

To All,

Once again the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting is behind us and we are all returned safe and sound from Baltimore, MD where WCSU JLA once again "rocked it." In all of my years doing this trip with the students I think this was one of the more successful and impressive trips. Each year our students have been amazing in supporting JLA faculty and student presentations, interacting with professors and students at other universities and colleges, and being exceptional ambassadors and representatives of our program. This year, however, we were fortunate to have 6 faculty presenters and 5 student presenters. We were to have 7 students presenting but one student had a last minute family emergency and one ran into a conflict with a new job.

Student attendees were: **Ryan Bartolotta, Bret Pikul, Maribel Ramirez, Natalie Rodriguez, Allison Salzo, Joseph Tamberelli, and Jayme Thompson.** All are seniors. Of the group we have 5 looking to go to law school and 2 with graduate school plans.

Ryan B., as Justice & Law Society President, did an incredible job of planning the trip, registering the students for the conference, and arranging transportation and lodging (which included upgraded accommodations at the conference overflow hotel, The Four Seasons --not too shabby at all.)

Special thanks goes to **Cathy Kost**, Center for Student Involvement, and **Kim Spinelli**, University Travel, who once again greatly assisted us and whose guidance, patience, and expertise, allow get us to this annual academic conference without any hassle on our end. Their efforts on behalf of JLA and our students is unparalleled.

The faculty presentations were as follows:

Dr. George Kain -- **An Eye for an Eye: Retributive or Restorative?** (Panel Presentation)

Dr. George Kain -- **Teaching Capital Punishment in Criminal Justice Programs Justice, Human Rights, and Activism/Death Penalty** (Round-table Discussion)

Prof. Terrence P. Dwyer -- **The Blue Wall of Shame: Workplace Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination of Female Police Officers in the United States** (Panel Presentation)

Dr. Kim Marino -- **Teaching Corrections: How Policies and Practices are Responding to Current Issues** (Round-table Discussion)

Dr. Kim Marino -- **All Students Studying Corrections Should be Locked Up: The Value of Experiential Learning** (Poster Session)

Prof. Tom Miller -- **Murder, Manslaughter, or Mere Mistake: A Legal Analysis of the Shooting of Jean Botham** (Panel Presentation / Prof. Miller was Panel Chair)

Prof. Tom Miller -- **Down the Slippery Slope: An Analysis of the Potential Unintended Consequences of *Ocasio v. United States*** (Panel Presentation / Prof. Miller was Panel Chair)

Dr. Hasan Arslan -- **Decoding the Language and the Patterns in the ISIS Magazine *Dabiq*** (Panel Presentation / Dr. Arslan was Panel Chair)

Dr. Rainer Kroll -- **Evaluation of Effects of Shift Work Assignment: Survey of Motivation in Police Officers** (Panel Presentation / Dr. Kroll was Panel Chair)

The student presentations were as follows:

Allison Salzo & Natalie Rodriguez -- **The Blue Wall of Shame: Workplace Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination of Female Police Officers in the United States** (Panel Presentation)

Ryan Bartolotta -- **General Strain Theory as Applied to America's Unique Opioid Crisis** (Panel Presentation / Ryan also served as the Panel Chair and did an impressive job since he was on a panel with faculty from other schools)

Joseph Tamberelli -- **Do Opioids Affect People of All Backgrounds the Same?** (Poster Session)

Jayme Thompson -- **Exploring White Collar Crimes in Comparison to Street Crimes** (Poster Session)

It should be noted that Ryan Bartolotta is a Political Science major with a JLA minor and Jayme Thompson is an Accounting major with a JLA minor. Also, Joe Tamberelli was mentored in his project by Dr. Divya Sharma and Jayme Thompson was mentored in her project by Dr. Hasan Arslan. Also, of note is that our students present on panels with other faculty. I have never had them present on all student panels. Presenting with faculty and PhD students can be daunting but it is a great confidence booster and it forces them to really make sure their work is exceptional.

Our students attended every faculty presentation (even making it to Kim's 8:00 a.m. round-table on Wednesday morning and actively participating) as well as attending other panels of interest to them. Two students -- Bret & Ryan -- even had starring participatory roles in Tom's *Ocasio v. U.S.* presentation (as can be viewed in the attached video.) We had a set of parents and a sibling in attendance on Friday (Mr. & Mrs. Bartolotta and Ryan's brother Owen, an undergrad at University of Delaware) for his presentation and the poster sessions. On Wednesday night JLA faculty & students convened at the James Joyce Restaurant & Pub, a block from the hotel, for food and drinks and on Thursday night we all had a more formal dinner at McCormick & Schmick's on the Inner Harbor. Even though Tom Miller came down just for the day on Wednesday to do his two presentations he was able to join me and the students at the 4:30 p.m. ACJS ice cream social (an event neither I nor the students have missed in 10 years.) Hasan was joined at the conference by his wife Sarah and our own CSU Adjunct of the Year (better half of Dr. George Kain) Marilyn Kain was in attendance. Also, Marilyn helped me collect some of the photos attached to this e-mail.

The compliments our students received from other faculty and presenters was, as it has been in the past, glowing--they are impressed with the content and depth of the student presentations and surprised to find they are undergrads and not grad students presenting at the conference. This is, as I've noted in the past, a testament to all you do as JLA faculty in preparing them for their future. It is easy to complain about our problem students or the general malaise we can encounter in the classroom, but we have a number of exceptional students (in addition to those who go to these conferences) who are doing amazing things in their lives and who truly value what they learn in our program.

Thank you to those of you who have mentored these students and assisted them in their presentations. Also, thank you to the faculty who went to the conference and supported the students by coming to their presentations, providing additional mentoring at the conference, and continuing to serve as role models for them. The students enjoyed interacting with us, breaking bread over meals, and seeing us in an environment away from the classroom. The conversation, collegiality, laughs, and impressive body of work we shared made a long week fly by quickly.

TPD

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