

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **May 9** - Full Summer and Summer I semesters begin
- **May 10** - Last day to apply for Summer 2024 Graduation
- **June 3** - Summer 4-week begins
- **June 5** - Complete thesis/dissertation/manuscript electronic drafts are due
- **June 17** - Summer II semester begins

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT -

*Dr. Sheryl Pelletier*

I am Dr. Pelletier, an assistant professor of Criminal Justice for the last two years here at JSU. In addition to my teaching duties, I am the new graduate coordinator for the Master's in Criminal Justice program. I look forward to reaching out and letting students know the benefits of continuing their academic journey in graduate school and assisting in expanding our criminal justice department here on campus at both the undergraduate and graduate level. My academic journey was not one of a traditional student. In a prior life, I spent twenty-five years working as a paralegal in various law firms, at which time I obtained my Bachelor's in Criminal Justice, paralegal certificate, married, and had three children. Later in my career, I started graduate school and obtained my Master's in Criminal Justice with a specialization in legal studies. I then earned my Doctorate in, you guessed it, Criminal Justice with a specialization in education. I could have never done any of this without the love and support of my amazing husband, Thomas, and the patience and understanding of my children. I am currently living the phrase, "if you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life."

Fun facts about me that some may know are that I am a total nerd. Not just any nerd, I am a law nerd. I enjoy anything court and law related. I suppose that is why I teach quite a few law-related classes and have fun every day. Additionally, over spring break, rather than sun and fun, I traveled to Chicago for an academic conference with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences to present my research on the highly controversial topic of qualified immunity. Even though it was cold, and sometimes nerve-racking, it was a phenomenal experience. A gathering of academics, practitioners, and varied scholars all talking about criminal justice related topics. The only way to express it, is to call it "Nerdvana."



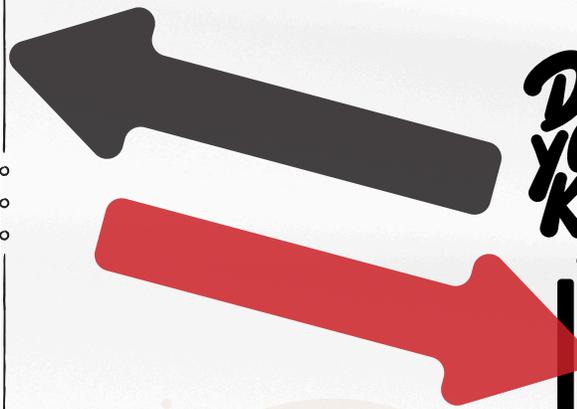
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### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT -

### *Andrew Koppelman*

My name is Andrew Koppelman and I was born in New York City, though I lived in New Jersey for the first several years of my life. After 9/11, my mother and I moved to be with family in Anniston. My family is mostly made up of musicians and we run a church in Weaver. I personally play the piano and bass guitar. I'm currently looking in the middle of my post-degree job search now, but I'm hoping to find a role either in teaching undergraduate classes in Criminal Justice or work in research. I started to take classes in the Criminal Justice program in Spring 2022. I've had an enjoyable time. I think the best part is that I made good connections with my professors - particularly with Drs. Murtagh, Lang, and Pelletier, who are on my thesis committee. Doing research with them has helped me gain a lot of experience and knowledge that will be useful both in a research setting as well as an academic one. While I was in the program, I had the opportunity to work in the Writing Center for three semesters, which gave me an opportunity to see what it's like to teach in the classroom. Given that my career goal is to teach undergraduate Criminal Justice, this really helped me understand what it'll be like to teach classes in a more official and permanent capacity.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEGREE? [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION!](#)

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