

College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology
Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center

Prairie View A&M University

Annual Report

2016



PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY

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Message from the Dean & Executive Director

Tamara L. Brown, Ph.D.

“Everything must change; nothing stays the same. Everyone will change; no one stays the same.” These words ring as true today as when they were first penned by Bernard Ighner and released by Quincy Jones in 1974, and they are certainly true for the College and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. Our collective goal is to remain true to our mission while being nimble enough to remain relevant in the face of changing times and circumstances. By the end of this annual report, you will note that we have met this goal by making steady progress on many fronts!

For years, the College has housed and resourced the Blackstone Pre-Law Society, a student organization advised by Grady Paris, JD that provides information, preparation, and guidance to all PVAMU students interested in going to law school. This year we expanded the scope of this organization to include a law school tour. Blackstone students visited five law schools across Texas. Additionally, through Ms. Paris’ guidance and hard work, the College recently signed a contract with Kaplan to provide LSAT preparatory classes on PV’s campus beginning in January.

The Center continues to hire people who bring passion and excitement to their work, and a commitment to understanding and reducing juvenile crime and its related social problems. The Center’s training opportunities have broadened to such a degree that we added an additional full-time trainer, Dr. Angela Broadus, a social psychologist with specialties in substance use and misuse, and public attitudes about addiction. She will expand our training coverage across Texas, beyond the recent concentration in Waller, Travis, and Harris counties.

The College also hired Dr. Logan Yelderman, as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology. Dr. Yelderman is a social psychologist with an interest in effective programming in juvenile and family treatment court, the relationship between religion and legal processes, and attitudes toward mentally ill offenders. Although here only one semester, he has already made a positive impact on our students.

Increasing numbers of our students – both graduate and undergraduate – are traveling to conferences and other professional development training. For example, in terms of graduate student professional development, juvenile justice and psychology doctoral students traveled to University of Michigan for advanced training in statistics; while psychology doctoral students traveled to Florida for specialized MMPI training, and to Corpus Christi and Florida for professional development as part of our partnership with the Alliance for Graduate Education and Professoriate (AGEP) stem program. In terms of undergraduate professional development, four undergraduate students traveled to Washington, DC for the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and five undergraduate Psychology majors were selected to participate in summer undergraduate research programs across the country.

Our faculty also made a tremendous difference during 2016. Not only were they actively engaged in recruiting and retaining students, our faculty and staff also have published empirical research, secured grant funding, and engaged with the community to improve outcomes for youth. Dr. Susan Frazier-Kouassi, Dr. Angela Broadus, and the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and begun a statewide community-level needs assessment to inform our training curriculum development, and ensure that we provide timely and relevant services to meet community training needs. Additionally, I, and Dr. Pamela Martin as Co-PI, was awarded a \$130,000 grant from the Hogg Foundation to build the evaluation and community-based research capacity of 10 faith-based grantees in Houston, Dallas, and Austin, and to evaluate their impact on improving awareness, attitudes, and perceptions of mental health recovery and wellness in the communities they serve. Not only is this an important topic in its own right, but the project, which began in August, has spawned several other related, multi-year, community-based, social justice research projects in the Dallas area.

Thanks to our amazing faculty, staff, and students, we keep making significant strides and advance each year!

Mission and Advisory Committee

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology are committed to the reduction and prevention of juvenile delinquency and crime in the State of Texas, and strive to attain national recognition in the areas of education, research, and service in doing the following:

- conducting, coordinating, collecting, and evaluating research in all areas relating to juvenile crime and delinquency;
- providing a setting for educational programs relating to juvenile delinquency and crime, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs and other educational programs such as continuing education and in-service training for criminal justice and social service professionals;
- serving as a state and national resource for information on juvenile delinquency and crime;
- developing community-based programs, policies, and strategies to address juvenile delinquency and crime and related social problems; and
- creating partnerships, collaborative efforts, or outreach, public service, and technical assistance programs to assist communities, governmental agencies, and private entities to implementing programs, policies, and strategies that address juvenile delinquency and crime and related social problems.

To fulfill the mission of the Center, an advisory committee was established and the following persons are members:

The Honorable Royce West
Chairman and State Senator-District 23
Dallas, TX

Dr. George C. Wright
President
Prairie View A&M University
Prairie View, TX

Dr. Felecia M. Nave
Provost and Senior Vice President
for Academic Affairs
Prairie View A&M University
Prairie View, TX

The Honorable John Zerwas
State Representative - District 28
Waller, TX

The Honorable Alma Allen
State Representative - District 131
Houston, TX

Mr. Mike Griffiths
(Former) Executive Director
Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Austin, TX

Ms. Vicki Spriggs
Executive Director, Texas CASA
Austin, TX

Ms. Deborah Fowler
Deputy Director, Texas Appleseed
Austin, TX

Mr. Marc Levin, (Invited)
Director for Effective Justice Texas Public
Policy Foundation
Austin, TX

Mr. Don K. Clark, (Invited)
Retired FBI Agent
Houston, TX

Ms. Phyllis Darden-Caldwell
Vinson & Elkins, LLP
Houston, TX

Dr. Tamara L. Brown
Ex-Officio Member and Dean
Prairie View A&M University
Prairie View, TX

Research Activities

Grant and Contract Funded Research

The Effective Parent and Child Engagement Training Program continues to be a program of promise that has provided training for both parents and their children to reduce and/or prevent school truancy, drug abuse and other habits that may lead to youth delinquency or incarceration. This comprehensive, four (4) week training program has been provided in Travis County through the Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct One beginning October, 2015 and ending June, 2016. A total of one hundred fifty-one (151) program participants were presented certificates of course completion at a Graduation ceremony held at the Travis County Justice of the Peace, Precinct One Courthouse complex on September 24, 2016. Of these graduates, fifty-five (55) students, parents, and court personnel were invited to spend the day at Prairie View A&M University touring the campus, participating in a student panel discussion with students currently enrolled in the College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology, visiting with representatives of the Office of Admission and Enrollment management and Student Financial Services.

Not only are we continuing to provide program services to the Travis County community through a Memorandum of Understanding with Judge Yvonne Williams who presides over the Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct One, we have expanded services to include Harris County. The Effective Parent and Child Engagement Training program is currently serving families who attend the Accelerated Learning Academy, Inc., which is a charter school in Houston, Texas. Training will be conducted on a weekly basis at both sites through the end of May, 2017. We will continue to grow this program by expanding it to other counties within the State of Texas.

Evaluation of the African American Faith-Based Mental Health Education and Awareness Initiative (Phase II)

Principal Investigators: Tamara Brown, Ph.D., Dean, College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology and Executive Director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center; & Pamela Martin, Ph.D., Associate Dean, College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology
Project Team Members: Doctoral Research Assistants: Salim Salim & Katina Harris

Improving the mental health of African American people is essential to the community development of an increasing, yet under-served segment of the Texas population. This evaluation effort is in keeping with the land grant mission of Prairie View A&M University, the oldest historically Black university in Texas, and includes community outreach with particular mindfulness to the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of the state. The project is also in keeping with the mission of the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center within the College. This mission includes service to the community and equipping leaders.

The goals of this project funded by the Hogg Foundation are to:

- a) evaluate the impact of the grantees' initiatives on improving awareness, attitudes, and perceptions of mental health recovery and wellness among congregants and others served; and,
- b) build the evaluation and community-based research capacity of grantees.

The researchers' interests reflect their awareness that funding cuts in the state of Texas have led to a dearth of sufficient mental health services, limited access to and utilization of such services, and an increase in the use of the justice system as a venue for mental health services delivery. Approximately 25,000 of the state's 150,000 inmates have mental health problems (Langford & Qiao Chen, 2014). Legislative supporters and an advisory board have charged these researchers to engage with the community in efforts that address disproportionate minority confinement and the related, "school to prison pipeline."

It is well understood that many persons who enter the justice system do so, because of a deficit of mental health services. It also is widely accepted that the general public benefits by knowing what actions they can take for prevention, early intervention, and treatment of major physical diseases (Jorm, 2012). However, when it comes to mental health, this same level of knowledge and awareness of how to prevent, intervene early, and treat mental health problems does not exist. Given the significance and history of the role of the African American Faith-Based institutions in the health and social well-being of the African American community, this initiative could be crucial in developing appropriate mental health interventions for the grantee communities.

Research Activities

Research Symposium and Conference(s)

Research Transforming Communities

The 11th Annual Research Symposium

College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center

The 11th Annual Research Symposium was held on April 14th, 2016 in the Don K. Clark Building of the College. More than 75 presentations (poster or oral) were delivered during the day ranging in topics from “What are the best prisons in the United States?” to “Mental health help-seeking and service utilization among Latinas/os: A 10-year content analysis.” Undergraduate and graduate students from Prairie View A&M and participants from Texas Southern Universities represented a diversity of majors including criminal justice, psychology, biology, social work, and Spanish among others. The symposium is an annual event that provides an opportunity for students to discuss their research experience and/or projects in a professional setting with faculty and their peers in their respective fields.



The keynote speaker for this year’s symposium, **Desmond Upton Patton, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work and a Faculty Affiliate of the Social Intervention Group and the Data Sciences Institute. Dr. Patton presented his research utilizing both quantitative and computational data collection methods to examine how and why youth and gang violence, trauma, grief and identity are expressed on social media, and the real world impact they have on the well-being of low-income youth of color. His keynote address, “Clapbacks, Hashtags and Internet Gangsters: Using Twitter for Undergraduate Research” was cutting edge and thought provoking. Dr. Patton received his BA in Anthropology and political Science from the University of

North Carolina-Greensboro, MSW from the University of Michigan School of Social Work, and his PhD in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago.

Summer Research Experience Programs for Undergraduates (REU) and High School Students (REH) Symposium August 5, 2016

Willie A. Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center

Prairie View A&M University

Prairie View A&M University hosted the summer research experience programs for high school students (REH) and undergraduates (REU) to train participants in academic research under the professional guidance of a faculty mentor. Participants were matched with faculty mentors based on career interests and had an opportunity to attend scientific seminars and workshops. The Research Experience for the Undergraduates (REU) program was held June 13 – August 5, 2016. This program provided an opportunity for undergraduate and high school students to participate in innovative faculty-directed research to enhance their knowledge, critical thinking skills, and interest in research. The projects were problem-oriented, focused on real research activity, and had a productive outcome that contributed to the faculty mentor's research agenda, University's research profile and scientific community. The students experienced firsthand how knowledge is constructed in their respective discipline. Moreover, the participants were encouraged to pursue their own questions and improvise solutions. By the end of the summer, students presented their research during the Research Symposium & Awards Ceremony held in the Willie A. Tempton, Sr. Memorial Student Center on August 5th, 2016.

Research Activities

Research Symposium and Conference(s)

22nd Annual Black Graduate Conference in Psychology

May 19-22, 2016

University of Miami (Miami, FL)

Several PVAMU Psychology doctoral students presented at the 22nd Annual Black Graduate Conference in Psychology (BGCP). The conference was held May 19-22, 2016 at the University of Miami (Miami, FL). The BGCP was initiated in the spring of 1995 at Howard University and has continued every year since then. Various universities hosted the conference, including among others, the University of Michigan, University of Virginia, and the University of North Carolina. The conference was organized with three goals in mind: 1) to provide students with a supportive atmosphere to present their research and receive constructive feedback from fellow graduate students and faculty; 2) to provide students with an opportunity to exchange strategies and experience that they feel would help others to thrive in graduate school and beyond; and 3) to provide a forum for graduate students in psychology to develop long-lasting professional relationships with future colleagues.

During the conference, students gave either an oral or a poster presentation on their current research. Students also had the opportunity to engage in lunchtime table topics with faculty from various universities on a myriad of topics including community-based research, racial identity research, publishing your research, and life/academic balance and others. A number of panel discussions were presented by conference faculty including careers for psychologists, surviving & thriving in graduate school, and research funding & post-doctoral fellowships. The conference concluded with keynote speaker and distinguished faculty, Dr. Kevin Cokley, Professional of Counseling Psychology and African and American Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas-Austin; as well as Director of the Institute for Urban Policy Research & Analysis.

At the 2016 conference hosted at the University of Miami, three psychology doctoral students accompanied by the Dean of the College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology, Dr. Tamara L. Brown; the Associate Dean of the College, Dr. Pamela Martin; and the Director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, Dr. Susan Frazier-Kouassi presented posters at the conference. Leslie Encarnación presented a poster on “Mental Health Help-Seeking Service Utilization among Latinas/os: A 10-Year Content Analysis”; Marsja Stearnes presented on “Community Needs Assessment: Using CBPR Methods to Unveil the Needs of a Forgotten Community”; and Salim presented on “A Psychometric Investigation of the African American Protestant Faith Communities Scale” during the conference.

For the first time in its history, the 2017 conference is being hosted in Texas by the Department of Psychology at Prairie View A&M University. For more information on the 2017 conference, please refer to the conference website: <http://bgcpwebsite.org/>

Standing: psychology doctoral students Salim Salim, Tiarra Green, Marsja Stearnes, Leslie Encarnación, Katina Harris



Seated: Drs. Tamara L. Brown (Dean), Pamela Martin (Associate Dean), Susan Frazier-Kouassi (Director)

Publications

In Print

Asby, A. T., Heads, A. M. B., Dickson, J. W. (2016). Living with maternal HIV: Spirituality, depression, and family functioning. *American Journal of Health Sciences*, 7(1), 15-22.

Gibson, C. (2016). Molly Maguires. In Steve Chermak and Frankie Bailey (Eds.) *Crimes of the Centuries: An Encyclopedia of Notorious Crimes, Criminals, and Criminal Trials in American History* (pp. 554-555). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

Osho, G.S., Scott, J., & Adams, M. (2016). An investigation of juvenile gang membership and psychopathic behavior: Evidence for multi linear analysis. *International Journal of Social Work*, 3(2), 29-48. doi: 10.5296/isjw.v3i2.9312.

Gibson, C. (2016). Raid on Harper's Ferry (John Brown). In Steve Chermak and Frankie Bailey (Eds.) *Crimes of the Centuries: An Encyclopedia of Notorious Crimes, Criminals, and Criminal Trials in American History* (pp. 346-347). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

Kethineni, S. (2016). Crime and punishment in India. In W. Jennings, G. Higgins, and Maldonado-Molina (Eds.). *The Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment* (pp. 1-5). Wiley. DOI: 10.1002/9781118519639.wbecpx145

Yelderman, L. A., Miller, M. K., & Peoples, C. D. (2016). Capitalizing jurors: How death qualification relates to jury composition, jurors' perceptions, and trial outcomes. In B. H. Bornstein and M. K. Miller (Eds.) *Advances in Psychology and Law*, Vol. 2 (pp. 27-54). New York: Springer.

Yelderman, L. A., & Miller, M. K. (2016). Religious fundamentalism and attitudes toward the insanity defense: The mediating roles of criminal attributions and perceptions of the mentally ill. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1080/13218719.2016.1160005



Gibson, C. (2016). Murder of the Grimes sisters. In Steve Chermak and Frankie Bailey (Eds.) *Crimes of the Centuries: An Encyclopedia of Notorious Crimes, Criminals, and Criminal Trials in American History* (pp. 325-326). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

Kethineni, S., Srinivasan, M., & Kakar, S. (2016). Combating violence against women in India: Nari Adalats and genderbased justice. *Women & Criminal Justice*, 26(4), 281-300.

Yelderman, L. A., & Miller, M. K. (2016). Religious fundamentalism, religiosity, and priming: Effects on attitudes, perceptions, and mock jurors' decisions in an insanity defense case. *Psychology, Crime, & Law*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1080/1068316X.2016.1239097

Publications

In Press

- Ehrlinger, J., Plant, E. A., Hartwig, M. K., Vossen, J., Columb, C., & Brewer, L. E.** (in press). Do gender differences in perceived prototypical computer scientists and engineers contribute to gender gaps in computer science and engineering? *Sex Roles*.
- Columb, C., & Plant, E. A.** (in press) The Obama effect six years later: The effect of exposure to Obama on implicit antiBlack bias and implicit racial stereotyping. *Social Cognition*.
- Butler-Barnes, S.T., Martin, P.P., Copeland-Linder, N., Seaton, E., Matusko, N., Caldwell, C.H., & Jackson, J.S.** (in press). The protective role of religious involvement in African American and Caribbean Black adolescents' experiences of racial discrimination. *Youth and Society*.
- Gibson, C.** (in press). Contraband. In Susan Sharp (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Corrections*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing.
- Kethineni, S.** (in press). State of juvenile justice in India. In S. Decker & N. Marteache (Eds.), *International Handbook of Juvenile Justice*. New York: NY: Springer Publishing.
- Scott, J.** (in press). Prison labor and convict lease system. In Elisa Bulls & Kerley Kerley (Eds). *Encyclopedia of Corrections*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
- Scott, J., Gibson, C., Alomaja, L., Minter, A., & Davis, L.** (in press). When perceptions are deadly: Policing, given the summer in Ferguson, Missouri and other similar stories, before and since. *Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs*.

Presentations

Faculty and Student

- Abrams, J., Dickson, J. W., & Harrell.** (April, 2016). *Getting in, surviving...and getting out of graduate school*. In K. L. Walker (Moderator). Panel discussion conducted at Virginia State University Black Psychology Research Conference, Petersburg, VA.
- Bolton, M.** (2016, November) *Testing Race Bias in Police Officers Using a Shooting Simulator Task*. Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, Tampa, FL.
- Boykin, B. & Thompson, L. K.** (2016, July). *Gender roles: Diversifying undergraduate women and students of color in Civil Engineering majors*. PVAMU Summer Research Experience Programs, Prairie View, TX.
- Bryant, E. & Conner, D.** (2016, April) *Addressing the campus' hazardous materials risk*. Prairie View A & M Research Symposium, Prairie View, TX.
- Caldwell, M. & Sinegar, E.** (2016, April). *Readiness for earthquakes, hurricanes and floods*. Prairie View A & M Research Symposium, Prairie View, TX.

Presentations

Campbell, A. (2016, August). *Ethnic Identity: Where do college students stand.* Paper presented at The Association of Black Psychologists 48th Annual International Convention, Arlington, VA.

Campbell, A. (2016, August). *Coping Strategies Among College Students at A HBCU.* Association of Black Psychologists, Arlington, VA.

Cao, Y. (2016, March). *Diversion of Juvenile Offenders: China and the United States.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Denver, CO.

Cao, Y. (2016, April). *Virtual Currency and Money Laundering.* Prairie View A & M Research Symposium, Prairie View, TX.

Cintron, M. (2016, April) *Opinions of Latino adults on unaccompanied minors in the U.S.- Mexican border.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Denver, CO.

Farrington, C., Dickson, J. & Wilson, D. (2016, August). *Coping Strategies Among College Students at A HBCU.* Association of Black Psychologists, Arlington, VA.

Farrington, C., Belcher, J., & Pace, S. (2016, April). *Risky sexual behaviors and anxiety toward HIV.* Poster presented at Virginia State University Black Psychology Research Conference, Petersburg, VA.

Frazier-Kouassi, S. & Stearnes, M. (2016, November). *Using community-based participatory methods to unveil the needs of a small rural community.* 12th Annual Strengthening Youth & Families Conference: Home, School & Community Growing Together, Arlington, TX.

Graves, K. & Wilson, D. (2016, July). *The relationship among black consciousness, self-efficacy, and academic achievement in African American students.* PVAMU Summer Research Experience Programs, Prairie View, TX.

Harris, J. & Thompson, L.K. (2016, July). *Investigation of undergraduate women, students of color and Civil Engineering degree retention and attainment.* PVAMU Summer Research Experience Programs, Prairie View, TX.

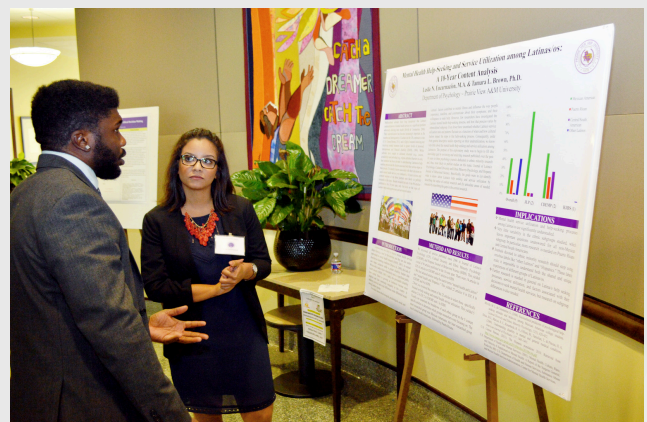
Holmes, A., & Williams, M. (2016, April). *Knowledge of AIDS/HIV amongst college students at an HBCU.* Poster presented at Virginia State University Black Psychology Research Conference, Petersburg, VA.

Malone, S. (2016, March). *The impact of gang involvement on female adolescent mental health.* iRise Research Symposium, Prairie View, TX.

McGowan, R. (2016, April) *African American mothers' influence and mental health.* Poster presented at Virginia State University Black Psychology Research Conference, Petersburg, VA.

O'Guin, J. & Myrick, B. (2016, April). *Age of drug use and stress coping.* Poster presented at Virginia State University Black Psychology Research Conference, Petersburg, VA.

Pace, S., Farrington, C., Belcher, J. & Dickson, J. (2016, April). *Sexual behavior amongst college students and their knowledge of HIV.* Virginia State University Black Undergraduate Student Conference in Psychology. Richmond, VA.



Presentations

Parker, B. & Dickson, J. (2016, April). *Social medias effect on self-esteem*. Virginia State University Black Undergraduate Student Conference in Psychology, Richmond, VA.

Perry, E & Frazier-Kouassi, S. (2016, July). *Predictors of binge drinking among college students*. PVAMU Summer Research Experience Programs, Prairie View, TX.

Salim, S., Harris, K., Allen, L., Geyen, D. & Duncan, B. (2016, April). *Substance use in the presence of mental health symptoms among college students*. The 11th Annual Research Symposium, Prairie View, TX.

Salim, S. & Martin, P. (2016, April). *A Psychometric Investigation of the African American Protestant Faith Communities Scale*. 22nd Annual Black Graduate Conference in Psychology, Miami, FL.

Scott, A. (2016, March). *A historical review of the response to girl's law breaking in the United States*. iRise Research Symposium, Prairie View, TX.



Stearnes, M. & Frazier-Kouassi, S. (2016, April). *Community needs assessment: Using community-based participatory methods to unveil the needs of a forgotten community*. The 11th Annual Research Symposium, Prairie View, TX.

Terry, E. & Frazier-Kouassi, S. (2016, July). *Predictors of binge drinking among college students*. PVAMU Summer Research Experience Programs, Prairie View, TX.

Wilson, D., Graves, K. & Dorsey, C. (2016, July). *The relationship among black consciousness, self-efficacy, and academic achievement in African American students*. Association of Black Psychologists, Arlington, VA.

Wilson, N., Watts, C. & Wilson, M. (2016, August). *Responsive teaching styles: An attempt to improve the well-being of African American students*. Association of Black Psychologists, Arlington, VA.

Wilson, N. & Wilson, D. (2016, July). *The relationship among moral values. Self-identification, and implicit association in African American college students*. PVAMU Summer Research Experience Programs, Prairie View, TX.

Wofford, N. (2016, April). *Consequences of Holding an Implicit Association Between Women and Birds*. The 11th Annual Research Symposium, Prairie View, TX.

Wofford, N. (2016, November) *The Vicarious Effects of Discrimination: How Partner Experiences of Discrimination Affect Individual Health*. Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, Tampa, FL.

Yunus, C. (2016, March). *Police Patterns and Practices*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Denver, CO.

Yunus, C. (2016, April). *Police Patterns and Practices in Metropolitan Cities in U.S*. The 11th Annual Research Symposium, Prairie View, TX.

Presentations

Faculty

Columb, C. (2016, September) *The Obama effect six years later: The effect of exposure to Obama on implicit anti-Black bias and implicit racial stereotyping.* College Brown Bag, Prairie View, TX.

Gibson, C. (2016, March). *Diffusing potentially deadly juvenile encounters.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

Gibson, C. (2016, March) Round-table moderator, Doctoral Students Summit: *Work- life balance.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

Gibson, C. (2016, March) *Navigating the academic job market.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

Gibson, C. (2016, January). *Evaluation of the African American Faith-Based Mental Health Education and Awareness Initiative.* College Brown Bag, Prairie View, TX.

Gibson, C. & Graham, J. (2016, March). *Movements in the response to delinquent girls in the United States.* Paper presented at Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

Jackson, R. (February, 2016). *The impact of racism, discrimination and racial socialization on African American offending.* College Brown Bag, Prairie View, TX.

Jackson, R. (2016, November). *Gender Differences in African American Offending: A Gendered Analysis of The Theory of African American Offending.* Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology. New Orleans, LA.

Kethineni, S., & Cao, Y. (2016, March). *Diversion of juvenile offenders: China and the United States.* Paper Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Denver, CO.

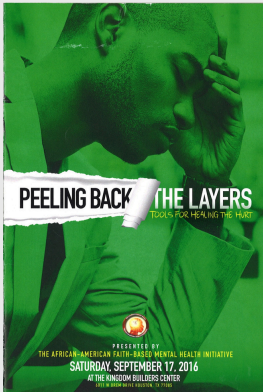
Kethineni, S., Cao, Y., & Frazier-Kouassi, S. (2016, November). *Trauma informed care and the juvenile justice system.* Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology. New Orleans, LA.

Paris, G., & Kethineni, S. (2016, November). *Effective Parent Engagement Training Program.* Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology. New Orleans, LA.



Educational Programs

Hogg Foundation Faith-Based African-American Mental Health Conferences



The African-American Faith-Based Mental Health Initiative, comprised of ten churches from across the State of Texas in collaboration with the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, Alliance for Greater Works™ and Prairie View A&M University Department of Psychology, sponsored the first groundbreaking conference, “Peeling Back the Layers: Tools for Healing the Hurt” both in Houston and Dallas, Texas. The goal of this power-packed training was to enlighten African-American faith communities to identify, support, and strengthen the mental health of families, congregants, and communities. The daylong conference was opened by Sherrye Willis (Alliance for Greater Works™) and Vicky Coffee-Fletcher (Hogg Foundation for Mental Health) and commenced with an opening panel focused on “African-Americans and Mental Health: Suffering in Silence.” The training featured five separate tracks (Care Giver, Clergy, General, Justice, and Youth) for participants to choose in the morning or afternoon breakout sessions. Dr. David R. Williams, (Florence and Laura Norman Professor of Public Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health & Professor of African and African American Studies and Sociology at Harvard University) was the keynote speaker addressing the “The Role of the African-American Church in Mental Health.” The closing session of the conference focused on “Moving to Action.”



Picture at left: Conference Keynote Speaker Dr. David Williams with psychology doctoral student, Katina Harris & Dean of the College, Dr. Tamara L. Brown

The Annual National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Week Conference

The Annual National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Week Conference was planned under the leadership of the White House Initiative on HBCUs with input from the President’s Board of Advisors on HBCUs and its conference sponsors. The conference provides a forum to exchange information and share innovations among and between institutions. Stakeholders, including federal agencies, private sector companies and philanthropic organizations, provide an overview of successful engagements that if replicated could improve instruction, degree completion and the understanding of federal policies that shape and support higher education.

This year, Dr. Camille Gibson, Professor in Justice Studies and Dr. Derek Wilson, Associate Professor in Psychology, attended the annual conference along with other colleagues from PVAMU from October 23-26, 2016 in Arlington, VA. Please see link about the proclamation and conference: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/10/21/presidential-proclamation-national-historically-black-colleges-and>

Educational Programs

Blackstone Pre-Law Society

Membership of this society has swelled to fifty-two (52) of the University's most outstanding students enrolled in various degree programs across the University campus. The organization's Executive Board includes Mr. Dalvin Dunn, President who is a senior from Texarkana, Texas majoring in Criminal Justice with a specialization in Juvenile Justice; Ms. Jasmine Harris, Vice-President a junior from Dallas, Texas majoring in Political Science; Ms. Rebekah Preston a junior who hails from Houston, Texas majoring in Accounting and the Treasurer; and Ms. Kimberly Kelly a sophomore from Houston, Texas majoring in Criminal Justice and serving in the capacity of Secretary.



The organization's primary objective is to increase the numbers of culturally responsible black and minority undergraduate students being accepted into law school programs by preparing them with the tools necessary to make Law school dreams a reality from the LSAT prep through the first year of success.

This academic year, the organization focused on providing networking opportunities with practicing attorneys, Law school visits, and LSAT preparation. To this end, Texas A&M University School of Law invited Blackstone members to College Station in September, 2016 to meet with practicing attorneys who graduated from their program. During the months of October and November of 2016, Blackstone members traveled to Houston, Texas and spent the morning auditing a Constitutional Law class at Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. Students toured the school's facility and attended a student panel of currently enrolled Law students as well as sessions with the Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services. Afterwards, members visited the South Texas College of Law in downtown Houston where they were greeted by the Dean of Admissions and their student ambassadors. Subsequently, in November twenty-eight (28) members of the organization boarded a charter bus at 6:30 AM for a three-day excursion from Prairie View A&M University to Baylor Law School in Waco, then to the Texas A&M School of Law in Fort Worth, Texas, and lastly, to the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. These visits proved to be significantly advantageous in helping members finalize their decisions about which school to attend.

While visiting Baylor Law School, the students not only attended class with enrolled Law students, but were required to participate. The members had an opportunity to experience Law school firsthand at Texas A&M School of Law. They were emailed a case that they were required to brief and prepare for oral recitation in a Torts class. The students were delighted with the Tort professor's genuine enthusiasm; thereby, creating excellent class participation and a remarkable display of their analytical skills. This was an "eye opening" experience and although Blackstone members recognize the vast difference between undergraduate school and Law School, they welcomed the challenge.

Through a successful collaboration between the College of Juvenile Justice, the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and the College of Arts and Sciences, the Blackstone Society has created and funded the Heman Sweatt LSAT Prep program, which will begin its first LSAT prep class January 21, 2017.

This program will provide LSAT prep classes bi-annually for eligible junior and seniors enrolled in degree programs across the University's campus. The organization continues to grow in membership and rich experiences.

Student Awards & Dissertation Defenses

Awards

Sarah Malone, criminal justice undergraduate, won first place in the social science category of the iRise Research Symposium for her poster, *The Impact of Gang Involvement on Female Adolescent Mental Health*.

Anna Scott, criminal justice undergraduate, won second place in the social science category of the iRise Research Symposium for her poster, *A Historical Review of the Response to Girls' Lawbreaking in the United States*.

Nyla Wofford, psychology undergraduate student, won second place in the 11th Annual Research Symposium for her poster, *Consequences of Holding an Implicit Association between Women and Birds*.

Nyla Wofford, psychology undergraduate, received the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students travel award to attend and present her poster, *The Vicarious Effects of Discrimination: How Partner Experiences of Discrimination Affect Individual Health*.

Ying Cao, received the ACJS Doctoral Student Summit Scholarship to attend the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences where she presented her poster, *Diversion of Juvenile Offenders: China and the United States*.



Dissertation Defenses

Karina Rodriguez (Fall, 2016). *Hagan's Power-Control Theory: An Exploratory Study Towards Explaining Gender Differences in Risk-Taking behavior among Gang Members*. Chair: Dr. Myrna Cintron

Chyna Crawford (Summer, 2016). *Media Representations of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: A Content Analysis*. Chairs: Dr. Kevin Buckler & Dr. Sessa Kethineni

Sharmaine Tapper (Summer, 2016). *The Impact of Individual, Social and contextual Factors on Desistance for Serious Youth Offenders in Two States*. Chair: Dr. Camille Gibson

New Hires



Ms. Valarie L. Ayers received her Associate of Applied Science degree in Business from Houston Community College. She currently works in the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center as an Administrative Associate II in the College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology building. In addition, she is actively pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in General Business at the University of Houston.



Dr. Angela Broadus joined the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M in April of 2016. She completed an M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno's Interdisciplinary Social Psychology Program, plus an M.A. in Clinical Psychology and a B.S. in Psychology from Sam Houston State University. Dr. Broadus brings seven years of experience teaching online and face-to-face classes in substance use disorders and child development at the University of Nevada, Reno; plus, extensive

experience as a professional community trainer in the field of substance abuse prevention and aging. In addition, Dr. Broadus has authored or co-authored nine technical reports, three encyclopedia entries, one book chapter, and five articles in peer-review journals. Professionally, Dr. Broadus has held multiple positions within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Institutional and Health Divisions, Oregon's Washington County Community Corrections Center, and California's Department of Corrections Research Division. Since her arrival, Dr. Broadus has developed seven, 2-hour substance prevention workshops, and has traveled extensively throughout the state to offer these workshops to those who work with or have adolescents. Her current research includes further development of her Public Attitudes about Addiction Scale (PAAS), an upcoming statewide assessment of juvenile prevention needs, and assessment of the new substance abuse prevention curriculum.



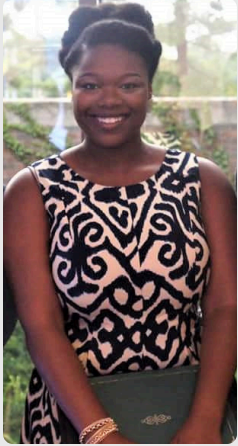
Dr. Logan A. Yelderman received his B.A. in Psychology and Communications Specialist from Baylor University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno. His research focuses on the intersection of psychology and law. Much of his work involves legal decision-making and its association with religion, mental health, attributions, and emotion. He has authored a book chapter on death qualification in Springer's *Advances in Psychology and Law* series and published articles in peer-reviewed

journals such as *Personality and Individual Differences*, *Psychiatry*, *Psychology and Law*, and *Psychology, Crime & Law*.

STUDENTS ON THE MOVE



Nyla Wofford



Junior Nyla Wofford is a native of Kansas City, Missouri, aspiring to become a Clinical Psychologist. As an undergraduate student, she has participated in multiple research studies and opportunities. Miss Wofford works throughout the academic year with Prairie View A&M University's Dr. Corey Columb in the "Bias and Attitudes Lab." She also participated in the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) at Michigan State University (MSU), where she was paired with Dr. William Chopik in his interpersonal relationships lab. Miss Wofford continues her participation with MSU through her current school year.

During her 10-week SROP experience at MSU, Miss Wofford conducted research using dyadic data analysis to analyze how partner experiences of discrimination affects an individual's health in marriages. There she also participated in professional workshops and meetings, which helped students to learn how to communicate findings to a diverse audience. During the program, students were given the necessary tools to succeed in further education, and received feedback on graduate school materials such as resumes and preparation pointers for the GRE. Nyla is planning to complete her undergraduate studies in December of 2017 and further her education as a graduate student.

"Outside of Academics, I learned that there are a lot of brilliant minds in many different areas of research as well as great people who am fortunate to have met and now know. We all challenge each other to continue achieving and support each other as well."

MATTHEW BOLTON

Senior Matthew Bolton was born in Longview, Texas and is majoring in Psychology. Mr. Bolton is focused on developing a career in clinical psychology with a future as a practicing clinician, while educating others and exploring research. He is currently working on his senior project "Investigating Imposter Syndrome," as well as leading the Psi Chi National Honor Society's research on Fatherless Daughters. Mr. Bolton recently participated in the 2016 Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) at Michigan State University (MSU). During the SROP-MSU, a group of diverse students from across the nation came together to participate in regular workshops, professional development training in career and graduate studies, and weekly presentations in research the students were conducting. During his experience this summer, Mr. Bolton participated in a research lab focused on "Testing Racial Bias in Police officers," where each week he was able to develop poster, PowerPoint and 'chalk talk' presentations with others in the program. He shared, "SROP was a far better experience than I expected it to be. The program was very well organized and I was able to have a lot of fun experiences with my cohort whom I grew to be very close with." Mr. Bolton expressed that he was very well prepared to take on his senior project as an outcome of his experience and time he spent at MSU.

"SROP exposed me to new environments and people broadening my perspective, and grew my confidence in my abilities to perform on a big stage." He is scheduled to graduate May 2017 and has applied to many doctoral programs that have sparked his interest.

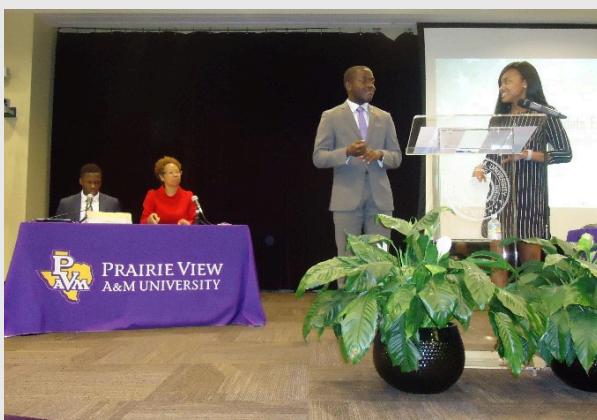


"SROP WAS A FAR BETTER EXPERIENCE THAN I EXPECTED IT TO BE. THE PROGRAM WAS VERY WELL ORGANIZED AND I WAS ABLE TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN EXPERIENCES WITH MY COHORT WHOM I GREW TO BE VERY CLOSE WITH."

Continuing Education & In-Service Training

Gavel Series

The Gavel Series continues to build a bridge between the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, Waller community and the University's campus. This initiative began in 2013 with the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center partnering with Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 of Waller County and the Waller County District Attorneys' office, and continues to strengthen its function and viability. In keeping with the campus and community's interest in the primary and general elections; the Gavel Series provided a free, unbiased platform for all candidates seeking public office. The first of three political forums was conducted on February 13th, 2016 with candidates running for offices in the City of Prairie View. A total of nine (9) candidates participated in this forum with eighty-five (85) individuals attending. The second political forum was attended by seventy-six (76) individuals including citizens from the community and our students. The forum featured ten (10) candidates who were campaigning for positions on city council, county commissioner, constable and sheriff. The third forum was jointly sponsored by the Gavel Series and its partners along with the Waller County Democratic Club, Waller County Republican Party, Waller County Republic Women and the Waller County Democratic Party. Every candidate appearing on the Waller County ballot was invited and fifteen (15) attended. The candidates running for U.S. Congress, Texas House of Representative, Texas Supreme Court, Texas Court of Appeals, Sheriff, County Commissioner, constable were among those participating. This bi-partisan event was well received by more than seventy-five (75) attendees. Two Hundred Sixty (260) individuals participated in these forums. These political forums were a first for Waller County and the Gavel Series will continue to support initiatives that advance justice and fairness throughout the community.



Members of the Blackstone Society

Continuing Education & In-Service Training

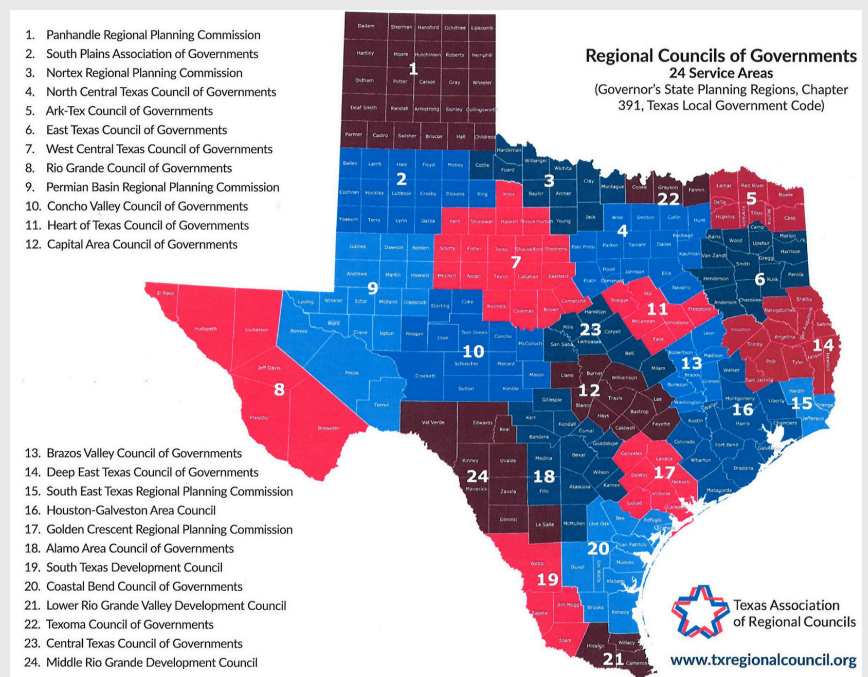
Building Prevention Programs to Reduce Juvenile Offending & Support Families

Study Team: **Shequita Royster** (psychology M.A. student), **Angela Broadus, Ph.D.** & **Susan Frazier-Kouassi, Ph.D.**

Using a two-study process, the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center is assessing state-wide training needs related to the reduction of juvenile crime. Per the state Regional Planning Act of 1965, Texas' 254 counties are organized into 24 voluntary associations of local governments (Regional Councils of Government or COGs) to more efficiently resolve area problems requiring attention (Texas State Historical Association, 2010). On a regular basis, county Criminal Justice Planning groups assess public needs related to juvenile justice, victim services, law enforcement, and mental health/substance abuse, using public surveys and focus groups with community stakeholders. The stakeholders primarily have included those who work with juveniles (e.g., probation officers, law enforcement, middle school and high school educators, Individual School District administrators, lawyers, judges, and administrators of local teen-oriented organizations). Using the collected information, planning directors within each COG formulate an aggregate "needs" report representing all counties within the COG and forward the information to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division where grant and other funding decisions follow. Our research builds upon and extend this valuable work completed by the Regional COGs.

In Phase I, juvenile priority needs data was collected from each of the 24 annual COG Criminal Justice Strategic Plans. Using a grounded approach, researchers coded these "needs" statements qualitative data into 14 overall themes (not rank in order): community-based programs, electronic crime Issues (Cyber-related), juvenile justice services, law enforcement & first responder issues, LGBT community needs, medical services, mental health, programs for parents & families, re-entry services, school-based services, sex offender issues, sex trafficking, substance use, misuse, and use disorders, and other. Researchers used frequency analysis to highlight specific needs (e.g., needs related to Theme #13, Substance Use, Misuse, and Use Disorders) to inform curriculum development for community workshops.

In Phase II, community-level data will be collected through focus groups and surveys of parents with teenagers still living in the home. Recruitment efforts will be directed toward a purposeful selection of nine Regional Councils of Government areas that encompass 94 Texas counties representing all demographic areas of the state. Data then will be analyzed to determine the top training priorities across the state. A comparison analysis also will be made to examine how closely needs expressed by parents of adolescents match those expressed by stakeholders in Study 1.



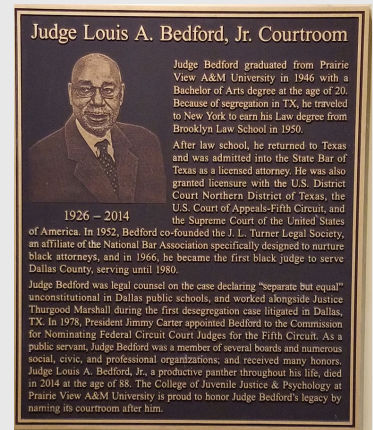
Continuing Education & In-Service Training

2016 Annual Royce West Forum & Lecture Series: “Criminal Justice at the Crossroads: Where Do We Go From Here”

Criminal justice cannot work in a silo to effectively address the contemporary issues of the day. We need collaboration across disciplines including psychology, criminal justice, public health, social work, medicine, and others to create new, innovative, proactive, and evidence-based solutions. In his recent book, *Criminal Justice at the Crossroads: Transforming Crime and Punishment*, Dr. William R. Kelly at the University of Texas-Austin argues that this moment is an opportunity for truly transformative change.

On April 1, 2016, the College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology in collaboration with the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center hosted the 9th Annual Royce West Forum and Lecture Series. In alignment with the theme of the day, “Criminal Justice at the Crossroads: Where Do We Go From Here,” we were pleased to hear from two outstanding experts in the field – **Professor Alejandro (Alex) del Carmen** and **Commander (Duane) Philip Steen**. Additionally, remarks were provided by the **Honorable Royce West** and the **Dr. George C. Wright**, President of PVAMU. Following the program, a special dedication was held, unveiling a beautiful bronze plaque honoring the late Judge Louis A. Bedford and naming the courtroom located on the 4th floor of the Don K. Clark Building appropriately the “Judge Louis A. Bedford, Jr. Courtroom.”

Dr. del Carmen received his Ph.D. in Criminology from the College of Criminology at the Florida State University. He is considered an authority on the topic of race and crime with particular emphasis on racial profiling in law enforcement. Dr. del Carmen has written numerous articles in internationally recognized journals and published several books. Among these is the nationally recognized book titled “Racial Profiling in America,” which he published with Prentice Hall. Dr. del Carmen has presented his research findings throughout the world (Scotland, Belgium, Slovenia, Spain, United Arab Emirates, and Italy). Dr. del Carmen is currently Professor and Executive Director of the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Strategic Studies at Tarleton State University. He also serves as a Federal Monitor for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. In this role, he monitors, on behalf of the U.S. Courts, the New Orleans Police Department.



Mr. Steen earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Texas A&M University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Mr. Steen started with the Department of Public Safety in 1981. After graduating from recruit training, he began his first assignment in Denton as a Highway Patrol Trooper. In June 1984, he was promoted to Narcotics Sergeant/Investigator in Austin. He then was promoted to Narcotics Lieutenant, Waco, in October of 1992; Narcotics Captain, Garland and Austin, in November of 1995; and, Narcotics Assistant Commander, San Antonio and Austin, in September of 2003. In October of 2009, Steen was promoted to Major, Criminal Investigations Division, in Austin and was promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, CID, in February of 2010. On September 12, 2011, Steen promoted to Region 2 Commander (Houston).

Picture top right of page: Bronze plaque in honor of Judge Louis A. Bedford, Jr.
Picture on left: Commander Steer & Dr. del Carmen

Continuing Education & In-Service Training

2016 Fall Royce West Forum & Lecture Series: “The Elephant in the Room: Suicide among Youth in Minority Communities”

The topic for the Fall 2016 Royce West Forum & Lecture Series, “*The Elephant in the Room: Suicide among Youth in Minority Communities*” addressed a serious public health problem that affects all ages, including our young people. Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 and 24, with rates nearly twice as high for young adults in rural communities than in urban areas. Suicide is a topic often considered taboo, one which families and communities are reluctant to admit or discuss; thus, becoming the “elephant in the room.” Suicide is a serious and at the same time complex issue affecting our youth with gender, race, place, and other contextual factors to consider. At the forum on October 21, 2016, we heard from three distinguished speakers who shared their research, expertise, and experience on this topic.

The first speaker, **Dr. Sean Joe**, is the Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University. Dr. Joe’s presentation “*Unfinished Business: Making Sense of Historical Trauma, Policing, & Black Suicidal Behaviors*” reflected his research that focuses on Black adolescents’ development and mental health. Translating his research into action, Dr. Joe is working to prevent self-destructive behaviors in young black males through father-focused, family-based interventions.

Dr. Rheeda Walker, is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Houston and a licensed clinical psychologist whose research focuses on two understudied areas – suicide and African-American adult mental health. In her presentation on “*Why We Need More Research on African American Youth Suicide*” Dr. Walker’s goal is to dispel the long-standing myth that African Americans don’t commit suicide and broaden the picture of depression specifically to show what depression looks like in African-American culture.

Ms. Toniya Parker is the Acting Suicide Prevention Officer at the Department of State Health Services in Texas. Providing a local perspective, Ms. Parker’s presentation on “*Deep in the Heart of Texas: An Overview of Suicide and Injury Prevention*” drew upon the wealth of experience she has in program interventions focused on the issue of suicide statewide.

Representing the Honorable Royce West at this forum was **Ms. La Juana Barton**, his Chief of Staff, who presented the Senator’s greeting via video as well as comments on the topic. **Dr. Pamela Martin**, Associate Dean of the College, provided closing remarks.



Dr. Rheeda Walker



Ms. Toniya Parker



Dr. Sean Joe

Continuing Education & In-Service Training

12th Annual Strengthening Youth and Families Conference

The 12th Annual Strengthening Youth & Families Conference moved to Arlington, Texas this year, and featured prominent subject matter experts on topics related to strengthening our most at-risk youth and supporting their families. The conference officially kicked-off on Tuesday, November 8th with pre-conference seminars that began on Monday, November 7th. This interagency-sponsored conference offers workshops related to the promotion of positive youth development and the prevention, intervention, and treatment of high-risk behaviors in youth. Workshops are geared to a multi-disciplinary audience of youth-serving professionals, volunteers, and family members. The conference was sponsored by a number of state agencies and institutions including Prairie View A&M University Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas System of Care, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, Texas School Safety Center, Pegasus Schools, Inc., among others. Event participants included probation and parole officers, child protective workers, correctional officers and caseworkers, juvenile justice professionals, teachers and school safety officers, mental health providers, substance abuse treatment providers, community volunteers working with youth and families, family members of system-involved youth, and many other community stakeholders.

Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center Brown Bag Series

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center in collaboration with the College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology organized the 2nd Annual Brown Bag series for the 2016 academic year with presentations from doctoral students and faculty in a supportive environment of intellectual exchange every month. This year's presentations thus far include research in progress from both departments (Juvenile Justice and Psychology) featuring the following topics and presenters: "*Evaluation research: Faith-based mental health programming*" (Dr. Camille Gibson, justice studies associate professor), "*The impact of racism, discrimination and racial socialization on African American offending*" (Dr. Robin Jackson, justice studies assistant professor), "*Integrated theory and the path less traveled: Recognizing the applicability of an integrated criminological theory for examining violent victimization*" (Dr. Jonathan A. Grubb, justice studies assistant professor), "*The Obama effect six years later: The effect of exposure to Obama on implicit anti-Black bias and implicit racial stereotyping*" (Dr. Corey Columb, psychology assistant professor); and "*How Bitcoin is used in Dark Net—Examining facilitative factors on Bitcoin-related crimes*" (Ying Cao, justice studies doctoral student).

7th Annual Drug Symposium: Building Awareness of Substance Use, Misuse and Dependence among Teens

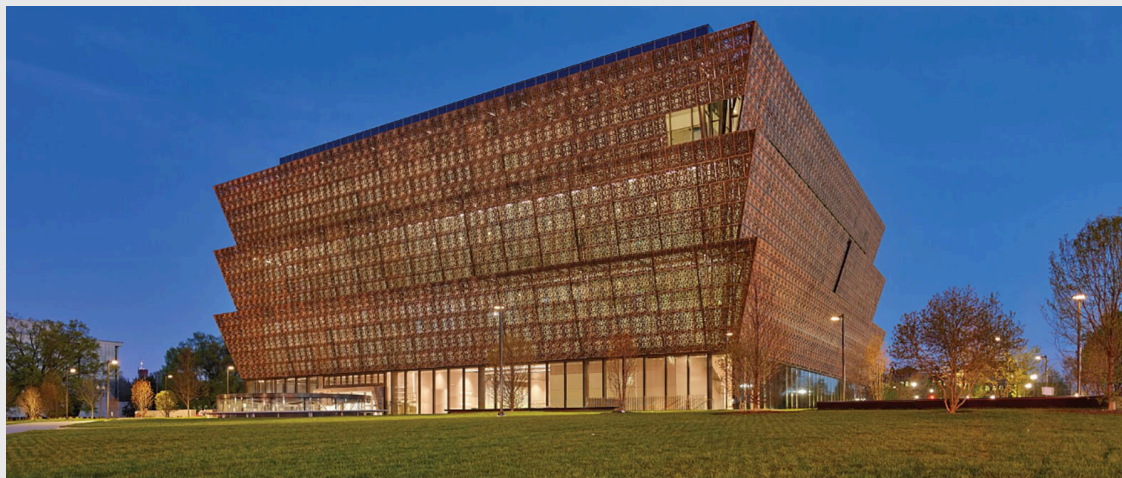
The 7th Annual Drug Symposium is an event jointly sponsored by PVAMU Health Services, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration-Houston, The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, University Police Department, and the Office of Disability Services at Prairie View A&M University. This year's symposium featured the Prairie View A&M University Speech and Debate Team in "*Let's Talk About It... The Marijuana Debate.*" The case for and against legalizing marijuana was made before an audience of more than one hundred sixty-five (165) students, administrators, faculty and community members. The PVAMU Speech and Debate team dealt with the monetary and educational benefits, along with the reduction in spending on law enforcement, impact on health, violence and taxes issues all resulting from the legalization of marijuana.

Continuing Education & In-Service Training

Washington, D.C. Opening of the African American Museum

Several faculty (including Dr. **Robin Jackson**, assistant professor of justice studies), administrators, and students (including COJJP undergraduates **Nyla Wofford** and **Matthew Bolton**) from PVAMU had the opportunity to travel to and attend the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. National Mall is one of the most paramount archives that dwells in the United States of America. Individuals from all over the country and world travel to Washington D.C. to see the history of the United States and how far this country has come. However, there was always something missing, a crucial part of history that was waiting for its story to be told. The opening of the African American Museum means that the stories of our ancestors who built this country are finally being recognized. As the opening remarks began, one could feel a sense of relief and unity with those in the audience. Thousands stood in fields all around the National Mall to witness what some thought would never happen. Presenters told stories of those featured in the museums, and some told stories of elderly African Americans weeping at the sight of the museum. Weeping not from pain or sorrow but because they lived long enough to witness the United States finally appreciate African Americans' history of sacrifice, persistence, hope and resilience.

Presenters such as Oprah Winfrey, Will Smith, Angela Bassett, and Robert Di Niro, poetically and powerfully recited speeches and statements given by some of the most influential people in African American history. Former President and First Lady George W. Bush spoke about their initiatives to make sure the museum would become a reality and how happy and excited they were to witness the production from start to finish. After selections by two phenomenal and monumental artists, Patti Labelle, and Stevie Wonder, President Barack Obama took to the podium amidst an abundance of admiration and applause. President Obama stood tall and delivered a speech that spoke to the nation about what it is to be an American and why the racial division that is currently occurring is eroding all of the country's work. The President's speech was powerful and touched many in the audience causing many emotions such as sadness, happiness and eventually hope to arise. As President and First Lady Obama along with Ruth Bonner (daughter of a man born a slave in Mississippi) rang the Freedom Bell, African Americans around the nation knew that their stories, history, and culture would finally be preserved and open for the world to see.



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