

Criminal Justice MANDATE

A Publication of the George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University



Forensic Science Program Receives FEPAC Accreditation

This February the American Academy of Forensic Sciences met in Denver, Colorado, for its annual meeting. One order of business was a gathering of the Forensic Science Education Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) to decide which university programs currently under review would be granted academic accreditation. Though the number of FEPAC accredited graduate programs was expected to jump dramatically this year, due to the many programs that applied for accreditation and were inspected, only one new program received full accreditation for the next five years—the Masters in Forensic Science Program at Sam Houston State University.

With the addition of SHSU, there are only eight fully accredited forensic science graduate

programs in the United States, a testament to the program as well as the rigorous guidelines FEPAC sets forth. The process of just applying for accreditation “is a major undertaking,” said Dr. Sarah Kerrigan, director of the program. FEPAC considers all facets of a program, from its guiding missions and goals to the equipment made available to students. “It looks at everything,” Kerrigan said, “from our planning process, how we evaluate ourselves, what kind of institutional support we have, our budget, our resources, our scientific equipment. It looks at academic and non-academic support, advising, library services, computer services.” The most important goal of accreditation, however, is ensuring that a program is teaching students what forensic scientists need to know—that

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Sam Houston
STATE UNIVERSITY
A Member of The Texas State University System

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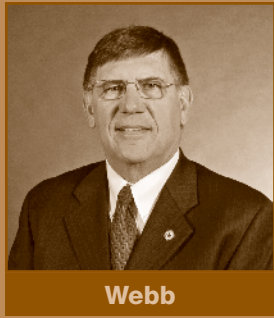
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ACADEMICS



Webb

Dean's
Message

This edition of the Criminal Justice MANDATE is being published near the end of the 2008-2009 Academic Year. Major developments over the past year include the accreditation of our Masters in Forensic Science Program by the Forensic Science Education Program Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) and some substantial changes in the criminal justice doctoral program. The accreditation of the Forensic Science program is especially noteworthy in that it is one of only a small number of nationally accredited programs, which underscores Sam Houston State University's leadership in the field of forensic science. Our continuous development in forensic science is especially important given the recent call by the National Research Council for more rigorous education and research in that field. Forensic science has become a signature program at Sam Houston State University and its development is the result of campus-wide collaboration and investment.

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they will leave fully prepared for work in a real crime lab—and the forensic science program at SHSU meets and exceeds that goal.

A SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Accreditation in Forensic Science is relatively young, with FEPAC's very first accreditation granted in 2004. Before then, the standards for student admissions and curriculum content varied from program to program, and virtually anyone could enroll in a forensic science graduate program, regardless of what their baccalaureate studies may have been. "It was actually hurting what was going on in the crime lab," said Dr. Kerrigan, "because, through television, people had the idea that it was all just glamour and not real science. But there's nothing remotely glamorous about forensic science, and what we see on television could not be further from the truth."

This is changing with more and more universities striving toward FEPAC accreditation, but the process can take years. A key aim of the FEPAC requirements is an advanced science education, beginning with students and faculty who have a strong background in the natural sciences. Many existing programs do not yet have suitable faculty or student applicants to meet those requirements. "Even in this program," Kerrigan said, "we receive probably five calls from non-science majors for every one person who has a degree in a natural science—chemistry, biology, biochemistry, genetics, etc. So there are still a lot of folks that think they can be a forensic scientist without a science degree."

FEPAC, however, requires that every student admitted to an accredited graduate

program in forensic science first have a science degree. Of nearly fifty graduate programs in the United States, only SHSU and seven others can currently meet that standard and have received full accreditation as a result—proof that Sam Houston State continues to lead the way in criminal justice education.

SHSU'S STELLAR FORENSIC SCIENCE CURRICULUM

The key requirement for FEPAC accreditation, however, is a curriculum that contains courses for all the core disciplines in Forensic Science. Dr. Kerrigan went above and beyond to make sure SHSU's curriculum would meet these standards, even going through the training to become a FEPAC onsite inspector. That training revealed that the program was far from ready for a FEPAC inspection. Not only did the curriculum lack courses for the core disciplines, but the program did not have the faculty to teach those subjects.

Over the next four years, Dr. Kerrigan, the College of Criminal Justice, and the College of Arts and Sciences collaborated to create almost a dozen new courses for the program, including forensic instrumental analysis, trace evidence and microscopy, firearms and toolmarks, forensic biology, forensic toxicology, and more. In addition to the core curriculum, students also take a variety of electives, such as advanced courses in forensic DNA, forensic toxicology, forensic trace, forensic anthropology, and forensic entomology. "It was not an entirely painless process," Kerrigan said. "But now we have a phenomenal curriculum. Our students are really extraordinarily lucky."

Undergirding this curriculum is a faculty that has the real world experience to teach these topics. All four of the program's full-time faculty are forensic scientists by training. "I think



Dr. Sarah Kerrigan
Forensic Toxicologist

Dr. Joan Bytheway
Forensic Anthropologist

Dr. David Gangitano
Forensic Molecular
Biologist

Dr. Jorn Yu
Forensic Chemist

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FEPAC General Curricular Requirements

The graduate program in forensic science shall offer a coherent curriculum that reflects the mission and goals of the program. The curriculum shall, at a minimum, ensure that each student:

1. Develops an understanding of the areas of knowledge that are essential to forensic science,
2. Acquires skills and experience in the application of basic forensic science concepts and of specialty knowledge to problem solving,
3. Is oriented in professional values, concepts and ethics, and
4. Demonstrates integration of knowledge and skills through a capstone experience, such as a formal, objective tool or other comprehensive examination, thesis, and/or research project. ■

this is one of the brilliant things about our program,” Kerrigan said. “And the thing that sets it aside from virtually every other program in the United States. The fact that we’ve all worked at the bench somewhere, and we’ve testified—it gives you a whole new perspective.”

INTERNSHIPS AND JOB PLACEMENT

Perhaps the best indication of the quality of the Forensic Science program is the ease with which our graduates are finding jobs in crime labs and medical examiners (ME) offices. Of thirteen students graduated in 2008, twelve have already found jobs in forensic science. The employment rate for graduates in 2007 was 90%, and in 2006 it was 100%. These employers have also been consistently pleased with the SHSU graduates they have hired. Each year, the program distributes employment satisfaction surveys to hiring agencies, and each year the employer satisfaction rates are 100%. One of the questions the survey asks is, “Would you hire additional Sam Houston State graduates?” Not only do they

answer yes, but “when they have job postings,” Dr. Kerrigan said, “they email them to me so we can forward them to our students.”

Yet another reason our students are so competitive is the equipment they have to work with in the student labs. “We don’t buy research grade equipment [for our labs],” Kerrigan said. “We buy equipment that you will find in a crime lab. So the GCMS we have is the GCMS that’s in every crime lab in every state, in every city and every county.” This makes our students very functional in a real lab environment, even before they go to their summer internships.

The combination of an outstanding curriculum, experienced faculty, state-of-the art training equipment, and of course the FEPAC accreditation that is enjoyed by only eight graduate programs in the nation makes SHSU forensic science students eminently qualified for work in crime labs. It is no wonder that Sam Houston State University has gained a reputation for offering the very best in forensic science education. ■

Forensic Science students at SHSU receive the best training available, but their access to an expert faculty and a realistic lab environment also allows them to make lasting contributions to forensic science research. Second-year student Ridhima Rao, after returning from her summer internship with the Los Angeles County Coroner’s Lab, has begun work developing a method for identifying the drug Salvia in bodily fluids.

“I was excited when I was starting the project because it’s so new, and I hadn’t heard too much about it,” she said. “I had helped develop a method for L.A. County on another drug, so I think this is my element.”

The use of Salvia—a hallucinogenic plant readily available through the internet and some herb shops—has been on the rise lately and was involved in the death of one Texas police officer. The Texas State Legislature is expected to ban the drug in the current legislative session. There is currently no method for detecting the substance in the body, but Dr. Kerrigan expects that, through Ms. Rao’s efforts, they will have a method developed within a year. ■



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This past year also saw a shift away from traditional comprehensive examinations in our doctoral programs to the use of a portfolio assessment system that more closely models performance expectations for criminal justice doctoral degree holders. The process emphasizes the integration of theory and research and the communication of that integration in professional quality publications. The goal is to provide our doctoral students with career preparation that closely models the actual career experience of criminal justice and criminology academic and research professionals.

Finally, in 2009 the College launched a series of activities aimed at broadening our criminal justice undergraduate experience. One of these was the first annual undergraduate research conference that provided students with the opportunity to present their research to an audience of peers and to compete for prizes. Also, a highly successful criminal justice career fair, attended by nearly 600 students and numerous agencies, was launched as part of this undergraduate initiative.

I hope you will find this edition of the Mandate informative. As its contents demonstrate, the College of Criminal Justice and the CJ Center continues to be an innovative leader in criminal justice education, research, and service. ■

ACADEMICS

CJ Grad Student Selected for NCAVC Internship

Celia Hoelke, an SHSU Masters of Science in Criminal Justice candidate, was selected for a 14-week internship program at the FBI's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC) in Quantico, Virginia. The NCAVC provides investigative support to law enforcement agencies around the world for crimes such as serial or single homicides, child abductions or exploitation, terrorism, bombings, arson, threats, serial rapes, or extortion. The NCAVC Internship Program offers exceptional students from undergraduate, graduate, or law school programs an opportunity to view the FBI from the inside and to contribute significantly to research into violent crime and terrorism.

Celia's acceptance into this highly competitive internship program represents a remarkable achievement, since only 10 students are accepted each semester out of about 500 applicants. Celia will begin her internship in the Fall 2009 semester. ■

Research Portfolio Replaces Traditional Ph.D. Comprehensives

by Larry Hoover

With the faculty action approving a dramatically revised process for doctoral qualifying examinations, the Sam Houston State University College of Criminal Justice doctoral program enters a new era. The traditional comprehensive examination process has been replaced with a qualifying examination in the form of a research portfolio. The goal is to provide a substantially enhanced research component to the Ph.D. curriculum. That concept will pervade the program, from the first semester's coursework to the initial years as an alumnus.

The College is justifiably proud of the quality and impact of the doctoral program, built over the forty-year history of the effort. Our graduates have excelled. Two College of Criminal Justice graduates—Dr. Janet Mullings and Leanne F. Alarid—were named “academic star” publishers in a recent article in the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. We have established a virtual lineage of Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences presidents, with our alumni holding the office for three of the last five terms. Most “rankings” of Ph.D. programs in Criminology and Criminal

Justice place SHSU in a highly competitive position. We have done well— particularly when we must compete with flagship state universities recognized more by the university name than the actual productivity of its criminal justice program.

But that is not good enough. Borrowing the title from Jim Collins' famous book, we intend to go from “Good to Great.” And we are already great on a number of dynamics: a huge high-quality baccalaureate program; a reputation in Texas as the place to attend for criminal justice; a name that instantly opens doors; millions of dollars annually channeled to us from the Texas Legislature for CMIT, LEMIT, and CJC operations; an already strong and growing international exchange; a very substantial research effort; a presence in respected journals; and the list goes on.

Times nevertheless change. A gradual but cumulative shift among doctoral programs is occurring. Acknowledgement as a program of import in the next decade will not come from teaching quality, a strong field service component, or visibility in academic associations. It will come from sophisticated research with

First Two Graduates Undergo New Portfolio Review

Joseph Serio was the College's first doctoral candidate to go through the new portfolio review process, successfully defending his doctoral research assessment portfolio on March 25, 2009. Joe is Project Manager in the Management Development and Institutional Corrections Division of CMIT and has been with the Institute for four years. Joe earned a B.A. in Political Science and Russian Language at the State University of New York at Albany, and an M.A. in Criminal Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago. A copy of his portfolio, “Transnational Crime,” is on file in the Graduate Programs Office for review.

Amanda Johnson also defended her research portfolio on April 15, 2009. Ms. Johnson entered the Ph.D. program fall 2006. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Geosciences Remote Sensing and her Master of Public Administration from the University of Arizona. Before starting her doctoral studies this fall, Johnson served as the Methamphetamine Project Coordinator for the City of South Tucson Police Department (2004-2006). She plans to focus her research in the areas of drugs (especially methamphetamine) policy, border policy, and drug enforcement. ■

a strong statistical component—published in highly competitive journals. Our recent faculty hiring reflects this shift in emphasis, as does Dean Webb’s tenure. Now the core structure of the doctoral program will also reflect the shift.

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

Doctoral students will no longer be tested “comprehensively.” Instead the goal of what we formerly called “comprehensives” will be demonstrated research competence—a research portfolio. Passing “Quals” in the form of the portfolio will be a significant achievement.

The specified requisites for each student’s Research Assessment Portfolio will be determined by program committees, constituted on a student by student basis. Competence is demonstrated by a combination of the following four core components:

1. Manuscripts publishable (or published) in recognized refereed journals.
2. Publication of applied research monographs and reports.
3. A series of literature analyses in areas related to a proposed dissertation.

4. Academic conference presentations (primarily ACJS and ASC), and related activities.

“The traditional comprehensive examination process has been replaced with a qualifying examination in the form of a research portfolio....”

A student who has already established a record of publications in refereed journals is apt to have to do little else to demonstrate research competency. A “light” record of publications will likely require demonstration of research competence by a combination of the last three components.

Our goal is straightforward: we want doctoral graduates with a beginning record of research publication, a robust research agenda, and a commitment to contributing to the body of knowledge in Criminal Justice. ■

College Holds 1st High School Criminal Justice Essay Competition

This spring the College hosted its first ever High School Essay Competition. The contest was open to all students in grades 9-12 in public, private, and home schools. The official topic was: Design an original program to reduce juvenile crime. Each essay was judged on the author’s demonstration of an understanding of the issue and its social implications, a convincing and coherent line of argument, originality of approach and treatment of the topic, organization of the essay, and use of research to support ideas.

The winning students and essays for this year’s contest were:

1. Gloria Casias (John F. Kennedy High School), “A Needed Change”
2. Jackie Sanchez (John F. Kennedy High School), “Esperanza”
3. Elizabeth Guzman (Townview Magnet-School of Government and Law), “Rejuvenation”
4. Amy Parette (Belton High School), “Crime Stoppers”
5. Branson Grisham (South Garland High School), “G.I.F.T.S.” ■



Faculty Grants



Lyons

PHILLIP LYONS

Dr. Lyons was recently awarded a \$20,000 contract with the National Institute of Corrections (Dept. of Justice) to update and expand a book on legal liability. The book will address recent developments in legal liabilities of public officials and will incorporate hands-on exercises to facilitate maximal engagement of students through reliance on adult learning principles.

Dr. Lyons, through the Texas Regional Center for Policing Innovation, was awarded a \$60,000 contract with the Florida Regional Community Policing Institute to assist in developing curricula and evaluating a training program on law enforcement officer suicides. Dr. Lyons will facilitate focus groups of subject matter experts as part of the curriculum development process. He also will develop and implement outcome and output measures to ensure the training program has the intended impact of sensitizing agencies to suicides by law enforcement officers and removing barriers to accessing services for officers who are at risk of suicide.

Dr. Lyons negotiated a \$111,000 contract

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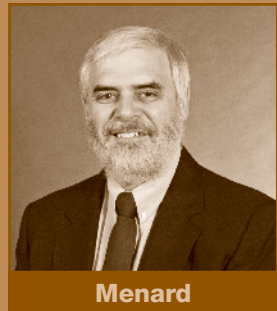
ACADEMICS

College Features Student Research in the First Annual CJ Undergraduate Conference

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to provide training and technical assistance on Human Trafficking in connection with a project sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This effort involved the development of curriculum that will feed various training endeavors. He is working with counterparts in the Carolinas, Florida, Maine, and Minnesota on the project.

Dr. Lyons secured a \$40,000 contract with the Harris County Sheriff's Office to facilitate immersion training of human trafficking task forces by the Harris County Human Trafficking Task Force. The project will involve logistical coordination of week-long intensive mentoring and coaching of five different human trafficking task forces from around the country who are seeking opportunities to expand their current capacities to identify, investigate, and prosecute cases of human trafficking.



Menard

SCOTT MENARD

Dr. Menard is the principal investigator on a project titled, Inhalant Abuse Across Generations in a National Sample (NIDA 1 R01 DA014983), which was awarded \$557,438 on April 20, 2003. This

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On April 22, the College of Criminal Justice hosted its first annual CJ Undergraduate Conference, organized to give SHSU Criminal Justice students a chance to share their ideas on important criminal justice issues. "We're excited to initiate this opportunity for our students to showcase some of their writing, research and presentation skills," said Dr. Holly Miller in her opening remarks. Dr. Webb, Dean of the College, then gave the keynote address, which made a distinction between street gangs and other types of organized crime and detailed some of the stronger approaches to reducing gang membership and activity.



Students gather around and discuss a poster presentation.

At the center of the conference were two student research contests—one for research papers, another for research posters. Several students submitted to the paper contest, with the \$500 first prize going to Ashley Clark for her paper titled, "Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Texas Prisoner Reentry Initiative through Pre and Post Risk & Treatment Scores." Chad Cryer won \$300 and second place for his paper, "Police Satisfaction of SHSU Students," and Detrick McAffey received third place and \$200 for his paper, "Promoting Victim Assistance Awareness in the African American Community."

Some of the other topics submitted to the paper contest were:

- Sarah Bailey, "Sex Offenders Cheating You Out of Money"
- Sarah G. Broxson, "The West Memphis Murders: Was Justice Served?"
- Robert J. Ellis, Jr., "The Benefits of Legalizing Marijuana"
- Nicole M. Juarez, "Survival of the Fittest: True Life in Prison"
- Mary Arion McBride, "V for Vendetta"
- Chibuike K. Oparaji, "Prosecutor's Discretion"
- Rachel Schmid, "Opposition to the Legalization of Drugs"

Over the lunch hour, the College provided snacks and punch in the Friel Room while students presented their research posters in the lobby. The poster judges awarded the first place \$500 prize to Nicole Larison for her poster on "The Effect of Water Salinity on Sodium Concentration in Bone." Second and third places went to Kristen Pelo for her poster, "Blood Spatter Variations Caused by Firearms," and Rachel Schmid for her poster, "Deterrence Theory of Capital Punishment."



Students attend a paper presentation.

All six student winners were recognized at the conference and then received their awards and checks the next evening at the College's annual Awards Convocation. ■

First Annual Criminal Justice Job Fair Exceeds Expectations

On March 4, 2009, representatives from nearly 30 criminal justice organizations set up recruiting tables in the LSC Ballroom for the first annual Criminal Justice Job Fair to talk with SHSU Criminal Justice students about employment opportunities in their organizations. Attending agencies included the U.S. Marshals, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the Texas Department of Public Safety, as well as many others in the areas of law enforcement, corrections, victims' services, legal services, security, and forensic science labs.



Student turn-out was also outstanding, said Dr. Holly Miller, who organized the event in conjunction with SHSU Career Services. "Typically we

have between 150–200 graduates during the semester," Dr. Miller said. "We were hoping for a couple of hundred or maybe 250, and 650 students actually attended."



The event proved to be of great benefit to our students, many of whom walked away with solid employment leads. In a survey distributed to the recruiters, organizers asked how many of our students these agencies could see continuing the interview process. According to the responses, around 130 of our students were going to be further interviewed for jobs with the various agencies.

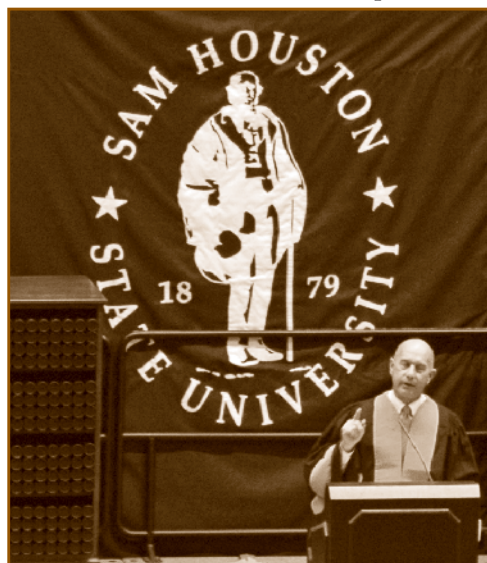
"This event exceeded all our expectations," Dr. Miller said. "We're going to try to do it even bigger and better next year."

The next Criminal Justice Job Fair is scheduled for March 3, 2010. ■

Fall Commencement

Saturday, December 20, 2008, the university held its Fall Commencement ceremonies at the Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum. Texas Senator John Whitmire gave the commencement address. Whitmire represents the 15th Senatorial District comprised of north Houston and north Harris County. With over 25 years of service in the Texas Senate, Senator Whitmire ranks first in seniority and serves as the "Dean of the Texas Senate."

In the ceremony, the College of Criminal Justice conferred 182 undergraduate degrees, including 107 Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice, 72 Bachelors of Arts in Criminal Justice, and 3 Bachelors of Arts in Victim Studies. The College also conferred 23 graduate degrees. These included 4 Ph.D.s in Criminal Justice, 4 Masters of Arts in Criminal Justice, 1 Master of Science in Security Studies, as well as 14 Masters of Science in Leadership and Management through our collaborative program with the Royal Thailand Police Academy in Bangkok, Thailand. ■



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grant examines life course and intergenerational patterns in inhalant use, and compares inhalant use patterns with other illicit drug use and other types of problem behavior.



Miller

HOLLY MILLER

Dr. Miller is a recipient of the Risk Assessment portion of TDCJ's National Institute of Justice Prisoner Reentry Initiative Grant. The grant is \$175,000 for the years 2007-2010. The research has currently scored, interpreted, and analyzed over 1,000 state jail offender's risk and treatment needs. Initial data has been presented at two national conferences. ■

ACADEMICS

Faculty and Student Publications

The College of Criminal Justice is a leader in criminal justice and forensic research, and the publishing record of our faculty and graduates reflects that reputation. The following is just a partial list of the most recent publications.

JOURNAL AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES

- Todd Armstrong** and **Gaylene Armstrong**, with Lee, D. (2009). "An Assessment of Scales Measuring Constructs in Tests of Criminology Theory Based on National Youth Survey Data." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 46, 73-105.
- Jessica Ayala,* Kelsie Simons,* and **Sarah Kerrigan**. (2009). "Quantitative Determination of Caffeine and Alcohol in Energy Drinks and the Potential to Produce Positive Transdermal Alcohol Concentrations in Human Subjects." *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*, 33(1), 27-33.
- Amanda Johnson* and **Rolando del Carmen**. (2009). "Entrapment Defense: Current Issues, Problems and Trends." *Criminal Law Bulletin*, 45(2).
- Randy Garner**. (2008). "Police Stress: Effects of Criticism Management Training on Health." *Applied Psychology in Criminal Justice*, 4(2), 243-259.
- Robert Hanser,* Scott Mire,* and **Howard Henderson**, with Hanser, P. (2008). "The Comorbidity of Depressed Affective States, Medical Factors, and Mental Health Considerations in Elderly Suicide." *Contemporary Issues in Criminology and the Social Sciences*, 2(2), 109-131.
- Howard Henderson** and Frank Wilson.* (2008). "Judicial Interpretation of Reasonableness in use of Force Cases: An Exploratory Analysis." *Contemporary Issues in Criminology and the Social Sciences*, 2(3), 91-110.
- David Rembert* and **Howard Henderson**. (2008). "Teaching Tips: Pedagogies for Alliterate College Students." *The Criminologist*, 33(4), 13.
- Huyn Seok Jang,* **Larry Hoover**, and **Brian Lawton**. (2008). "Effect of Broken Windows Enforcement on Clearance Rates." *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 36, 529-538.
- Dennis Longmire** and Robert Morris.* (2008). "Media Constructions of Identity Theft." *Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture*, 15(1), 76-93.
- Holly Miller**, Rita Watkins, and David Webb*. (2009). "The Utility of the CPI-260 to Evaluate Leadership Characteristics and the Effectiveness of Training for a Group of Federal Law Enforcement Leaders." *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*, 10(1), 49-60.
- Janet Mullings** and Ashley Blackburn,* with Marquart, J. (2008). "Inmates as Jurors: Examining How Sexual Victimization and Rape Methodology Acceptance Impact Punitiveness." *International Journal of Crime, Criminal Justice and Law*, 3(1), 61-79.
- Janet Mullings** and Ashley Blackburn,* with Marquart, J. (2008). "Sexual Assault in Prison and Beyond: Toward an Understanding of Lifetime Sexual Assault among Incarcerated Women." *The Prison Journal*, 88(3), 351-377.
- Willard Oliver**. (2008). "Priest Abuse Revisited." *National Catholic Register*, 7.
- Willard Oliver**, with Marion, N. (2008). "Political Party Platforms: Symbolic Politics and Criminal Justice Policy." *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 19(4), 397-413.
- Minwoo Yun* and **Mitch Roth**. (2008). "Terrorist Hostage-Taking and Kidnapping: Using Script Theory to Predict the Fate of a Hostage." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 31, 736-748.
- Sam Souryal**. (2009). "Deterring Corruption by Prison Personnel: A Principle-Based Perspective." *The Prison Journal*, 89(1), 21-45.

Recent Ph.D. Graduates, Dissertation Titles & Chairs

DECEMBER 2008

HASAN ARSLAN

"The Social and Operational Intersections of Environmental Extremism in North America and Europe"

Chair: Richard H. Ward

DEBORAH HARTLEY

"An Examination of Factors Impacting Type of Child Maltreatment and Case Acceptance for Prosecution"

Chair: Janet L. Mullings

MONICA KOENIGSBERG

"Mediated Images of Crime and Justice: A Grounded Theory of One Strand of Discourse"

Chair: Victoria B. Titterington

JAMES PHELPS

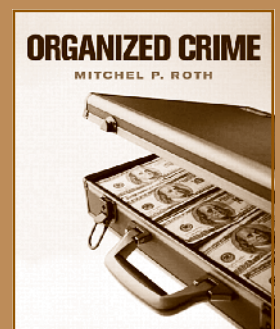
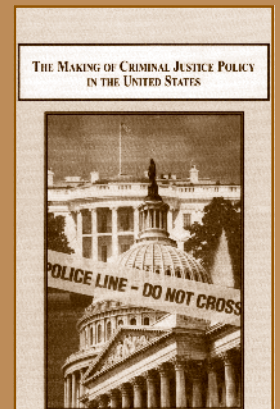
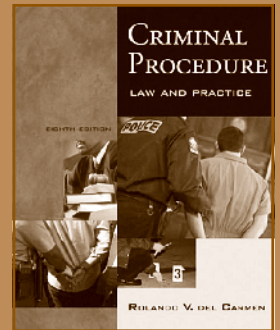
"Policing After the Golden Hour: Lessons in Democratizing Police from Post-Conflict Stability Operations in West Germany and Japan"

Chair: Willard M. Oliver ■

- Sam Souryal** and Amanda Johnson.* (2009). Post-Motivational Progression and the Possibility of Aborting Protracted Crime. *Critical Criminology*, 17(2).
- Vincent Webb**, with Decker, S.H., and Katz, C.M. (2008). "Understanding the Black Box of Gang Organization." *Crime & Delinquency*, 54(1), 153-172.
- Jihong "Solomon" Zhao** and **Ling Ren**, with Briggs, S., and Wilson, S. (2008). "The Effect of Collective Bargaining on Large Policy Agency Supplemental Compensation Policies: 1990-2000." *Police Practice & Research: An International Journal*, 9, 227-238.

BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND BOOK REVIEWS

- Gaylene Armstrong**. (2008). Review of the book *Merchandizing Prisoners: Who Really Pays for Prison Privatization?* in *Criminal Justice Review*, 34(1), 143-145.
- Gaylene Armstrong** and Bitna Kim,* with Ruddell, R. (2009). "Aftercare." In R. Ruddell & M. Thomas (Eds.), *Juvenile Corrections*. Richmond, KY: Newgate Press.
- Rolando del Carmen**. (2010). *Criminal Procedure: Law and Practice* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- Rolando del Carmen**, Susan Ritter,* and Betsy Witt.* (2008). *Briefs of Leading Cases in Corrections* (5th ed.). Newark, NJ: LexisNexis.
- Rolando del Carmen**, Scott Vollum,* Kelly Cheeseman Dial,* and Claudia San Miguel.* (2008). *The Death Penalty: Constitutional Issues, Commentaries and Case Briefs* (2nd ed.). Newark, NJ: LexisNexis.
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* SHSU Criminal Justice Alumnus or current SHSU Criminal Justice Graduate Student.

RESEARCH

Research

Faculty Continues Wide-Ranging Research

MAJOR CITIES RESEARCH DATA

Larry Hoover

Data from the Major Cities Research Initiative is focused upon assessing two related programs—Dallas’ “Hot Spots” Program, involving assignment of officers to 21 designated high-crime areas during at-risk times, and Houston’s Crime Reduction Unit. Four years of crime, arrest, and call-for-service data has been obtained and, with considerable effort by Drs. Lawton and Zhang, “cleaned” and transposed into SPSS. Faculty and research assistants assigned to the project are in the process of analysis and composition of publications addressing the effect of focused crime reduction from several perspectives. The data is also proving useful for other purposes. Cooperating with Dr. Terrence Dunworth of the Urban Institute, a portion of the Houston data will serve to document the potential effect of crime reduction efforts by Target in neighborhoods contiguous to their stores. Dee Warren is employing another element of the Houston data to assess the impact of the absorption of Katrina evacuees upon the city.

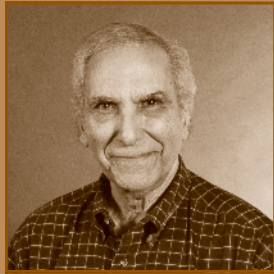
HOT SPOTS AND EDGE EFFECTS: AN EXAMINATION OF CRIME PATTERNS ACROSS CONTIGUOUS SUBURBAN POLICE AGENCIES

Brian A. Lawton and Larry Hoover

Current innovations in policing require a more geographically-oriented focus on crime and places of interest. Unfortunately, these patterns are often limited to knowledge of crime only within the agency’s jurisdiction. This has particular significance when identifying “hot spots” of criminal activity, as it is not confined to these same boundaries. This is particularly germane to contiguous suburban jurisdictions with “jigsaw puzzle” borders. The authors used data collected through the Criminal Research, Information Management and Evaluation System (CRIMES) to examine this issue and determine how these

contiguous areas impact on the identification of “hot spots” of criminal activity. Data from Southlake, in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, were employed. Results demonstrate that the identification of the hot spots can be strongly impacted by crime from the surrounding jurisdictions.

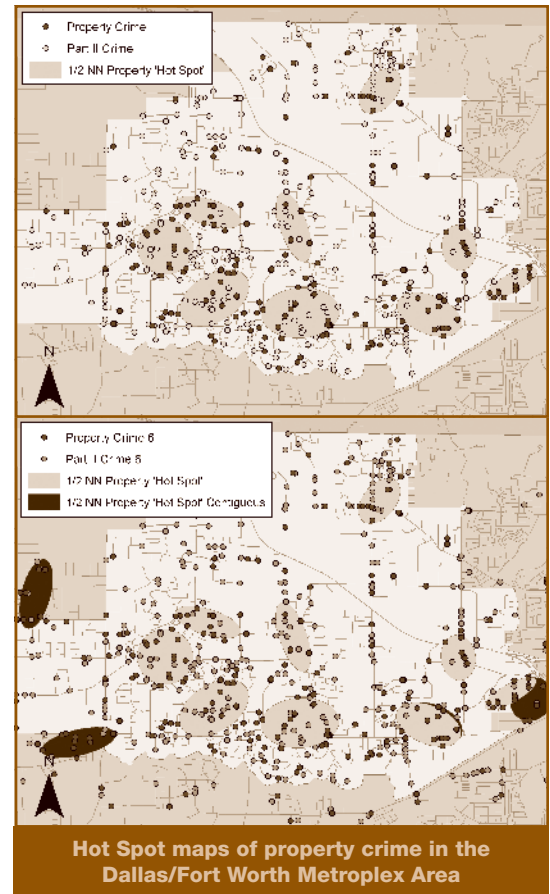
Professor Souryal Named FDD Academic Fellow



Souryal

In March 2009, Dr. Sam Souryal was named an “Academic Fellow” for 2009-2010 by the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies (FDD), a non-partisan policy institute headquartered in Washington, D.C. The FDD believes that by providing teaching professionals with access to the best information available on terrorism, it will be able to better inform the future leaders of our country about this issue. In addition, the FDD hopes that Dr. Souryal will then be able to serve as an expert resource on terrorism issues on campus and in the community. Dr. Souryal also believes that this fellowship will expose him to a unique view on the threat of terrorism to global democracy, on the chances of resolving the Arab-Israeli tension, and on presenting the United States’ role as a more peace-loving country that can make the world a better place to live in.

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ALCOHOL AND CAFFEINE IN ENERGY DRINKS

Sarah Kerrigan

In a recent publication, Dr. Sarah Kerrigan published a study to determine whether “non-alcoholic” energy drinks produce detectable alcohol concentration in human subjects. The study involved a commercial transdermal alcohol detection system that is being used in criminal justice settings. The device consists of an ankle bracelet that measures alcohol electrochemically via the skin in a continuous

manner. Remote monitoring of the transdermal alcohol concentration (TAC) via modem identifies alcohol use in the subject by generating an “alcohol alert.” The purpose of the study was to determine the scientific validity of the “energy drink defense” whereby subjects wearing the device claim that consumption of non-alcoholic energy drinks produces a “false positive” alcohol alert. The FDA considers beverages containing less than 0.5% alcohol to be “non-alcoholic,” and these do not need to contain the government warning statement or list ethanol as an ingredient. Eleven energy drinks were investigated in total. Ethanol ranged in concentration from 0.03 to 0.230% (w/v), and caffeine content per 8-oz serving ranged from 65 to 126 mg. A total of 15 human subjects participating in the study consumed between 6 and 8 energy drinks (180 Red Energy) over an 8-hour period. Although alcohol was detected in some subjects, none produced elevations in transdermal alcohol concentration sufficient to produce an “alcohol alert” (<0.02 w/v). Subjects in the study consumed a quantity of energy drink that greatly exceeds a typical dose, and several reported negative effects. Based on these results, it appears that energy drink consumption is an unlikely explanation for elevated TACs that might be identified as potential drinking episodes or “alcohol alerts.” The study was published in the Jan/Feb issue of the *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*.

SURVEY ON CITIZEN PERCEPTION OF POLICE

Dennis Longmire

During the summer and fall of 2008, the Survey Research Program completed a Citizen Impression Survey for the Houston Police Department (HPD). Drs. Longmire, Zhao, and Lawton worked closely with the Houston Police Department's Executive Assistant Chief Timothy Oettmeier to construct a survey instrument designed to provide the HPD leadership with information on the citizens' impressions of police services. The instrument included 70 items focusing on citizens' general impressions of the Department's officers and their satisfaction with the Departments' deliv-

ery of a variety of services ranging from traffic law enforcement to the response to mental health consumers. Also included were questions focusing on a series of topics of special concern to the HPD such as the use of “red light cameras,” “Homeland Security cameras,” and Conducted Energy Devices (Tasers).

“Over 70% of the respondents either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ that HPD officers are honest and fair...”

The sample included 1,250 Houston-area residents 18 years of age or older between May 1 and June 3, 2008, who agreed to participate in the survey. All respondents were selected for inclusion in the study through the use of random digit dialing (RDD) methodologies, and data were collected via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) technology. Additionally, respondents within bilingual or Spanish-only speaking households were provided with the opportunity to complete the interview in Spanish, thus ensuring that respondents from this population subgroup were provided with ample opportunity to respond.

Houston residents have an overwhelmingly positive image of the Houston Police Department's officers. Over 70% of the respondents either “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that HPD officers are honest (70.6%) and fair (70.2%) in their interactions with citizens. The great majority of the respondents to the survey either strongly agreed or agreed that the Houston Police officers are hard working (80.3%) and well trained (71%). The most persistent statistically significant subgroup differences are found across the different age and ethnic groups examined. Women were also more likely than men to report favorable attitudes about HPD's services.

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Upon his return, Dr. Souryal will make a brief presentation to interested faculty, staff, and students on the lessons he learned during the course of his fellowship. Dr. Souryal stated that he is so thrilled to be selected to receive this honor and he will faithfully apply what he has learned in his classes, in his neighborhood, and in society at large. ■

The **Foundation for Defense of Democracies** (FDD) is the only nonpartisan policy institute dedicated exclusively to promoting pluralism, defending democratic values, and fighting the ideologies that threaten democracy.

FDD was founded shortly after 9/11 by a group of visionary philanthropists and policymakers to support the defense of democratic societies under assault by terrorism and militant Islamism.

Those affiliated with FDD come from many backgrounds and political perspectives, but all believe:

- No one should be denied basic human rights, including minority rights, women's rights, and religious freedom.
- Free and democratic nations have a right to defend themselves and an obligation to defend one another.
- Terrorism, the deliberate use of violence against citizens to achieve political objectives, is always wrong and must never be condoned. ■

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In addition to submitting the Final Report to HPD, Longmire, Zhao, and Lawton are working on several publications for submission to scholarly journals and are currently in the process of designing a second survey for HPD that will employ stratified sampling techniques to better represent Hispanic respondents.

PUBLIC HOUSING SAFETY INITIATIVE

Victoria Titterington

Victoria Titterington recently completed service as the Program Evaluator for a two-year Public Housing Safety Initiative (PHSI) grant from the Community Capacity Development Office of the USDOJ Office of Justice Programs. Houston (as the major city within the U.S. Attorney’s Southern District of Texas Office) was one of 19 sites nationwide that received these grants, aimed at “providing funding for the investigation, prosecution, and prevention of violent crime and drug offense activities in public, federally-assisted, and Indian housing.” The Urban Institute also worked with grantees to develop performance measures that could be used to track progress toward their stated goals and to document the long-term impact of the PHSI.

“...this initiative was uniquely comprehensive in that it included both targeted law enforcement as well as community development activities...”

The Houston Public Housing Safety Initiative focused on three public housing developments (Kelly Village, Cuney Homes, and Kennedy Place), located in Houston’s Fifth Ward, northeast and south of downtown. During the one-year period preceding the grant, the rates of violent Part I crime for the targeted public housing developments ranged from 3.2 to 6.3 times the citywide rate; during the same period the rates of non-violent Part I crime for the targeted developments ranged

from 1.3 to 2.2 times the citywide rate. Also, the rate of calls for service for these areas ranged from 2.4 to 4.0 times the citywide rate.

The approach of this initiative was uniquely comprehensive in that it included both targeted law enforcement as well as community development activities and outcomes. Among the numerous activities within this effort were: (1) “high visibility” patrols focused particularly on prostitution and narcotics in and around the three public housing complexes, (2) domestic abuse prevention classes for resident juvenile females, (3) DEA-sponsored classes on prescription drug abuse among juveniles, for grandparents raising their grandchildren within these housing units, and (4) tours of university campuses (including Sam Houston State University and our College of Criminal Justice) by high-risk juveniles, with the hope of prolonging their education through high school and beyond.

Both violent and non-violent crime rates decreased at two of the housing developments (Kelly Village and Kennedy Place) during the major law enforcement period of the grant, with an 11 percent decrease in violent crime and a 30 percent decrease in property crime. The Cuney Homes crime data showed an overall increase in officially reported crime during the major law enforcement period, thought to be accounted for by increased citizen reports of crime to the police, a positive rather than negative outcome. Over the course of ongoing law enforcement/housing residents meetings, residents reported that they are now more willing to speak to police because they actually know some of them individually and believe that law enforcement will respond more quickly to reports from residents.

Dr. Titterington’s observations are that “this has been one of the most positive projects with which I’ve been involved, because of its broad scope and the grassroots citizen, service provider, law enforcement collaboration. I was continually struck by how much, given the resources, each of these stakeholders invested in improving the immediate and long-term conditions of living for the residents of Kennedy, Kelly, and Cuney.” ■



Professional Support

Texas Regional Center for Policing Innovation

by Randa Embry

The Texas Regional Center for Policing Innovation (TRCPI) has been hard at work creating and establishing their new training structure, providing fee-based training to agencies requesting community policing training or related workshops. TRCPI was excited to begin this new endeavor through a partnership with the Southeast Weed and Seed Program in Ft. Worth with a Community Engagement Workshop, which brought community members and law enforcement officers together for a full day to begin building relationships and creating lasting partnerships between the police and local community members, which is crucial to effective community policing efforts. This program, while developed for the Southeast Ft. Worth community, can be tailored to meet the needs of any community group, and TRCPI is looking forward to conducting several more of these beneficial workshops.

In addition to developing new, tailored training deliverables, TRCPI has been privileged with the opportunity to support Human Trafficking training, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. As a result, Human Trafficking Awareness training has been provided in several states and continues to be offered in Texas. This training provides a range of participants from law enforcement backgrounds to victim services information regarding this most atrocious crime—modern-day slavery. TRCPI has also partnered with the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance of Harris County, a human trafficking task force comprised of agencies such as the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the YMCA of Houston to provide a week-long immersion training for human trafficking task forces from around the country. Immersion learning not only gives visiting task forces the opportunity to learn more about human trafficking and

effective investigations and prosecutions, but also provides crucial contacts and partnerships for future assistance or collaboration. Thus far, TRCPI has hosted task forces from Utah, Missouri, and Wisconsin, and is currently in the planning stages for future trainings.

“...creating lasting partnerships between the police and local community members is crucial to effective community policing...”

In February, TRCPI conducted a DNA Seminar which reached over 100 participants and addressed DNA issues in effective prosecutions. Participants included law enforcement officers, attorneys, emergency service technicians, and crime lab technicians, among others. Additionally, TRCPI continues to provide community policing training, maintaining the basic mission and direction of community policing principles regardless of new partnerships or directions.

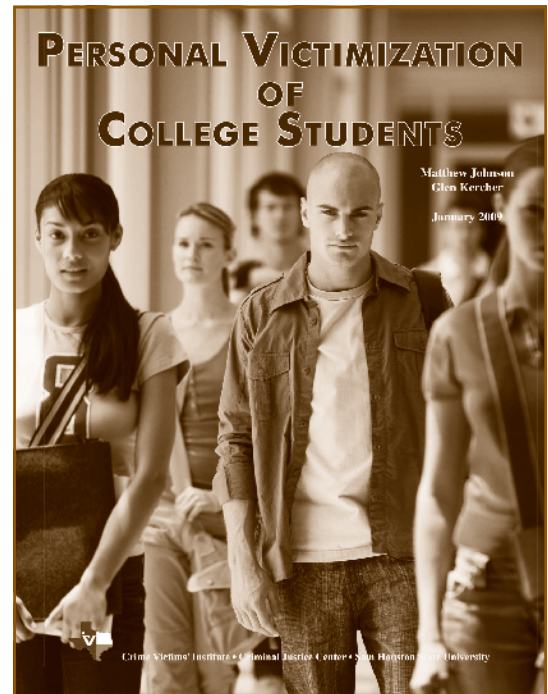
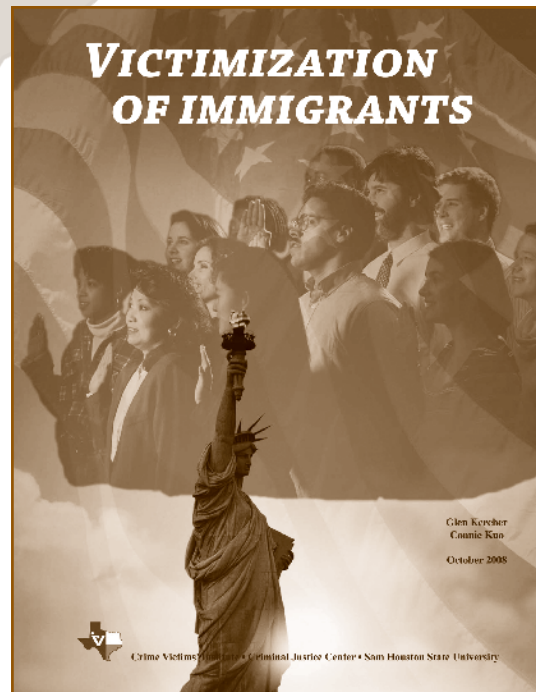
Speaking of new partnerships, TRCPI has recently joined the Rights Consortium, a human rights group of partners funded by the United States Agency for International Development, which includes Freedom House, a human rights organization, the American Bar Association, and the National Democratic Institute. The focus of projects resulting from this new partnership is rule of law, with a more specific target of order and security internationally. This partnership opens new doors, with the potential of participating in multiple international projects. We have certainly been busy, and we look forward to continuing to provide new and innovative community policing training and technical assistance not only in Texas, but abroad. ■

CVI Continues Research Series on Victims' Issues

The Crime Victims' Institute publishes reports that bring important victim issues to the forefront. The following is a brief look at the most recent victim issues researched by the CVI.

VICTIMIZATION OF IMMIGRANTS

There is little published research on the victimization experiences of Asian and Hispanic immigrants to this country. That which does exist often is based on the impressions of police officers and district attorneys. There are some studies which look at a particular immigrant group, but few of these focus on one geographical area and the different ethnicities residing there. Because Houston has an ever increasing number of foreign-born residents, learning about their experiences is important to ensuring their safety and providing needed services. This report not only presents information on victimization experiences, but also on what influences whether victims seek assistance.



PERSONAL VICTIMIZATION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

This report is based on the victimization experiences of a sample of college students at seven Texas universities. Students were invited to complete an online survey about their experiences during the past two years. This study was conducted because previous research has shown that persons between 16 and 30 years of age are at the highest risk for personal victimization. Of particular importance was the information given about victimization in dating, co-habiting, and marital relationships. Because the sample was drawn from Texas college students, the results have specific relevance for policymakers and victim assistance efforts at the state and local levels, and at college campuses across the state. It is our hope that the findings reported here will increase understanding of the conditions and situations that contribute to personal victimization among college students and lead to constructive ways to both prevent it and assist those who are victimized. ■

The Texas Forensic Science Commission Investigates Crime Lab Practices

by Leigh Tomlin

In 2007, the Texas Forensic Science Commission received funding to establish a central office and begin making decisions regarding the investigation of several pending complaints regarding forensic negligence. HB 15 appropriated the Commission's allotted funds to Sam Houston State University, under the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, where the Commission office was set up. Sam Houston State University and the Correctional Management Institute of Texas are pleased to be a part of this groundbreaking project.

Several complaint forms were received by the Commission this year and last year, and the Commission has made decisions to proceed on two independent, residential fire incidents that involved the loss of life and subsequent criminal proceedings, including trials, convictions, and in one case the execution of a man convicted on the basis of forensic methods that have since been proven scientifically invalid. The Commission has also undertaken an investigation involving a case where an individual was convicted and subsequently exonerated through the use of DNA analysis.

The Texas Forensic Science Commission is focused on establishing a foundation for developing its independent oversight of forensic labs in Texas. The Commission has found that Texas is unique in its commitment to ensuring the integrity of forensic labs and that all forensic science elements of the criminal justice system are operating at the highest possible level. For the future, the Commission hopes to strengthen the communications between itself and accredited laboratories in Texas as well as to continue to work with DPS to make sure that proper oversight is a priority in the Forensic Science community in Texas.

For more information on the Texas Forensic Science Commission, please visit the website at www.fsc.state.tx.us or contact the Commission Coordinator, Leigh Tomlin, at 1(888) 296-4232. ■



The Texas Forensic Science Commission was created by the Texas Legislature in 2005 for the purpose of: a) developing and implementing a reporting system through which accredited laboratories, facilities, or entities report professional negligence or misconduct; b) requiring all laboratories, facilities, or entities that conduct forensic analyses to report professional negligence or misconduct to the Commission; and c) investigating, in a timely manner, any allegation of professional negligence or misconduct that would substantially affect the integrity of the results of a forensic analysis conducted by an accredited laboratory, facility, or entity. ■

CMIT Upcoming Events

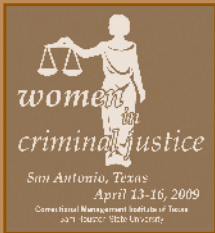
The Correctional Management Institute of Texas will host the Emergency Preparedness Program for Corrections from May 11-15 in the Criminal Justice Center. This program, produced in conjunction with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), represents a significant national collaboration to provide critical training to a national market. Participants are high-ranking officials responsible for emergency preparedness and crisis management from more than 10 states.

From July 20-24, CMIT will conduct its second Media and Public Relations class for criminal justice practitioners. The first class, held in 2008, met with resounding success and provided CMIT with tremendous job-related performance feedback. Many of the participants put their newly-acquired knowledge into practice in front of television cameras and radio microphones within days of course completion.

For more information on upcoming CMIT training opportunities, please visit <http://www.cmitonline.org/calendar/>. ■

SUPPORT

CMIT Women's
Conference
Goes National



Nearly 300 women gathered in San Antonio from April 13-16 for CMIT's annual Women in Criminal Justice Conference. The three-day program, which has grown from 88 participants in 2007, attracted practitioners from agencies and organizations in Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Texas, and Utah. Probation and parole agencies, institutional corrections, law enforcement, and judges' and district attorneys' offices were represented at the gathering.

Under the guidance of Natalie Payne, Project Coordinator at CMIT, the

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National Jail Leadership Command Academy

by Danny Downes

Sunday March 1, 2009, marked the beginning of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy (NJLCA), Class #1. Thirty-eight mid-level supervisors representing 13 states and 25 jurisdictions attended the academy held at the George G. Beto Criminal Justice Center. For the next five days the participants were exposed to a curriculum specifically designed to help prepare them for successful transition into leadership roles in our nation's jails.

Monday morning **Susan McCampbell** opened the program with "Understanding Yourself—MBTI." All participants were tested on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) prior to arrival at the academy. Gaining a better understanding of themselves helped participants to personally apply concepts throughout the rest of the week. The remainder of the curriculum, delivered by **Susan McCampbell**, **Dr. Randy Garner**, **Dr. Phillip Lyons**, and **Dr. Gary Christensen**, concentrated on the skills and tools needed to hone leadership and management abilities.

Participants were engaged daily from the time they sat down for an early breakfast until they worked on their problem-solving projects at the end of the day. The networking op-



portunities continued into the evening with dinner and discussion groups to talk about required reading materials.

Throughout the week, it was evident the class as a whole recognized the value and significance of this long needed academic opportunity for tomorrow's leaders. One attendee said in a class evaluation, "I, too, attended the Police Supervision class many years ago. [I]t was very good, but so far I have already picked up more [here] in 1½ days than four weeks [there]..."

The National Jail Leadership Command Academy (NJLCA) is a joint initiative of the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, the American Jail Association, and the National Association of Counties. The National Institute of Corrections also supports the academy by providing funds for travel to planning, curriculum review, and debriefing meetings. The purpose of the National Jail Leadership Command Academy is succession preparation for mid-level managers currently working in or supporting America's jails.

Applications are currently being accepted for the National Jail Leadership Command Academy, Class #2, October 25-30, 2009. You may complete the application and fax it to (936) 294-1671. Once your application is received, it will be reviewed for processing. Applications for the second class will be accepted until August 31, 2009. ■



WWW.CMITONLINE.ORG

LEMIT — Where Academia and Practitioners Meet

by David Webb

Throughout the year thousands of law enforcement professionals attend training and personal development courses at the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT). Much of the course content is delivered by Sam Houston State University faculty from the College of Criminal Justice. But that is not where the interface stops.

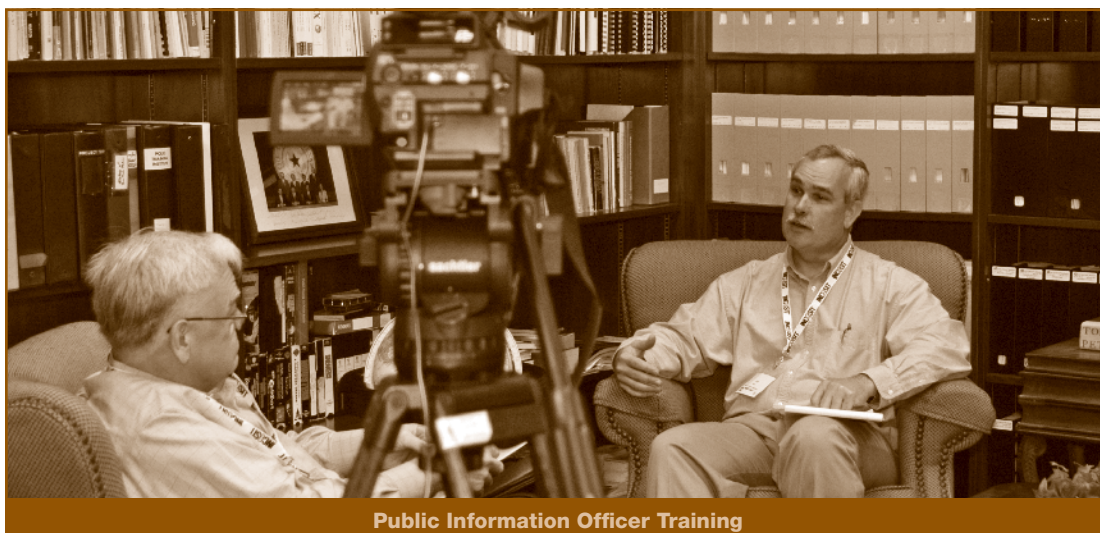
- New courses, that address tomorrows issues, have to be designed, and this is where LEMIT leverages the academic excellence offered at the College by funding research programs such as the Major City Chiefs Initiative led by Dr. Larry Hoover. In this way, the results of meaningful research in the field are ploughed back into the content of newly designed courses.
- Evaluation is an important assessment component at LEMIT. Internally, LEMIT's research specialist, Dr. Hyeyoung Lim, recently undertook a major evaluation of the flagship Leadership Command College program. Additionally, Dr. Holly Hutchins of the University of Houston was contracted to undertake a study on learning transfer, utilizing the Learning Transfer Systems Inventory (LTSI).
- LEMIT is a great resource for researchers, with law enforcement officers of differing ranks passing through its portals, most of whom are very amenable to responding to survey instruments and being engaged in trials and experiments.
- LEMIT is also a great facility for student workers and researchers. LEMIT employs over twenty students at the undergraduate and graduate level who are afforded the opportunity to work and undertake research in a professional environment.

This summer there will be two new projects undertaken by doctoral candidates.

Ms. Ling Wu will develop a model to identify salient factors to be considered by police departments when their cities annex new areas that considerably increase the policing requirement.

Ms. Ji Seun Sohn will be undertaking an audit of the data and resources held by LEMIT throughout its sixteen programs, and identify ways for these to be made available to faculty at the College for research purposes. ■

For more information, contact David Webb, Ph.D., Assistant Director at LEMIT at (936) 294-3177.



Public Information Officer Training

WWW.LEMITONLINE.ORG

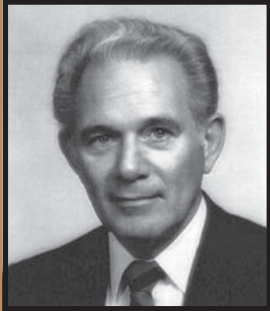
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conference addressed a wide range of professional and personal topics to assist women in facing the daily challenges of pursuing professional goals and raising a family. The keynote speaker, Luella Burke, chair of the board of directors of the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS), led off the program with words of inspiration and encouragement that the highest heights can be attained by women working together for personal and professional accomplishment. Participants had a unique opportunity to learn of the career path traveled by women in top leadership, including Harris County Judge Beverly Malazzo, Carey Welebob, Assistant Director of the Criminal Justice Assistance Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), and Raven Kazen, former Director of the Victim Services Division of TDCJ.

Jo Ann Jones-Burbridge, Associate Director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, and Charlotte Stallings, former National Spokesperson for American Express, offered invaluable advice on the importance of professional image, including making a positive impression and improving public speaking ability. Other conference sessions included personal financial management, managing difficult people, and a demonstration of defensive tactics for self protection. ■

SUPPORT

IN MEMORIAM
John A.
Cocoros



John A. Cocoros, 82, a former College of Criminal Justice professor, a well known state and national leader in the field of juvenile justice, and a tireless advocate for troubled and at-risk youth died on April 1 in Lakeway, Texas, following a series of strokes.

An experienced administrator and consultant to governments and correctional agencies in the U.S. and abroad, Cocoros began his career in law enforcement, but soon the primary focus of his career became the field of juvenile corrections with an emphasis on systemic reform and delinquency prevention.

In 1971, Cocoros and his family moved to Huntsville when he joined Sam Houston State University as an associate professor and Director of Continuing Education in Criminal Justice. In 1975, he received the university's Outstanding Leader in Higher Education award.

His accomplishments were recognized through many awards including the Texas Corrections Association's

Alumni Updates

Jay Burch (M.A. '97) has served nine years as a police chief, the last four at the Mount Pleasant Police Department. He has had several police management and management-employee communication articles published in *Law and Order Magazine*, and also had an article published in *Police Fleet Management* magazine last August titled, "Common Sense Policing: Letter vs. Spirit of Police Policy." Jay has also begun a consulting business assessing police departments and assisting agencies with hiring police administrators as well as being involved in police chief development and training. This past December, he was asked to be a member of a Police Chief Focus Group, which planned and established curriculum for the 2009-2010 police chief training cycle.

Amanda Callan-Isaac (B.S. '08) was promoted to District Parole Officer at Huntsville District Parole Office.

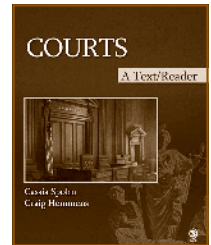
Michael Coates (B.A. '06, Master's in Security Studies, '08) was recently hired by South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company in SE Texas as a Security Project Manager. Michael is tasked with conceptualizing, planning, and implementing security modifications/projects to enhance, strengthen, and improve the site's physical security plan. He also assists in planning and implementing Force-on-Force exercises.

Nathan L. Curry (B.A. '95) and Jana R. Cobb were married in November 2008. Cobb, a native of Denver, Colorado, is a graduate of Occidental College and California State University-Northridge. In addition, Nathan recently transferred from a criminal investigator position with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to a criminal investigator position with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Beaumont, TX.

Kelly Cheeseman Dial (M.A. '99, Ph.D. '06) was recently elected Vice-Chair of ACJS Corrections Section for the term 2009-2012. In 2012, she will ascend to the post of Chair in which she will serve from 2012-2014. Kelly also was a recipient of the SAGE Jr. Faculty Professional Development Teaching Award (ACJS), which included a \$700 prize.

Major **Tim Heintzelman** (B.S. '02) is currently serving as Chief, Strategic Airlift Protection Branch and Command Safety/Emergency Management Officer for United States Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. He is a career Air Force Security Forces officer who is responsible for the protection of strategic military airlift assets worldwide. Maj Heintzelman was recently selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and reassignment as Commander, 305th Security Forces Squadron, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, where he will oversee the security of the newly designated Joint Base McGuire/Ft. Dix/Lakehurst.

Craig Hemmens (Ph.D. '98) recently co-authored *Courts: A Text/Reader* with Cassia Spohn. The book is part of a multi-volume series of hybrid textbook/readers that Dr. Hemmens is creating for Sage Publishing. Dr. Hemmens teaches at Boise State University, in Boise, Idaho.



Richard P. Huber, Jr., (B.S. '93) became warden of the Lufkin Detention Center in Lufkin, Texas, on May 1, 2009. The Lufkin Detention Center is one of the Prison Units operated by Community Educations Center/Civigenics, Inc., Secure Facilities Division. It is a private jail/prison operation that currently houses over 8,000 beds and is growing.

Chuck Jeffords (M.A. '76, Ph.D. '81), after a year with the Legislative Budget Board, has returned as Research Director of the Texas Youth Commission.

Thom Karlok (B.S. '78, M.S. '05) was promoted to the rank of Captain on April 8, 2009, and assumed the role as Commander of the Administrative Services Bureau of the Galveston Police Department. As Commander of the Administrative Services Bureau, he will oversee the department's \$17.2 million budget, Records, Training, and Communications Divisions. Thom is a 24-year veteran of the department and was the Sergeant supervising the Records Division at the time of his promotion to Captain.



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Daniel Lipka (M.A. '93), upon retiring from the United States Army Military Police Corps in 2003, accepted a position with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President. In 2007, he transitioned to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and most recently was assigned as the Chief of Assessments Section, Current Operations Branch, Office of Operations Coordination and Planning, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Stephani Luebben (B.S. '95) is now a Security Forces officer for the United States Air Force at F.E. Warren, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

J. Kevin Matthews (B.S. '89) is currently working as a Shift Supervisor for the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria, KY.

Tom Moncrief (B.S. '83) is currently a Captain with the Pearland Police Department.

James "JimO" O'Flaherty (B.S. '87) has been a Special Agent with ATF since 1989. He is currently assigned to ATF Houston serving as the Division Tactical Adviser and is a member of the Special Response Team. Prior to ATF, James was a police officer for the City of Dallas. He is married with two kids and a two-year-old grandson.

Joseph Keith Price (B.S. '73, M.A. '78, Ph.D. '83) has been awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor effective fall 2009 by the Texas A&M Board of Regents. Dr. Price has been an assistant professor at West Texas A&M University since 2003 following his retirement from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice after 30 years of service.

Price Robinson (B.S. '80) was recently named the new Chief of Police for the Midland, TX, Police Department. He has worked for the MPD since graduating from Sam and worked his way up through the ranks to Deputy Chief. He was named Interim Chief on May 1, 2007, and served in that capacity until being named Chief of Police on December 19, 2008. His wife, Kathy Bennett Robinson (B.A. '80), is the principal of Fannin Elementary School in Midland.

Doug Sarant (B.S. '86) celebrates his background search business's 20th year in operation. Global Information Systems in The

Woodlands, Texas, provides background information for Attorneys and Private Investigators. Doug also trains Lacrosse goalies and is a freelance writer. His wife Linda, also an SHSU graduate (1989), is a 3rd grade teacher in Conroe, and son Connor (16) goes to Oak Ridge High School.

Melissa L. Simon (B.S. '94) is now Director of Development/Houston Area Regional Coordinator of Bridges To Life, a restorative justice program with a mission to reduce recidivism and help heal victims of crime.

David K. Walker, (B.S. '72) began his third term as Montgomery County Attorney on January 1, 2009. He and his wife Andrea, also an attorney, live in Conroe, TX. David is a veteran of the United States Army and also holds a Master Peace Officer certificate from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

Frank Wilson (Ph.D. '06) is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Indiana State University. His current research focus is in the area of Crime, Media and Popular Culture. Specifically he is exploring the depictions of municipal police officers in film and exploring Cultivation Theory applications with Criminal Justice Majors and Police Officer Recruits. Frank is the Chair of the *Annual International Crime, Media & Popular Culture Studies Conference: A Cross-Disciplinary Exploration* to be held October 5-7, 2009. For more details visit the conference website at: www.indstate.edu/ccj/popcultureconference

Robert Worley (M.A. '01, Ph.D. '06) was recently made the editor of *ACJS NOW*, the national newsletter for the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. ■

We want to hear from you and share your news and accomplishments. Please send alumni news to Gloria "Cutty" Gilbert (cutty@shsu.edu) or mail your news to College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX 77341-2296.

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Outstanding Achievement Award, the Texas Probation Association's President's Award, and induction into the Texas Corrections Associations Hall of Honor.

Cocoros served in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged after serving in both World War II and the Korean War.

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Ada Regina Koehl Cocoros of Victoria, TX, and their three children, Joann, David, and Craig. ■

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