



**Katie Furphy**

B.S. in Criminal Justice

Graduate: May 2010

Internship with the Upper Dublin Police Department and Volunteer for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Fall 2009

**Why did you choose to do this experience?**

I chose to do the Internship at the Upper Dublin Police Department (UDPD) because I wanted to see what police officers did on a daily basis. I chose to be involved with the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Committee on campus because I enjoy doing community service and I am interested in helping the homeless population.

**How has this experience enhanced your academic experience or shaped your career goals?**

I was never sure if I would like to be a police officer but after my internship at UDPD I would definitely consider working as a police officer especially as a starter job in my career. An internship gives you great insight into what a career/job is all about.

**Describe any exciting project or responsibility you've worked on during your experience.**

I was able to observe everything that was going on in the police department from evidence processing and fingerprinting to arrests and directed patrol. When I started the internship, I was afraid that I would be doing mostly office work such as filing, but this was not the case at all. I was only in the office twice and spent most of my time out gaining hands-on experience.

I was able to work in the streets of Upper Dublin pretty much every day I was in. I got to see some preliminary trials and experience what it is like when the victim does not show up for the trial. I met grade school children during D.A.R.E. classes and did some walkthroughs of the grade schools. I also talked to witnesses who called in about a wreck-less driver and another who had been assaulted in front of their home.

For the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week this year we had a Sleep-Out. We had a woman who is homeless in New York City come to Gwynedd-Mercy to join us at the event and also give a talk about her life and experiences living as a homeless person. It was a fantastic presentation and I learned so much.

**What advice would you give to other students who may be considering**

### **a similar experience?**

I recommend that those students who want to become a police officer should intern at a police department in order to learn more about the job. It is a difficult job that involves more than just patrolling the streets of your neighborhood. There is a lot of paperwork involved, many training sessions, and professionalism is also involved when the police officers need to present a case in court. Police officers need to be professional in all situations. I will never forget when one of the police officers told me that when you are an officer, you need to be patient with everyone you deal with each day. You need to be on your A game all the time, prepared to answer a ton of questions you get, and understand that the people you deal with everyday expect you to know exactly what you are doing.

This internship opened my eyes to various aspects of criminal justice not just law enforcement, administrative positions as well. I had such a great time. I would definitely do my internship at the Upper Dublin Police Department again if I had the chance.