

## **PROTECT AND SERVE: A Career in Criminal Justice**

**Michelle Marrone**  
(From *Rivier Today*, Spring 2017)

**Matthew Cieplucha**, Class of 2017  
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Committed to serving the community, Matthew is fulfilling his dream of a career in law enforcement.



Photos by Jodie Andruskevich

### **Why was Rivier University the right choice for you?**

At a young age, I began to realize that I wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement because it would allow me to help my community. I made the decision to be a commuter student, so I began looking for schools close to home. Rivier was the only school that fit my expectations—right size, great criminal justice program, and instructors that have knowledge and hands-on experience.

### **What inspired you to become a Criminal Justice major?**

I chose the Criminal Justice major because it is a career field where you will experience something different every day. You never know what will happen next, and being able to help others in need or during a crisis makes the job feel that much more fulfilling.

**What do you enjoy most about being at Rivier?**

What I enjoy most are the relationships I've built with my professors. They really take the time to get to know you on a personal level, and they care about your career goals. Another great thing is the community atmosphere throughout the school; everyone knows each other and is willing to help if you need it.

**You've participated in two internships. Would you share insights from your work with the Nashua Police Department?**

My internship at the Nashua Police Department has helped me obtain a better understanding of what each bureau does within the Department and how each contributes to the overall goal of serving and protecting the community. Some of my internship tasks included going on ride-alongs, follow-ups with detectives, experiencing court proceedings with the Legal Bureau, and more. These experiences gave me the opportunity to see how cases travel through the different departments.

**What experience did you gain from your Drug Enforcement Agency internship?**

My internship with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has been eye-opening with respect to the effects of the drug crisis throughout our state and the country, and how extremely dangerous the crisis is for law enforcement and our community. I've gotten an inside look at how drug organizations operate and the steps taken by federal law enforcement to apprehend those who manufacture, smuggle, or sell illegal drugs.

**What do you plan to do once you've completed your degree?**

After graduation, I plan to obtain my Master's in Business Administration at Rivier. Once I receive my MBA, I will apply for Special Agent positions within the federal government. I will take what I learned at Rivier and use it to achieve my ultimate career goal—serving others. ■

**Outstanding Criminal Justice majors' Rivier experiences**



**Emilee Graham '19** "Rivier is a university that honestly cares about you being the best version of yourself and ... pushes you to reach your full potential ..."

View at [www.rivier.edu/egraham](http://www.rivier.edu/egraham)



**Tyler Tambouris '18** "My internship with the Hudson Police Department was the turning point to my future. I have learned so much that I know I will be ready for the real-world scenarios of being a police officer."

View at [www.rivier.edu/ttambouris](http://www.rivier.edu/ttambouris)



**George Landry '17** "I never thought I would enjoy arguing legal standpoints and precedents before I came to Rivier, but now I feel that I will enjoy being a lawyer..."

View at [www.rivier.edu/glandry](http://www.rivier.edu/glandry)