

Criminal Justice Special

Career Center News

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Tamera Jenkins

By: Saroj Lamich-

Tamera Jenkins is a non-traditional student like many students at Park University. She stayed home and raised her family all of her adult life and had not attended school for over twenty-five years. A few years ago a conversation with her son inspired her to go back to school. She feared being outdated in studies, being too old to study in the classroom of kids half her age and not having friends. After much hand-wringing she enrolled in two classes at a community college and was surprised at how much she loved the academic environment and how well she performed. A year later, Park University offered her a full academic scholarship. After taking her first criminal justice class during her first semester she knew she had found her place in academia; she was a Criminal Justice major with a focus on Corrections.

She absolutely loved her Criminal Justice education at Park. An exemplary student, her 4.0 GPA earned her membership in the Alpha Chi-National College Honor Scholarship Society, Deans Honors each term, and Departmental Honors her junior and senior year. She acquired "real world" experience through the curriculum design and the professors who are police officers, a United States Parole Commissioner, a prosecuting attorney and security professionals just to name a few. Further, CJ curriculum at Park requires students to participate in an internship. Her internship experiences brought her vision for her academic and professional future into focus. In her own words, "Through these experiences I have acquired a passion to assist incarcerated offenders, and their victims, in addressing issues of accountability and healing through the restorative process of Victim-Offender Mediation."

Tamera is hoping to get into graduate school for a Master's Degree in Criminology, which would allow her to pursue her personal and professional goals of taking the principles and skills of restorative justice and use them as a part of the solution in correctional institutions in the United States. For this goal she is applying for a Fulbright scholarship to study at Simon Fraser University in Canada. She says her Park education helped her evolve from a mother who was an arbitrator of children's squabbles into a victim-offender mediator.



By: Saroj Lamichhane

The Fulbright Scholarship Program sponsors participants from the U.S. and other countries in various programs including: science, business, academia, government, and the arts. The purpose of the program is to foster mutual understanding between people of the U.S. and other countries. The Fulbright program is one of the biggest exchange programs in the United States and operates in over 155 countries with approximately 7,500 new grants each year.

Park University has a Fulbright Advisor, Angela Markley Peterson, who can provide details about the Fulbright U.S. student program. Ms. Markley Peterson also advises and assists students with the Fulbright application. You can reach her at 816-584-6510 or via email at angela.markley@park.edu.

You can also visit fulbright.state.gov for more information.

Source: • <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about.html> • <http://www.cies.org/Fulbright/>

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Dr. Kenneth Christopher

By Tiffany Benson



Dr. Kenneth Christopher, Criminal Justice Assistant Professor, says that Criminal Justice is about more than just local law enforcement. National security, social services, disaster relief, and criminal law are a few of the *forgotten* branches of our justice system. Majoring in Criminal Justice at Park University offers students a full perspective in the arena of law and equips them with outstanding leadership skills. In this program, a “hands on” approach is necessary for students to experience our manifold justice system and find which area suits them and their community the best.

Dr. Christopher believes it is important to present an array of skills to become an asset to any company and to become proficient with interpersonal communication. There is no denying that the journey through an academic career is a long and hard road. However, Dr. Christopher encourages all students to not only focus on the here and now, but give some attention to the end result that they hope to reach and then take the steps necessary to achieve that goal. Of course, it is always in our best interest to set realistic goals, develop a network of contacts and mentors in a chosen major, and be willing to work hard for what you want. And if for some reason you do not succeed the first time, consider alternative solutions—do not give up.

Student Stressor

Above the Competition

Spring time is almost here! It's time for resumes, interviews, internships, and job hunting! We are all aware of the scarcity in the job market these days. Upon graduation from Park University, you will enter into the race against your peers for that dream job. So once you land the interview, what will distinguish you above your competition? Would you believe that just a few small tips will go a long way in the interview process? For example:

Be 15 minutes early to the interview – the first impression is the only one you have, so be prompt!

Dress the part of a professional – there is a good chance that if you look the part, you will own it!

Research the organization – employers are always impressed when you show interest in the position and the company and always **ask questions!**

Be prepared and speak confidently – know what skills you are selling and present it with an enthusiastic and positive attitude!

These are just a few simple techniques for you to utilize in the interview process. Still feeling stressed? Visit www.best-job-interview.com for the most up to date behavioral interview techniques or schedule a mock interview with **Layne Prenger** in the Park University Career Development Center.

COSMC INTERVIEW DAY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010

Open to all 2009 to 2010 grads and Alums (and current students with Junior status for limited internship opportunities.)

For more information, please visit www.park.edu/career or call 816-584-6330. You may also contact Traci Klasing or Layne Prenger in the Career Development Center.