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ON THE COVER

Marcel Roberts earned his BS degree in 2002, and returned with a PhD in 2009 as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, where he is now working on development of a novel fingerprint scanner that can detect traces from explosives and drugs in human sweat. Says Roberts, “I had so much respect for John Jay professors, I decided to become one.” **Story on page 4.**

JUSTICEMATTERS

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**JOHN
JAY**
COLLEGE
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jeremy Travis, President

Dear Friends,

Remember Newtown? How can we ever forget? How can we at John Jay College, who so proudly and justifiably proclaim ourselves to be fierce advocates for justice, ever forget the 26 children and adults whose lives were snuffed out in the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012?

The truth is, we cannot. And we will not.

The “Remembering Newtown” series of events that is marking our spring 2013 semester stands as both a memorial to the children and educators who were killed that day and a renewal of our commitment to Educating for Justice. It’s a call to action.

We should be proud to note that no other academic institution has such an impressive array of expertise, commitment and convening power to respond to a tragedy like the killings in Newtown. The scholarly interests of John Jay faculty and the deep engagement of our research centers on topics such as mental health, school safety, gun violence, legislative responses to crime and literary representations of conflict are unparalleled in any college in the country. Our students have unique perspectives on the issue of violence in America, school safety and the role of first responders. Because of these remarkable strengths at John Jay, “Remembering Newtown” will be a program of impressive interdisciplinary reach, emotional depth and academic rigor — one that will renew and re-energize the pride that students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the College feel for John Jay.

“Remembering Newtown” engages the input and effort of many individuals, from the diverse ranks of our student body, faculty and staff to the outside experts who are participating — scholars, journalists, documentary filmmakers, performing artists, and current and former political leaders, among others. The reason for this broad-based approach is simple: The issues raised by Newtown touch so many of our capabilities, and we can do nothing less than attempt to address them to the very best of those abilities.

Even the humblest response can be uplifting in its way. Consider the Remembering Newtown Expression Wall erected on March 12 in the Kroll Atrium. Here, on a simple backdrop, members of the College community are given the opportunity to share thoughts and reflections on the Sandy Hook shootings, and gun violence in general. The green paper ribbons bearing those thoughts show just how deeply the issue has touched us all. I would urge all of our alumni and friends to visit the Wall, and to share your thoughts there as well.

Among many other events, our series includes screenings and discussions of moving documentaries by the celebrated filmmakers Kevin Breslin and Roger Graef, and a panel discussion on “Gun Violence: Who Should Pay,” led by Associate Professor Dan Feldman, a former New York State Assemblyman. There will be a multi-day symposium for journalists, “Under the Gun: Gun Violence, Gun Laws and the Media,” which will speak powerfully to the John Jay mission of bringing research to bear on complicated social issues. The series concludes in May with a special memorial tribute.

This issue of *Justice Matters* also probes the phenomenon of gun violence with a compelling new feature in which two of our stellar faculty members examine the issue, each from the standpoint of their own academic discipline.

The entire John Jay community — faculty and staff, students and alumni, friends and supporters — can be ever so proud of this institution and how we are responding to the tragic loss of life in Sandy Hook Elementary School. I thank you all for being part of this community.

Sincerely,

Kalema Boateng, White House Intern



Dorothy Hong / Photography

Kalema Boateng, a graduate student in Public Administration, is John Jay College's second student to be accepted to the White House Internship Program. Boateng, who majored in psychology, education and women's leadership at Barnard College, said: "I'm excited and determined to do the best that I can. I know it's going to be a lot of work, and I am grateful to the White House and to John Jay for this opportunity. I'm going to try to make John Jay proud and everyone who is supporting me."

Boateng says that it was John Jay's mission of "Educating for Justice," its curriculum, outstanding faculty, and its diverse student body that drew her to the school. She decided to do a dual specialization in Operations and Emergency Management at John Jay because it would provide her with the broadest range of education in event/emergency management to increase her skills.

But, Boateng admits that her true passion is in youth advocacy, women's leadership and in helping women and people of color

within underserved communities.

"My background made me interested in justice. I was born and raised in the South Bronx — one of the hardest communities in the Bronx. I've seen a lot of teenage pregnancies, high unemployment rates, drug-related issues, high incarceration of youth and men of color. These experiences of my own life, as well as the political and economic climate, honed my interest and passion in public policy and in helping young girls."

Boateng hopes that the White House Internship Program will help her reach her long-term goal of securing a job in federal government that focuses on inner city issues affecting youth, particularly girls. Girls in the inner city, Boateng believes, are most affected by poor self-image, self-esteem, and the role that the media play in influencing how girls and young women view themselves.

"I could not walk this earth without trying to help someone know their own rights and without knowing that I was representing justice," said Boateng. **JJ**



ADVANCING NEW FRONTIERS

SCIENCE AT JOHN JAY

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE is a part of the bedrock of criminal justice, and forensic science has long been one of the cornerstones of the John Jay curriculum. Just as the scientific field has evolved steadily, science at John Jay – the curriculum, the department and the facilities – has grown right along with it. “The department has undergone dramatic change since I’ve been here,” said Professor Anthony Carpi, who joined the faculty in 1997 and currently serves as interim Associate Provost for Research. “Our undergraduate program prides itself on producing professional scientists.”

The Science Department in 2012 moved into 36,000 square feet of state-of-the-art laboratories, classrooms and offices in the College’s new building, and now boasts more than 20 teaching and research labs equipped with the cutting-edge scientific equipment through which John Jay students and faculty advance new research and scientific frontiers.

Professor Lawrence Kobilinsky, who chairs the department, said, “the new facilities and new instrumentation allow the faculty to explore areas of science that we have only dreamed about.”

The science curriculum at John Jay has long provided a solid educational foundation in the theory and techniques of scientific criminal investigation, but beginning in the late 1990’s, a focus on undergraduate research began to take hold. A 400-hour laboratory internship has been a required capstone to a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science since the degree’s inception, although students are now offered the alternative of pursuing in-depth undergraduate research — an option that some 40 percent of majors choose.

To build an intensive science program at John Jay, Kobilinsky and Carpi began seeking external funding for mentoring, tutoring and other student services. In 2001, they obtained the funds to create the Math and Science Resource Center. In the fall of 2006, the department launched the highly successful Program for Research Initiatives for Science Majors (PRISM), through which students work side by side with faculty on stipend-supported

research in chemistry, criminalistics, molecular biology and toxicology, among other specializations.

Notably, it’s not merely the large number of students pursuing scientific research at John Jay, it’s the caliber of that research. Just ask Marcel Roberts, who has seen the program from the dual vantage points of student and faculty member. After graduating from John Jay in 2002, he went on to obtain a PhD from Boston College, then returned to the Science Department as an assistant professor in 2009.

“The transformation of the department has been extraordinary,” said Roberts. “We are looking more like a research institution.” Roberts, once mentored by faculty members who today are his colleagues, now serves as a mentor himself. One of his former pupils, Jason Quinones, has since gone on to pursue a PhD at Stony Brook University.

Quinones’s doctoral study is an example of another quantum leap for the Forensic Science program. As Carpi pointed out, from 1990-2000, five Forensic Science students went on to obtain terminal degrees. The following decade, that number had quintupled.

As Kobilinsky noted with pride at the ribbon-cutting for the new science wing in December, “John Jay’s Forensic Science program and this gleaming new facility represent a gem in the crown of the City University.”

—PETER DODENHOFF

FROM STUDENT TO SCIENTIST:

The Path to Excellence

Forensic science students at John Jay are in a class by themselves when it comes to the caliber of the research they are conducting under the guidance of faculty members. Whether they specialize in criminalistics, toxicology or molecular biology, their scholarship is as lofty as their aspirations. Here are a few typical examples:

MOHANRAM BASSIT

ABOUT HIM: As a teenager, Mohanram was influenced by TV shows such as “Forensic Files,” which helped to pique his interest in science. Specializing in Toxicology as well as Molecular Biology, Mohanram says: “The one thing I especially love about this major is that it introduced me to research and gave me a glimpse of what research can truly offer — to myself, as well as the world.”

ABOUT HIS RESEARCH: Working with Professor Ekaterina Korobkova, Mohanram is researching “DNA Damage in the Presence of Arylamines.” Arylamines are compounds that have been observed to cause bladder tumors in men, as well as in the liver, mammary glands, intestines, and the bladder in animals. Once covalently modified through metabolism in the body, oxidized arylamines effectively become carcinogens, and Mohanram is seeking to observe and identify the compounds formed after DNA is digested in the presence of an arylamine, primarily covalently modified DNA nucleotides. ●

SHORONIA CROSS

ABOUT HIM: Shoronia took a five-year break from college after a year at John Jay to serve in the U.S. Navy, where his work as a gas turbine systems mechanic polished his problem-solving, troubleshooting and leadership skills. Now as a Forensic Science major, he finds himself drawn toward applied chemistry and physics, and hopes to pursue a PhD.

ABOUT HIS RESEARCH: Shoronia is working with Professor Marcel Roberts on “Development of a Novel Fingerprint Scanner with Explosive Metabolite Detection Capabilities” — in a nutshell, developing a device that can detect traces of explosives in the sweat of a fingerprint. Shoronia is investigating techniques for detecting urea nitrate, a common compound in improvised explosive devices, with a longer-term goal of creating an inexpensive yet reliable device that could aid counterterrorism efforts at airports and other locations. ●

JAMES FIELD

ABOUT HIM: Breezing through high school with straight A's, a senior-year class in forensic science caught James's interest. It also connected him with a teacher who would point him in the direction of John Jay. Now he has found a steady succession of challenges and opportunities, along with the mentoring that is helping to make things happen for him.

ABOUT HIS RESEARCH: James is part of the research team working with Professor Gloria Proni to create an "Index of Freshness Analysis of Tuna Sushi and Sashimi Gathered from New York City." The quality and freshness of the raw fish sold in New York markets is of paramount importance due to bacterial pathogens and parasites that can cause food poisoning. James is investigating the tuna sold in 12 restaurants, using a technique that extracts and quantifies the byproducts of ATP breakdown during fish aging. ●

SARAH SEDA

ABOUT HER: Sarah's courses through high school had her set on a career as a musician and music teacher — until she read a novel about a murderous doctor and a crime-solving medical examiner. She decided to come to John Jay and study to become a forensic toxicologist, with a crime lab to call her own.

ABOUT HER RESEARCH: Mentored by Professor Elise Champeil, Sarah is working to develop "Novel Molecular Sensors for the Detections of Both Fluoride Anions and Mercury (II) Ions." Fluoride anions, while helpful in dental care and clinical treatment of osteoporosis, can be harmful in excessive concentrations, leading to gastric and kidney disorders and even death. Mercury, meanwhile, is highly toxic and causes nerve, brain and kidney damage. Sarah is involved in the design and synthesis of a molecular sensor that will allow the detection of both fluoride and mercury ions. ●

DAVILENYS TAHAN

ABOUT HER: Davilenys was a fan of the board game "Guess Who?" in which players are challenged to determine each other's identities based on clues as to their physical features. As a Forensic Science major, she says the Toxicology track provides "a dynamic environment where I manage to hold onto my sanity every day, and I love it."

ABOUT HER RESEARCH: Davilenys is mentored by Professor Yi He, working on "Determining Trace Metals in Wool Samples Using ICP-MS." As she explains, detecting trace metals in evidence is like finding fingerprints at a crime scene, and is still a new technique awaiting further development. She is using an inductively-coupled plasma mass-spectrometer (ICP-MS) to identify and quantify concentrations of some two dozen elements, from A (aluminum) to Z (zinc). ●

JUSTIN WALTERS

ABOUT HIM: The Forensic Science program has helped Justin crystallize his focus on eventually going to medical school. He was accepted into the Medical Pathway Program, and is a Community Health Ambassador, volunteering at a variety of community events. He may also teach high school science or math while preparing for medical school.

ABOUT HIS RESEARCH: The early onset of Parkinson's disease — and its detection — come into play with Justin's research under the guidance of Professor Shu-Yuan Cheng, "The Toxic Mechanism of Diothiocarbamates and Vesicular Monoamine Transporter 2 (VMAT2) in HEK-DAT Cells." Idiopathic Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the nation, Justin points out, and enhancement of VMAT2 activity could have neuroprotective effects. ●



Professor Margaret Wallace and Research Assistant Lillian Guia

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY IN ACTION

The Quest for Better Rape-Kit Evidence

ON TV CRIME SHOWS, DNA testing is made to look fairly simple and quick. Yet when it comes to the reality of sexual assault cases, the mixing of biological evidence complicates the creation of a DNA profile by forensic scientists. Ideally, the two biological samples of the alleged assailant and the victim should be separate, but while there are methods for performing what is called differential sperm extraction, most of these are less efficient than crime laboratories would like.

“This is one of the Holy Grails of forensic science, getting a better separation of sperm and women’s epithelial cells,” said Associate Professor Margaret Wallace, a molecular biologist who is principal investigator for a \$200,000 grant from the National Institute of Justice to test a new approach that she believes holds promise.

Law enforcement agencies and victims’ rights groups have estimated the number of backlogged rape-kit samples that have not been analyzed at nearly half a million. The most critical evidence in such cases, according to Wallace, is the identification of the semen donor from spermatozoa recovered from vaginal swabs. The most time-consuming and labor-intensive step in analyzing the sample is extracting the sperm.

Wallace’s experimental approach, which is in the proof-of-concept stage, works like this: Sperm antibodies attached to magnetic beads are added to the solution that holds the sperm and epithelial cells. The antibodies attract the sperm. When these bind, it is then possible to use a sophisticated magnet to pull the beads out from the solution. The DNA can then be extracted from

the sperm only, amplified through a polymerase chain reaction procedure, and a DNA profile of the donor can be created.

Two alumnae of the John Jay graduate program in Forensic Science — Christine Bless (MS ’05) and Lillian Guia (MS ’10), whom Wallace called “two of the best graduate students I’ve ever had” — are working on the project as part-time research assistants. Wallace said her assistants, who both work for the New Jersey State Police crime lab, “are proof of the type of student John Jay turns out. They excelled as students and have only gotten better.”

Thus far, the research team has tested seven antibodies, and one looks promising. “Our hope is to find one or more antibodies that work, and are effective and efficient,” said Wallace. “Then we will move on to working with probative samples” — actual biological samples from criminal cases. From there, Wallace said, the hope is to automate the process, and secure industry backup. “The field is very much aware of the need for such a process,” she said. “Differential extraction is very time-consuming, and conventional methods of separation can be imprecise.” In many cases, she noted, an unambiguous semen donor DNA profile cannot be assigned using current methods.

Wallace, who joined the Department of Sciences in 1999, has been conducting DNA analyses for roughly the past 10 years, including examinations of samples taken from such unlikely sources as cell phones and deodorants. Of the rape-kit approach she is now testing she said, “This will certainly help forensic science because it’s very confusing to go to a jury and show them a DNA type that has the type of the suspect as well as the victim in it.” **JJ**

DIGITAL FORENSICS

Detectives on the Information Superhighway

IN AN INCREASINGLY wireless society, many mobile-device users forge ahead with little or no concern for any possible risk to the security of information they are transmitting over a network. Assistant Professor Ping Ji, of John Jay's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, is well aware of such risks, and is thoroughly immersed in researching issues of cybersecurity, particularly those pertaining to the forensic analysis of mobile and wireless systems.

Currently in the fourth and final year of a National Science Foundation grant on "Novel Forensic Analysis for Crimes Involving Mobile Systems," Ji is aware that there are two sides to network security — keeping the bad guys out while allowing the good guys in. In fact, one of the important challenges of her current research is addressing what she calls "the dilemma between anonymity and accountability" in network forensics. "People enjoy the anonymity that computer networks provide," she notes. "However, as more and more crimes involve the Internet, wireless networks and mobile devices, it is extremely important to find a way to make a suspect device accountable, and to monitor and store network traces that will be useful for investigative purposes while preserving data privacy."

Ji has been a member of the John Jay faculty since 2003, and as such was aboard for the launch of the master's degree program in Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity in 2004. Her considerable expertise, which has been recognized worldwide, positioned her to be a leading contributor to the design of the program's courses in Network Security and Network Forensics. Ji's research has explored a wide variety of high-tech phenomena, including wireless sensor networks, such as surveillance or intrusion-detection systems, location tracking techniques, even the security of the popular Sony PlayStation3. She has three PhD students working on the current project with her, in addition to numerous other students she mentors at John Jay, the CUNY Graduate Center and elsewhere.

Today's "smart" mobile devices allow users to access the Internet through network service providers, as well as wireless

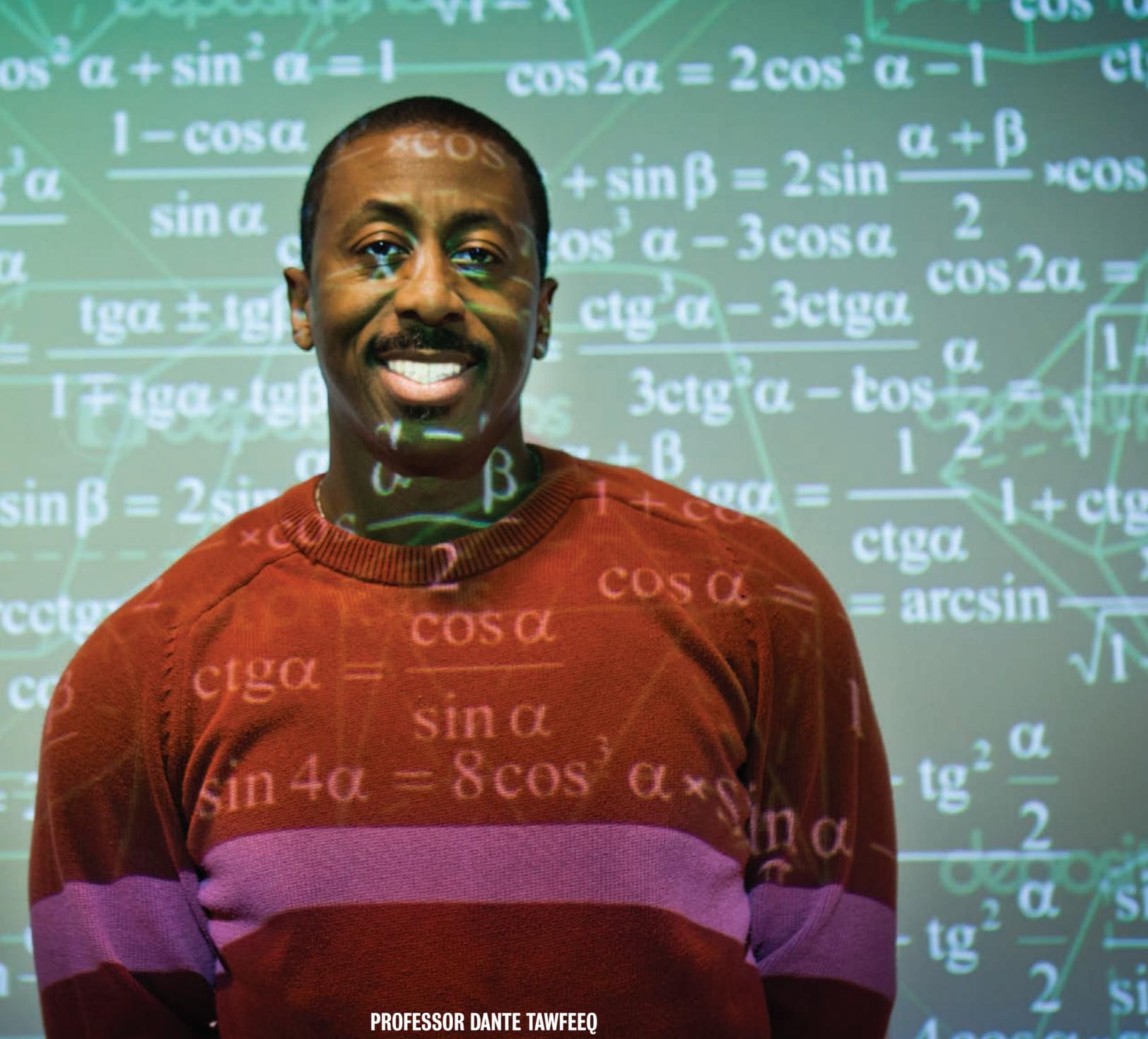


Professor Ping Ji

systems, like Wi-Fi. This capability, coupled with the vast flow of information, from the sophisticated to the silly, that such devices handle has led Ji to consider proposing a course on wireless network forensics or wireless network security, which would have a component on smartphone systems. Cutting-edge criminal investigators need to have a clear sense of what smartphone and tablet data can be captured and analyzed, how to do it correctly, and how reliable the information will be.

It's not just high-tech computer crimes that are subject to digital forensic analysis. For example, the 2011 prosecution and conviction of Dr. Conrad Murray in connection with the death of pop star Michael Jackson was aided to no small extent by the mining of information from the doctor's iPhone — e-mails, digital medical charts and more. "Acquiring evidence from smartphones can be difficult, and the techniques are quite different from getting evidence from a computer," Ji points out. "For example, if the investigator shuts down the device right away or removes the battery, they may lose some evidence." Researchers are currently working hard to establish standards of proof that will give digital forensic evidence the same level of courtroom credibility now attached to fingerprints and DNA evidence.

The current state of the art of digital forensics may be "in its infancy," as Ji asserts, but she believes more strongly than ever that digital forensic technology will continue to play an indispensable and increasing role in people's lives in the information era. "Digital and mobile devices have changed how people live and work," she notes, "and that includes criminals." **JJ**



PROFESSOR DANTE TAWFEEQ

Shamuilova, we're trying to create an atmosphere where everyone sees this as a think tank. I want to have a shared philosophy, but not educational drones."

After majoring in mathematics as an undergraduate, Tawfeeq found himself faced with the choice of becoming a pure mathematician or a math teacher. Two factors drove the decision, he recalled. "Teaching math is therapeutic for me," he said, "and I like to communicate." Communication helps create a comfort zone in the classroom, he believes. "My job is to help people be a little more comfortable in studying and learning mathematics," he says. "If I can do that, then I know that what I've done is not a marginal gain, but an exponential one."

Part of his approach can be considered fear abatement. "I tell each student walking into class that the only difference between me and you is that I've become comfortable in being wrong in trying to solve a math task, and you haven't," he says. It's all about learning outcomes, which is why Tawfeeq resists testing that comes off as punitive, and testing that does not build cumulatively on previous learning.

"Whenever I walk into a classroom, I'm thinking, 'How can I outdo myself? Can I get these students to outdo themselves? How do I facilitate thinking?' I'm very happy that the people we have in our program, and the ones we are hiring, realize that they're there to facilitate learning." **JJ**



Deconstructing Myths: Giving Voice to Health Inequities

By Adrienne Anifant

Assistant Professor Janice Johnson Dias in Sociology is the child of the strongest person she knows.

“My mother has a fire, energy and strength I can’t imagine even on my best day,” says the award-winning scholar, professor and activist. Dias’s mother migrated from Jamaica and worked as a home health aide for years before bringing her four children to the U.S. on a Green Card.

Dias will admit that her mother inspired her life’s work and the founding of her nonprofit, GrassROOTS Community Foundation (GCF), whose mission is to create a world where all girls grow up to be healthy women. GrassROOTS is the culmination of over 20 years of Dias’s scholarship on impoverished women and their children.

Starting its third year, GrassROOTS has been recognized by the White House and by city and state officials in New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia as a health ambassador. GCF currently

has programs in cities across the country from Greensboro, NC, to Newark, NJ, where they educate girls in physical activity, nutrition, sexual and mental health and financial literacy.

“I hope GrassROOTS will educate people on why health matters, why it’s not something you can opt out of. We must move beyond the cosmology of health and give people the language as well as the knowledge that they can make health a priority everyday. We need a wave of change to occur for black, brown and poor communities so they can see and operationalize health.”

Dias's career and GrassROOTS are a combination of fortuitous occurrences and a devotion to those things that mattered to her:

"I knew that mothers mattered. I knew that women mattered," said Dias.

While writing her dissertation at Temple University, Dias came across an article by Sandra Danziger and others from the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy that described welfare recipients' challenges to employment — how women enter welfare-to-work agencies and can't find employment when they leave because they are poor, have mental health problems, morbidity and chronic health problems. But Dias felt the much touted paper had an overlooked critical flaw, or what she called, "the black box" of the organizational practices of welfare offices.

"The problem I saw was with organizational context. People going into welfare should not look the same coming out. If they were, then all the millions of dollars spent on these 'change agencies' were ineffective. So I scrapped all the research I had done and collected new data for 18 months at welfare sites. It was invigorating," said Dias.

Two years later, Dias would win a postdoctoral fellowship to the University of Michigan National Poverty Center at the Ford School. After reviewing her interviews with welfare mothers who were in job training agencies, she realized that academic research and evaluation had, to a large extent, been ignoring the real-life narratives of poor women. Dias realized that most of the women she interviewed expressed anxiety about their children being home alone after school. They were fearful that their daughters as young as 9 would engage in sex, and that their sons would become involved in violence. Dias also noticed that most of the women were obese and/or had chronic health problems.

After educating herself on contemporary health care issues and theory, Dias felt that the accepted public health predictors for obesity suggesting black children and women were overweight because of food intake or "soul food," culture and chronic inactivity were unsupported by her findings. Even though Dias had worked with women on welfare, who were addicted to drugs, had mental health problems and were victims of domestic violence, health always seemed to orbit these issues, but it was never prominent. Dias herself was surrounded by health issues in her personal life: She was a 10k runner, spin instructor and group fitness instructor, and was dealing with consequences from her mother's own weight issues.

"I realized one of the greatest economic health inequalities was really around people's health. It changed the way I had conceptualized what mattered to me: inequality and stratification," said Dias. "I began to learn that those who are most likely to be ill,

most likely to have these chronic diseases, unable to work, unable to have economic viability were poor mothers, and this happened to be the population that was so important to me."

After partnering with Dr. Robert Whitaker of Temple University Obesity Center and receiving a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Dias interviewed 44 women in the crime-ridden Georgia King Village of Newark to examine low-income black mothers' perceptions about neighborhood safety and its relationship to their daughters' physical activity. Dias felt it was her mission to bring the voices of women to policy makers, academia and to the general public. Newark had just been the location of an execution-style shooting, making it an ideal place for Dias to examine the confluence of violence, sexuality, poverty and health.

"The women talked about their unwillingness to let their daughters outside to play. It showed mothers were generally afraid of the unpredictability of violence, of gun shots, of the fact there was no rhyme or reason why people were being killed. They were afraid of their neighbors, even though they looked like them," said Dias. "So mothers fed their children foods that would make them happy to stay indoors. They had to make a difficult decision between the life of their child and the health of their child."

Dias's research debunked the theory that stated that poor blacks were unhealthy because they were lazy or inadequate and that the factors were structural. Dias's scholarship has been published in the prestigious *Journal for the Health Care of the Poor and Underserved*. Her collaborative work on Long Island working on black girls' physical, mental and sexual health earned her a Congressional Medal from Congressman Steve Israel.

Her research, teaching and work with GrassROOTS is actualizing her ideas of justice which, for Dias, means community and recognizing the interaction and interdependence of all its members, that all members always work toward helping each person reach his or her highest capacity.

Dias says that a bit of her grandmother also lives in GrassROOTS and her scholarship, specifically her grandmother's adage, "If you don't have your health, you don't have anything."

"I know this is true from the data on health care costs. I know the biggest bills that poor people will likely have are health care bills. I know the economics of it, but my mother and grandmother knew it innately. Poor health will take your money, it's going to take your time, and it may take your life," said Dias.

"This is all real for me because it is me. It is my life. It's the greatest journey that I have started. It feels good to come to work and teach about issues that matter to me and to make it real to my students. It feels organic. It feels like power." JJ

"I realized one of the greatest economic health inequalities was really around people's health. It changed the way I had conceptualized what mattered to me: inequality and stratification."

Welcoming the W

Since 1970, international students continue to contribute to the energetic and diverse community of John Jay. From politics to religion, they bring different perspectives and experiences to the College. They, in turn, say that the

By Adrienne Anifant



Kester Dandas:
Saint Lucia

BS in Computer Information Systems and Public Administration

A senior at John Jay, Dandas chose John Jay because of its stellar reputation, wide selection of majors, and the diversity of the College. He said the exposure to so many different cultures, religions and ethnicities has made him more aware, accepting and understanding of people's differences. "The staff and faculty are very helpful and provide assistance wherever possible. On campus, there is always an event or activity to keep the students occupied and entertained."



Sukchan Chang: South Korea

MS in Protection Management

Chang has found professors at John Jay to be very helpful and understanding regarding English language support. In Korea, Chang was a bodyguard in a special protection agency that worked for the government. "My favorite aspects of John Jay are the professors, the International Student Office and English Support Center. They are all very helpful."



Danielle Rouse:
Barbados

BS in Forensic Science

Rouse came to John Jay because "since the time she knew herself," she wanted to be a scientist. After watching "CSI" and "Dexter," she was inspired to be a blood spatter analyst. "My education and experience at John Jay has been excellent; my professors are very warm, knowledgeable and experienced in their courses. My favorite thing about John Jay is the way professors and staff treat you; they welcome you with open arms. I just love it here."

World

College. Currently, 166 international students hailing from 52 different countries attend John Jay. From their view of the world, of others and of themselves changes and expands once they become part of the College.



Laura Negredo:
Spain

MA in International Crime and Justice

A prison psychologist for the Spanish Department of Corrections, Negredo likes the way students express their opinions in the classroom at John Jay. She has enjoyed the interdisciplinary approach to studying international criminal justice. "The variety of programs and the high quality of professors were the two main reasons I chose this college. John Jay is the most well-known college in the criminology field."



James Williams:
Nigeria

BS in Public Administration

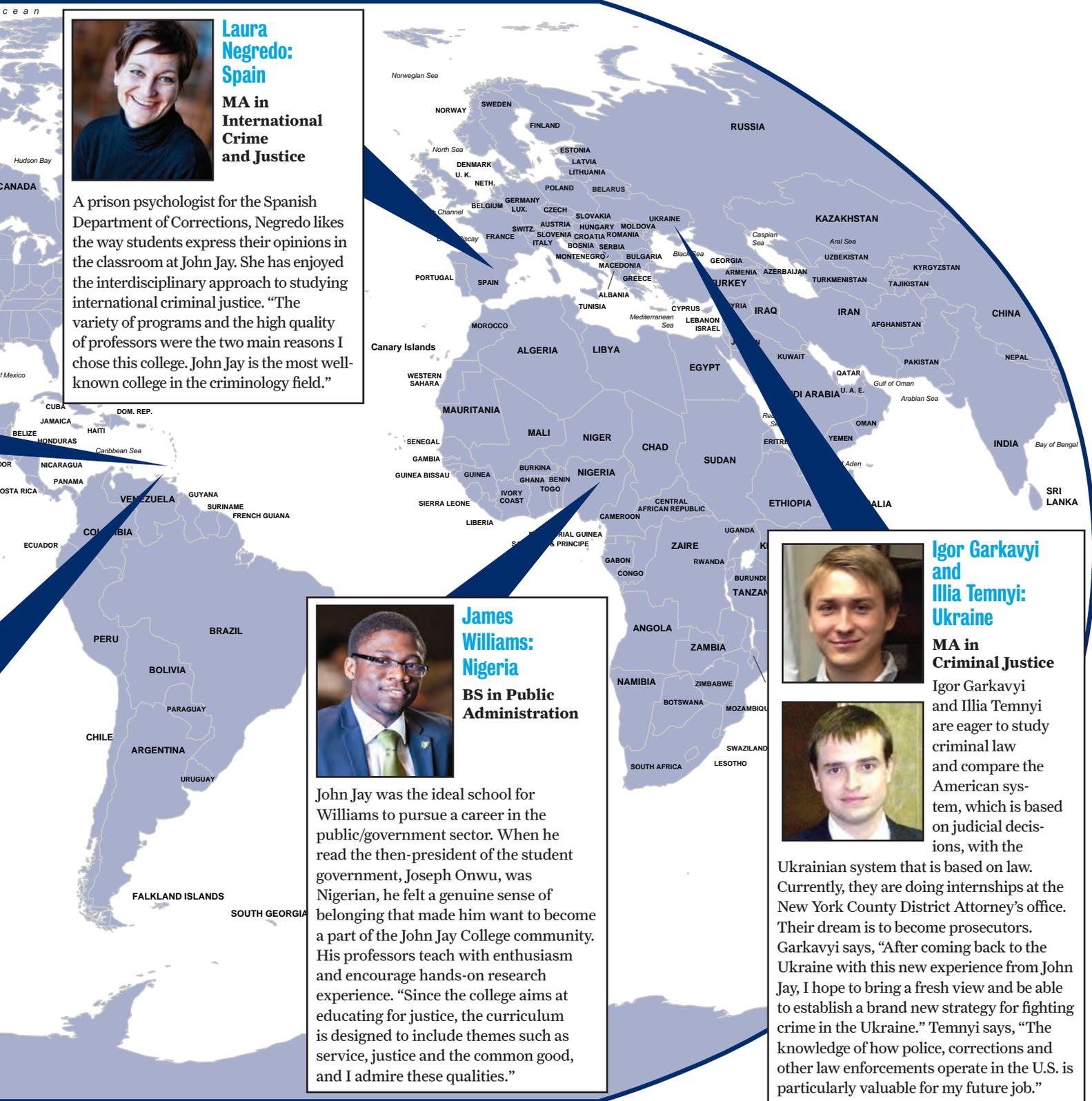
John Jay was the ideal school for Williams to pursue a career in the public/government sector. When he read the then-president of the student government, Joseph Onwu, was Nigerian, he felt a genuine sense of belonging that made him want to become a part of the John Jay College community. His professors teach with enthusiasm and encourage hands-on research experience. "Since the college aims at educating for justice, the curriculum is designed to include themes such as service, justice and the common good, and I admire these qualities."



Igor Garkavyi and Illia Temnyi:
Ukraine

MA in Criminal Justice

Igor Garkavyi and Illia Temnyi are eager to study criminal law and compare the American system, which is based on judicial decisions, with the Ukrainian system that is based on law. Currently, they are doing internships at the New York County District Attorney's office. Their dream is to become prosecutors. Garkavyi says, "After coming back to the Ukraine with this new experience from John Jay, I hope to bring a fresh view and be able to establish a brand new strategy for fighting crime in the Ukraine." Temnyi says, "The knowledge of how police, corrections and other law enforcements operate in the U.S. is particularly valuable for my future job."



Remembering **NEWTOWN** *Series*

The nation paused in shock and anguish

last year on December 14, 2012, the day of the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. After the heartbreaking news hit the airwaves, John Jay President Jeremy Travis called on the College community to come together to build on President Obama’s challenge to turn pain into positive action. As a result, students, faculty and staff quickly mobilized their creativity and expertise to create the Remembering Newtown series, to pay homage to victims of gun violence and spur meaningful dialogue and action.

The semester-long spring series started on March 12, when John Jay students created the Remembering Newtown Expression Wall. Students, faculty and staff shared their thoughts on paper ribbons that dotted the wall. Messages ranged from “Our hearts cry with you” to “Qué Dios los mantenga bajo su santo mano y que descansen en paz” (May God keep them under His holy care and may they rest in peace).

The Expression Wall will be situated in the most widely traveled student corridor, the Lynn and Jules Kroll Atrium, throughout the semester. Series activities also include panel discussions, film screenings and open mic events. The series will close with a special memorial concert honoring victims of Newtown and gun violence nationwide. **JJ**

Criminal Justice major Kasiem Chambers, a senior who is president of the student club Jamaica Yahso, adds his sentiments — “Take action before tragedy” — to the Newtown Expression Wall.



Student Council President Mehak Kapoor pins a green ribbon on President Travis during the ceremony to launch the Remembering Newtown Series.



EDUCATING FOR

A portrait of Claudia Calirman, a woman with dark hair, wearing a blue blazer, standing with her arms crossed in an office setting.

CLAUDIA CALIRMAN Assistant Professor of Art

How would you approach teaching about gun violence from an art perspective?

As an art historian, I would incorporate it into a broader discussion related to art and violence. I would examine artistic responses to major topics such as terrorism, illegal immigration, drug cartels, authoritarian regimes, crime, domestic violence, human rights and social inequality. I would discuss the importance of freedom of expression as a tool against totalitarianism, and explore examples of how socially engaged art practices, participatory art engaging the viewer, have addressed issues related to gun violence. The idea is to stimulate class discussion and to show how the investigation of artistic practices can be used as an expressive conduit to engage students' responses on the subject.

What role can artists play in terms of advocacy and policy-making with respect to gun violence and justice?

Some of the most interesting artists today are activists who address sociopolitical issues in their work. While they may not be directly involved in policy-making, their art stimulates public debate through innovation and creativity. An example would be the art project by artist Pedro Reyes, who collected over a thousand guns from residents of Culiacán, a Mexican city known for drug trafficking and its high rate of lethal gunfire. The collected guns were first exchanged for domestic goods and later melted down and recast as shovels to plant trees. Exchanging guns for trees had a symbolic power in the community, showing how art can have a transformative role in society.

From an art perspective, what are the central issues of justice that are at stake?

Aesthetics should not be considered as a merely visual autonomous experience detached from reality. It should be related to ethics and politics. Artists tend to believe in a better world, meaning art and life are not separate entities. Art keeps the promise for a more just world. Art has the ability to bring different perspectives by offering new points of view, giving voice to what is conventionally repressed, and bringing visibility to marginalized figures in society. In a way, any issue related to social justice can also be part of an aesthetic experience. The issue is how to avoid the pitfall of aestheticizing politics in a banal way, how to circumvent art as a propaganda tool to reinforce structures of power, but instead, how to create powerful artistic works that are somehow transgressive, challenging and even controversial. Rather than offering solutions, artists should ask questions and propose new ideas on how to deal with issues related to justice and gun violence. It is essential to have a multifaceted debate on the subject, lending a voice to the economically disadvantaged people in the margins of society, those most affected by gun violence.

What aspect of the issue do you find missing or underplayed in the national discussion now underway?

I believe art can play an important role as a tool for social change and social consciousness. It is of great concern to see budget cuts across the nation related to the arts, from elementary school through college-level education. Art can provoke change in both personal and social levels. It can make us think, open our eyes to new horizons and give us a broader critical perspective of the world. Students should not be deprived of this experience. There would be less gun violence in the world if we expose our students to diversity, difference, individual values and expression, and moreover, by promoting tolerance across racial, cultural and geopolitical boundaries. Artistic expression can help us to further shape the discussion on gun violence. Art can be an effective tool to shift our perception of the world around us. If not, why bother? **JJ**

JUSTICE: Teaching About Gun Violence

How would you approach teaching about gun violence from an economics perspective?

To help establish a nurturing classroom, I begin by giving my emotional perspective and reminding students that classroom discussions are safe places to explore ideas. I make sure my students know I am not a published expert in the field of gun violence, but that through my training and reading I am qualified to guide them through the discussion. Next, I like to encourage students to share their thoughts, to see what they already know. I encourage them to jump on the Internet and engage in real-time fact-checking and source-vetting. With gun control, this is especially important because there are so many opinions and lots of misleading information.

What role can economists play in terms of advocacy and policy-making with respect to gun violence and justice?

Unfortunately, the pro-violence lobby explicitly blocked government funding of social science research into gun violence, so we are left with a morass of contradictory theory and a handful of empirical studies looking for correlations between gun policy and actual violent incidents. But even without the obstructions of the pro-violence lobby, gun violence is especially tricky to research, because we cannot directly observe the absence of an action; we cannot know if a homicide was averted because of the unavailability of a gun. So it is very hard to get an idea if gun possession rates are linked to violence. I would draw an analogy to the automobile industry, where researchers have access to millions of observations of data regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of registration, licensing and safety regulations.

From an economics perspective, what are the central issues of justice that are at stake?

Although most economists would miss this point, the central issue of economic justice at stake with gun violence is the

inequity of economic and political power in determining gun laws. The gun manufacturers spend their money to maximize profits, and one of their expenditures with the greatest “return on investment” is lobbying for pro-violence laws. They can then turn those profits into even more lobbying efforts. On the other side, the victims of gun violence often begin in a state of poverty, and the acts of violence leave them financially and emotionally devastated. On top of this historical imbalance we have the problem of a concentration of interest. There are relatively few gun manufacturers, so they find political organizing fairly easy. But the victims of gun violence are often scattered, with few resources to mobilize political power.

What aspect of the issue do you find missing or underplayed in the national discussion now underway?

The most underplayed issue in the current debate is the political power of gun manufacturing companies. These businesses exist to generate profits from selling guns and ammunition. Our society is very good at ignoring the negative aspects of capitalism, including how the drive for profits results in real dangers for society. A good analogy to use with students is the history of automobile safety. Today, car companies boast about safety ratings as a way to attract customers, but manufacturers ardently fought against seat belts and air bags because they would be “too costly” and drivers “won’t like them.”

The second most ignored aspect of the debate, and worth spending extra time on, is the disparate effect of gun violence on people of color and the poor. Sandy Hook grabbed our attention because the victims were mostly white children, well into the upper middle class, and the losses were concentrated. But every year we lose many more good people in communities of color in numerous “small” incidents. **JJ**



JAY HAMILTON
Chair and Assistant
Professor, Department
of Economics

JOURNALISM MINOR

EXPOSING INJUSTICE

BY ADRIENNE ANIFANT



Eric
Jankiewicz

Award-winning journalist S. Nihal Singh says a colossal charge “rests on the shoulders of journalists because in the final analysis they are the custodians of freedom of the press.”

This great responsibility underpins the need for, and creative mission of, the Journalism minor at John Jay College as enunciated by the joint coordinators, Professors Devin Harner and Alexa Capeloto of the Department of English.

The Journalism minor, established in 2010, grew from Harner and Capeloto’s steadfast beliefs in three principles: the ubiquitous application of journalistic skills across the full spectrum of professions, the need for a journalism curriculum to support a student newspaper, and the integral role that journalism plays in democracy.

“We think journalism at John Jay is a natural fit,” says Capeloto. “Journalism is essential for people who are interested in social justice because it’s a civil service.”

Harner believes that all freshmen should take journalism and critical media literacy to ensure they become responsible democratic citizens.

“There aren’t a lot of places where students are going to learn to be good consumers of news. And we have to teach them to be consumers before we teach them to be producers,” said Harner. “How are you going to be a citizen in a 21st-century democracy if you don’t know what justice is, and if you don’t understand the manner in which your reality is being reported?”

Harner and Capeloto believe journalism skills can assist students in any career and core journalism skills will help them throughout their lives. Such skills are research, interviewing, posing difficult questions, securing information from uncooperative sources, processing collected information, thinking critically, compiling information in a clear way, and

conveying it with clarity to a broad audience.

Harner and Capeloto both started subsequent journalistic careers by working in high school and college newspapers, where the hands-on experience was the impetus for their current long-term career path. Capeloto knew at 11 years old that she would be a journalist, and her love for the profession grew stronger with her years of experience.

Both professors are advisors to the student newspaper, *The John Jay Sentinel*, which was relaunched in 2008 by Harner. Two John Jay students who graduated May 2012 with majors in English and the Journalism minor have continued their studies in journalism at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism.

Eric Jankiewicz and John Sodaro are in their second semester at the J-School.

Jankiewicz is completing a documentary on homelessness in New York City and has been published in *The Crime Report*, *The Sentinel* and NYC News Service. He originally wanted to be an ACLU lawyer, but after he took a class in journalism with Capeloto his goals changed. “It was John Jay and the whole criminal justice mindset that made me want to do journalism. Professor Capeloto made me fall in love with journalism and writing about crime and injustice in society,” said Jankiewicz.

Sodaro, who is published in Salon.com, *The Crime Report*, *Crain’s New York Business*, *New York Press*, CityLimits.org and *The Riverdale Press*, was a New York City police officer for three years but resigned to enlist in the Marine Corps in 2005. After leaving the marines in 2009, he enrolled in John Jay.

“Once I took a few English classes and I saw *The Sentinel* and that they were starting up a Journalism minor, I said to myself this is great,” said Sodaro. “The minor definitely prepared me for what I’m getting into at grad school. “ JJ

DEMOCRACY & THE PRESS

The best journalism is not about what happened, but why it happened. The “why,” as David Simon, creator of “The Wire” and winner of this year’s John Jay Justice Trailblazer award, told us at his award dinner in February, is “epic.”

Here’s a good example of what he meant. Last November, California voters overwhelmingly passed a referendum that required the state to rethink a controversial law that could put a third-time offender in prison for life — even if the third offense was as minor as stealing a bag of potato chips from a supermarket. The so-called Three Strikes law has been on the books for nearly two decades. It was the most egregious example of the spate of harsh sentencing rules that spread around the U.S. at the height of our “tough on crime” era.

What changed voters’ minds?

I believe it was journalists asking “why?” In the months before the vote, dozens of stories, articles, broadcasts — even drive-by talk show discussions — examined the record of Three Strikes. They asked whether it had produced the results advertised. They probed why so many California authorities had become skeptical of the law, but little had been done to change it.

The bulk of the coverage was prepared by journalists who had attended a two-day conference in May 2011, where they heard from law enforcement, academics, the district attorneys of Los Angeles and San Francisco, ex-felons, and many others. The conference was organized by John Jay’s Center on Media, Crime and Justice, with a grant from the Public Welfare Foundation in Washington, DC.

Did the reporting single-handedly produce the outcome of the referendum? Not exactly. The stories left it up to readers and viewers to make their own judgments — as the best journalism does.

But what it did do was create a critical mass of attention to a subject that most California commentators agreed had been virtually forgotten and ignored for years. When we began working on the conference, even advocates of change wondered whether they could get enough signatures to place the question on the ballot.

After the conference and the sustained reporting, public opinion polls gradually showed a distinct upturn in Californians’ awareness. A topic that had been arousing nothing but complacent yawns had become news. Over the next eight months, enough signatures were collected to put Proposition 36 on the November 6, 2012, ballot — and the rest is history.

The media’s impact isn’t always that direct or obvious. But in an era when journalism, and particularly crime and justice journalism, is sharply (and sometimes accurately) criticized for sensationalism and superficiality, it’s a reminder of the special role that journalists play in our society.

Think of any crime issue that makes the headlines today — gun violence, capital punishment, overcrowded prisons — and you discover a huge gap between what the public knows and what the latest research tells us. For an institution like John Jay, where some of the country’s leading criminologists and social scientists regularly rethink established wisdom, the gap is frustrating — particularly when even the most enlightened policymakers find it safer to listen to the conventional fears of their constituents than to the research.

Bridging that gap may be the most important role reporters have today. The work of explaining, analyzing and just asking “why?” may not be as sexy as

uncovering the latest scandal or injustice. But it’s what the best reporters, whether they work in big-city newspapers, small weeklies, local TV stations or online news sites, do 24 hours a day, seven days a week — without fear or favor.

Without them, our democracy would be a lot poorer.

—Stephen Handelman

In an era when journalism, particularly crime and justice journalism, is sharply (and sometimes accurately) criticized for sensationalism and superficiality, it’s a reminder of the special role that journalists play in our society.

Stephen Handelman is director of the Center on Media, Crime and Justice at John Jay College. A veteran investigative reporter, columnist, author and editor, he has worked for TIME magazine, The Toronto Star and many other publications, and lectured on media and crime issues at universities around the country.

Crossing the Atlantic:



Nicolas Montano Wins Esteemed Marshall Scholarship

Nicolas Montano, a senior in the CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies Program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, has been awarded a prestigious British Marshall Scholarship to study in the United Kingdom. He is the first John Jay student — and one of six CUNY students to have ever received a Marshall Scholarship since the program's inception.

Marshall Scholarships provide high-achieving students from the United States with the opportunity to pursue studies at the graduate level in the United Kingdom. Only 40 students are selected annually for this highly competitive award.

Upon completion of his undergraduate degree in Psychology of Juvenile Delinquency and International Criminology, Montano will head to England to begin two graduate programs — a master's degree in Research Methods in Social Policy and Sociology at the University of Liverpool, followed by a master's degree in Criminal Justice Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

"We are proud and thrilled about Nico's monumental achievement. He will serve as an inspiration not only to his peers but

to future John Jay students. In a sense, all of the College community — his mentors, staff advisors and classmates — will share in his historic journey," said John Jay President Jeremy Travis.

"I decided to attend John Jay because of its mission of educating for justice. No other school I looked at had justice as its primary focus. Now, I am really excited and proud to represent John Jay and to take with me all that the College stands for, and to have an impact in another country and institution," said Montano.

Winning the Marshall Scholarship is yet another accomplishment in a young life filled with many milestones. Montano won the Thomas W. Smith Academic Fellowship in recognition of his academic excellence and was selected as a scholar in the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program. He is a John Jay-Vera Fellow and a New York Needs You (NYNY) Fellow. This year, Montano participated in the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Latino Leadership Initiative Program. He was a student in the John Jay College Honors Program and is a member of the Psi Chi International Honor Society.

Montano was inspired to be a fierce advocate for justice at an early age. His family was personally affected by the civil war that ravaged El Salvador in the late 20th century. Growing up in Spring Valley, NY, he also witnessed the consequences of poverty, limited educational opportunities and the absence of youth support systems. At the age of 14 he joined ASPIRA, a national organization dedicated exclusively to developing the educational and leadership capacity of Hispanic youth. He eventually became the president of the ASPIRA chapter in Spring Valley. He has served as a mentor to other youths through his internships at the South Bronx Community Connections for Youth and at Common Justice, a project of the Vera Institute of Justice. While on family trips to El Salvador, he also has helped to teach English and enhance youth outreach programs.

"An integral part of who I am and what I represent are my parents. Having witnessed their struggle to make a better life for my sister and me, I learned and embraced their heritage. Being taught the values they hold dear to their hearts, I was able to mature into the young man I am now. Without their guidance and love, I would have never made it so far," said Montano. Looking to the future, Montano said he plans to earn a PhD to continue his passion for research and academia. **JJ**

Off to England to Prestigious Graduate Programs

Popy Begum Accepted to Exclusive Oxford University Program

Senior Popy Begum, an International Criminal Justice major, applied to her dream graduate school, the University of Oxford, but never believed she would actually be accepted. Then life, as she says it, spoiled her.

Begum, a John Jay-Vera Fellow, was accepted into the highly selective Master of Science program in Criminology and Criminal Justice Research Methods at Oxford University in England. At Oxford, Begum will pursue her goal of becoming a research criminologist. Her graduate work will focus on human trafficking, forced marriage and youth issues. Each year, Oxford accepts approximately only 20 students into this prestigious program. She was one of only three research-degree candidates accepted.

Begum entered John Jay College as a SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) student. SEEK is a higher educational opportunity program that provides academic and financial support to students who qualify based on specific income and academic criteria.

Born in Bangladesh, Begum was eight months old when she and her family came to the U.S. on a Diversity Visa her father had won. Growing up in Astoria, Queens, she resonated with her neighborhood's rich mix of people from different cultures, religions and ethnicities that she said opened her mind to diversity at an early age.

Begum's passion for gender rights stems from her own mother's experience, and the life opportunities unavailable to her in her native Bangladesh because she was female.

"My mother is illiterate and she was never given the opportunity to attend school because of her gender. When I traveled to Bangladesh and saw other women who were illiterate like my own mother, I realized it was a problem," said Begum.

Begum says her mother's and other Bangladeshi women's illiteracy made her conscious of the great benefits available to her through free public education and affordable public higher education in the U.S.

"I became even more focused on attending and doing well in college. My mother has really inspired me to take advantage of all the educational opportunities that are free in the U.S., because in Bangladesh you have to pay to go to school."

Begum's mother's situation, as well as guidance from her



mentors, Professor Jana Arsovska in the Department of Sociology and SEEK counselor Justyna Jagielnicka, also affected how she approached her SEEK experience. She was required to take remedial math and writing classes the summer prior to the first semester of her freshman year.

"For me, I wouldn't say it was discouraging. I still felt privileged I was able to get an education," said Begum. "My mother's situation always reminded me how lucky I was to come to college and take advantage of these resources. I didn't think I was dumb or inadequate. I saw it as not being my best right now, but I have the potential to be better."

Begum, also a McNair Scholar, worked with Professor Jana Arsovska on undergraduate research that focused on the role of West African women in transnational human trafficking networks. In addition, Begum worked with Chair of the Anthropology Department, Ric Curtis, studying arranged marriages, and with Director Jeff Butts at the Research and Evaluation Center studying youth. Youth issues became an issue for Begum after she lost her older brother to street violence when she was 17. This tragedy instigated her to apply for a John Jay-Vera Fellowship and intern as a mentor, "because my brother wasn't given the appropriate mentorship and he wasn't able to change. I was too young to help or save him."

"The reality is," said Begum, "that John Jay made me and Oxford is going to embrace me. The resources here are plenty. No matter where you come from, what your background is, what your economic situation is, who you love, what you've done, your past does not dictate your future. You can make a difference." JJ

Art Gallery is Named in Honor of the Largest Donation in the College's History



In a historic milestone for John Jay, alumnus and Adjunct Professor Dr. Andrew Shiva donated an extraordinary \$5-million gift to the College, the largest donation in its nearly 50-year history. In recognition of this gift, the New Building's 4,050-square-foot exhibition gallery has been named the Anya and Andrew Shiva Gallery.

Dr. and Mrs. Shiva's transformative gift will be used to fund research grants for students and faculty of John Jay's PhD program in Forensic Psychology, assessment and psychotherapy training for students, and new research initiatives that would not be possible without this unprecedented contribution.

Dr. Shiva said his inspiration for giving so generously to his alma mater began with the rich, powerful relationships with and encouragement he received from John Jay faculty as a student. Those relationships would continue and grow as Dr. Shiva went on to become chief psychologist of the Division of Forensic Psychiatry at NYU/Bellevue Hospital Center, and an active and visionary member of John Jay's graduate faculty in forensic psychology.

In a reception dedicating the Anya and Andrew Shiva Gallery, President Jeremy Travis conveyed his deep gratitude to the Shivas for their tremendous generosity and dedication to John Jay.

"We stand here today in recognition of the arts and what Andrew has given to the Psychology Department and the eminence of that program. We are also recognizing an act of

generosity in naming this art gallery," said President Travis.

"I've been asked more than once, 'Why an art gallery?' Community is my first answer," said Dr. Shiva. "An art gallery provides our students with exposure to art, creativity, expression, imagination and inspiration. The second answer has to do with the psychological aspect of art as an expression of the inner self. When you combine a psychological approach to interpreting art with topics related to crime and justice, there is a real opportunity to see, through the work in front of you, a glimpse of the artist's soul."

Dr. Shiva is also an avid collector of antique United States paper currency, and he founded the National Currency Foundation in the fall of 2011 to promote the history behind paper money and virtual exposure to the notes themselves. As a Research Associate for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, Dr. Shiva has begun digitizing and cataloging the paper currency in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian for its archives, and as a teaching tool for the general public.

After earning a BA/MA in Forensic Psychology in 1997, Dr. Shiva went on to earn a doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Columbia University. Always passionate about higher education and the mental health field, Dr. Shiva has been a strong supporter of the College as a member of the doctoral faculty and as a trustee of the John Jay College Foundation. **JJ**



Then, Now and Always Students Matter to Jim and Rubie Malone

Through all of the many positions Drs. James and Rubie Malone have held in their long careers at John Jay — as faculty members, counselors, deans and College executives — students have always occupied a special place in their hearts. The Malones recently affirmed that affection with a \$100,000 pledge to the College to support student scholarships. In recognition, the College on December 11 dedicated the Drs. Rubie and James Malone Student Government Conference Room in the new building. The conference room is the site of Student Council meetings as well as workshops, training sessions and other events.

At the dedication ceremony in honor of the Malones' gift, family and friends packed the conference room and expressed their gratitude. In thanking the Malones, President Jeremy Travis praised the couple as “pillars upon whom an institution is built.” He said, “Their guiding star has always been what’s right for the students. We value your contributions, and we will always be in your debt.”

“Jim,” as he is known schoolwide, has been a member of the John Jay community since 1970, and his long service includes 11 years as Dean of Students. In that role, he helped create the student government charter that is still in force today. Rubie, his wife of 49 years, joined John Jay in 1978, and like her husband began in the Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) program. Her John Jay career has similarly been marked by extensive involvement in student activities, as faculty advisor, counselor and mentor.

Both are trained as teachers and social workers, although the recognition of their talents ultimately lifted them to other assignments, Jim as the College’s first Vice President for Administrative Affairs, and Rubie as Assistant Vice President for Strategic Planning and Outcomes Assessment.

The Malones’ pledge reflects guiding precepts that have helped shape their lives. Jim professes a strong belief in “reaching back” and helping others to attain their highest potential. He often says, “If I can help somebody as I pass this way, then my living has not been in vain.” Rubie, ever mindful of the guidance and encouragement she has received from family, teachers and others, said she continues to live by the motto of her undergraduate alma mater: “Culture for Service.”

On behalf of the many current student government members in attendance, Student Council President Mehak Kapoor said she and her fellow student leaders were thrilled to dedicate their spacious conference room to the Malones. “No matter how many times we say ‘thank you,’ it will not be enough,” said Kapoor.

The Malones’ gift to an institution that Jim Malone termed “a college I love” is intended to inspire and support student leaders. “By becoming leaders, you thereby fulfill the American dream,” he said. “Endowing the scholarship fund was something we wanted to do for the students,” Rubie Malone added. “I’ve always cared for the students, and I’ve always cared for the institution and what it can become.” **JJ**



Michael Fabozzi

When Watson and Crick postulated in 1953 that the helix structure for DNA “has novel features which are of considerable biological interest,” they might never have envisioned the widespread implications of their discovery for the field of criminal justice.

The recent identification of an exhumed skeleton in England as that of King Richard III, killed in battle in 1485 and then hastily buried, is just the latest high-profile example of the power of DNA identification. Closer to home, DNA analyses have been used to exonerate hundreds of charged and convicted offenders.

John Jay alumnus Michael Fabozzi, who graduated in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, can testify to the efficacy of DNA identification as the linchpin of crime-solving and better policing.

Fabozzi, who spent 22 years in the NYPD and is currently Director of Law Enforcement Programs at the venture capital-funded company IntegenX, fast-tracked his police career from street cop to investigator within just two years because he was driven by the allure of solving crimes. He became intrigued by electronic

Petri Hawkins Byrd

Talk about art imitating life! Petri Hawkins Byrd has gone from being a hard-working New York City court officer to the world’s best known bailiff in the world’s favorite courtroom, and looming in the background the entire time has been his John Jay education.

Byrd (AS ’79, BS ’89) took the court officer’s exam in the mid-1980’s, and little did he know at the time that it would be a precursor to a nearly two-decade-long career as Bailiff Byrd on “Judge Judy.” Now in its 17th season, the show has been No. 1 in daytime television for the last three seasons. Each day, some 10 million viewers tune in to watch the Hon. Judge Judy Sheindlin and Bailiff Byrd tackle some of the more than 8,800 cases the show has adjudicated to date.

“I always had a love for the law, and I always secretly wanted to be a lawyer. I figured if you’re going to be a lawyer you should go to John Jay and be in the courts.” said Byrd. His associate’s degree in hand, he pursued his bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice while working as a court officer in Manhattan Family Court, where Sheindlin was the Supervising Judge.

The sharp-tongued judge and her affable 55-year-old bailiff established a bond built on a mutual sense of service, justice

and humor. After Byrd moved with his family to California, he was working as a campus supervisor at Monta Vista High School in Cupertino when he happened to read about Sheindlin’s new book and upcoming court-based television show. He wrote her a congratulatory letter, reminding her in jest that he “still looked good in a uniform” in case she ever needed a bailiff. In short order, the judge made him an offer he couldn’t refuse.

Producers had tried filling the bailiff role with an actor, but it didn’t work out because it is a reality-based show. Byrd recalled: “The judge told me, ‘We need someone who knows how to roll with me as an officer.’ She said ‘You’re kinda crazy, too’ — she once caught him in the courtroom wearing her judicial robe and doing a scathingly spot-on impersonation of her — ‘so if you’re crazy enough to try this with me, I will recommend you for the job.’” After one audition, he was cast.

Byrd believes his real-world experience in Manhattan Family Court influences the way he approaches his position as Bailiff Byrd in Judge Judy’s courtroom. “I’ve gone to court before, so I understand how nervous people can be and you think your stand is super-righteous. So I am a little more understanding about the people who come before us because I realize they are just human beings who are looking for justice.”

fraud and identity theft in the nascent days of Internet banking and joined the nation's first cybercrime unit. He is renowned for solving the case of Abraham Abdallah, America's most notorious case of identity theft. Fabozzi appreciates the importance of speed, accuracy and quick response when apprehending criminals.

Although DNA identification is a major factor in solving crime (and exonerating the innocent), it has an inbuilt noted time lag. It can take from several weeks to several months to get a result depending on the jurisdiction, the sample and the priority of the crime. Fabozzi believes the RapidHIT200, developed by IntegenX, which he now urges police departments around the country to purchase, allows officers on the scene to take a buccal swab and obtain a result in almost real time. This means suspects are not held for long periods while awaiting the results. Instead, suspects can be quickly eliminated early so the crime solving efforts can shift elsewhere. It saves police time, it reduces stress for innocent suspects, and it reduces jail and court administration.

"Our job is to get the right guy," he said. "To me, this is mind-blowing; this is amazing, that this can be done in the field, in a van, or at a crime scene in under 90 minutes."

"Although there is a great need for good investigators with skill sets such as interrogation, developing leads and informants, DNA evidence can tell us definitively that the detectives have arrested the perpetrator with a certainty of a billion to one" said Fabozzi.

Fabozzi left college and joined the police force to support his parents. He anticipated leaving after two years and possibly going to law school. The trajectory of his plans changed, however, when he put on the badge. "From the moment I got on the streets, I just loved every minute. I like the part of catching people. I always wanted to be a detective, so I went to plain clothes as soon as I could," he said.

As a white-collar crime investigator, he was handling identity theft before the term even existed. Fabozzi quickly developed a stellar reputation, and officials at Goldman Sachs and Chase had his direct number on speed dial. "If you knew computers and how information transfers then you could really pull off a big scam, and you don't even have to walk into a bank; you could do it electronically."

Of his current job, he says matter-of-factly, "It gets me back to talking to cops, educating cops, helping them solve crimes, just being with them again. I miss the camaraderie, the pals, the busting each other's chops, hearing the same jargon again. So it's fun." JJ

And it really is justice being dispensed in the TV courtroom, along with some real-world education, says Byrd. "It lets people know that not every problem or situation is actionable in court. Some things you need to work out. Hers is a court of common sense. It's binding arbitration and she is the arbiter. She is the one who sets the tone. I think that helps promote an overall awareness of what justice and the law are all about."

Byrd, who works with The OK Program, a national mentorship initiative focused on young black males, still recalls his John Jay days with fondness. He reflects: "My love for the law paralleled my love for the arts. I was always one of those guys who wanted to fight the power, fight injustice. Every kid who wants to be a lawyer dreams of standing up and making the jury cry. They don't realize that if that is what you want to do, go into acting, because that is the only place that happens, baby — court TV!" JJ



CLASS NOTES

1970s

Bernard A. Johnson (BS '71) retired as a Supervisory Special Agent with the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service. He is currently re-engaged as a Special Projects Coordinator with the State Department's Antiterrorism Assistance and Extraordinary Security Program. He received John Jay's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993.

Joseph R. Murphy (BA '75) worked in the field of forensic social work for 23 years. He is currently a Police Officer with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Police in Boston.

Vincent Wincelowicz (MA '76) was recently appointed Professor and Assistant Dean in the School of Humanities and Social Science, College of Professional Studies, at Regis University in Colorado.

Alban O. Bailey (AA '75, BS '77) retired as a Senior Deputy Probation Officer in 2010 after 25 years of service with the San Mateo County Probation Department in South San Francisco, CA.

Christine A. Hillegass (MA '79) put her degree in Forensic Psychology to work as a psychologist for the State of New Jersey Department of Corrections in the sex offender treatment unit, working to improve treatment services for sexual abuse victims and the overall handling of sex abuse cases. She eventually completed a Psy.D. at Rutgers University, and is now semi-retired and living in Montana, where she maintains a part-time private practice.

1980s

Wendy Riha (AS '84) retired from the New Jersey State Police in 2006 after 25 years. She is now a full-time criminal justice professor at Sussex County Community College, noting proudly that several of her students have gone on to complete their degrees at John Jay. Wendy's daughter currently attends Manhattan College as a Biology major and will be applying to John Jay for her master's degree in Forensic Science.

1990s

Christopher L. Elg (BS '93, MPA '96) began a new job on February 4 as Chief of Police in Tequesta, FL. He also serves in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve as a Special Agent with

the Coast Guard Investigative Service, and in January was awarded the Coast Guard Achievement Medal for his service as a criminal investigator.

Monica (Pupiales) Maniscalco (BS '96) has received a master's in Special Education from the University of Phoenix. She recently presented a workshop on "Understanding the Parent of a Child with Special Needs: What We Wish Educators Knew," at the annual conference of ASAH, a not-for-profit alliance of schools and agencies in New Jersey that provide services to persons with disabilities.

Jin M. Lee (BA '96) is a Special Agent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Angel L. Pastrana (BA '97) has been promoted to Operations Manager for the New York City Administration for Children's Services.

2000s

Allan Leznikova (BA '04) is currently attending Brooklyn Law School, and expects to receive his JD in 2014. Allan served as a Judicial Extern with the New York State Supreme Court.

Christine Barrow (MA '04) received her PhD in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University in 2012 and is now an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Molloy College in Rockville Centre, NY.

Melissa Salsone (BA/MA '04) is currently attending Brooklyn Law School.

Robert F. Evers (BA '07) was hired by the New Jersey Department of Corrections in September 2011.

J. Leigh Noblin (MA '07) is currently a PhD student in Clinical Psychology at the University of Houston. Leigh is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and in 2010 received the USAF Health Professions Scholarship in Clinical Psychology.

Delana Mendes (BS '08) is in her last semester at Georgia State University, where she is earning an MS in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Public Administration.

Anton Porch (BA '05, MPA '08) was married in December 2012 to fellow John Jay graduate **Christine Y. Cailles** (BS '06). Now living in McLean, VA, Anton is currently a small

business owner and Christine is a police officer with the United States Capitol Police.

Michael J. Lafrano (BS '08) was appointed in 2012 as a Police Officer in New Milford, NJ.

Reeshad Ali (BA '09) now attends Vanderbilt University Law School, where he received a \$95,000 Chancellor's Law Scholarship

Antwaun Gavins (BA '09) is now pursuing a JD at Touro College's Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center.

Amilcar S. Herbert (BA '07, MA '09) is a Senior Security Officer at the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, New York Headquarters. He is currently a member of the Crisis Management Support Unit that performs critical disaster recovery functions. Amilcar plans to begin doctoral studies in 2013, hoping one day to "lecture to the beautiful young minds we produce at John Jay."

2010s

Justin Blackman (BA '10) joined the NYPD in 2010 as a police officer. He helped create and lead an instrumental music group while at John Jay, and has since traveled around the globe with the NYPD.

Randi Padavano (BS '10) was hired in February 2012 by the FBI as a police officer. She now has her master's in Accounting and is working on becoming a Special Agent.

Kasey (Shea) Parente (BS '10) is currently in her second year at Pace Law School. She will graduate with her JD in 2014.

Babatunde Adedapo (BA '08, MPA '11) is currently in his second year of law school at West Virginia University College of Law.

Rosa Rosario Valentin (BA '12) worked 25 years at the CUNY Graduate Center in Human Resources as an administrative assistant. Upon completing her bachelor's degree at John Jay, she applied for and now holds the position of Confidential Executive Assistant for Compliance and Labor in the Office of Legal Counsel at John Jay.

Kennybel Peña is a triple degree holder from John Jay (BS '07, MA '10, MPA '12). Kennybel was recently promoted to Assistant Registrar in the Lehman College Office of the Registrar.

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