



Alpha Phi Sigma

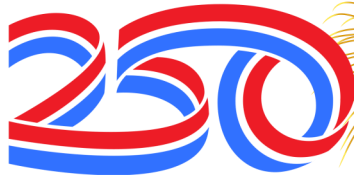
The Criminal Justice Honor Society



Certified Member of the
Association of College Honor Societies

www.alphaphisigma.org

AMERICA



Philadelphia, PA

APS CONFERENCE PROGRAM

March 4-6, 2026



Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
1201 Market St., Philadelphia, PA * 215-625-2900

Main: Salon G (Level 5)
Breakout Rooms: Salons K, L

A Special Thanks to Our Conference Sponsors

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Academy of Criminal
Justice Sciences
<http://www.acjs.org>

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WEDNESDAY March 4, 2026

8:00 am - 9:15 am **Continental Breakfast** **APS Hospitality Suite**
Sponsored by Indian River State College, Pi Beta Iota Chapter and Alpha Phi Sigma

8:30 am - 12:00 pm **Merchandise Booth Open** **Salon G**

9:30 am - 10:45 am **Student Mystery Mixer – Who Done It?** **Salon G**
Presented by Executive Student Officers
President Sharnika Williams, Miami Dade College, Vice President Afiya Dede, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Secretary Sourichant Phommavongsa, Miami Dade College, and Treasurer Emilia Guerrero, Miami Dade College.



Chapters place your yearbook on designated table by 4 p.m.

If you are competing in the Theme of the Year and/or Goals Awards, please hand the Flash Drive with your presentation to Mrs. Dawn Durney from HQ.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Lunch on Your Own**

12:00 pm—12:15 pm **Opening Ceremony Registration** **Salon G**

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Alpha Phi Sigma Opening Ceremony** **Salon G**
Procession of Alpha Phi Sigma National Board

National Anthem: *Malachi Robinson, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore*
America 250 Proclamation



Greetings by ACJS President: *Dr. Stephanie Mizrahi*



Keynote Speaker: *Danielle Thomas, Ed.D. Victim Services Coordinator Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy*
Building a Statewide Network of Hope: The Regional Navigator Model

Danielle Thomas oversees Maryland's statewide Regional Navigator Program. Her work supports coordinated human trafficking identification, response, and survivor services across all Maryland jurisdictions. She collaborates closely with law enforcement, regional navigators, victim service providers, and multidisciplinary teams to address trafficking trends and strengthen survivor-centered response strategies in both urban and rural communities.

Following Keynote **Merchandise Booth Open until 5:00 pm** **Salon G**

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm **Chapter Advisor Meeting: Running an Effective Chapter** **Salon G**
Associate Director, Adriana Jansen & Headquarters

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm **Forensic Workshop Pre-requisite for Crime Scene Investigation** **Salon K**
Presented by: Dr. John McLaughlin, South Florida State College, Pi Zeta Mu Chapter

4:00 pm **Crime Scene Investigation** **Salon L & K**
Presented by: Dr. John McLaughlin, South Florida State College, Pi Zeta Mu Chapter
Virtual Forensics Presentation by VIZITECH USA
Assisted by: University of North Texas, Iota Theta Chapter, and Dr. Grace Telesco, Director of the School of Criminal Justice at Nova Southeastern University

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm **ACJS Presidential Reception - ACJS Registrants ONLY** **Salon H, I, J**

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THURSDAY March 5, 2026

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast <i>Sponsored by Indian River State College, Pi Beta Iota Chapter and Alpha Phi Sigma</i>	APS Hospitality Suite
8:30 am - 9:15 am	Merchandise Booth Open	Salon G
9:15 am – 10:15 am	 Speakers: Special Agent Michelle Ludwig Victim Assistance Specialist for Homeland Security Investigations, SAC Philadelphia Special Agent Lauren Cerminaro Homeland Security Investigations (HIS), Member of HIS Recruiting Team, Philadelphia	Salon G
10:15 am – 11:00 am	How to Get Hired with Law Enforcement <i>Special Agent Lauren Cerminaro, Homeland Security Investigations (HIS) Recruiting Team, Philadelphia</i> <i>Dr. John McLaughlin, Miami Dade Police Department Lieutenant (retired), and Chapter Advisor at South Florida State College</i> <i>Dr. Grace Telesco, New York City Police Department, Lieutenant (retired), Director of the School of Criminal Justice, and Chapter Advisor at Nova Southeastern University</i>	Salon G
11:00 am	Alpha Phi Sigma Judging of Yearbooks DUE <i>Judges, please hand rubrics to Mrs. DAWN DURNEY from Headquarters</i>	
11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Criminal Justice Knowledge Scholarship Test <i>Dr. Tamara Wilkins, Minnesota State University, Mankato.</i> <i>Proctored by Dr. Andrew Giacomazzi, Boise State University & Prof. Ivy Yarckow-Brown, Missouri State University.</i> <i>Open to all Alpha Phi Sigma Undergraduate and Graduate Members</i>	Salon G
12:15 pm—3:30 pm	Merchandise Booth Open	Salon G
12:30 pm - 1:15 pm	Student Luncheon Sponsored by ACJS & Co-Sponsored by Alpha Phi Sigma—No Advisors (Badge Required) <i>Students MUST be Registered with ACJS to Attend Luncheon</i>	Salon H, I, J
1:30 pm – 3:15 pm	College Quiz Bowl <i>Dr. Andrew Giacomazzi, Boise State University</i>	Salon G
1:30 pm – 3:15 pm	Chapter Advisor Meeting: Q&A <i>Associate Director, Adriana Jansen and Headquarters</i> <i>Join us for an informal Q&A session and ask away!!</i> <i>We welcome Advisors, Charter inquiries, and students</i>	Salon L
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Alpha Phi Sigma Presentation and Judging of Chapter Goals & Theme of the Year - Instagram Challenge Presentations and Voting Chapters Present and In Good Standing will receive (1) ballot to vote <i>Theme of the Year:</i> <i>North Carolina Central University, Eta Lambda Chapter</i> <i>University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Gamma Omicron Chapter</i> <i>California State University, Fullerton, Gamma Rho Chapter</i> <i>Eastern Kentucky University, Epsilon Chapter</i> <i>Virginia Commonwealth University, Omega Mu Chapter</i> <i>Goals:</i> <i>Eastern Kentucky University, Epsilon Chapter—LEADERSHIP, SERVICE & UNITY</i> <i>University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Gamma Omicron Chapter—LEADERSHIP, SERVICE & UNITY</i> <i>California State University, Fullerton, Gamma Rho Chapter—LEADERSHIP, SERVICE & UNITY</i> <i>Boise State University, Alpha Kappa Chapter—SERVICE</i> <i>Florida International University, Sigma Phi Alpha Chapter—SERVICE & UNITY</i> <i>North Carolina Central University, Eta Lambda Chapter—UNITY</i> <i>Instagram Challenge:</i> <i>Florida International University, Sigma Phi Alpha Chapter</i> <i>California State University, Fullerton, Gamma Rho Chapter</i> <i>University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Gamma Omicron Chapter</i> <i>University of St. Francis, Pi Delta Mu Chapter</i> <i>University of Nebraska, Kearney, Iota Xi Chapter</i> <i>University of South Florida, Sigma Chapter</i>	Salon G

FRIDAY March 6, 2026

8:00 am - 9:00 am **Continental Breakfast** **APS Hospitality Suite**
Sponsored by Indian River State College, Pi Beta Iota Chapter and Alpha Phi Sigma

9:15 am **Eastern State Penitentiary Tour– Pre Registration Required** **Meet at the Hotel Lobby**
Sponsored by APS Council Member Andrew Giacomazzi and Alpha Phi Sigma
Open only to pre-registered members. Registration closed 2/18/2026

Pre-registered APS members & Advisors will meet in hotel lobby and receive a bracelet for entry, then walk a brisk 1.7 miles to the penitentiary or take transportation on your own. We will depart promptly at 9:40 am

Description: The audio guided tour is narrated by Steve Buscemi and featuring the voices of people who lived and worked at Eastern State Penitentiary, the audio tour takes you on a journey through the history and legacy of Eastern State. Audio Tour admission also includes Mini Tours, exhibits, and art installations.

During your tour, you will:

- Explore Eastern State, the world’s first true “penitentiary,” a prison designed to inspire true regret in the hearts of criminals
- Walk the cellblocks; step inside a recreated cell
- Examine Eastern State’s revolutionary architecture
- Discuss the “Pennsylvania System” of separate confinement
- Hear true escape stories
- Contemplate the lives of inmates and guards who once called Eastern State home
- Witness the deteriorating effects of the building’s near two decade abandonment
- Make connections between the history of Eastern State and prisons today

Stay longer! After your tour you are encouraged to explore on your own at no additional cost!

- Visit Al Capone’s cell
- See the exhibits
- View art installations
- Visit the Museum Store

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm **After the Tour Enjoy Lunch on Your Own**
We encourage all APS members to visit one of the many delis near the hotel to experience an authentic Philly cheesesteak hoagie!

1:30 pm—2:30 pm **Last Call for Merchandise Sales** **Salon G**

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm **Alpha Phi Sigma Business Meeting** **Salon G**
Roll Call & National Officer’s Reports

Alpha Phi Sigma Scholarships & Awards

V.A. Leonard Scholarship, Regina B. Shearn Scholarship, Nay-Latocki Veteran Scholarship, Best Paper Competition, Knowledge Test, Student Member of the Year Award, Student Member Achievement Award, Advisor of the Year Award, Chapter Goal Awards, Star Chapter, Community Service Project Award, Outstanding Yearbook Competition, Instagram Reels Challenge, Web Page Grants, Social Media Grants, Chapter Grants, Advisor Grants, Quiz Bowl, Crime Scene, Distinguished Lifetime Award & Attendance Scholarships.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm **National Board Meeting (National Board Members Only)** **Salon L**
All Board Members Must Attend Closing Meeting

Alpha Phi Sigma

MERCHANDISE BOOTH CLOSSES AT 2:30 PM

PRESENTERS



Keynote Speaker—Salon G
Wednesday March 4 at 12:30 pm

Danielle Thomas, Ed.D.
Victim Services Coordinator
Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

Building a Statewide Network of Hope: The Regional Navigator Model

Dr. Danielle Thomas serves as the Victim Services Coordinator at the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, where she supports statewide victim services initiatives and the ongoing development of Maryland's sexual assault and human trafficking response. She began her work in this field as the Regional Navigator for the Lower Eastern Shore, building a multidisciplinary program serving Maryland's Lower Shore. In her current role, Danielle works closely with Regional Navigators, state agencies, and community partners to strengthen collaboration, align policy and practice, and support survivor centered systems of care across jurisdictions.

Danielle holds a Doctorate of Education from Liberty University. Her research focused on the lived experiences of advocates responding to child trafficking in rural and nonmetropolitan communities, which continues to inform her trauma responsive, evidence informed approach to systems level work.



Speaker—Salon G
Thursday March 5 at 9:15 am

Special Agent Michelle Ludwig
Victim Assistance Specialist with Homeland Security Investigations, SAC Philadelphia

Special Agent Lauren Cerminaro
Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Member of HSI Recruiting Team, Philadelphia

Special Agent Michelle Ludwig. Michelle is responsible for supporting victims of crime throughout the state of PA and DE. Michelle works with victims of all crimes but is assigned to the SPECTR group. Michelle is a former Social Work Supervisor with the City of Philadelphia, Department of Human Services. began her career in Child Welfare in 2004 and spent 14 years investigating child sexual abuse and later became a supervisor in the Critical Investigation Unit, supervising fatality, near fatality, human trafficking and high media cases. Michelle was instrumental in creating Philadelphia Department of Human Services' response to Human Trafficking. Michelle assisted in the creation of the Policy for Response for Child Welfare Professionals. Michelle was also involved and assisted in the creation of WRAP Court (Working to Restore Adolescents Power), which is a part of Family Court, serving both dependent and delinquent children in the City of Philadelphia. Michelle has worked collectively with other MDT partners and has been instrumental as a team member, trainer, and advocate for the safety and well-being of victims throughout the city. Michelle's hometown has always been Philadelphia; she is a 2003 (B.A) and 2010 (MSW) graduate of Temple University.

Special Agent Lauren Cerminaro. Lauren is a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) who started her career in law enforcement with HSI in 2006. Special Agent Cerminaro has experience conducting investigations regarding the sexual exploitation of children, missing children, financial crimes, and document fraud investigations; as well as in additional HSI investigative areas. She was a member of the Pennsylvania Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force and is a part of the student volunteer (SVP) internship program at HSI Philadelphia. Special Agent Cerminaro holds a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Temple University and is an Alpha Phi Sigma member, Chi Alpha Epsilon academic honor society member.



SAVE THE DATE

ALPHA PHI SIGMA'S 85th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Alpha Phi Sigma 2027 National Conference in Orlando, Florida

March 31—April 2, 2027

Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center

VIRTUAL REALITY FORENSICS PRESENTATION

ALPHA PHI SIGMA CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION COMPETITION

Please join us as Alpha Phi Sigma presents cutting-edge technology in Crime Scene Investigation. Alpha Phi Sigma student members will have the opportunity to experience, for the first time, a virtual reality crime scene simulation firsthand.

Participating teams will analyze the crime scene and prepare a written report for judging. First-, second-, and third-place winners will be announced at the Friday Awards Ceremony.

Throughout the Alpha Phi Sigma Conference, ACJS and APS Faculty and staff will have the opportunity to speak with VIZITECH USA representatives to learn more about the system and better understand its applications. Inquiries will be handled in Suite G, where representatives will be available to assist you.

Vizitech USA is thrilled to introduce the Virtual Reality (VR) Forensics learning system, designed to provide foundational training in Crime Scene Investigation for both new students and veteran officers seeking a refresher. VR Forensics immerses students in a virtual work environment with minimal interruptions, allowing instructors to fully control the experience. This hands-on approach ensures that learning comes from actively processing crime scenes according to institutional policies and procedures.

The VR Forensics system features two main modules: the Evidence Collection Module and the Blood Spatter Analysis Module. In the Evidence Collection Module, students or teams engage in 36 different scenarios, each designed to teach the various tools and techniques necessary for processing a crime scene. This immersive experience helps students develop the skills needed to collect evidence and accurately interpret the facts of a crime scene.

The VR Forensics Evidence Collection module can:

- improve the techniques of the current CSI teams.
- create a baseline of Forensic knowledge for the students/teams. improve the organization's policies.
- be used as a validation tool for policy changes.

The second learning module is the VR Forensics Blood Spatter Analysis Module. This module provides immersive scenarios to learn the different tools available to the students as they process blood spatter from a crime scene.

There are several options for the student/team to develop the skills needed to process a scene, collect the evidence, and prepare their interpretation of the facts based upon analysis of blood spatter of the crime scene.

The VR Blood Spatter Analysis Module can:

- improve the techniques of the current CSI teams.
- create a baseline of Blood Spatter Analysis knowledge for the students/teams.
- improve the organization's policies.
- be used as a validation tool for policy changes.

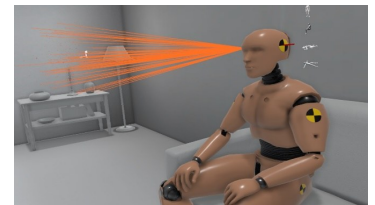
The VR Evidence Collection learning system comes with all necessary VR hardware, a VR laptop computer, and VR Forensics software installed. The cost for the training platform, including software and technical support for one year.

VR Forensics and Blood Spatter System	\$ 9,995.00
Promotion	\$ (1,495.00)
3-year License	\$ 1,250.00
Total Price	\$ 9,750.00

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Changing The Way America Learns

TOUR OF EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY



The **Eastern State Penitentiary** is a former American prison in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is located in the Fairmount section of the city, and was operational from 1829 until 1971. The penitentiary refined the revolutionary system of separate incarceration, first pioneered at the Walnut Street Jail, which emphasized principles of reform rather than punishment.

Notorious criminals such as Al Capone and bank robber Willie Sutton were held inside its innovative wagon wheel design. For their role in the Kelayres massacre of 1934, James Bruno (Big Joe) and several male relatives were incarcerated here between 1936 and 1948, before

they were paroled. At its completion, the building was the largest and most expensive public structure ever erected in the United States, and quickly became a model for more than 300 prisons worldwide.



The prison is currently a U.S. National Historic Landmark, which is open to the public as a museum for tours daily.

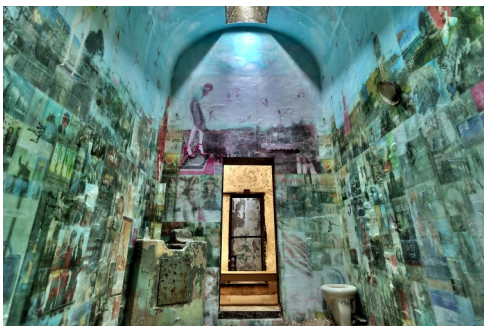


AUDIO TOUR

Narrated by Steve Buscemi and featuring the voices of people who lived and worked at Eastern State Penitentiary, the audio tour takes you on a journey through the history and legacy of Eastern State. When you arrive, you'll receive an audio guide. We recommend that you listen to our main audio tour (audio stops 1-10). From there, you can explore freely and engage with additional stops that highlight a wide variety of subjects like escapes, sports, sexuality, race, and more.

EXHIBITS

Eastern State's critically acclaimed exhibits illuminate the penitentiary's history, uncover the stories of people who lived and worked inside its walls, and deepen understanding of the criminal justice system in America. Learn more about Jewish Life at Eastern State Penitentiary and consider the impact of mass incarceration with companion exhibits Prisons Today and The Big Graph.



ART

There are 15 art installations currently on view at Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site—each offering a distinct, thought-provoking perspective on the history and impact of the criminal justice system.



POINTS OF INTEREST

Explore other points of interest throughout the historic site. See Al Capone's Cell—restored to how it likely appeared in 1929—and learn more about the Prohibition-era figure's short stay at Eastern State Penitentiary. Stand in the site's central rotunda for a guard's eye view down all seven original cellblocks. Visit the Alfred W. Fleisher Memorial Synagogue, almost certainly the first synagogue built inside an American prison. Learn more about the role of sports and games at Eastern State Penitentiary outside on the historic baseball field. And more!