college level he has taught courses in supervision, management theory, organizational development, and leadership dynamics. At law enforcement academies, he has taught the practical application of patrol and investigative procedures.

Harry started Organizational Excellence Consulting in 1997. His firm has facilitated the development of effective managerial structures and creative values as well as assisted businesses and educators in labor relations, leadership and staff development, and program development and evaluation.

Equally noteworthy, Harry Mullins is a devoted father and husband. Married to Linda for over 37 years, he is the father of son Cormac, a member of the armed forces and daughter Jennifer, a dedicated teacher. Harry epitomizes commitment to family and friends. His lifelong support for the fraternity which gave him a home and brotherhood is monumental. He mentors young men and women in search of a dream as well as a professional career. His outreach with young people includes field trips, developing self-sufficiency, and massive amounts of folk lore and humor. He represents the true definition of a community activist.

Harry Mullins lives with his heart and acts with his mind. He is a true gentleman and a mighty warrior. If one were to tie in characters of a by-gone age, we could see a bit of Shakespeare’s Falstaff and Rostand’s Cyrano in Harry. That is why we say, a man for all seasons.

Written for JustNews by Jess B. Guy, Distinguished Alumnus, 2006 (BS’70, MS’89, JD’98)

Friends Of Justice Studies

We wish to thank the following donors to the Justice Studies Department in 2009

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2009 Distinguished Alumnus: Harry J. Mullins, PhD

Harry Mullins, Justice Studies Department Distinguished Alumnus at the College of Applied Arts & Sciences Dean’s Reception

We have several initiatives underway that would greatly benefit from your support. A donation of any amount will make a difference!

The internship program:

Our internship program is an integral part of our students’ educational experience. Your donation to the department will provide the resources to partner with new agencies and organizations to create and coordinate innovative internships, such as the Book Group at Juvenile Hall.

Student research opportunities:

Our faculty members have been very successful in supporting student research at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and that support has paid off in terms of student success. The skills our students develop through research opportunities will serve them in the workplace and will aid them if they choose to pursue further education. Your donation to the department can help offset the costs of supporting student research by providing direct funds for research expenses and travel to conferences.

On behalf of the JS students and faculty, thank you for your support and for being a Friend of Justice Studies!

You can make your checks out to Tower Foundation with “Justice Studies” written in the memo line, or you can make a donation by credit card by simply filling out the form below and returning it to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Mail to: Department of Justice Studies,
1 Washington Square, San José State University, San José, CA 95192-0050

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Ruben Chavez (BS '92, MS '09) believes in life-long learning. Fifteen years after receiving his degree in Administration of Justice with a minor in Sociology, he felt the urge to return to college for a graduate degree. He jokes with his younger classmates that it was a mid-life crisis and much cheaper than a new Corvette and less painful than a tattoo — although while taking Dr. Correia's stats class, he had second thoughts about that tattoo!

Dr. Ann Lucas’ social theory class opened his eyes to the issues of gender inequality and cultural influences of the eastern Indian people. Further inspired by Professor Lowell’s course on family violence and challenged by Dr. Armaline to take the knowledge gained in the classroom and do something with it, Ruben decided to do something with his education. Having been to India in 2002 where he saw the problems of family violence first hand, Ruben felt compelled to return to India to do what he could to help.

In August 2008, he co-led a team of students to Trivandrum and Bangalore, India. The Indian government is beginning to reform its laws on family abuse and domestic violence. The purpose of the trip was to work with members of local Indian cultures to educate them about the new laws, in particular how to prevent domestic violence. The team challenged the women to depart from patriarchal norms and to report domestic violence. They included children in all activities, not only to make the lectures and other functions more accessible to mothers with young children, but also to begin the process of ending tolerance of domestic violence among the next generation.

Ruben credits Justice Studies and SJSU with both the knowledge and inspiration for his actions. After graduation, he plans to lead a second team to Kolkata, India (formerly Calcutta) in November 2009 to volunteer at Mother Teresa’s Home of the Dying Destitutes. The home serves mainly gravely ill Dalits (formerly called “untouchables,” the lowest caste in India), showing compassion and giving them a respectful place in their final days.
Alpha Phi Sigma, the national criminal justice honor society, has been rebuilding and recruiting this year, after losing most of the members when they graduated in spring 2008. President Michael Burke is pleased to announce the following new members to Alpha Phi Sigma: Katherine Brennan, Marilyn Rosa, Andrew Martin, Mary Doan, and May Cheung. They will be working this summer to develop their recruiting program for fall 2009.

Chi Pi Sigma, the criminal justice fraternity, has been busy as always fostering new members as well as focusing on professional development. Fall 2008 Homecoming ushered in their Founder’s Day Celebration with the annual tailgate at Spartan Stadium. Active and pledge classes reveled in the atmosphere enjoying barbecue and listening to stories from alumni.

This fall marked the seventh anniversary of the passing of San José State and JS alum, Officer Jeffrey Fontana. Fraternity members wanted to help the Fontana family bring public attention to the fact that this case had still not yet come to trial. They met with Sandy Fontana, Jeffrey’s mother, and assisted with her Justice for Jeffrey Campaign. Chi Pi Sigma actives and other San José State students gathered for a rally for justice on the steps of San José Superior Courthouse. That evening members gathered at Jeffrey Fontana Memorial Park to remember Jeff and hear an update on the status of the case from Santa Clara County District Attorney Lane Liroff.

Their spring formal was held at the San José Police Officer’s Association (POA) Hall. Chi Pi Sigma and the San José POA are planning to work more closely together and are looking forward to future events together.

Chi Pi Sigma continued hosting guest speakers at meetings and toured Salinas Valley State Prison. They welcomed 14 new members this year with the motto that has fueled the fraternity since its founding, “Strength Through Moral Support”.

Most important this semester was the return of alumnus and brother Marine Lance Corporal Ferdinand Luis from his first tour of duty in Iraq. Emotions ran high as members of the house happily took down the blue star banner that they had hung proudly a year ago for their brother.

The Forensic Science Student Group (FSS) has had a busy academic year. They continue to attract new members enthusiastic about learning about the real CSI! They have had several outings, including a trip to San Francisco’s Fisherman’s Wharf and UC Berkeley to explore the Berkeley campus and conduct library research.

They hosted three forensic seminars on campus, featuring renowned researchers speaking about cutting edge forensic research. They kicked off their speaker series with “Computational Forensics: Individuality of Fingerprints” by Dr. Sargur Srihari, a distinguished professor in the Computer Science and Engineering at SUNY at Buffalo. Dr. John Tonkyn, a molecular biologist, who has trained forensic scientists from all over the US spoke to FSS about “Identifying the Missing Using DNA.” He is a supervisor of the Convicted Offender DNA Databank Program. The third seminar featured Dr. Nader Pourmand talking about “UCSC: DNA template tailoring and length measurement for forensic applications.” Dr. Pourmand’s lab develops new tools and technologies that are specifically designed to increase the speed and lower the cost of sample analysis.

CPS gathered for a group shot after speaker Bill Camponia, (JS’61), CPS alumni, (seated, third from right in grey jacket) shared his memories of the Police School in the late 1950’s. He talked about being the Night Range Master (the range is in the basement of MacQuarrie Hall) when he found 2 old Thompson machine guns and took target practice with them. Mel Miller, Gunny instructor found out, but wasn’t too upset, since Bill had been so careful with them and cleaned them thoroughly after he used them. Things have sure changed since then!
Faculty Focus: Sang Hea Kil

Sang Kil began her tenure track position in Justice Studies in the fall of 2007. Since then, she has contributed in many ways to the department, the College of Applied Sciences & Arts, and the university in relation to improving diversity and social justice. In 2008 she coordinated a panel about the criminalization of people of color and in 2009 she organized a student activist summit about building coalitions among diverse student groups.

Sang teaches classes related to social inequality at the undergraduate and master’s level, research methods, and theory. She will be teaching for the summer Transition to College Program designed to provide eligible first-time freshmen the opportunity to learn strategies for achieving academic success.

Sang has also expanded the department’s internship program by placing JS interns with such diverse groups as: De-bug, Peace and Justice Center, Unite/Here, and the Defrank LGBT Center. JS major Albert Cobarrubia, who took Sang’s Social Inequality and the Law class, reflects upon the course’s impact on his future direction:

“It was in this class that I discovered that the way I was treated by the police and other members of society growing up was not just a way of life but was actually a complex matrix of intersecting oppressions. Dr. Kil was also the person that introduced me to Silicon Valley Debug. I will be forever grateful to her for directing my journey to a place where I can help members of the community. At Debug we work with community members who are mainly poor minorities that can’t afford lawyers. We provide a shadow to court, ensure their public defenders are doing their jobs, help them build a good defense, and ensure that true justice prevails; but most of all we provide them with support. My experience in JS132 along with my experience at Debug has allowed me to recognize discrimination and disparities within the criminal justice system. It has also empowered me to become a fighter for social justice.”

Sang serves on the board of Free Speech Radio News, a global network of non-corporate news reporters. She publishes on the militarization of the border in general and has recently published pieces on the activities of border vigilante groups like the Minuteman project and is a vocal critic of their nativist agenda. She also works closely with Border Action Network, a border community movement that resists the Minuteman project and is a vocal critic of their nativist agenda. Sang has also expanded the department’s internship program by placing JS interns with such diverse groups as: De-bug, Peace and Justice Center, Unite/Here, and the Defrank LGBT Center. JS major Albert Cobarrubia, who took Sang’s Social Inequality and the Law class, reflects upon the course’s impact on his future direction:

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Justice Studies Faculty & Staff

PART-TIME FACULTY

Dina Kameda
M.S. Justice Studies, SJSU
M.A. Washington State University (Writing Workshop, Research Methods)

Maureen Lowell
M.A. Santa Clara University; Licensed MFT; B.A. Miami University (Ohio)
(Family & Community Violence)

Margaret Stevenson
B.A. English, Stanford; J.D. UCLA
School of Law
(Courts & Society)

STAFF

Gilbert Villareal,
Department Coordinator
A.S. Computer Graphics & Design; currently working on B.A. Cultural Anthropology, SJSU

Nikki Gutierrez,
Resource Analyst
M.S. in Urban Planning, SJSU; B.S. Community & Regional Development, UC Davis

Aracelis (Auda) Velazquez Rivera,
Department Assistant
B.A. Anthropology & Behavioral Sciences, SJSU; Working on her M.S. in Anthropology at SJSU

Hendy Lam,
Student Assistant
At work on his B.S. Psychology, SJSU
James R. Berg (BS’87) retired after 25 years with The Milpitas Police Department at the rank of Commander. Jim is a Vietnam Combat Veteran and a member of the Disabled American Veterans Association, the Marine Corps League and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. His son Brian is a Redding Police Department K-9 Officer. Jim and his wife of 37 years, Pattie, have recently moved to Redding.

Heather Diggs is a Correctional officer at Santa Clara County Main Jail.

Alex Dourov (BS’80) This year, Alex celebrates 10 years of owning Utkaduck Design (utkaduck.com), a Web design and Internet services company that provides e-commerce and database-driven website solutions for businesses as well as Police Officer and Deputy Sheriff Associations. Alex started his law enforcement career in the old AJ Student Staff program, later moving to the University Police Cadet Program. He was hired by SJSUPD in 1980, and finished the Santa Clara County Police Academy with the Top Academic award. He worked at SJSUPD until 1989 in patrol and investigations, attaining the rank of Sergeant.

He continues his search for the ever-elusive Police School badge and patch to finish his collection of badges and patches used throughout the years at SJSU. (Editor’s note: If you have information about where Alex could find a badge, he can be contacted at adourov@utkaduck.com)

Phillip Habib (BS’94) lives in Tempe, Arizona where he is the strength and conditioning coach for football and men’s soccer at Phoenix College. He also owns Iron City Barbell Club, a strength training company.

Julie Hailer (MS ’98) Under the supervision of Dr. Baroody-Hart, Julie completed her thesis on American Indian gangs on the reservations. She is in the Ph.D. program in American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona. Her dissertation is a continuation of her unique thesis research with an expansion into American Indian gangs in the urban setting. Julie completed her PhD in May ’08 and is hoping to be hired as a professor at a university/college where she can combine her criminal justice background/training and American Indian issues. Currently, she is working as a police dispatcher (to pay the bills and forthcoming student loans!) at Marana Police Department (north of Tucson).

Dennis Hart (BS’79) is a member of the board of directors of Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. which has awarded $370,000 to more than 350 Pleasanton students to ease the burden of college expenses. Amador Valley, Foothill, and Village high school seniors may apply to receive scholarships to attend vocational schools, community or four-year colleges.

Richard Kimball (BS’78) is the new undersheriff of Nevada County. He has worked as an officer in the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office and in the Sacramento Police Department. Before beginning his career in law enforcement, Richard studied pre-med at Oregon State. He was the first American to win the World Cross Country Meet in Milan, Italy, and made the cover of Runner’s World magazine in 1974.

Senad Kraja (BS’05) is a Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security. He started in as an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent at the San Francisco field office in the Human Smuggling/Human Trafficking/Benefit Fraud group. He transferred to the Operation Community Shield group (Gang Operations) where he took part in 6 months of various enforcement and surveillance operations leading to a take down of the MS-13 street gang operating out of San Francisco, CA.

He is now in the Commercial Fraud division in the San José office and is looking forward to learning a new aspect of the job and to be working so close to home, since he stills lives here in San José.

Jyoti (Patel) Rose (BS’02) writes “Hello SJSU! The Criminal Justice Program at SJSU is probably the best investment I made in my life. The program prepared me well for the fulfilling career I now have with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). As a federal law enforcement officer, I now realize the importance of all the courses I had at SJSU (especially 100W!!) including the general education classes. After 9/11, I knew there was something I needed to do to answer the call of defending the United States and its borders. Armed with the knowledge I gained from SJSU’s Criminal Justice program, I stand firmly with my fellow officers diligently protecting our Nation against terrorists and the instruments of terror while at the same time, serving the public with integrity, vigilance and professionalism (of course my sidearm doesn’t hurt either)”

Liz Pimentel (BS’07) writes “I received JustNews yesterday and thought that was awesome! It brought back so many memories. I am employed with a CPA Firm in the Bay Area as a Tax Accountant. I also work with the HR and Marketing departments in our firm to insure outstanding recruiting and networking connections with several Bay Area firms. In my free time I volunteer my time mentoring troubled youth in Santa Clara and Monterey Counties.”

Nei Rafanan (BS’94) interned with the U.S. Marshals’ S.A.F.E. (Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement) Task Force. Working with this group solidified his determination to seek full-time employment in law enforcement. He went to work for Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office (CoCoSO) in 1995, and was initially assigned to the Martinez Detention Facility. He has gone on to work in the prisoner transportation unit, patrol, and investigations. Neil is now a P.O.S.T. certified instructor in police Weaponless Defense, Impact Weapons and Ground Fighting. He writes: “Teaching new cops is a very fulfilling part of my job. I also teach a Women’s Self Defense class to the public out of our training center. On Nov. 8, 2006 I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and have since been transferred back to the main jail where I mentor our new deputies. I guess you can say I have come full circle in my career.”

Paul Riggins (BS’91) has practiced law for 12 years and recently opened his own firm, Riggins Law, P.A., in Boise, Idaho.

Angel Robinson (BS’93) founded AR&R Co., a public relations and marketing firm, in Atascadero in 2002. The firm, since relocating to Paso Robles, has become the ninth largest public relations firm in San Luis Obispo County.

Jermaine Thomas (BS’97) is a member of SJPD, currently serving as San José Police Department Public Information Officer. He has fond memories of playing on the intramural JS Department flag football team The Tazers. He recently spoke in Jan Hagemann’s intro class about his life as a police officer and the challenges of dealing with the public as a public information officer.

John M. Trinidad (BS’97) is a Supervisory Detention & Deportation Officer for the Department of Homeland Security Immigration & Customs Enforcement. He writes that he has enjoyed reading JustNews and is pleased to know there is still such a dedicated faculty at SJSU. He remembers working on vocabulary in the Writing Workshop and says that he is still using many of the vocabulary words from his AJ100W class today!”

Liz Pimentel and JS Alum Amador Bueno (BS’90)
Jesús (Jess) Valencia (BS’79) is court commissioner for the Santa Clara County Superior Court Juvenile Division. He received his law degree from Santa Clara University in 1982 and has served on SJSU’s Community Advisory Committee.

David Vargas (BS’00) currently works as an agent in the Department of Homeland Security Immigration & Customs Enforcement in their San Francisco office. He has fond memories of his 100W Writing class with Jan Hagemann.

Amy (Williams) Venegas (BS’93) worked for a private investigator for 4 years, as a risk manager in private industry for 8 years, and now works as an insurance investigator, focusing primarily on workers’ compensation and general liability claims. She is married to a school resources officer who went through the academy at age 35! She writes that she was glad to see Prof. Baroody-Hart in JustNews!

In memoriam: Alumni

John Bignall (BS’77) passed away at age 57 in Ridgecrest, CA on Feb 9, 2008.

We would love to know what you have been doing since you graduated. Please send us an update and photos to include in our next issue!

jsdept@casa.sjsu.edu

Alumni Update for JustNews
Department of Justice Studies
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San José State University
San José, CA 95192-0050

Student Advising Day

Each semester the JS faculty meets with new and continuing students to help the students plan their classes. This helps students determine what classes they need to graduate and to select the courses most appropriate for their personal career or graduate school goals. It is also a great way for the faculty to get to know our students and vice versa!
William Armaline has recently published work focusing on pedagogy and radical political-economy. His article “Thoughts on Anarchist Pedagogy and Epistemology” was published in *Contemporary Anarchist Studies* in 2009, and he is currently editing *In Our Own Backyard: Human Rights, Injustice, and Resistance in the US*, which will be out in 2010. He has a chapter in the book *Academic Repression* which is due to be published in May 2009. Dr. Armaline is also Director of the new Sacco and Vanzetti Foundation (www.saccoandvantzettifoundation.org). One function of the foundation is to provide scholarships to scholar-activists dedicated to preserving first scholarship grant to support student research cooperation of Criminalists A. Reed and V. McGlaughlin ($54,400.00) and a California Association Education and Research (CSUPERB) Joint Venture Grant ($5000.00). Funds for the last 4 years have been acquired to support forensic science student research. Seven peer reviewed presentations were delivered by his laboratory students or by Dr. Lee at local, regional, national, and international meetings and published in the proceedings.

Danielle Harris is now an Assistant Professor in the Justice Studies Department. In the last year she has presented her doctoral research at four conferences and has published three articles (in the *Journal of Criminal Justice, Archives of Sexual Behavior*, and the *Sex Offender Law Report*). This semester, she will expand her original research by collecting an additional 300 sex offender case files and looks forward to exploring new research questions with this data. She received a Junior Faculty grant to continue her research.

Janet Hagemann recently returned from Nicaragua where she worked with a team from the SJSU Writing Center to enhance and supplement the English as a Foreign Language curriculum for the non-profit Fabretto Children’s Foundation. She and her team members are working with Congressman Mike Honda to develop resources for a teacher and student exchange program between the bilingual credential programs at UNAN University in Esteli Nicaragua and SJSU. She attended the International Writing Center Conference in Las Vegas in October, 2008. The article she co-authored “Promoting Autonomy in English Language Learners Writing at the University Level” was published in January 2009.

Jan Johnston is pleased to report that the second edition of her co-authored book “In the Name of the Child” has just been published by Springer Publishers.

Steve Lee submitted seven external research proposals that were funded, including a California State University Program for Biotechnology Education and Research (CSUPERB) Joint Venture grant ($54,400.00) and a California Association of Criminalists A. Reed and V. McGlaughlin scholarship grant to support student research ($5000.00). Funds for the last 4 years have been acquired to support forensic science student research. Seven peer reviewed presentations were delivered by his laboratory students or by Dr. Lee at local, regional, national, and international meetings and published in the proceedings.

Maureen Lowell has continued her work on the Collaborative Response Project including Collaborative Response Conference for Victims of Family Violence. Maureen was recently appointed a commissioner on the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council where she represents children’s issues in domestic violence. Maureen chaired a group that produced guidelines for Parenting without Violence; these guidelines were recently adopted by the County Board of Supervisors as public policy. Maureen continues to do extensive committee work in the county and brings these connections and experience to her work at SJSU.

Ann Lucas is at work on a book chapter about off-street prostitutes (escorts, call girls, and rent boys) for a forthcoming anthology on prostitution around the world. She is also continuing her work on women and the war on drugs, having received funding to conduct a special research group with SJSU undergraduates this spring. She is traveling to Denver in May to attend the annual meetings of the Consortium of Undergraduate Law & Justice Programs and Justice Programs, of which she is president, and the Law & Society Association, where she will be presenting a paper on American women and the war on drugs.


Eric Sills will be attending the Senior Management Institute for Police (SIMP) at Boston University this summer. Taught by professors from Harvard, Boston University, and MIT, SIMP provides senior police executives training in the latest management concepts and practices used in business and government.