Introduction

The 2022-23 academic year was a great year for the Department of Justice Studies. Our students participated in student clubs, completed internships, and carried out research projects as they earned degrees in Justice Studies and Forensic Science. We are proud of Bibiana Resendez, a Justice Studies-Criminology major, who was selected as the student speaker at the College of Social Sciences Commencement event on May 26, 2023.

Faculty delivered popular programs, excelled in teaching, both in the classroom and online; gave presentations at national and international meetings; received recognition for exceptional service to students; published research in leading academic journals; applied for external funding; and gave interviews for news stories on television and online media. Natalie Birthelmer was promoted to Lecturer LB; Mark Barash, John Halushka, and Grace Howard received tenure and promotion to associate professor; and Claudio Vera Sanchez was promoted to full professor.

In Fall 2022, several new lecturers joined the Department: Gema Cardona, Dennis Estrada, Samuel Hwang, Aubria Jefferson, Carlos Singh, Heather So, and Kimberly Wong. In Spring 2023, we welcomed two new assistant professors, Andrea Martinez and Justin Strong. We completed a successful tenure-track search, and in Fall 2023, two assistant professors will join us. Gabriela Gonzalez, an assistant professor at California State University-Dominguez Hills, and Dallas Augustine, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of California-San Francisco.

And, this Fall, we will be celebrating an anniversary. On October 26, 2023, we invite students, alumni, and friends to join us at the Student Union Theatre for a symposium to mark 20 years of Justice Studies and Forensic Science. In 2003, the Department changed its name from Administration of Justice to Justice Studies and started the program in Forensic Science. There are now undergraduate majors in Justice Studies and Justice Studies-Criminology, and two graduate degrees available, the MS in Justice Studies and MS Global Criminology, as well as minors in Human Rights, Legal Studies, Forensic Studies, and Justice Studies. Forensic Science now offers four concentrations: Forensic Biology, Forensic Chemistry, Digital Evidence, and Crime Scene Investigation. I look forward to seeing you there!

Paul Knepper
Professor and Chair
June 2023
Student Awards and Recognition

Ashley Harding has received a Full Tuition Fellowship at Santa Clara Law School for Fall 2023.

Bibiana Resendez was selected as the student speaker for the College of Social Sciences Commencement event, May 26, 2023.

Brooke Sutton has been accepted into the master’s program in forensic science at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland.

Scholarships

Each year, the Department of Justice Studies awards a number of scholarships, made possible by the generosity of alumni and friends. The 2023 Scholarships Committee, chaired by Janet Hagemann, made awards to several students.

- Two students received awards from the Paula Stone Hubbell Endowment Scholarship: Avra Rossman received $1200 and Alexandria O’Neill received $1200.
- The Daniel P. Lomio Memorial Scholarship of $1500 was awarded to Lidia Landeros.
- The Willard ‘Huck’ Schmidt Memorial Scholarship of $2000 was awarded to Thu Nguyen.
- The Kristofer Boaz Claspill Memorial Scholarship of $5000 was awarded to Kevelyn Duarte.
- The Jeffrey Fontana Memorial Scholarship of $1500 was awarded to Seth Francis.
- The Simpson-Silva Memorial Scholarship of $1200 was awarded to Samantha Arjon.
- The Shelby B. Brewer Memorial Scholarship of $2500 was awarded to Reyna Bautista.
- The J. Edgar Hoover Foundation Leadership Scholarship of $1500 was awarded to Samantha Boman.
- The Teresa Edel Memorial Scholarship of $1500 was awarded to Melissa Hernandez.

The Molly Estella Marquez Justice Studies Memorial Scholarship was established in June 2022 by Paul Kalff, her husband. Molly Marquez was the resource analyst in Justice Studies for several years. The first Molly Marquez scholarship, in the amount of $250, was awarded to Marcy Samadi.

Student Activities

Virginia Montelongo organized a group of students from her JS 10 Introduction to Justice Studies class to participate in the Santa Clara County ReEntry Center 5k Run on October 22, 2022. The students raised $300 for the center.

Alina Sandoval and Ysenia Sanchez Rodriguez were research assistants for the ‘Cannabis Equity and Record Clearance Project in California Counties,’ funded through SJSU’s Student RSCA Assistantship program. The project was led by Edith Kinney.
Student Clubs

The Department of Justice Studies is home to the Iota Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma (APS), the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. APS aims to make a difference on our campus, in our community, and in our society. Members promote academic excellence, leadership, unity, and community service. Michelle Lujan, served as president; Avra Rossman, vice president; and Yvette Ramos, treasurer. Dina Kameda is the faculty advisor; Hal Peterson, assistant faculty advisor.

Alpha Phi Sigma provided two peer advising sessions during October 2022 to assist students registering for Spring 2023.

Chi Pi Sigma (CPS) is a co-educational criminal justice fraternity established at SJSU in 1935. The fraternity provides members with social, professional and educational skills, and networks needed for successful careers in criminal justice professions. Caroline Ma served as president; Nick Wells, vice president; Maya Groves, secretary; and Hugo Huerta, treasurer. Sheree Martinek is the faculty advisor.

Forensic Science Students (FSS) is an undergraduate student group for any major interested in forensic science. FSS serves as a peer network for advising and seeks to connect students with forensic science professionals. The club has assisted many forensic science organizations, such as the California Association of Criminalists (CAC) and American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS), to promote forensic science activities in the Bay Area. Marcy Samadi served as president; Samantha Boman, vice president; Bris Victorio, treasurer; Fatema Balkini, secretary; and Melanie Ma, public relations. Shawna Bolton is the faculty advisor.

Graduate Student Awards and Recognition

Kapil Sharma and Daniella Kate Corpuz received graduate assistantships for Fall Semester 2022.

Kapil Sharma received a graduate assistantship for Spring Semester 2023.

Jai Vaca received funding from the CSU Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program to pursue a PhD in Sociology at the University of California-Merced.

Graduate Student Activities

Francesca Fanucchi successfully defended her thesis, ‘Examining the Role of Echo Chambers Within Online Incel Communities Using Sentiment Analysis and Group Based Trajectory Modeling’, on April 12, 2023. Bryce Westlake, supervisor.


Twelve students gave poster presentations at the Graduate Showcase event on May 5, 2023, organized by Andrea Martinez.

Faculty Awards and Recognition

Tom Arnold was a member of a team at Cloud 10 Studios LLC that received a 2022 Gold Telly award for best 3D animation for production of ‘SOAR: A Salesforce Film’, September 2022.

Mark Barash was tenured and promoted to associate professor.

Mark Barash received assigned time for 2023-24 from the university’s Assigned Time for Exceptional Levels of Service to Students Committee.

Natalie Birthelemer was elevated to Lecturer LB.

John Halushka was tenured and promoted to associate professor.

Grace Howard was tenured and promoted to associate professor.

Dina Kameda received assigned time for 2023-24 from the university’s Assigned Time for Exceptional Levels of Service to Students Committee.

Sang Kil’s book, *Covering the Border War* (Lexington Press, 2022), received the 2021 Outstanding Academic Title: Media and Communication Choice award from the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Bookauthority.org named Stephen Morewitz’s *Handbook of Forensic Sociology and Psychology* (Springer, 2013) co-authored with Mark Goldstein, one of the 46 ‘best forensic psychology ebooks of all time’. 
Claudio Vera Sanchez was promoted to full professor.

Jodie Warren received assigned time for 2023-24 from the university’s Assigned Time for Exceptional Levels of Service to Students Committee.

**Faculty Presentations**


Grace Howard spoke at the ‘Roundtable on Reproductive Justice, Politics and Racism in the U.S.’, hosted by the Department of Women’s Studies at San Diego State University, February 1, 2023.

Grace Howard gave a presentation on ‘Abortion Politics and Midterm Elections’ at the Department of Political Science, University of Waterloo, Canada, November 4, 2022.


Sam Hwang gave a presentation about the Record Clearance Project at a half-day event organized by Urban Strategies, and members of the Bay Area Systems Impacted Consortium, at California State University-East Bay, September 22, 2022.


Edith Kinney presented ‘Processing the Punishment: Prosecutorial Discretion, Rules, and Resistance to Cannabis Record Clearance’ at the annual meeting of the Western Society of Criminology, Vancouver, Canada, February 2023.


Peggy Stevenson gave a presentation about the Record Clearance Project at the College of Social Science’s 2023 Spring Faculty Research and Advocacy Showcase, February, 2023.
Jodie Warren and George Kaufmann presented ‘Human Trafficking on the 60th Parallel’ at the annual meeting of the Western Society of Criminology, Vancouver, Canada, February 2023.

Bryce Westlake and Russell Brewer gave a presentation entitled ‘Advancing Child Sexual Abuse Investigations Using Biometrics and Social Networks Analysis’ at a meeting of the APAC Financial Coalition against Child Sexual Abuse Exploitation (online), July 20, 2022.


**Faculty Publications**


Mark Barash (2023) ‘3D Facial Biometric Verification Using a DNA Sample for Law Enforcement Applications’ *Proceedings of 2022 IEEE/WIC/ACM International Joint Conference on Web Intelligence and Intelligent Agent Technology*.


Yuan, Yue; Melde, C; Zhang, N; and Pagidipati, P (2022) ‘Race, Ethnicity, Psychological Factors and Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy During the Covid-19 Pandemic’ Psychology, Health & Medicine (in press).

Faculty Activities

Mark Barash supervised Margherita Andalo, a visiting graduate student from the University of Ferrara, Italy, pursuing research in aspects of DNA transfer.


Mark Barash organized an event on March 22, 2023, to mark 20 years of forensic science at SJSU. John Butler, research fellow at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, spoke about ‘Are We on the Right Side of the Equation? Becoming Outcome-Focused Versus Process-Driven’.


Alessandro De Giorgi served as co-editor of Punishment & Society: The International Journal of Penology.

Alessandro De Giorgi served on the editorial board of Culture e Studi del Sociale (Italy).


Alessandro De Giorgi taught ‘Punishment, Culture and Society’ (July 2022) for the Legal Studies Program, University of California-Berkeley.

Alessandro De Giorgi served as a peer reviewer for Law & Social Inquiry.

Grace Howard served on the editorial board of Politics and Gender.

Grace Howard chaired a panel at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association in San Francisco, April 2023.

Grace Howard served as a consultant to the U.S. Senate HELP Committee Report on Abortion.
Grace Howard served as a consultant to Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s Litigation and Law Department.


Grace Howard is completing her book, *The Pregnancy Police: Conceiving Crime, Arresting Personhood*, to be published this autumn by the University of California Press.

Mary Juno took 25 students to Scotland for a course in Comparative Forensic Science US/UK during June 2023. The students observed the Crime Lab, Police Museum and High Court in Glasgow, and other sites, including Edinburgh Castle.

Sang Kil chaired the Anti-Racism and Social Justice Transformation Committee at SJSU, a committee of the California Faculty Association’s Council for Racial and Social Justice, 2022-23.

Sang Kil served on SJSU’s Divestment and Renaming Committee, 2022-23.

Edith Kinney served as the legal action coordinator for SJSU’s Human Rights Institute.

Paul Knepper was a consultant to Kingfisher Books for a children’s book on forensic science to be published in the Basher Science series.

Paul Knepper gave an interview about the history of human trafficking as part of a podcast on the life of author Elizabeth Robins (1862-1952) organized by the Brooksville (FL) Main Street organization.

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 2023.


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

Claudio Vera Sanchez moderated a panel on ‘DACA and other immigrant attorneys’ at SJSU, October 4, 2022, sponsored by the Mock Trial Team, Prelaw Advising and Legal Studies Program.

Jodie Warren served on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Missing Persons*.

Jodie Warren served on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Forensic Social Science*.


**Faculty Research and Grants**

Mark Barash, Teng-Sheng Moh and Wendy Lee submitted a proposal entitled ‘Expanding Knowledge of Craniofacial Genetics and Developing a Novel Forensic Tool for Prediction of Visual Appearance from a DNA Sample’ to the National Science Foundation ($500,000).

Grace Howard received an award for Spring 2023 from the University Grants Academy.

Edith Kinney received a Student RSCA Assistantship Award for Spring 2023 ($3000).

Peggy Stevenson received $750,000 (May 16, 2023) the California Board of State and Community Corrections for a project entitled ‘Warm Handoff and Reentry Services’.

Peggy Stevenson submitted a proposal (June 2022) entitled ‘Undergraduate Legal Clinics: Opening Diversity Pipelines to Law School and Expanding Legal Services’ to SJSU’s Federal Appropriation program ($2,008,270)

Peggy Stevenson submitted a proposal (June 2022) entitled ‘San Jose State University’s Record Clearance Project’s Sober Living Environment’ to SJSU’s Federal Appropriation program ($3,688,061)

Peggy Stevenson submitted a proposal (March 2023) to the California State University Project Rebound Consortium to establish a Project Rebound at San Jose State University ($175,000).

Bryce Westlake submitted a proposal (Sept 2022) to the National Science Foundation for a project entitled ‘Training Digital Forensics Examiners Through Hands-On Education Investigating Live Criminal Investigations’ ($987,225).

Bryce Westlake and Younghee Park submitted a proposal (June 2022) entitled ‘Enhancing Education and Training for Cybersecurity and Computer Forensics in Bay Area California’ to SJSU’s Federal Appropriation program ($1,398,721).

**Faculty Making News**

Grace Howard gave an interview for a story on KTVU 2, ‘Supreme Court Grants Stay on 5th Circuit Ruling’ April 21, 2023.

Grace Howard gave an interview for a story on KRON 4, ‘Supreme Court Grants Stay on 5th Circuit Ruling’ April 21, 2023.


Grace Howard gave an interview for a story on KRON 4, ‘Texas Court Rules to Remove FDA Approval’ April 7, 2023.

Grace Howard gave an interview for a story on KTVU 2, ‘Texas Court Rules to Remove FDA Approval for Mifepristone’ April 7, 2023.


Grace Howard gave an interview for a story on CBS KPIX, ‘Newsom’s Abortion Billboards’ September 15, 2022.


Grace Howard gave an interview for a Spectrum News 1 story (July 7, 2022) about Texas Republicans’ challenge to the U.S. Health Secretary’s pledge to increase medication abortion access.

Grace Howard gave an interview for a story on ABC 7, ‘Roe v Wade Overturned’ June 24, 2022.

Grace Howard gave an interview for a story on CBS KPIX, ‘Fears Mount that Supreme Court Will Undo Same-Sex Marriage Rights’ June 24, 2022.


Grace Howard gave an interview for a story on KTVU 2, ‘Roe v Wade Overturned’ June 24, 2022.
Grace Howard gave an interview for a story on Telemundo 48, ‘Could the Supreme Court Decision about Abortion Impact the LGBTQ Community’ June 24, 2022.


Grace Howard gave an interview for a Huffington Post story, ‘Georgia Says Fetus is a Person. The Implications are Terrifying’ October 20, 2022.


Grace Howstpard gave an interview for a Huffington Post story, ‘Why People are Deleting Period Tracker Apps, And How to do it Right’ June 27, 2022.


Grace Howard gave an interview for a SF Gate story, ‘Update: Medical, Legal Experts Foresee Dire Consequences in Supreme Court Ruling on Abortion’ June 24, 2022.

Grace Howard gave an interview for a NBC News story, ‘Post-Roe, Exceptions to State Abortion Bans Won’t be Easy to Acquire’ June 24, 2022.


Grace Howard was a guest on the Dr Joe Show, July 14, 2022.


Grace Howard gave an interview for an In the Bubble story with Andy Slavitt, Special Episode: The Impact of the End of Roe v Wade’ June 25, 2022.
Jesse Meji, RCP service navigation mentoring program manager, was interviewed for a *San Jose Spotlight* article entitled ‘Santa Clara County could guarantee income for formerly incarcerated people’, May 9, 2023.


Carlos Singh was interviewed for a KCRA 3 news story, ‘Get the facts: Debunking Misinformation about the Trump Indictment’, April 4, 2023.

Carlos Singh was interviewed for a NBC Bay Area news story, ‘Court Rules Released for Donald Trump’s Arraignment’, April 3, 2023.

Carlos Singh was interviewed for a NBC Bay Area news story, ‘Donald Trump to be Arraigned Tuesday: What to Expect’, March 31, 2023.

Carlos Singh was interviewed for a KTVU 2 news story, ‘Former President Trump indicted by Manhattan Grand Jury’, April 2, 2023.

Peggy Stevenson, along with Diana Carreras, were featured in a story about the Record Clearance Project in *San Jose Spotlight* by Janah Kanah, ‘“A chain that doesn’t let go”': San Jose State helps expunge criminal records’, October 6, 2022.

Greg Woods was quoted in a *San José Mercury News* story, ‘Drug trafficking charges against long time San Jose police union’s executive director raise oversight questions’, April 5, 2023.


Greg Woods gave an interview, published December 8, 2022, by *Opportunity Now Silicon Valley* for a story entitled ‘California’s police bias bill’s language confuses’.


Greg Woods gave an interview for a KTVU 2 story, ‘Bay Area freeway shootings are double that of LA’ March 13, 2023.


**Record Clearance Project**

*The Record Clearance Project, founded by Peggy Stevenson, is a prominent service program that provides students interested in law with experience working with clients while familiarizing them with the needs and perspectives of persons convicted of minor offenses. RCP makes SJSU the only university in the USA to offer a clinical legal program to undergraduates.*

Between June 2022 and May 2023, RCP

- successfully represented 22 clients in court, filing 94 petitions on their behalf
- gave 29 presentations to 653 people regarding expungement rights and RCP services
- provided speed screening (brief legal interviews) with 123 clients and
- identified 490 convictions on client records eligible for expungement.

The P2E mentoring team, led by Jesse Mejia, pairs clients with mentors to assist them in gaining life skills. From July 2022 to April 2023, P2E connected 128 clients at 1674 times to services.

Pattie Cortese and Roy Tongilava, California Senator Dave Cortese’s staffer for criminal justice issues, visited RCP in June 2022 in response to an invitation from mentor Dianna Carreras.

Peggy Stevenson, Jesse Mejia and Cindy Parra were featured in *SJSU Research Foundation 2022 Annual Report* for their role in ‘Supporting People Re-Entering the Community After Incarceration’.
RCP staff and students gave two statewide online presentations, in English and Spanish, about record clearance and employee rights of people with convictions, March 2023.

With funding from the California State Bar’s ChangeLawyers program, RCP established the Prelaw Diversity and Inclusion Project (PDIP). As part of this work, RCP staff organized a speaker series featuring SJSU faculty and alumni during Fall 2022.

**Justice Studies Task Force**

*The Justice Studies Task Force began in 2010 with the Confidence Challenge, a physical agility event for students, faculty and alumni to promote collaboration. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from student clubs as well as faculty and alumni.*

The Executive Committee for 2022-23: Sheree Martinek, president; Nadia Webster; vice president; Jan Hagemann, secretary; Matt Van Dyke, treasurer.

The JS Task Force organized a Welcome Event for students at the Uchida Hall patio, September 20, 2022.

The JS Task Force organized two Beyond the Books panel events:

- ‘Helping Build Positive Futures for Youth’ with Marc Utsey, Division Manager, James Ranch; Kristopher Scott, Interim Director, Santa Clara Fresh Lifelines for Youth; Belle Perez, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Santa Cruz County. Susie Rivera made introductory comments; March 3, 2023.

- ‘Careers in Law Enforcement’: Amanda Gullings, Campus Emergency Manager UC Santa Cruz; Ken Kwok, Sergeant, Fremont Police Department; Cliff Doan, Detective, San José Police Department. Police Chief Sean Washington made introductory comments; November 2, 2022.

**Brown Bag Research Series**

*The Brown Bag Research Series, initiated by Bryce Westlake and Wilson Yuan, features working papers by Department faculty on current research projects.*


Sambuddha Ghatak, ‘When the Messengers are Targets of Terrorism: Restricted Media, State and Anti-State Terrorism,’ April 2023.
Forensic Science Series


‘So, You Want to Become an FBI Agent?’ Michael Gimbel, FBI Special Agent Michael Gimbel, April 12, 2023.

‘Careers in Forensic Science’. Panelists: Yoelia Perez and Yvette De La Tore, forensic DNA experts, Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office Crime Lab; Catherine Currier, firearms examiner, Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office; and Rosa Vega, Coroner, California Coroner’s Office. April 5, 2023.

‘So You Want to Become a Secret Service Agent?’ November 16, 2022. The events featured several speakers from the U.S. Secret Service.

‘So, You Want to Become a CSI?’ Panelists: Scott Buckovic, Campbell Police Department; Olivia Vidal, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety; Austin Wyatt, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety. September 14, 2022.

Themis Journal

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

Volume 11: Spring 2023

Managing editor: Hannah Lyons; Associate editors: Samantha Bowman, Julia Camacho Murillo, Tommy Kutlesa, Emily Lopez, Janeth Nguyen, Tony Nguyen, Christian Orozco, Vanessa Reyes, Julian Vahlensieck.

‘Examining the relationship between legal systems and forensic science: Current issues and proposed solutions’
Rowan Dunton

‘Advancements in technology to solve cold cases’
Melissa Hernandez

‘Discovering a pathway to reestablishing policing by consent in the United States’
Everett Glynn

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‘The downfall of capitalism: Its’ exploitation of mental health and working class’
Joanna Castaneda

‘Criminal injustice: An examination of racial profiling and discriminatory police practices in Canada and the United States’
Patricia Advincula

‘Stigma of incarceration and motivation of undergraduate students for service-learning’
Kapil Sharma

‘Los Angeles homeless encampments: East of mainstreet’
Desarey Castellanos

‘Cognitive dissonance: Analysis of the theory’
Marcus Crespo

‘Effect of child abuse on eating disorders and suicidal behaviors’
Hannah Lyons

‘Rights that are not guaranteed: Failures of government policy on homelessness’
Jeffrey Kasprow

‘The politics of piety of neoclassical architecture: How early American elites practiced and old religion to subvert a new one’
Christopher Saint-Carter

**Faculty and Staff Transitions**

Gema Cardona joined the Department in Fall 2022 teaching JS 179 Human Rights Practicum and Seminar. She is the director of research and evaluation at the Education Partnership Center, University of California-Santa Cruz. She received her PhD in Critical Studies of Race, Class and Gender from University of California-Berkeley in 2021. In the summer 2023, Gema became director of research and evaluation at the Education Partnership Center, University of California-Santa Cruz.

Dennis Estrada joined as a lecturer in Fall 2022 teaching JS 114 Research Methods in Justice Studies. He is completing a PhD in Social Psychology at the University of California-Santa Cruz. He has an MA in Social Psychology from Humboldt State University.

Samuel B. Hwang joined the Record Clearance Project team in Fall 2022. He taught JS 140 Record Clearance Project. He is Neighborhood Law Corps Attorney at the Oakland City Attorney’s Office. He received a JD from the School of Law at the University of California-Los Angeles.

Aubria Jefferson joined the Department of Justice Studies in Fall 2022 teaching JS 207 Seminar in Qualitative Methods. She has worked as a platform investigator for Facebook Inc, as an investigator for the Office of the Public Defender, San Francisco, and the Office of the Federal Defender, Eastern District of California. She has an MS in Criminology, Law and Society from the University of California-Irvine.
Andrea Martinez joined the Department in January 2023 as an assistant professor. She completed a PhD in Criminal Justice from the John Jay College, City University of New York.

Megan Siaosi is director of self-government for the Yurok Nation. Formerly, she was court director of the Bear River Band Tribal Court, Rohnerville Rancheria. During Spring 2023 she taught JS 267 Crime and Gender Around the World.

Carlos Singh joined the Department of Justice Studies in Fall 2022 teaching JS 10 Introduction to Justice Studies and JS 151 Criminological Theory. He was senior manager, Corporate Governance, Compliance and Ethics at Ernst and Young, San Francisco, and an assistant district attorney, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Northern District of California. He has a JD from Georgetown University School of Law.

Heather So joined the lecturer faculty in Fall 2022. She taught JS 129 International Crime and Deviance and JS 161 Introduction to Cybercrime during Fall 2022. She is in charge of financial crime compliance at Price Waterhouse Coopers; and previously, senior final crime compliance analyst at Goldman Sachs. She has an MS in International Crime and Justice from John Jay College, City University of New York.

Justin Strong joined the Department in January 2023 as assistant professor. He completed the PhD in Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California-Irvine.

Rosa Vega was named Sacramento County Coroner in September 2022. She was the chief investigator at the Office of the Medical Examiner for Santa Clara County. She teaches FS 173 Death Scene Investigation.

Kimberly Wong taught FS 11 Survey of Forensic Science, JS 100W Writing Workshop, and JS 152 Juvenile Delinquency and Justice during Fall 2022. She was crime scene unit instructor and crime scene investigator at the San Antonio Police Department. She is completing a PhD in Criminal Justice at Texas State University, San Marcos.

Alumni and Emeritus Faculty

Omar Arauza (JS 2020), who has been mentoring program case manager with the Record Clearance Project, will be attending UC College of Law in San Francisco in Fall 2023.

Ernest Chavez, a graduate of the master’s program in Justice Studies, has been hired as assistant professor in the Department of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Emergency Management at California State University-Long Beach.

Emily Dang (FS 2022) is working with Mark Barash as a research assistant in several projects, including molecular biology, genetics and 3D image analysis.

Susan Huynh (FS ) is working with Shawna Bolton as a research assistant making solutions of chemical reagents for various experiments.
Sukhmanpreet Kaur has been hired by the Santa Clara Crime Laboratory as a forensic toxicologist.

Steven Lee, professor emeritus of forensic science, gave opening remarks at an event on March 22, 2023, to mark 20 years of forensic science at SJSU.

Serey Nouth (JS 2020) began as administrative coordinator with the Record Clearance Project in January 2023.

Michael Rustigan, professor emeritus of criminology, past away in 2022. His courses combined theory, research, practice, and casework, and his work on the minds of those who commit violence crime made national news. He frequently provided training for police and prosecutors, and taught several courses as part of the state training program for correctional officers. He completed a master’s degree and a doctoral degree at the University of California-Berkeley.