The Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program Hosts Visitors from Area High Schools

By Ms. Cindy Moore

In partnership with several local high schools, HCC’s Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies program hosted approximately 70 students on Friday, October 31, 2014. The purpose of this important event was to introduce our program, our faculty, our students, and our campus to area high school students who have expressed interest in academic programs and careers associated with Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies. High school students from Leto High School, Alonso High School, and Durant High School participated in this half day, agenda-filled event.

The high school students were welcomed to the Ybor City campus at 9am by faculty and student leaders from the Criminal Justice Student Association. Dr. Michael Reichard, Program Manager for the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies program, presented an in-depth presentation of our academic program and the various academic and internship opportunities that these students will potentially experience at Hillsborough Community College. In addition, Ms. Sandy Kaminski presented information about admissions requirements and processes for the limited access academies.

Next, students attended 3 rotating, breakout sessions. Dr. Ken Minton spoke to the students about Crime Scene Investigation and hosted a tour of our laboratory. Dr. Mindy Neal and Cindy Moore spoke to the students about our specific academic courses, law school, graduate school, and career opportunities within academic disciplines. Students from the Criminal Justice Student Association spoke to the students about student life on the Ybor City campus and academics from a student perspective. Each session allowed for students to ask specific, individual questions regarding personal academic and career interests.

Lastly, students were provided presentations from Mr. Rashod Webb, Enrollment Development Coordinator, and Mr. James Snapp from the Law Enforcement Academy. Mr. Webb informed the students of the necessary steps to enroll at HCC and transitioning to higher education. Mr. Snapp provided students with information about participating in one of the academies on campus as well as information on preparing for a career in law enforcement. The event concluded with a personalized tour of the Public Services Technology Building. It was our pleasure to host such an enthusiastic and inquisitive group of high school students and we look forward to continuing this partnership with our local high schools.

Ms Cindy Moore is a full time member of the faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program.
A View From the Bench... Grand Juries

By Judge Nick Nazaretian

Season’s Greetings to all of our readers!

Welcome to the latest edition of “View from the Bench”. In this edition, we will continue our journey into the criminal courtroom. Our last edition dealt with the right to jury trial, history of the jury trial and social media and the jury. This edition deals with the grand jury.

Florida’s Grand Jury Structure

“A grand jury must consist of between 15 and 21 persons. Grand jurors are appointed for one term of court, normally five to six months of intermittent service. The concurrence of 12 grand jurors is necessary to indict an individual. Whether or not an indictment is returned, the grand jury may issue presentments or reports recording their findings. In Florida, grand juries may investigate and report on official misconduct and matters generally concerning the public welfare — even if no criminal activity is suspected.”

The grand jury simply makes a determination of whether there is probable cause that a crime has been committed and that the person accused committed the crime. In contrast to the trial jury’s strict standard of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, this probable cause standard has been defined as “a reasonable ground of suspicion supported by circumstances strong enough in themselves to warrant a cautious person in the belief that the named suspect is guilty of the offense charged.” In essence, the grand jury merely initiates a criminal prosecution.

In practice, the prosecuting attorney selects those cases he believes warrant prosecution. The prosecutor then determines whether to proceed by indictment or information. If the prosecutor is required to or chooses to seek an indictment, he or she then presents the case to a grand jury by interrogating the witnesses who have been subpoenaed and presenting other evidence relevant to the alleged offense. The grand jurors themselves also may question witnesses and request additional witnesses or evidence. After that evidence is presented to the grand jury, it decides whether there is probable cause to indict the accused. The accused is not given the opportunity to present evidence in his or her defense or cross-examine witnesses at the grand jury phase. If the accused is subpoenaed to testify before a state grand jury, that testimony cannot be used against him or her at trial.

Persons appearing under subpoena before a grand jury are absolutely privileged from liability for libel and slander in conjunction with testimony given before the grand jury. Grand jury witnesses, however, are subject to conviction for the crime of perjury. If the grand jury finds probable cause to indict the accused it is called a True Bill and if the grand jury finds no probable cause to indict, then it is a No True Bill.

Grand Jury in the News

Recently, the grand jury in Ferguson, Missouri made International news. The prosecutor in the shooting case involving Michael Brown made the decision to seek a grand jury indictment as opposed to reviewing the charges himself and making a charging decision. The decision was challenged by many. In this particular case the prosecutor released all of the evidence reviewed by the grand jury in its decision. This is uncommon. Typically, the public will never see the evidence or testimony of any of the witnesses who testified before the grand jury. However, in the interest of transparency the evidence was released in this case. Nationwide, all states currently have provisions for grand juries, but only half of the states actually employ them and twenty-two require their use, to varying extents. There is thought that use of grand juries nation-wide may be on the decline. The modern trend is to use an adversarial preliminary hearing before a trial judge, rather than a grand jury, in the screening role of determining whether there is evidence establishing probable cause.

We will discuss the jury selection process in our next edition. Until then, the court is in recess.

The Court used some material from the Florida Bar, Gregg D. Thomas and Carol Jean LoCicero (2013) in preparation of this article.

Nick Nazaretian is an Adjunct member of the faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program and is a Circuit Court Judge in Hillsborough County.
THE FBI GAMBLLES WITH THE FOURTH AMENDMENT IN VEGAS

By David Hardy, J.D.

“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

In June of 2014, eight men from Malaysia, Hong Kong, and China booked three “high roller” suites at Caesar’s Palace. The suites are called “high roller” because they are not cheap—they each cost $25,000 a night. The group asked Caesar’s Palace to lend them a large amount of computer equipment during their stay. One of the eight guests, a man named Paul Phua, had recently been arrested in China for involvement in an online gambling scheme.

Given Mr. Phua’s background, the group’s request for computer equipment, and the fact that the 2014 World Cup Soccer matches were in full swing, the hotel staff got suspicious that the guests were conducting an illegal gambling operation so they contacted law enforcement.

The Las Vegas FBI office wanted to search the suites for evidence of illegal gambling, but they had a problem. That pesky Fourth Amendment requires that in order for law enforcement to search a hotel room, a judge must find there is probable cause for the search and issue a warrant. The FBI did not have enough evidence to get a warrant, and they knew it.

There are exceptions to the Fourth Amendment’s requirement that law enforcement get a warrant for a search. For example, if law enforcement wants to search your house but they do not have a warrant they can just ask your permission to search. If you consent, then they can search without a warrant. Your consent, however, must be voluntary so law enforcement cannot threaten or intimidate you to get you to consent.

The FBI agents must have figured that Mr. Phua and his friends would not consent to a search of the suites. So they came up with an idea. They turned off the Internet service to the suites. Then when the guests called the Internet service to the suites, the FBI searched the suites and found evidence concerning an illegal online gambling operation.

The government claims that the search of the suites did not violate the Fourth Amendment because the guests consented to the search when they invited the disguised FBI agents into the rooms. The attorneys for the defendants in this case filed a motion to suppress the evidence from the search. They began their motion by stating:

“The next time you call for assistance because your Internet service is not working, the “technician” who comes to your door may actually be an undercover government agent. He will have secretly disconnected the service, knowing that you will naturally call for help—when he shows up at your door impersonating a technician—let him in. He will walk through each room of your home, claiming to diagnose the problem. Actually, he will be videotaping everything (and everyone) inside. He will have no reason to suspect you have broken the law, much less probable cause to obtain a search warrant.”

There is support for the government’s argument that the guests consented to the search. The Supreme Court has held that law enforcement do not have to tell suspects that they are police when they are invited into a residence. So, for example, undercover officers that are invited into a home to buy drugs do not need a warrant to enter the home because they have been invited.

However, this is not a case where the Internet just went out on its own and the FBI disguised themselves as computer technicians to enter the suites. In this case, the FBI actually turned the Internet off so that they could get invited into the suites. There is a question therefore as to whether or not the guests’ consent to the entry to the agents was voluntary. This is something new and the judge in the case will have to decide whether or not what the agents did violated the Fourth Amendment. Stay tuned to Criminal Justice Today for further developments.

Mr. David Hardy is a private attorney in Tampa and an Adjunct member of the faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program.

The 5th Annual Great HCC Criminal Justice Teach-In Is Coming

On February 26, 2015, Hillsborough Community College’s Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program will present its Fifth Annual “Great HCC Criminal Justice Teach-In.” This event is open to all HCC students, faculty, and staff.

This event, which has been patterned after the national Great American Teach-In, has become a highly successful annual event in its first four years. This year the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program will once again feature numerous guest speakers from many of our local Criminal Justice agencies.

The event will be held at the Ybor City Campus YPST Building, Room 314, with speakers scheduled from 8:00am to 5:00pm on February 26, 2015. Speakers will be scheduled every 90 minutes throughout the day. Great effort has been made to bring to our students, faculty, staff, and guests, many of the leaders of our local criminal justice system.
By Megan Marquetti, CJSA President

On November 19, 2014, Roseanne Cupoli from The Spring came to speak to the Criminal Justice Student Association. Her lecture was heard by HCC students, members of the CJSA, and faculty. Roseanna spoke about what the shelter can do for abused women, children, and men. She also spoke about the “Ray Rice” incident and the fallout of that event.

The Spring is a place where victims of domestic violence can go to for shelter, protection and counseling when they are in fear of their lives. Their mission is to prevent domestic violence, protect victims and promote change in lives, families, and community.

The Spring has provided sanctuary and services to more than 60,000 abused adults and their children. They provide a service plan in which a victim and their children can stay there for up to six weeks. The majority of victims who go to The Spring for help are women and children, and half the children they help are between the ages of new born and 8 years old.

Here are some of the other services The Spring provides:

24-Hour Crisis Hotline: The hotline staff answers calls 365 days a year, providing support, safety planning, arranging emergency shelter and providing referrals.

Emergency Shelter: The 102-bed residential facility is in a secure location providing temporary shelter to individuals and families who are in danger due to domestic violence.

Incredible Kids Program: The shelter provides comprehensive children's services for resident children including daycare, an onsite Hillsborough County school, service management, individual and group counseling, and safety planning.

Outreach Services: For victims and survivors who do not need emergency shelter, advocates assist with safety planning, support groups, referrals for related services, supportive and educational counseling and advocacy.

Visit from The Spring

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Transitional Housing: The transitional housing team provides service management, support and affordable housing to survivors enrolled in post-secondary educational or enhanced job training programs. Participants reside in The Spring’s 12-unit apartment complex at a confidential location for up to 24 months as they work toward economic self-sufficiency.

Education and Awareness Programs: Staff members conduct trainings on a wide variety of domestic violence topics including DV in the Workplace, Teen Dating Violence, and DV101 for community organizations, schools and businesses. Trainings include information on recognizing abuse in the workplace, fostering healthy relationships, and a comprehensive overview of the history of domestic violence.

Social Change Program: The youth coordinator leads programs at schools and partner agencies that teach children and youth about respectful relationships and convey that violence is never an acceptable response to a relationship conflict. The coordinator also works with teens and preteens who have been arrested for domestic violence offenses, teaching them alternative conflict resolution techniques.

Special Programs and Services:

The InVEST Advocate is located at the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office to review law enforcement calls for domestic violence and assess those cases at high risk of lethality.

The DV/CPI Advocate is located at the Child Protection Investigation Division of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office to educate investigators about the connections between domestic violence and child abuse, advise those regarding services available, and advocate on behalf of non-offending parents who are victims.

The Health & Wellness Champion spearheads initiatives to better connect survivors to healthcare and works with the health and wellness community to better engage practitioners in serving victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Legal Services: Legal expertise is provided free of charge to Spring participants by Bay Area Legal Services staff co-located in the emergency shelter.

Rosanne also spoke about the Power and Control Wheel. The wheel explains the overall pattern of abusive and violent behaviors, which is used by a batterer to establish and maintain control over their partner. When someone goes for help, they are shown the Power and Control Wheel to show them what the batterer was thinking and doing during the relationship.

Rosanne Cupoli and The Spring gave us the number to their 24/7 crisis hotline if anyone needs assistance. The number is 813-247-SAFE (7233).

Some of the information provided here is from www.thespring.org.
Our Instructors... New Faculty Join Our Program

Mr. Eric W. Dickey, J.D.

Eric W. Dickey graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Legal Studies from the University of Central Florida, with honors, in 1998. He then went on to receive his law degree, with honors, from the Florida State University College of Law in 2001. Mr. Dickey is published on a number of topics. Of particular interest to Mr. Dickey is Florida’s insanity defense and its practical implications to the criminal justice system. His publications include a lengthy discussion of the problems of Florida’s insanity defense as currently applied in the court system. Mr. Dickey is a former prosecutor having been involved in cases ranging from illegal boat passing to murder. He has tried more than 50 jury trials and hundreds of non-jury trials. He is admitted to practice before all of Florida’s State Courts, all Florida Federal District Courts, and to the US Supreme Court.

Mr. Dickey will be teaching the new Seminars In Criminal Justice: Florida’s Stand Your Own Ground Law and Self Defense.

First Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Departmental Faculty Development Session a Success

By Dr. Mindy Neal

On Wednesday, October 29, 2014, the Ybor City Campus Library hosted our faculty members to an introduction to our campus library and the resources available to both faculty and students. Ybor City Campus Librarian Adonis Amparo gave faculty valuable information regarding all of the tools available to them to assist in their teaching.

The library has a number of databases and research tools that are helpful to both students and faculty, all of which can be searched by topic. Also available are videos on demand and academic videos online. These can be searched by topic as well and then used in the classroom to supplement the instructor’s curriculum. The library will also put any books or supplemental material the instructor would like on reserve for the students.

A final discussion revolved around the use of LibGuides, which are resource tools that can be specifically tailored to an individual class. The instructor can meet with a librarian and they will assist in setting up research guides for the instructor’s specific class. For example, if the instructor is particularly interested in federal agencies or Florida agencies, those specific resources could be listed and easily accessed by the student.

The Criminology and Criminal Justice Program will host one to two such professional development opportunities per semester. If an instructor has any ideas or topics upon which they would like to learn more, please let us know and we will do our best to set it up. I can be contacted at: mneal@hcfl.edu.

Dr. Mindy Neal is a full time member of the faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program.

Our Instructors... New Faculty Join Our Program

Mr. Larry W. Newton, M.S.

Larry W. Newton graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work from Wayne State University and a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of South Florida. Mr. Newton coordinated a juvenile offender employment/life skills program for a non-profit organization from 1992 until 1998 when he joined the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). His work involved pre-employment skills instruction and job placement assistance. During his 15 years with DJJ, he facilitated delinquency prevention, restorative justice and social/life skills group sessions. In addition, along with several other juvenile justice professionals throughout the state, he assisted with the development of the Residential Positive Achievement Change Tool (R-PACT), an assessment tool currently utilized by all residential programs to assess risk and protective factors for youths entering commitment. Joining G4S-Youth Services in 2013, he currently provides services for youths transitioning from residential commitment to community reentry. Mr. Newton will be teaching an introductory course on juvenile justice with an emphasis on the Florida juvenile justice system.
Service Learning Students Get a Crisis Center Tour

By: Cindy Moore, M.A.

Students who enrolled in the Introduction to Human Behavior in Criminal Justice course this Fall 2014 semester had the unique opportunity to tour the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay on November 18, 2014. The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay offers our community assistance in dealing with the "devastating trauma of sexual assault or abuse, domestic violence, financial distress, substance abuse, medical emergency, suicidal thoughts, and emotional and situational problems." Since each of these social issues, as well as the appropriate response to each crisis, were explored during class meetings, the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay provided a means by which to link academic curriculum with initiatives in our community. As a part of the service learning component of the course, our students were provided a private tour of the Crisis Center facilities and the associated service directors presented day-to-day operations and procedures. Students toured the 2-1-1 call center, TransCare Medical Transportation Services, Counseling Services, Family Stabilization, and the Forensic Examination unit. This student-community partnership, established through service learning, was an amazing opportunity for our students to link academics with practical application and the end result proved rewarding and beneficial for our students as several of our undergraduates now plan to formally volunteer with this organization in the future.

Ms. Cindy Moore is a full-time member of the faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program.

Did You Know:
The ratio of property crime to violent crime was higher for the elderly (13 to 1) than for younger persons ages 25 to 49 (3 to 1) and persons ages 50 to 64 (5 to 1).

From the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice

New Courses... Stand Your Own Ground in Florida

By: Eric Dickey, JD

The HCC Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program will debut a new seminar course on the controversial Florida Stand Your Ground law for the upcoming Spring 2015 semester.

The new seminar course is CCJ-2938, Seminar on Criminal Justice Issues: Florida’s Stand your Own Ground Law.

This course examines the evolution and history of self defense and justifiable use of force with a particular emphasis on the current Stand Your Ground law. It will review the criminal charges to which use of force can be a defense, discuss the elements and outcomes of significant use of force cases, and hear from both law enforcement and defense attorneys on how Stand Your Ground changes their traditional approach to violent crimes.

Students will explore how the Stand Your Ground law functions through a review and discussion of the many cases in Florida that utilized Stand Your Ground as a defense, including the George Zimmerman and Trayvon Martin case.

The goal of the course is to enable students to become conversant in how Stand Your Ground works and to enable students to reach their own conclusions as to whether the current law is good for Florida. The course will culminate in a hands-on practical application of Florida’s Stand Your Ground law in a courtroom setting.

Eric Dickey is a private attorney in Tampa and a new Adjunct member of the faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program.
Four Quick Tips to Successful Finals

By: Dr. Mindy Neal

As finals week quickly approaches here at HCC, here are four quick and simple tips to do your very best on your finals:

(1) Get organized/time management: Know your final exam schedule and then allocate a set time (or times) to study for each subject. Get all of your materials and notes on hand and ready to go. Keep all of this organized as the semester goes along in a binder or folder, or make an outline of the material as you go. Whatever you decide, just get organized – consistently having to look for material while you are studying wastes valuable time. The more organized you are (with your time and materials), the less likely you are to procrastinate.

(2) Location matters: Once organized, find the appropriate study place to maximize your time. A quiet environment without distractions is optimal. Obviously, the library is a good choice, but any place that offers quiet is fine. Switching up study locations can also be a good idea. So you are not sitting for hours on end at one location, take a breather, and find a new spot. Switching up your locations can also be a good idea.

(3) Form a study group: There are many benefits to studying in a group: (1) gaining valuable information or perspective that you may have overlooked on your own; (2) improving your own understanding of the material and ability to remember it when you have to explain your own thoughts and ideas to the group; (3) accountability to the group means you are less likely to procrastinate.

(4) Eat well/sleep well: While it will be tempting to grab the quick fix for energy (energy drinks, coffee, sugar, fast food), it is not the best for aiding in your ability to concentrate as needed and retain information. Hydrate with plenty of water and eat nutritious foods, which are power for your brain. Finally, get sleep! Every college student is all too familiar with the all-nighter, and some even see it as a right of passage. However, you may end up doing more harm than good by not sleeping before an exam. Your memory retention suffers greatly without rest; the body and brain require adequate rest to function properly. If you have made a schedule and organized your time well, the all-nighter will not be necessary. Go into that exam fresh and energized and you will see better results.

The Criminology and Criminal Justice Program faculty all wish you the best of luck on your finals.

Dr. Mindy Neal is a full time member of the faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program.
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Our Mission

The Criminal Justice Technology Undergraduate Studies Program is an undergraduate college program at Hillsborough Community College in which students can earn an Associate in Science Degree, an Associate in Applied Science Degree, a College Credit Certificate, as well as an Associate in Arts Degree in various Criminal Justice fields. Our graduates are preparing for careers in law enforcement, corrections, probation, the court system, and law.

The Criminal Justice Technology Undergraduate Program offers students a broad background in history, philosophy, organization, management and operation of the criminal justice system. This Program can be the start of a career in law enforcement, probation, corrections, crime scene and law.

Practicum Course Applications

In order to graduate, A.S. students are required to take (1) CCJ-2910, Directed Research and (2) CCJ-2940, Criminal Justice Internship, or CCJ-2949, Criminal Justice Field Studies.

Students wishing to register for these courses must submit an application in advance of registering. Applications should be submitted at least 6-9 months in advance to guarantee a seat. Students are not allowed to register for these courses until their application is approved.

Applications for the Internship and for Field Studies should be submitted to Dr. Reichard.

Applications for Directed Research should be submitted to Ms. Cindy Moore. Ms. Moore requests that within 2 weeks of submitting your application for Directed Research you email her at cmoore49@hccfl.edu to check on the status of your approval.

The applications and procedures can be found at: http://www.hccfl.edu/cjt

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