Criminal justice major popular at Albertus

NEW HAVEN — Crime scene investigators, despite the glamour associated with their work over the past decade of television programming, do not solve cases in 48 minutes. It is exacting, time-consuming, precise work that gives up evidence, often slowly, to highly trained, thorough and skilled professionals.

Albertus Magnus College, at 700 Prospect St., began offering a criminal justice program a decade ago, with the first criminal justice majors graduating in 2004.

“Our program incorporates the study of law, sociology and forensics. It is a multidimensional approach to studying criminal justice,” said Michael Geary, associate professor of criminal justice.

Geary, a former New York City police officer who holds a bachelor’s degree from Mercy College, a master’s from Long Island University and a juris doctorate from Pace University, knows firsthand the many facets of the field.

The popular criminal justice major at Albertus is offered in the traditional day and accelerated evening programs. Building on the college’s strengths in sociology and psychology, it prepares students for employment in social services and criminal justice sectors directly supporting law enforcement.

The focus is on developing a people-centered understanding of crime and law enforcement.

Field experience, gained through at least one guided internship senior year, is a strong component of the major. Melissa DeLucia, director of experiential learning and the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, says that students find internships a challenging and valuable experience.

“An Albertus education is all about pursuing the truth, applying what you learn to make a difference in the world and sharing the fruits of your search for truth with others,” Geary said.

The school has partnered with multiple state agencies for internship opportunities, including the Connecticut Judicial Branch, Forensic Health Services, Milford’s Alternative to Incarceration Project MORE in New Haven, the North Haven Police Department, the Office of the State’s Attorney, the Orange Police Department and New Haven Department of Police Services and local law offices.

“Our majors have gone on to work for police, corrections and probation departments. They also have attended graduate school and law schools,” Geary said.

Ray Bola, class of 2015 and a college tour guide, graduated from Christ the King Preparatory High School in his hometown of Newark, N.J., is just one student in the program. “I have always wanted to be an attorney, and the criminal justice/pre-law program here at Albertus is going to prepare me for law school.”

For information, visit http://ms.albertus.edu/.

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ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

Local high school students participate in the one-day Criminal Justice Camp in June 2012.

Criminal Justice Camp is for high-schoolers

NEW HAVEN — On June 26, Albertus Magnus College, 700 Prospect St., will hold its fourth annual free, one-day Criminal Justice Camp for high school juniors and seniors.

Nearly 70 students from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts attended the first camp; this year’s enrollment is expected to top 100.

The day is structured so every participant gets to attend all sessions. New this year will be a science component, a hands-on learning project that connects DNA science and criminal justice.

In the past, bomb squad members, SWAT teams, canine handlers and other specialists have taken part. Speakers have included local and state law enforcement officers.

The camp’s participants have the opportunity to hear and talk with professionals in the field, including Albertus alumni.

Registration information will be available starting March 1 at www.albertus.edu/criminal-justice-camp/.