

3 MSCJ Students & Professor Attend the North Carolina Criminal Justice Association (NCCJA) Annual Conference Raleigh, NC (Feb. 9th-10th 2022)

*Theme: 21st Century Justice: Addressing Criminal Justice Needs in a
Changing World*



Pictured from left to right: Nakita Hammonds (MSCJ student), Dr. Zahra Shekarkhar (Associate Professor & President of NCCJA), Patrick Harris (recent MSCJ graduate), & Samantha Harvey (recent MSCJ graduate)

Presenting Original Research

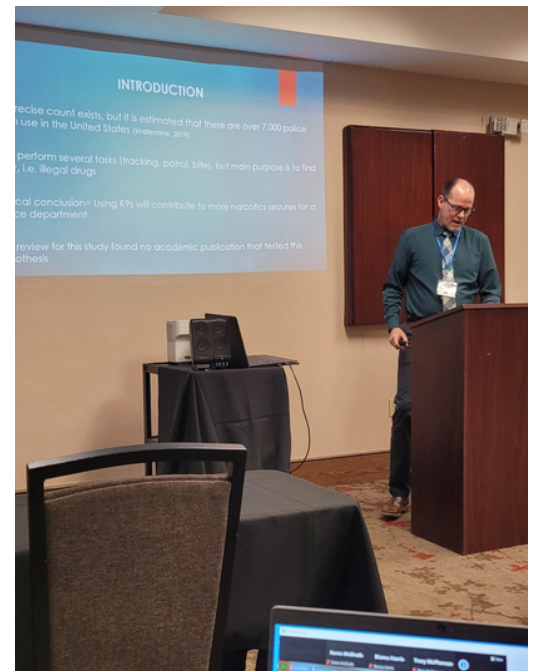


Samantha Harvey presents findings from her master's thesis: **Law Enforcement Attitudes Toward the Implementation of an Animal Offender Registry in the Cape Fear Region**

The focus of this research was to analyze animal cruelty from a law enforcement perspective, specifically when considering the implementation of a county animal offender registry. Data was collected from New Hanover County Sheriff's Office via survey to assess attitudes regarding animal cruelty and best means to enforce it. Analysis focused on differences in perspectives between personnel experienced and not experienced in policing animal cruelty. A Mann-Whitney analysis assessed differences between groups, highlighting differences while providing a wealth of information into whether law enforcement believes animal offender registries are an effective use of time and resources in policing communities.

Patrick Harris presents findings from his master's thesis: **K9 Use in Law Enforcement: Do They Affect Illegal Drug Seizure Rates?**

Police K9 use has been widespread in the United States since the 1960s. The effectiveness of dogs to perform the assigned task of finding drugs, explosives, humans, or other items is undisputed. This study assessed the effect that law enforcement K9s have on illegal drug seizure rates and drug arrests. This was accomplished by examining the seizure rates and drug arrests of a midsized police department that had utilized K9s for drug detection for three decades. Based on a purposive collection of secondary data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and local law enforcement records, no statistical relationship was found between the number of K9s used and illegal drug seizure rates, while a negative correlation was associated with actual drug arrests.



Samantha Harvey receives: *James B. Merritt Student Award* for outstanding graduate student!