

Annual Report 2024-25

Department of Justice Studies

San José State University



Top left: Monique Granados and Yvette Morales representing Alpha Phi Sigma.

Top right: Iliana Jasso discusses her research with Wilson Yuan.

Bottom: Virginia Montelongo's JS 103 Courts and Society class visiting the courtroom of Judge Benjamin Williams, Santa Clara County Superior Court, Spring 2025.

Introduction

We began the year with an ‘Away Day’ at Studio-on-the-Street in San José. During this half-day retreat in September 2024, we discussed how to deliver our degree programs more effectively, and shared strategies for teaching excellence and engagement with students. One of the ideas to emerge from the retreat was an undergraduate research symposium.

In May 2025, we held our first Student Research Symposium for undergraduates in conjunction with our annual Graduate Showcase event. A panel of judges—Jodie Warren, Justin Strong and Dallas Augustine—reviewed the posters, and Dr Strong presented awards for the top research projects at the Celebration of Achievement event later that morning. This year, we also held a student paper contest with prizes for winning entries. Gabriela Gonzalez chaired the faculty committee reviewing the papers.

Looking ahead, Nurettin Senol will join us as assistant professor in Fall 2025. He has completed a PhD in Digital and Cyber Forensics at Sam Houston State University and will bring his expertise to the digital evidence concentration in forensic science.

The Department continues to work with the College of Social Sciences to develop new space on campus: a larger teaching laboratory for forensic science and a research laboratory for forensic entomology and taphonomy in the Science building, and a mock courtroom for criminology and legal studies in the Boccardo Business Complex.

Finally, a sincere ‘thank you!’ to all alumni that shared updates about professional careers and academic journeys since graduation. It is inspiring to read about your success, and the impact you are making on law, justice and forensic science.

Paul Knepper, PhD
Professor and Chair
May 2025

Student awards and recognition

Kanna Bracero received 3rd place in the Undergraduate Research Showcase at the Celebration of Student Achievement event, May 2, 2025.

Dalia Cruz, FS-Biology, was selected as a winner of the 2025 SJSU Student RSCA Competition to represent SJSU at the 39th Annual California State University Student Research Competition. This competition took place at California Polytechnic University in April 2025.



Maile Gillis, SJSU's 1st Newman Fellow

Maile Gillis, JS-Criminology, was selected as the Newman Civic Fellowship nominee for San José State University. She became the first student from SJSU to win this fellowship. Maile was featured in a *Washington Square Magazine* story, 'Named First-Ever SJSU Newman Civic Fellow' by Julia Halprin Jackson, May 8, 2025.

Maile Gillis and Mariam Roshdy were selected as the banner bearers at the College of Social Sciences Commencement on May 21, 2025. Maile and Mariam were honors students that had worked with the Record Clearance Project.

Amalia Herrera-Benitez received 1st place in the Undergraduate Research Showcase at the Celebration of Student Achievement event, May 2, 2025.

Sophia Konieczny received 2nd place in the Undergraduate Research Showcase at the Celebration of Student Achievement event, May 2, 2025.

Jenna Jagielski, FS-Digital Evidence, received the Reed and Virginia McLaughlin Endowment Scholarship from the California Association of Criminalists in the amount of \$3500 for her research on a project supervised by Mark Barash.

Nhu Nguyen, JS-Criminology, an advanced RCP student, was the recipient of the 2025 SJSU Service-Learning & Community Engagement Student of the Year Award. The award, which includes a \$2000 scholarship, was presented on April 25, 2025, at a recognition event organized by SJSU's Center for Community Learning and Leadership.



Nhu Nguyen with Everett Glynn

Yazmin Robles was awarded 2nd place in the 2024-25 Outstanding Paper Competition sponsored by the Department of Justice Studies. She was recognized at the Celebration of Student Achievement event on May 2, 2025.

Scholarships

Each year, the Department of Justice Studies awards a number of scholarships made possible by the generosity of alumni and friends. The 2025 Scholarship Committee, chaired by Gabriela Gonzalez, made awards to several students.

Monique Granados received the Kristopher Boaz Claspill Memorial Scholarship, \$5000.

Dilan Perez received the Jeffrey Fontana Memorial Scholarship, \$2000.

Prabhleen Klair received the Simpson and Silva Memorial Scholarship, \$2000.

Sashil Camacho received the Shelby Brewer Memorial Scholarship, \$2500.

Reyna Bautista received the Paula Stone Hubbell Memorial Scholarship, \$3000.



Gabriela Gonzalez announces scholarship awards

Hannah Pell received the Theresa Edel Memorial Scholarship, \$2000.

Eduardo Ontiveros received the Daniel Lomio Memorial Scholarship, \$1900.

Fan Yang received the Willard Schmidt Memorial Scholarship, \$2000.

Yvette Morales received a J. Edgar Hoover Foundation Scholarship, \$1250.

Rachael Maldonado received a J. Edgar Hoover Foundation Scholarship, \$1250.

Cassandra Sanchez Luis received a J. Edgar Hoover Foundation Scholarship, \$2000.

Student activities

Samantha Boman served as managing editor for the Spring 2025 issue of *Themis: Research Journal of Justice Studies and Forensic Science*.

Jessica Halan Soederberg and Connie Vences gave a research presentation, 'Unlocking Hidden Clues: Car Cabin Air Filters as a Novel Source of DNA Evidence' at the 13th annual seminar of the California Association of Criminalists, Folsom, April-May, 2025. Their research was supervised by Mark Barash.

Jenna Jagielski gave a research presentation, 'Enhancing Forensic DNA Workflows by Optimizing Automation on the OT-2 Robotic Platform' at the 13th annual seminar of the California Association of Criminalists, Folsom, April-May, 2025. Her research was supervised by Mark Barash.

Several students from Jodie Warren's FS 169 Senior Seminar presented research posters at the Undergraduate Research Showcase on May 2, 2025: Fatema Balkhi, Janelle Rae Cornelio, Ryan Harrison, Amalia Herrera-Benitez, Sophie Konieczny, Danielle La Croix, Daniela Montebello Escareño, and Mariana Ramirez-Diaz.

Karina Renae Bracero presented 'Delayed oviposition (egg laying) due to effects of confinement in a cardboard box' at the Undergraduate Research Showcase on May 2, 2025. The research was supervised by Jodie Warren.

Connie Vences presented, 'Unlocking Hidden Clues: Car Cabin Air Filters as a Novel Source of DNA Evidence' at the Undergraduate Research Showcase on May 2, 2025. The research was supervised by Mark Barash.

Student clubs

Alpha Phi Sigma (APS). The Department of Justice Studies is home to the Iota Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the national criminal justice honor society. Dina Kameda is the faculty advisor.

During 2024-25, APS held collaborative events: a Spring picnic with the Forensic Science Club and a barbecue and self-defense workshop with Chi Pi Sigma. APS organized a 'Know Your Rights' panel with immigrant attorney Elham Sadri and defense attorney Alana Wilson. APS coordinated volunteer opportunities, such as the Guadalupe River trail clean up, and held an informative poster-making event regarding ICE activity.

APS officers: Montse Arevalo, president; Adriana Pliego, vice president; Brendan Krepchin, secretary; treasurer, Areli Gallardo; Abby Hernandez, webmaster; Yvette Morales, events coordinator; Monique Granados, events associate; Yulissa Sanchez, advocacy coordinator.

Chi Pi Sigma (CPS) is a co-educational criminal justice fraternity founded at SJSU in 1935. Susie Rivera is the faculty advisor.



Officers: Raquel Campos, president; Gabriela Orue, vice president; Jazmin Escamilla Rios, secretary & house manager; Natasha Lozada, treasurer & philanthropy chair; Alexia Bueno, pledge master; Abrie Rodas, sergeant-at-arms & philanthropy chair; Parker Robb, pledge trainer & director of membership; Mya Vasquez, social Chair & director of membership; Jennifer Gonzalez, social chair; Olivia Demelo, historian; Ernesto Chavez, director of membership; Mariana Teves-Trujillo, director of membership; Dino Saucedo, philanthropy chair; Misheal Prasad, marketing chair; Ruby Izucar, marketing chair.

Chi Pi Sigma Fraternity Spring 2025

Throughout 2024-25, CPS collaborated with other organizations to host activities, including a self-defense class, fundraising events and social gatherings. In Spring 2025, CPS welcomed guest speakers to the CPS house who talked about careers in the California Highway Patrol and forensic science. CPS hosted its first alumni mixer, and organized 'Spring Bash' and 'Tailgate' events with members and alumni.

Forensic Science Club (FSC) aims to cultivate interest in forensic science; it is affiliated with the California Association of Criminalists (CAC) and American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS). Mark Barash is the faculty advisor.

During this academic year, FSC hosted a Halloween party, Forensic Science Soiree, guest speakers, internship informational nights, a Valentine's Day Social, and crime lab tours.



Forensic Science Club visits Santa Clara District Attorney's crime laboratory

Latinos in Forensic Science and Justice Studies (LFoJu), established in 2024, aims to build community and support students interested in forensic science and justice studies. Rosa Vega, faculty liaison.

LFoJu hosted guest speaker events featuring professionals from the field and social activities like Café con Crimen. LFoJu tabled at campus events to promote the club and engage with the campus community.

Officers: Bonnie Ramirez, president ; Janelle Cornelio, vice president; Rachael Maldonado, treasurer ; Daniella Torres, secretary; Dallas Quinonez, publications relations; Gabriela Arana Acosta, event coordinator; Sophia Alvarado-Vasquez, outreach coordinator. Public Relations Team: Tatiana Segura, Itzel Resendiz. Outreach Team: Sierra Jaquez, Isabella Cuevas. Finance Team: Jasmine Gomez, Abby Soto. Event Planning Team: Gabrielle Rodriguez.

Officers: Serena Ceja, president; Adriana Pliego, vice president; Alexis Puente, secretary; Jalak Parekh, co-director of peer mentor program; Abigail Lawson, co-director of peer mentor program/membership chair; Karla Suarez, head of event planning; Shannon Nguyen-Duong, event planner; Nikki Pandita, event planner; Meagan Muarvez, head of marketing; Marlene Olivera, marketing officer; Valerie Mata, marketing officer; Rhea De Los Reyes, design/merchandise officer; Leo Gonzalez Ordaz, design/merchandise officer; Nina Nguye, design/merchandise officer; Anisa Estrada, design/merchandise officer; Sukhimani Dhadiala, head of finance; Joseph Oswaga- finance officer.



Latinos in Forensic Science and Justice Studies

Graduate theses

Clarissa Guevarra defended her thesis, 'All eyes on me: Security and preventive measures in the era of shoplifting', April 14, 2025. Alessandro De Giorgi was the supervisor.

Everett Glynn defended his thesis, 'One nation under guard', April 15, 2025. Alessandro De Giorgi was the supervisor.

Graduate student activities

Zachary Addison was awarded a graduate student assistantship, Spring 2025.

Alyssa Durr was awarded a graduate student assistantship, Spring 2025.

Badiana Martinez-Garcia was awarded a graduate student assistantship, Fall 2024.

Everett Glynn was awarded a graduate student assistantship, Fall 2024; he became a teaching associate in Spring 2025.

Everett Glynn gave an invited presentation about the Record Clearance Project at the All-Ukrainian Scientific Conference on Law, Communication and Society organized by Lviv State University, April 4, 2025.

Seven MS Justice Studies students presented research posters at the Graduate Showcase in May 2025: Elizabeth Evans, Iliana Jasso, Jonathan Luevanos, Alexandra Nava-Leon, Erica Powell, Quynh-Van Stanoff and Andrea Sosa Castro. The event was organized by Ericka Adams.

Kenia Silva Garcia, an MS global criminology student, presented a research poster at the Graduate Showcase event in May 2025.

Graduate student awards and recognition

Iliana Jasso received 1st place (tie) in the research projects presented at the Graduate Showcase on May 2, 2025.

Erica Powell received 1st place (tie) in the research projects presented at the Graduate Showcase on May 2, 2025.



Graduate Showcase event, May 2, 2025

Faculty awards and recognition

Dina Kameda was promoted to Lecturer L-C.

Joseph Di Salvo was named Elected Official of the Year by the California Charter Schools Association. He was recognized at the 2025 CCSA conference in the Sacramento Convention Center on March 13, 2025, for his work with the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Several faculty members were recognized at the Celebrating Spartans: Honoring Faculty and Staff event on April 16, 2025. Edith Kinney, Megan Schlegel and Michael Vallerga for 10 years of service to SJSU, and Claudio Vera Sanchez for 15 years of service.

Faculty presentations

Dallas Augustine presented 'The Paradox of Restrictive Housing Work: How Correctional Officers Navigate Feeling Safe and Unsafe in the Most Secure Units' at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association in Denver, June 2024.

Justin Strong and Dallas Augustine presented 'An Autopsy of Conceptualizing Health in Solitary Confinement: Diagnosing Knowledge Production in Solitary Confinement' at the Legal Determinants of Health: From Incarceration to Accommodation Symposium, University of California-San Francisco, October 2024.

Ericka Adams presented a paper, co-authored with Maguire, E; Telep, C; and Abt, T, entitled 'Street Outreach Conflict Mediation Program for Reducing Violence' at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, November 2024.

Gabriela Gonzalez presented a paper, 'The Paradox of Restrictive Housing Work: How Correctional Officers Navigate Feeling Safe and Unsafe in the Most Secure Units' at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, November 2024.

Gabriela Gonzalez presented a paper, 'Organize, Mobilize, Change: Grassroots Strategies to Deportation Defense,' at the College of Social Sciences Research Showcase, May 2025.

Gabriela Gonzalez presented a paper, 'From the Ground Up: Grassroots Organizing and the Immigration Control Complex' at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association, Chicago, May 2025.

John Halushka spoke about his book, *Getting the Run Around* (University of California Press, 2023) at the Meet the Authors event organized by SJSU's Human Rights Institute, November 12, 2024.

John Halushka gave a presentation about his book *Getting the Runaround* Guest Lecture and Q&A. Gender and Incarceration (Synchronous Online Course), Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 2024.

John Halushka gave a presentation at an Author-Meets-Reader Panel for *Getting the Runaround* and the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association, Denver, CO, June 2024.

Grace Howard presented at a 'Meet the Authors' panel at the National Abortion Federation Meeting, California, May 2025.

Grace Howard presented at Author-Meets-Critics: *The Pregnancy Police: Conceiving Crime, Arresting Personhood* at the Western Political Science Association Meeting, Seattle, April 2025.

Grace Howard presented 'First Generation Scholars Committee: Contemporary Challenges in the Discipline,' at the Western Political Science Association Meeting, Seattle, April 2025



John Halushka and Dallas Augustine

Grace Howard presented 'A Thirty Year Retrospective on At Women's Expense: Reproductive Politics in the US Post-Dobbs,' at the Western Political Science Association Meeting, Seattle, April 2025.

Grace Howard presented 'The Criminalization of Pregnancy Loss,' at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association, Denver, June 2024.

Grace Howard gave an invited presentation, 'The Pregnancy Police,' at the University of California-Berkeley School of Law, Center for Reproductive Rights and Justice, March 2025.

Grace Howard gave an invited presentation 'Criminalization of Pregnancy Post-Dobbs' at the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Workshop, Washington, DC, February 2025.

Grace Howard gave an invited presentation, 'Criminalization of Pregnancy Post-Dobbs,' at the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Convening on the Criminalization of Pregnancy, Georgetown University School of Law, December 2024.

Grace Howard 'Lessons from the Pregnancy Police,' Carol Mukhopadhyay Lecturer, San José State University, November 2024.

Grace Howard gave the closing plenary talk, 'The Pregnancy Police,' at the Take Root: Reproductive Justice in Red States Conference, University of Kentucky, October 2024.

Grace Howard gave an invited book talk, 'The Pregnancy Police' at Drexel University, October 2024.

Grace Howard was a guest speaker on 'Pregnancy Criminalization' at Drexel University If/When/How Chapter, October 2024.

Grace Howard made a presentation as part of a panel entitled 'Celebrating the Work of Dr. Cynthia Daniels,' Rutgers University-New Brunswick, October 2024.

Grace Howard gave a presentation, 'Engaging with the Media on Academic Work,' at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, October 2024.

Grace Howard spoke about 'The Pregnancy Police' at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, October 2024.

Grace Howard spoke about 'The Pregnancy Police' at University of Southern Indiana, September 2024.

Grace Howard spoke about 'The Pregnancy Police' at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 2024.

Grace Howard spoke about her book, *The Pregnancy Police* (University of California Press, 2024) at the Meet the Authors event organized by SJSU's Human Rights Institute, November 12, 2024.

Allison Martin presented 'Evaluating SafeGrowth Training Outcomes' at the annual conference of the International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association, Palm Springs, April 2025.

Edith Kinney presented a paper, 'Processing the Punishment: Reform and Resistance in the Local Implementation of Mandatory Cannabis Record Clearance Across California Counties,' at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association, Chicago, May 2025.

Wilson Yuan presented a paper co-authored with Susan McNeeley, 'Immigrants' Attitudes Toward Violence: Exploring the Generational Differences Among Different Generations of Immigrants' at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, November 2024.

Faculty publications



Ericka Adams at Commencement
May 21, 2025

Lageson, S., Caliman, C. R., Chen, E., & Adams, E. (2025). 'Online recruitment for interview participants impacted by the criminal legal system' *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice & Criminology* (in press).

Maguire, E. R., Telep, C. W., Abt, T., & Adams, E. B., Mills, M. S. & Geoghan, S. J. (2025). 'Street outreach conflict mediation strategies: What the research suggests (so far)'. *Translational Criminology*, Spring, pp. 15-17.

Ericka Adams, Casandra Harry and Edward Maguire (2025) 'The role of community policing in communities with serious gang problems: Insights from Trinidad and Tobago' *Journal of Criminal Justice* 97: 1-15.

Ericka Adams (2024) 'The Impact of a Criminal Record on Persons in the Caribbean' in Wendell C. Wallace, ed, *The Palgrave Handbook of Caribbean Criminology*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Maguire, E. R., Adams, E. B., & Harry, C. (2024). 'The importance of listening in police-community dialogue: Insights from the Hearts and Minds initiative in Trinidad and Tobago'. *Police Quarterly*, 28 (2): 239-257.

Reiter, K., Augustine, D., Strong, J., Barragan, M., Gonzalez, G. & Pifer, N. (in press). 'An autopsy of conceptualizing health in solitary confinement: Diagnosing knowledge production in solitary confinement', in Brian Dolan, ed, *The Legal Determinants of Health*. San Francisco: University of California Health Humanities Press.

Tublitz, R., Reiter, K., Augustine, D., Barragan, M., Chesnut, K., Gonzalez, G., Pifer, N., & Strong, J. (in press). 'Getting boxed in: How race and gang labeling shape solitary confinement use'. *Punishment & Society*.



Mark Barash with research assistants, Richard Rico and Connie Vences

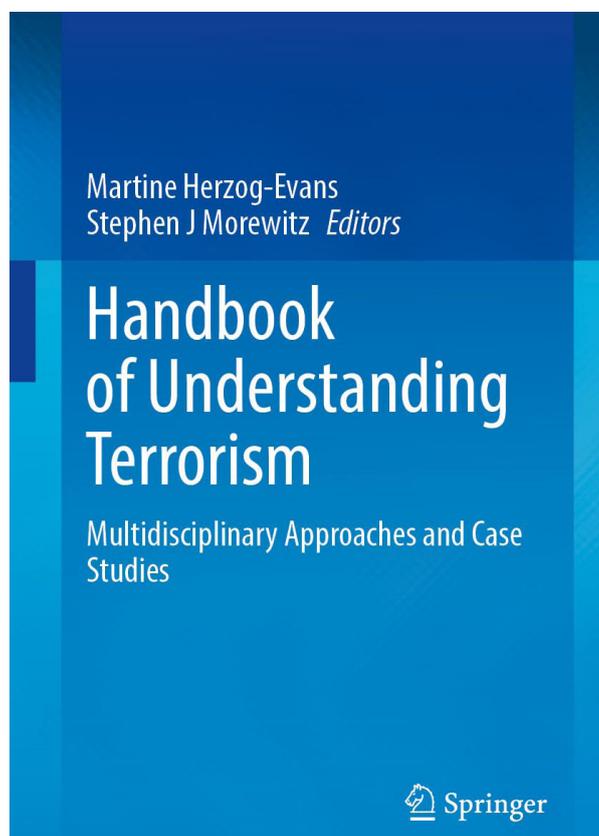
Augustine, Dallas (2025). Review of *Captives: How Rikers Island Took New York City Hostage*, by Jarrod Shanahan. *LABOR: Studies in Working Class History*, 22(1), 157-159.

Thata, H; Pandkar, N; Moh, T-S and Barash, M (in press) 'Towards advancing forensic investigations: A large language model approach to morphology' 5th International Workshop on AI for Social Good in the Connected World.

Thata, H; Pandkar, N; Moh, T-S; and Barash, M (2024) 'Exploring a Large Language Model Approach to Visual Appearance Predictions in Forensic Investigations' pp. 522-528 in IEEE/WIC International Conference on Web Intelligence and Intelligent Agent Technology (WI-IAT)

McNevin, D and Barash, M. (2024) 'Comparison of Likelihood Ratios from Probabilistic Genotyping for Two-Person Mixtures across Different Assays and Instruments' *Forensic Sciences* 4(3):441-452.

Grace Howard (in press) "The criminalization of abortion after Dobbs' in Francesca Spina, ed, *The Routledge Companion to Gender and Crime*. London: Routledge.



Grace Howard wrote a review of *Failing Moms: Social Condemnation and Criminalization of Mothers* by Caitlin Killian. *Gender & Society*, 39(2), 330-332.

Paul Knepper (2025) 'The Japanese American Incarceration and the origins of penology in California: A microhistory' *Howard Journal of Crime and Justice* 64(1): 77-91.

Martine Herzog-Evans and Stephen J. Morewitz, eds (2025). *Handbook of Understanding Terrorism. Multidisciplinary Approaches and Case Studies*. New York: Springer Publishing.

Stephen Morewitz (2025) *Forensic Social Sciences: Theory, Research and Practice*. Solana Beach, CA: Cognella Academic Publishing.

Bryan Sykes, Ernest Chavez and Justin Strong (in press) 'Death and disappearance: Measuring racial disparities in mortality and life expectancy among people in state prisons, United States 2000-2014' *PLOS One*.

Faculty activities

Dallas Augustine and Justin Strong organized a talk by Keramet Reiter, University of California-Irvine, 'From Practice to Research and Back: Bridging Justice Studies and Practice', November 12, 2024.

Alessandro De Giorgi taught 'Punishment, Culture and Society' for the Legal Studies Program, University of California-Berkeley, June 2025.

Gabriela Gonzalez was a Summer Research Institute Fellow at the Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network, University of Maryland-College Park, July 2024.

Gabriela Gonzalez served as an executive board member for the Western Society of Criminology.

Mary Juno took 25 students to Scotland for a course on 'Comparative Forensic Science' US/UK, June 9-July 4, 2025. The students observed the crime lab, police museum and high court in Glasgow, and other sites, including Edinburgh Castle.

Paul Knepper served as a grant reviewer for the Swiss National Science Foundation, June 2024.

Paul Knepper served as a grant reviewer for the National Research, Development and Innovation Office, Hungary, Sept 2024.

Paul Knepper taught *Historie de la pensée criminologique*, 'The history of criminological thinking' on the Master of Law program in Criminology and Security at the School of Criminal Sciences, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, March 2025.

Paul Knepper joined the editorial board of the *Journal of Historical Criminology*.

Allison Martin worked as a consultant for Safegrowth, a crime prevention program focused on community-led initiatives. She was one of three individuals to work with the Baltimore Police Department to set up a community crime prevention team, September 2024.

Allison Martin served on the executive board of the ICA USA CPTED chapter, the International/United States Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association, shaping training programs, conferences and practitioner certifications nationwide.



Allison Martin in Baltimore

Susie Rivera organized the State-wide Youth Advisory Board to support the California Office of Youth and Community Restoration, Sacramento, October 4, 2024.

Susie Rivera became the founding director of Transforming and Reclaiming Youth Brilliance, a youth-led local community-based organization (CBO) designed and led by incarcerated and system-impacted youth to center their voices in policy and systems change, 2024.

Carlos Singh served as a faculty member and associate faculty dean at Lincoln Law School in San José.

Carlos Singh served as executive director of the East Side Educational Foundation, a non-profit partner with SJSU in admitting students to the university.

Carlos Singh served as a faculty leader with SJSU's Phalanx Student Success Program, 2024-25.

Bryce Westlake convened a meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence on January 13-17, 2025. About 120 members of the SWGDE met at the Student Union.

Greg Woods hosted a panel of speakers from Leeds Trinity University in the UK and Linnaeus University in Sweden in JS 102 Police and Society on the topic of 'The Future of Policing: International Perspectives', February 27, 2025.

Faculty research and grants

Dallas Augustine received \$15,400 from the Crankstart Foundation for 'Evaluation of Petition-based Expungement', an Initiative led by Naomi Sugie at the University of California-Los Angeles.

Mark Barash received \$6000 from the Forensic Sciences Foundation Research Grant Program for a project entitled 'Unlocking Hidden Clues: Forensic Potential of Car Cabin Filters for DNA Analysis', October 2024.

John Halushka received assigned time (Spring 2025) from the University Grants Academy for a project entitled 'Mass Incarceration and Food Inequality: How Do Formerly Incarcerated People and their Families Navigate Barriers to Food Access?'

John Halushka RSCA Seed Grant 'Mass Incarceration and Food Inequality: How Do Formerly Incarcerated People and their Families Navigate Barriers to Food Access?' San José State University, \$3,700.

Paul Knepper applied to the AccessLex Institute for \$200,000 for a project entitled 'San José Law Laboratory', February 2025.

Allison Martin submitted a grant proposal 'Learning with AI: Student-Curated Podcasts for Critical Thinking and Ethical Engagement' for \$60,000 to the CSU-wide Artificial Intelligence Educational Innovations Challenge, April 2025.

Peggy Stevenson and the RCP team received a three-year grant award for \$1,414,875 from the California Community Reinvestment Grants Program (CalCRG) to provide community legal rights presentations, record review interviews, and court representation, May 2025.

Peggy Stevenson and the RCP team were awarded \$735,000 for 2024-25 from Santa Clara County for the service navigation mentoring program, continuing its annual support over the last six years, May 2025.

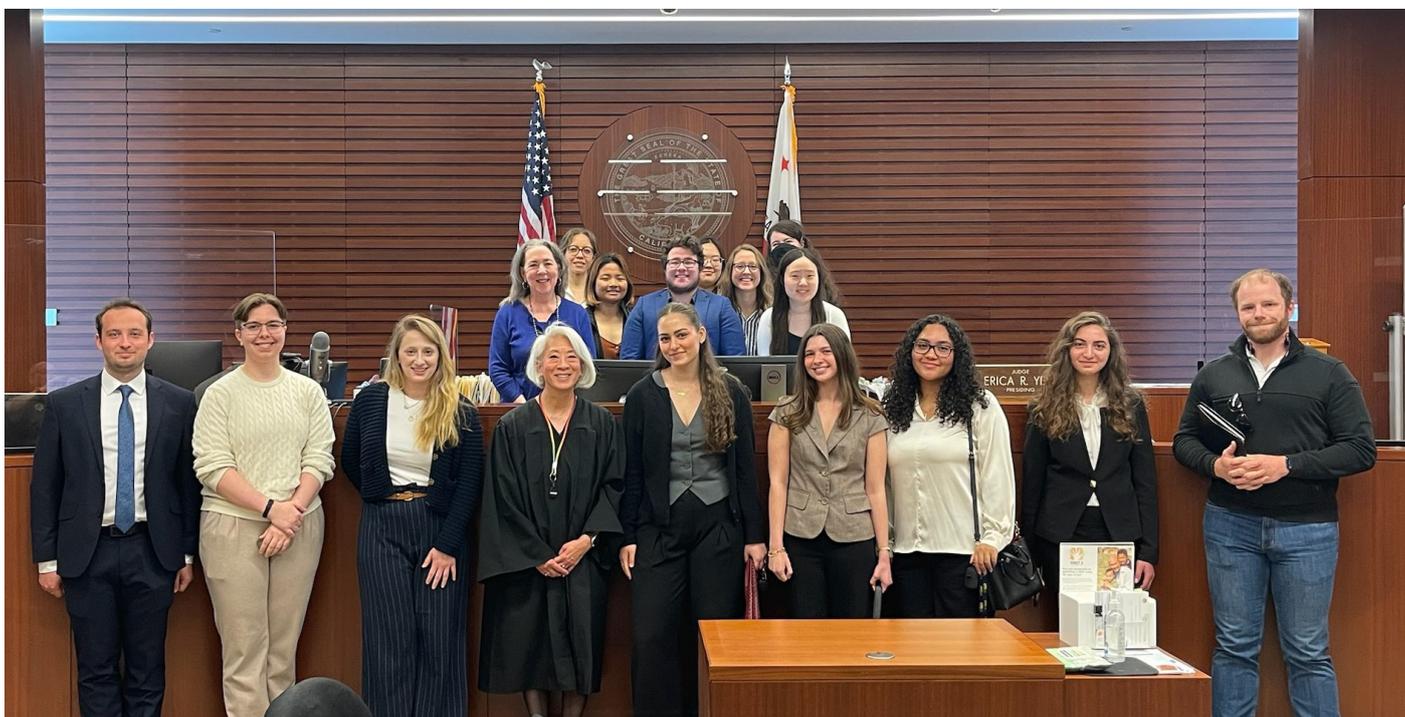
Peggy Stevenson and the RCP team received three grants from Destination:Home, a program dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness:

- \$50,200, of which \$42,000 is for direct client support for employment-related needs such as work clothes, equipment, and a range of things to enable people to gain and retain employment.
- \$40,000 to provide legal services to people who are experiencing housing insecurity.
- \$18,000 to provide clients with technology such as laptops or cell phones. This funding has been used to support RCP's digital literacy courses.

In Fall 2024, long-time RCP donors established an endowment for RCP to ensure its legacy in providing exceptional educational experience to SJSU students and life-changing services to community members. Annual support from the endowment will begin in three years, in increasingly greater amounts.

Jodie Warren and Mary Juno received a General Education Summer Grant of \$2000 from SJSU's Office of Undergraduate Education to develop a new course FS 172 Ethics and Error in Forensic Science, June 2024.

Bryce Westlake applied to the National Science Foundation for \$778,341 for a project entitled 'Research on Innovative Technologies for Enhanced Learning' (November 2024).



RCP's Alternative Spring Break week with Judge Erica Yew

Faculty making news

Dallas Augustine was interviewed by *Mission Local* for a story entitled 'S.F.'s police response to 16th St Plaza Needs Long-Term Strategy' March 21, 2025.

Joseph DiSalvo published an op-ed, 'Di Salvo: Retired Santa Clara County school trustee pushes for better education' in *San José Spotlight*, November 26, 2024.

John Halushka was interviewed for a KPIX-TV story about several arrests involving machete attacks in San Jose, Sept 18, 2024.

Grace Howard wrote an Op-Ed, 'Educators Are Not the Enemy,' *The Edge*, August 2, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview to Spectrum News 1, 'Texas AG sues NY Doctor,' December 16, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview for Scripps, *Morning Rush*, 'High Court Publishes Decision by Mistake,' June 27, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview for KTVU, 'Monday marks 2 years since the overturn of Roe v. Wade,' June 24, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview KRON TV, 'Roe v. Wade, Trans Rights,' June 24, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview Scripps, *Morning Rush* TV, 'Supreme Court Retains Access to Widely Used Abortion Drug Mifepristone,' June 13, 2024.



Grace Howard

Grace Howard gave an interview for KRON TV, 'Supreme Court Decision on Mifepristone', June 13, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview on a Georgia miscarriage criminal case with Andrea González-Ramirez, *The Cut*, March 26, 2025.

Grace Howard gave an interview on crisis pregnancy centers and data privacy with Suzanne Smalley, *The Record*, March 26, 2025.

Grace Howard gave an interview to *Bolts Magazine*, 'How Pregnancy is Policed: Your Questions Answered', August 15, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview for the Institute for Public Accuracy, 'The Pregnancy Police', August 5, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview *Spectrum News 1*, 'Amarillo residents to vote on abortion travel ban in November', July 9, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview *Washington Post*, 'The Criminalization of Pregnancy', June 12, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview to the *Huffington Post*, 'The "Pregnancy Police" Were Around Long Before Roe v. Wade Fell', June 12, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview to KERA News, 'Texas Abortion Regulations', May 21, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview *Time Magazine*, 'Long Term Birth Control and Reproductive Coercion' May 13, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview KCBS radio, 'Louisiana Indicts NY Doctor', February 1, 2025.

Grace Howard gave an interview for *The Deep Dive Podcast*, 'The Pregnancy Police', November 12, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview KPFA radio, 'Current Affairs with David Rosenberg, The Pregnancy Police' August 10, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview WBAI Radio, *The News with Paul DeRienzo*, 'The Pregnancy Police', August 6, 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview for the Cleveland Heights Library Author Interview Series, 'The Pregnancy Police', August 2024.

Grace Howard gave an interview for Texas Public Radio, *The Source*, 'The Endgame of Fetal Personhood', June 24, 2024.

Peggy Stevenson was featured in a *San José Mercury News Wishbook* story, 'State Jose State expungement program can change lives of everyone involved' by Robert Salonga, November 2024.

Greg Woods gave an interview appearing on ABC 7 News, 'The Antioch PD Racist Text Scandal' February 7, 2024.

Greg Woods was interviewed for a FOX 2 TV News story regarding San Jose businesses receive free cameras to combat crime, February 15, 2024.

Greg Woods interviewed for a FOX 2 TV News story, 'San Jose Police sets goal of 30 women officers', March 8, 2024.

Greg Woods gave an ABC7 News interview for a story, 'Oakland Police Department grand jury subpoena', July 16, 2024.

Greg Woods gave KTVU interview for a story, 'Santa Clara County DA dashboard & transparency in the administration of justice', July 18, 2024.

Greg Woods was interviewed for an ABC7 News about federal oversight of Oakland Police Department, September 4, 2024.



Greg Woods

Greg Woods gave an ABC 7 News interview, 'Report finds lack of police efficiency leading to fewer arrests', October 31, 2024.

Greg Woods was quoted in an ABC 7 News story regarding resignations from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, November 17, 2024.

Greg Woods was interviewed by *Silicon Valley Business Journal* for a story, 'Silicon Valley companies spend millions on C-suite security for top execs', December 5, 2024.

Greg Woods did an ABC 7 News interview regarding federal oversight of the Antioch Police Department, January 5, 2025.

Greg Woods was interviewed by Jesse Gary of FOX 2 News for a story, 'No confidence vote against the San Mateo County Sheriff', February 6, 2025.

Greg Woods gave an interview to the *Mercury News* for a story entitled, 'Juveniles charged in a recent San Jose stabbing at Santana Row', March 24, 2025.

Greg Woods gave an interview aired on ABC 7 News concerning the federal trial against former Antioch police officers accused of conspiring to injure, threaten and intimidate suspects, March 7, 2025.

Department activities

The Department convened an Away Day (retreat) at Studio-on-the-Street in San José on September 27, 2024.

The Department held a Celebration of Student Achievement event on May 2, 2025, to recognize award winners and scholarship recipients. The ceremony took place in conjunction with undergraduate and graduate poster sessions to showcase research.



Jodie Warren, Wilson Yuan, Grace Howard and Alessandro De Giorgi at Away Day, Sept. 20th

Record clearance project

The Record Clearance Project (RCP), founded by Peggy Stevenson, provides students pursuing a career in legal services with an experience advocating for clients eligible for expungement of criminal records under California law. RCP makes SJSU the only university in the USA to offer a clinical legal program to undergraduates.

Service navigation. RCP's service navigation peer mentor program assists people being released from custody with peer mentorship combined with case management and service navigation. RCP's peer mentors, who have been formerly incarcerated themselves, provided peer support to 232 people who were released from custody, assisting them in linking them to needed services 6,283 times over the past year.

Legal Services. RCP provided 38 legal rights presentations at 23 different facilities and organizations; 1,048 people attended, including 655 people currently in custody. Students and a former client do these presentations in English and Spanish, with an attorney attending.

RCP provided free brief legal service interviews to 390 clients in the past year. At these interviews, clients received advice on clearing their criminal records. When Santa Clara County cases could be dismissed without court hearings, RCP completed the necessary forms to do so. To complete this brief legal service work, RCP:

- Provided expungement advice on 2,212 cases.
- Completed 240 record clearance application forms seeking dismissal of 1,183 convictions.
- From these 390 interviews, 190 clients were able to have their records completely cleared.
- Obtained 601 free criminal history reports (RAP sheets).

Court representation. For clients whose cases were more serious, RCP represented 19 clients at court hearings, with a total of 53 cases on the docket. All convictions were dismissed.

Digital Literacy Classes. In the past year, with funding provided by Santa Clara County upon Supervisor Susan Ellenberg's recommendation, RCP provided free digital literacy courses to formerly incarcerated people. The program provides laptops for participants to learn the basics of computer operation and programs. To date this year, 68 participants have completed the program, earning the laptops they were trained on in recognition of their involvement. RCP student interns assist RCP staff in the classes.

ASB Week. Between March 24 and March 28, 2025, Stanford and Berkeley law students spent their spring breaks working with RCP students to prepare court petitions for record clearance. RCP trained the law students on record clearance law, trauma-informed interviewing, and partnered with RCP advanced students (JS 141) to interview clients and collect information for their court petitions.

The law students provided over 450 hours of volunteer legal services work to assist nine RCP clients in putting together record clearance petitions. By May, six clients have had their records cleared.



Alternative Spring Break Week at RCP

Themis journal

Themis: Journal of Justice Studies and Forensic Science is a student-edited academic journal that publishes original articles by SJSU students. Mary Juno founded the journal in 2013.

Managing editor: Samantha Boman. Associate editors: Vivien Berentsen, Monica Chu, Evan Col-in, Anna Dang, Hunter Dorraugh, Elizabeth Hoang, Gideon Idemoto, Morgan Jameson, Armaan Joshi, Kiara Luke, Chelsie Luna, Connor Melton, Irfan Mohamed, Serafine Rubio, Madelaine Claire Surette, Ty Urabe, Brenda Vargas and Alejandra Vela.

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‘The silent killer in women’s prisons’
Samantha Boman

‘Chains of equity: How nationwide injunctions are unconstitutional’
Irfan Mohamed

‘The case against police militarization: Stop turning police into soldiers’
Kenia A. Silva Garcia

‘Understanding deviance through general strain theory: A study of Chowchilla bus kidnapping’
Yazmin Robles

‘How mass incarceration has destroyed African American communities’
Angeliki Karvounis

‘Prisoner reentry into society viewed through the lens of women’
Jalak Parekh

‘Human trafficking: An examination of policies and the impact of trafficking on victims’
Hannah Lyons

‘The lasting effects of gun violence on victims and communities’
Anthony Do

‘The normalization of clandestine graves in Mexico’
Alejandra Vela

‘Incorporating specialized courses on the prevention of sexual misconduct in policing academies’
Nina Nguyen

‘Oviposition and immature development of blowflies in forensic investigations’
Amalia Herrera-Benitez

‘The rape kit backlog: Problems and solutions’
Tracey Cao

‘Detection canines: An insight into investigative working dogs’
Adriana Pliego

‘The role of criminology in the courtroom’
Nia Mehroke

‘Forensic psychology of serial killers’
Karla Suarez

‘Comparative analysis of forensic science systems: Scotland and the United States’
Alec S. Noland



Michael Kukanego, Peter Martinez, and Lydia Essombe-Mpacko at Sciencepalooza Spring 2025

Transitions

Andrea Martinez will return to the Department in Fall 2025. She was a University of California Postdoctoral Fellow in the Institute for the Study of Social Issues at the UC-Berkeley Latino Social Science Postdoctoral Pipeline Project during 2022-23 and 2023-24.

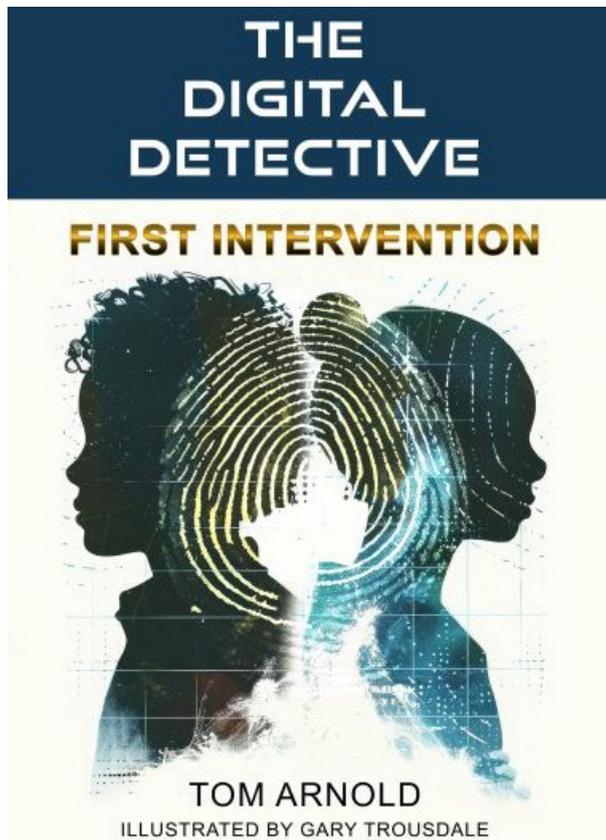
Kevin Kellogg has been appointed to laboratory director position in Jefferson County, Missouri, leading new DNA and drug chemistry units along with established CSI, fingerprints and digital evidence units.

Chandramouli Lyer, office assistant during 2024-25, graduated with his BS in computer science. He will be pursuing an MS degree at California Polytechnic University.

Justin Strong has accepted a position with the University of Arizona. He will be professor of practice in the School of Sociology leading the minor in criminology.

Michael Vallerga has accepted a position in the Department of Psychology at the University of Washington. He received a PhD in social psychology from the University of California-Santa Cruz in 2024.

Alumni updates



Jacqueline Abad Santos (BS forensic science 2018) started her career at the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Forensic Services Richmond Laboratory, as a DNA criminalist in November 2024.

Tom Arnold (BS 1978) is working on his fourth start-up, Cloud 10 Studios LLC. Prior companies were in cyber security and digital forensics; this one is an animation studio. He published a novel, *The Digital Detective: First Intervention*, with Apple Books, February 2025.

Eduardo Bautista (BS 2010, MSJS 2015), has been awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Minnesota. He completed his PhD at the University of California-Berkeley in 2024.

Sandy Castro (BS 2023) is a case manager for Central Coast Center for Independent Living.

Audrey Calderon (BS 2018) recently graduated from Monterey College of Law, passed the Bar exam, and returned to the Record Clearance Project as a part-time supervising attorney.

Ernest Chavez (MSJS 2015) published a research article in PLOS One co-authored with Justin Strong. He is an assistant professor in the Department of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Emergency Management, California State University-Long Beach.

Richard Dreisbach (BS 1995) was Pennsylvania State Parole Deputy District Director and DOC BCC Eastern Regional Director. He retired in 2021.

Franklin Guandique (BS 2013) is institutional supervisor at Contra Costa County Probation Department where he has worked for nine years.

Michelle Huntzinger (BS 1992). After 28 years as operations manager in the legal department at Intel, Michelle retired and launched her own nonprofit helping homeless youth. She is now president and CEO of BASE (Bay Area Social Empowerment).

Camarena Ignascio (BS 1997) is a partner at Messner Reaves LLP, national law firm representing an international package carrier in all California courts.

Matthew Kockler (BS 2024) is a group counselor with Juvenile Hall, Santa Clara County.

Ken Kwok (MSJS 2006), a lieutenant at Fremont Police Department, spoke at SJSU's Exploring Careers in Social Sciences Alumni Panel & Networking Event, March 6, 2025.

Deborah Licurse (BS 1995) is the founding director of Peace-it-Together Counseling Agency and Elevate Counseling Center. The agency serves vulnerable populations mental health needs by providing affordable mental health care.

Zachary Markowitz (BS 2011) has accumulated twelve years of service in the U.S. Navy, including his third deployment at sea.

Tina Martinez (BS 1999) works for the Contra Costa County Probation Department, where she started as a Juvenile Institution Office twenty-two years ago. In January 2025, she was promoted to Probation Director of Field Services.



Audrey Calderon

Vivianna Martinez (BS 2009) works for the Superior Court of Santa Clara County. She started as a Probate Legal Processor Clerk III in 2018 and in Spring 2022 became a courtroom clerk for the Family Division.

Laura Medina is (BS 2023) is a case manager for Contra Costa Center for Independent Living.

Julianna Moura (BS 2019) is an intellectual property specialist at Meta, where she has worked for five years using her legal/justice studies background in collaboration with lawyers on key copyright issues.

Lisset Nevarez (BS 2008) is a senior administrative service manager at Cooley LLP. She is also co-chair of the Santa Clara County Commission on the Commission on the Status of Women and a Justice and Advocacy committee member.

Robert Retana (BS 2011), director of facility management at Stanford Healthcare, led the activation of alternative care units to support patient capacity challenges.

Catherine Richards (MS Criminology 2024) serves as the lead social worker facilitator for the Juvenile Probation Department, Juvenile Justice Restart Program, San Joaquin County Probation Department.

Robert R. Rigsby (BS 1983) received the 2025 Spartans of Significance Toward Award. He was appointed as an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court in 2002. A trailblazer, Judge Rigsby became the first military judge to deploy full-time to an active war zone, earning the Bronze Star Medal.



Judge Robert Rigsby speaks at College of Social Sciences Commencement, May 21, 2025

Miguel Rodriguez (BS 1993) has been an attorney with the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office for 25 years. In January 2025, he was promoted from supervising public defender to assistant public defender.

Peter Ryu (BS 2021) is a police officer with San José Police Department. In 2024, he was class president for San José Police Academy Class 47.

Emily Sanchez (BS 2020, MSJS 2023) has been hired as a probation officer in the pre-sentence investigative unit with the U.S. Probation Office.

Ivan Santana (BS 2018) has been appointed detective in the Detective-Investigations Bureau with the City of Marina Police Department.

Kristopher Scott (BS 2011) is managing director of programs at Fresh Lifelines for Youth Inc, supporting county directors in San Mateo County, Alameda County, Contra Costa County and Santa Clara County.

Magali Urresti (BS 2023) will begin the Masters of Social Work program at UC-Berkeley in the autumn 2025. Magali has been teaching the RCP's digital literacy classes since she was a student. She also worked as project assistant-case manager with the RCP's service navigation program and assisted legal services clients in court.

Jordan Velosa (BS 2020) is graduating from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles and will a Barry P. Helft Fellow at the state Public Defender's Office, where she will work on capital appeal cases. She cites RCP as sparking her interest in post-conviction legal work.

Taylor Wood (2020 BS forensic science) received an MSc degree in forensic science from University of Strathclyde in Scotland. She is medicolegal death investigator at the Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office.



Jordan Velosa