Our Fourth Annual Criminal Justice Teach-In Another Great Success

By Ms. Cindy Moore, M.A.

On February 27, the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies program proudly hosted its fourth annual "Great HCC Criminal Justice Teach-In” at the Ybor City Campus YPST Building. This annual event is patterned after the national Great American Teach-In and features leaders of local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies. The Great HCC Criminal Justice Teach-In provides a unique opportunity for our students to learn, first hand, about the operation of various criminal justice agencies and entities which represent law enforcement, corrections, probation, criminal defense, and the court system. In addition to the day-to-day operational aspects of the agencies, our guest speakers also shared with our students their own career journeys, contemporary issues facing criminal justice agencies, and importantly, demonstrated to our students how their education at HCC may potentially lead to specific careers within these agencies. Each speaker allowed time for students to ask questions about the agencies and upcoming recruiting events.

Our honored guests included: Rocky Brancato and Jennifer Spradley, Hillsborough County Public Defender's Office; Nick Nazaretian, Circuit Court Judge for the 13th Judicial Circuit of Florida in and for Hillsborough County; Paul Wysopal, Special Agent in Charge, Tampa Office, FBI; SAC Wysopal spoke about his career journey with the FBI and provided insight to our students who aspire to work in federal law enforcement. Rick Ramirez, Special Agent in Charge, Tampa Region, F.D.L.E., provided testimony about his career path, highlighted opportunities with F.D.L.E., and reminded students of how choices made today will impact the future and of the various opportunities they will encounter in this career field. Jane Castor, Chief of Police, Tampa Police Department; Chief Castor shared professional experiences, highlighted the accomplishments of her agency in partnership with the community, and provided encouragement and insight to students interested in a career in law enforcement, and Major Michael J. Thomas, Troop C Commander, Florida Highway Patrol. Major Thomas presented an overview of the organizational structure of the FHP and the training process required for individuals interested in joining the agency.

The 2014 Great HCC Criminal Justice Teach-In was a tremendously successful event and an excellent opportunity to expose HCC students to local, state, and federal agencies. The faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies program appreciate the time and commitment of each speaker and agency and look forward to continuing to support this initiative. The Teach-In offers students the opportunity to connect with criminal justice agencies and intersect educational goals with specific career objectives. We will also continue to invite the larger HCC community to share in this exciting annual event.

Ms Cindy Moore is a full time member of the faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program.
A View From the Bench... The Right to a Speedy Trial

By Judge Nick Nazaretian

Happy Spring to all of our readers and welcome to the latest edition of “A View from the Bench”. In this edition, we will continue learning about criminal trials and the 6th Amendment.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense” (6th Amendment).

This amendment is used every day in the Florida criminal courts. I will first address an accused’s right to speedy trial. The U.S. Constitution guarantees its citizens the right to a speedy trial. But what does “speedy” mean? How much time is permissible? And why does it exist?

The speedy trial provisions of the State and Federal Constitution are “an important safeguard to prevent undue and oppressive incarceration prior to trial, to minimize anxiety and concern accompanying public accusation and to limit the possibility that long delay will impair the ability of an accused to defend himself.” Dickey v. Florida, 398 U.S. 30, 37–38 (1970). In essence, the Government does not want people languishing in jail. Assume an accused is arrested on very little grounds and sits in jail for years because (s)he can not bond out of jail and there is no clock on when (s)he has to be tried. A clock on justice serves the purpose that the courts can look to have the assistance of counsel (6th Amendment).

Now, let’s examine how much time the state has to prosecute. The U.S. Constitution states that every person has a “Right to a Speedy Trial” without enumerating how much time is considered “speedy.” The States are free to provide a greater protection of its citizen’s rights than the U.S. Constitution, but not less. To that end, Florida has adopted time limits on what constitutes a “speedy trial.” The speedy trial time limit for a misdemeanor is 90 days. The speedy trial time limit for a felony is 175 days. When does the clock actually start? The speedy trial time periods begin when the defendant is arrested, regardless of when the charges are ultimately filed.

If that time runs out, what will happen to the accused’s case? For that, we look to Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 3.191(p); the remedy for failing to bring the defendant to trial within the time period prescribed is a discharge of the offense charged with a ban on any further prosecution. After the speedy trial period has run, the defendant can file a “notice of expiration of the speedy trial period” and serve the prosecutor with a copy.

The notice requires that the judge and prosecutor hold a speedy trial hearing within five (5) business days. At the speedy trial hearing the court must schedule the trial to take place within 10 days. Florida law provides that the trial must begin within ten (10) calendar days of this hearing. Therefore, even if the speedy trial time ran out on the accused’s case, the prosecution still has 15 more days to prepare for trial. It should also be noted that a trial commences once the jury is sworn in, so for practical purposes, the court could pick a jury on a case where the time is about to run out, swear in the jury panel and then hold the trial weeks later, without violating the accused’s rights.

In addition to the speedy trial rights enjoyed by the accused, the accused may want a trial sooner than the allotted time period (90 or 175 days) and can file a Demand for Speedy Trial. In this Demand, the accused is stating to the court that (s)he is ready for trial in five days. Under Florida Rule 3.191(b) once the “Demand for Speedy Trial” is properly filed, the defendant shall have a right to trial within sixty (60) days.

The same five (5) day time limit for the speedy trial hearing and 10 day recapture period explained above apply after a demand is filed. However, while these speedy trial rights exist, they seldom come into play. There are various things that occur during a case, which require the accused to waive their speedy trial rights (i.e. requesting a continuance, not being prepared and for strategic reasons). Nevertheless, it is a vital right guaranteed by the Constitution.

For our next edition, we will focus on jury selection and your right to obtain the faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program and is a Circuit Court Judge in Hillsborough County.

Course Profiles... Seminars On Cyber-Security

By: Dwight Elliott, M.S., J.D.

This course examines and explores the developing field of “cybersecurity” and the drivers behind the evolution of this field, such as the E-commerce industry and cybercrimes. The field of “cybersecurity” refers to technological, social, and legal controls implemented by government and private entities to secure electronic communications. In addition, the course will address how cybersecurity systems and processes designed by corporations and the government are used to protect computers against unauthorized usage, access and attacks. The usage of the internet as a commercial and social communication tool has become increasingly pervasive, to the extent that the average citizen now conducts most professional and personal transactions online. Along with this internet evolution is a new form of criminal activity in electronic form, cybercrimes. Cybercrime encompasses any criminal act dealing with computers and networks. Additional-ly, cybercrime also includes traditional crimes conducted through the internet. For example: electronic theft of monetary funds, internet fraud, identity theft and cyber stalking are considered to be cybercrimes. Finally, the course will look at the developing Criminal Justice and IT careers that are emerging due to a need for professionals to address the challenges and threats posed by cybercrimes. As more commercial activity is conducted online and in electronic form the cybersecurity field will continue to grow and expand infinitely, which will lead to increased demand for criminal justice professionals with the requisite skills sets to conduct advanced investigations and solve virtual crimes in cyberspace at the local and international level.

Dwight Elliott is an Adjunct member of the faculty of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program.
The Case of Simon, a Slave, and the Law of Confessions in Florida

By David Hardy, M.Ed., J.D.

Around 2:00 a.m. on October 17, 1852 in Escambia County, Florida, an unknown person or persons set fire to a home owned by a Dr. Maxwell. The home was vacant at the time and no one was injured. However, the fire destroyed the structure. Less than a week after the fire a slave by the name of Simon was arrested on suspicion of arson. There is no information in the Escambia County Court record why Simon was thought to have been involved in the fire.

Simon was transported to the Mayor’s office in Pensacola where the Mayor questioned him about the fire. Unfortunately a “large and excited crowd” gathered and surrounded the Mayor’s office. The persons inside the Mayor’s Office could hear the crowd outside declaring that Simon be hung. The City Marshall, who was also in the Mayor’s office with Simon, testified that Simon was “under great terror” and that he, “had never seen anyone more terrified.” According to the testimony of the witnesses that were present, the Mayor was the only protection that Simon had against the mob.

The Mayor told Simon that the crowd was convinced that Simon was guilty, that Simon would get a trial, and that Simon would certainly be hung. However, the Mayor then promised Simon that if he turned in his accomplice that Simon would become a state’s witness and that Simon would not face trial. Simon then lowered his head and stated, “Send for my master, and I will tell the Mayor.” When Simon’s master arrived, he instructed Simon to cooperate with the Mayor.

Simon then confessed his guilt – stating that he had started the fire on the ground floor of the home. The next morning during a second interview Simon accused someone as an accomplice. However, when the accomplice was arrested and taken to Simon for identification, Simon refused to identify the individual as his accomplice.

In June of 1853, a grand jury indicted Simon for arson. At the trial there was no corroborating evidence to support Simon’s confession. On the contrary, there was evidence that Simon had made up the facts of his confession - two witnesses stated that the fire started in the upper story of the house while Simon’s confession was that he had started the fire on the bottom floor of the house. The trial judge allowed the jury to hear Simon’s confession, and the jury sentenced Simon to death by hanging.

On appeal, Justice Albert Semmes of the Florida Supreme Court wrote an opinion about the case. First, Justice Semmes noted that in order for a confession to be heard by a jury at trial, the trial judge must first determine that the confession was made voluntarily and uninfluenced by fear or hope. According to Justice Semmes, it was fear that had caused Simon’s confession. Specifically, Justice Semmes felt that Simon confessed to the arson because he was terrified that if he did not say what the Mayor wanted to hear that the Mayor might turn him over to the crowd.

Also, Justice Semmes was troubled that Simon was a slave and that his confession was made in the presence of his master. Justice Semmes wrote that “the ease with which this class of our population can be intimidated, and the almost absolute control which the owner does involuntarily exercise over the will of the slave, should induce the courts at all times to receive their confessions with the utmost caution and distrust.”

Judge Semmes also noted that the eyewitness testimony was clear that the fire had started near the top of the house rather than the ground floor as Simon had confessed, and that if Simon’s confession had been true and voluntary Simon would have had no reason to lie about where he had started the fire. Judge Semmes then reversed the conviction and ordered a new trial.

In a slave society such as Florida’s in 1853 this decision was likely unpopular. Not surprisingly, Judge Semmes was voted out of office that same year. He left Florida and moved to New Orleans to practice law. He died thirty years later.

Judge Semmes’ holding that confessions to law enforcement must be made freely and voluntarily and without threats or promises is still the law in Florida state courts. As the Florida Supreme Court noted recently, for a confession to be deemed voluntary and admissible as evidence the mind of the accused should be uninfluenced by fear or hope. Consequently, when conducting interrogations law enforcement officers must take great care not to threaten, coerce, or make promises to their suspects.

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

Profiles of our Alumni... Kaylee Marshall

By Ms. Cindy Moore

The Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies faculty continue to take pride in tracking the many successes of our alumni. This issue will highlight alumnus Kaylee Marshall. Kaylee graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in the Spring of 2013. Upon graduation, Kaylee enrolled at the Virginia Commonwealth University where she is continuing to pursue her Bachelors’ degree in Criminal Justice. While at HCC, Kaylee was an academic leader in the classroom and a member of the Criminal Justice Student Association, Alpha Xi Delta, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Kaylee states that her experiences at HCC were very positive and that many of her courses were taught by faculty who shared “real life job experiences” and provided specific directives about various career paths. In addition, Kaylee would advise students at HCC to stay focused on one’s dreams, stay on top of school work, and importantly, get to know your professors as they may be able to assist with career advice. Lastly, Kaylee states that HCC helped her achieve her goals by teaching all aspects of the Criminal Justice system and allowing her to gain insight on careers within the discipline.

Kaylee will continue her education and will focus on crime scene investigations. Kaylee recently applied to the FBI Internship program and is awaiting response on her application. She hopes to work for the Tampa Police Department or the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office and, ultimately, the FBI during her career.
Teach-In Pictures Continued From Page 1

Jane Castor,
Tampa Police Chief

Jennifer Spradley,
Hillsborough County
Public Defender’s Office
Homicide Unit

Paul Wysopal,
FBI Special Agent-in-Charge,
Tampa Bay Region

Rick Ramirez,
FDLE Special Agent-in-Charge,
Tampa Bay Region

Jane Castor,
Tampa Police Chief

For A Complete List of Criminal Justice Textbooks:
http://www.hccfl.edu/yc/cjt/for-students/textbooks.aspx

Criminal Justice Internship Applications & Information
http://www.hccfl.edu/yc/cjt/internships.aspx

For Criminal Justice Field Studies Applications & Information
http://www.hccfl.edu/yc/cjt/for-students/criminal

Criminal Justice Directed Research Applications & Information
http://www.hccfl.edu/yc/cjt/for-students/criminal
By Jamaera Davids, CJSA

To kick off this year’s Fourth Annual “Great HCC Criminal Justice Teach-In”, Judge Nick Nazaretian of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Hillsborough County spoke of his role as a judge as well as how he is able to enjoy and tie in his day to day duties with being an adjunct instructor for our very own Hillsborough Community College. Judge Nazaretian is originally from Birmingham, Alabama and graduated from University of South Florida. Upon completion, he enrolled in Nova Southeastern Law School. His experience in the courthouse was first as a public defender and then as a prosecutor. Judge Nazaretian was appointed by Governor Rick Scott in November 2011 as a Hillsborough County Court Judge.

In 2012, Judge Nazaretian had the opportunity of pairing up with TruTV for a show called Pet Court. The show lasted for one season. In this series, he tended to cases involving animal lovers and their furry companions that may have been subjected to cruelty as well as less extreme issues. When he is not overseeing cases in divorce court, which he referred to as “Where Love Goes to Die”; he is spreading his knowledge teaching intro to criminal justice classes at HCC and law classes at University of Tampa.

He considers teaching to be a role where he can share his experiences and knowledge. This is important to him because when he went through school the opportunity to be taught by those actively in or retired from the criminal justice field was not afforded to him. He then closed with great words of advice: “If you do what you love, then you’ll always love what you do”. This he carries out daily through his passion.

By Jennifer Rodriguez, CJSA

Rocky Brancato and Jennifer Spradley, attorneys from the Hillsborough County Public Defender’s office, spoke at the Criminal Justice Teach-In. Rocky Brancato talked about his career and how he decided to be a public defender. After attending Utah State University as an undergrad, he enrolled in Law School at the University of North Dakota. After graduating with his law degree, he applied to both the States Attorneys Office and the Public Defender’s Office. He was hired right away by the Public Defender’s Office. Brancato decided that he wanted to dedicate his career to being a Public Defender.

Brancato has worked as an Assistant Public Defender for 14 years, and has in-depth experience with defending both sex crimes and homicide cases. In order for a public defender to be assigned serious cases, they must first sit-in or assist with two serious trials, must cross examine witnesses and present opening arguments.

Brancato explained to our students that the Public Defender’s Office works hard on each individual case they are assigned to ensure that a defendant’s rights are protected. If needed, a team of investigators will make sure all legal processes in the case are administered correctly and constitutionally. In order for their clients to have the best defense, public defenders work with expert witnesses, forensic psychologists, social workers, analysts, and other highly trained professionals. Public Defenders understand that arrests can sometimes carry unreasonable charges and can even result in wrongful convictions. It is their goal to ensure that every client has been fairly charged, and that there are no errors in the case.

By Austin Verbal, CJSA

Our final speaker of the day was Major Michael Thomas. Major Thomas has served the people of Florida for 27 years in the Florida Highway Patrol. He has a prior record of service with both the military and federal corrections. He rose through the ranks of the Patrol from Trooper to Major, and now serves as the Troop Commander of Troop C, which serves 7 counties, including the Tampa area.

The Florida Highway Patrol is celebrating its 75th year in 2014, and is composed of around 2000 troopers. FHP enjoys state wide cooperation and Major Thomas especially praised the Tampa Police Department and the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office. Major Thomas emphasized that, in addition to patrolling the state’s highways, the Florida Highway Patrol’s activities include drug interdiction, investigation of vehicular homicides, and human trafficking.
A Career As A Victim Advocate

By Dr. Mindy Neal

Career choices within the criminal justice system are expanding. Many students in the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program at Hillsborough Community College are looking to utilize their degree in a more non-traditional way, looking into areas of criminology and social work in addition to law enforcement and law.

A victim advocate is one such career example.

Victim advocates are professionals trained to support and assist victims of crimes. Their roles and training are varied depending on where they work. In general, advocates offer victims information: explaining what victimization is, what a victim’s legal rights and protections are, explaining the criminal justice system and how it works. Advocates also provide emotional support and encouragement throughout the legal process, trying to minimize the physical, psychological and emotional consequences for the victim. The advocate, in a sense, becomes the face of the legal system for the victim. Their role is often to help the victim not only understand the system, but to navigate through the system in the least traumatic way and to take full advantage of resources available to them. Toward these ends, the advocate may help a victim contact social service organizations, fill out paperwork, obtain injunctions, locate and utilize resources, and understand the legal system. Some may even sit with a victim during a court case to help them through what is often a foreign and traumatizing experience.

A victim advocate may work in many different locations and specialize in various areas. For example, advocates may work in the following criminal justice system settings: police stations, a prosecutor’s office, the courts, probation and parole departments, and prisons. Advocates may also work in private, non-profit organizations such as sexual assault crisis centers and domestic violence programs. Whether it is working in the criminal justice system or private setting, some areas of specialization include sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence.

By specializing an advocate may be more appealing to a potential employer as well as allowing him or her to give better advice and support to the people for whom they are working, the victim.

While there is no specific degree required to work as a victim advocate, many have studied and earned a degree in criminal justice, social work, education, or psychology. Often, the advocate will receive additional training on specific knowledge and skills needed for a particular job. The career outlook for a victim advocate is good. However, there has been an increase in the number of students majoring in social work and related fields; as such, paid employment has become more competitive and often a bachelor’s degree is required. If not required, a bachelor’s degree certainly will improve the applicant’s chances of being hired.

As with many of our degrees, my advice to those seeking experience and future employment as an advocate is to volunteer. Employers will be seeking experience; therefore, being a volunteer advocate would be a great place to get that experience. In the Tampa Bay area, consider the local criminal justice agencies, the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, The Spring domestic violence shelter, and the Guardian Ad Litem program to name a few.

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

SAC Rick Ramirez of FDLE speaks at our Teach-In

By: Megan Marquetti, CJSA

Rick Ramirez is currently the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for the Tampa Bay Region. Mr. Ramirez explained that FDLE is organized into five areas: Executive Direction and Business Support, Criminal Investigations and Forensic Science, Criminal Justice Information, Criminal Justice Professionalism, and Florida Capital Police. During the teach-

in, Mr. Ramirez spoke to the students about the importance of education, and that a degree did not necessarily make an officer smarter but exposed them to diversity. He also talked about the idea that someone is always looking and taking pictures during the wrong moments and how that impacts on the officer trying to do his or her job. Mr. Ramirez also told the students about a few books that are in the criminal justice field; “Character and Cops” by Edwin Delattre and “Workforce 20/20.”
What’s Coming Up
Criminal Justice Schedules

Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies
Look for an expansion of our Program to include Cyber-Security and Cyber-Terrorism course offerings

What’s Going On
Criminal Justice Activities

Students from CJSA took a tour of HCSO’s Orient Road and Falkenburg Road jails on Friday, April 18, 2014. The tours allowed students to learn about booking, intake housing, medical, and special programs.

CJ News

Criminal Justice Student Shirts Available
Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Program students can purchase program based HCC logo polo shirts at the Ybor City Campus bookstore. The cost is $26.70 including tax.

See our web site at: http://www.hccfl.edu/ycc/cjst/fors-students/cjst-store.aspx or contact the Ybor City Bookstore for more information.

Advising Notes

ACADEMY GRADUATES
Students graduating from a Florida Police or Corrections Academy may be entitled to College credits toward an A.S. degree. Currently, they are awarded as follows:

POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATES
CJE-1000: Introduction to Law Enforcement 3 Credits
CJE-2940: Police Academy Practicum 12 Credits
CORRECTIONS ACADEMY GRADUATES
CJC-1000: Introduction to Corrections 3 Credits
CJC-2940: Corrections Academy Practicum 9 Credits

CONGRATULATIONS
Jennifer Rodriguez
New President Of the CJSA

Chief Castor Once Again Addresses Our Teach-In

By: Jeni Woodring, CJSA

Police Chief Jane Castor has spoken at our Teach-In for the last four years. She attended the University of Tampa on an athletic scholarship for both basketball and volleyball and earned her Bachelors of Science in Criminology. Along with this accomplishment, Chief Castor also holds a Masters in Public Administration from Troy State University. Following this she graduated from the FBI National Academy.

Aside from her academic accomplishments Chief Castor has been with the Tampa Police Department for thirty years. During this time she has served in almost every department within. These departments range from patrol to narcotics to field training and administration. In 2009 she rose through the ranks to become the first female police chief of Tampa.

Chief Castor is a very driven woman who knows how to protect her city. She explained her police philosophies at our Teach-In. The idea behind her policy on policing can be boiled down to a simple statement that she made, “This isn’t rocket science, just good old police work.” Chief Castor’s policies back up that statement. By shifting the focus for the Tampa Police Department, Chief Castor has begun to place more of an emphasis on quality assurance by instilling a new sense of urgency she labeled as the “swarm effect”. This swarm effect is exactly how it sounds. A crime occurs and officers are on scene as fast as possible and in numbers in order to swarm the offender. Chief Castor also has her officer’s work in conjunction with citizens calling them to aid in stopping crime.

Criminal Justice Student Association

The CJSA welcomes all students who share an interest in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies. Our student group is committed to community involvement, networking with criminal justice partners, and identifying ways to connect academics, community, and criminal justice. Students interested in learning more about our club or joining the CJSA, should feel free to contact Cindy Moore at cmoore49@hccfl.edu or Leo Cadogan at ccadogan@hccfl.edu.

Alpha Xi Delta

We invite students who are interested in being a part of the American Criminal Justice Association to consider joining through our HCC Chapter. With membership, students will receive a membership certificate, card, and pin, ACJA/LAE logo decal, membership oath and symbolism booklet, access to national journals, access to job information and the opportunity to receive the Silver Key in recognition of an earned Associates Degree with a 3.5 to 4.0 GPA. For more information, please contact Cindy Moore at cmoore49@hccfl.edu.
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 3-6 months in advance to guarantee a seat. Applications for Directed Research should be submitted to Dr. Neal and applications for the Internship and Field Studies should be submitted to Dr. Reichard. Students are not allowed to register for these courses until their application is approved.