

Inside the OC Crime Lab's Unique Internship Program



Interns Erin Weatherwax (left) and Nick Casassa (right) have both been a part of the OC Crime Lab program for over one year. Erin is a graduate of San Diego State University with a degree in Chemistry and Nick is a graduate of UC San Diego who majored in Bio-Chemistry. Click here to view photos of the OC Crime Lab.

Here at the County of Orange, interns play a vital role in assisting with the daily operation of our agencies, departments, and Board offices – enhancing the services we provide to 3 million residents. Last fiscal year, more than 1,400 interns contributed approximately 191,000 hours of service at an estimated value of nearly \$4 million in savings.

"The internship program inside the OC Crime Lab serves as a shining example that the initial investment of staff time involved in training new interns can reap tremendous rewards when it comes to results," said Jane Dawson, Manager of Volunteer/Intern Resources with the County Executive Office.

Operated by the Sheriff's Department, the OC Crime Lab is a full-service, internationally accredited laboratory located in Santa Ana that provides forensic analyses to all law enforcement and fire protection agencies in Orange County. During an annual period from October through February, applications are accepted online for the Forensic Science Intern position. Those applying are expected to have completed at least their third year at an accredited college or university in the pursuit of a bachelor's degree in forensic science, chemistry, biochemistry, biology or a closely related scientific field. The selection process typically takes between 4-5 months and involves a review of application materials, an interview, and a thorough background investigation.

"Once accepted into the program, interns are assigned to a specific discipline based on department need," said Jan Jones, Senior Forensic Scientist. "But while they are here, our interns are offered job shadowing in all disciplines, have the opportunity to watch a Forensic Scientist testify in court, participate in a ride-along, view an

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autopsy, and observe a vehicle exam. I believe that since they are giving us their time, it is important that they get something out of the experience."

The 10 interns currently serving in the OC Crime Lab are exposed to a variety of analytical tasks and are directly supervised and mentored by working Forensic Scientists. When Erin Weatherwax first started her internship more than one year ago, she studied microscopic trace evidence like hairs, fibers, soil, and paint that is left at the scene of a crime or found on an individual, as well as remnants of ignitable liquids and explosives. "This is really the best place to start if you want to learn about forensics," said Erin, who has come to develop a passion for Toxicology.

Intern Nick Casassa is presently working on an ammunition project that involves taking photographs of hand gun rounds and matching them to data compiled by a colleague. "I've always liked science and knew that this was the type of industry I wanted to get into," he said. "The people here are really nice, and the experience is very cool."

Other general internship assignments may include:

- Analysis of controlled substances to update reference libraries or validate new methods
- Updating reference collections for hair, fibers, paint, glass, fire debris, explosives and gunshot residues
- Assisting with validation of new instruments or procedures in the DNA discipline
- Firearm and toolmark reference collection maintenance
- Breath or blood alcohol analysis to validate new instruments or procedures

Are you interested in seeing the OC Crime Lab in person? The facility is open to the public during two-hour tours held on the last Friday of every month. Visit http://www.sheriff-forensics.ocgov.com/ to learn more about the OC Crime Lab or call (714) 834-4510 to make a reservation. ■

Uncertainty Remains After Approval of County Budget

The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a balanced \$5.6 billion dollar budget on June 28, only to have the State's continuing budget problems intervene in the County's plans for Fiscal Year 2011-12.

Just hours after the County's budget was approved, the California Legislature approved bills that would cut \$48 million dollars in funding for Orange County. The unexpected action was confirmed when the Governor approved the budget bills on June 30 even as efforts were underway in Sacramento to try to reverse the funding cut.

The \$48 million in Vehicle License Fees received by Orange County was part of the County's General Purpose Revenue that is used to support a variety of programs and services. Orange County was the only county subjected to this reduction, which equals 7.5% of the County's discretionary revenue. Unless the funding is restored, the Board of Supervisors will have to consider their options to bring the County budget back into balance with the new Fiscal Year already underway. Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Campbell said the cut in state funding "threatens the viability of core safety net services at a time when people need these services most of all."

County staff immediately began working with the County's Legislative delegation and other stakeholders, including OCEA, to find a way to restore the funding and prevent cuts in programs and services that might jeopardize the public's safety and health.

County Receives Seventeen NACo Awards, Including One "Best in Category"

Seventeen County of Orange programs were selected to receive a 2011 Achievement Award by the National Association of Counties (NACo). Among these, the Probation Department's Center for Opportunity, Reentry and Education (CORE) Program was designated "Best in Category" in Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

"We are honored to have been recognized by NACo and given the opportunity to share the creative spirit of County programs, which have been created to enhance and streamline the services we provide," said Chairman Bill Campbell, Board of Supervisors.

The seventeen Orange County programs to receive the distinction are:

■ CORE Program – Center for Opportunity, Reentry and Education (Best in Category): The Probation Department provides an educational opportunity to adults who have yet to earn their High School Diploma or GED Certificate as well as cognitive behavioral therapy to adults who have struggled to put their lives back together after incarceration.



- Camino de Esperanza Program: OC Parks and the Probation Department created the "Camino de Esperanza" (or "Trail of Hope") program that organized field trips for incarcerated youth to parks facilities to educate and inspire each of the participants.
- Dana Point Harbor Water Quality Improvement Program: OC Dana Point Harbor established a Dana Point Harbor Water Quality Improvement Program to develop new and innovative ways to improve water quality inside and outside of the Harbor.
- **Dog License Amnesty Program:** Designed to provide financial relief to dog owners in Orange County who incurred penalties or late fees for past due licensing. During the 45 day program, OC Animal Care sold 6,975 more licenses as compared to the same time period the previous year.
- **Election Academy:** This program was created by the Registrar of Voters to offer OC citizens a new service to increase their level of election participation. This education tool was also established to provide a thorough understanding of elections, how they work and the policies behind them.
- Human Powered Craft Operational Safety Guidelines Signage and Sticker Program: Implemented by OC Dana Point Harbor in an effort to educate all human powered craft (HPC) users and their fellow power and sail boaters on how to operate vessels in a safe and considerate manner.

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- Internal Savings in Difficult Times: The Internal Savings Program has helped the Registrar of Voters manage an additional 5% in cuts to its fiscal year 10-11 and upcoming fiscal year 11-12 budgets without resorting to layoffs or furloughs.
- Intergenerational Literacy: Intergenerational Literacy is a component of an adult literacy program that partners with OC Public Libraries to provide several monthly reading times when entire families read, play, and learn together.
- Library Book Cart Delivery System: Developed by an OC Public Libraries warehouse employee, the system sorts and delivers books and materials to the branches using special-ordered book carts versus hand-held canvas bags, greatly reducing the number of steps in the process.
- Military and Overseas Portal: The Military and Overseas Portal, created by the Registrar of Voters, offers the military and overseas citizens of OC a new service, fills gaps in the availability of current services, improves the administration of existing government programs, and increases the level of citizen participation in and understanding of elections.
- Orange County Executive Office OC Infrastructure: The CEO obtained approval from the Board of Supervisors to implement a recommended reorganization of County departments, establishing OC Infrastructure, achieving \$12 million in savings, and applying balanced scorecard performance measures.
- Parks Mars and Stars Program: OC Parks partnered with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Jet Propulsion Laboratory to host a new series of outdoor, educational public programs showcasing NASA's unmanned missions to Mars.
- Parks Second Sundays Habitat Restoration Program: OC Parks' Second Sundays series of events resulted in the successful recruitment of thousands of volunteers annually who worked tirelessly to improve the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve habitat for wildlife by planting and seeding native species and removing invasive, non-native plants.
- **Poll Worker PASS:** Developed by the Registrar of Voters to improve the administration and enhance the cost effectiveness of conducting elections. Another goal of the program is to enhance the level of citizen participation in a government program by streamlining volunteer communications.
- Prototypes Mother & Child Residential Homes Program: The Prototypes Mother and Child Residential Homes on the Tustin Family Campus is a first of its kind program in Orange County. The homes, which can accommodate up to 15 families at one time, provide a range of comprehensive and integrated services for mothers and their children who are receiving services within the Orange County Social Services Agency system.
- Rapid Methods Beach Water Quality Testing: The Health Care Agency's Water Quality Program took part in an 8-week project that demonstrated the use of new ocean water testing methods, which provided same day results of water status and notification to the public.
- Solutions for Parents: A Child Support Marketing and Communications Program: This Child Support Services program encompasses results-oriented marketing, advertising, and community relations campaigns designed to vigorously promote available child support resources to customers while better meeting their needs. ■

10 Questions for OC Animal Care's Sgt. Sean Fulton

1. Can you describe the job variety within OC Animal Care?

There are many positions at OC Animal Care, ranging from those designated to help at the kennels, to officers, supervisors, and dispatchers. We are here to provide animal services for the cities we contract with and all unincorporated areas of the County. Some common responsibilities include: dealing with issues of rabies control; promoting public safety; rescuing sick or injured animals; reuniting lost animals with their owners; caring for animals impounded at the shelter; and finding adoptive homes for unclaimed animals. While some of our employees spend most of the day in the field, the kennel and veterinary staff spend their time at the shelter. Many other staff members also work in the administration building performing office duties.



2. What is your average day like at the office?

My day is usually very busy and involves lots of multi-tasking. I process all citations to the courts. I also have to monitor animals at the shelter that are being held because of animal cruelty or Potentially Dangerous or Vicious Dog investigations. There is a strict timeline when an animal is impounded, so I need to make sure owners of these animals are afforded their due process and are able to exercise their rights. I also schedule compliance checks for dogs that reside in our jurisdiction and are already declared Potentially Dangerous or Vicious. I assist with the Barking Dog Program by answering calls from the public and scheduling related appointments.

3. How closely do you work with other County agencies/departments?

OC Animal Care works closely with the Sheriff's Department, City code enforcement divisions, and the Superior Court. I work as a liaison with the courts on any of the cases that reach that level, including those involving animal cruelty or vicious dogs. I also collaborate with the District Attorney's office to ensure that they receive all of the evidence we have collected regarding these cases and to monitor if there is anything else we can do to be of assistance. Restitution for the cases can get really expensive, so we try to monitor the costs and all amounts to be considered. As an agency, we need to make sure that people are processing their court ordered payments and we notify the courts if there is a probation violation that we are aware of. We also work with City code enforcement divisions on health and sanitation issues relating to dog and animal feces.

4. What made you want to work at OC Animal Care?

I have always wanted to work with animals and I have a passion for their humane treatment. For me, OC Animal Care was a natural choice for a career location. I get to help with the protection of animals, which is important to me.

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5. What is your educational background?

I was a Pre-Veterinarian student at Michigan State University, and I studied abroad in Spain. After that, I stayed in Europe several years and eventually graduated with a bachelor's degree in Spanish Literature with a sub-concentration in Cultural Anthropology.

6. What is your favorite part about working in this department?

My favorite part about working at OC Animal Care is dealing with the Superior Court system. I get to be an advocate for the animals, especially the ones involved in animal cruelty. I need to make sure all the proper evidence is gathered and used productively in every case.

7. What is the hardest/most challenging part about this career?

The most challenging aspect of this career for me is remaining objective when faced with horrific images of animals or seeing the animals that are abused and neglected. It is also hard to deal with the owners who leave these animals that are suffering and dying. I have to remain calm with the owners because as there is often a psychological attachment between the animals and the owners. Many of the owners involved with vicious animals do not think that their animal poses a threat to the community, and it is sometimes difficult to convey that message.

8. Can you describe a situation that left you feeling proud and accomplished?

I feel proud of the work that has gone into some of the larger court cases that resulted in convictions of the responsible parties and new, loving homes for the animals involved. I have to be persistent and consistent with the courts in order to achieve these outcomes.

9. What would you recommend to someone who was interested in working at OC Animal Care?

I would recommend getting as much experience as possible in an animal environment. Working at a pet store, volunteering at a zoo or for a Veterinarian and Animal Hospital, as well as animal shelter explorer programs are a few ways to get involved. I used to own a pet store in the mid-west before coming out to California. Some of my colleagues have various educational backgrounds in criminal justice, animal science, anthropology, and even languages. I believe that a combination of education and animal related experience are the best ways for someone who is interested in working at OC Animal Care. This combination has helped me greatly in my job duties with the County of Orange.

10. Are there ways for the public to volunteer or donate to OC Animal Care?

We always appreciate when people want to help and volunteer at OC Animal Care. Meghan McInerny is our Volunteer Coordinator. For more information about orientations, please contact Meghan at (714) 935-6194. You must attend an orientation for information about volunteering at OC Animal Care. If you would like to make a donation to OC Animal Care, you can visit www.ocpetinfo.com to find our "Wish List" for items that the shelter needs, or contact Meghan for more information. ■

Orange County Leadership Academy Roundup

June was an eventful month for the Orange County Leadership Academy (OCLA), which hosted its annual conference at Chapman University in Orange and graduated Class 15 during a ceremony made extra special by a new location – the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana.

To learn more about the Orange County Leadership Academy, please visit http://www.ocgov.com/ocla. "We do better when we care for each other."

Lucy Dunn,
President and CEO
of the OC Business Council

ORANGE COUNTY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ROUNDUP: CLICK HERE



Orange County Leadership Academy Class XV celebrates graduation day on the steps of the Old Orange County Courthouse on June 24th. Please click here to view a slideshow of photographs from the OCLA Annual Leadership Conference.

OCLA XV Graduates:

Lisette Perez

Assessor Department

Troy Sleeth

Assessor Department

Denise Steckler

Auditor-Controller

Howard Thomas

Auditor-Controller

Kathryn Feather

Board of Supervisors, District 1

Diane Nguyen

Board of Supervisors, District 1

Pamela Newcomb

Board of Supervisors, District 2

Gloria Land

Child Support Services

Guadalupe (Lupe) Sandoval

Child Support Services

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Mark Howe

County Counsel

Mike Horibe

County Executive Office

Christina Koslosky

County Executive Office

Gary Stopforth

County Executive Office

Brett O'Brien

Health Care Agency

Donna Fleming

Health Care Agency

Renne Catanzariti

Human Resources Department

Matthew Le

OC Community Resources

Kelly Lupro

OC Community Resources

Tom Starnes

OC Community Resources

Michael Balsamo

OC Public Works

Anthony Bernard

OC Public Works

David Shepherd

OC Public Works

Isabel Rios

OC Waste & Recycling

Ian Rudge

Performance Audit

Sue De Lacy

Probation Department

Kaajal Kamdar

Probation Department

Frank Davis

Public Defender

Noma Crook-Williams

Sheriff's Department

Robert (Bob) Peterson

Sheriff's Department

Denise Bell

Social Services Agency

Julie Loats

Social Services Agency

Joshua Wallingford

Social Services Agency



Chairman Bill Campbell, Third District Supervisor along with OC Parks and the Irvine Ranch Conservancy invite you to the Inaugural OC Parks Wilderness Celebration in the Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks. Come and celebrate the one-year anniversary of the 20,000-acre land gift!

Saturday, July 23rd

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Remarks and Supervisor-Led Hike 9 a.m.

Where

Black Star Canyon

RSVP

www.irlandmarks.org/activities

Experience self-guided access for the very first time in the beautiful Red Rocks area of Black Star Canyon exclusively during this family-friendly, special event. Enjoy self-guided hiking and biking, Supervisor-led hikes, special partner booths, refreshments and more! Explore this stunning area known for soaring sandstone cliffs, sweeping vistas of Irvine Lake, and majestic panoramas of the Santa Ana Mountains, as well as diverse sage scrub and chaparral habitats with many rare species of plants and animals.









Staging Area Driving Directions

From the 5 freeway or Jamboree Road

- From the 5 freeway exit Jamboree Road and head north (toward the Tustin Market Place)
- Follow Jamboree Road approximately 5.5 miles to Santiago Canyon Road
- Turn right on Santiago Canyon Road
- Follow Santiago Canyon Road approximately 6 miles Turn left on Silverado Canyon Road
- ■Make first left on Black Star Canyon Road
- Follow Black Star Canyon Road approximately 0.25 miles
- ■Take the second left into the Black Star Staging Area

From South Orange County

- ■Take El Toro Road East (toward Saddleback Mountain) ■El Toro Road turns into Santiago Canyon Road
- ■Turn right on Silverado Canyon Road ■Make first left on Black Star Canyon Road
- Follow Black Star Carryon Road approximately 0.25 miles
 Take the second left into the Black Star Staging Area

From the 241 Toll Road

- Exit Santiago Canyon Road
- ■Turn right onto Santiago Canyon Road if traveling on 241 north ■Turn left onto Santiago Canyon Road if traveling on 241 south
- Follow Santiago Canyon Road for approximately 5 miles ■Turn left on Silverado Canyon Road
- Make first left on Black Star Canyon Road
- Follow Black Star Canyon Road approximately 0.25 miles
- Take the second left into the Black Star Staging Area

OC Public Works Projects Receive Awards

And the winner is...OC Public Works! During the first half of 2011, OC Public Works has received awards from a number of professional organizations recognizing recent projects and accomplishments.

Among the awards received by the department is the Distinguished Leadership Award of Merit from the American Planning Association Orange County Chapter for the department's accomplishments in the creation of the Customer Care Unit and Permit Services Unit.

Other awards received include:

- The Award of Excellence from the American Council of Engineering Contractors Orange County Chapter for the Ortega Widening Project;
- Three awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers Orange County Branch, including
 - A Public Sustainability Award for the Newport Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation Project
 - A Project Achievement Award for the Ortega Highway Widening, and
 - A Public Sustainability Award for the Upper Newport Bay Restoration
- An Engineering Project Achievement Award from the Orange County Engineers Council for the Newport Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation Project; and
- A Pacesetter Plant Award from *Combined Cycle Journal* for the County's Civic Center Cogeneration Plant

Staff from OC Public Works were recognized at the June 21 Board of Supervisors meeting for their contributions to these award winning projects and their application of innovative solutions to solve problems and improve services to County constituents.



OC Public Works staff proudly displayed some of their recent awards at the June 21 Board of Supervisors meeting. Pictured (I-r) are: Second District Supervisor John Moorlach, Mike Balsamo, Cynthia Baker, Channary Leng, Mahrooz Ilkhanipour, David Shepherd, Harry Persaud, Marilyn Thoms, Mary Anne Skorpanich, Jess Carbajal, County Executive Officer Tom Mauk and Board Chairman Bill Campbell.

Get the 411 Treasurer-Tax Collector

- 1. The Office of the Treasurer-Tax Collector manages public fund investments of \$6.5 billion, of which over \$3.2 billion is invested on behalf of the Orange County School Districts, Community Colleges and voluntary pool participants. The remaining \$3.3 billion in public funds is invested on behalf of the County of Orange.
- 2. In FY 2010-2011, the Office collected just under \$5 billion, representing the highest amount ever collected in a single year. In addition, the Treasurer-Tax Collector collected 97.98 percent of secured taxes, the highest percentage collected in the last five years.
- 3. The most popular electronic payment method this year for individual taxpayers was the eCheck, which allows a taxpayer to pay securely on the County's website using their bank account at no cost. You can review your tax bill or pay online at http://bos.ocgov.com/octax-bill.
- 4. Since tax bills are mailed in October, but not delinquent until December 10 and April 10, sign up to receive a reminder to pay. Just register your e-mail at http://bos.ocgov.com/taxre-minder and you will receive an e-mail reminder approximately 10 days prior to the delinquent dates!

To learn more about the Treasurer-Tax Collector, please visit http://www.ttc.ocgov.com



30 YEARS

Adam McClain Assessor

Lisa HowellAuditor-Controller

Michael Montijo
Auditor-Controller

Shaun Skelly

Auditor-Controller

Mirtha Jones
Health Care Agency

Debra BaneSheriff-Coroner

Damian Cheli Sheriff-Coroner

Sandra Abrams
Sheriff-Coroner

Jerold Brittain

Sheriff-Coroner

April Celis

Social Services Agency

Hazel Poppin

Social Services Agency

Susan Eastman

OC Public Works

Lany Nguyen
OC Community Resources

Marlene Brajdic
OC Waste & Recycling

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25 YEARS

Priscilla Alferos

Assessor

James Tucker

Sheriff-Coroner

Kimberly Kussman

Sheriff-Coroner

Renato Lucero

Sheriff-Coroner

Jose Moreno

Sheriff-Coroner

Sherri Mullen

Sheriff-Coroner

Stephan Shandrick

Sheriff-Coroner

Jeffrey Wolven

Sheriff-Coroner

Robert Wren

Sheriff-Coroner

Jill Clements

Social Services Agency

Richard Kinsella

OC Public Works

Richard Tiffer

OC Public Works

Michelle Wilkinson

OC Public Works

Britt Griffith

John Wayne Airport

Vicki Stewart

County Executive Office

Beverly McGowan

OC Waste & Recycling

John Williams

OC Waste & Recycling

Jesus Avila

OC Community Resources

Henry Morales

OC Community Resources

Joanette Willert

OC Community Resources

20 YEARS

Gregory White

Auditor-Controller

Eli Reyna

OC Community Resources

Ana Cassinelli

County Executive Office

David Ruvalcaba

Child Support Services

Larry Brennler

Health Care Agency

Alvin Dong

Health Care Agency

Sandra Martin

Health Care Agency

Vinh Nguyen

Health Care Agency

Raul Sobero

Health Care Agency

Lucia Caballero

Probation

Bessy Ferrell

Probation

Veronica Gaxiola

Probation

Marjorie Taylor

Probation

Connie Valdez

Probation

Bernard Hamill

Sheriff-Coroner

Eric Larsen

Sheriff-Coroner

Wendy Owen

Sheriff-Coroner

Judy Woo

Sheriff-Coroner

Daniel Aguilar

Social Services Agency

Doina Angel

Social Services Agency

Maria Aparicio

Social Services Agency

Jocelyn Bellinger

Social Services Agency

Myrtle Campos

Social Services Agency

Audrey Chen

Social Services Agency

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Ysabel Copete

Social Services Agency

Jesus Cota

Social Services Agency

Nicolas De La Torre

Social Services Agency

Sandra Fox

Social Services Agency

Martin Garcia

Social Services Agency

Armando Gracia

Social Services Agency

Kathleen Greene

Social Services Agency

Emelinda Gregorio

Social Services Agency

Margarita Gutierrez

Social Services Agency

Debbie Guzman

Social Services Agency

Cecilia Hernandez

Social Services Agency

Fariba Kia

Social Services Agency

Linda Kitto

Social Services Agency

Diana La Russo

Social Services Agency

Darlene Landix

Social Services Agency

Odilia Marich

Social Services Agency

Marsha Medina

Social Services Agency

Ann Myers

Social Services Agency

Maureen Naganuma

Social Services Agency

Binh Nguyen

Social Services Agency

Erika Paredes

Social Services Agency

Angela Shafiee

Social Services Agency

Diana Tapia

Social Services Agency

Rang Tieu

Social Services Agency

Wendy Valenzuela

Social Services Agency

James Waldron

Social Services Agency

Linda Sherman

Treasurer-Tax Collector

Mike Westman

OC Public Works

Paula Fields

OC Community Resources

Robert Hernandez

OC Community Resources





Relations. Call 714.834.6203 or e-mail ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com with any suggestions and comments.

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