Greetings from Normal!

Unbelievably, it is that time of year again to reflect on the department's 2013 – 2014 activities. This year has gone by in a flash. It seems as if it was just yesterday that CJA (our student organization) won 1st place in the Homecoming float competition.

This year we grieved for one of our own—Dr. L. Edward Wells. Dr. Wells was a fixture in the department for over 25 years. He was an amazing man—described by his brother-in-law as being our Google before Google was invented. No truer statement could be said! He is sorely missed and will never be forgotten.

The faculty and staff have been busy preparing our required program review, which will be submitted in the fall term of 2014 – 2015. You, as alums, may be contacted for assistance in our review, so please be sure to send in your comments. While program reviews take an enormous amount of time, they are so incredibly important. Assessing the quality of our courses, curriculum, and activities helps us to improve our already fantastic program.

Our enrollment continues to thrive thus reflecting the popularity of our major. Our draw is, in large part, due to the quality of our faculty and staff. The staff members of this department are dedicated to our students’ success and achievement. CJS faculty are second to none. They provide both our undergraduate and graduate students with experiences that they will remember for years to come. The education we offer is only part of the instruction our students receive. Faculty mentor students to be ethical, impartial, and open-minded leaders in our field.

This year, we have a record number of students graduating with their master’s degree! This cohort has represented our department so very well at national and regional conferences in their individual research projects. About half of our students sat for comprehensive exams—always a grueling day! The other half decided to undertake the writing of a thesis. To say that their thesis topics were “interesting” would be an understatement. Chiara Keune studied media coverage of “tik” (methamphetamine) use in South Africa (her homeland) to determine if the coverage caused moral panics (it didn’t!); John Navarro used Broken Windows theory to determine if the presence of registered sex offenders in McLean County affected house sale prices (it does); and Richard Carlton is finishing his thesis, which explores the extent and nature of rhino poaching in his home--South Africa (it’s not pretty). Megan Semmelroth finished her thesis, which examined the various causal factors surrounding wrongful convictions.

Dr. Philip Mulvey joined our department this year. He received his doctorate from Arizona State University. I’m very sad to report that Dr. Dae-Hoon Kwak returned to Korea to tend to a family situation, so he will be on leave for the next year. He is certainly missed on the 4th floor of Schroeder Hall. Dr. Jessie Krienert is working with the Dean of Students’ Office to reform the student appeals process. She has worked tirelessly to see that students receive their day in “court.” The other faculty are continuing to work on their research and scholarship with the aim of improving policy and practices in regional, national, and international criminology and criminal justice.

Finally, Dr. Cara Rabe-Hemp, who is an alum of our program, was inducted into the CAST Academy of Achievement. This honor is bestowed to alumni who are in the early stages of their career for their contributions to their field and to their home unit. We are very proud that she was chosen for this recognition.

Soon, students will leave Normal and faculty will disperse to work on their projects over the summer. It will be a bit quieter in Schroeder, but we’ll all be looking for another successful and exciting year in the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences.
Every year CAST recognizes some of its most successful younger alumni. This year, the CAST Department of Criminal Justice Sciences Academy of Achievement inductee was one of our own, Dr. Cara Rabe-Hemp.

Rabe-Hemp, M.S. ’01, graduated from Illinois State University with a master’s degree in criminal justice sciences and the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Ph.D. in criminal justice in 2005. Throughout graduate school and her professional career, she has examined how gender affects officers’ opportunities and experiences in the field of policing. Specifically, she has informed the existing body of literature by examining use of force exhibited by male and female officers in their encounters with citizens, women officers’ experiences in rural departments, career paths of women in police organizations, and women’s survivability in traditionally male dominated organizations. She has published extensively.

Rabe-Hemp’s work will no doubt shape policy for years to come, as it has gained national recognition. In 2013, she was one of six women invited to a panel to discuss, "Contemporary Issues in Policing Research," at the American Society of Criminology Meeting. Rabe-Hemp has been on the faculty of the Department of Criminal Sciences at Illinois State University since 2001. During her tenure, she has developed a synergy among her scholarship, teaching, and service activities that encompasses the intersection of diversity and criminal justice. Rabe-Hemp is dedicated to increasing the participation of women interested in careers in criminal justice services and co-sponsored the creation of Breaking Barriers, which received the University’s Diversity Advocacy Award in 2010.

Cara, her husband, Jason, and their children, Lorne and Lena, live in Normal.

Rabe-Hemp was inducted into the Academy of Achievement on Friday, April 4th at a ceremony held at the new Hancock Stadium Club Room.

2014 Academy of Achievement - Cara Rabe-Hemp ’01

CAST Academy of Achievement or the CAST Hall of Fame!
High-level security - Alumnus oversees safety and security for Chicago’s Willis Tower

Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) in Downtown Chicago is a city within a city. One of the tallest buildings in the world, the tower is home to more than 100 different companies and their 12,000 employees. Approximately 2,000 business guests visit daily along with as many as 15,000 tourists to the building’s iconic skydeck, which boasts breathtaking views of the surrounding metropolis. These 26,000 individuals rely on Keith Kambic ’86 to keep them safe and secure.

Kambic has completely reimagined security at Willis Tower since he was recruited to oversee security and life safety for the building in 2004. Though three years had passed since the September 11 attacks that toppled the World Trade Center in New York City, security practices had not shifted to reflect a healing nation.

“In the Midwest we feel isolated,” said Kambic, who is senior director of security and life safety. “9/11 was so new to Midwesterners, especially for property managers and building owners. The immediate reaction was to throw as many people as you possibly can at the problem.”

The security staff had been increased to maintain a striking presence in the building. Guests and employees alike were required to pass through metal detectors immediately upon entering the building, creating a time-intensive process that drained security staff resources, and taxed the patience of prospective tenants, employees, and clients.

“You can’t maintain that kind of expenditure and stay successful,” Kambic said. You have to provide a safe and secure environment for people to come to work in. But at the end of the day you have to manage the business.”

Kambic immediately identified methods to create a relaxing atmosphere in Willis Tower, while still maintaining a high level of security. He removed the metal detectors and x-ray machines from the immediate entrance that deterred guests from shopping or stopping for refreshments in one of Willis Tower’s nine restaurants. Kambic also created an ID system so that regular employees could pass quickly through checkpoints on their way in and out of the office.

In addition, he and his team implemented a new visitor management system and began requiring businesses to register all guests in advance. Surprisingly, the change decreased the daily business visitor traffic from 1,700 to 1,200 in 2004—evidence that a staggering number of people in the building were solicitors or attempting to scam their way up to the skydeck.

Implementing new technology and procedure changes were only the beginning of Kambic’s plan. He also set out to create a shift in culture among his security staff. Until Kambic arrived, security staff wore hard uniforms modeled after the Chicago Police Department. He recognized that the ominous presence could be unnerving to visitors in a city that had begun to relax since 9/11, so he redesigned the uniforms. All 75 of his staff members are outfitted in sharp, tailored suits with vibrant, bright ties.

He did not only change the uniforms. Kambic also instilled a strong sense of customer service in his team.

“When I hire security staff here I am not necessarily looking for security experience,” Kambic said. “I am looking for the ability to talk to people. You can teach someone to do rounds or evacuate people, but you can’t teach human interaction.”

The position saw Kambic exploring internal theft and safety cases. He discovered that he enjoyed the security field and had a knack for the work. After four years in the industrial environment, he accepted a position at Montgomery Ward at an inner city Chicago store. Kambic dealt with shoplifters, learned the art of internal theft, and gained the skills to unravel simple and complex schemes. Often he would rely on verbal craft—interviewing and interrogating to eventually get them to admit that they did something wrong.

“In that type of venue you really get to see the good, you really get to see the bad, and you get to see how weird people are,” Kambic said.

Over the next 10 years he expanded in his role. Kambic transferred to the Montgomery Ward corporate office where he learned corporate protection, celebrity protection, and how to conduct investigations into credit card fraud, kickback schemes, and other white collar crimes. (continued on page 16)
Faculty and Student Publications/Presentations

**Publications:**

**Presentations:**

**Interviews:**
“Missing Mothers: Program to Help Jailed Moms Build Parenting Skills,” The Pantagraph (2-14-2014)

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**Publications:**

**Presentations:**


Clevenger, S. L., & Langheim, K.* (September 27, 2013). The importance of undergraduates in conducting original research. Presented at the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association conference in Chicago, IL

*Genoa Cole and Kelsie Langheim are undergraduate students in the CJS program.
**John Navarro is a graduate student in the CJS program.

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**Publications:**

“To Trespass or not to Trespass, Law Enforcement, Cell Phones, and Fourth Amendment.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Criminal Justice Association, Chicago, IL, September 2013. Co-authors: R. Craig Curtis, Michael Kittelson.

“The Supreme Court’s Use of Per Curiam Opinions in Criminal Procedure Cases,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, August 2013. Co-author: Ethan D. Boldt.
Faculty and Student Publications/Presentations

Publications:


Presentations:


Publications:

Presentations:


*Shane Dixon is a graduate student in the CJS program.
**Lukasz Lech is an undergraduate student in the CJS program.

Publications:

Presentation:

*Sung Uook Lee is a graduate student in the CJS program.
**Faculty and Student Publications/Presentations**

**Dr. Phil Mulvey**

**Publications:**


**Presentation:**
American Society of Criminology - 2013 The impact of mental illness on women’s pathways to the Criminal Justice System.

**Dr. Cara Rabe-Hemp**

**Publications:**


**Presentations:**

The Impact of Sex Offenders: A Neighborhood Context. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta GA. (November 2013) with John Navarro.


**Interviews**
Illinois State Vidette
Bloomington Pantagraph
WJBC
Virginian-Pilot in Virginia Beach, Va.

**Dr. Jacqueline Schneider**

**Publications:**


**Presentations:**

Currently serving as consultant for TRAFFIC, international monitoring agency for trafficking in endangered species.

*John Navarro is a graduate student in the CJS program.*
Faculty and Student Publications/Presentations

**Publications:**

**Presentations:**


*Shane Dixon is a graduate student in the CJS program.
**Lukasz Lech is an undergraduate student in the CJS program.

**Publications:**

**Presentations:**

**Publications:**
The Rap Sheet

2014 Graduate Research Symposium

Graduate students Richard Charlton, John Navarro, JiHye Park, Cayla Comens, Sunguook Lee, Chiara Keune, and Erico Burgos presented their research project posters at the Graduate Research Symposium on Friday, April 11th, 2014 in the Brown Ballroom. The Graduate Research Symposium offers an exciting opportunity for enrolled Illinois State graduate students to present what they have learned, under the direction of a faculty mentor, through their research, scholarship, and creative endeavor to a large audience in a professional setting. Topics covered range from the illegal poaching of rhinos in South Africa to domestic terrorism to a project that looked at how Sex Offenders can affect housing costs in McLean County. The Department of Criminal justice Sciences is very proud of each of them and the work they have produced.
Breaking Barriers

Faculty and staff in Criminal Justice Sciences Department have started an initiative, Breaking Barriers, to address the declining number of women enrolled in criminal justice sciences majors and resultant occupations. Breaking Barriers is dedicated to increasing the participation of women interested in careers in criminal justice sciences by connecting women with mentors in criminal justice fields who encourage them to take applied sciences classes, show them that criminal justice careers are fun, exciting and challenging, and share experiences to help them overcome concerns and barriers.

This semester Breaking Barriers held monthly Monday night meetings with various topics. They began the semester discussing Interviewing Tips and Techniques. In February they watched a documentary and in March they got to meet and talk with alumna Becky Lawson-Rippey BA ’99 MS ’09.

In addition to the monthly meetings, BB participants had the opportunity to have “Lunch with a Professor” once a month. During these brown bag lunches, members got to hear about the education, career paths, and research agendas of our female faculty members.

The highlight of the semester was the Breaking Barriers panel “Women in CJ: Breaking Barriers” held in February. Panel participants were Stacy Jewell, Onarga Academy; Amanda (Jatkowski) Hoffman BA ’08, East Peoria Police Department; Heidi (Leininger) Begy BA ’09, Woodridge Police Department; and Leslie Reutter MS ’12, McLean County Detention Center.

BB will end the semester with an end of the year social and begin preparing for the next academic year.

Criminal Justice Association

The 2013-2014 school year has been a busy one for the Criminal Justice Association. We kicked off the fall by participating in the Homecoming float building contest. Our hard work paid off – we won first place! We plan to defend our title next year, and it would be great to have alums pitch in!
Criminal Justice Association (cont.)

CJA also co-sponsored a Marine Leadership Conference last fall. Undergraduate and Graduate students, ROTC and non-ROTC, participated in this opportunity to interact with Marine Corps Captains and learn valuable leadership skills.

CJA has also participated in activities that not only benefit us as students, but other people. We have participated in College Mentoring for Kids throughout this school year. Some of the activities we prepared included the history of fingerprinting and how a bill becomes a law.

Something that all of our members are interested in is hearing people in the field talk about their careers and experiences. This year, we have hosted Lt. Paul Smith from the Normal Police Department, Thomas Greiner from the U.S. Marshals Service, and Michael Warren '08 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of Inspector General. We plan to increase the number of guest speakers next year and would like to include areas of criminal justice that tend to get less attention, such as private security. We hope to hear more alumni share their experiences with us. If you would like to participate, please contact Ryan Powers at rmpower@ilstu.edu.

CJA isn’t all work and no play! We have organized some social events as well, such as attending Redbird baseball games. We also plan to take a field trip to the McLean County Detention Facility.

Next year, we hope to have more volunteer opportunities for the group, as well as more speakers and field trips. CJA is a growing organization, and we are excited to be a part of it!
2014 Department Award Winners

Peter V. Vitucci Memorial Scholarship

Mia Gilliam

Department Scholars - Transfer

Patrick O'Donnell
Jacqueline Vermaat

Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship

Jewel Wakefield

Outstanding Graduate Student

Richard Charlton

Departmental Scholar - Native

Kimberly Spasari

Outstanding Community Service Award

Nicole Tokarski
Washington, D. C. Internship Program

In an effort to provide students with meaningful professional practice experiences, the College of Applied Sciences and Technology (CAST) is continuing a scholarship program for high achieving students who wish to complete their internship in Washington, D. C. Students from nearly all majors within CAST have the opportunity to intern with an agency that is closely related to their chosen field. We are happy to announce that two students from the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences were awarded this scholarship for summer 2014. Kelsie Langheim and Michael Prokop will be amongst the other CAST and ISU interns heading to Washington, D.C. for the summer. Through this scholarship they will be provided intern housing through the WISH Foundation, which is blocks away from the U.S. Capital. If you are a CJS alum in the Washington, D.C. area and would like to meet our interns this summer, please email Tracy Wehrle at thwarne@ilstu.edu.

Veterans find their place in the CJS Department

By Kelsey Lutz

Illinois State is home to numerous military veterans - 392 of them to be exact. Thirty-three of these veterans are enrolled in the Criminal Justice Sciences Department, including Chaze Patrick, Cayla Comens, and Cassandra Dodge.

During high school, Patrick had not given any thought to enrolling in college. Joining the military had not even crossed his mind until his commencement date approached. He finally decided to join the Marines as he liked the benefits for his future education that were included in the option. Yet, his true motive lied behind his admiration for the men and women who served before him and the impact they left on him and his country.

"I wanted to be a part of something that was bigger than me, and I wouldn't trade my experience in the military for anything else in the world," Patrick said.

While balancing the roles of a father and a husband, Patrick did his part in the military as a warehouse clerk for four years in the United States Marine Corps., a job that focused on issuing and receiving equipment needed for deployment, the accountability of this equipment, and various other responsibilities.

Just like Patrick, Dodge and Comens joined the military to follow in the footsteps of those before them. More specifically, they wanted to follow the path led by their family members.

If Dodge were to look at her extended family's military experience, the number of veterans would be astounding. Within her immediate family, her father, two older sisters, and she hold experience. Dodge was a military police officer in the Active Duty Air Force for more than four years. Dodge and her sisters are the first women within her family to serve in the military.

"It's a family thing. It's what I know," Dodge said.

A long line of family veterans seems to be a theme for Comens, as well. As a very family-oriented woman, her family's history in the military played a major role in Comens’ decision to enlist in the Illinois Army National Guard after graduating high school, where she was a military police officer for six years. (continued on page 16)
New CJS Course

Seminar - CJS 241 - Internships and Careers in Criminal Justice

The CJS Department is always trying to improve its curriculum. Part of that is adding new courses. This fall, Mrs. Tracy Wehrle will be introducing CJS 241 Internships and Careers in Criminal Justice. This will be a 9 week, 1 credit course where students will be provided an overview of career opportunities in criminal justice, and prepare students for the required internship experience.

2014 Social Sciences Internship/Career Fair

On January 23, 2014 the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences, the School of Social Work, and the Departments of Psychology, Sociology and Politics and Government hosted the 3rd annual Social Sciences Internship and Job Fair in the Brown Ballroom. We had 59 agencies/departments and 169 students attend. Feedback on the event was great. Students felt they were provided the opportunity to have one-on-one time with employers and employers felt the students were very well prepared and professional. This event is open to everyone and is free of charge. The date for the 2015 spring fair will be posted in the fall. If you would like your agency to be included for the 2015 Social Sciences Internship and Job Fair, please contact criminaljustice@illinoisstate.edu.

The CJS Department needs your help!

Do you have any memorabilia from your days as a CJS major? The Department is looking to build up its collection in the ISU Archives. If you have anything that you would be willing to let us display in the department, or anything that you would be willing to donate to the Archives, we'd love to hear from you! E-mail criminaljustice@illinoisstate.edu.
Thank you to our donors!

Each year, the CJS Department gives awards to its top students. These awards would not be possible if not for our donors. Thank you all for your generosity!

The following donors contributed between December 1, 2013 and April 30, 2014:

Rachel Aiello
Jordan Austin
Ashley and Thomas Bain
Charlene Beringer
Natalie and Jared Carlisle
Cesar Chairez
Karmen and Jeff Coates
Anne Davis
Cassandra Dodge
Robert and Laura Englander
Justin and Katherine Fitzgerald
Mark and Samantha Franklin
David and Katy Gapinski
Mia Gilliam
Jason and Rebecca Hahn
Laura and Robert Hanner
Jessika Jones
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Jacque Roberts
Beverly Smith
Shari Stetson
Michael and Laura Taets
Vincent and Marlene Vitucci
Cathy Waltz
Tracy and Mason Wehrle
Carol and Ralph Weisheit

December 2013 Graduates

Maggie Cain
Vicky Cochran
Genoa Cole**
Cayla Comens
Bryan Concannon
Daniel Cronin
Brett Custer
Nicholas Deau
Kelsey Denault
Justin Emmons
Elliott Engleander
Michael Gannon
Samuel Gerals
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Katherine Grand
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Maggie Robbins
Daniel Roger
June Safford
John Schmeski, Jr.
Krista Shank
Michael Smith
Shari Stetson
Collin Warren
Darchelle Williams

*Graduate Student
**Dean's List

Alumni Updates

Amanda (Jatkowski) Hoffman BA ’09 is a detective with East Peoria Police Department
Andrew Huntleigh MA ’07 is employed with Citizenship and Immigration Services
Brittany Krepek BS ’13 is a Loss Prevention Investigator with Neiman Marcus
Rebecca Larson BS ’06 is an attorney with Redmon Peyton & Braswell LLP
Andrew Leeper BS ’09 is a Probation Officer with Allen County Probation
Randall Martin MS ’00 is the Director of Security at Par-A-Dice Hotel and Casino
Frank Morelli BS ’90 is a Unit Manager with Lake County Adult Probation Department
Greg Patton BS ’79 is a Criminal Justice Instructor with the District 87 Bloomington Area Career Center
Ashley Petrey BS ’07 is an attorney with the Miami-Dade Public Defender’s Office
Jonathon Reid BA ’05 is a U.S. Pretrial Services Officer
Gary Spear ’75 retired after 35 years with Champaign Police Department
Tyler Wiggs BS ’11 is a police officer with Normal Police Department
Justin Ziller BS ’08 is a police officer with Decatur Police Department
Intern Spotlight - Jessica Gronset

As an intern at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC), I have had the opportunity to see a variety of different aspects of the juvenile justice system. A majority of my time is spent preparing, facilitating, and observing programs for the youth at the facility and the community members of Cook County.

In observance of Black History Month, many different community members collaborated with the JTDC to put on a long series of programs. At the beginning of the month I attended a program facilitated by Jamila Thomas, founder of Divine Women. Divine Women is an organization formed to empower women to fulfill dreams and rise above gender stereotypes. The MLK Theatre came in to present the one woman show on the Civil Rights Movement. This interactive show about the history of our country taught the youth that learning can be enjoyable. Every Thursday a woman brought in a therapy dog named Bandit to teach the youth about anti-cruelty. Jay Morrison came in to present his program, “Keys to Success: From Poverty & Prison to Prosperity & Purpose.” He had a special connection with the youth because of his past with crime and drugs. Now, as a celebrity author and real estate mogul, Mr. Morrison shared how the youth could follow his blueprint to success. A commissioner of the west side of Chicago, Jesus Garcia, came in to tell the youth about his experience working with the city’s first black mayor, Harold Washington. At the program, the youth learned about the great influence Chicago and our mayor had on the Civil Rights Movement. At the end of the month we facilitated a program on bullying for the parents of the youth and community members. The program informed the participants about Illinois’ laws on bullying. Parental awareness is important because parents can help to prevent bullying by knowing the effect physical and emotional violence can have on a child.

Along with all of the special programs, there have been ongoing programs in which the youth can take part. One specifically was facilitated by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). During the month of February a few representatives from the CSO came once a week to introduce the instruments to a group of the youth. In March, representatives for and players of the CSO and people from the organization Music in Prisons came for a full week to work with this same group of youth. Over the course of the week, the youth and facilitators came up with five tracks. These included instrumentals and tracks with lyrics that the youth came up with themselves. At the end of the week the youth performed for other pods of the JTDC and the guests they invited. They were accompanied by professionals of the CSO playing the violin, viola, double bass, and cello. The youth were very enthusiastic to get a chance to see family and show how much hard work they put into producing this show.

It has been amazing to see all of the people that contribute to the volunteer program during my time at the JTDC. I have really enjoyed working with Florida Turner, Volunteer and Internship Coordinator, and the youth. The volunteers who came in truly connected with the youth to get very powerful messages across, and to bring some joy to lives of people who have seen and experienced things I could never imagine. It has been an eye-opening experience to meet all of the people who really care about helping the troubled youth of the community. Watching the youth become engaged in and excited about the programs brought to them really encourages me to do more to help in the community and see the youth in a new light. We cannot give up on the troubled youth. We must help them to rise above the cycle of violence and find the path to the successful, happy, and safe life we all deserve.

Jessica Gronset '14
2013 Hall of Fame - Peter Lynch ’81 (cont.)

(continued from page 2)

In March of 2010, Lynch, a Reserve Marine Lieutenant Colonel, returned from a deployment to Afghanistan where he was a Military Advisor to the Afghan National Army (ANA) GS Legal, based out of Kabul, Afghanistan in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was later awarded a Defense Meritorious Service Medal and NATO Medal for my service with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom based in Kabul, Afghanistan during 2009-2010.

Lynch was awarded the Thomas Campuzano - Member of the Year Award by the California Conference of Arson Investigators for his contributions to the "California Fire-Arson Investigator" publication on breaking legal developments impacting fire investigations. He was awarded a Pro Bono (CLAY) Award by the California Lawyer for those who "left a lasting impact on the way those who follow them will practice" for his representation of Judy Booher, whose son was tragically killed as a fire fighter. The Brett Alan Law Act was enacted and signed by the governor to protect emergency response personnel based on his work. Lynch was also awarded San Diego Magazine's Top Lawyer, Subrogation & Recovery, for 2013.

High-level security - Alumnus oversees safety and security for Chicago’s Willis Tower (cont.)

(continued from page 3)

“You really end up seeing the dark side of people in this work,” Kambic said.

Eventually Kambic returned to the field as a district manager for Montgomery Ward, overseeing all of Chicago—19 stores and a distribution center. Annually he and his team would catch 1,000 internal theft schemes and 5,000 shoplifters.

Though he thoroughly enjoyed his work at Montgomery Ward, Kambic recognized a looming corporate bankruptcy and a hot job market as signs to seek a new challenge.

He joined Kroll Worldwide, where he worked on security and risk assessment projects for the Lincoln Museum, the University of Chicago, International Monetary Fund, and the Dominican Republic’s Banco Popular.

Working with risk analysis and planning, engineering, and bidding out integrated security systems was a career turning point for Kambic as it set the stage for him to be placed in charge of security for the Aon Center (formerly the Amoco Building). The work in turn prepared him to assume responsibility over Willis Tower—a burden he shoulders with pride.

“I believe I have one of the best jobs in the country,” Kambic said. “I work in a place where I can go anywhere in the country, say I work in this particular building, and most people will know where I work and what I do. There are only a handful of jobs that are like that.”

Veterans find their place in the CJS Department (cont.)

(continued from page 12)

“My dad was in the Navy, my uncle was in the Army, my grandfather was in the Army, so it was just kind of continuing the tradition,” Comens said.

Although family has played a major role in the veterans’ lives, there are others who have specifically helped transform them from military members to college students in a stress-free manner. The trio has raved about the faculty and administrators in the Criminal Justice Sciences Department for making their years at ISU enjoyable.

Once enrolled after their service was up, the three veterans became more involved on campus and in the Criminal Justice Sciences Department. Patrick and Dodge were inducted into the Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. The organization was developed for those who excel academically with a GPA of at least 3.25 within the department. Members contribute time and effort by volunteering within the community and campus.

In fact, the Criminal Justice Sciences Department is full of methods for veterans to become involved on campus. In fall 2012, the department implemented a new program, Breaking Barriers, dedicated to increasing the participation of women interested in careers in criminal justice sciences. Breaking Barriers helps connect these women with mentors who encourage them to become involved in criminal justice sciences. As members of the association, Dodge and Comens share their experiences within the department to help women overcome concerns about joining the department. They provide women with the academic and emotional support needed to “break the barriers” inhibiting their desire to pursue a future in criminal justice.

As Patrick, Dodge, and Comens continue to do their part in the department and on campus, they are hopeful that their experiences will help them achieve a successful future. With a bright past and an even brighter future, they hope to contribute to society by making positive differences as their dreams are fulfilled.
Homecoming is a great time for us to reconnect with alums! Each year, the College of Applied Science and Technology hosts a tent during the Homecoming Tailgate on Game Day (October 5th). All CJS alums are invited and encouraged to stop by! Join us September 29-October 5, 2014 to Rally the Redbirds!

Click here for more Alumni Events!

Visit us at: 

http://criminaljustice.illinoisstate.edu or Find us on Facebook
What are you doing now? The CJS Department wants to know! Send your updates to criminaljustice@IllinoisState.edu!