CRIMINOLOGY HONORS PROGRAM

Students in Dr. Schweizer’s honors class on Criminal Justice Organization and Management completed three major research projects.

1. Evaluation of Anti-Gang Initiatives
Two groups researched various Anti-Gang measures around the country and the problem of their limited success and inadequate or empirically flawed outcome assessments. The Final Report was presented to Debra McKenzie, the Gang Task Force Coordinator of the Fresno County Administrative Office.

2. Roll Call Training Bulletin on Mentally Ill
A second group developed a Roll Call Training Bulletin on the Handling of Mentally Ill Persons by Police for the Fresno Police Department. Students developed the training bulletin based on statutory requirements, case law, and civil suits arising out of specific cases. Students also drafted a list of guidelines police officers should follow.

3. Identify Theft Victim Advocate Position
Fresno Police Detectives are currently overwhelmed with cases of identify theft and students evaluated the current approach for handling such cases, along with making recommendations that would make the process more transparent and functional. Part of their work included the development of a job description for a civilian (non-sworn) identity theft victim advocate.

DNA News: The British Domestic Intelligence Agency MI5 has announced that it will create a DNA database of terrorist suspects under a new law granting the agency the necessary authority.

DNA will be extracted from fingerprints and saliva samples taken from objects such as used drinking containers, cigarette butts, and other common objects. The DNA will then be compared against samples in the national DNA database. This is hoped to solve the dilemma of police not sharing DNA samples with the intelligence service. Over the next ten years, the number of persons convicted of terrorism is expected to rise from 113 to 1600, with the majority classified as high risk offenders.

The British Police DNA database currently holds DNA profiles of 4.5 Million individuals, or 7.5 percent of the entire population.
CRIMINOLOGY DEPT. NEWS

NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENT
Dr. Kevin Miller, recently joined the Department of Criminology with a joint appointment to Biology and Chemistry. Dr. Miller has extensive experience with DNA analysis and previously served as Program Manager for the FBI’s mtDNA population database and also continued the ongoing development of that database.

Dr. Kevin Miller

Dr. Miller is the newest member of the doctoral faculty in the Criminology Department’s joint doctorate in Forensic and Behavioral Sciences. The doctoral program is accepting applicants beginning with the Fall 08 semester. Additional information about Dr. Miller’s professional background is posted at:

http://www.csufresno.edu/criminology/degrees_programs/joint_doctorate/faculty.shtml

His office is in ST 148 and you can reach him via email at: Kevin_Miller@csufresno.edu

CRIMINAL JUSTICE EMPLOYMENT

POLICE OFFICER

The Medford, Oregon Police Department is accepting applications to establish an eligibility list for filling future openings in the Medford Police Department. Great salary and benefits. More info at: http://www.ci.medford.or.us

Work for the V.I.S.T.A. (Volunteers in Service to America) program at the Selma Police Department

City of Selma California
Raisin Capital of the World
For more information, contact: Therese Malischke, Police Education Coordinator, AmeriCorps VISTA
Coordinadora de la educación policial

City of Selma Police Department
Neighborhood Youth and Resource Center
Centro juvenil y de recursos comunitarios
2099 Mitchell Ave.
Selma, CA 93662
(559)898-0721

In Memoriam

Tulare County Sheriff’s Detective Kent Haws was shot in the line of duty by a suspected gang member on 17 December, 2007. The Central Valley lost a dedicated peace officer, who also leaves behind a wife and three sons. A fund has been setup to assist the Haws family. Donations should be sent to:
Detective Kent Haws Memorial Fund, Tulare County Dep. Sheriff’s Benevolent Association, c/o Tulare County Federal Credit Union, 2038 S. Mooney Blvd., Suite M-5, Visalia CA 93277
Sacramento County Sheriff’s Detective Vu Nguyen was shot and killed by a 16 year old suspected gang member during a foot chase in South Sacramento on 19 December 07. The Sacramento District Attorney’s office indicated that the teen is being charged as an adult. The detective was a seven year veteran of the department and recently married.

Names of current and past officers killed in the line of duty and their agencies can be viewed at the Officer Down Memorial Page http://www.odmp.org/


GRANT OPPORTUNITY

N.I.J. Solicitation

Solving Cold Cases with DNA
Appl. Deadline: 2359 hrs 1 February 2008

This program furthers the Justice Department’s mission by offering assistance to States and units of local government to identify, review, and investigate Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 1 Violent Crime “cold cases” that have the potential to be solved through DNA analysis and to locate and analyze biological evidence associated with these cases. The solicitation is at:


For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact Charles Heurich, 202–616–9264 or charles.heurich@usdoj.gov.
This application must be submitted through Grants.gov. For technical assistance with submitting the application, call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 1–800–518–4726.
Grants.gov Funding Opportunity No. 2008–NIJ–1745 SL# 000828

Dr. Schweizer met with new prospective students for the downtown degree program at Fresno City Hall Annex on 20 December 2007. Any other interested government employees who were unable to come to the information table on that day are encouraged to email Dr. Schweizer for more information. Anyone meeting the minimum qualifications can still be accommodated for the upcoming classes in February/March 2008.

The degree program is supported by the City and County of Fresno, with classes held at the Fresno Police Department Annex on Monday and Wednesday evenings and some Saturdays. Students in the program pay reduced tuition and complete their upper division coursework within two years from the time they begin the program.

The cost is $190 per unit, with a three unit course costing $570. There are no other fees, except for the purchase of books required for particular courses. A graduate program is also under consideration and Dr. Schweizer is continuing to solicit feedback from government employees with four year degrees who are interested in a master of science degree in criminology through the downtown program. If you are interested in earning such a degree, email Dr. Schweizer at haralds@csufresno.edu
Introduction of Lay Judges

Japan’s legal system is undergoing a shock. The practice of professional judges being the sole determiner of guilt or innocence is being modified with the use of lay judges. Lay judges are non-legal trained persons selected from the community to hear and decide on cases together with the professional judge. While lay judges may be thought of the same as juries, there are some significant differences. Lay judges sit on a bench next to the professional judge, and they are typically permitted to ask questions of anyone testifying in court. Lay judges assist the judge and participate in the determination of guilt or innocence. This recent change has come about as a result of the public’s perception that professional judges are too aloof and not accountable to the community in their decision making.

This radical modification in the trial process has necessitated the offering of special training sessions for lawyers who now have to do more than simply present the facts as they advocate for their client; they must win over the lay judges. Techniques for making eye contact and speaking without directly reading from a document, have become crucial. According to a top lawyer with the Osaka Bar Association, today’s lawyer has to become more aggressive and openly challenge the prosecution in order to impress the lay judges and hope to get a not guilty verdict.

Police Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

In 2007, twelve police officers were killed in the line of duty in Japan. On 11 November 2007, the central government held a memorial ceremony honoring the fallen officers and any civilians who died helping or attempting to assist police officers.

Police Suicides in Japan

Japanese media recently focused on the tragedy of Japanese police officers committing suicide. They typically shoot themselves in the break room of their police post (Koban) or police station.

Japan has 288,451 police officers assigned to 7196 Chuzaishos (one officer living with family in combination police post and home residence), 6262 Kobans (staffed by fewer than 20 officers), and 1218 police stations typically staffed by hundreds of officers. This number does not include the main (47) prefectural headquarters. About 4.1% of all police officers are female and 17, 307 officers or 6% of the total force, have the rank of Captain or above. Of those, 96 or fewer than 1% are female.