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Presented by Alpha Phi Sigma, The Criminal Justice Honor Society

Valdosta State University

<http://www.valdosta.edu/soc/APS.htm>

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR APS THIS SEMESTER

Mat Leopard, President

Greeting and salutations fellow Criminal Justice scholars! I hope everyone has gotten off to a great start for this semester. We have some very exciting opportunities coming up this academic year for your educational development and participation. Among those opportunities will be the 2nd Annual Informational Seminar on Career Opportunities after Graduation. We hope to have the same agencies in attendance as last spring, and hopefully more! For those who weren't able to attend, the agencies included Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Valdosta PD, and several others. We will also be doing a canned food drive for Thanksgiving to benefit those in the Valdosta community who could use a little help in the holiday season. We have also added a new Probationary Status to our membership criteria, as you will see further on in the newsletter. We did this so that those who seek academic excellence and who are willing to give their time and volunteer in the community, but may not have the Society requirements for membership, can still participate within an organization who strives for both academic excellence and the betterment of the community which they are in. If you have any further questions about Alpha Phi Sigma, please don't hesitate to stop me in the halls of the University Center or go see Dr. Gray in office #1140.

Study Abroad in Scotland and England

By: Ryan Harding

Do you need more criminal justice upper level electives? Do you need a break from the normal lectures? Instead of sitting in a classroom this summer why not take a trip and get college credit for it. This summer, a study abroad opportunity is

available that will explore the criminal justice system of different countries. In May Dr. Gray will be taking a group of students to Europe to study the law enforcement and courts of different countries. The trip will include a visit to Scotland, Durham, and London. Visits, as they currently stand, will include the Scottish High Court, Edinburgh Sheriff's Court, the Durham justice system, and the London Justice system. Some of the possible destinations will be the country's youth services, probation departments, and a look into different re-entry programs. It is sure to be a great trip and best of all you will satisfy some upper elective criminal justice requirements. Who says school is all work? This is your opportunity to travel the world and explore different cultures while still going to college. Most weekends will be free days unless traveling so you can add in site seeing and catch some of the tourist attractions while overseas. If you are interested stop by and talk with Dr. Gray for more information.

New Membership Criteria for APS

By: Mary Kuczynski

Article III: Membership Criteria

Membership in the Society is open to qualified candidates without regard to age, color, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, and/or disability. Those students, who have accumulated 50 semester hours of coursework, with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and 12 semester hours of Criminal Justice credits with a GPA of 3.2 or above, are invited to apply for the membership. There is a one-time initiation fee of \$45.00. This money supports the administrative costs of the organization and also funds scholarships and awards for Honor's students, and supports service projects developed by the Society.

Probationary Status- One can come to the meetings and participate in community service activities if students are at 45 accumulated semester hours of coursework, with a GPA of at least 2.95, and the same Criminal Justice requirements as a member. The probationary period is for one semester unless there is improvement and they meet the membership criteria within a year (30 semester hours). A probationary member is unable to vote, wear honor society regalia, or be considered an active member.

represented expressed their desire to be included in future activities, a testament to our students and the Society.



Inaugural Informational Seminar on Career Opportunities after Graduation

By Aba Acquah

On April 19, 2006, Alpha Phi Sigma (APS), Valdosta State University's Criminal Justice Honors Society, hosted its inaugural "Informational Seminar on Career Opportunities after Graduation." This event allowed students of all majors, especially those focused on majoring in Criminal Justice, an opportunity to meet with various agencies and see what the agencies' tasks were. The agencies in attendance included the NCIS, Public Defenders Office, Air Force OSI, Lockheed Martin, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, VSU Police Dept., Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, GBI, Tift County Sheriff's Dept, Robert L. Patton Detention Center (GA DOC) and Valdosta City Police. The organizations provided pamphlets, brochures, pencils, pens, and various other items for students to use as referral guides and keepsakes. The representatives from the agencies were very instrumental with answering questions that the students had and were willing to provide contact information for their agencies. During the expo, APS took a moment to honor its outgoing Faculty Advisor, Dr. Rudy K. Prine, who had dedicated 10 years to the success of the organization. This was also an opportunity for APS to welcome its new Faculty Advisor, Dr. Shani Gray. At the end of the expo the members of APS and the representatives from the various organizations joined in lunch and took pictures together by the University Center fountain. The event was a resounding success, as there were numerous students in attendance. All agencies

Criminal Justice Internships

Mat Leopard

I had a great experience over the summer at the Valdosta Probation office with Officer Johnny Pilgrim. Officer Pilgrim is an IPS (Intensive Supervision) officer for the Southern Judicial Court. I had known Officer Pilgrim from taking his Judicial Process night class in the fall of 2005. When I learned that I could have an internship with him, I jumped at the opportunity. His day to day operations deal specifically with some of the worst of our society who were given probation in lieu of jail time, or in addition to. Most of our probationers consisted of drug dealers and various drug offenders, problem DUI offenders, and felony level thieves.

My first day in the office consisted of learning the names of the other officers in the building and learning how to audit the probationer files for the sake of organization and making sure that there were no updates to be added. Another task that I had to be taught was how to enter the reporting slips into the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) database. I did not realize the importance of this skill until my first Wednesday in the office. For IPS, Wednesday is report day for all active probationers. What this means is that they have to come in and fill out these slips that tell us their name, SS#, address, DOB, place of employment, hours, and phone number. There are over 200 IPS probationers that come in throughout the entire work day (8:00-4:30), which makes for a very busy day. Along with those aforementioned duties, I also answered the phone (and usually

handed it off to Johnny), ran warrants, petitions, and copies across the street to the courthouse. About once or twice a week, we got to take a “field trip” to the Lowndes County jail to serve a probationer with papers that informed them of an update in their case and what the court was offering as a plea. These meetings often turned out to be learning experiences for the accused, but Johnny was sure to go over it with them to prevent any possible confusion before their appearance before the judge. And, of course, the part that was more fun was when we had Court. The proceedings could either be a bond hearing or a revocation hearing. We had some homework to do to prepare, but that took about 10-15 minutes. For me, the best part about this internship was going out on curfew checks with Rusty Cain, the surveillance officer. For IPS Probationers, they are required to be in the house by 7:00pm unless they have made prior arrangements with Johnny. Rusty will check every probationer at least once in a month. If they aren’t home when he comes by, they have a violation and Rusty will continue to go by until he gets them at home. He will then ask them why they weren’t home on _____. After enough curfew violations, Rusty will issue a warrant for arrest on a probation violation. That was the greatest part to me because of the nature of the activity. Going out in a Crown Vic, wearing a KEVLAR vest and tactical raid vest...that really gets me pumped up.

I highly recommend the Valdosta Probation office for an internship. If you do good work, this becomes an outstanding reference source as Johnny will not hesitate to praise you to another Criminal Justice agency, I know from experience.

For further information on Internship opportunities, see Dr. Rudy Prine in UC 1103.
