

College of Criminal Justice

(Est. 1967)

Open Letter from the Faculty of the College of Criminal
Justice to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Organizational
Structure of CAS and CCJ

In light of the Provost's creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Organizational Structure of CAS and CCJ, the faculty of the College of Criminal Justice thought it would be helpful to provide the Committee with some information about the College. We have a history of more than 40 years at Northeastern University and are recognized as one of the top criminal justice programs in the United States. We hope that this document will provide the Committee with a better understanding of the College of Criminal Justice.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AS A DISCIPLINE

What is 'Criminal Justice'?

Over the last forty years, the United States has had the leading role in developing the field of 'criminal justice,' broadly conceived as an academic discipline that focuses on issues related to crime, law, social control, and security. Criminal justice is explicitly interdisciplinary, having links to the biological sciences, the behavioral sciences, the social sciences, law, as well as computer science and engineering. Criminal justice is concerned with theory, policy, and practice.

The Growth of Criminal Justice

Following the publication of *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society* (1967) by President Lyndon Johnson's Crime Commission, there was a significant push from the federal government to improve the administration of justice in the United States through the use of higher education - "professionalization anchored in education." Starting some 40 years ago, universities around the country began responding to this call. The College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University was established just prior to the publication of the Commission's report as one of the first Colleges of Criminal Justice in the United States.

Over the past 40 years, college and university programs in criminology and criminal justice have grown and evolved in ways consistent with other academic disciplines. The initial focus of many of these programs was on in-service training of students in criminal justice professions, but that model was largely replaced with a focus on pre-service students or students interested in a general liberal arts education. Research and education in the field is deeply and broadly anchored in public and private universities, national and international research institutes, the professoriate, and reflected in the large numbers of undergraduate and graduate students. At present, there are well over 1,000 undergraduate programs, several hundred Master's degree programs, and over 40 Ph.D programs in the United States. As a reflection of the growth and maturation of the field, *US News* began ranking criminology and criminal justice doctoral programs in 2005, the National Research Council will include

criminology and criminal justice in its next set of rankings, and the National Science Foundation has created a separate funding program for research on crime and criminal justice. Other features that characterize the growth and development of the field over the past 40 years are two large and active professional organizations (American Society of Criminology [Est. in 1941] and Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences [Est. in 1963])¹, a large number of peer-reviewed journals that have their own set of rankings published by the Institute for Scientific Information in *Journal Citation Reports*, and national and international congresses.

As our very brief history of the development of criminal justice in the US indicates, it is clear that the field of criminal justice has uniquely American roots. In the last 10 to 15 years, a large number of other countries have adopted the approach of criminal justice as a distinct field of study. It is no exaggeration to claim that the US is viewed as the world leader in the field of criminal justice. The American academic and intellectual model for the understanding of crime, of law and social control, and of administration of justice is reflected in the large number of research institutes and world class universities (e.g., Cambridge, Oxford, Australian National University) embracing this field. The fact that the professional and educational organization of American criminal justice has been embraced and adopted by a significant number of other countries is reflected in the range of organizations that have adopted a historically American model. For example, the European Society of Criminology was established in 2000 and was explicitly modeled on the American Society of Criminology. Similarly, the Netherlands used the US model in its discussion of re-structuring its university education in criminology and China is developing graduate programs in criminal justice based on the American model.

Criminal Justice in the 21st Century

Although its origins are drawn from a concern with crime and crime control, the field of criminal justice has undergone significant expansion over the past three decades. Today, academics and professionals in criminal justice are increasingly asked to conduct research, to advise and to consult on national and international issues across a diverse set of subject areas, such as, national and international administration of justice, causes and consequences of crime, public health, [financial] regulation, governance, environment, development, international treaties, and national and international security issues (especially since 9/11). The development and growth of criminal justice has arisen in large part due to the long-term investments made by society into understanding the rule of law, operation of the justice system, and the important consequences of crime for all societies. Equally important, however, is the fact that the role of

¹ Robert Sheehan, the Founding Dean of Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice served as the President of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in 1967-68.

criminal justice has also grown because it is not only an academic field of study, but it is also a practice-oriented discipline that is directly connected to major institutions of social control (e.g., law-making, law enforcement, courts, and a wide range of correctional agencies). Because of these institutional connections, criminal justice has become an increasingly important partner to a wide range of professions.

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Mission Statement

The College of Criminal Justice prepares students for professional and research careers in criminal justice, criminology, and related fields by applying multidisciplinary and comparative social science to understand, predict, and explain crime and contribute to the development of public policy within urban communities. Using an active learning approach, the College seeks to develop its students intellectually and ethically, while providing them with a keen appreciation for the complexities of crime and for public and private efforts to make communities safer and ensure justice.

Background

The College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University celebrated its 40th Anniversary in the fall of 2007. With more than 8,000 graduates, the College of Criminal Justice continues to have a profound impact on criminal justice issues and leadership in the justice system within the New England region, nationally, and internationally. The doctoral program was ranked #14 by US News & World Report (last ranking in 2005), indicating that the college is well poised as a national and international leader on matters in the study of the causes and consequences of crime and of the social and institutional responses to crime. Moreover, an analysis of faculty productivity in 2007 by Academic Analytics (commissioned by the Provost's Office) indicated that the College of Criminal Justice was one of two academic areas at Northeastern University to have their Ph.D Program ranked in the top 10 in their field (see *Quick Facts*).

There are a number of features that distinguish Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice from its academic competitors regionally and nationally. These features help to ensure that the College of Criminal Justice continues to grow as an intellectual leader in the most crucial areas of lawmaking, crime, crime policy, and justice studies. The following discussion highlights the primary dimensions of the College.

A College with Distinctive Intellectual Themes

The College of Criminal Justice was founded in 1967 with a \$90,000 grant from the Ford Foundation amidst considerable social struggle. The College was established with the explicit purpose of addressing questions surrounding the ethical and constitutional administration of the justice system.

In more recent years, the College has broadened the focus of its academic programs and research activities. Emerging from this expansion of intellectual energy are four interrelated themes that now define the issues related to the study of crime and justice systems in the 21st century and pursued by the faculty of the college. These themes are:

- **Crime and Public Policy** - Focused on the etiology of crime, and public debate regarding crime prevention and social regulation, including policies aimed at individuals, communities, and organizations in the public and private sector.
- **Organizations and Leadership** - Focused on organizational arrangements in the justice system and the need for effective leadership within and across these organizations.
- **Global Criminology** - Focused on the increasingly international and global nature of norm-creation, misconduct, crime prevention and control.
- **Law and Justice** - Focused on the origins of law, law reform, and the fair and equitable administration of the criminal law and criminal sanctions.

Focusing on these broad themes sets Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice apart from other criminal justice programs, since we are preparing our students for the kind of diverse and changing career paths that they will navigate in the field of criminal justice in the years ahead.

Applied and Action Interdisciplinary Research

The faculty and research centers of the college have a national reputation for conducting interdisciplinary research that is timely, analytic and useful to policy makers. This research approach has resulted in significant increases in research funding obtained by the College (between \$1.5M and \$2.0M each year for the last five years). Our applied and action-research model has expanded external support from public and private funding agencies over the past 5 years or so, recently culminating with the first MacArthur Foundation grant received by Northeastern University in many years. It has also created research opportunities for our faculty and both graduate and undergraduate students.

The College of Criminal Justice is home to three research centers: Institute on Race and Justice, Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research, and Institute on Security and Public Policy.

Here is a sample of the research projects underway in each of the three research centers:

Institute on Race and Justice

National Human Trafficking Reporting System

Professor Amy Farrell and Associate Dean Jack McDevitt have developed the first national reporting system for cases of human trafficking - a modern day form of slavery - identified by law enforcement agencies throughout the U.S. The system which was implemented in 2008 will collect information on investigations of human trafficking and has already served as the data source for the first ever Report to Congress on the incidence and character of human trafficking in the United States. The project is funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the US Department of Justice

Shannon Anti-Gang initiative

Associate Dean Jack McDevitt is leading a statewide effort to support the anti-gang initiatives of 39 Massachusetts communities. The Institute on Race and Justice is providing technical assistance and program evaluation support to the Shannon Community Safety Initiative, a \$13 million dollar program to reduce gang violence in the Commonwealth. The project is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

Due Process Rights in Chinese Courts

Professor Phil He and Associate Dean Jack McDevitt have recently received the first MacArthur Foundation award that Northeastern University has received in a number of years. This project will examine the provision of Due Process rights in lower courts in China. Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice will partner with Xiamen University in China (one of the top law schools in China) to conduct this study.

Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research

Sexual Assault Experiences of Latina women

Professor Carlos Cuevas is leading a national study of the incidence and impact of sexual assault on Latina women. This project includes a national probability survey of Latina women and is collecting information on the impact and coping mechanisms of Latina women after sexual assault. This project is funded by the National Institute of Justice.

International Study of Delinquency

Professors Ineke Marshall and Phil He are leading a National Institute of Justice project to collect information on delinquency experiences of young people that is serving as the United States component of an international study of delinquency that involves nearly 40 Countries. The data from this study represents the richest source of international delinquency data that has been collected to date.

National Police Platform

Associate Dean Jack McDevitt and Professor Amy Farrell are leading the Massachusetts component of the first large-scale national study of police careers. This \$1.9 million dollar national project funded by the National Institute of Justice will collect information from police officers and police supervisors at six-month intervals over the course of their entire career to identify important milestones in the life-course of police professionals.

Institute on Security and Public Policy

Understanding and Countering the Finance of Terrorism

Led by Professor Nikos Passas, this project is a collaboration between Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice, Brown University-Watson Institute of International Affairs and Case Western University Law School to develop indicators of suspicious transactions on the mechanics and vulnerabilities of informal funds transfers and trades. The study is sponsored by the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and supported by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Corruption Legal Library Project

This project, led by Professor Nikos Passas, is sponsored by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. The focus of this project is the collection, organization, and analysis of information on corruption issues from all UN member states. The project has developed a web-based library that includes a legal database, a national anti-corruption strategies database, and an anti-corruption international cases database. This project has expanded into a web-facilitated consortium and collaborative forum including *inter alia* several UN agencies, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, OECD, the Council of Europe.

Controlling National and International Illegal Firearms Markets

This study, led by Dr Glenn Pierce is leading a study to enhance our understanding of primary and secondary sources of illegal firearms markets. Through this research he is helping to develop methods to better assess, identify and control various types of illegal channels through which firearms are acquired for use by criminal offenders, juveniles and other persons subject to gun-related restrictions. This program has recently produced a report with the RAND Corporation on "Understanding Illegal Firearms Markets," the first paper on small arms trade to appear in the Nonproliferation Review, and a prototype firearm trace intelligence system for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Academic Programs

Doctoral Program

The Ph.D in Criminology and Justice Policy was implemented in the 2004-2005 academic year. The degree program has a focus on crime and public policy. There are currently 38 active students in the program. The College faculty selects 5-7 students annually for admission and last year the Ph.D program received more applications than any other Criminology program in the country. The degree in Criminology and Justice Policy is unique in that it fuses criminological theory and public policy and in the level of quantitative and qualitative preparation provided to our students.

Graduate and Post-Graduate Programs

The College of Criminal Justice has offered the MS in Criminal Justice since 1973. At present, there are about 60 active students enrolled in the program. The Masters program enrolls between 25-35 students annually and students generally complete their degree in eighteen months. The graduation rate in our Masters program is over 90%.

The College also offers the MS in Information Assurance through a joint program with the College of Computer & Information Science. This program currently includes approximately 30 students, the vast majority of whom are taking courses part-time (on Saturdays) and working in the world of information security

More recently, the College of Criminal Justice, working with the College of Professional Studies, will offer the MS in Criminal Justice Leadership and a certificate in Intelligence Led Policing. Both programs will be fully operational by June 2009.

Undergraduate Program

From its inception, the College has offered the BS in Criminal Justice. At present, just over 800 students are majoring in criminal justice. In the 41 years of its existence, the College has graduated over 8,000 students, many of whom have gone on to leadership positions in the public sector (various local, state, national, and international agencies), the private sector (law firms, security firms, and other businesses), as well as into academic research and teaching positions across the United States. In addition to the strengths of the BS in Criminal Justice, there are several other aspects of the undergraduate program in the College that help to distinguish the College from its peers:

- **Experiential-Integrated Learning** – The College of Criminal Justice has designed a comprehensive and linked process to promote integrated learning for all of its students. Specialized coursework links the classroom experiences of students to their external placements, which then provides a vehicle for students to interpret their experiences in larger theoretical and analytic contexts. We are not aware of any other undergraduate program in criminology and criminal justice in the United States that offers as comprehensive and broad-based experience for its majors. Additionally, the College annually conducts an assessment of learning by our students. Information from this assessment is used to inform our undergraduate curriculum.
- **Pre-Law Advising Program** – The Pre-Law Advising Program for Northeastern University was developed and implemented within the College of Criminal Justice in 2007. This program is open and available to all students and alumni of Northeastern University. Since its inception, the pre-law advisors have provided one-on-one counseling to approximately 200 students. The Pre-Law Advising Program offers large forum events on issues such as financing law school and more focused events that address the details of applying to law school. Prior to the creation of this program, Northeastern students interested in attending law school upon graduation did not have access to any kind of systematic and routine advising on navigating the pre-law process.
- **BS/MS in Criminal Justice** – The College of Criminal Justice developed and implemented a “Plus 1” program so that highly motivated undergraduate students would be able to obtain the MS degree with one additional year added to the BS program
- **Dual Degree: BS in Criminal Justice and Human Services** – The College of Criminal Justice collaborated with the Human Services Program to develop a dual degree in criminal justice and human services. This degree

has been available to NU students since the fall 2007 semester. At present, there are 20 students in the dual degree program.

- **Academic and Coop Advising** - The College has matched each of our undergraduate and graduate students with both an academic and a coop advisor. Our advisors develop strong relationships with their students that allows students to come forward for assistance before problems escalate

International Education and Research Partnerships

One of the more distinguishing characteristics of Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice is its global reach. As countries increasingly look to the United States as a model for effective justice policy, more and more research and educational opportunities present themselves. Over the past several years, the College has built a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements with international research centers, institutes and universities for the purposes of promoting cross-national research and student/faculty exchanges. The convergence of national and international trends in the field of criminal justice, along with the quality of the College, presents a unique opportunity for both the College of Criminal Justice and Northeastern University.

The following list reflects the range of these activities:

- **MacArthur Foundation:**
 - A two-year (2009-2011) pilot study on legal representation and criminal processing in Chinese lower courts.
- **United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime and International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities:**
 - A three year (2008-2011) program to construct a legal library on national corruption laws , strategies and cases
- **Professional Certificate Program:**
 - Republic of Ireland: Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- **International Faculty, Student, and Research Exchanges:**
 - Netherlands:
 - Vrije University of Amsterdam
 - Erasmus University of Rotterdam
 - Canada: University of Montreal
 - Poland: School of Law, Bialystok University
 - Belgium: Catholic University of Leuven
 - China: School of Law, Xiamen University

- Faculty hosted from the University of Lausanne (Switzerland) and the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (Madrid, Spain)
- Crime Pattern Network:
 - Canada: Simon Fraser University
 - United Kingdom: University College, London
 - Australia: University of Western Australia
- International Study on Self-Reported Delinquency:
 - Nearly 40 participating countries
- International Knowledge Management Consortium on Corruption:
 - United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
 - World Bank
 - United Nations Development Programme
 - Asian Development Bank
 - The Council of Europe
 - OECD
 - UNICRI (Turin, Italy)
 - University of Basel (Institute of Governance)
 - U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre (Bergen, Norway)
- Research Partnership with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel
 - The multicultural policing project
 - The Arab-Israeli conflict project

Impact on Criminal Justice Policy

The faculty from the College are frequently called upon to help inform criminal justice policy development:

- Professor Natasha Frost is conducting an analysis of the effectiveness of various treatment programs for the Middlesex County Sherriff's Office
- Professors Sean Varano and Jennifer Robinson are working with the New Bedford Police Department to develop a comprehensive approach to reducing gang violence
- Professor Donna Bishop is working with a number of local, state, and national organizations on juvenile law reform and on developments in juvenile justice policy and practice.
- Professor Jamie Fox has worked on the Governor Patrick transition committee and is called upon to comment on a wide variety of criminal justice issues
- Professor Hillary Farber has testified on behalf of juvenile justice legislation in Massachusetts

- Associate Dean Jack McDevitt and Professor Amy Farrell are working with the Boston Police Department and the Boston Police oversight panel to help implement a variety of initiatives
- Associate Dean Jack McDevitt and Professor Amy Farrell testified before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee on Human Trafficking last year and hate crimes the year before
- Dr Glenn Pierce worked as the lead academic expert on the America Bar Association's Death Penalty Moratorium Project and also served as one of the two lead academic experts on the Illinois Governor's Commission on Capital Punishment
- Professor Simon Singer has presented seminars, sponsored by the Consortium of Social Science and the Consortium on Children, Families and the Law, at the Capital on juvenile justice policies
- Professor Nikos Passas is conducting a study with the World Bank on the mapping of the global architecture of illegal asset recovery organizations, processes and mechanisms.
- Staff from the Institute on Race and Justice and its Community Advisory Board are working with President Aoun on the Stony Brook Initiative

Conclusion

Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice is one of the leaders in the United States in developing research partnerships aimed at improving crime and crime control policy, as well as the administration of justice. In many ways, some of the most effective tools available to our society to address these problems fall under the authority of the criminal justice system in the United States. The College of Criminal Justice has already taken or is preparing to take important research and policy roles in a variety of transnational and international arenas, including financial fraud, crime and illicit small arms trade, and justice systems. Finally, the development of public/private law enforcement and security partnerships are increasingly important to addressing not only crime related problems but also threats to national security. The College will continue to play a leadership role in these increasingly important policy arenas.

The College of Criminal Justice is well positioned to continue to develop its strong national and international profile and reputation across a broad range of policy arenas. The ability to continue to improve arises from several converging factors, such as, the historical development of criminal justice as an academic discipline, the growing globalization of crime and criminal justice

issues, the direct connections of the College to major institutions of social control, and the College's commitment and record of developing leaders in this broad and rapidly evolving field.