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The Knight Beat

The official newsletter of the Criminal Justice Program at The College of Saint Rose, 432 Western Ave., Albany, NY 12203

Of Special Interest:

- New 19 credit hour minor in Forensic Science (pp. 1 & 6)
- Attend the seminar with Jonathan Kozol on March 13th (p. 2)
- "Gang Leader for a Day" (p. 5)

Highlights:

Crime Victim's

Rights Week

Rail Security

Student News

Conference on

Globalization

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News

Forensic Science Minor Approved

The College of Saint Rose has approved the creation of a new 19 credit minor in forensic science. The new program focuses on: the scientific analysis of physical and genetic evidence; trial procedures for the admittance of evidence; criminal investigation; and statistical methods.

At Saint Rose, forensic science draws upon the fields of chemistry, biology, physics, geology, case law, and the principles of criminal justice. The forensic scientist's task is to assist the court in deciding whether physical or genetic evidence can be tied to a given individual or event. This evidence may help exonerate innocent persons.

Students interested in pursuing careers in the field of forensic science should undertake a science major, such as chemistry or at the very least consider taking additional natural science courses and/or graduate work. Many details regarding forensic science careers can be found at **aafs.org**, the web site of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Webcast on the Prevention of Genocide

On January 15, 2008, students gathered around the globe and at Saint Rose to watch a live webcast dealing with the prevention of genocide and mass murder. The speaker was Dr. Michael Reisman, Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, Reisman, the author of 22 books, examined various case studies to illustrate how international law and institutions concerned with world peace can be used to intervene at the earliest possible stages of conflict

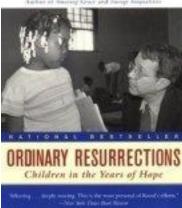
in order to stop them from becoming major atrocities.

The live webcast emanated from a classroom at the Case Western Reserve School of Law. Dr. Reisman noted that mass murder is preventable and that genocide is one type of mass murder. Mass murder usually requires: time to carry out, communications. organization, logistics, and a means for disposing of bodies. All too often the global community has focused on punishing

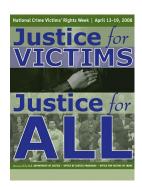
individuals responsible for mass murder and not on its prevention. However, there is no evidence that any prosecution has prevented future mass killing. One ray of hope was a recent statement by the International Court of Justice which indicated that states may have a duty to prevent genocide where appropriate conditions have been satisfied.

If you missed this event, you can find an archived link at: http://law.case.edu/lectures /index.asp





The seminar with Jonathan Kozol will take place on March 13th, between 1:15-3:15 pm in the Touhey Forum



Resource Guide

Student Seminar with Jonathan Kozol

A student seminar with Jonathan Kozol, the best-selling author and education activist, will be held on the Saint Rose campus on March 13, 2008. All students and faculty are invited to attend. However, you can also take a more active role in this 2-hour seminar by submitting in advance (no later than Feb. 15th), a one-paragraph commentary on any ideas

from the writings of Kozol. This commentary should include a question you would like to ask him. Your question might seek further elaboration from Kozol, support his position, or object to his idea. Email your commentary to John Ellis at ellisj@strose.edu. Remember to include your name, year, major, and contact information.

Four commentaries will be

selected by a faculty committee for presentation at the seminar. The selected students will have an opportunity to present their commentaries directly to Kozol and the four students will each receive a gift certificate to the college bookstore.

For additional information please contact: Professor Michael Brannigan at 485-3789.

Ordinary Resurrections: Children in the Years of Hope

In Ordinary Resurrections (HarperCollins, 2001), Jonathan Kozol documents his experiences at two schools in the South Bronx: P.S. 30 and St. Ann's. His research for this book took four years.

Kozol received a degree in English literature from Harvard with highest honors in 1958. Subsequently, he was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to attend Oxford University.

Kozol is also the author of: Death at an Early Age; Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools; Amazing Grace; Illiterate American; and Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in America.

He was awarded the 1968 National Book Award for Death at an Early Age, which described his first year as a teacher. In 1989, he received the Robert F. Kennedy Award for his book, *Rachel and Her Children*, chronicling the day-to-day struggles of the poorest classes in America.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

The National Center for Victims of Crime has prepared a **Resource Guide** to assist persons and groups who are interested in participating in this year's *National Crime Victim's Week*, April 13-19, 2008. The purpose

of this week is to remind everyone that all persons are vulnerable to crime. Although crime can strike anyone, there are many resources available to help. For example, a victim advocacy helpline exists—1-800-FYI-CALL

The Resource Guide and other related information can be downloaded at links available at: http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2 008/welcome.html

Securing America's Passenger Rail System

More than 12 million Americans travel on passenger-rail lines each weekday, and the open nature of rail systems make them attractive terrorist targets. In recent years, bombings have occurred in Mumbai, Madrid and London. These attacks have raised concerns about the possibility of similar ones on American soil.

A recent study sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and conducted by the RAND Corporation, found that while bombings are the most prevalent terrorist threat to rail systems, most bombings produce few fatalities and injuries. The study identifies 17 options for improving security. Some of the options, such as enhanced security training, are relatively inexpensive.

The study gives transit security managers a way to evaluate varying approaches to increasing security, such as deploying canine teams or installing sophisticated vehicle surveillance systems.

A copy of the full 144 page study can be downloaded at:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2007/RAND_MG705.pdf

The promotion and regulation of safety throughout the nation's railroad industry is the responsibility of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The FRA was created in 1966 and it is just one of ten agencies within the U.S. Department of Transportation concerned with intermodal transportation.



"Crash dummies" are used to develop improved occupant protection strategies.

News about Saint Rose Students

Megan Atwood was recently engaged. She is working several jobs and has served as a volunteer firefighter for 3 years.

Daniel Fogarty has become a resident assistant at Saint Rose.

Justin Gould has produced over 100 songs and is currently pursuing a recording contract.

Sherri Pattee, recently served as an intern/mentor for troubled youth and visited Italy in 2007.

Lindsey Shields' close friend, Army Specialist Simon R. Aponte will be returning from Iraq in March.

Prior to attending Saint Rose, **Jonathan VanWie** received an associate degree in criminal justice from Fulton Montgomery Community College in 2007. Please email your news to the editors at: greenbem@strose.edu



FBI Retools Top 10 Most Wanted List

The official FBI Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list is maintained on the FBI Web Site: http://www.fbi.gov/wa nted/topten/fugitives/f

uaitives.htm

The FBI is retooling its
Top 10 Most Wanted list
into a multimedia,
international appeal for
help as it tries to keep it
relevant in a crowded
media landscape, reports
USA Today. "We're trying
to exploit every
opportunity," says FBI
spokesman Chris Allen.
The strategy is "probably

pretty surprising for a government agency."

The FBI has begun to feature top fugitives on billboards in 20 cities. The bureau also is building on its broadcast alliance with the popular *America's Most Wanted* TV show to solicit tips on similar programs in Hungary, Israel, the Netherlands,

Great Britain, and Germany. The FBI has video of the most recent sightings of some fugitives on its Top 10 website. Agents hunt for 12,000 fugitives at any time. The bureau last year removed accused cop killer Donald Webb from the Top 10; it was only the sixth time a fugitive was taken off before capture.

The new "Global Classroom" at the Levin Institute



Professor Speaks at Protect New York Conference

In New York City, on January 10, 2008, Professor Martin Greenberg presented a paper entitled: "The Role of Student Interns in Emergency Planning and Disaster Relief" at the Levin Institute's Conference on Protecting New York from Terrorism and Disaster. In his panel presentation, Professor Greenberg discussed how qualified college students could render service for the prevention and/or abatement of catastrophic loss. The recruitment of interns and their specific roles were described.

Other panelists included:
David Hennessy,
Schenectady County CC;
Pedro Carrero,
Metropolitan College of
New York; and Jim Savitt,
Empire State College.
Harry Buffardi, the
Schenectady County
Sheriff and Dr. Heidi
DeBlock, St. Clare's
Hospital, served as
discussants.

Gang Prevention Seminar Led by Ron Barrett



At the Touhey Forum, in November 2007, the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology hosted a two-hour seminar about youth gangs presented by Ron Barrett. Barrett joined the City of Albany's Department of Youth and Family Services in 1999 and implemented the Gang Prevention Program, which was recognized by the

National Gang Crime
Research Center as an
exemplary program in
2001. He is now the
Capital Region Gang
Prevention Specialist,
overseeing prevention and
intervention programs in
Albany, Rennselaer, and
Schenectady Counties.
Previously, he worked in
the field of school security
for the Albany City School
District and also was a
director for various

recreational youth centers. Currently, Barrett spends his days conducting awareness seminars along with speaking to kids at various schools and youth facilities and his nights reaching out to kids already involved in "at risk" activity.

Barrett has received the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award and the New York State Governor's Dr. King Leadership Award.

How a Sociologist Became "Gang Leader for a Day"

For seven years, sociologist Sudhir Venkatesh led a double life in Chicago, reports National Public Radio. For days, Venkatesh staved inside one of Chicago's worst housing projects living with poor families and hanging out with gang members. Then he returned to the Hyde Park neighborhood, where he was a graduate student at the University of Chicago. Now at Columbia University, Venkatesh ventured into Chicago's **Robert Taylor Homes** housing project in the 1990s to do research for his doctorate. He befriended the leader of the Black Kings, one of

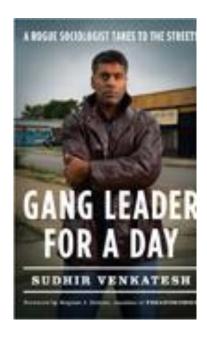
the largest and most violent crack-dealing gangs, and led the group for a day.

Venkatesh's new book, Gang Leader for a Day (Penguin Press, 2008), describes his years inside the projects and how residents and gang members interacted, coexisted, and raised families. Venkatesh's guide during his research was J.T., the leader of the Black Kings who took an interest in the budding academic and showed him the ropes inside the projects. Though J.T. had a college degree, he left corporate America to run a drug operation that

made him up to \$100,000 a year.

Sudhir Venkatesh's research is rooted in ethnographic investigation of urban neighborhoods in the United States (New York, Chicago) and Paris, France.

Venkatesh received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and was a Junior Fellow at the Society of Fellows, Harvard University (1996-1999).



Venkatesh is an American sociologist and urban ethnographer born in India.

Call for Research Presentations

The Women's Studies **Program** at The College of Saint Rose will hold its second annual regional conference on Saturday, March 15, 2008. All students are encouraged to participate in undergraduate poster presentations on themes related to Globalization. Gender, and the Challenge of Transnational Feminisms. All work on this broad subject is invited for submission.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to: Transnational Identity and/or Citizenship; Immigration, Emigration, and Diaspora; Empire, foreign policy, and war; Globalization and Religion; Globalization and Power; and many other related topics.

If you wish to present at the poster session, please submit your name, contact address, title and abstract of presentation, and a plan for its display, no later than Feb. 15, 2008 to: Professor Bridgett Williams-Searle at williamb@strose.edu Poster session participants should expect to speak for about 5 minutes.

The conference's keynote speaker will be Katha Pollitt. Pollitt is well known for her wit and her keen sense of both the ridiculous and the sublime. Her "Subject to Debate" column appears every other week in The Nation; it is frequently reprinted in newspapers across the country. In 2003, "Subject to Debate" won the National Magazine Award for Columns and Commentary.

"Militant Islam may be the beginning of the end for multiculturalism, the live-and-let-live philosophy that asks, Why can't we all enjoy our differences? Ethnic food and world music are all very well, but fatwas and amputations and suicide bombings just don't put a smile on the day." Katha Pollitt, The Nation, December 5. 2002

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See us on the web at:

www.strose.edu

Forensic Science Minor Coursework

The Forensic Science
Minor at The College of
Saint Rose consists of the
following required
courses: CJS 101
Introduction to Forensic
Science; CJS 240
Forensic Assays, Lab;
CJS 102 Contemporary
and Descriptive Topics in
Forensic Science; CJS
250 The Law and Theory

of Criminal Investigation; CJS 252 Criminal Evidence; and SOC 288 Social Statistics.

In addition, CHEM 190/191 are mandatory prerequisites for CJS 240. CJS 240 provides an indepth survey of the methods and techniques used in analysis and interpretation of evidence in the crime lab. The course introduces assay disciplines unique to forensics, including: DNA analysis; firearms and tool marks; serology and bloodstain analysis; impression evidence; and various other specialized types of analysis.

News from the CJ Association and Honor Society

Members of the Criminal Justice Association are volunteering to help "at risk" youth at the Albany YMCA. Activities are held every Saturday evening beginning at 7:30 pm.

For more information contact Abby DelGiacco, Association President, at: delgiaccoa280@strose.edu

About Criminal Justice at Saint Rose...

The major in criminal justice explores crime and the American justice system as a part of the larger society and within a political and socioeconomic context. Students learn the essential analytical and

technical skills necessary for understanding today's criminal justice system. Program majors follow an intensive liberal education core curriculum, which includes 57 credits of coursework.

Copies of the newly revised criminal justice curriculum, Honor Society applications, and course syllabi are located in the handout rack found at the entrance to Albertus 300.