Student Organizers

Samantha Francis, srfrancis@wisc.edu: is a senior, majoring in Sociology and Legal Studies with certificates in Leadership and European Studies. Is the President of Legal Studies Association (LSA). LSA is a professional student organization in which students interested in careers in the legal field have a chance to meet professionals within those fields and meet other students with similar interests. Studied abroad in London during the Spring of 2016 where she completed an international internship at Prisoners Advice Service, a non-profit legal organization. Has previously interned for the Governor of Wisconsin and spent this past summer in Washington D.C. in the U.S. Senate. Plans to complete a gap year after graduating in May of 2017 and then continue on to law school to pursue a career in Health Law.

Mary Goers (mgoers@wisc.edu) is a senior, double majoring in Legal Studies and History, with a certificate in Criminal Justice. She has interned with the DuPage County State’s Attorney’s Office in Illinois for the past two summers. Her work there centered around the Child Support Enforcement Unit, and a few felony cases. She intends to take a gap year before applying to law school. She has a special interest in family law and criminal law. Right now, she serves as the Event Coordinator for the Legal Studies Association at UW, and volunteers with the Family Court Clinic at UW-Madison’s law school.

Shelby Weaver is a senior, and is the Vice President of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Student Organization. She is double majoring in Neurobiology and Psychology, and completing the Criminal Justice Certificate. She is involved in three research labs on campus studying adults and youth with PTSD, as well as prison inmates. She completed her internship for the Criminal Justice Certificate at the Mendota Mental Health Institute, and hopes to work in applying psychology and neurobiology to the criminal justice field. She enjoys running, movies and sampling Wisconsin’s best cheese curds.

Angela Whicher (whicher@wisc.edu) is a senior, double majoring in Psychology and Legal Studies, and completing a certificate in Criminal Justice. Angela is the President of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Student Association (CJJS), a student organization that provides students interested in criminal justice careers with opportunities to meet professionals in the field and other students with similar interests. Angela previously interned with the Madison Public Defender’s Office in the jail intake unit and has been interning with the Wisconsin Innocence Project at the UW Law School since May. She is involved in two research labs - one studying prejudice and discrimination and the other studying psychopathy in Wisconsin inmates. Angela is planning to attend law school after she graduates and is interested in criminal defense law.

Student Participants

Alexis Brodt is a senior, majoring in Journalism, economics and criminal justice. She is currently interning for the Wisconsin Innocence Project, as well as Wisconsin Public Radio. She is potentially interested in a career in law enforcement, or attending law school.

Taylor Browne (tbrowne2@wisc.edu) is an undergraduate senior, double majoring in Legal Studies and Sociology, and completing a certificate in Criminal Justice. She plans to gain some professional experience by working in a law firm for a year or two and then attend law school after that. She is currently an intern at the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis this semester and is very involved with her supervisor position for University Housing-Desk Services.

Ari Conroy (aconroy2@wisc.edu) is a junior who will graduate this August with a Legal Studies major and a Communication Arts major. She financed all of her sorority payments and most of her education and living expenses on her own by balancing two jobs and a full credit load for the past three years of her schooling. She plans to continue with a job she enjoys or look for a paid internship position for a few years after graduation before
attending law school. She also enjoys traveling to Spanish-speaking countries and wants to live in South America either before or after continuing her education in the United States.

Kayla Easland is a junior majoring in Sociology with a criminal justice certificate. I am interested in investigations and also possibly working to improve racial inequalities within the Criminal Justice System. After I graduate I am not sure exactly what I would like to do.

Chloe Gehl (gehl3@wisc.edu) is a freshman, majoring in Psychology and completing a certificate in Criminal Justice. She also studies Spanish. She is planning on continuing her education in graduate school and possibly getting a PhD. She is also considering joining the Peace Corp, but is unsure where in her schooling she should take this break. After graduating she has a couple ideas, as far as careers go, such as working with inmates, working in a mental health facility or starting her own private practice focusing on mental illness. Her dream job is to be a criminal psychologist in the FBI. She is currently involved in several Student Organizations on campus.

Gabriel Grahek is a senior, triple majoring in Legal Studies, Political Science, and History. He is a member of the University of Wisconsin Wrestling Team, President of the student organization called Students for MACC, and volunteers in numerous community service events throughout the school year. Next year, he will go on to graduate school in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. After finishing his master's degree in one year, he will go on to law school. He is very interested in working in legal and government related fields.

Zahiah Hammad is a freshman, double majoring in political science and journalism, and completing a certificate in Middle Eastern Studies, Gender & Women Studies and Criminal Justice. I studied Arabic and will want to go onto law school.

Penny Hazeltine (phazeltine@wisc.edu) Senior. Returning adult student. Majoring in Sociology and completing a certificate in Criminal Justice. Plans to work within the legal system or within the education system to work as a counselor or as a liaison for law enforcement and repeat offenders. Currently an intern at the Janesville Police Department with special interest in the CIT (Crisis Intervention Training.) Years of marketing experience and a board member on multiple organizations. Experience working with not-for-profit organizations. Open to new opportunities and untapped jobs that may be of need for the ever changing future of law enforcement and mental health needs of a community.

Samantha Heim (smheim@wisc.edu) is a senior majoring in Psychology and completing a certificate in Criminal Justice. She has interned at the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center and is currently serving as an AmeriCorps member by tutoring at Madison East High School. After graduating, she plans to work in the juvenile justice field or is also considering returning to school to get her teaching license. She is also the volunteer coordinator for her Honors Student Organization and works at the Downtown Nitty Gritty.

Jenna Hensel (jhensel2@wisc.edu) is a junior, majoring in Psychology and completing certificates in Criminal Justice and Gender and Women Studies. She is applying to law school this coming Fall and plans to practice disability law and mental health law. Jenna is currently an intern for The Canopy Center and The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. She is very involved with several Student Organizations at UW-Madison.

Alexa Jeans (ajeans@wisc.edu) is a senior majoring in English and completing a certificate in Criminal Justice. I am currently an intern for the Madison Police Department and I hope to one day take the skills learned and attend law school or work in a field that allows me to prevent and reform crime. Should I attend law school I hope to earn a JD and a masters degree that allows me further specialization in the field of law I choose.

Rachel Lange is a UW-Madison junior studying Community and Nonprofit Leadership and Criminal Justice. Currently employed as Communications Coordinator at Wisconsin Environmental Initiative-- has extensive volunteer history for events and other nonprofits. Aspirations for the future include working with restorative justice and working on criminal justice reform.
Michelle Locascio (mlocascio@wisc.edu) is a senior graduating this May with a degree in Psychology and a certificate in Criminal Justice. She is planning to take a gap year before pursuing a graduate degree in law or some other field. She currently volunteers as a clerk at Community Justice Inc., a non-profit, public-interest law firm in addition to volunteering as the special events intern for the Mentoring Connections program at the Madison-area Urban Ministry. She is excited for the future and is looking forward to speaking with each mentor at this event.

Grace Lofgren is a junior, double majoring in Legal Studies and Sociology, with a certificate in Criminal Justice. She is working towards attending law school after her undergraduate education, either immediately afterwards or after a year of traveling. She is currently an intern at the Wisconsin Innocence Project, works part time, and enjoys being a Badger at UW-Madison.

Elizabeth Lovejoy (enlovejoy@wisc.edu) is a junior majoring in anthropology, and working for a criminal justice certificate while taking courses from the pre-medical track. She is looking to work as a forensic anthropologist. She plans to take a gap year before heading to graduate school, to gain experience in the field either as a job or an internship. She has recently interviewed with the Madison Police Department for an internship with summer.

Mannat Mehta (mmehta3@wisc.edu) is a sophomore, double majoring in Economics and Political Science and is interested in pursuing a certificate in Criminal Justice. She is an international student from India who was born and brought up in Zambia and is interested in getting a law degree and working in international law and diplomacy. She currently works as an office assistant to the Assistant Dean of Finance and Administration's office at the School of Human Ecology at UW-Madison and is a member of the international youth organisation AIESEC where she works with sourcing international talent for local businesses.

Tierra Merritt is a senior double majoring in Psychology and Legal Studies, and completing certificates in Criminal Justice and Education. She is involved in a student organization called Students Today Leaders Forever which focuses on volunteering and giving back to the community. She also works as a Restorative Justice Coordinator for the Dane County TimeBank Youth Court, which is an alternative to the criminal justice system for youth ages 12-16. Tierra is considering going to graduate school for counseling psychology or teaching.

My name is Meredith Nesbitt (nesbitt2@wisc.edu). I am a sophomore, majoring in Music Education and History. I am a member of the legislative affairs committee, Madison Community Cooperative Board of Directors, 350 Madison, National Lawyers Guild Madison chapter, and Street Pulse, among other organizations. I currently work as an AVID/Tops tutor and Daily Cardinal reporter. I am interested in law, public policy and environmental justice and am looking for an internship with an organization that works on equity (environmental, educational, resource access, etc-- I am very open and want to explore a myriad of fields in the non-profit sector).

Laurel Noack (lnoack@wisc.edu) is a sophomore, majoring in Political Science, and is completing a certificate in German. She is interested in law school, public policy grad school, working with the State Department or the Peace Corps. She is currently an intern with Tammy Baldwin for Senate. She is in College Dems, Model UN and German Club.

Shay Otis (otisgesell@wisc.edu) is a senior, double majoring in Sociology and Legal Studies, with a certificate in Criminal Justice. She has a lot of interest, passion, and experience with social justice matters, primarily gender-based violence and abuse. She has interned with the Dean of Students doing Title IX work with a focus on sexual assault and currently works as a part-time employee at Domestic Abuse Intervention Services as well as volunteers at the Rape Crisis Center. She hopes to pursue a graduate degree in victimology, social work, or something similar after getting some work experience first.

Julia Patz (patz2@wisc.edu) is currently a sophomore, who is double majoring in Legal Studies and Psychology with a Criminal Justice Certificate. She is very interested in all aspects of law and plans to continue her education with Law School after graduating. She is also an active member of student organizations and club sports on campus.

Christina Porter (cporter7@wisc.edu) is a freshman, double majoring in Political Science and Legal Studies with a certificate in Criminal Justice. She is currently a cadet in the National Guard and Army ROTC and is interested in
becoming a JAG (Judge Advocate General's Corp) officer. She is also involved with the Pre-Law Society in order to prepare for law school.

Celia Ramsden (cramsden2@wisc.edu) is a sophomore, double majoring in Political Science and Legal Studies. She studies French and is considering going to Law School after working with the Peace Corps. She is currently working for the Political Science Department and Gordon Catering. She is the Public Relations Director of the Legal Studies Association, a member of both BRIDGE and Boxing Club, and volunteers for the Family Court Clinic.

Drew Scammell (ascammell@wisc.edu) is a sophomore who is currently undeclared in a major. He has interests working in the crime scene investigation-type field. He is considering zoology as a major, as it would provide a science background for a lab-type career, but he would like advice on which undergraduate route to go and learn more about his options in the criminal justice/legal studies field.

Brandon Trierweiler (btrierweiler@wisc.edu) is a senior, primary major in psychology, secondary minor in legal studies. Interested in law school and a position in criminal defense after graduation. Currently working in restaurants, likes to help within the community and work with others, very open minded and advantageous. No particular extra curricular although fond foreign language, sports and aviation.

Natalie Westerman is a double major in Sociology and Legal Studies and has her certificate in GWS. She lived homelessly in LA the past seven years. And hit her head, when she couldn’t outrun her skateboard at 25mph. Long story, still a 3rd Year student, life is good.

Jamie Wood (wood6@wisc.edu) is a junior majoring in Chemistry and getting a certificate in Criminal Justice. She is open to exploring many different post-graduation paths, including law enforcement, law school and graduate school, but she is especially excited about the prospect of investigating. She is currently involved in a Student Organization centered around planning service trips.

Scott Zahn is a junior majoring in Forest and Wildlife Ecology with certificates in Environmental Studies and Criminal Justice. I hope to pursue a career in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources especially as a Fish and Game Warden.