The following memo outlines our Department of Justice Studies graduate program changes effective Fall 2014

Dear Students:

Working toward a Masters degree is time intensive and rewarding; yet, often mired with feelings of frustration that make staying motivated to complete coursework, research, and thesis writing difficult. As our department changes, anxiety about the forensic studies program’s growth and content is normal. We intend to demystify these modifications by fleshing-out specific areas of change that include the graduate faculty available to a chair thesis and serve on the thesis committee, thesis requirements, and practicum/directed study expectations. Our Justice Studies department will be hiring two new graduate faculty members that join our long list of existing graduate faculty including:

- **Erica Baer, Ph.D., in Forensic Psychology, with research interests in jury selection; individual and group decision-making (specifically in juries); and persuasion.**

- **Luis Garcia-Fierro, Ph.D. in Law, Policy and Society with research interests in policing; cultural and political influences on criminal behavior and control policies; psychological and behavioral effects of criminal victimization; citizen involvement in crime prevention; fear; and strategy development and evaluation.**

- **Shawn Keller, Ph.D. in Criminal Justice with research interests in biosocial criminology (interaction of biological, psychological, and sociological effects to predict criminal behavior); ethics; leadership; positive psychology; neighborhood disadvantage; technology and crime; media and crime (specifically video games); white collar crime; environmental and green criminology; animal abuse; predictive policing (using GIS with other components such as report writing, environmental/neighborhood make up)**

- **Jeff Kleeger, J.D. with research interests in Economic and Social Rights, the Sociology of Law and State Police Power**

- **Barry Lipton, DDS with research interests in forensic odontology, cold case resolution, and pedagogy.**

- **Johnny McGaha, Ph.D. in Criminal Justice with research interests in human trafficking and modern day slavery, family correlates of criminality and delinquency, effectiveness of community based correctional programs.**
• Brion Server, Ph.D. in Criminology with research interests in deterrence and social control; the growth of police municipalities; tragedy of the commons issues in corrections; race, gender and criminal justice.

• David E. Steckler, J.D., L.LM. with research interests in domestic violence trauma and sequelae, healthcare and education, ethics and compliance.

• David Thomas, Ph.D., LMHC with research interests in Police, Police/Forensic Psychology, Serial Homicide, Victimology, Violence, Terrorism, PTSD & U.S. Veterans.

• Heather Walsh-Haney, Ph.D. in Anthropology, with research interests in feminicide; anatomical evidence of physical abuse; human variation; scene discovery and recovery; ethics; and pedagogy.

Thesis Requirements:

Our university has implemented the ProQuest thesis publication system. Candidates for master and doctorate degrees are required to submit their final thesis or dissertation electronically through ProQuest UMI ETD. ProQuest/UMI Dissertation Publishing is the world's only comprehensive service for publishing, archiving, and disseminating graduate research. By publishing with ProQuest/UMI, you ensure your dissertation or thesis gains the widest possible audience.

Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines and Submission information can be found here (http://www.fgcu.edu/Graduate/current-graduate-student-and-faculty-resources.html) along with the Approval Sheet required for committee signatures.

Thesis Committee:

In order to complete and publish a thesis, students should form a thesis committee (in consultation with the thesis advisor/chair) of three members (your chair and two additional members) no later than the end of your second semester (Appendix A). In the spirit of our university's interdisciplinary education goal, we support the inclusion of graduate faculty from other departments and colleges. The thesis committee should serve the needs of the student and help with thesis projects that may move in new directions, change theoretical perspective or need editing.

Thesis Defense:

When the thesis advisor believes that the thesis is ready for defense, the student should plan an oral defense no earlier than 10 days after the committee's preliminary approval. The student should provide the department secretary with the thesis abstract and oral defense date so that the secretary can reserve a room and post the oral defense on the university calendar. The thesis advisor will moderate the oral defense to ensure that all participants act in a proper manner. The student will open the oral defense with a brief presentation of his or her findings, after which the members of the thesis committee will question the candidate about the substance, meaning and usefulness of the thesis research.

Pass or Fail:

A student passes the oral defense by two (pass) to one (fail) vote. The advisor and members of the thesis committee will sign the Report of Thesis Oral Defense form (Appendix B), and each registers his or her vote of “pass” or “fail.” Thesis committee members may not abstain in this vote. The Graduate Coordinator or Program Leader and Department Chair sign the form and the document is forwarded to
the Dean for a signature. The form is returned to the department. Following any revisions required by the committee, the advisor, the committee and the Department Chair must approve the final version of the thesis. The signed approval sheet will be returned to the department for our files. An unsigned signature sheet will be uploaded through ProQuest.

Practicum:

Practicum is a course designed to have you work in the field with practitioners and tends to done alongside your thesis advisor/chair who are scholar-practitioners. Of course, field experiences in other settings is acceptable with permission from your advisor/chair and program leader.

In closing, the Justice Studies Graduate Faculty strive to effectively mentor; provide honest, compassionate and just thesis criticism; and help students reach his/her specific brass ring (i.e., the diploma, published manuscripts, acquiring a job, etc.). We are honored to help you meet your scholarship goals.

Sincerely,

__________________________
Heather Walsh-Haney, Ph.D.
Forensic Studies Program Leader
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Justice Studies
FGCU CAS Forensic Studies Masters Thesis Committee Form

Please Check One Box: Initial Committee □ Formation Revision to Committee □

This form must be submitted before a student enrolls in thesis hours. This form must be resubmitted for review and approval any time changes are made to the committee membership. The Committee must contain the following: Chair (Graduate Faculty member); Minimum of three committee members (with few exceptions, all must hold Graduate Faculty appointments)

STUDENT INFORMATION
Last Name: ___________________________ First Name: ___________________________

FGCU E-mail: __________________________________________________________________

Degree Program/Track: __________________________________________________________________

☐ By checking this box, I acknowledge that this student’s program of study is accurately updated on the degree audit. (A copy of the degree audit must be attached to this form.)

☐ My signature on this form acknowledges that the members of the committee have been informed that they should not have any personal or business arrangements with the student that may pose a conflict of interest.

Thesis Chair Printed Name and Signature:
________________________________________________________________________ Date: ________________

Office Phone Number & Email:
________________________________________________________________________

Program Leader or Department Chair Printed Name and Signature:
________________________________________________________________________

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<th>The following individuals agree to serve on this thesis committee</th>
<th>Printed Name and Rank</th>
<th>Initials</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Graduate Faculty Standing Yes/No</th>
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The Master’s Committee completes the form when the graduate student successfully defends the thesis. The student completes the information on the form related to the student (name, identification number, degree, date of examination, results of examination). The committee chair/advisor and the other members of the committee sign the form, indicating the decision of the committee about the results of the defense. The form should include the date of the examination by indicating the month, day, and year.

This form certifies that ___________________________ (student name) a Forensic Studies Masters student ___________________________ (passed or failed) the oral defense of thesis in partial fulfillment of the Masters degree requirements. Date: ___________________________.

Student ID #: ___________________________

Thesis Chair: Print Name & Signature ___________________________ Pass:□ Fail:□

Committee Member: Print Name & Signature ___________________________ Pass:□ Fail:□

Committee Member: Print Name & Signature ___________________________ Pass:□ Fail:□

Program Leader or Department Chair: Print Name & Signature

______________________________________________________________________________

CAS Dean: Print Name & Signature

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