

# JUSTICE STUDIES

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

April 2017 Vol-



JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**THE THIRD ANNUAL JUSTICE STUDIES ALUMNI DAY** took place on Friday, April 15, 2016. The Gandhi Center hosted a welcome reception in the morning, after which alumni visited classes, toured campus, or talked to Justice Studies faculty and students. Over lunch in Moody Hall, faculty, alumni, and the executive board of the Justice Studies Student Society enjoyed rich conversations (and carrot cake!).

Alumni-led roundtables in the afternoon offered students opportunities to learn from alumni insights and experiences, on topics such as preparing for the career world, and career, education, and civic engagement opportunities in fields related to Justice Studies.

A networking reception for alumni and faculty in Moody Hall concluded the day. Students, faculty, and alumni enjoyed the opportunity to connect and engage in mutual learning and professional networking experiences. Justice Studies would like to thank our alumni for returning to JMU, and for staying in touch with the department.



## **The College of Arts and Letters hosted a Career Conference on March 24-25, 2017**

Several Studies alumni joined alumni from across the college to help students explore, prepare for, and pursue careers with a liberal arts degree. Look for the next Justice Studies Alumni Day in Spring 2018!

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Timothy Johnson



Johnson is a business, education, civil rights and appeals attorney who graduated from JMU in 2010. His aspirations for working in a justice field stemmed from when he first discovered *Les Miserables*, a novel about the law, moral philosophy, justice, and religion. His experiences at JMU fine-tuned his interests to Justice Studies Track A: Crime and Criminology. Tim found that the theoretical concepts in his Comparative Criminal Justice course with Dr. Castle honed his critical thinking skills for law school.

Tim routinely takes part in Alumni days and other special events, and regularly stays in touch with the Justice Studies department. For example, he returned to JMU in the Fall 2016 semester to guest lecture in JUST 385: Disability and Justice, and present an evening lecture to the JMU community entitled "Special Education: Between a Rock and a Hard Place."

One reason for his continued involvement is that "JMU students are a unique breed of people who want to develop their skills." Additionally, he says that students are "interested in being active members of the community" and he is excited to discuss his experiences in the legal field. Tim feels that "students aren't necessarily exposed to the on-the-ground effects of the world" and that he aims to demystify our legal policies.

Tim ultimately advises that students should recognize their own value and that "You are as much a commodity as the jobs you're seeking. Treat yourself accordingly."

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Jennifer Herbert, a 2007 Justice Studies Track A: Crime and Criminology graduate,

is a crime analyst with the Henrico County Police Division in Henrico County, VA. A few years after finishing her undergraduate degree, she earned her Master's degree in Intelligence from the American Military University. Jenn also volunteers to teach criminal intelligence to both the Citizen's Academy and Senior Citizen's Academy, aimed at helping citizens better understand police work.

She also is the director of her neighborhood's Neighborhood Watch program, and she plans and organizes National Night Out every August.

Working as a crime analyst, Jenn enjoys that her job is different every day. The nature of her work with crime means that each case brings a different set of circumstances with it--she could be helping investigate burglaries, robberies, or even homicides. One of her main responsibilities is phone records, which "may sound boring," but she says she finds it very interesting "especially when I can make that 'needle in the haystack' connection!" Jenn believes her Justice Studies degree prepared her to work in a law enforcement setting, and expanded her thinking about the field. For example, she is currently on a committee that focuses on recidivism, and she drew on a lot of the knowledge she gained in her Justice Studies courses to offer up ideas and solutions to her committee members. Speaking on the merits of the Justice Studies program, Jennifer mentions the major's hands-on nature and focus on topics that would really benefit students going into any sort of career, including in law enforcement, law practice, or public policy.

Each year, Jenn actively participates in the JMU Justice Studies Alumni Day and other events. She says that she likes to stay in touch with Justice Studies because the program itself is really what made her want to go into law enforcement. She says that she "likes to help students that are currently in the program to learn about the job opportunities that are available to them and share real life experiences with them." In addition, she says that her strong relationships with her professors make her visits back to JMU all the more enjoyable, and that she likes to help them in any way she can.



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



## Professor

### Christine Robinson

took her Environmental Justice class to Purcell Park in Harrisonburg, learning (with Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River) about how we can clean our local waters. Justice Studies students helped with a river cleanup. Dr. Robinson also received the Provost's 2017 Grant award and will be conducting research on living in the Chesapeake Bay area.



## Assistant Professor Gianluca De Fazio

is teaching an Advanced Justice Research course (JUST402) as part of his project 'Racial Terror: Lynching in Virginia, 1880-1930'. Funded in part by the Provost's Faculty Diversity Council, this project requires students to conduct research on all the lynchings that occurred in Virginia between 1880 and 1930. Students are learning the social, political and symbolic meanings of racial terrorism in US history by searching, collecting, digitizing and analyzing newspaper articles describing local lynching events. They are also constructing a website in which all the narratives of the lynchings will be stored and catalogued. The ultimate goal of this project is to release the stories of lynching in Virginia to the JMU community as well as the general public through this website. Reading the original reports of lynching in the newspapers, we can better understand their ongoing significance for contemporary issues of racial oppression. This digital project aims to become a pedagogical tool to spark in-class discussions and a public debate on racial violence, collective memory, diversity and inclusion.



## Visiting Assistant Professor Cameron Macauley

has a course on Refugees and Humanitarian Response that focuses on the current, ongoing refugee crisis in Europe. The course addresses current affairs, political controversies and legal questions, and analyzes problems related to human rights and international law using contemporary interpretations by legal experts from around the world. This year, guest speakers Rebecca Sprague of the Harrisonburg Refugee Resettlement Office and Suzanne Fiederlein of JMU's Center for International Stabilization and Recovery gave video and audio presentations and discussed international law, human rights and humanitarian aid. Macauley has worked with the American Refugee Committee, internally displaced persons, and others affected by war-related violence in seventeen countries. Macauley's work also includes international aid agencies including Doctors Without Borders, the CDC, the International Medical Corps and the Clinton Health Access Initiative.

# IN OTHER NEWS...

## The Justice Studies

**Student Society (JSSS)** remains an active student organization, working with other groups on campus and in the community to explore and discuss pertinent issues across the three justice tracks and their importance to society and justice. JSSS is engaged in a variety of activities, including hosting field trips, guest speakers, t-shirt fundraisers, and movie screenings, and helping support alumni events, including Alumni Day and this year's College of Arts and Letters Career Conference. Some of the campus organizations JSSS collaborates with include the Feminist Collective, UNICEF, C.A.R.E., and the American Criminal Justice Association (ACJA).

According to JSSS Events Chair, Ashaye Harper, other examples of group activities include a presentation by co-president Daniel Hoffman on what he learned at an international conference on the ISIS threat, and Justice Studies student Morgan Billingsley's discussion of her trip with the Bridges to Community organization to help build homes in communities in Nicaragua.

Please see the JSSS BeInvolved page for more information: <https://beinvolved.jmu.edu/organization/JSSS>

**Justice Studies Department** contributed funds in 2016 to the following events:

- Ben Shahn and the Art of Human Rights Exhibit
- Witness for Peace Southeast Guest Speaker
- CISR Post Conflict Recovery Week
- Model African Union
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## The Nelson Institute

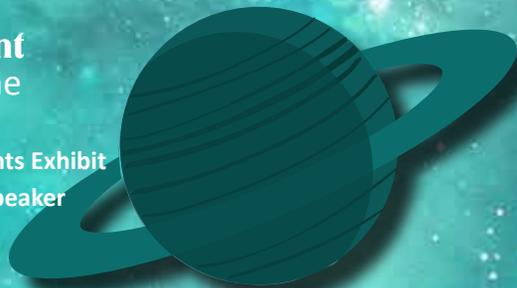
The Nelson Institute for International and Public Affairs, directed by Dr. Peggy Plass, continues to support a range of projects, including the Nelson Institute Seminar. In the seminar, students work with local community agencies as independent research consultants to provide needed and practical research. The seminar allows students to gain real-world experience, while offering support to community agencies doing work related to justice. Over the past year, some of the activities have included a research project on program effectiveness for the Collins Center, a restorative justice project for Second Home, projects on immigration issues in the Harrisonburg area for New Bridges, and two projects for Vine and Fig/New Community Project, including one on Refugees and Urban Farming and one on solar philanthropy. For more information about the Nelson Institute, please contact Dr. Plass or Daisy Breneman.

A special note of appreciation goes out to Lantz Shifflett and Amelia Morrison for their help putting out this year's newsletter.



## Dr. Terry Beitzel, Director of the Gandhi Center,

recently established the International Journal of Responsibility, and is close to publishing the international, peer-reviewed interdisciplinary forum for theoretical, practical, and methodological explorations into the various and complex issues of responsibility. IJR is a broad-ranging journal that incorporates insights from the full range of academic and practical inquiry from the humanities and the social and natural sciences related to addressing the diverse aspects of responsibility.



## New Justice Studies Major and Criminal Justice Minor Scholarships Established For Fall 2017-2018

### The Drew C. Richardson Memorial Scholarship in Forensic Science and Criminal Justice

Established by Eleanor Thompson, this scholarship is for Criminal Justice and Forensic Science minors and is in memory of her life partner Drew Richardson, a former adjunct instructor of criminalistics here at JMU.



### The Porter Justice Studies Scholarship Established with a generous gift by James T. and Marilyn M. Porter to benefit a Justice Studies major.

# Study Abroad Programs



## **Criminals & Saints: Justice and Pilgrimage in Southern Italy**

This is an interdisciplinary trip designed for students from Justice Studies or Criminal Justice and those in English or the Creative Writing minor. Students on the trip will choose 1 of 2 courses offered in the program, for 3 credits. The class that's designed for Justice Studies majors is JUST 301: Organized Crime and the Anti-Mafia Movements in Italy. The problem of Organized and Transnational crime is a key area of concern in the justice fields today, and this trip will provide a lot of opportunity to study and consider the phenomenon while travelling in one of the most beautiful countries in Europe. We'll be spending about a week in Sicily (home to La Cosa Nostra, an organized crime group with many historic ties to America mafias) and about 9 days travelling around on the mainland part of Italy, primarily in the South. We'll be spending time in the regions of Calabria (where the 'Ndrangheta, considered to be currently the most powerful Italian Organized Crime group, are based), Campania (where we'll stay on the beautiful Amalfi Coast in Sorrento, while making trips to Naples, home base for the Camorra, another of the 4 major organized crime groups in Italy), and end our travel with a few days in Rome (including a day trip to Assisi). We'll be learning not only about the ways in which these nefarious organized crime groups do business, but also spending a lot of our time meeting and talking with those who have been influential in the extremely inspirational anti-Mafia movements in Italy. The program will begin in late May (probably on May 20) and we'll be completing our travel in early June (probably June 6). Students who register for the JUST 301 course may use that to fulfill one of the general elective requirements for the CJ minor. While the class is designed for Justice Studies and CJ students, it is open to those in all academic disciplines at the university (where it could be used as a university elective, part of the 120 credits required for graduation). For more information, please see the JMU study abroad website: <https://www.jmu.edu/international/abroad/programs/jmu-italy-sorrento.shtml> - See more at: [http://www.jmu.edu/news/justicestudies/study\\_abroad\\_summer2017.shtml#sthash.G2eLSHCT.dpuf](http://www.jmu.edu/news/justicestudies/study_abroad_summer2017.shtml#sthash.G2eLSHCT.dpuf)



**Exploring Restorative Justice in South Africa** This summer program is a 3-week, 3-credit program based in South Africa that will provide students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn about post-conflict justice, restorative justice, South African society, reconciliation, and race relations. We will be spending most of our time in beautiful Cape Town, but we will also venture in to Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg. We will also be spending time at a national game reserve where we will be able to spot elephants, giraffes, rhino, lions, and many other African animals in the wild. During our stay, we will be residing in hostels and backpackers – the best way to experience the country authentically and the preferred choice of travel for both tourists and locals. All accommodations will have wifi and have access to public transport - See more at: [http://www.jmu.edu/news/justicestudies/study\\_abroad\\_summer2017.shtml#sthash.G2eLSHCT.dpuf](http://www.jmu.edu/news/justicestudies/study_abroad_summer2017.shtml#sthash.G2eLSHCT.dpuf)

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STUDIES  
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**

