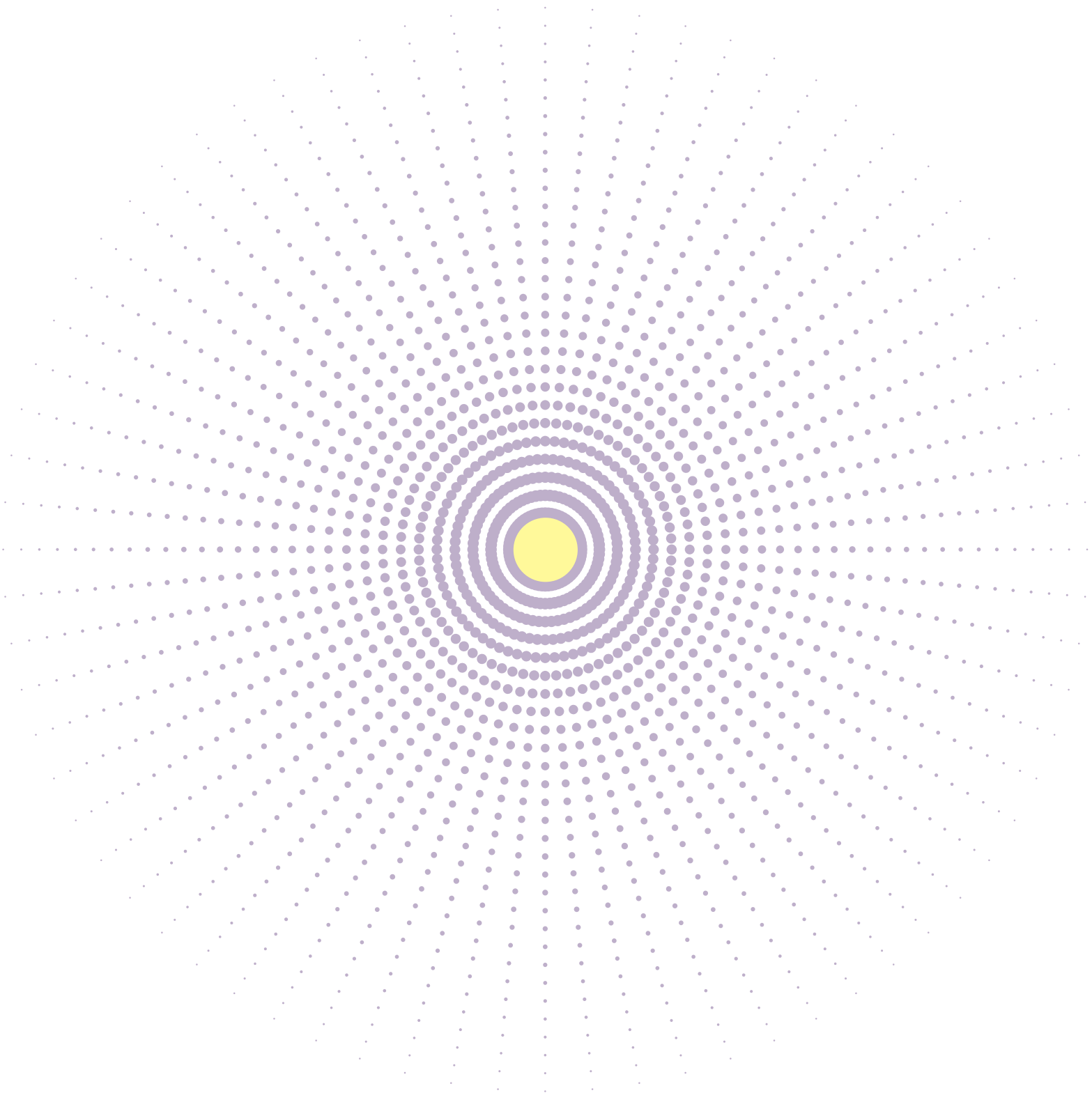


2021



# ANNUAL REPORT

*Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center  
College of Juvenile Justice*



<b>LETTER FROM THE INTERIM DEAN &amp; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MISSION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>COJJP ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CENTER STAFF PROFILES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NEW STAFF AND FACULTY</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS</b>	<b>12</b>
External Grants	12
Internal Grants	12
Awards	13
<b>CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS</b>	<b>14</b>
Texas Child and Family Study	14
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Substance Abuse in LGB+ Emerging Adults in the U.S.	14
Media Coverage of Teacher Sexual Misconduct Cases: A Content Analysis of Boundary Crossing Behaviors and Reporting	14
Justice and Mental Health Professionals' Perspectives on the Pros and Cons of Sex Offense Registration of Youth: Findings from a Thematic Analysis	15
<b>PUBLICATIONS, OPEN-EDITORIALS, AND REPORTS</b>	<b>16</b>
Publications	16
Open-Editorials	19
Reports	19
<b>PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>CENTER JOURNALS</b>	<b>25</b>
Contemporary Issues in Juvenile Justice	25
Journal of Family Strengths	25
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>26</b>
Spring Royce West Forum and Lecture Series: Transforming Families and Communities Across Generations: Addressing Historical Trauma	26
The Gavel Series	27
Blackstone Pre-Law Society	27
Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR): Students at the Cutting Edge of Research	28
CISR Emerging Social Justice Scholars Summer Institute	29
PVAMU Virtual Third Annual Summit on Improving Opportunities for African American and Latinx Male Youth	30
The Darden-Caldwell LeadHERship Series for Girls	31
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	<b>34</b>
Prairie View-Haverstock Venture	34
Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Community Giveaway	34
Launching of Teen Connect Parenting Program	35
Spotlight on Community Partner: Judge Marian Jackson	24
<b>TRAININGS</b>	<b>36</b>
Hempstead Independent School District (H.I.S.D.) Truancy Prevention and Reduction	37
Travis County Parent Engagement Training and Technical Assistance	37
Substance Use and Misuse Trainings	37
Youth Mental Health First Aid	38
<b>PARTNERSHIPS</b>	<b>39</b>
Legislative Update	39
PVAMU Healthy in Houston Initiative	39
Texas Center for Justice and Equity Study	40
Children At Risk	40

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**DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS**

Yunus Celik

41

Ariel McField

41

Paula Songs

41

Marsja Stearnes

41

**RISING ALUMNI STARS**

42

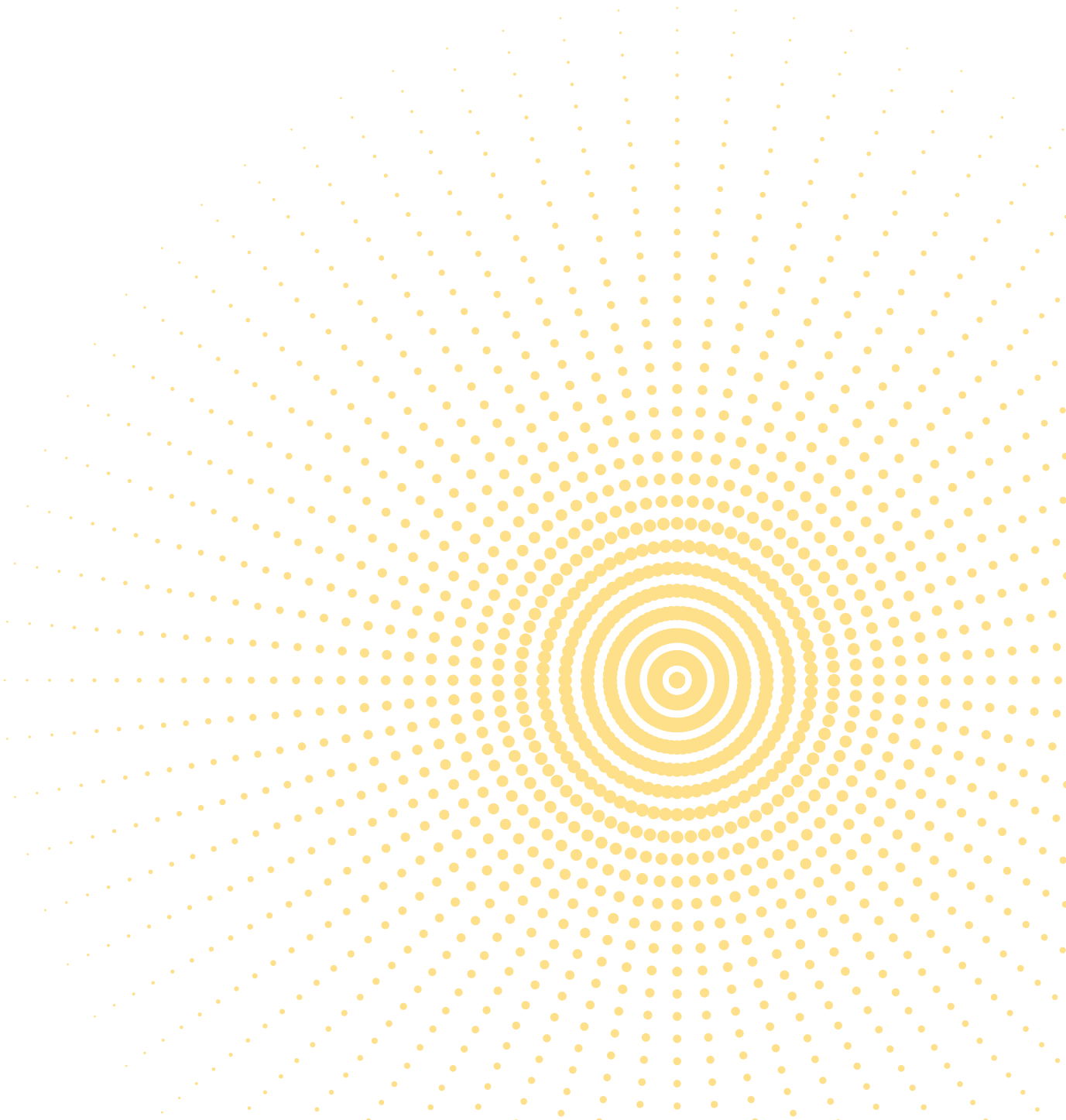
Marsja Stearnes, Ph.D.

42

Cheyenne Marie Harp, B.S.

42

43





# Letter from the Interim Dean and Executive Director

*Dr. Camille Gibson*



Greetings Friends!

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center has had another very productive year in impacting children and families in Texas and beyond. Navigating the pandemic, we extended our reach via Zoom to more broadly engage persons in meetings and programming. Center staff bravely took to the roads to meet with our stakeholders and continue partnerships and services. While the year offered fiscal savings and more family bonding time for some, it was not the best year for many others who found themselves seeing to their children's education as best as they could with limited access to technology, unemployment, food insecurity, housing insecurity and overcoming a devastating freeze. The Center has been in the midst when families try to parent through challenging times.

In 2021, we continued our focus on addressing the outcome gap of Black and Brown boys, but we added a leadership series focused on girls. The latter was the vision of Prairie View A&M University alumna Phyllis Darden-Caldwell. In addition, we partnered with the Houston Health project based in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences to have a fitness dance camp for girls. These events were very well attended and accomplished their intended outcomes. Earlier in the year we examined historical trauma for the annual Royce West Forum given a concern that too many persons who work with youngsters underestimate how past and present events impact children. We continue our efforts to have a physical presence in Tyler, Dallas, and Austin while building relations and serving the Valley and other areas that have specifically indicated a need.

Our research scientists examined how juvenile facilities did during the pandemic and analyzed the ombudsman's reports of facility incidents. We also looked at ongoing minority disproportionate system engagement and homicide developments in Houston and Dallas during the pandemic. Faculty along with others in the Texas A&M University System examined Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) data on law enforcement's progress with adherence to the Sandra Bland Act regarding police stops. Our graduate students produced research on child sex trafficking awareness and services for male victims; youth disclosure of non-suicidal self-injury; the relationship between parents' childhood adversity and their offspring's problem behaviors; and, youth marijuana use. We commented on bail reform, increased teen violence, and negligent police hiring in the media, and served on the Texas legislative advisory Mental Health Task Force which examines efforts to increase mental health services in schools, and the Texas Racial Equity Collaborative which monitors legislation in the state related to racial and ethnic equity that impact children.

In 2022, the Center plans to expand its efforts to partner with justice system practitioners, educators, families, legislators, and other stakeholders to see that more of our Texas children avoid justice system engagement. There is much to be done, and we are ready to get to it!

Sincerely,

*C. Gibson*

Camille Gibson, Ph.D., C.R.C.

Executive Director, Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center  
Interim Dean, College of Juvenile Justice

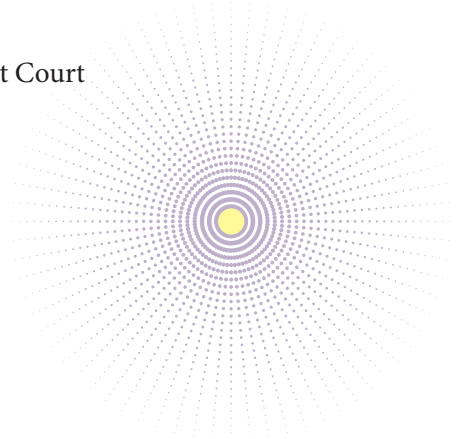
## Mission

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and the College of Juvenile Justice at Prairie View A&M University 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.

## COJJP Advisory Board Members

- The Honorable Royce West, Texas Senate
- The Honorable James White, Texas House of Representatives
- Ms. Vickie Spriggs, Chief Executive Officer Texas CASA
- Ms. Joyce James, Joyce James Consulting, former Assistant Commissioner of Texas Child Protective Services Program
- Mr. Keith V. Branch, (retired) Harris County Juvenile Probation
- Ms. Jill Mata, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Bexar County
- Ms. Patricia Harrington, Director, Mayor's Anti-Gang Task Force, Houston
- Dr. Michael McFrazier, Dean, Prairie View A&M University College of Education
- Dr. Elba Garcia, Dallas County Commissioner, District 4
- Dr. Abdul Haleem (Robert) Muhammad, Student Minister, Mosque No. 45, Urban Planner, Houston
- Dr. Emily Knox, Senior Research Scientist, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- The Honorable Carol Chaney, Judge, Waller County Court at Law
- The Honorable Aurora Martinez Jones, Associate Judge, Travis County District Court
- The Honorable Renee R. Betancourt, Judge, 449th District Court, Edinburgh
- Dr. Akalita Ross, College Alumna, Clinical Psychologist
- Andre Evans, Esq. College Alumnus
- Lakisha Alomaja, Esq. College Alumna



## Center Staff Profiles



### *Terrence Tyrone Allen, M.S.S.A., Ph.D.*

Terrence is a Research Scientist at the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. Before coming to PVAMU, he was on the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin and served as the coordinator of the juvenile justice concentration at North Carolina Central University and on the faculty at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He has a combined thirty-seven years of practice and research experience. His general interest is on social issues that impact the quality for children and families residing in urban communities. His specific areas of expertise are the intersection between the child welfare, juvenile justice, education and mental health systems and the interaction between police and juveniles in urban

communities. Dr. Allen's work is guided by the belief that the coordination of child welfare, education and juvenile justice systems are critical to helping children and families on the margins of society.

During his career, he has worked as child welfare caseworker, detention officer, probation counselor, child and family advocate, and parent coordinator. He has also served as a consultant for various social service agencies in Ohio and Michigan including Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, Cleveland Municipal School District, Wayne County Juvenile Court and Wayne County Mental Health Agency. The focus of his work has been to help private community-based agencies and public social service systems develop and implement a coordinated systems change that will improve the quality of their overall service delivery system.

He is a member of several professional organizations including the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Council of Social Work Education (CSWE), Society of Social Work Research (SSWR), Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Texas Probation Association, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) where he also served on the national advisory board. His education includes a B.A. in history from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA); a Master's Degree in Social Science Administration from Mandel School of Applied Social Science at Case Western Reserve University; and a Ph.D. in Social Work and Criminal Justice from the University of Alabama.



*Kristan N. Russell, Ph.D.*

Kristan is an Assistant Professor of Justice Studies in the College of Juvenile Justice and a Research Scientist in the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M University. She earned her B.S. in psychology from Penn State Behrend with a certificate in Crime, Psychology, and Public Policy. She obtained her M.A. in Forensic Psychology from Roger Williams University. While she was obtaining her master's degree, she earned a research practicum placement at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, through which she obtained an additional internship with the Court Support Services Division with the Judicial Branch of Connecticut, which allowed her to work and collect data within two juvenile detention facilities.

Working with youth and observing the harsh realities of system involvement inspired her to pursue additional education so she would be equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to study policies and the juvenile justice system. In doing so, she earned a second M.A. and a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Social Psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno. Broadly speaking, Dr. Russell's research interests lie within topics in which psychology and the legal system intersect. Her recent and current projects cover topics related to youth sexual offending, related policy, and perceptions of individuals convicted of sexual offenses; Adverse Childhood Experiences and their relation to substance use, racial/ethnic disparities within the juvenile justice system, public perceptions of school shooters, teacher sexual misconduct against students, and relationships between school resource officers and students.

As a Research Scientist in the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, Kristan works to develop various data reports distributed to policymakers and other stakeholders within the justice-system, conducts scholarly research disseminated in peer-reviewed journals and at professional conferences, and works with several graduate and undergraduate research assistants to guide and engage them in the research process. Kristan is also very passionate about teaching and finds joy in helping students become passionate about their own education, research, and career paths.



### *Erinette Watson-West, B.A.*

Erinette is a product of Waller County having grown up and attended Waller ISD schools. Developing a passion for community and service, she subsequently decided to channel her interest in building safe and healthy communities where families could thrive. She enrolled at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) and graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with a specialization in Juvenile Justice. Working in various capacities at PVAMU and Cy-Fair ISD expanded her skill set. Erinette has been an educator working with elementary school students enrolled in grades 3-5 and their families providing much needed assistance with the STAR testing, tutoring in all subjects, general academic advising, parental support and guidance. Transitioning from the secondary academic environment to postsecondary, Erinette has worked in various capacities for several different departments at PVAMU including her most recent position with the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. In her role as the Administrative Assistant to all Center staff, she maintains an extreme level of flexibility and excellent organizational skills balancing numerous personalities and projects successfully. Erinette is the “wind beneath the wings” of each and every project.

Service is a fundamental tenant of Erinette’s character. She is actively involved in her church and volunteers her time working with the Children’s Church at Fallbrook Baptist Church. On Thursdays and Saturdays, you will likely find her on the soccer field managing her son’s soccer team. Other evenings are spent working with the Parent Teachers Association at Danish Elementary School.

She exercises her creativity by scrap booking, doing arts and crafts and reading. Erinette is a devoted wife, mother and daughter.





*Susan Frazier-Kouassi, Ph.D.*

Susan is a seasoned administrator with more than 25 years of experience in higher education. Prior to her current position, Susan worked with the Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center in the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan in the capacity of Director of Training and Community Engagement. This center was one of five in the country funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, in the School of Public Health, Susan worked with the team of another CDC-funded program since its conception, the Future Public Health Leaders program. The relationship established with this program continues today with PVAMU students applying and gaining admission to this highly competitive summer program. Also within the School of Public Health, Susan worked as the Project Coordinator for the Ghana-Michigan CHARTER project funded by the Bill Gates Foundation. The overall objective of this project was to strengthen an interdisciplinary research capacity in Ghana to address global health challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries. During her tenure at the University of Michigan, she worked in the Rackham Graduate School's Office of Graduate Student Success as a program manager for the CIC-Summer Research Opportunities program. Among her duties at Rackham, she was responsible for managing SROP and the Edward Bouchet Honor Society. During this tenure, she organized one of the most successful CIC-SROP research conferences with over 400 undergraduates from the Big Ten SROP programs. Her longest appointment at the University of Michigan was as a Scientific Administrator for the Program for Research on Black Americans at the Institute for Social Research where she worked with faculty, staff, students, and postdoctoral fellows. The Program for Research on Black Americans (PRBA) has been a leader since its conception in 1976 in creating new and innovative qualitative and quantitative research methods to understand the lives of African American and African descendant communities.

Outside of higher education administration, Susan has also taught a variety of undergraduate psychology courses at public state universities (University of Michigan – both Ann Arbor and Flint campuses), private liberal arts colleges (College of Wooster in Ohio), and internationally (Imo State University in Nigeria).

As a native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Susan was blessed growing up in the academically and culturally resource rich environment, including earning her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Michigan. After completing her M.A. and Ph.D. in social psychology (minor in public health at Boston University), Susan joined her husband, Dr. Bernard Kouassi (also a graduate of the University of Michigan) in Côte d'Ivoire (his native country).

For more than seven years, Susan lived/worked in Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, and Ghana. In addition to professional work in the United States, Susan taught at Imo State University (Nigeria), worked as a technical consultant with the Ministry of Education (Benin) and administrative consultant for the Foundation for Sustainable Food Security in Central West Africa located in Burkina Faso. Being fluent in French has afforded her unique opportunities in travel and work in Francophone, Africa.



Over her professional career, Susan has remained unwavering in her commitment and service to the positive development of youth, especially the education of young women. This commitment has extended to her founding an international non-profit charitable organization that has supported the educational needs of young female students in West Africa since 2002. Outside of her professional work, Susan is a quilter (both practicing and teaching), a budding writer, avid reader (each year setting a goal to read 52 books) and mother of two adult children (one who lives and works in Ghana) and one grandson.



### *Grady Marie Paris, Esq.*

Grady is a proud native of Texas, who hails from deep East Texas (Palestine). Upon graduation from Texas Southern University with a Bachelor of Arts, she was admitted into Bates College of Law at the University of Houston where she received her Juris Doctorate degree. Licensed by the State of Texas and the U.S. Federal Courts Southern District in 1982, she became a Civil Litigation attorney representing individuals and entities throughout the state primarily in the areas of probate, personal injury and family law. After maintaining a full-time practice for 16 years and simultaneously for seven of those years, being an Associate Municipal Courts Judge for the City of Houston, she decided it was time to do something

different. That something different led her to the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP) and the beginning of eight years with TRIO programs as an Associate Director, the Council of Opportunity in Education (COE) and the U.S. Department of Education as a national trainer of Title III Federal Legislation and Regulations for TRIO programs. Grady's professional career in higher education has been expansive having been Adjunct faculty at both Texas Southern University; Mickey Leland-Barbara Jordan School of Public Affairs and Prairie View A&M University; College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology (COJJP) as well as having served as an Interim Assistant Dean for Recruitment and Development in the College, Interim Director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and currently serving in the capacity of Associate Director.

She is passionate about strengthening communities, enriching the lives of children and families through service and program development. Developing training curriculum to reduce and prevent truancy and other at-risk behaviors in juveniles has been one of many successful endeavors for Grady. The Parent Engagement Training Program she developed has been used in school districts in Travis, Waller and Harris counties as well as Travis County Justice of the Peace Court. She organized and developed the Emerging Leaders Institute for the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP), which provided training designed to identify, cultivate and produce leaders on a regional level. Grady has developed an extensive training catalogue and has trained Juvenile Justice practitioners (management and frontline), social service providers, educators, administrators, school resource officers, parents and students across the country. Trends and advances in juvenile justice, parental involvement, truancy, identifying early and emerging risk factors associated with challenging behaviors and ethical decision making are of particular interest to her.

Over the years, she has served on the Board of Directors of the Houston Lawyers Association volunteering legal services to Houston/Galveston under-represented population. Grady has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Youth Foundation, Nature Discovery Center, the Houston Ensemble Theatre, Houston PBS Channel 8 and is the Primary Advisor for the Blackstone Pre-Law Society at PVAMU.

Grady has received the President's Award; Houston Lawyers Association, Distinguished Service Award; Black Women Lawyers Association, Legal Service Award; National Council Negro Women, Inc., recognized for her contributions to Law & Politics by the State of Texas House of Representatives; City of Houston Proclamation Honoring Distinguished Judges by the Mayor's Office; SWASAP Outstanding Service Award; Leadership Development Award, SWASAP; Staff Award for Excellence in Service; College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology, PVAMU; the Community Service Award; The Gavel Series, City of Prairie View, Texas and numerous others. Her greatest joy has been her two daughters and grandchildren. She enjoys honing her cooking skills and is an avid bibliophile.

## New Faculty and Staff



### *William Ash-Houchen, Ph.D.*

William began in the Department of Justice Studies as an Assistant Professor in July 2021. William is from Texas and holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Texas Woman's University, which he completed in 2018. He worked for three years as Assistant Professor at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS, before moving back to Texas for a position at PVAMU. His research cuts across both medical sociology and criminology, with a specific focus on childhood, adolescence, and the transition to adulthood. His specific research interests include substance use and misuse; victimization and victimization-related offending across the lifespan; race, gender, sexualities, and crime; and health and health-risk behaviors. His most recent publication examined gender influences on how victimization in both childhood and adolescence exert differential effects on heavy drinking behavior in young adulthood.

### *Rebecca Ramirez-Barnes, B.A.*

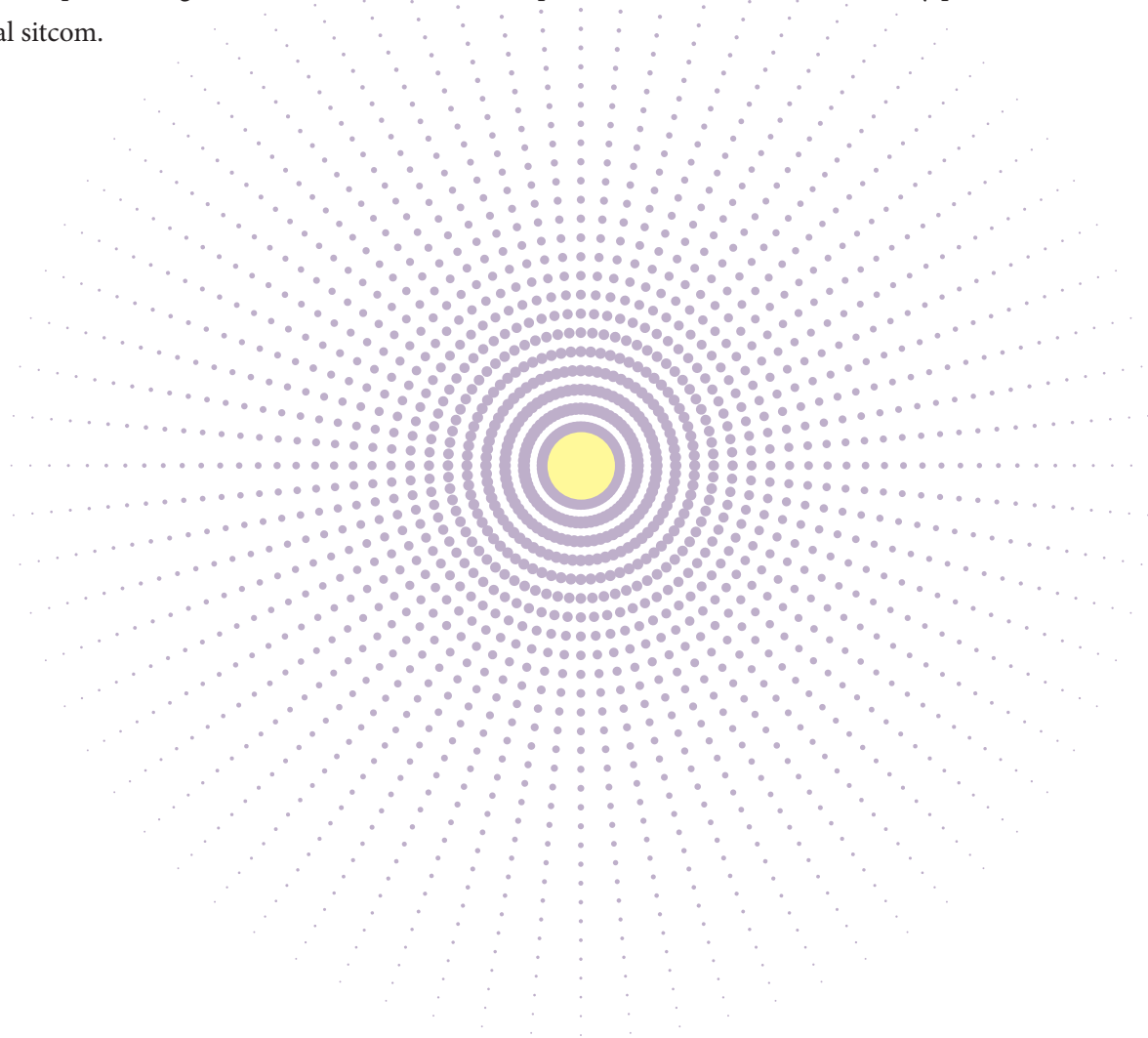
Rebecca joined Prairie View A&M University in April of 2021 as a bilingual Training Specialist in the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. Rebecca received her B.A. in Spanish with a minor in Legal Studies from Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan. Rebecca has 21 years of experience as a social worker. She has served as a Juvenile Detention Center Youth Specialist, a Juvenile Probation Officer III and a Felony Probation Officer for adults who suffered from Substance Use Disorder. Rebecca's expertise lies in her ability to work with a wide range of clients from various backgrounds combined with her fluency in Spanish. She has also spent



significant time serving on multiple committees and as a facilitator. During her employment with Kent County, Michigan, she served on the Cultural Insight Council (CIC) and facilitated during multiple events. These events varied in length and occurred on a quarterly basis. The CIC's mission was to act as a catalyst to foster a culture, which recognized, accepted and valued the individual differences of Kent County employees and was responsive to the changing needs of the diverse community of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

It should be noted that Rebecca has an unrelenting passion for empowering people and uses her motivational speaking skills to train and prepare audiences to serve culturally diverse populations with empathy. She travels throughout the state of Texas providing trainings to professionals, social workers, and parents, so that they may be more prepared to provide support and guidance to the youth in our community.

Further, Rebecca is a mother of fraternal twins who are both freshman attending Prairie View A&M University. Her son plays on the men's football team and her daughter plays on the women's softball team. When she is not watching her children play ball, Rebecca loves to cook, enjoys weight training, singing karaoke, dancing and watching the Houston Astros. Rebecca is also an aspiring actress, therefore being in front of an audience comes naturally for her. Rebecca has experience in performing in commercials for small companies and her dream is to one day perform in a local play or even a national sitcom.



# Research Grants and Awards

## *External Grants*

Gibson, C. Co-Principal Investigator. 2019-2022. Powering up: Cybersecurity Education. Awarded by Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, (Co-Principal Investigator with Abhijit Nag, Dan Crieder, Ram Neupane, Vikram Bhadauria and Mirley Balasubramanya). (Awarded: \$20,000)

Gibson, C. Principal Investigator. 2021-2022. Overcoming network and human vulnerabilities through workforce development for cyber resilience. Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (with Mohamed Shafin Haque and LaTasha Starr, Co-PIs). (Awarded: \$5,000).

Shigemoto, Y. Principal Investigator. Ma, Ping, and Chen, Lei-Shih. Panther Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (PRISE) Grant Program. Examining the Mental Health Impacts and Coping Strategies of the COVID-19 on Aging Racial/Ethnic Minorities in Texas: A Pilot Study. (Awarded: \$30,000).

Yelderman, L. Principal Investigator. 2021-2023. A Moral Foundations Approach to How Jurors Weigh Aggravating Evidence. National Science Foundation (NSF) - Broaden and Build 2.0 (SES) – (Awarded: \$340,000.00) (Co-PI – Jamie Hughes).

## *Internal Grants*

Gibson, C. Principal Investigator. 2020-2021. Police Misconduct. Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Undergraduate Research Funding Award by the Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. (Awarded: \$5,000). (Undergraduate Research Assistants Leslie Lively and Chandler Bienek).

Gibson, C. Principal Investigator. 2020-2021. Improving Teen Driver Safety through Enhancing Parenting Driving Behaviors. Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Undergraduate Research Funding Award by the Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. (Awarded: \$5,000).

Jackson, R. Fall 2021. School Resource Officer's Roles, Responsibilities, and Texas' Legislative Response: An Examination of Current Policy. Prairie View A&M University Faculty Enhancement Program (FEP) Travel Funding Request (Awarded: \$1,737.37).

Jackson, R. Principal Investigator. 2021-2022. School Resource Officer's Roles, Responsibilities, and Texas' Legislative Response: An Examination of Current Policy. Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Undergraduate Research Funding Award by the Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. (Awarded: \$10,000 for graduate student funding)

Kethineni, S. Principal Investigator. 2021-2022. A Systematic Study of Hidden Horrors of Sexual Violence in U.S. Public Schools, K-12. RISE Graduate Research Grant Program, Division of Research & Innovation (R&I), Prairie View A&M University. (Awarded: \$10,000 to hire Graduate Research Assistant).

Ouassini, N. Principal Investigator. Summer & Fall 2021. Youth Perceptions of Police Trustworthiness, Court Procedural Fairness, and the Relationship to Political and Justice System. Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Undergraduate Research Funding Award by the Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. (Awarded: \$5,000).

### *Internal Grants (cont.)*

Russell, K. Principal Investigator. Summer & Fall 2021. Examination of Teacher Sexual Misconduct Initiation and Boundary Crossing Behaviors Using Content Analysis. In collaboration with Dr. Jordan Steiner). Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Undergraduate Research Funding Award by the Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. (Awarded: \$10,000). (Undergraduate Research Assistants: Precious Jones and Alexis Sparks).

Russell, K. Principal Investigator. 2021-2022. Perceptions of School Shooters: A Vignette Study Examining the Effects of Race and Causal Factors. Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Undergraduate Research Funding Award by the Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. (Awarded: \$5,000). (Undergraduate Research Assistant: Alexis Sparks).

Russell, K. Principal Investigator. 2021-2022. Juvenile Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) within the Justice System of Texas: Identifying and Reducing Disparities through Targeted Personnel Programming. Faculty-Research & Innovation for Scholarly Excellence (RISE)-Graduate Research Funding Award by the Office of Research, Innovation and Sponsored Programs, Prairie View A&M University. (Awarded: \$10,000). (Graduate Research Assistant: Vineeth Vijayan).

### *Faculty Awards*

Kethineni, S. (2021). Richard J. Terrill Paper of the Year Award winner by the International Criminal Justice Review for her co-authored paper, Kethineni, S., and Cao, Y. (2020). The rise in popularity of cryptocurrency and associated criminal activity. *International Criminal Justice Review*, 20(3), 325-344.

Ouassini, N. (2021). American Institute of Indian Studies Fellowship for project, Slums and Law Enforcement in India.



## Current Research Projects

### *Texas Child and Family Study*

The Texas Child and Family Study is in Phase I and will begin data collection in January 2022. The preparatory work is complete and the projects slated to begin include the Crimes among Youth Study; Pathway to Crime Study; Community Stakeholders Survey and Executive Administrators Survey. The study sites for these projects include Tyler, Dallas and Austin. We have a committed community support system at each location that is eager to begin. We plan to implement Phase II to include Houston and Phase III to include San Antonio by the end of 2022. Principal Investigator: Terrence Allen, Ph.D.

### *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Substance Abuse in LGB+ Emerging Adults in the U.S.*

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are associated with a multitude of negative health outcomes in adulthood. LGB+ youth tend to have higher ACEs scores compared to their heterosexual counterparts and are overrepresented in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. LGB+ youth are at higher risk of negative health outcomes as a result. Using the Generations Study data, we analyze the relationship between ACEs and substance abuse amongst LGB+ emerging adults, as well as factors (e.g., social support) that may mitigate potential negative outcomes. We will compare our findings with the broader literature and provide recommendations and resources for improving outcomes amongst this population. Principal Investigator: Kristan Russell, Ph.D.

Co-Authors on this study: Courtney Lyons, MA, University of Nevada, Reno; William Ash-Houchen, PhD, Prairie View A&M University

### *Media Coverage of Teacher Sexual Misconduct Cases: A Content Analysis of Boundary Crossing Behaviors and Reporting*

In the United States, sexual misconduct perpetrated by teachers against their students is on the rise (Abbott, 2015). Approximately 10% of students in the United States have experienced some form of sexual misconduct by a school district employee (Department of Justice, 2017; 9.6% of 8th-11th grade students; Shakeshaft, 2004). Some cases receive considerable media attention due to the nature of the offense and mixed attitudes toward such relationships. This type of recognition, in combination with a rise in cases, has brought attention to a need for clearer school district policies regarding appropriate relationships with students and for more targeted prevention and intervention strategies. In this study, we conducted a content analysis of published media articles that covered 74 unique cases of teacher sexual misconduct between 2018-2019. The purpose of the analysis was to assess the factors related to the initiation of the relationship, as well as determine if those coincide with sections of school policies that lack clear guidance (e.g., social media). We also examined the characteristics of the teachers to assess patterns of boundary crossing behaviors. Examples of coded boundary crossing behaviors include exchanging sexually explicit photographs, sharing personal information atypical within teacher-student communication, and the providing the student with alcohol or other illegal substances. We also examined how the misconduct was discovered and reported. Findings from this study generate insight into how teacher sexual misconduct happens and whether disclosure or discovery leads to law enforcement awareness. Implications for school district policy reform, intervention, and prevention will be discussed. The authors of this project will be presenting their research findings in poster format at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual conference in the spring.



### *Media Coverage of Teacher Sexual Misconduct Cases: A Content Analysis of Boundary Crossing Behaviors and Reporting (cont.)*

Principal Investigator: Kristan Russell, Ph.D. Co-Authors on this study: Alexis Sparks, Undergraduate Student, Prairie View A&M University; Precious Jones, Undergraduate Student, Prairie View A&M University; and Jordan Steiner, Ph.D., Evaluator, New Jersey Department of Children and Families (NJDCF).

### *Justice and Mental Health Professionals' Perspectives on the Pros and Cons of Sex Offense Registration of Youth: Findings from a Thematic Analysis*

The fear of sexual victimization has strongly impacted legislation in the U.S. Many people believe that if they were aware of potential predators in their communities, they would be able to defend themselves and their families. In an attempt to reduce sex crimes and recidivism, the federal government passed a series of laws that compel individuals, including youth, who commit sex offenses to register publicly with a local law enforcement agency. Justice and mental health professionals play a key role in the management of youth who commit sex offenses and in understanding the impacts of present legislation on successful rehabilitation. Justice and mental health professionals are uniquely positioned to provide context and highlight the benefits and failures of registration policies on youth. The current study assessed professionals' perceptions of the pros and cons of registration policies using a thematic analysis of open-ended survey responses. The nationwide snowball sample resulted in 285 responses (justice professionals n=203; mental health professionals n=82). The results yielded three primary themes and shows many professionals believe the registry has no advantages and harms the registered youth. Several respondents indicated the registry was suitable for public awareness. However, most respondents believed that the registry contributes to many barriers including educational, social, and employment, among others. Registered youth also may be stigmatized and labeled, making it more difficult to successfully reintegrate into society. These findings provide a better understanding of the benefits and detriments of utilizing registration with youth and have implications for policy reform. The authors of this project will be presenting their research findings at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference in the spring. Principal Investigator: Kristan Russell, Ph.D. Co-Authors on this study: Vineeth Vijayan, M.Sc., Prairie View A&M University; Dayanand Sundaravadivelu, M.Sc., Prairie View A&M University.

# Publications, Open-Editorials, and Reports

## Publications

**Allen, T. T.** (2021). The Colin Kaepernick effect on contemporary social activism in sports. *Black History Bulletin*, 84 (1).

**Ash-Houchen, W.,** Lo, C.C., Gerling, H.M., & Cheng, T.C. (2021). Gender and childhood victimization: A longitudinal study of heavy drinking in young adulthood. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18(21). DOI: 10.3390/ijerph182111089

Bailey, C. A., Venta, A., Varela, J., **Salami, T.**, Ratcliff, C., & Gardner, J. (2021). Risk and protective markers for well-being in Latinx immigrants in removal proceedings. *Law and Human Behavior*, 45(3), 179–196. <https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000447>

Boland, M. & **Salami, T.** (2021). The mental health and service SSE of Texas law enforcement officers. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology* 36, 288–294 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11896-020-09419-6>

Burnham, M. B., Mortensen, J., **Russell, K. N.**, & Skaar, T. B. (2021). Integrating early childhood pedagogy into elementary teachers' knowledge: A qualitative analysis of beliefs and practice. *The Constructivist*, 1-32.

Chism, J., **DeFreitas, S. C.**, Robertson, V. & Ryden, D. (Eds.) (2021). *Critical Race Studies across Disciplines: Resisting Racism through Scholactivism*. Lexington Books.

**Cintron, M.** (2021). Book Review Essay. *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15377938.2021.1976530>

**DeFreitas, S. C.**, Dillard, N., Frost, L., & Wyman, P. (2021). TAA DEI Survey Analysis Report. Textbook and Academic Authors Association.

**DeFreitas, S. C.** (2021). What is critical race theory and why it should matter to academic authors. *The Academic Author*, 3, 5-6. Textbook and Academic Authors Association. <https://taaa.memberclicks.net/assets/newsletters/The%20Academic%20Author%2C%20Summer%202021.pdf>

**Harris, C. B.** (2021). Miami-Dade County status offenders: A literature review of punishment and rehabilitation of youth. *Contemporary Issues in Juvenile Justice*, 11(1).

Hughes, J., Sandel, A., **Yelderman, L. A.**, & Inman, V., & Guest, Z. (2021). Beliefs about an offender's capacity to be rehabilitated: Black offenders are seen as more capable of change. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, 43(6), 406-422. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01973533.2021.1982714>

**Idrogo, J., Yelderman, L. A.**, Blomquist, M., & Broadus, A. (2021). Perceived and actual knowledge gain among juvenile drug treatment court team members: A pre-post analysis of on-site training and technical assistance. Advance online publication. *Family Court Review*. <https://doi-org.pvamu.idm.oclc.org/10.1111/fcre.12545>

Iqbal, S. Z., **Salami, T.K.**, Reissinger, M. C., Masood, M. H., Ukrani, K., & Shah, A. A. (2021). The mental health clinician's role in advocacy for survivors of human trafficking: Treatment and management. *Psychiatric Annals*, 51(8), 373-377.

Joseph, J. & **Rembert D. A.** (2021) Exploring psychopathy's relationship with youth gang membership in males and females. *Women & Criminal Justice*. Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08974454.2020.1871161>

**Kethineni, S., Frazier-Kouassi, S., Shigemoto, Y., Jennings, W., Cardwell, S. M., Piquero, A., Gay, K., & Sundaravadivelu, D.** (2021). Protocol: Effectiveness of parent-engagement programs to reduce truancy and juvenile delinquency: A systematic review. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cl2.1189>

**Kethineni, S., & Harris, C.** (2021). Right against self-incrimination: Revealing mental health history of justice-involved youth. *Contemporary Issues in Juvenile Justice*, 11(1).

Kim, S. Y., **Shigemoto, Y.**, Neduvelil, A., & Grzywacz, J. (2021). Longitudinal stability of work-family enrichment over and above well-being and personality traits. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 49(6), 907-939. Doi: 10.1177/00110000211015909

Knott, L., **Salami, T. K.**, Gordon, M. R., Torres, M., Coverdale, J., & Nguyen, P. T. (2021). Motivational interviewing as a therapeutic strategy for trafficked persons. *Journal of Cognitive Psychotherapy*, 35(2).DOI:10.1891/JCPSY-D-20-00028.

**Kumar, K. J., Bolli, P., & Cintron, M.** (2021). The criminalization of low-rank castes: A historical perspective of Mahad Movement, Mahad, Maharashtra, India (1927-1937). In Valeria Vegh Weis and John Lea (Eds). *Activism thought the Language of Criminality Historical Perspectives in the Criminalization of Social and Political Engagement*. Routledge ISBN 9780367700119,

**Lawrence, T. I., Allen, L., McField, A., & Yelderman, L. A.** (2021). Trust, stability, socioeconomic status, and relationship satisfaction. *Journal of Family Strengths*, 20(1), Article 11. <https://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/jfs/vol20/iss1/11>

Lieway, M., Weiser, D. A., Brown, R. D., Shrout, M. R., **Russell, K. N.**, Weigel, D. J., & Evans, W. P. (2021). Parent communication about consent, sexual assault, and relationship violence: promoting healthy relationships or reinforcing gender stereotypes? *Family Relations*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12598>

Marsh, S., **Russell, K. N.**, & Evans, W. (2021). Trickle down registration: Researching the lived experiences of partners of registered sexual offenders, *Health Communication*, 1-6.

**McIntosh, S., Simmons-Horton, S., & Barnes, F.** (2021). Ethnic variations in levels of conventional bonding among different Black adolescents in the United States: Implications for behavioral resilience. *Contemporary Issues in Juvenile Justice*, 11(1).

**Motley, S. M.** (2021). Addressing the perils associated with adverse childhood experiences in Washington State. *Justice Policy Journal*, 18(1), 1-15.

Ouassini, A., Amini, M. & **Ouassini, N.** (2021). #ChinaMustexplain: Global tweets, COVID-19, and Anti-Black Racism in China. *Review of Black Political Economy*. March. Doi:10.1177/003464462199268710.1177/0034644621992687

Ouassini, N., & **Ouassini, A.** (2021). Resisting extremist ideologies: Counterterrorism, women, and religious reform in Morocco. *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies*, 13(1), 94-110.

Ouassini, A., & **Ouassini, N.** (2021). "Mother of the Revolution:" Tawakkol Karman, Islamic feminism, and non-violent mobilization in Yemen. In A. Hamling (Ed.), *Contemporary Icons of Nonviolence*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

- Ouassini, A., & **Ouassini, N.** (2021). In A. Hamling (Ed.), "Mother of the Revolution": Tawakkol Karman, Islamic feminism, and non-violent mobilization in Yemen. *Contemporary Icons of Nonviolence* (pp. 172-185). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Reid, R.** (2021). Review of the book: *Recidivism in the Caribbean: Improving the reintegration of Jamaican ex-prisoners* by Dacia Leslie. *Caribbean Journal of Criminology*, 2(2).
- Richards, S., Broadus, A., & Yelderman, L. A.** (2021). Treatment and non-treatment professionals in Texas: Race, sex, age, and level of education influencing attitudes toward addiction. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 51(1), 218-235. DOI: 10.1177/0022042620971857
- Russell, K. N., Edwards, C. P., Miller, M. K., & Jackson, B. K.** (2021). Is civility dead? Judges' perceptions of incivility in the courtroom. *Family and Juvenile Court Journal*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfcj.12211>
- Russell, K. N., & Evans, W. P.** (2021). Exploring perceptions of safety: Developing safety and support measures to assess public attitudes of sex offense registration. *Justice Policy Journal*, 19(1), 1-25.
- Russell, K. N., & Gruys, K.** (2021). How do gender, sexuality, and age impact perceptions of teacher sexual misconduct? An intersectional vignette-based study. *Feminist Criminology*, 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1557085121998748>
- Russell, K. N., Snider, K., Evans, W., & Marsh, S.** (2021). Shame and justice: Partners of individuals on sex offense registries encourage policy reform. *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology*, 1-30. <https://doi.org/10.21428/88de04a1.0eadc609>
- Salami, T. K., Babu, J., & Hari, C.** (2021) Criminal justice students' perceptions of human trafficking victims: Assessing bias and helping behavior. *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, DOI: 10.1080/10511253.2021.1952287
- Salami, T. K., Gordon, M., Babu, J., Coverdale, J. & Nguyen, P.T.** (2021). Treatment considerations for foreign-born victims of human trafficking: Practical applications of an ecological framework. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 58(2), 293-306. DOI:10.1177/1363461520983950
- Salami, T. K., Lawson, E., & Metzger, I. W.** (2021). The impact of microaggressions on Black college students' worry about their future employment: The moderating role of social support and academic achievement. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 27(2), 245–255. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cdp0000340>.
- Salami, T. K., Lima, A., Hari, C., Hegarty, I., Jacobs, A., & Galicia, B.** (2021). Mental health service delivery for IPV victims during the COVID-19 pandemic: technology as a path forward. *The Behavior Therapist*.
- Salami, T. K., Gordon, M. R., Babu, J., Coverdale, J. & Nguyen, P. T.** (2021). Treatment considerations for immigrant victims of human trafficking: using an ecological framework. *Transcultural Psychiatry*.
- Shigemoto, Y.** (2021). Association between daily rumination and posttraumatic growth during the COVID-19 pandemic: An experience sampling method. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*. Advance online publication. DOI: 10.1037/tra0001061.

**Shigemoto, Y.** (2021). Exploring state-level variabilities between community resilience and posttraumatic stress symptoms during the COVID-19 pandemic: Multilevel modeling approach. *Traumatology*, 27, 98-106. DOI: 10.1037/trm000030

Simmons-Horton, S. & **Gibson, C.** (2021). Ethnic identity of Black Muslims and resilience from criminal risk factors. *Humanity and Society* (online first).

Vujanovic, A. A., **Salami, T.K.**, Boland, G., Gordon, M. R., Coverdale, J. H., & Nguyen, P. T. (2021). Human trafficking: overview and discussion of mental health considerations. In *The Curated Reference Collection in Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Psychology*. Elsevier Science Ltd.

**Yelderman, L. A.**, Wood, S., & Summers, A., (2021). Media reports of child deaths and the relationship to foster care entries and exits. *Child and Youth Care Forum*. Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10566-021-09616-2>

**Yelderman, L. A.**, Estrada-Reynolds, V., & Lawrence, T. (2021). Release or denial: Evaluating the roles of emotion and risk in parole decisions. *Psychological Reports*, advance online publication. DOI: 10.1177/00332941211007929

## Open-Editorials

**Gibson, C.** (June 2021). OP-ED. Stop rehiring officers guilty of misconduct. *Houston Chronicle*, p. A17.

Pollack, D., & **Russell, K. N.** (April 2021). OP-ED: Are juvenile curfew laws effective crime stoppers? *New York Law Journal*.

**Russell, K. N.**, & Pollack, D. (August 2021). OP-ED: Why blanket registration of youth as sex offenders is bad public policy. *The Crime Report*.

**Russell, K. N.**, & Pollack, D. (March 2021). OP-ED: Sex offender registries can cause families and partners to become collateral damage. *New York Law Journal*.

**Russell, K. N.**, & Marsh, S. C. (January 2021). OP-ED: Youth who commit sexual offenses: Is [public] perception reality? *Juvenile Justice Information Exchange: (Center for Sustainable Journalism / Kennesaw State University)*.

## Reports

Del Carmen, A., Luo, F., Pollack, W., **Chism, K.**, **Gibson, C.** et al. (2021). Racial profiling data analysis for the State of Texas 2020. Institute for Predictive Analytics in Criminal Justice. <https://web.tarleton.edu/ipac/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2021/05/IPAC-Racial-Profiles-Texas-compressed.pdf>

**Richards, S. N.** & **Broadus, A.D.** (2021). Greater Houston Area Drug Impact Report: 2015-2019. Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, Prairie View A&M University.

**Russell, K.N.** & **Ellington, S.** (2021). Texas Juvenile Secure Facilities: 2020 Incident Trends. Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. Prairie View A&M University. <https://www.pvamu.edu/cojpp/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/TEXAS-JUVENILE-SECURE-FACILITIES-2020-INCIDENT-TRENDS-FINAL.pdf>



## Reports (cont.)

Russell, K.N. (January 2021). COVID-10 in Texas Secure Facilities. Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, Prairie View A&M University. <https://www.pvamu.edu/cojpp/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/COVID-19-in-Texas-Secure-Juvenile-Facilities-1.pdf>

## Presentations and Invited Talks

Alaniz, H., Harris, T., Dmello, J., & **Rembert, D. A.** (2021, November). Scholars of Color in Criminal Justice. [Roundtable presentation]. Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators Annual Meeting, virtual.

**Allen, T. T.** (2021, August 4-7). Schools, punishment, and juvenile justice. Society for the Study of Social Problems, Virtual Conference.

**Allen, T. T.** (2021, April 26). Police/juvenile interaction. Family and Community Health.

**Allen, T. T.** (2021, January 25). Stand your ground. Tabernacle Talk Series.

Banks, C., Henderson, C., Phillips, J., **Salami, T.**, & Henriksen, R. (2021, February 17-March 6). Contemporary History and Psychology in Texas: Understanding Mental Illness within the Black Community, 1970-2020. [Symposium presentation]. Annual Conference of the Texas State Historical Association, virtual.

**Bienek, C.**, Lively, L. & **Gibson, C.** (2021, April). “Bad apples” and their “barrels”: Describing law enforcement misconduct. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research, virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

**Bienek, C.**, Lively, L. & **Gibson, C.** (2021, April). Identifying “bad apples” and “bad barrels”: A look at police misconduct. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference, virtual.

**Bolli, P., Kumar, K. J., & Cintron, M.** (2021, April). A study on the public perception towards the usage of aerial police drones and body-worn cameras. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

**Bolli, P., Kumar, K. J., & Cintron, M.** (2021, November 18-21). Criminal Justice degree and perceptions of juvenile justice among juvenile probation officers. American Society of criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago IL.

**Cintron, M.** (2021, September 15). Overview of the 87th Texas Legislature/Juvenile Justice Laws, From the Capitol to the Community: What Happens Next? The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc., 87th Legislative Session Update: An Urban Perspective, virtual.

**Columb, C. J., & Yelderman, L. A.** (2021, November). Re-examining the “White Female Victim Effect” between White and Black mock jurors in a capital case. [Paper presentation]. American Criminology Society Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois.



- Ellington, S. & Cintron, M.** (2021, November 18-21). A comparison of the Senate and House Bills on police reform. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago IL.
- Ellington, S. & Cintron, M.** (2021, April). Delinquency is the product of idle hands, a look into the effects of COVID-19 on youths in Jamaica. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.
- Ellis, D., & Yelderman, L. A.** (April 2021). Parole Board. Research and Innovation Week Symposium, Prairie View, TX.
- Eno-Ibanga, A., Okeke, D., **Yelderman, L. A.**, & Musa, S. M. (July 2021). PV solar technology for energy cost emissions reduction in rural area presented at the International Conference on Green Energy, Computing, and Sustainable Technology (GECOST).
- Fondren, A. & Jackson, R.** (2021, April). Youth transitioning out of the foster care system. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.
- Frazier-Kouassi, S.** (2021, January 21). Social Action – A different world: Real RED Talk Series: State of Harris County and Criminal Justice. [Invited Panelist]. North Harris County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Gibson, C.** 2021,(December 17). Newsy National News television interview by Tatevik Aprikyan on law enforcement response to Tik Tok challenge threats.
- Gibson, C.** (2021, December 1). Newsy National News based in Washington DC, Television interview by Chance Seales on increasing juvenile violence.
- Gibson, C.** (2021, November 11). Guest of Erik Barajas on the Kyle Rittenhouse verdict. ABC 13 News, Houston.
- Gibson, C.** (2021, September 28). News interview on rise in teen murders. Isaiah Factor Fox 26.
- Gibson, C.** (2021, September). Juveniles on sex offender registries. New Jersey Monitor interview with Dana DiFilippo.
- Gibson, C.** (2021, August). Racial disparities, violence, bail reform. Investigative Network (Texas) interview with Brian Collister.
- Gibson, C.** (2021, August 21). Youth suicide trends during the pandemic. [Interview]. Isaiah Factor Fox 26 News.
- Gibson, C.** (2021, July 29). Critical Race Theory and the 1619 Project. [Featured speaker]. Sigma Gamma Lambda Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Event.
- Gibson, C.** (2021, July 22). HBCU Criminal Justice Programs: “Where We Were, Where We Are, Where We Are Going. [Panelist]. Zoom presentation facilitated by NCCU Criminal Justice Program.
- Gibson, C.** (2021, June 2). House Joint Resolution 4, Bail reform in Texas. KBTX- CBS affiliate interview.
- Gibson, C.** (2021, May). Texas HB 3979 on teaching about race in K-12 schools in Texas. KBTX- CBS affiliate interview.

**Gibson, C.** (2021, April). The need for police reform in the Caribbean: Regional activism post-George Floyd. [Roundtable discussant]. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference, virtual.

**Gibson, C.** (2021, April). Keynote Speaker (with Dr. Peter Ampim). International research collaborations: Paths to global problem solving. [Keynote Speaker]. ISURE Undergraduate Research Symposium, PVAMU.

**Gibson, C.** (2021, March). Racial Advocacy Day. Children at Risk. Houston, TX.

**Gibson, C. & Cintron, M.** (2021, October 8). Guests of Francis Daniel Nina on Crime in the Caribbean during COVID. Puerto Rican Radio - Funche Caribeno El Ante Postillo.

**Gibson, C. & Dawkins, M.** (2021, October 11). Guests of Drs. Morris Jenkins and Erica Davila for Multicultural Issues in Criminal Justice: Jamaica and the Caribbean. Hosts: Department of Justice, Law, and Public Safety at Lewis University in Romeoville Illinois.

Hari, C., Boland, G. M., Galicia, B., & **Salami, T.** (2021, November). The mediating effect of anxiety on the association between occupational stress and sleep quality among law enforcement officers. [Poster presentation]. 2021 International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Annual Conference, virtual.

Hari, C., Rodriguez, S., Muniz, I., Flake, A., Torres, M., Gordon, M., Nguyen, P., Coverdale, J., & **Salami, T. K.** (2021, March). Examining the prevalence and trends of substance use, mental illness and homelessness among a sex trafficked population in an urban medical setting. [Poster presentation]. 40th Anxiety and Depression Association of America Conference, San Antonio, TX.

**Hastings, C.** (2021, April). Heteronormative ideologies and LGBT+ gang members. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

Hastings, C. & **Gibson, C.** (2021, July). Describing how life during a pandemic may have fueled homicide in one US city, Houston. British Society of Criminology Annual Conference (online).

Hillegass, C., Rodriguez, S., Hari, C., Flake, A., Torres, M., Gordon, M., Nguyen, P., Coverdale, & **Salami, T. K.** (2021, March). Gender and racial/ethnic differences in illicit substance use and STDs among sex trafficked populations in an urban medical setting. [Poster presentation]. 40th Anxiety and Depression Association of America Conference, San Antonio, TX.

**Jackson, R. D.** (2021, April). I am Not My Hair: The criminalization of Black hair. [Seminar presentation and discussant]. BJ-ML School of Public Affairs Research Forum & Roundtable Discussion, virtual.

**Jackson, R. D., & Schroder, A.** (2021, November). School Resource Officer's roles, responsibilities, and Texas' legislative response: An examination of current policy. [Paper presentation]. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Joseph, J., & **Rembert, D. A.** (2021, November). Explaining racial/ethnic differences in psychopathy's relationship with youth gang membership among males. [Paper presentation]. Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators Annual Meeting, virtual.

**Lawrence, T., McField, A., Freeman, K., & Yelderman, L.** (2021, April). African American attitudes toward body-worn cameras. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

**Kethineni, S.** (2021, July 17). Violation of human rights of ethnic and religious minorities from global perspectives. Presented at the CISR Emerging Social Justice Scholars Summer Institute, virtual. Prairie View A&M University.

**Kethineni, S.** (2021, November). Meet Critics: The Emerald Handbook of Crime, Justice, and Sustainable Development. [Presentation]. American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

**Kethineni, S., Frazier-Kouassi, S., Shigemoto, Y., Jennings, W., Cardwell, S., Piquero, A., Sundaravadivelu, S., et al.** (2021, November). Parent engagement programs to reduce truancy and juvenile delinquency. American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

Lo, Celia C., **Ash-Houchen, W.**, Cheng, T. C. & and Chu, D. C. (2021, August). I Bully: A response to bullying victimization. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Virtual Conference.

**McIntosh, S.** (2021, November). Differences in domestic and international students' experiences and perceptions of graduate school. [Oral presentation]. Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators Annual Meeting, virtual.

**McIntosh, S. & Cihan, A.** (2021, April). Understanding the impact of self-esteem, school safety, peer association, and neighborhood disorder on youth bullying behavior. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

**McIntosh, S. & Kethineni, S.** (2021, November). Truancy: Examining the roles of gang membership, parental monitoring, and students' attitude towards school. [Oral presentation]. American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

**Miriyam, N. & Kethineni, S.** (2021, April). Neighborhood disorder and peer deviance: A catalyst to delinquent behavior among school-going youth. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

**Miriyam, N., Sundaravadivelu, D. & Kethineni, S.** (2021, November). Human trafficking in India: A content analysis based inquiry. American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

**Ouassini, N.** (2021, July). Arab Criminology. [Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the British Society of Criminology at Open University, Buckinghamshire, UK.

**Paris, G.M.** (2021, July). Parental involvement: The secret weapon. [Presentation]. Annual Texas State PTA Conference, Grapevine, Texas.

**Paris, G.M.** (2021, August). Domestic violence. [Organizer and Discussant]. Athletics Department, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas.

**Paris, G.M.** (2021, September). From the Capitol to the community. [Organizer and Facilitator]. The Earl Carl Institute and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center's Symposium on the 87th Legislative Session, Houston, Texas.

**Paris, G.M.** (2021, October). Domestic violence. [Organizer and Facilitator]. The Gavel Series, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas.

Parrish, R. & **Shigemoto, Y.** (2021, April). Implicit racial bias in policing: A quantitative study. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

Phillips, J., Addo-Yobo, A., Grant, J., Madubata, I.J., & **Salami, T.K.** (2021, May). Discrimination and psychological well-being: the moderating effects of gender and John Henryism. [Poster presentation]. Annual Conference for the Association for Psychological Science, virtual.

**Reid, R.** & Cihan, A. (2021, April). Examining the roles of individual temperance and neighborhood physical disorder in adolescents' exposure to violence. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

**Rembert, D. A.**, Threadcraft, M., & Joseph, J. (2021, November). Pedagogies for alliterate college students. [Roundtable presentation]. Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators Annual Meeting, virtual.

**Russell, K. N.** (2021, March). Sexual offending and related policies: Examining stigma and collateral consequences of partners of registrants. [Lecture]. Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center 2020-21 Brown Bag Series, Prairie View A&M University.

**Russell, K. N.**, & Gruys, K. (2021, August). Perceptions of teacher sexual misconduct cases: An experimental vignette study. [Paper presentation]. The Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues 2021 Summer Conference, virtual.

**Russell, K. N.**, Snider, K., Marsh, S., & Evans, W. (2021, August). Partners of sex offense registrants encourage evidence-based policy reform. [Paper presentation]. The Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues 2021 Summer Conference, virtual.

Stewart, T. K. & **Shigemoto, Y.** (2021, April). The relationship between marriage satisfaction, premarital counseling, and childhood experiences among African American couples. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

**Sundaravadivelu, D.** & **Kethineni, S.** (2021, April). Rape against girl children in India: A statistical review. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

**Sundaravadivelu, D.**, **Miriyam, N.**, & **Kethineni, S.** (2021, November). Suicide among youth in Southern India: Contributing factors and prevention measures. American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

Threadcraft, M., Johnson, J., Morgan, N., Wimberly, K., McClelland, B., Favors, K., Nelson, Franklin, T., Rhoads, K., & **Rembert, D.** (2021, November). The ideal criminal justice professor. [Roundtable presentation]. Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators Annual Meeting, virtual.

**Whiting, S.** & **Cintron, M.** (2021, April). Guns and open carry policies in Texas: A critical assessment. [Presentation]. Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR), virtual. Prairie View A&M University; Prairie View, TX.

**Yelderman, L. A.** (2021, November). Using data to improve equity in juvenile court [Panel presentation]. CJJ's 2021 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Conference, virtual.

**Yelderman, L. A.** (April 2021). Water conservation attitudes, well monitoring, and procedural justice. Research and Innovation Week Symposium, Prairie View, TX.

## Center Journals

### Contemporary Issues in Juvenile Justice

In 2021, the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center re-launched its academic peer reviewed journal formerly the Journal of Knowledge and Best Practices in Juvenile Justice now as Contemporary Issues in Juvenile Justice. The journal is an open-access publication that is available online through BePress' Digital Commons and in print. The publication is devoted to presenting articles that advance efficacious practices, policies, and research in justice systems relevant to children and adolescents in the prevention of delinquency. The most recent issue in Volume 11 includes articles on the response to status offenders, self-incrimination, challenges to accessing mental health courts, immigration status and offending, and the impact of conventional bonding on youth behavior. Dr. Camille Gibson serves as the Editor-in-Chief, with support from Dr. Susan Frazier-Kouassi as Senior Editor; and managing support from two doctoral students at PVAMU Ms. Bridgett Boxley (Psychology department) and Ms. Regan Reid (Justice Studies department).

Link to the journal: <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/cojjp-contemporaryissues/>

### Journal of Family Strengths

The Journal of Family Strengths (JFS), formerly Family Preservation Journal, is an open-access, double-blind peer-reviewed online journal produced by the CHILDREN AT RISK (CAR) Institute in partnership with the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center - Prairie View A&M University and The TMC Library. JFS is devoted to presenting theoretical, policy, practice, and evaluation articles on the strengths perspective in family-centered practice to improve services that promote and sustain family systems. Dr. Camille Gibson serves one of the Editors-In-Chief along with Dr. Robert Sanborn at CAR; Dr. Susan Frazier-Kouassi serves as one of the Associate Editors with Dr. Stella Smith (MACH III at PVAMU).

Link to the journal: <https://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/jfs/>



## Education

### *Spring Royce West Forum and Lecture Series: Transforming Families and Communities Across Generations: Addressing Historical Trauma*



Royce West

On April 15, 2021, nearly 100 participants gathered for the Annual Royce West Forum and Lecture Series hosted by Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) virtually for the first time.

Since 2007, the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center (TJCPC) at PVAMU has worked in close partnership with Senator Royce West (D-Dallas) and his team to host panel discussions on topics relating to juvenile justice in America. This year, panelists addressed historical trauma and its impact on families over the last several decades and efforts currently underway to help communities.

James Bell, founding president of the W. Haywood Burns Institute in Oakland, California, served as the keynote speaker for the event. In his address titled, “Non-negotiable: Demanding Social Justice and Racial Equity in our Systems of Care” Bell addressed the cross-generational impact of trauma – noting the legacy of trauma in society, understanding its purpose, and practicing radical imagination to alleviate it. From citing the nation’s foundation and beginnings of inequity to exposing how the COVID-19 pandemic and events involving George Floyd and Amy Cooper continue to illustrate inequity – Bell called for innovative advocacy, community-centered initiatives, and a reduction in the dependency on law enforcement to solve the majority of societal problems.

“We need to be creative in order to change the balance of power,” said Bell. “Decisions about the keeper and the kept, the servers and the served and those who will suffer abuse, and those who will be protected from harm – all need to be transformed.”

Following Bell’s remarks, Drs. Farrah Cambrice, associate professor of sociology at PVAMU, and Tamika Baldwin-Clark, assistant professor of social work at PVAMU, as well as Drs. Jamie Freeny, director of the Center for School Behavioral Health in Houston, and Zoe Spencer, professor of sociology at Virginia State University, each, in turn, addressed questions on the issue of trauma. The session was moderated by PVAMU Justice Studies faculty, Dr. Sessa Kethineni.

The panel of experts explored how to break the generational effects of historical trauma, which results from racism and discrimination, from being passed down from family to family. They also addressed the role of educators and ways to have larger conversations on these issues. “We live in a culture of silence about our wounds,” said Cambrice. “It’s painful to talk about our wounds and even more so when we believe we’re the only ones who carry the heartache,” Cambrice suggested incorporating the idea of storytelling in families and communities as a solution. Other panelists suggested teaching history to youth and changing discussions at home.

“We need to find different ways to make our history interesting to our youth,” said Baldwin-Clark. “And engage with them on these important issues.”

The panelists also suggested working with policymakers to change the K-12 curriculum, hiring teachers that reflect the diversity of classrooms, and revisiting standard codes of conduct in K-12 schools to ensure they do not oppress certain



groups.

To watch the full 2021 Royce West Forum and Virtual Lecture Series, click here: [https://pvpanther.zoom.us/rec/share/enIsJPmsWa6BOV4QOQL9Vymy\\_gTLnHtnda-1lhv3jqw8YkLIAtczb5i8XfIJ41hf.6HOLVMTbSGEtY\\_OK](https://pvpanther.zoom.us/rec/share/enIsJPmsWa6BOV4QOQL9Vymy_gTLnHtnda-1lhv3jqw8YkLIAtczb5i8XfIJ41hf.6HOLVMTbSGEtY_OK)

### *The Gavel Series*

The Gavel Series 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 build a bridge between the Center, Waller community, and the University's campus. We continue to strengthen the Center's function and viability both internally and externally.

The series focuses on providing relevant community-based free legal education in a "user-friendly" format. Through this series, information is shared with the public about legal rights and the role these rights play in everyday life. Workshops have been conducted by volunteer lawyers, retired judges, prosecutors, law school professors, and other experts.

Emerging data have shown that violence against women and girls particularly domestic violence intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls continue in public spaces, online, and in the streets. The increased social isolation during COVID-19 contributed to creating an environment where victims and aggressors in a relationship could not easily separate from each other. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention defines intimate partner violence as physical, emotional, psychological, or economic abuse including stalking and sexual harm by a current or former partner or spouse. The CDC further says that about 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men report having experienced severe physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime.

The Gavel Series hosted its first of two workshops on Domestic Violence in August with the second workshop in October, Domestic Violence Awareness month. These workshops featured Waller County's Assistant District Attorney, Tiffany Bradshaw; Lee Van Richardson a prominent Criminal Defense attorney in Waller County; Judge Marian Elaine Jackson, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 of Waller County; Frank Jackson, Director of Community Affairs at PVAMU and Nakia Hanson, Relationship and Sexual Violence Program Manager at PVAMU. Participation at both events totaled 178 individuals. The Center and its Gavel Series will continue to provide relevant community-based free legal education in a "user-friendly" format and look forward to hosting its upcoming series in February on Redistricting: the Impact of Census Data.

### *Blackstone Pre-Law Society*

The Blackstone Pre-Law Society is comprised of students enrolled in all disciplines across campus. The 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. The expectation for members is that they become responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the communities of their choice. A legal education has the potential to enable persons to bring sustained changes to youth, families and systems in various ways. Providing this level of exposure for our students has been enhanced significantly with the donation made by Rita and Doug Neagli

The Rita and Doug Neagli Pre-Law Advising fund has made it possible for the advisors, Grady M. Paris, Esq. and Nathan K. Mitchell, Ph.D., to sustain the programming in a virtual format; despite the challenges presented by the COVID

### *Blackstone Pre-Law Society (cont.)*

pandemic. Students have attended webinars with law school admissions deans from the University of Texas, South Texas College of Law, Texas Tech University School of Law and other law schools across the country. Alumni, who are practicing attorneys and judges, have had the opportunity to meet with students and share their law school experience through this format. The 17th Annual National Black Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair was conducted in a virtual format this year, which tremendously increased student participation and exposure opportunities. Preparing for the LSAT and producing a solid application package is critical to law school admission.

An LSAT online prep class is offered to students with them only paying a nominal fee as well as guidance for the personal statement, which was made available through this funding. Although we look forward to a post COVID return to face-to-face law school tours and other student engagement activities, we continue to fortify a foundation that gives our students a significant advantage and prepares them to benefit fully from a challenging legal education.

### *Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR): Students at the Cutting Edge of Research*

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center held its first Conference for Interdisciplinary Student Research (CISR) this year. Held virtually on April 1 in place of what would have been the 16th Annual Research Symposium, CISR brought together students from various disciplines under the conference theme, “Globalized Governance: Improving Community Well-being and Trust.” The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need and urgency for a coordinated response to globalized problems. For the first time in history, people all over the globe were affected by a single threat to health and life – the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The problem of COVID-19 requires an interdisciplinary response that cuts across multiple disciplines including biology, psychology, health, and others.

The program led by Susan Frazier-Kouassi, Ph.D., the director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and a tremendous working committee addressed the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other critical issues that “require an interdisciplinary response that is grounded in the humanities, education, and behavioral and social sciences to understand the human impact and to offer durable solutions.” Research presented by graduate and undergraduate students explored “police reform, food security, institutional systemic racism, disaster relief, climate change, educational disparities and inequities, cybersecurity issues, public health, and a host of other issues.

With CISR, the College of Juvenile Justice embraced the expanded scope of the symposium in recent years while trying to encourage more direct problem solving among presenters from different departments. There were presentations from more than 50 undergraduate and graduate students at Prairie View A&M University, Hampton University (Virginia), Spelman College (Georgia), Dillard University (Louisiana), Howard University, University of Miami (Florida), and Mbarara University of Science and Technology (Uganda). Topical areas included:

- Novel Approaches to Addressing Community Problems
- Science and Technology for Better Health
- Improving Trust in the African American Community
- A Critical Evaluation of Current Policies
- Youth and Implications for Social Policy
- Community Health and Welfare
- Bioinformatics
- Race and Social Policy

- The Environment
- Agriculture and Chemistry
- Improving Health through the Study of Genetics

The planning committee for the conference was outstanding in the commitment and effort to make the conference a success! Members included:

- Dr. Grace Abolaji, Undergraduate Research Development Officer, Office of Research & Innovation
- Dr. Peter Ampim, Assistant Professor, College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
- Stephen Aisabokhae, Doctoral Student in Educational Leadership, College of Education
- Dr. Angela Broadus, Training Specialist, Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center (resigned)
- Dr. Laura Carson, Director, Research Compliance & Undergraduate Research, Cooperative Agriculture Research Center
- Dr. Susan Frazier-Kouassi, Director, Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center
- Marsha HoSang, Lecturer, Department of Psychology, College of Arts & Science
- Dr. Vanessa Monroe, Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Nursing
- Dr. Nathan Mitchell, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, College of Arts & Science
- Dr. Quincy Moore, Associate Professor & Director, Honors College
- Dr. Ram Ray, Research Scientist, College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
- Dr. Kristan Russell, Assistant Professor of Justice Studies & Research Scientist, Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center
- Dr. Stella Smith, Associate Director, Minority Achievement, Creativity, and High-Ability Center (MACH-III)

High-impact experiences such as the symposium are to prepare our students to lead in the workforce. The 21st-century changes rapidly and our graduates must be able to adapt in dynamic spaces, innovate and think critically to solve problems.

### *CISR Emerging Social Justice Scholars Summer Institute*

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for coordinated responses to globalized problems. From public health to Black Lives Matter, local, state, and national governments across the world are dealing with unprecedented challenges. These critical issues require an interdisciplinary response that is grounded in the humanities, education, and behavioral and social sciences to understand the human impact and to offer durable solutions. The CISR Emerging Social Justice Scholars Summer Institute held July 17th and 24th, 2021 enrolled fifteen junior and senior undergraduate students from Prairie View A&M University and Rice University to come together for a 2-day institute to learn more about social justice research in response to ongoing issues of police reform, food security, institutional systemic racism, disaster relief, climate change, educational disparities and inequities, cybersecurity threats, public health, and a host of other issues. Students' majors included psychology, criminal justice, finance, nutrition, communications, social work, and human nutrition. Invited sessions speakers included:

- "Mountaintop Removal: MLK, Trump, and the Racial Mountain" Dr. Melayne Price, (Endowed Professor of Political Science and Director, The Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice, PVAMU)
- "Conceptualizing Qualitative Research: The Five Approaches" Dr. Stella Smith, Associate Director, MACH III Center, PVAMU
- "Stories from the Pandemic: How Social Science Research Can Help Us to Better Respond" Dr. Nathan Mitchell, Assistant Professor of Political Science, PVAMU

- “Using Quantitative Methods in Social Justice Research” Dr. Jerrel
- “Violation of Rights of Ethnic and Religious Minorities from a Global Perspective” Dr. Sesha Kethineni, Professor of Justice Studies, PVAMU
- “Disaggregating Data to Advance Health Equity: The Case of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders” Dr. Sela Panapasa, Associate Research Scientist, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
- “What you Don’t Know Can Harm You: The Importance of Becoming Data Literate” Dr. Janice Johnson Dias, Associate Professor of Sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

### *PVAMU Virtual Third Annual Summit on Improving Opportunities for African American and Latinx Male Youth*

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center (TJCPC) and the Minority Achievement, Creativity, and High-Ability Center (MACH-III), both at Prairie View A&M University partnered to host the Third annual summit on Improving Opportunities for African American and Latinx Male Youth, via Zoom, on November 16. Sponsored in part by the President’s Office, it featured New York Times bestselling and Newbery Medal-winning author Jerry Craft as the highlighted speaker.

Mr. Craft provided the audience with an example of the possibilities a young African American boy growing up in Harlem might have in reaching his dreams: that of being an author and an illustrator. He provided the summit participants with a chronological view of how his life turned out “bigger than his dreams” growing from a cartoonist to becoming an award-winning writer, publisher, and inspirational speaker for young students.

In addition to Mr. Craft’s presentation, the summit highlighted the persistent disparities that continue for African American and Latinx males using data from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). Ms. Marsha HoSang, an instructor from the Psychology department and Dr. Kristan Russell, Assistant Professor of Justice Studies and Research Scientist in the Center gave informative presentations on the disheartening state of affairs - both in the educational and juvenile justice system.



Sponsored by the Center, the summit welcomed educators, community members, those within the juvenile justice system, and others to learn about the difficulties and injustices faced by this marginalized, growing segment of the population. Informally called the “Black and Brown Boys Summit”, the event seeks to address the “school-to-prison pipeline” that



unfairly redirects the paths of some young men of color from a future of prosperity to one aimed at the penitentiary.

In the coming year, a special summit exclusively for African American and Latinx young males to voice their concerns, experiences, and challenges with the educational system is being planned by the Center in collaboration with MACH-III.

This partnership between the TJPCPC and MACH III continues its work to establish a database on Texas programs designed to intervene on behalf of African American and Latino male students to enhance academic and other outcomes.

### *The Darden-Caldwell LeadHERship Series for Girls*

In May 2021, the Darden-Caldwell LeadHERship Series for Girls was born through the collaborative efforts of Dr. Susan Frazier-Kouassi and Attorney Grady M. Paris, Director and Associate Director of The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Prairie View A&M University alumna, Phyllis Darden-Caldwell. The Center is committed to reducing juvenile delinquency in the State of Texas through research, education and service.



Counselor and Student Participants from Carl Wunsche Sr. High School

For years, Ms. Darden-Caldwell has served in a variety of capacities as a mentor and advocate for students with the University as well as through her position as a paralegal with Vinson & Elkins, LLP through civic and pro bono sponsored efforts with HISD Volunteers in Public Schools, Neighborhood Centers, Inc. Ripley House (now, Baker Ripley) and Texas Appleseed “School Pipeline to Prison” research on 15 Texas school districts. Participating in the development of this series was a natural transition for her and collaborating with TJPCPC was an opportunity to join the dual focus of both to a singular concentric focus.

Drawing from the core values of the University, “to inspire and guide students to become successful leaders in their professions and their communities”, the purpose and mission of the LeadHERship Series became clear. The team wanted to focus on guiding young girls as they navigated life through adolescence to young adulthood, when a single decision could potentially change the trajectory of their life journeys. More importantly, our goals aligned with the mission and purpose of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. We determined that young girls could be empowered to visualize themselves beyond their present circumstances through mentorship and the development of leadership skills.



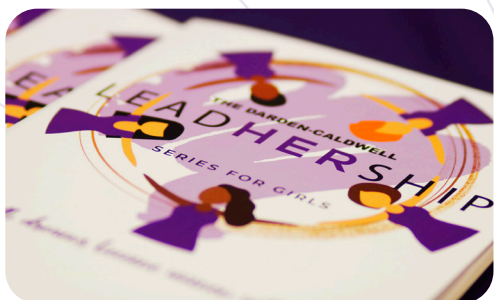
The team identified goals to be accomplished with an annual or bi-annual series. Thus, the importance of the series engendering in young girls the right to dare to dream ... to dream BIG and then fulfill those dreams emerged. We determined that introducing the girls to women who had successfully achieved these goals was the most effective approach. The team's desire with this inaugural conference was to provide the girls with tools for leadership development, self-empowerment, discovering their gifts and transforming gifts into careers along with instilling in them the desire to become positive change agents within their communities.



With six school districts and thirty-eight individual schools having been contacted, over 150 girls in grades 8-12th registered for the inaugural Darden-Caldwell LeadHERship Series for girls that was held at Prairie View A&M University's campus on October 20, 2021. Conference attendees included not only a diverse group of girls, but also parents, school counselors, principals, teachers, and a superintendent. The team was strategic in planning the conference workshops and inviting presenters. A cadre of dynamic, diverse, exciting, passionate and engaging speakers talked and generated audience interaction on Leadership, Health and Wellness, Student Panel and Social Justice. The Leadership panel included Dr. Tiffany Gillum a Prairie View alumna and practicing dentist, Attorney Lyndsey Vicknair, Prairie View alumna and practicing attorney and Mrs. Yolanda Lockhart-Gross, who is also a Prairie View alumna and the Program Coordinator for the Office of Parent & Family Programs at the university. The discussants focused on the qualities of effective leaders.

Health and Wellness as that is defined by the World Health Organization, "...health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and wellness as the optimal state of health of individuals and groups and wellness is expressed as a positive approach to living". Mrs. Te'Anna Donaldson an alumna of Prairie View

and a Family and Community Health Extension Agent in Harris County along with Dr. Lasheka D. Allen who is a Clinical Psychologist and graduate of the Clinical Adolescent Psychology doctoral program at Prairie View A&M University. Our Student Panel was made exclusive to the girls with Jamahsis Hodge-Marshall, an Albert Schweitzer Fellow, junior accounting major and a member of PVAMU's Cheerleader Team giving the girls a realistic view of college life, which included college preparatory and transitional guidance. We seized every moment; even lunch gave way to an opportunity for attendees to know Prairie View A&M University's illustrious 146 years of history. We concluded the day with our Social Justice session panel that featured Shareedah Tate Jackson, Tera Tate-Brown both relatives of George Floyd who discussed their activism and role in police reform and the George Floyd legislation; Jayla Allen who is a Prairie View alumna and distinguished herself while attending the university by working alongside the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund as a student plaintiff in *Allen vs. Waller*, a federal voting-rights lawsuit; Ms. Claudia Munoz who too was a student activist and Prairie View alumna and continues her activism as the Co-Executive Director of Grassroots Leadership; and Mrs. Sandy Arnold a mother and activist who talked about the Crown Act which results from her role as an advocate for her son. Each a change agent promoting fairness and equity across many aspects of society.



The conference planning team will track the girls as they matriculate through high school and enroll in the postsecondary institution of their choice. We anticipate a good number of them will make Prairie View A&M University their choice, which is an expected outcome of the conference. Particularly, after having had the full day visit described above and if selected for an upcoming summer camp, which will allow for an overnight and two days stay on campus. The team anticipates the summer camp will involve workshops led by professional women who are in leadership roles, students both undergraduate

and graduate with activities that promote leadership and empowerment so that the girls believe their lives are filled with possibilities and they understand that success is about overcoming obstacles, setting and achieving goals as well as accepting seemingly insurmountable challenges.

## Community Engagement

### *Prairie View-Haverstock Venture*

The partnership between the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and the University Cooperative Extension Program focused on health in Houston is in its second year. The project at Haverstock Housing complex is in its third year and is still evolving. As part of the Health in Houston initiative, we offered a variety of classes and workshops to residents during the spring and summer but because of COVID-19 restrictions, only a limited number of residents could participate. During the fall, we added a monthly information session to provide residents with valuable information that will assist them in making informed decisions. This involves bringing in experts and people with specialized skills and information about programs and services that will help residents access needed resources. Dr. Dennis Daniels, a public health expert led an enlightening discussion on the truths and myths about COVID-19 and why people should get vaccinated. Mr. Gregory Rose, a cooperative extension agent discussed with residents how to access services and programs to improve their credit scores and get funding to purchase a home. We also had a structured exercise that required them to create a vision board that focused on their future and how to achieve short and long-term goals.





## *Martin Luther King Jr Community Center Giveaway (Dallas Texas)*

To maintain our partnership with the Dallas community we participated in their annual Juneteenth community celebration for the second year in a row. Much like last year, we practiced social distancing by having a contactless drive-thru event. We gave away t-shirts, bags and lanyards to more than 500 families in the Dallas County area. We also met with principals and other personnel in targeted schools in the community.

## *Launching of Teen Connect Parenting Program*

As part of its mission to help break intergenerational trauma, the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center formally launched its Teen Connect Parenting Program, an international parent education and support training initiative developed to improve the quality of parent-child relationships and youth behavior. The program comes at a time when many families, especially those in Black, Latino, immigrant and low-income communities, are grappling with the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic recession and recent natural disasters in their lives.

Located within the Center, the program launched thanks to the generosity of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a national private philanthropy based in Baltimore, Maryland, that works to develop solutions to build a brighter future for children, youth, families and communities.

“We recognize people are suffering and that there is a great need for help to solve problems and heal our communities,” said Susan Frazier-Kouassi, Ph.D., director of the Texas Juvenile Crime and Prevention Center (TJPC). “This is a pivotal time in our society and even more so for disadvantaged juveniles in our local areas. The Teen Connect Parenting Program aligns with our early intervention efforts, and we are eager to bring our expertise to further advance our mission through activities within this program.”

Through this partnership, the Teen Connect Parenting Program will help parents throughout the Houston region develop skills to address challenges faced by vulnerable children, reduce aggressive behavior in youth, as well as identify problems and disorders that often lead to juvenile crime and impede social mobility. The program is an evidence-based, ten-week model that uses a trauma-informed approach and incorporates effective engagement strategies with experiential learning and skill development.

“We believe PVAMU is uniquely positioned to help break the cycle of trauma, crime and poverty,” said COJJP Interim Dean and Executive Director of the TJPC Camille Gibson, Ph.D. “We look forward to working together to help parents and families reduce juvenile delinquency to transform our local community and beyond.”

As the first site of its kind in Texas, PVAMU’s Teen Connect Parenting Program will partner with several Houston-based organizations including Eight Million Stories and Pro-Vision Academy among other organizations that support local youth, families and communities through education, training and social enrichment opportunities. Over time, PVAMU plans to expand the initiative into other neighborhoods across Texas.

“Teen Connect is a powerful approach to help keep young people safely with their families and out of the juvenile justice and foster care systems,” said Sandra Gasca-Gonzales, vice president of the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Center for Systems Innovation. “We are thrilled to be partnering with Prairie View A&M University in this effort that will leverage the school’s strong connections to community-based organizations and its commitment to healing communities and engaging community partners to help families thrive.”

In addition to an initial grant to launch the program, the Casey Foundation is donating in-kind training and support services to assist with planning and implementation.

“PVAMU and the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology have a proven history of helping vulnerable populations,” said Ruth J. Simmons, president of PVAMU. “We are grateful that we can continue to offer families relief and change lives with the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s leadership, vision and support.”

### *Spotlight on Community Partner: Judge Marian Jackson*



The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center is shining its spotlight on our Community Partner of the year, Judge Marian Elaine Jackson, Justice of the Peace; Precinct 3 of Waller County. Judge Jackson began the first of three terms of office serving the citizens of Waller County in 2010. In this capacity, she has administered justice fairly and impartially from the bench and within her community. Judge Jackson has played an active role in educational outreach having been appointed in 2018 to serve on the Education committee for the Texas Justice Court Training Center as well as being one of the founders of the Gavel Series, which is a community based “user-friendly” format the Center uses to provide the public with

free classes sharing information about legal rights and the role these rights play in everyday life. This series has covered topics including Juvenile Law; Payday Loans, Fraud & Other Scams, Law Enforcement Stops & De-Escalation; Paternity; County Government 101; Domestic Violence; Immigration Law; Business Organizations; Search and Seizure; Real Estate Law; Entertainment Law; Copyright and Trademarks; Buying and Selling a Home and many others.

Judge Jackson is altruistic in her interactions with others. She has used her platform as a judge to provide internships for more than 100 students from all disciplines at Prairie View A&M University. Her internship program is designed to introduce students to courtroom practice in all levels of the court system. She has taken her interns for court observation experiences in County, State and Federal courts. Because Judge Jackson believes promoting good government and helping students see government in action promotes civic responsibility, interns are provided an opportunity to visit the House and Senate Galleries watching their elected officials in session and later having scheduled meetings with these officials. Her interns have attended the Legislative Summit sponsored by the Texas Black Legislative Caucus and participated in sessions on Higher Education that promoted legislation to ensure equal access to a high quality public education and particularly supporting historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs). The hands-on, relevant experience her interns gain is phenomenal. When Harris County’s Bail Reform issues were being litigated and debated, she made certain her interns attended some of the sessions. Judge Jackson has created paths and left trails for others to follow. In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

She is a Founding member & Cub Master for Pack 338; a Founding member of Boy Scout Troop 1906; a member of the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Fighting Association, Inc. and serves as a Public Relations officer and Chairperson of annual community events. In this role, she conducts the Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon and the Annual Toy Drive. Prairie View A&M University awarded Judge Jackson the PVAMU Humanitarian Award in 2013. She is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and a member of Mt. Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Hempstead, Texas. Judge Jackson is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University and prior to her becoming a judge; she was an educator in Aldine and Waller School districts.

Family is equally important to Judge Jackson, who is the second of six children born to Dan and Bertha Jones and wife of Frank D. Jackson. She is the mother of two sons, Cheikh Agyeman and Okofo Agyeman. It is with highest honors that we spotlight this long-time educator and champion of youth and families - Judge Marian Elaine Jackson.

## Trainings

### *Hempstead Independent School District (H.I.S.D.) Truancy Prevention and Reduction*

The Center remains steadfast in providing technical assistance to support Hempstead High School's continuation grant awarded by the Juvenile Justice Criminal Justice Division of Governor Abbott's office. This grant has made it possible for the high school to retain its full-time truancy officer and part-time Parent Engagement specialist, which was personnel not had by the high school prior to the grant award. Grady M. Paris, Esq. has been instrumental in working with Hempstead high to provide grant writing assistance along with direct training services to its families.

We shifted our face-to-face Parent Engagement Training program to a virtual online platform and worked with 18 different families March through May 2021. Each parent/guardian along with his or her student(s) attended four 90-minute sessions that were conducted nightly for 4 nights during this timeframe.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted cracks in current truancy laws despite the fact that Texas is further ahead of the curb by decriminalizing truancy in 2015. Chronic absenteeism has become a focus of accountability metrics throughout the country because it is an indicator that a student may be at risk of dropping out or entering into the criminal justice system. Many students and their families faced challenges during the pandemic. Tracking attendance in a remote environment came with its own challenges for school personnel as well as students and their parents understanding the method of tracking attendance.

The Parent Engagement training curriculum is a resource made available to Hempstead Independent School District and all districts within the state to reduce and prevent truancy. The district elected to use this nonpunitive measure to support its families. Emerging evidence suggests that court involvement in school attendance matters is counterproductive.



## *Travis County Parent Engagement Training and Technical Assistance*

It is a well-known fact that chronic absenteeism directly impacts equity gaps causing students, who are already vulnerable to education inequity gaps, to fall further behind. Since Criminal sanctions for students were eliminated by the Legislature in 2015, school districts have been required to implement truancy prevention measures to reduce court referrals. The key issue for both courts and schools throughout this COVID-19 pandemic was balancing accountability. Realizing the potential long-term impact of truancy during the pandemic, it was important to not only measure attendance, but to also pay close attention to which students were facing difficulties in showing up for learning. With truancy case referrals being the option of last resort, the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and Travis County's Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct One continued its longstanding collaboration working with families to address the root causes of absenteeism.

A unique approach was undertaken with all new Truancy case hearings conducted online every first and third Wednesday beginning January 2021 through the end date of June. Grady M. Paris, Esq., program developer of the Parent Engagement training curriculum, and an attorney licensed in Texas attended all Truancy Court hearings providing immediate guidance and strategies directly to parents and their students while in court. This was an opportunity to engage with more than 50 families and in doing so, provide both court and school personnel with much needed recommendations to prevent and reduce truant students. COVID-19 caused an increase in truant students, but not truancy cases. Truancy cases have many potential outcomes and options. The Parent Engagement training curriculum is an available resource designed to assist parents, courts and school personnel overcome the barriers that affect attendance and performance in school.

## *Substance Use and Misuse Trainings*

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, center staff began offering courses in substance use and abuse for the following modules via Zoom format:

- Core 1: Addiction: How Attitudes and Beliefs Drive Behavior
- Core 2: Understanding the Science of Addiction
- Core 3: Influencing Choices: Reducing Risk and Increasing Protective Factors
- Core 4: Reducing Risk: Understanding and Combatting Teen Stress
- Core 5: Co-Occurring Disorders: When Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders Collide
- Core 6: From Discipline to Rehabilitation: Barriers to and Solutions for Change
- Specific Drug Module 1: What Your Teen Doesn't Know: Marijuana and Synthetic Cannabinoids
- Specific Drug Module 2: What Your Teen Doesn't Know: Stimulants and Synthetic Cathinones
- Specific Drug Module 3: Tobacco and e-Cigarettes: Vaping Is Not the Solution to Dependence
- Specific Drug Module 4: Opioids, Prescription Drugs: Rising Concerns among Adolescents
- Specific Drug Module 5: Under-age Drinking: Culture, Peer Pressure, Beliefs, and the Teen Brain

Kicking off the fall 2021 schedule, the newest center staff member, Ms. Rebecca Ramirez-Barnes, presented at the 2021 Fall Conference of the National Juvenile Justice Association of Texas to an audience of more than 100 participants. The annual conference took place in Sugarland, Texas and the workshop given was "Understanding the Science of Addiction". This presentation explains how substance related and addictive disorders have a common causal mechanism in the reward pathway of the human brain. Participants learned about brain development, how the brain communicates, how the brain is geared to survive and how substances of abuse alter normal brain function. Participants also learned the association between choice and behavior, how the brain induces cravings and what makes the teen brain more vulnerable to addiction.

In addition to the Zoom offerings, the Center has worked all year in consultation with Symbiosis Educational to develop and beta-test the five cores of the substance use and misuse training portfolio as fully web-based courses available to the public.

### *Youth Mental Health First Aid*

Center training specialists in PVAMU's have for the past five years helped adults who work with students ages 12-17 as part of the center's mission to prevent adolescent delinquency. Research evidence has found that having mental health issues is often a precursor to adolescent crime. In their outreach, the Center staff train a variety of professionals, from probation officers to teachers, law enforcement, attorneys and nurses.

Until recently, the Center has never been a part of a massive training of middle and high school teachers — an entire city's worth. They volunteered with what is known as an "YMHFA Blast" — Youth Mental Health First Aid Training, in this case, organized by the San Antonio Independent School District, in partnership with the Center for Healthcare Services, a nonprofit community resource.

In one day, they joined scores of other trainers and trainers-in-training to bring the basics of mental health first aid to nearly 900 San Antonio teachers. "YMHFA training is sort of like CPR training, but it's for youth who are presenting with mental health conditions," the PVAMU staff said. "The training helps you learn how to be a first responder."

The event took place at 30 schools around the city, with each training helmed by a pair of certified training specialists. The intensive eight hours saw teachers separated into groups of five and given information on potential mental health problems — how to recognize the signs and symptoms and how to respond appropriately. In some cases, teachers role-played in pairs using scripts, prompting discussions; afterward, teachers were tested.

"I'd say it built on what I already knew," said PVAMU Training Specialist Rebecca Ramirez-Barnes, who spent the day as an observer. "The experience was really positive because it was good to see that information shared with individuals who may not be completely aware of the signs of mental health issues that teenagers could be exhibiting. I really enjoyed seeing that message spread."

Participants also learned about suicide awareness, symptoms of substance use, symptoms of psychosis, symptoms of eating disorders, and what they should do in each of those situations. "You learn how to recognize potential mental health problems, how you decide whether or not it's a crisis, and you're given a toolbox of how to respond to those problems," PVAMU's training specialists said.

# Partnerships

## *Legislative Update 2021*

The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center and the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc. (ECI) have maintained a viable partnership and one particular venture jointly sponsored every two years is the Legislative Update Conference and producing a publication reporting highlights, “From the Capitol to the Community”; the 87th Legislative Session: An Urban Perspective. Offered in hardcopy and digital version, the report covers issues of particular concern to the urban community and highlights traditionally disenfranchised and underserved communities.

This 87th Legislature approved hundreds of new laws and ended the regular session in May 2021. Lawmakers returned to Austin for three Special sessions aimed at passing additional laws. A total of 11,867 bills were introduced in the Regular session and the three Special sessions. A total of 3804 bills passed in the Regular session and 724 passed in the three Special sessions with 20 being vetoed in both Regular and all three Special sessions.

The report and conference dealt with bills being passed in Education, Healthcare, Police Reform, Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice, Family law, Foster Care and CPS, Elections and Voting Rights. Conference presenters included Louis Bedford, IV, Legal Counsel for Texas State Senator Royce West; Kristan Russell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Research Scientist Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center; Myrna Cintron, Associate Professor College of Juvenile Justice PVAMU; Howard Henderson, Ph.D., Founding Director for Justice Research and Professor of Justice Administration, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, TSU; Amy Bresnen, Attorney at Law Co-Principal of Bresnen Associates, Inc.; and Kerrie Judice, LMSW, CPS Research and Policy Analyst for Texas Projects. This was a virtual event moderated by Zahra Buck Whitfield, Esq., Associate Director, Center for Government Law, Earl Carl Institute, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, TSU and Grady Marie Paris, Esq., Associate Director of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, College of Juvenile Justice, PVAMU. Conference attendance increased and access was expanded as a result of the virtual format.

## *PVAMU Health in Houston Initiative*

Since 2020, the PVAMU Health in Houston Initiative has focused on increasing the health of individuals and families in the Greater Houston area. This PVAMU effort is in partnership with the Texas A&M University System, and Mayor Sylvester Turner’s Complete Communities Initiative. The mission of this initiative is to address health disparities and food insecurities by promoting health, wellness, and nutrition to limited-resource communities in the Greater Houston area, ultimately encouraging healthy, long-term lifestyle changes and behaviors. This initiative comprises of four of PVAMU’s colleges working in collaboration to create and provide programming that stems from a portfolio of educational, healthcare assessment, and outreach programs. These four colleges are the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, College of Nursing, Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center in the College of Juvenile Justice, and the College of Business.

In close collaboration with the PVAMU Health in Houston Initiative, the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center provided trainings on substance use and abuse among teens as well as mental health first aid to this community.

In 2021, the Center in partnership with the PVAMU Health in Houston Initiative established several programs including an inaugural dance camp for girls in grades 4th-8th. The girls that participated in the dance camp had an exciting time at this one-day campus event in collaboration with PV’s renowned Black Foxes. The Black Foxes, founded in 1970, is the official dance line to the PVAMU Marching Storm band, which was established 80-plus years ago. The second program, which received support from the initiative, was the inaugural Darden-Caldwell LeadHERship Series conference day for girls in grades 8th-12th in the Greater Houston area.



### *Texas Center for Justice and Equity Study*

The Texas Center for Justice and Equity Study is a partnership between TCJ&E and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center. This partnership is conceived out of the notion that the TCJ&E will identify juvenile related policy issues that are relevant to members of the Texas State Legislature. The TJPCP will develop and distribute survey questionnaires to juvenile stakeholders throughout the state of Texas. The data collected will allow us to ascertain what policy issues are important to the juvenile justice community. The hope is the results of this study will influence legislators to support legislation that is beneficial to the long-term best interests and well-being of at-risk youth and families in Texas.

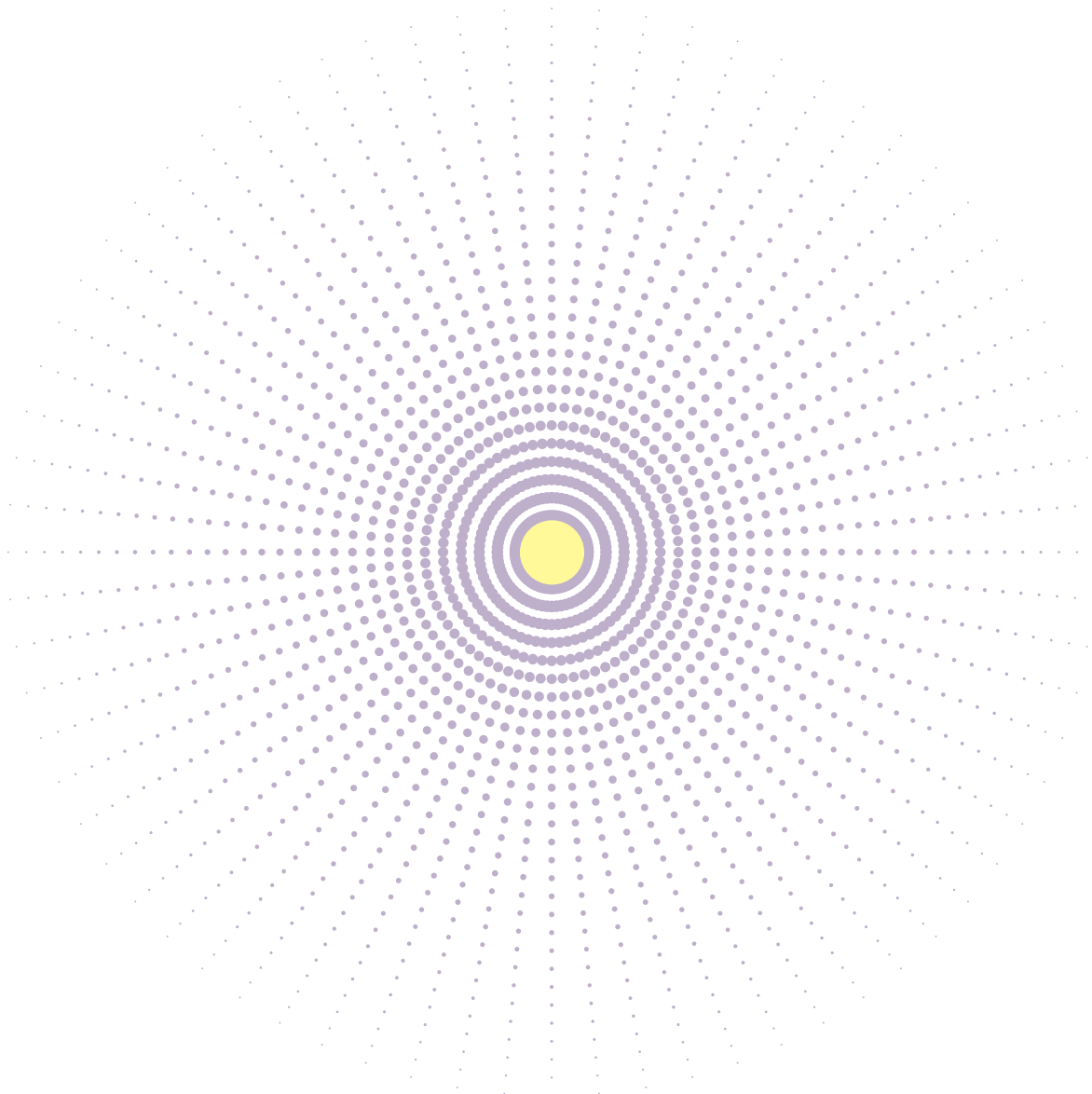
### *Children at Risk (CAR)*

The Center continues to work in partnership with Children At Risk in multiple capacities. Children At Risk is a non-partisan research and advocacy nonprofit dedicated to understanding and addressing the root causes of child poverty and inequality. Established in 1989 by Houston child advocates and researchers, Children At Risk has grown into a statewide organization tackling Texas children and families' most pressing needs. The mission of Children At Risk is to serve as a catalyst for change to improve children's quality of life through strategic research, public policy analysis, education, collaboration, and advocacy. Drs. Camille Gibson and Frazier-Kouassi continue to serve as representatives of the Center on the Texas Racial Equity Collaborative (TREC) and the Children At Risk Institute. TREC is a consortium of individuals representing various organizations working together to combat racial disparities in all sectors of Texas life. TREC is one of several workgroups that CAR maintains.



## Doctoral Dissertations

- Celik, Yunis (Justice Studies). An Examination of Police Perceptions and Attitudes toward Juveniles in Texas. Chair: Myrna Cintron, Ph.D.
- McField, Ariel (Psychology). Examining the Disclosure of Non-Suicidal Self-Injury: An Experimental Design. Chair: Sherece Fields, Ph.D.
- Songs, Paula, (Justice Studies). Sex-Trafficked Children: Differences in Practitioner's Awareness, Identification Practices, and Services for Minor Females and Males. Chair: Sesha Kethineni, Ph.D.
- Stearnes, Marsja (Psychology). Transgenerational Transmission of Risk: The Predictive Relationship between Parental Childhood Adversity and Offspring Problem Behavior. Chair: Logan Yelderman, Ph.D.





# Rising Alumni Stars

*Marsja Stearnes, Ph.D.*



Marsja, a Galveston, Texas native, used the COVID-19 pandemic to found and develop Pause Therapy, a mental health tech platform committed to providing culturally competent care. “I think for a lot of people, the pandemic was, unfortunately, a time of stress and fear,” said Stearnes. Stearnes left Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) this summer with two master’s degrees (one in clinical community psychology from Texas Southern University and the other in clinical adolescent psychology from PVAMU) and a Ph.D. in clinical adolescent psychology. “I did experience a lot of those feelings, but I was kind of in a unique position because, completing the last year of my Ph.D., I had a little more freedom.”

That is the kind of can-do attitude that you get when talking to Stearnes, who, while at PVAMU, completed health psychology internships at San Antonio State Hospital and Sam Houston State University. She also studied abroad in Ghana, where she provided psychological services through Recovery Africa.

All of her internships provided diverse experiences in the field of psychology and enriched her educational experience at PVAMU including one the San Antonio State Hospital, where she worked in the forensic unit. She provided psychological services in the form of assessment to individuals who were found not competent to stand trial or found guilty by reason of insanity. At the Sam Houston Counseling and Health Center, she was responsible for providing individual, group therapy, and assessment to college students, and conducted workshops and outreach for faculty and staff. During her time in Ghana, Dr. Stearnes developed her understanding of the role of culture in mental health diagnoses and treatment.

Pause Therapy has already signed up 50 therapists and is targeting a few niches where larger, more established sites have not been as successful, according to Stearnes. “Culturally competent care” is something that other sites don’t necessarily tout. Whereas, Pause is making a special effort to ensure its therapists are trained and ideally have experience in handling diverse populations. “I’m aware as a Black woman that lots of the modalities have been normed on a population that doesn’t look like me,” Stearnes said.”

The front-end work necessary to start her site was a bigger hill to climb than what will follow, as many aspects of the site are directed by individual therapists or, essentially, automated (such as processing payments). “Like any new start-up, it does take time,” said Stearnes. “Taking on a big project like this, you have to be prepared not to have a lot of free time for it to be successful. But I think that’s one of the things that getting a Ph.D. prepares you to do — to multitask effectively and handle really big projects.”

Presently, Stearnes is a pediatric psychology fellow at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children located in Dallas, TX. In addition, she owns an online therapy platform, [www.pausehome.com](http://www.pausehome.com), and practices privately. Her current research at Texas Scottish Rite looks at the role of psychopathology in pain and its role in postoperative outcomes in a pediatric orthopedic setting.

Even with such a full plate, Stearnes has further aspirations. She hopes to secure a longer-term position in a hospital setting with pediatrics and has eyes on expanding into tech. “Just do it — don’t let fear be the reason you don’t go after your goals,” her advice to Prairie View students.

# Rising Alumni Stars

## *Cheyenne Marie Harp*



Ms. Harp received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree with a minor in Psychology from Prairie View A&M University at the December 2021 commencement.

According to Harp, “The staff at my elementary school (Rosa Parks-Millbrook in Lancaster, Texas) and my godfather enormously affected my choice. They’re proud, successful alumni of the magnificent Prairie View A&M University. They consistently praised their HBCU, which drove me to do my research and experience it for myself, which I’m oh so very happy I did!

Since her arrival at PVAMU, Harp has been engaged in many organizations, including the Blackstone Pre-Law Society, PVAMU Panther Aids, Campus Activities Board (secretary), Toastmasters International (membership chair), Criminal Justice Club, and Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society (corresponding secretary). Harp found these experiences contributed to bonding, community service, and different events we hosted and attended, overall, it was a great experience.

During her years at PVAMU, Harp was granted two internships – one with the City of Dallas Community Courts and the other with the Witherspoon Law Group in Dallas. Both of these internships helped her tremendously. She went from a young girl in college reading about law and watching court cases to actually feeling the path she wants to pursue.

Throughout her years at PVAMU, she has been on the Dean’s List since her first year. She achieved recognition on the Honor’s List, which granted her the opportunity to be a part of Alpha Phi Sigma, an honor society for criminal justice majors. Additionally, she joined the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, which pushed her to aim higher and continue working hard.

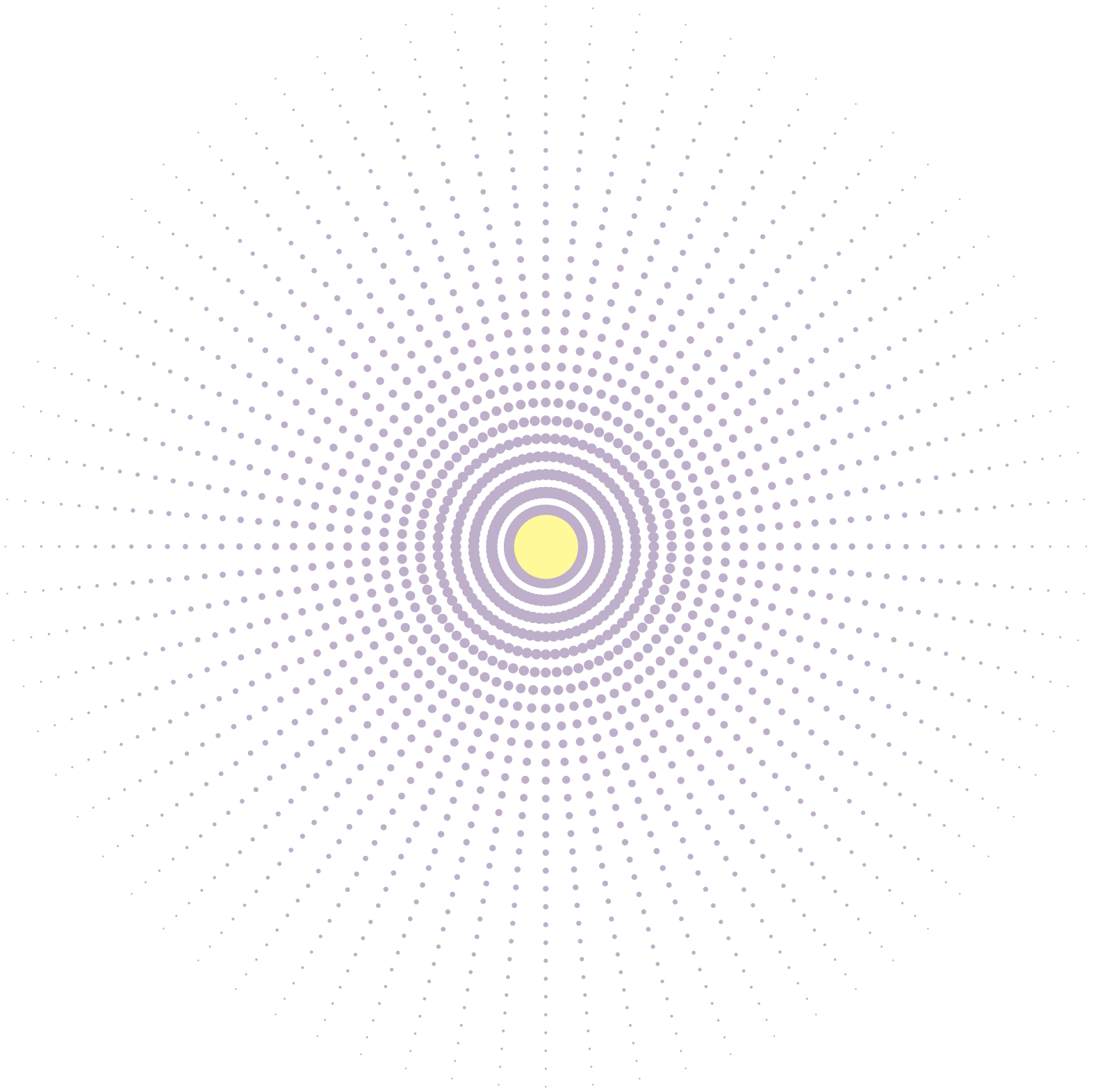
However, Harp claims that she has always been a hard worker, thanks to her mother who was always there for her brothers and herself. As the only girl, she received zero to no sympathy from her rather demanding matriarch; a woman who was intent on raising a young woman would be able to conquer any obstacle with God on her side and perseverance. For those lessons, she is truly thankful to her mother. Everything she has accomplished is because of her and God.

Her advice to current students – “You’ve already chosen the best University! And here at Prairie View, we have a motto that states, ‘Prairie View Produces Productive People’; so, it’s bound for you to meet that expectation! All of the resources you need are here; you just have to make sure you are doing your part. Do not get discouraged because you are here for a reason. Finish with that same mindset and always remember to keep God first. Become that change you want to see in the world.”



*Panther Statue near the Memorial Student Service Center*







**Prairie View A&M University**

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