



2008

Department of Criminal Justice

Michael Meyer
University of North Dakota

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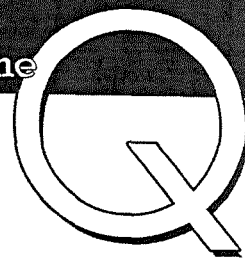
Recommended Citation

Meyer, Michael, "Department of Criminal Justice" (2008). *UND Departmental Histories*. 64.
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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA : QUASQUICENTENNIAL : DEPARTMENT HISTORY

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
1883-2008
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

DEPARTMENT OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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125
1883

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Dr. Michael Meyer

A HISTORY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES
AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

The beginnings of the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of North Dakota can be traced to 1971 when a Police Administration emphasis was created within the Public Administration Program of the Department of Political Science. This Police Administration emphasis was constituted by the core program in Public Administration supplemented by the establishment of three courses in police administration. In June of 1975 UND was awarded a grant (beginning September 1, 1975) from the North Dakota Combined Law Enforcement Council "to pursue and realize an interdisciplinary degree in Criminal Justice Studies." The proposed program, which followed, was the product of the Departments of Political Science, Sociology, Social Work, and the UND School of Law. The proposal was approved by the ND Board of Higher Education at its December 11-12, 1975 meeting and the B.S. C.J.S. degree program was begun in the Fall, 1976 term.

Due to its beginnings in the Department of Political Science's Public Administration Program the Director of the Criminal Justice Program's position was also housed in the Political Science Department. Although this location was consistent with institutional goals at that time, responding to growth and change was at times difficult. The Director's position was administratively housed within the College of Business and Public Administration. However, the B.S.CJS degree was granted by the then College of Human Resources Development and almost one-half of the curriculum was offered in departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. Difficulties of curriculum development across three colleges and responsiveness to the growing number of majors led to the relocation of the Director's position to the Sociology Department and the College of Arts and Sciences in the Fall of 1988. This organizational change brought greater organizational and administrative coherence to the continuing development of the Program.

From its inception the CJS Program has been dynamic, changing with developments in the larger criminal justice education field as well as from increased interest in the major. From its beginnings in Public Administration in 1971 with 11 majors, the Program grew to approximately 300 majors by 1994. This growth outstripped the resources of the faculty committed to the Program and in 1995 admission requirements were instituted to manage demand. The new admission requirements achieved their intended effect as the number of majors declined to approximately 240 by the 1997-98 AY and fell to 180 majors in the 1998-99 AY. Since that time, however, the number of majors again rose to over three hundred by the 2007-08 AY.

The CJS Program has also undergone a number of curriculum revisions since its inception in order to meet the changing needs of its majors. As originally designed, the Program was subdivided into three areas, law enforcement/policing, corrections/criminology, and methods &

research. As the Program matured, these "concentrations," which created a separateness among CJ majors, were merged into a single program of study in 1995 all the while maintaining the diversity of application conceptualized in the original Program. Today's Program is characterized by a common requirement of courses in law, criminological theory, and research tools as its core and substantive coursework in criminal justice area studies as major electives. In addition, all majors must now complete a Level IV proficiency in a foreign language or twenty credit hours in a single area of study other than Criminal Justice. These programmatic changes help ensure that the Criminal Justice graduate achieves a broad based education to enhance their roles in the criminal justice system as well as citizens in the broader social and political community.

In addition to programmatic reorganization, the CJS major has also been enhanced through the deletion and addition of several courses. The most significant changes began with the elimination of the police administration emphasis and the subsequent substitution of more generic courses in police and policing. Courses in criminal investigation, forensic science, and community policing highlight these changes. The Program has also been enhanced by the addition of a required course in the philosophy of law, viewed as an identifying mark of the CJS Program at UND. The issue of offender management and rehabilitation has also been enhanced by the addition of a course in alternatives to institutional corrections, and victims' issues are now addressed through a course in victimology. The Program now also has well established internship and cooperative education opportunities for its majors through being able to have one faculty member with responsibility for the development and coordination of student placements. The development of these internship opportunities has created significant benefits for the majors, the placement organizations, and the Program itself.

Programmatic changes paralleled the commitment of additional full-time faculty lines in 1991, 1995, 2000, and 2001. From the beginning of the Program in 1976 until the hiring of a second faculty member in 1991 the only full-time faculty member specifically committed to the Program was the position of Director of Criminal Justice Studies. Throughout the Program history up until receiving departmental status the Program had four directors. The first, Bruce Benner (1976-1980) was a former Detroit, MI, police officer. The second Director, Ralph Wood (1980-84) was the former director, colonel, of the North Dakota Highway Patrol. The third director, Michael Meyer was appointed in 1984 and is still a faculty member in the Department. In 2002 he was appointed Chair of the Department of Sociology and in that capacity stepped down as Program Director. Bruce DiCristina was appointed interim Director in 2002 and held that position until 2003 when the Program became a department. Subsequently, Wendelin Hume became the first Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and continues in that position today.

The incumbent Director was responsible for administration of the Program, advising CJS majors, and the teaching of the law enforcement/police courses. All other courses in the major were taught by members of participating departments within normal teaching responsibilities. As the number of CJS majors increased over the years both the CJS courses and courses offered by other departments became

over subscribed necessitating the commitment of additional faculty resources to keep up with the increased demand.

In 2002 two very significant developments took place. First, the Program was granted department status. Although the Program had enjoyed a high degree of autonomy over the years in regards to curriculum development and the hiring of new faculty, it had been retained as a program within the traditional disciplines of either Political Science or Sociology throughout its history. The achievement of departmental status was a great milestone in the growth and development of the Program. The second significant event was the establishment of a Ph.D. Program in Criminal Justice. Enrollment of the Department's first graduate student in the newly established Ph.D. program in criminal justice followed in 2003. These events collectively signify the maturation and acceptance of the once Program as a fully developed partner in the mission of the University of North Dakota.

Looking forward, the Criminal Justice Program is presently positioning itself to respond to evolving interests in the areas of forensic science, Native American and tribal criminal justice issues, and crime analysis. As such, the Program is continuing its dynamic history in addressing the issues of crime and justice in society and its responsiveness to student interests. Of special note has been the development of faculty resources. Although the criminal justice recruiting environment is extremely competitive (about 50 CJ Ph.D.'s graduate each year with about 100 university/college positions available annually) UND has been very fortunate to develop the CJ program with exceptionally qualified and motivated young faculty over the years. The current faculty have received their Ph.D.'s from among the most recognized CJ doctoral programs in the U.S. including two from the State University of New York - Albany (Drs. Bruce DiCristina and Martin Gottschalk), and one each from Michigan State University (Dr. Roni Mayzer) and Sam Houston State University (Dr. Wendelin Hume). The fifth member of the Department (Dr. Michael Meyer) received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Oklahoma prior to the growth of established CJ programs across the Country. Maintaining this level and quality of faculty will become a greater challenge in the future. As demand continues to remain high for qualified CJ faculty it is important that UND holds on to its competitive position for both the recruitment and retention of faculty in order to serve its majors and to strengthen its position among Ph.D. granting institutions. In addition to the above mentioned Program Directors and Department faculty only one other faculty member has served as a Program faculty member, Dr. Shilung Huang (1996-1999).

From its inception, the Department of Criminal Justice at UND has been very successful in meeting the multiple demands placed upon it. Its graduates have gone on to success across a wide array of criminal justice agencies at local, state and national levels as well as in law and legal practice, community non-profit agencies, and in careers outside of the immediate environment of criminal justice. With the commitment of the University the Department can be expected to continue to make important contributions to the State of North Dakota, the region, and nationally through its education of students, service and research.