



PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY

Annual Report

*Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center
College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology*

2018



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Message from the Interim Dean and Executive Director

Dr. Camille Gibson

Dear Friends of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center,

Another busy year has gone by rather quickly. The Center has responded to a number of the pertinent issues of the day by being engaged and disseminating knowledge both statewide and nationwide. This has included continuing our parent engagement training to assist families to increase their effectiveness with their children's development and outcomes. We also have done a number of trainings on addressing drug and alcohol dependence in youth. We hosted another phenomenal Royce West Forum in the spring semester on police and youth interactions focusing on trust and police legitimacy. There were also discussions of the development of laws in Texas given the tragic death of Sandra Bland in 2015. The laws have addressed the response to persons arrested with mental health risks and the Community Safety Act, which requires that teens, new drivers and police officers be specifically taught on police and citizen interactions. The Center has since produced public service announcement videos on this subject.

In May, we hosted the Texas Truancy and Dropout Prevention Conference on the campus and we continued to co-sponsor the annual Strengthening Youth and Families Conference held in Galveston in November. Also, in November we hosted an HBO pre-screening of the documentary *Say Her Name: The Life and Death of Sandra Bland*. Toward expanding the Center's reach and impact, the Center hired Research Scientist, Terrence Allen, whose background is in Social Work and Administrative Associate, Erinette Watson. To the College faculty ranks, we added in Justice Studies Abdullah Cihan, Kimberly Chism, Nabil Ouassini, Karina Rodriguez, Mathai Mathew and in Psychology, Marvin Johnson, and Melany McShan.

In terms of our goal to impact the area of juvenile justice, I completed an elected three-year term on the National Board of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in February and concurrently, the regional board of the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice. I also served on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Field of Study Committee for Criminal Justice. I received two

mini grants, one for \$20,000 from the University to examine the impact of social media on the lives of adolescents. Sherri

Simmons Horton and Melanie Prudhomme, Juvenile Justice doctoral students, joined me in this effort. As an example of our students' engagement and impact, Melanie Prudhomme also has a mini grant to work with Big Brothers and Big Sisters to study the effectiveness of a truancy prevention initiative and Sherri Simmons-Horton has been serving on a statewide adoption promotion Committee and the Harris County Dual Status Youth Committee. The Office of Research and Graduate Studies sponsors a Summer Research Mini-Grant Program each year. This program provides seed grants for faculty to collect preliminary data as they prepare to submit competitive proposals to external funding agencies. In 2018, two faculty members in Psychology, Logan Yelderman and Roslyn Caldwell also won these awards. Beyond these, our students have won awards at various competitions this year.

This fall has been a turning point for us as I stepped into the roles of Executive Director of the Center and the Interim Dean of the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology on September 1. With the Center staff, we developed a strategic plan that includes increasing our research output, forming more collaborations and partnerships, engaging the students in more community outreach efforts and growing our service delivery to each county in Texas with delinquency prevention initiatives. This is with particular focus on Hispanic and African-American male youth disparities on specific positive indicators of success. The desired effectiveness of these efforts will largely depend on a restoration of access to specific state funds, which we expect. We are also in the process of reconstituting our advisory board. We intend to be more deliberate in documenting our impact on delinquency prevention as we move forward, focused on Texas' future.



Mission

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology are committed to the reduction 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 degree programs at Prairie View A&M University 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; and
- 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, or technical assistance programs to assist communities, governmental agencies, or private entities to implement programs, policies, and strategies that address juvenile delinquency and crime and related social problems.

Research

Grant and Contract Funded Research

This year three faculty members from the College received summer research mini-grant awards of \$20,000 each from the PVAMU Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs. This program provides seed grants for faculty to collect preliminary data in preparation for submitting competitive proposals to external funding agencies. Dr. Roslyn Caldwell's project, The Bakari Mentoring Program/Project: A Prevention and Intervention Program for At-Risk Adolescents, Dr. Logan Yelderman's project on Religious Institutions and Reentry and Dr. Camille Gibson's project on Youth Devotion to Technological Socializing: The Impact on Bonds, Learning and Behavior were among those selected.

Further, juvenile justice doctoral student Melanie Prudhomme is doing a grant-supported internship with Big Brothers Big Sisters in Houston for 2018 to 2019 examining the effectiveness of a truancy prevention initiative. Dr. Camille Gibson in collaboration with faculty in engineering and Texas A&M University at Commerce are investigators on a mini grant project funded by the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station on cybersecurity curriculum development with implications for education.

Research Conferences/Symposia

“Engaging in Research – Expanding Our Opportunities” 13th Annual Research Symposium

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center (TxJPC) hosted its 13th Annual Research Symposium featuring undergraduate and graduate students from every school and college at PVAMU. In partnership with the Undergraduate Research Program (Office of Research, Innovation, and Sponsored Programs), more than 100 students participated in this year's event. In addition to PVAMU students, undergraduate and/or graduate students from Blinn College and Texas Southern University also participated. The Symposium kicked off with a keynote panel consisting of Dr. Karl Baughman, Dr. Stephanie Burrs, and Ms. Katina Harris all at different stages of their research journey. Dr. Peter Ampim, a seasoned researcher, moderated the panel. A welcome and introduction was provided by the Dean of the College of Juvenile Justice & Executive Director of the TxJPC, Dr. Tamara Brown, who highlighted the benefits of research as a high-impact experience in a student's academic career. She proposed that the Research Symposium is fertile ground for a cross-pollination of ideas amongst people in different majors, institutions and faculty advisors. A total of 51 posters and 54 papers were presented during the day representing the disciplines from agriculture to the administration of justice. Awards were given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the paper and poster competition.

Texas Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention Spring Conference

The Texas Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention (TATDP) and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M University hosted the spring conference May 17-18, 2018 with over 130 participants. This was the first time TATDP met on a college campus! Susan Holloway, TATDP President and Coordinator of Student Outreach and Intervention Services with Pearland ISD gave the opening remarks followed by Dr. Tamara L. Brown, PVAMU Dean of the College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology and Executive Director, Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, who gave the group a warm welcome.

Ronny Cabrera was the opening Keynote Speaker and spoke about going “beyond expectations.” Mr. Cabrera’s passion for the education of students is truly evident in his presentation as he provided insights on what it takes to go beyond challenges in an ever-changing world. He focused on the importance of designing a life based on solid principles in order to build resiliency in our daily lives.

Back by popular demand, the closing Keynote Speaker was Pearland ISD Mentor/GRIT Specialist, Mandy Benedix, who presented on the Power of IN-tention. Mrs. Benedix believes we should Focus IN on solutions, see past what others choose not to see, and look past circumstances to really see the kids. She closed by speaking about the power of relationships and empower and believing in those around us, especially our students. We make a difference!

Other speakers contributing their time and passion:

- Parents: Have You Had “The Talk?”- Dr. Camille Gibson and Dr. Myrna Cintron, PVAMU
- Science of Addiction in Teens- Dr. Angela Broadus, PVAMU
- Attendance Accounting Program: Addressing Truancy- Jose A. Almazan Director and Jesse Perusquia Jr. Facilitator, United ISD Laredo
- Doing More with Less: Innovative Strategies to Prevent Dropouts and Increase Attendance- Dr. Keith Brooks, Executive Director, Manor ISD and Erica D. Rouse, National Sales Manager, School Innovations & Achievement (SIA)
- Gang Awareness- Tino Chapa, Gang Intervention Specialist, City of Houston Mayor’s Anti-Gang Office-
- Helping Homeless Students Succeed- Tim Stahlke, Coordinator Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO)
- Texas ChalleNge Academy- SSG Eliu Rojas (Ret) U.S. Paratrooper Information Specialist
- Unbound Human Trafficking Program- Christa Mayfield, Asst. Executive Director

TATDP Officers participating in the event were Robert Montgomery, Vice President McKinney ISD, Eleanor Thompson, Secretary, Travis County Court, Xavier Warren, Treasurer Carrollton Farmers Branch ISD, Isaac Smith, Parliamentarian Ft. Worth ISD, Sonja Harrison, Senior Officer McKinney ISD, and Johnny Barrington, Past President HEB ISD. Grady M. Paris, J.D., Associate Director and Susan Frazier-Kouassi, Ph.D., Director, Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center PVAMU coordinated the event. TATDP wishes to thank these two women for a phenomenal job and to PVAMU for hosting this event and for their contribution to TATDPs’ success!

108th Annual International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention Conference

The International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention (IATDP) is an association of educators, government officials and stakeholders whose history of truancy and dropout prevention efforts date back to 1911. The organization strives to create partnerships that facilitate the dissemination of information, emerging practices and research designed to support learning and increase high school graduation rates. The goal is to improve the efforts of practitioners to reduce the number of students that elect to drop out of school by sharing common experiences and intervention strategies.

This year's annual conference was held in Dallas, Texas with more than 250 attendees and presenters from all of the United States, Canada, and Nigeria. Among those presenters sharing intervention strategies and emerging practices was Grady M. Paris, J.D., Associate Director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center along with Judge Yvonne Williams, Justice of the Peace, Precinct One Travis County, her Juvenile Case Manager, Valerie Fruge and the Senior Planner from her Court, Eleanor Thompson. This presentation entitled, "Collaborating with a Purpose: Effective Truancy Reduction" explored the strategies they have employed for the effective six (6) year collaboration they have had between the community in Travis County, key Juvenile Justice stakeholders, the court, law enforcement and the school districts. The presentation provided the audience with an in-depth understanding of causation along with discussing promising practices that "fit" locally for effective truancy program implementation.

14th Annual Strengthening Youth and Families Conference

The 14th Annual Strengthening Youth and Families Conference went to the beach from November 6-8 to enjoy the beautiful San Luis Resort, Spa and Conference Center in Galveston, Texas. The conference featured prominent subject matter experts on topics related to strengthening our most at-risk youth and supporting their families. The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center is one of the supporting agencies for the conference, which offered workshops related to the promotion of positive youth development and the prevention, intervention, and treatment of high-risk behaviors in youth. The conference is geared to a multi-disciplinary audience of youth-serving professionals, volunteers, and families. Participants from across the State of Texas included a broad spectrum of professionals including but not limited to probation and parole officers, child protective workers, correctional officers and caseworkers, juvenile justice professionals, and teachers and school safety officers.

Research Projects

Building Prevention Programs to Reduce Juvenile Offending and Support Families: Update

This year, the Texas Statewide Juvenile Needs Assessment Report was completed based on the data collected with Building Prevention Programs to Reduce Juvenile Offending and Support Families survey. This information extends the Regional Council of Governments' (COG) valuable work from a regional to a statewide representation of adult Texas residents with adolescents (age 12-17) living within their homes. Data were collected from this representative sample on general beliefs about adolescents, crime within their communities, causes of delinquency, barriers to crime-free adolescence, and suggestions to reduce crime. Participants also described their child-rearing values, parent/guardian moral and legal accountability for teen offending, and the influence that specific institutions hold in reducing and/or preventing juvenile delinquency. Finally, these parents/guardians rated their accessibility to mental health and substance abuse treatment. Copies of the report are downloadable on the PVAMU website or by request; contact Ms. Erinette Watson at erwatson@pvamu.edu or (936) 251-5212.

African-American Faith-Based Mental Health Education and Awareness Initiative (funded by The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health)

A recent Gallop Poll confirmed that belief in a Higher Power is important to many populations throughout the United States (Gallup, 2011). For example, 53% of African American adults identify themselves as very religious while 67% of African-American adolescents indicate that religion is very important in their lives (Gallup, 2011). Similarly, research from the Pew Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project reported that religion is more important to African-Americans compared to the whole U.S. population. For example, almost eight out of ten African-Americans (79%) stated religion is very important in their lives compared to 56% of all other U.S. adults (Pew Research Center, 2009). Moreover, a significant percentage of African-Americans (72%) who indicate that they have no affiliations with any particular faith community still claim that religion plays at least a somewhat important role in their lives (Pew Research Center, 2009). Furthermore, research literature has identified some specific mental health outcomes affected directly by religiosity. Thus, the most recent scholarship indicates that African Americans who engage in religious practices are more likely to have healthy



outcomes such as positive interpersonal relationships and coping strategies (Butler-Barnes, Martin, & Boyd, 2016; Mattis 2000; Taylor, Levin, & Chatters 2004); and, previous studies which informed those scholars' research also emphasized religion's important role in promoting positive mental health outcomes especially for children of color, boys in particular (Butler-Barnes, Martin, Hope, Linder & Scott, 2018). Given these findings about the importance of religion to African-Americans, some community-based organizations (CBOs) have begun to collaborate with African-American faith-based organizations.

In 2014, the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health selected ten (10) African-American faith based organizations in Texas to promote mental health awareness, wellness and recovery over a three-year period. The Hogg Foundation promoted three initiatives under its African-American Faith-Based Mental Health Education and Awareness Initiative: (1) to educate African American faith communities about mental health, wellness and recovery; (2) to build on the unique strengths of African-American churches as well as other faith and community-based organizations to identify local behavioral, treatment, and support resources; and, (3) to support faith leaders in addressing their own mental wellness. This initiative, initially garnered and conducted by Principal Investigator Camille Gibson of the Justice Studies Department had Pamela Martin, Tamara Brown, Derek Wilson and Aisha Asby as project consultants in Year 1. Years 2 and 3 of the project were led by Tamara Brown and Pamela Martin of the Psychology Department with graduate students assisting with data collection, data management, tables and charts: Leslie Encarnación, Katina Harris, Ariel McField, Shauna Richards, Richard Rooks, Salim Salim, and Jerron Wray.

Major Findings

All ten (10) grantees successfully implemented unique, creative programming about mental illness, recovery and wellness that was consistent with the needs of their congregants and local communities. Participants in Faith-Based Initiative programming identified approximately 260 different zip codes, locating the breadth of programming in the Greater Dallas, Houston, and Taylor, Texas areas.

- Participants completed 996 Faith-Based Initiative surveys. Results revealed:
 - Nearly half of event participants (44%) agreed that they would get professional help if they were worried or upset for a long period of time.
 - Sixty percent of event participants disagreed or strongly disagreed that the best way for them to solve their emotional problems is through prayer and talking with their pastor.
 - Sixty-two percent of participants would get professional help if upset for a long time.
 - Most participants would recommend mental health services to others but were reticent to utilize professional services for themselves.
- The grantees reported having made more than 120 partnerships over the 3-year grant period, including their collaborations with local police departments in Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, and Pflugerville.
- Culturally appropriate African-American practices, behaviors, and customs such as health fairs or meal-centered events facilitated congregants' and community members' willingness to learn about mental illness, recovery and wellness.
- Grantees used technology and media to promote mental health awareness and advertise their educational programming.
- Several grantees adopted Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), an international training curriculum that teaches community members about the signs of mental illness and substance abuse and how to effectively respond. Although the MHFA training modules were not purposefully designed for African-Americans, the grantees culturally-adapted the activities based on the needs of their congregations.

- The Peeling Back the Layers Conference in Dallas and Houston sponsored by grantees represented a significant achievement of the Faith-Based Initiative.
- In Year 2 and Year 3, grantees participated in local and state conferences to disseminate best practices and findings of the Initiative.
- Qualitative findings suggested pastors' spouses need support groups to manage demands of church leadership. Pastors' spouses said they were often ill-prepared for the challenges associated with ministry-related stressors. They need support mechanisms to maintain mental health and well-being.
- Qualitative findings also emphasized the need for pastors' self-care and the importance of having designated sabbaticals from the church to renew, rejuvenate, and relax. Moreover, while participating pastors understood the need to maintain their mental health, fewer than half of the pastors routinely took sabbaticals or practiced self-care.
- Efforts beyond traditional clinical settings are necessary to promote positive health outcomes.

Conclusions

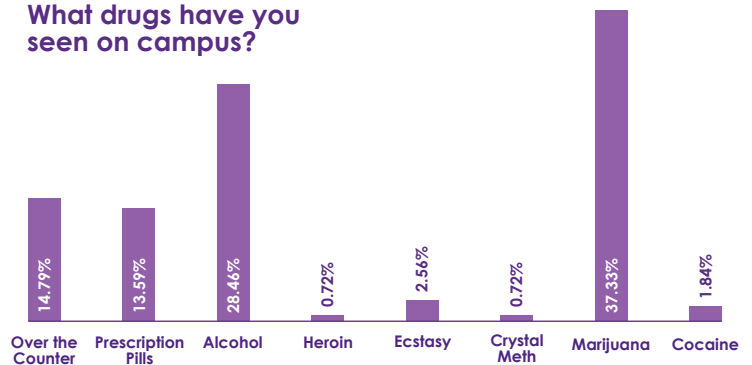
African-American churches have always provided their communities a variety of resources including social support. Recently, many African-American churches have begun to address mental health as a component of overall positive wellbeing. The African-American Faith Based Mental Health Education and Awareness Initiative engaged ten churches that decided to promote positive mental health messages through education, dialogue and awareness. Several important successes need to be shared with other faith communities, especially congregations interested in implementing faith-based, mental health education and awareness. These successes include:

1. Findings suggest that faith-based programs assist with dismantling inaccurate narratives and/or initial apprehensions, which may emerge when addressing the topic of mental health. For example, many grantees focused on dispelling prevalent myths in some African American churches such as “one only needs to take it up with the Lord to fix him/her,” “devil’s ploy to enter your mind and your Spirit” and “you are weak in your faith because of your mental health issue.”
2. Pastoral self-care is an important aspect of pastors’ overall psychological well-being. Pastors participating in this initiative discussed the significance of mental health as one way to avoid stress and burnout within their ministries, i.e. pastors (and their spouses) need to have work-life balance.
3. By incorporating culturally appropriate practices, behaviors, and customs such as health fairs and meal-centered events congregants and other community members generally had indicated a warm and welcoming response in learning about mental illness, recovery and wellness in African American communities.
4. Each grantee accessed local behavioral health resources to identify strategies and implement programming that could meet the mental health needs of African-Americans. Grantees were able to partner with mental health organizations, school districts, colleges, universities, barbershops, other faith communities, and professionals such as healthcare providers, psychologists, etc.
5. Several grantees offered programming across the developmental lifespan. Although the majority of the participants were over forty, several grantees offered programming efforts targeting adolescents and young adults. These programs attempted to inform parents, adolescents, and other adults with significant influence over youth about strategies that help adolescents dealing with emotional distress from social media bullying, for example. Programs targeting post-adolescents, i.e. young adults, emphasized important life transitions such as romantic relationships, employment, and life after college.
6. Grantees learned that unexpected life events such as the July 2016 shooting deaths of police officers at El Centro College in downtown Dallas and Hurricane Harvey can prompt diverse responses to emotional stressors like community-police relations or the occurrence of a natural disaster.

2018 Drug Symposium

On March 6, 2018, the Prairie View A&M University's Panthers Promoting Healthy Decisions (Panther PhD's) and the Prairie View A&M Health Services in partnership with the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and others presented the 8th Annual Drug Symposium "Culture vs. Future". The Drug Symposium was held in the Don K. Clark auditorium. The symposium included interview videos, a Drug Enforcement Agent (DEA) representative who provided the audience with a better perception on the opioid crisis from a legal aspect, and testimonies from two students and one of the student counselors at the University. The symposium aimed to raise awareness and spark open conversation about drugs that are commonly used in today's culture; but most importantly to shed light on the opioid crisis that the United States is currently facing. Prior to the symposium, the Prairie View Health Services Department and The Panther PHD's created an 8-question pre-survey to gain insight of their potential audience for their upcoming annual drug symposium. One of the questions asked students to identify what type(s) of drugs they have seen at Prairie Views' campus.

What drugs have you seen on campus?



Publications

Boxley, B. (2018). *Diversity in mental health treatment: Section 10 student blog post [Blog post]*. Retrieved from <https://www.div12.org/diversity-in-mental-health-treatment-section-10-blog/>

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Butler-Barnes, S.T., **Martin, P. P.**, Hope, E., Copeland-Linder, N., & Lawrence, M. (2018). *Racial stigma and psychological well-being among African American girls*. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 57(4):1-16 DOI: 10.1007/s10943-018-0644-9.

Chism, K. A. & Steinmetz, K. F. (2018). *Strain theory and technocrime*. In K. F. Steinmetz & M. R. Nobles (Eds.) *Technocrime and criminological theory* (pp. 66-84). New York, NY: Routledge.

Dawkins, M. & **Gibson, C.** (2018). *The Japanese Juvenile Justice System*. In Jianhong Liu and Setsuo Miyazawa (Eds.), *Crime and Justice in Contemporary Japan* (pp. 321-332). Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

Gibson, C. & Grant, L. (2018). *Recent homicide trends in Jamaica*. *Crime and Violence in the Caribbean: Lessons from Jamaica* (pp. 59-76). Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Gibson, C. (2018). *Surveillance in Houston, Texas*. In Bruce Arrigo (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Surveillance, Security, and Privacy*, p. 480-481. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Gibson, C. (2018). *Youth detention centers/facilities*. In Bruce Arrigo (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Surveillance, Security, and Privacy*, p. 1138. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

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Gibson, C. (2018). *Management musings on evil: Who should not be in charge*. *Texas Probation Journal*, 6(1) 22-23.

Gibson, C. (2018). *Prisons as schools for crime*. In Vidisha Worley and Robert Worley {Eds.}, *American Prisons and Jails: An Encyclopedia of Controversies and Trends in American Prisons*. Goleta, CA: ABC-CLIO.

Morris-Francis, S. V., **Gibson, C.A.** & Grant, L.A. (Eds.) (2018). *Crime and Violence in the Caribbean: Lessons from Jamaica*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Ossorio, D. (2018). *Federal programs and current funding – Title IV-B and Title IV-E- A methodological synthesis of research*. *Global Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 2(1).

Rembert, D. A., Henderson, H., Threadcraft-Walker, W., & **Simmons-Horton, S.** (2018). *Predicting staff assault in juvenile correctional facilities*. *Corrections: Policy, Practice and Research*, 3(3), 170–185.

Rembert, D., Threadcraft-Walker, W., Henderson, H., & **Jackson, R.D.** (2018). *Predicting youth assault and institutional danger in juvenile correctional facilities*. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 58, 47–55.

Threadcraft-Walker, W., Threadcraft, M. M., Henderson, H., & **Rembert, D.** (2018). *Gender, race/ethnicity and prediction: Risk in behavioral assessment*. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 54, 12–19.

West, M. P., **Yelderman, L. A.,** & Miller, M. K. (2018). *Gender differences in the evaluation of aggravating and mitigating circumstances: The mediating role of attributional complexity*. *Psychology, Crime, and Law*, 24(8), 761–789. doi: 10.1080/1068316X.2018.1438432

Yelderman, L. A., West, M. P., & Miller, M. K. (2018). *Death penalty decision-making: Fundamental beliefs and the evaluation of aggravating and mitigating circumstances*. *Legal and Criminological Psychology*. doi: 10.1111/lcrp.12141

Yelderman, L. A., West, M. P., & Miller, M. K. (2018). *Religious beliefs, religious contexts, and perceived interactions with ex-offenders*. *Review of Religious Research*, 60(3), 305–329. doi: 10.1007/s13644-018-0331-z

Yelderman, L. A., Miller, M. K., Forsythe, S., & Sicafuse, L. (2018). *Understanding crime control theater: Do sample type, gender, and emotions relate to support for crime control theater policies?* *Criminal Justice Review*, 43(2), 147–173. doi: 10.1177/0734016817710695

Yelderman, L. A., Miller, M. K., & DeVault, A. (2018). *Led by the spirit: Integrating social science and law to better understand the impact of jurors' religious beliefs*. *Faulkner Law Review*, 9, 227–249.

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Reports

Broadus, A.D., Royster, S., & Frazier-Kouassi, S.C. (2018). *Texas Statewide Juvenile Needs Assessment. Initial Report*. Prairie View, TX: Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, Prairie View A&M University.

Martin, P. P., Brown, T. L., & Harris, K. D. (2018). *Evaluation of the African American Faith-Based Mental Health Education and Awareness Initiative: Third-Year Report*. Prairie View, TX: Prairie View A&M University, College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology.

Martin, P. P., Harris, K. D., & Brown, T. L., McField, A., Wray, J., Salim, S., Stearnes, M. & Gibson, C. (2018). *Evaluation of the African-American Faith-Based Mental Health Education and Awareness Initiative: Final Report*. Prairie View, TX: Prairie View A&M University College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology.

Presentations

Akbar, N., Kambon, K., Myers, L.M., Rowe, T.D., Ojelade, I., & **Wilson, D.** (2018, July). *Mbongi Session #1: From theory to therapy: The emergence of Black Psychology*. Presented at The Association of Black Psychologists' 50th Annual International Convention, Oakland, CA.

Allen, L. & Columb, C. (2018, April). *Can't we all just get along: Predictors of intraminority intergroup support*. Oral presentation at the 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Anthony, J. & Martin, P. (2018 April). *From Jigga to Mr. Carter: The evolution of the hard knock life*. Poster Presentation at the 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Banks, A. & Caldwell, R. (2018, April). *An examination of parental knowledge and violence exposure among adolescents: Perception or reality?* Symposium paper presentation at 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

- Banks, A., Hernandez, J., Harris, K., & Caldwell, R.** (2018, April). *Witnessing domestic violence in childhood and anger expression in adulthood*. Poster paper presented at Southwest Psychological Association (SWPA). Houston, TX.
- Bonner, J., Doral, D., Johnson, R., & **Wilson, D.** (2018, July). *Perception of racism and its effect on academic stress*. Presented at The Association of Black Psychologists' 50th Annual International Convention, Oakland, CA.
- Boxley, B** (2018, November). *Mental health treatment utilization in African American combat veterans*. Texas Psychological Association Annual Convention, Dallas, TX.
- Boxley, B., Adebo P., Miles A., Dubois J., **Bourgeois D., Miller C., Stearnes M., Salim S., Allen L., Encarnacion L, Banks A., Harris K.,** Farmer J., & Regisford G. (2018, April). *Histological comparison of ablation methods*. Texas A&M Land Grant Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.
- Boxley, B.,** Adebo, P., Miles, A., DuBois, J., Bourgeois, D., Miller, C., **Stearns, M., Salim, S., Allen, L., Encarnacion, L., Banks, A., Harris, K.,** Farmer, J., & Regisford, G., (2018, April). *Histological comparison of ablation methods of the pedunculopontine nucleus via Animal models*. An Interdisciplinary research proposal poster presented at the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences Land Grant Research Symposium. Prairie View, TX
- Boxley, B. & Brown, T. L.** (2018, April). *Examining the effect of nurturing parenting curriculum and tutoring services on family functioning, academic performance, symptomology, and academic self-efficacy in impoverished families*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.
- Broadus, A. D. & Richards, S. N.** (2018, September). *Substance use, misuse & use disorders continuing education*. Topics included Influencing choices: Reducing risk and increasing protective factors; Community capacity: Developing the tools for change; and, Co-Occurring Disorders: When substance use & mental health disorders collide, Region 3 Education Service Center, Victoria, TX.
- Broadus, A. D. & Richards, S. N.** (2018, April). *Co-Occurring Disorders: When substance use and mental health disorders collide*. An invited presentation at a training session for mental health professionals hosted by Cross Creek Hospital, Austin, TX.
- Broadus, A. D. & Richards, S. N.** (2017, November). *Co-occurring disorders: When substance use and mental health disorders collide*. The 13th Annual Strengthening Youth & Families Conference, Georgetown, TX. 2018 Community Presentation.
- Butler, D. & Galloway, A.** (2018, February). *Preferential treatment: An analysis of the implicit biases in public policy and the war on drugs*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference, New Orleans.
- Butler, D. & Galloway, A.** (2018, April). *An analysis of the implicit bias in public policy and the war on drugs*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.
- Butler, D. & Gibson, C.** (2018, November). *Tensions between motorcycle clubs and law enforcement*. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.
- Celik, Y.** (2018, April). *Community policing: examining the effectiveness of community policing on police practices and patterns among police departments*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.
- Cintron, M., Ossorio, D., Motley, S. M., Celek, Y., Cao, Y., Joseph, J., & Songs, P.** (2017, November). *Family socialization: Creation of positive/negative perception of police officers among college students*. Presentation at the American Society of Criminology Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Davenport, S.A.** (2018, April). *TAPS Academy police officers characteristics*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.
- Ebisi, C.** (2018, April). *An examination of the relationship between exposure to violence and coping responses among African American adolescent males*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.
- Encarnación, L.N.** (2018, April). *Acculturative stress and mental health seeking among Latinas/os: Results from the National Latino and Asian American Study*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.
- Fowler, T.** (2018, April). *The influence of social bonds and exposure to violence on adolescent females sex offending*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

- Gibson, C.** Presenter and Chair (co-author Ainsley Gibson (2018, October). *The psychology of passwords and addressing related poor behaviors*. International Information Management Association and International Conference on Information Technology and Economic Development, Prairie View/Houston, TX.
- Gibson, C.** (2018, June). *Criminogenic factors*. Tamil Nadu Police Academy, India.
- Gibson C.** (2018, April). Panelist, *Race trust and police legitimacy*. Royce West Forum, Prairie View, TX.
- Gibson, C.** (2018, February). Presenter and Chair (co-author Marika Dawkins). *Addressing evil: Management liabilities in criminal justice*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Gibson, C.** (2018, February) (with undergraduates Jasmine Williams and Naudia Stoglin). *The Texas Prison Reform Model as a promising direction in corrections*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Gibson, C. & Cintron, M.** (2018, May). *Parents: Have you had the Talk?* Texas Truancy and Dropout Prevention Conference, Prairie View, TX.
- Gibson, C.,** Dawkins, M., & **Stoddart, D.** (2018, November). *The circumstances of Jamaican women and their experiences of violence*. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.
- Gibson, C., Simmons-Hortin, S., Barnes, F., Thomas, A., & Galloway, A.** (2018, April). *But I'm a good driver!* 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.
- Gibson, C., Simmons-Horton, S. & Prudhomme, M.** (2018, November). *Youth devotion to technological socializing: The impact on bonds, learning and deviance*. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.
- Graves, K., El, J., Morales-Andrades, L., & **Wilson, D.** (2018, July). *Social media and political impacts on young African Americans*. Presented at The Association of Black Psychologists' 50th Annual International Convention, Oakland, CA.
- Green, K. & **Wilson, D.** (2018, July). *Assessing student athlete's success in college*. Presented at the Association of Black Psychologists 50th Annual International Convention, Oakland, CA.
- Harris, K. & Allen, L.,** (2018, April). *From stressed out to less stressed*. Symposium presented at the Annual Southwestern Psychological Association Convention. Houston, TX.
- Harris, C.B. & Cao, Y.** (2018, April). *Right against self-incrimination: Revealing mental health history of justice involved youth*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.
- Idrogo, J.** (2018, November). *Recidivism, demographics, and co-occurring disorders at a mental health court*. 15th Annual Pathways Symposium, West Texas A&M University.
- Jackson, R.D., Horton-Simmons, S., Bourgeois, J., & Whiting, S.** (2018, November). *Comparative analysis of African Americans' and Hispanic/Latinos' cultural experiences, racial socialization, and deviant behavior*. Presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Jackson, R.D. & Whiting, S.** (2018, November). *Racial socialization, cultural experiences and offending among African American and Hispanic/Latino youth*. Presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Jackson, R.D.** (2018, February). *The "Talk": Discussions with our youth regarding police citizen encounters*. Open seminar presenter and discussant at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Jackson, R.D.** (2018, February). *Gender and racial differences in perceptions of discrimination*. Presentation at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Jackson, R.D.** (2018, November). *Professional development: Surviving the job market*. Open seminar presenter and discussant at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Johnson, R.** (2018, April). *Propensity to engage in violent behavior: Exploring the relationship to violence exposure and body dissatisfaction*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.
- Johnson, M. & Burnett, C.** (2018, November). *Collaborative teaching in a co-requisite mathematics model*. Presented paper at the 25th Annual HBCU Black Faculty Development Conference, Jackson, MS.

Joseph, J. J. (2018, April). *Mass shootings in the United States: Why mental health and access to firearms are important*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Joseph, J. J. & Yelderman, L. A. (2017, November). *Vigilante movie exposure and support for vigilante Behavior*. Presented at the 14th Annual TAMUS Pathways Student Research Symposium at Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX.

Kethineni, S., Srinivasan, K., & Kakar, S. (2018, August-September). *Special courts and protection of children from sexual offenses*. European Society of Criminology, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Kethineni, S., Harris, C., & Cao. (2018, February). *Revealing mental health history in juvenile court proceedings: Shackle or sympathy?* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, New Orleans, LA.

Lawrence, T. I. & Yelderman, L. A. (2018, April). *Household income, trust, relationship satisfaction, and stability*. Presented at the 13th Annual Research Symposium at Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Lawrence, T. I. & Yelderman, L. A. (2017, November). *Income, trust, and relationship satisfaction*. Presented at the 14th Annual TAMUS Pathways Student Research Symposium at Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX.

Martin, P., Hosey, S., & Willis, S. (2018, February). *Go Tell It on the Mountain: Faith-based communities promoting mental health*. Symposium presentation at the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference. Austin, TX.

Martin, C., Roberson, H., Sims, T., & **Wilson, D.** (2018, July). *Culture shock of students that attended predominantly White high school then going to an HBCU*. Presented at The Association of Black Psychologists' 50th annual International Convention, Oakland, CA.

McField, A., Salim, S., & Geyen, D. (2018, April). *Bringing opportunities for sustaining Sobriety Up (BOSS Up)*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Motley, S.M. (2018, February). *Addressing the perils associated with adverse childhood experiences in Washington State*. Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Motley, S.M. & Jackson, R.D. (2018, April). *Adverse childhood experiences and substance abuse*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Ortiz, J.H. (2018, April). *History of family violence among adult male offenders: An exploration of racial and ethnic differences*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Ossorio, D. (2018, April). *Developmental trajectories of male adolescents exiting the foster care system*. Presentation at the 13th Research Symposium, College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology, Prairie View, TX.

Paris, G.M. (2018, February). *Stopping the School – to – Prison Pipeline*. Front Porch Gathering in partnership with My Brother's Keeper. Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy, Austin, TX.

Paris, G.M. (2018, April). *An Overview of the TxJCPC – Its' Mission, Goals & Accomplishments*. State Regional Cooperative Extension Conference. Austin, TX.

Paris, G.M. (2018, October). *Collaborating With a Purpose – Effective Truancy Reduction*. 2018 International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention, 108th Annual Conference. Dallas, TX.

Prud'homme, M. (2018, April). *Progress in a part of the South regarding youth mental health needs in the juvenile justice system*. 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Punch, T. & Yelderman, L. A. (2017, November). *Emotions and parole decision-making*. Presented at the 14th Annual TAMUS Pathways Student Research Symposium at Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX.

Rembert, D. A. & Joseph, J. (2018, October). *Criminal liability for correctional officer excessive use of force*. Paper presented at the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

Richards, S. N. & Broadus, A. D. (2018, April). *Does level of education influence attitudes toward addiction?* Presentation at 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Richards, S. N. & Broadus, A. D. (2018, March). *Does treatment professionals' level of education influence attitudes toward education?* Brown Bag Presentation at College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology, PVAMU, Prairie View, TX.

Rivet, J. & Yelderman, L. A. (2018, April). *Exploring internalized misogyny in college aged African-Americans and their perceptions of Black women through skin tone and natural hair texture biases.* Presented at the 13th Annual Research Symposium at Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Salim, S. & Martin, P. (2018, March). *African American Faith Communities Scale.* Oral Presentation at the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies & American Academy Southwest Regional Conference. Irving, TX.

Songs, P. (2018, April). *The awareness and knowledge of domestic minor sex trafficking among college students.* 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Stearnes, M. (2018, April). *Internal racism as a mediator when looking at homonegative attitudes in African American male same-sex relationships.* 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Stearnes, M. & Frazier-Kouassi, S. (2018, November). *Using community-based participatory research (CBPR) to unveil factors that affect access and barriers to mental health service utilization in a Black college town.* Poster Presentation at the American Public Health Association Meeting. San Diego, CA.

Thomas, A., Mays, K., Lacy, B., Jefferson, D. Williams, J. (undergraduates) & **Gibson, C.** (2018, October). *Lessons from far away: India's justice system.* Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice, San Antonio, TX.

Whiting, S. (2018, April). *Perceptions and experiences of criminal justice injustices.* Paper presented at 13th Annual College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology Research Symposium, Prairie View, TX.

Williams, C. & Martin, P. (2018 April). *Chance the Rapper: Religious socialization of Chicago's native son.* Poster Presentation at the 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

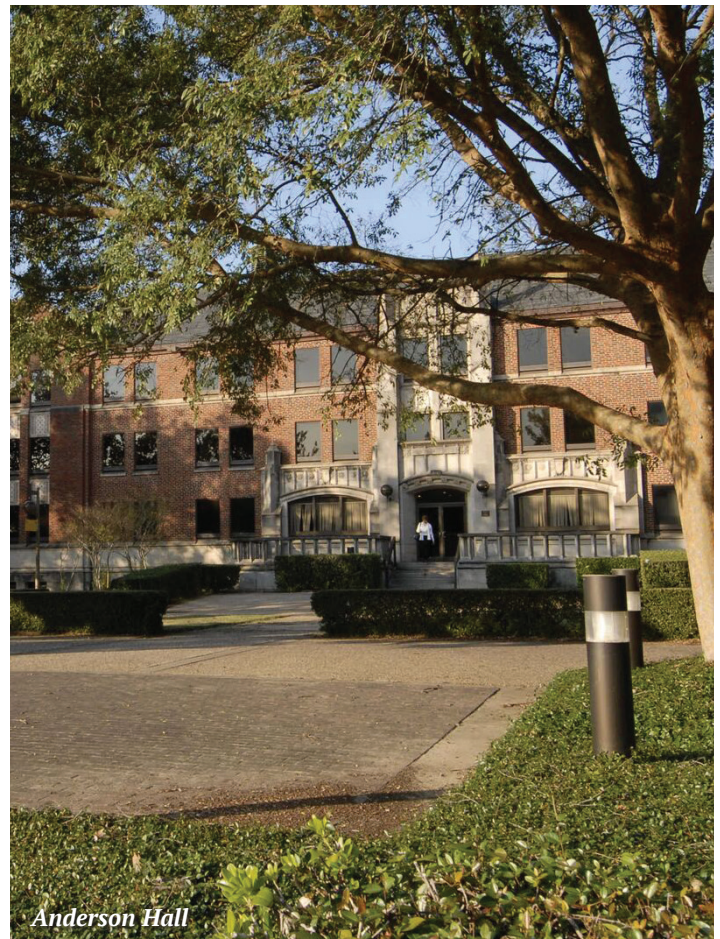
Williams, J. & Stoglin, N. (2018, April). *The Texas Prison Reform model as a promising direction in corrections.* 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Wray, J., Brown, T., & Martin, P. (2018, April). *How do pastors encourage or discourage help seeking behaviors?* Oral Presentation at the 13th Annual Research Symposium. Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX.

Yelderman, L. A. (2018, April). *Understanding sexual prejudice: Fundamentalism, right-wing authoritarianism, and intergroup contact.* Presented at the Southwestern Psychological Association's Annual Conference, Houston, TX.

Yelderman, L. A. (2018, March). *Post-critical beliefs and insanity defense attitudes.* Presented at the American Psychology and Law Society's Annual Conference, Memphis, TN.

Yelderman, L. A. & Joseph, J. J. (2018, March). *Mass shootings in the United States: Why mental health and access to firearms are important.* Presented at the American Psychology and Law Society's Annual Conference, Memphis, TN.



Education and Community Engagement

Second Annual Undergraduate Research Information Session

The goal of this information session is to inform students and faculty about research/internship opportunities and funding with special focus on undergraduate summer research programs. This year, we provided workshops for both faculty on mentoring undergraduates and writing recommendation letter for students; as well as for students on writing a personal statement, resume writing, and the proposal/abstract writing process. This event was a successful collaboration between the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center – College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology (CJJP) and the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) – Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs (ORISP). Program participants were welcomed in the morning by Dr. Ali Fares, Interim Vice-President and Dr. Awadh Bin hazim, Associate Vice-President of the ORISP; the moderator: Olusola Ewulo, Director of Office of Sponsored Program; and Dr. Camille Gibson, Interim Dean of the College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology. They all emphasized the importance and influence of undergraduate research as a high-impact activity that can have long-lasting effects on students' academic career. Representatives from MRSEC REU and NASCENT REU at the Cockrell School of Engineering, Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) of the Big Ten Academic Alliance Universities, Summer Medical and Research Training Program (SMART), Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas CPRIT-CURE Summer Undergraduate Program, and the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP) gave short presentations about their respective programs and hosted information tables with flyers and brochures.

2018 Royce West Forum and Lecture Series

Given the need to move discussions about race and policing from anger and yearning to concrete action by police and community leaders, the theme chosen for the April 2018 forum was Race, Trust and Police Legitimacy: Strengthening Communities. The discussants included State Representative Garnet F. Coleman, who was a champion for the Sandra Bland Act and its implementation. His participation brought a great deal of depth to the discussion



Senator Royce West at the Forum

particularly in terms of the legal mandates and its focus on behavioral health. Retired LAPD Sgt. Cheryl Dorsey, an acclaimed social advocate, author and CNN commentator offered insights on law enforcement perceptions. Dr. Camille Gibson, Professor in the Department of Justice Studies in our College reported on her research on youth and law enforcement interactions and how parents advise youth to interact with police. Dr. Terrence Allen, Associate Professor at University of Texas at Austin, shared the results of his study entitled, "An Exploration of African American and Hispanic Male Youth Perceptions of Police Officers who Patrol in Urban Communities". The discussion was facilitated by Judge Yvonne Williams, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 of Travis County. The target population for this forum was a cross-section of citizens from Waller and its contiguous counties including school personnel, social service and mental health providers, law enforcement officers, parents as well as students and faculty at the University. A robust discussion of the public's perceptions about the lawfulness and legitimacy of law enforcement occurred, which we believe is an important criterion for judging policing in a democratic society. Dialogue is an important first step in building good police relations with the community and improving the quality of life for the citizens of Waller County. Given that public safety is a human right that is fundamental to any constructive social activity, securing and maintaining the respect and approval of the public means also securing the willing co-operation of the public in the task of observing laws. It was agreed that further discussion is necessary. This lecture series provides scholarship support for our students in the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. Individuals desiring to donate online may do so by going to www.pvamu.edu/cojjp/BedfordFund.

Report of the Texas Legislature 85th Session: An Urban Perspective

Through the collaborative relationship between the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center (TxJCPC) and the Earl Carl Institute (ECI) at Thurgood Marshall School of Law both entities provided their supporters highlights from the 85th Legislative Session. The publication covered legislation under subject matters including Elections, Criminal Justice (Human Trafficking, Criminal Procedure, Wrongful Convictions, and Domestic Violence), Juvenile Justice, Family Law, Property, Education, Healthcare, Wills, Estate and Probate, Wealth and Litigation. A great deal of effort and time was put into the review, summation and compilation of these bills by ECI staff along with the help of Logan Yelderman, Ph.D, faculty member in the Psychology Department and TxJCPC staff member, Grady Paris, J.D.

The 85th Legislature's Regular Session introduced 10,672 bills, passed 4,960 of which 50 were vetoed and 154 became law without the Governor's signature. The 85th Legislature focused heavily on comprehensive Child Welfare and Foster Care reform. Various human issues including human trafficking as well as the "Sandra Bland Act" (SB 1849) and the Sanctuary Cities Bill (SB4) received a great deal of attention during the session. This Act resulted from the tragic turn of events surrounding Sandra Bland's traffic stop, arrest and death while in custody in Waller County. SB 1849 was written to address mental health issues of defendants while in custody. The events leading up to Sandra Bland's unnecessary jailing and tragic death sparked a statewide and national discussion regarding criminal justice reform. SB 1849 aims to improve and to correct Texas' criminal justice system to make it better for both law enforcement and the public and to prevent future tragedies like Ms. Bland's.

Other session highlights included in this publication involved the Criminal Justice Reforms which enacted HB 34, measures to reduce wrongful convictions; HB 3016 reducing the burden of criminal records by creating nondisclosure procedures for certain convictions; SB 1913 reducing debtor prisons – decriminalizing poverty; SB 292, SB 1849 measures for diverting persons with mental illnesses from the justice system to treatment systems; HB 3051 making data driven solutions more reliable in reviewing racial profiling – through consistency of racial classifications across law enforcement agencies; and SB 30 requiring training for law enforcement on proper interaction with civilians during traffic stops and other

in-person encounters. The publication is meant to inform readers of legislative successes and work still to be done.

COJJP Students Excel!

Four Prairie View A&M students that made up the University Criminal Justice Undergraduate Quiz Bowl Team took first prize at the 2018 Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ) Annual Competition. This was PVAMU's second first place win in the 13- year history of this regional competition. The Quiz Bowl competition is a series of two rounds ending with a Championship round.



After each round, teams are eliminated until two remain for the championship round, during which they answer questions and are rewarded for correct answers. PVAMU's team included David Butler, Amber Thomas, Keandra Mays and Brittany Lacy. Their practice mates from Prairie View were Joshua Estrada, Jasmine Williams and D'odrick Jefferson. The team's accomplishment came with a trophy and a monetary award for Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society – Beta Epsilon Nu Chapter. "We were delighted to bring the trophy home to PVAMU this year, as the students have worked so hard. It's good that they were able to see the fruits of their labor and make the department, their families, themselves and the university proud," said Camille Gibson, Ph.D., team coach, professor and interim dean of the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology.

SWACJ includes Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico and Arizona. While at the SWACJ conference, criminal justice students D'odrick Jefferson and Jasmine Williams participated in a roundtable on the response to mass shootings in schools, and students Amber Thomas, Keandra Mays and Brittany Lacy presented a comparative criminal justice paper.

The Gavel Series

This “user-friendly” format for providing free legal education to the citizens of Waller, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Tarrant, Washington and Austin counties as well as the students, faculty and staff of the University continues to be a bridge building mechanism between the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, Waller Community and the University’s campus.

As issues surrounding voting and voter education on the campus and within the Waller County community became a matter of grave concern, the Gavel Series saw fit to continue conducting political forums and voter education programs to satisfy the desire for knowledge and understanding of the voting process and candidates running for public office. Although the Gavel Series has collaborated with Judge Marion Elaine Jackson, Justice of the Peace Waller County, Precinct 3 and the Waller County District Attorneys’ since the inception, we gained another partner – the Student Government Association in sponsoring the candidate forums and information exchanges mentioned above. Candidates running for two City of Prairie View Council Positions and the Mayoral race were invited. Student and community attendance at these events swelled to more than 100 on each occasion. We have found these events to be successful in terms of increasing voter knowledge and participation at the polls.

The Gavel Series and its collaborators are committed to meeting the needs of its constituents. Because of the diverse population within Waller County and those contiguous, we will again provide classes on immigration law, consumer protection, landlord/tenant law, elder law, navigating the small claims court and other topics that our audience has indicated an interest. February 2019 is the sixth anniversary of the Gavel Series.

The Blackstone Pre-Law Society

The Blackstone Pre-Law Society is a premier student organization in the College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology. Its membership is comprised of students who are enrolled in degree programs across the University campus. This organization’s primary objective is to increase the enrollment 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 LSAT prep to first year success. We expect our members to eventually become culturally responsible Black and

minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the communities of their choice.

In addition to preparing our students for law school admittance and the rigors of the “first year experience” we want them to gain a more realistic view of the actual practice of law, the skills needed and the realities of the legal employment market. Through this organization, we provide opportunities for greater familiarity with the legal system; its institutions, professionals and concepts.

Blackstone members continue to emerge as leaders. Ervin Bryant of Spring, Texas was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott as a Student Regent for the Texas A&M University System. Ervin is the first student regent ever appointed from Prairie View A&M University. Jayla Allen became one of the named Precinct Judges for the City of Prairie View. Blackstone members took on major leadership roles in politics by not only running for public office as Antonious Brown did for a city council position in the City of Prairie View’s 2018 election. Another emerging Blackstone leader is Kirsten Budwine who was chosen by Judge M. Elaine Jackson to be her campaign manager in her second bid for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 of Waller County. Blackstone’s Joshua Muhammed became the national voice for Prairie View A&M University students’ against voter suppression.

Several members attended the UHLC Pre-Law Pipeline Program this summer with Ty-Junea Slone being recognized at the program’s end. Given the long-term benefit of exposure, members took advantage of the opportunity to observe U.S. Federal Judge George C. Hanks, Jr. of the Southern District of Texas in his courtroom in Galveston, Texas. Judge Hanks enjoyed the students’ visit and for the first time visited the University’s campus to attend a Blackstone General body meeting where he shared his professional experiences with members.

Many members visited University of Houston Law Center and University of Texas at Austin School of Law where they sat in on Law school first year students’ classes, met with faculty, admissions and financial aid officers as well as law school student panels. Students spent the day on each campus and had very engaging experiences. This organization continues to grow in experiences and membership.

HYPE Freedom Schools on the Hill

On Friday, June 28th, 39 students, accompanied by program interns and staff from five elementary and middle schools in the Houston Independent School District, came to Prairie View A&M University. The students were participants in this summer's HYPE Freedom Schools, otherwise known as Freedom Scholars. "HYPE Freedom School, Inc. is a non-profit organization that has been serving children and families in the Sunnyside and South Park communities for more than 15 years," said Dr. Susan Frazier-Kouassi, director of PVAMU's Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, who organized the trip to "The Hill". The Freedom Scholars participated in a campus-wide scavenger hunt and engaged in a mock trial hosted by Dr. Everett B. Penn (Co-Founder of the Teen and Policy Service Academy and Professor of Criminology at University of Houston - Clear Lake). They dined in the Memorial Student Center and bowled at Panther Plaza. In addition, the scholars had the opportunity to ask questions and dialogue with current PVAMU undergraduate students. The HYPE Freedom School visit was organized through the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center's partnership with the Youth Violence Prevention Coalition (Houston Health Department).

Professional Development Day: Summer Camp for Teachers

A collaborative, spearheaded by Rebecca Faison, Director, Office of Continuing Education provided an opportunity for University partners including Laurette Foster, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence, Euletha Wade from the Office of Business Affairs, and Grady Paris, Associate Director of the Center, offered a two-day professional development in-service training program that targeted K-12 teachers, counselors, and administrators from Wheatley and Hempstead High Schools. The 137 secondary educators attending received continuing professional (CPE) credits for their attendance. The workshops were offered alternatively on August 20th and 21st focusing on a variety of subject areas including Technology in the Classroom, Project Based Learning, Classroom Management, Culturally Responsive Teaching, How to Teach the Next Generation, Inspire through Inquiry, and Teach to Stay in Love with STEM.

Dr. Sandra Yancy McGuire, who is the Director Emerita Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success at Louisiana State University, as the keynote speaker for the event provided attendees with strategies that could be incorporated into any course to improve their students' metacognition, study skills and motivation. Dr. McGuire has taught chemistry

and worked in the area of learning and teaching support for over forty years. In 2007, she was recognized for excellence in mentoring with a Presidential Award presented in an Oval office ceremony.

The overall benefit resulting from this collaboration was phenomenal in that K-12 educators left this training electrified and ready to implement new learning strategies focused on the three key M's –mindset, motivation and metacognition. Future plans are underway to continue providing professional development for K-12 educators and in doing so the collaborators will expand the scope by increasing the number of workshops, days of training and attendees.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

This year, Prairie View A&M University's Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center hosted two Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings to more than 50 teachers, counselors, and school resource officers from surrounding school districts, as well as law enforcement from the Prairie View Police Department and the City of Prairie View. The course is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, and other individuals that work or engage with teens, ages 12 through 18, who may experience a mental health or addiction challenge and/or crisis. Experienced trainers led the eight-hour course which covered topics including anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including ADHD), and eating disorders. The course is a much-needed service for adults who work with adolescents, especially with the increased number of school shootings, suicides, and opioid use and abuse among our youth, it is imperative that we all become equipped with the necessary tools to intervene and help as first responders. The more we know about mental health and how it manifests itself among young people, the better prepared we are to help them in their times of crisis.



Mental Health First Aid

COJJP Globetrotters

AKWABA! Ghana welcomes Psychology Doctoral Student Marsja Stearnes

In 2017 Ms. Stearnes decided she wanted to travel abroad to broaden her understanding on mental health symptom manifestation and treatment outside of the U.S., and by May 2018 she found herself in Ghana working with Recovery Africa providing psychoeducation to residents at a substance abuse treatment facility. It has been reported that approximately 50,000 people in Ghana abuse substances and 70% are a result of mental illness. To address the rise of substance abuse in various African countries, Recovery Africa offers services to mitigate its impact. Specifically, Recovery Africa is a nonprofit organization that brings hope and recovery to African families suffering from substance use disorder. They help establish recovery communities, transitional housing, and treatment centers and use proven methods to further treatment and long-term recovery.

As a clinical intern, she provided two psychoeducational classes a week that assisted patients in understanding the psychological underpinnings of substance abuse and addiction. “There is a great need for mental health services in Ghana and every resident I encountered was eager to learn the role of mental health in recovery,” stated Marsja. Outside of her internship responsibilities, she enjoyed the rich cultural experiences that Ghana had to offer. She traveled to Cape Coast visiting the Elmina Castle and Kakum National Park as well as walked the famous canopy bridges. Ghana is a beautiful country with a welcoming heart and she encourages anyone interested in studying abroad there to do so. Marsja looks forward to maintaining a long and fruitful relationship with Recovery Africa and returning soon.

Comparative Criminal Justice Systems in India

Dr. Camille Gibson and six criminal justice majors in the course CRJS 4913 Comparative Criminal Justice Systems spent two weeks this summer as guests of the University of Madras in Chennai, India. The students were there to learn about the nation’s justice system. They heard from speakers including the head of the Tamil Nadu’s prison system, the Chief of Probation Officer, leaders in India’s Police Service and investigative journalists from The Hindu newspaper. Sites visited included, local police stations, a youth observation home, ancient temple sites at Mahabalipuram and St. Thomas Church where “Doubting Thomas is buried”. They were also special guests of the

Inspector and Deputy Inspector Generals of the famed Puzhal Central Prison, which they had the rare opportunity to tour. Reciprocally, Dr. Gibson delivered a lecture to the state’s Police Academy on criminogenic factors. The undergraduate President and Treasurer of Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society – Beta Epsilon Nu Chapter, Jasmine Williams and Amber Thomas donated from the chapter to a SOS Children’s Village. The group also attended to some of the district’s homeless.

Crimes against Humans and Crimes against Humanity

Dr. Sesha Kethineni, a faculty member in the Department of Justice Studies, attended the European Society of Criminology conference held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from August 29-September 1, 2018, under the title of Crimes against Humans and Crimes against Humanity: Challenges for Modern Criminology. Over 1,300 participants attended the conference. The conference theme was the right fit as Bosnia experienced genocide from 1992-1995. The conference covered themes related to comparative criminological research as well as different perspectives on crime and criminality. Dr. Kethineni and her co-authors presented a paper on the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse Act (POCSA), passed by the Indian government in 2012. In her paper, Dr. Kethineni argued for better protection for children and stringent punishments for perpetrators of sexual violence against children. She points to the fact that most of the child abuse laws were ineffective in addressing atrocities committed against children. Further, the lack of attention is attributable to the reluctance on the part of the victims or victims’ family to come forward due to social stigma, lack of effective legislation that focused on child abuse, and the absence mandatory reporting requirements of



Dr. Camille Gibson and Criminal Justice Majors in India

child welfare professionals and related agencies. She reviewed the existence of various legislations that address offenses against children in India, in addition to interviews and data from special courts that were created under the POCSA. Her study revealed the role of the special courts that exclusively deal with sexual abuse cases against children, structural barriers (economic, cultural, or other)

at various phases of the proceedings, and risk factors for children becoming victims of child abuse. As her teaching and research focuses on comparative juvenile and criminal justice systems and human rights violations, she is planning to utilize the knowledge she gained from the conference in the classroom and research. Currently, she is working on a book on comparative criminal justice.

Doctoral Dissertations, New Hires, and Professional Leadership

Doctoral Dissertations



Elizabeth Gilmore (August 2018)

An examination of criminal sentencing in cases of adult sex offenders and child and adolescent victims in Texas: An application of the Focal Concerns perspective. *Chair: Dr. Sesha Kethineni*

New Hires



Dr. Terrence Allen – Dr. Allen recently joined the Center as a Research Scientist. He earned his bachelor's in history from the University of California-Los Angeles, his master's degree in social science administration from the Mandel School of Social Science, and his Ph.D. in social work and criminal justice from University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa. His general interest focuses on social issues that impact the quality of life for children and families. His specific areas of expertise is the intersection between the child welfare, juvenile justice, education and mental health systems and the interaction between police and juveniles in urban communities.



Dr. Kimberly Chism – Dr. Chism is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice Studies. She earned her bachelor's and master's in Criminology at California State University, Fresno and her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University. Her research interests include juvenile justice, criminological theory, and quantitative methodologies.



Dr. Abdullah Cihan – Dr. Cihan joined the faculty in the Department of Justice Studies. His primary research focus is juvenile justice, corrections, policing, criminological theory, and quantitative methods. His research has been published in various peer reviewed academic journals, including Journal of Criminal Justice, Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management, Police Quarterly, Police Practice and Research, Security Journal, and The Prison Journal.



Ms. Tammy Fletcher – Ms. Fletcher recently joined the Department of Psychology as an Administrative Associate. Ms. Fletcher retired from California State University, Fullerton June 2018 and moved to Houston, Texas to be close to family. She is an invaluable part of the daily functioning of the Psychology Department.



Dr. Nabil Ouassini – Dr. Ouassini is a native of Las Vegas, Nevada where he was born and raised. He received his master’s in criminal justice from the University of Nevada Las Vegas while working for the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services. Dr. Ouassini received his Ph.D. from Indiana University in the spring of 2017. He teaches courses in policing, homeland security, and terrorism courses. His research interests include comparative criminal justice, juvenile justice, legitimation and legitimacy, and criminology in the Arab world.



Dr. Yuki Shigemoto – Dr. Shigemoto is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology. Dr. Shigemoto completed his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Texas Tech University. His research interests include examining protective factors against stressful/traumatic events and is guided by positive psychology framework, theories of coping, and models from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and posttraumatic growth.



Ms. Erinette Watson – Ms. Watson was born and raised right here in Waller County. Both of her parents worked at Prairie View A&M University for years until they retired. Ms. Watson earned her bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice with a specialization in Juvenile Justice from Prairie View. She is currently working on a Master of Arts in Counseling. She has hit the ground running in the Center.

Professional Leadership



Dr. Logan Yelderman, an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department, gave an invited lecture as part of the Baylor Psychology and Neuroscience Guest Speaker Series. His topic, ‘Eye for an eye’: Exploring the boundaries of the association between fundamentalist beliefs and punitiveness was presented at Baylor University (Waco, Texas) on September 7, 2018.



Dr. Sessa Kethineni, a Professor in the Department of Justice Studies is one of two American Society of Criminology delegates to the United Nations.



Dr. Camille Gibson, Interim Dean of the College and Executive Director of The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center just completed a three-year elected term on the national board of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and concurrently the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice.

“ I believe that my ability to serve on these boards reflects the political capital, influence and good will of the many leaders that we have produced from our unique and excellent juvenile justice Ph.D. program.

Dr. Camille Gibson



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